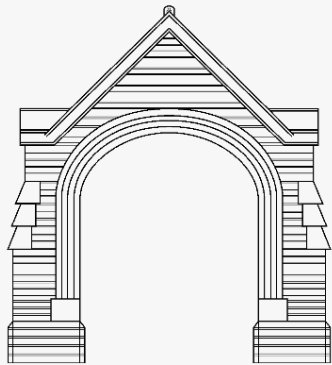


Adam Blackie

From: Kate Campbell, Ranger <team@rectorylanecemetery.org.uk>
Sent: 07 October 2023 11:30
To: Adam Blackie
Subject: Autumn news



Rectory Lane Cemetery

BERKHAMSTED

No. 73 October 2023

Rectory Lane Cemetery, Three Close Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 2DH

www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

Dear Adam

Autumn has arrived, but there are still lots of flowers blooming and people enjoying the Cemetery. With more unseasonably warm and sunny days forecast we are expecting even more people to visit - for a walk, to meet up, to have their coffee break or lunch - there are plenty of shady trees and seats. Although one visitor (*'It's so relaxing here'*) was surprised to find his favourite seat - the woven willow seat - already had an occupant. Happily he found an alternative seat to rest and contemplate on. Clearly these visitors in the Garden of Remembrance agree.



Grave adoption

The adopted graves alongside the Interment of Ashes area are particularly colourful at the moment... the work of the grave adopters is so inspiring and makes such a difference. If you'd like to join this team do get in touch.





Interring ashes

The ashes interment area is bordered with Hellebore, lavender, hebe, salix, daphne and euonimous plants - which should provide year round interest and appeal to people and insects alike. Although there are a few gaps where plants have not thrived, the flower border is doing pretty well, bolstered by our own compost. Eventually we hope it will become a low flowering hedge, providing a special place for ashes. We will always ensure that the area within the border is close mown.

We have already had four interments into this area of ashes with accompanying fused glass tiles installed on the Celebration of Life wall. If you are interested in this service, please do get in touch. The aim is to provide a beautiful and peaceful location for relatives and friends to inter and remember their loved ones - and also contribute to the costs of keeping the space beautiful.







The theme for this year's annual nationwide Heritage Open Days was ***Unwrapping Creativity*** and the **Rectory Lane Cemetery Project** was delighted to organise a celebration of local talent and provide a showcase for the venue as a creative and inspiring space.

A lot of preparation went into making the day happen and making sure that the site looked its best. We were rewarded with a lovely sunny day and many appreciative visitors.

The packed and diverse programme of free family-friendly activities was possible because of the generosity of our contributors, who all gave their time.

The photographs below give you some idea of the cornucopia on offer, along with the great feedback: ***'Today has been wonderful!'***

**Two photography workshops (one for iPhone, one for camera)
delivered by [YellowMelen Phil Richardson](#)**



An extract from *Peter Pan, the Musical* was provided by the children of [Gobstoppers Theatre Arts & Education](#) and enjoyed by their relatives and all the visitors





A gorgeous guitar lunchtime interlude from [Don Adam Perera](#) added to the relaxed and appreciative vibe - if you missed him here, he's

playing at The Vyne Theatre on Saturday 14th October. Tickets available from [here](#)



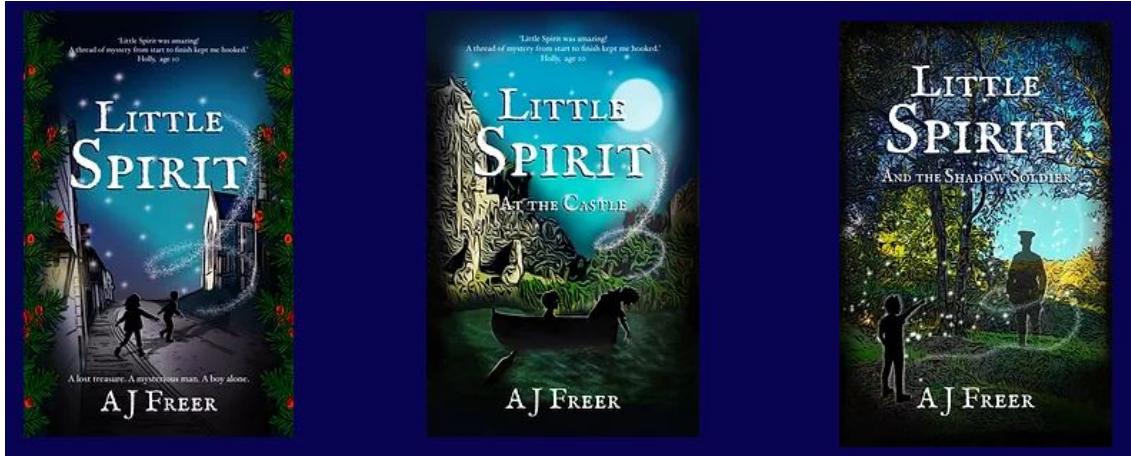


'Music was beautiful.'

and then everyone had the opportunity to join in with some creative dancing of their own with the lovely Lindsay and Louise from [Dacorum Community Dance](#)



Families could do some creative writing together with [AJ Freer](#), author of the Little Spirit Mystery Series in the shade of our yews ...



or hear Nature Tales with storyteller Amanda Ling, painted here taking a little group around with tales of the animals who live in the Cemetery.

Amanda has been Jane Ghost, laundress and wife of our Victorian

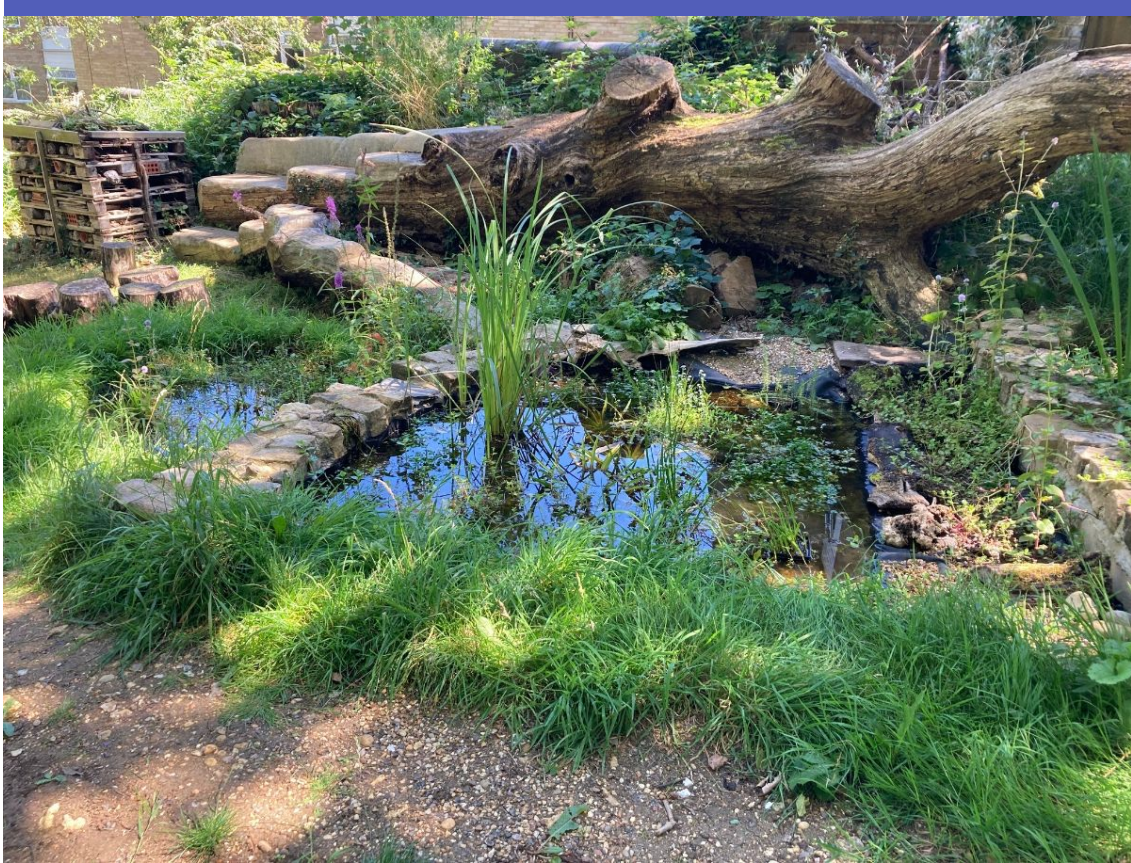
**gravedigger Richard Ghost, who at past events wove intriguing
gravedigger stories for children in the Sexton's Hut!**





'Really enjoyed the storytelling ... walking around the gravestones, opening the coffin in the gravedigger's hut.' 'Space – well maintained, bigger than I imagined. Very lovely. So nice to see. Love the wildlife area.'

Visitors spent time amongst our trees with a Forest Bathing guide, based at our lovely ponds.



Our volunteer genealogist lead a fascinating guided tour, telling some of the stories of the creative people of the past who contributed to a flourishing Berkhamsted and are buried here.



'Loved Chris' tour – fantastic, very knowledgeable also loved the extra info about town etc' 'Tour was good – really, really interesting. Chris has good insight and made it come alive.'

Heritage skills were represented by [Herts and Beds Woodturners](#) who demonstrated their skills on the lathe and brought examples of some of the lovely products members had turned, which were available to buy.







The Woodturners put some of their lovely products into a raffle on the day, and the takings from that was donated to the Cemetery Project, raising £65. Here is the skilled turner and the lucky winner of his carved beer mug.

The Project's own stonemason Will Yendell of [Signs in Stone](#) also brought the tools of his trade and demonstrated his considerable expertise.









We provided home-baked refreshments and sold our honey too at a refreshment tent run by volunteers. If you have bought any and nearly finished the jar, can we ask you to hold on to it and we will publish a way of getting it back to us so that it can be washed and reused for next year's harvest! There are still a few jars left so get in touch if you'd like some.









The day was captured by our own photographer Colin Drake and Phil Richardson of YellowMelen and the wonderful painterly skills of *en plein air* artist Jackie Henderson. Jackie had already made several visits to the Cemetery, producing some beautiful paintings of the ponds, yew tree avenue and other views. We hope to make these into cards which we can sell for the project.





We'd like to say thank you to everyone who contributed and helped and came along and supported the day. It was wonderful to see so many people appreciating this unique space and the day raised absolutely vital funds which will go towards the cost of maintaining this space for the community.

These events take a huge amount of effort – and some luck in terms of the weather – but they are an important part of the role of the Cemetery, if it is to remain current and important to the community and therefore maintained into the future.

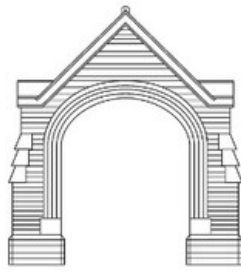
If you'd like to support by volunteering – either to help keep the space looking good or at any future events, please email team@rectorylanecemetery.org.uk. You could join us in the friendly Wednesday working party or if you prefer a Sunday afternoon we will be continuing with at least the first Sunday in the month - join our WhatsApp and you can be notified about these. There are still plenty of tasks to do over the Autumn/Winter, to prepare the space for spring. And we've yet to have the leaf fall!

Are you a member of a group who could use the space and make a contribution as you do so?

If you'd like to make a donation towards the upkeep of the space it's simple and quick to do via this link, and will make such a huge difference <https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/sustain/support/donate/>

THANK YOU

The future of the cemetery is entirely dependent upon donations - of time and money. Please help to keep the community space going for future generations to enjoy. Thank you.



Rectory Lane Cemetery

BERKHAMSTED



LANDSCAPE
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Our mailing address is:

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Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 2LB
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