

Cemetery Newsletter from Wigton Burial Joint Committee

June 2021

We are pleased to give an update on what is happening at the Cemetery and hope everyone finds this useful.

Meetings:

Notice of our meetings are published in the noticeboards outside the Cemetery and the Market Hall, and on the Wigton Town Council website.

For the majority of last year we had to conduct our meetings using Zoom but for our Annual General Meeting this month we were finally able to meet in person but, disappointingly, no members of the public took the opportunity to attend.

After quite some while in the role, Mrs Elaine Lynch decided to stand down as Chair and Mrs Pat Williams was elected as the new Chair, supported by Mrs Heather Robbins as Vice Chair. The committee would like to thank Mrs Lynch for her contributions over the years.

We also welcomed Mr John Mattinson, who replaces Mr Billie McKie, from Woodside Parish. The committee would like to thank Mr McKie for his contributions over the years.

Our next quarterly meeting is scheduled for September (provisional date Wednesday 29th at 7 p.m.) and we hope you will join us in the Vestry at the Cemetery to let us know your thoughts. If you are unable to attend in person, and have any questions or suggestions for the committee, please submit them in writing ahead of the meeting via email to wigtonburialclerk@gmail.com or by post to Wigton Burial Joint Committee, Wigton Cemetery, Station Hill, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9BN or pop your envelope through the letterbox in the Vestry door.

Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance:

Despite the challenges of new working practices, flooding, drought and COVID-19 restrictions we strive to maintain the high standards expected of us.

We re-appointed Ian Rumney of Solway Garden & Landscapes as our grounds maintenance contractor and he, together with his team, work hard to keep the grass under control, cut the hedges, prune bushes, trim trees, edge the paths, and restore old grave levels etc.

Tivoli are contracted to provide gravedigging services and problems can sometimes arise with new graves sinking because of differing soil conditions and the weather. We do appreciate this can result in an unsightly initial finish to grave spaces but Tivoli re-attend on request to make good.

We aim to always treat Cemetery Users courteously and expect you to treat our on-site staff, volunteers, contractors, and committee members in a similarly respectful way and would ask you not to resort to any form of personal abuse.

If you do have any queries or concerns regarding grounds maintenance or grave space issues, please let us know by contacting us via e-mail wigtonburialclerk@gmail.com or by letter addressed to Wigton Burial Joint Committee, The Vestry, Wigton Cemetery, Station Hill, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9BN. Letters can also be posted through the letterbox in the Vestry door, which is to the right of the main entrance.

Rowan Tree:

Located as a centrepiece in the Memorial Garden, we planted a Rowan/Mountain Ash tree, which was donated to us, which we are dedicating in Remembrance of all those in Wigton and Surrounding Parishes who lost their lives in the COVID-19 pandemic. Many thanks to Ian Rumney for the sandstone block, John Hamblin for the spadework and Darren Studholme, Funeral Director for arranging & donating the inscribed plaque.

The Memorial Garden:

The Memorial Garden is a lovely feature of our Cemetery where you can erect a plaque in memory of your loved ones and have a quiet place to sit & reflect.

The Memorial Garden continues to be maintained by volunteers who also work on the Wildflower Garden along the wall as well as clearing the beds behind the shed.

If you wish to place a memorial plaque, please contact Bereavement Services, Allerdale Borough Council, Allerdale House, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3YJ Tel: 01900 702620 Email :

bereavement.services@allerdale.gov.uk

Website: www.allerdale.gov.uk

Agreement with Allerdale Borough Council:

We entered into an Agreement with Allerdale Borough Council Bereavement Services w.e.f. 1 April 2021 to provide curating services for the Cemetery which includes liaising with funeral directors, the purchase of grave spaces and transfer of deeds, booking the Chapel, erecting memorial headstones, arranging purchase & erection of plaques in the Memorial Garden and maintaining cemetery records & deeds.

Please contact Bereavement Services, Allerdale Borough Council, Allerdale House, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3YJ Tel: 01900 702620 Email : bereavement.services@allerdale.gov.uk

Website: www.allerdale.gov.uk

Please note Wigton Town Council are unable to handle calls regarding any curating matters.

The Friends of Wigton Cemetery:

The Friends continue to maintain the chapel, clear dead flowers & wreaths, prune bushes, open/close the toilet block each day etc. We are most grateful to the team of volunteers who maintain the toilets and the area behind the sheds.

Clerk Vacancy:

We are presently looking to appoint a clerk to support the committee. If you would like more details, please contact Mrs Williams or Mr Girvan to discuss the role.

Wigton Cemetery remains the only cemetery in Allerdale to be independently operated and our key aim continues to be to keep the management of the cemetery within the control of the 3 local councils (Wigton, Woodside & Waverton) if we can and we work tirelessly to this end. Thank you for your continued support to ensure this happens.

Wigton Burial Joint Committee