

Friends of Hollinfare – Chair’s Annual Report – 20th November 2018

Another busy and productive year at the cemetery as the Friends group is still attracting between 15-20 volunteers each action day, with the occasional new volunteer joining the happy throng.....fantastic!

In our aim of 'Improving the Look and Feel of Hollinfare Cemetery' volunteers have been engaged in the following, as well as leaf and branch busting, composting, weeding, pruning, brushing up and watering!

- **Action Days** – 10 action days and a Christmas brush up have taken place with an average of 15-20 volunteers each month bringing their skills as well as manpower to improve the cemetery
 - **Committee Meetings** –10 committee members held 3 meetings during the year to discuss and plan actions and projects to actively engage volunteers throughout the year. Thanks to all those members who warmly host the meetings
- Grave Tending Scheme** - 29 graves in the scheme weeded and cleaned each month – the scheme brings in approximately £600 per year towards other projects
- **Planting** - front walls and pots have once again been planted with Spring & Summer bedding plants, the majority of the plants having been kindly donated by Eddie & James Atherton, once again
 - **Shrubs/borders** - a variety of mature evergreen shrubs were kindly donated by a local man from Holcroft Lane – thanks to him, and also to Pete & Joyce for kindly planting these around the borders
 - **Graves** - over 20 untended/unkept graves have been weeded and golden gravel applied, (gravel provided by WBC Bereavement Services (WBCBS) making these tidy and low maintenance
 - **Memorial Improvements** - the Friends agreed funding of £1,650 for materials for further memorial improvements (Phase 3) with WBCBS who provide the labour. Works are carried out around their other work commitments, so though slow are now completed. The committee are currently in discussion with WBCBS re another block of improvements (Phase 4)
 - **Heritage Board** - content has been pulled together, but due to other commitments this is taking a bit longer than originally thought, but the aim is for completion by the end of 2018 or spring 2019
 - **Fundraising Lunch** – on 19th April the committee held another successful fundraising lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by 50 volunteers and friends. The sun shone, the food was delicious and the company lovely. £511 was raised for future projects - thanks to Anne & Neil McArthur for hosting this event once again and to all who donated food and raffle prizes
 - **Pathways** - volunteers have borrowed Bereavement Service moss cleaner brush and have been tackling the removal of moss from the pathways, to make it safer for visitors
 - **Tree Maintenance** -following requests from the Friends, Bereavement Services have done some tree maintenance, cutting back various large branches overhanging the graves
 - **Painting** - the original front railings and gates have been painted once again, providing a bright welcome to visitors
 - **Memorial Sculpture** – thanks to artist Rachelle for her input and help with the design. Meetings have been held with James Hilton’s stone masons to discuss the memorial sculpture material and design. A deposit has now been paid for the stone to be ordered and, once in, Sheila & Mandy will work with the stonemasons on the agreed design and text. The aim is to have this finished and installed for Summer 2019
 - **Community Award** – our lovely Fred received a well-deserved Community Award on 5th June from Hamilton Davies Trust for the time and energy he gives to regularly cutting the grass and keeping the cemetery a lovely green space for all to enjoy. Well done Fred!

- **Green Flag** – Friends raised the Green Flag for the 7th year running – a real sign of community engagement. Congratulations were received from WBCBS for all the hard work the volunteers have done, without which the flag would not be flying
- **Annual Dinner** – a lovely evening was had by volunteers and partners in October, thanks to Friends committee members Irene & Virginia's excellent planning and organization skills
- **Bereavement Services** have supported and assisted the Friends plans and actions throughout the year, providing great partnership working. This year they have also removed a lot of illegal edgings, which has made the cemetery a safer and tidier place that will be much easier to maintain.

I am extremely proud of all the volunteers involved and the personal time they invest in the cemetery. I am always amazed at how much we achieve together throughout the year.

Thank you to all.....keep up the good work!

Mandy Eccles (Chair)