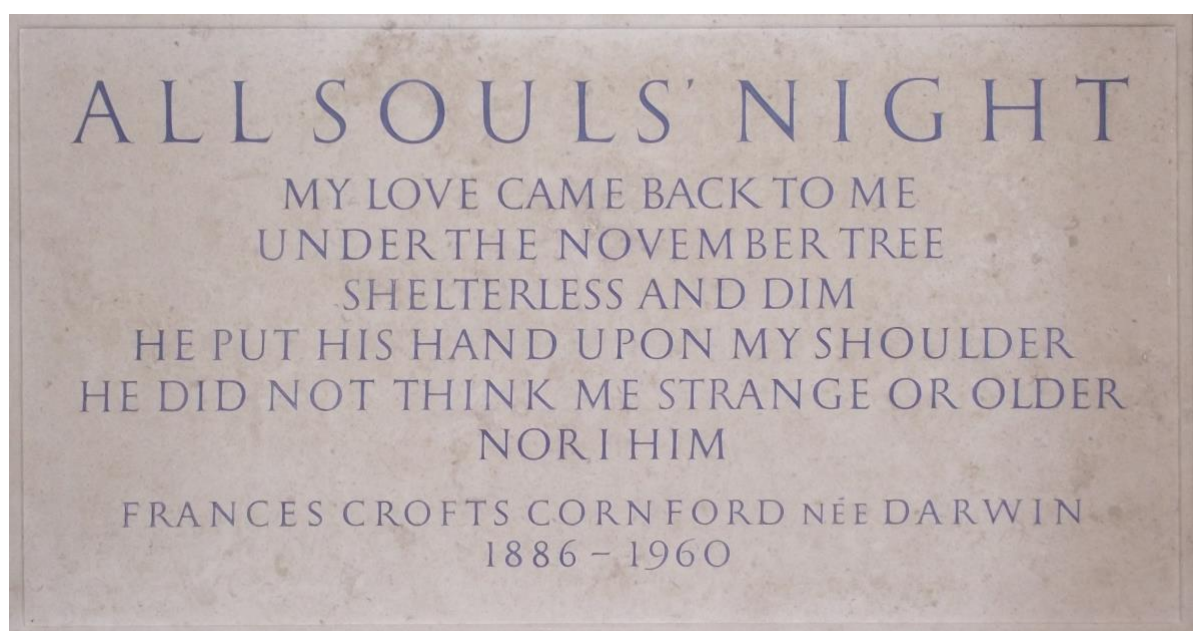


# FRIENDS OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION BURIAL GROUND NEWSLETTER



The above engraving by Eric Marland of Frances Cornford's poem *All Souls' Night* was erected on the wall behind the stone commemorating her and her husband, Francis Cornford. The cost of the stone was met by a subvention from accumulated subscriptions paid to the

*Friends*. Frances Cornford's name will soon also be attached to one of the new roads in the new North West Cambridge development, alongside at least six others who feature in the Burial Ground: Arthur Eddington, Frank Ramsey, Charlotte Scott, Walter Skeat, Lucy Slater (for whom see more overleaf) and, of

## SOME NOTABLE EVENTS OF 2015-2016

Annual barbecues each October and social events in the summer in the Burial Ground.

Visits and tours (given by Mike Good, Prof. Mark Goldie and Eric Marland) for numerous other societies and clubs, including the Hemingfords Local History Society, Fulbourn Village History Society, Open Cambridge, the Friends of Berkampsted Rectory Lane Cemetery, the Wittgenstein Society and the Friends of St Giles.

Funds from Friends' subscriptions paid for the erection of a new sign at the entrance to All Souls Lane, and for eight 'Fastigiata' yew trees, erected on the boundary of the cemetery.

The FPABG is a member of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, [www.cemeteryfriends.com](http://www.cemeteryfriends.com)

## Chair's Report 2015-16

At the AGM in spring 2015, Janet Bunker mentioned that there was a gap of about 10 years in the record of burials in the cemetery between the completion of Lucy Slater's list in 1997 and Janet's arrival as Team Vicar in the parish in 2007. Janet suggested that the Friends might be able to take on the task of filling in the gaps.

For those not familiar with Lucy Slater and her list, it is worth giving some brief details. She was a mathematician who lived in Cambridge for many years. On her retirement from the University in 1982, one of the many projects she became involved with was to carry out a complete listing of all the graves and memorials with their inscriptions in the burial ground. This was a considerable undertaking as the cemetery contains approximately 2,000 plots in many of which several bodies are buried. Lucy Slater died in 2008 and is buried in the cemetery.

At the monthly working party in May 2015, in response to a call from the committee, 16 Friends turned up as volunteers to help with updating the list. This involved trying to locate each grave and comparing its details with those on Lucy Slater's list. The volunteers, working singly or in pairs, were each assigned an area of the cemetery to survey. It was accepted that individuals would carry out the work at their own convenience and at their own pace.

It has proved to be slow work with graves hidden by ivy, headstones missing or inscriptions faded. Another problem has been that, in summer when pottering in the burial ground would have been a pleasure, too many of the plots were obscured by the



*Gravestone of Lucy Slater (photograph courtesy of Martin Packer)*

wildflowers and other growth. In winter, when everything has died back or been cleared, it is much more difficult to drag oneself out into the damp and mud to scabble on the ground looking for faded lettering. Nevertheless, thanks to the determination of the volunteers, good progress has been made with several of the teams having completed their surveys and handed in their results. I am hopeful that, by the end of next summer, we will be able to present the completed survey to the Parish.

**NEW TREASURER WANTED!** After five years of devoted service, Pat Ingham will be retiring as Treasurer of the Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground in 2017, and we are looking for a replacement. Please contact Pat Ingham [patingham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patingham@hotmail.co.uk), James Clackson [jptc1@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jptc1@cam.ac.uk) or Martin Boyle [martinboyle32@btinternet.com](mailto:martinboyle32@btinternet.com) if interested



## WORKING PARTIES IN THE BURIAL GROUND



*Working Party, 25 June 2016 (photograph courtesy of Pat Ingham)*

Every month (except January and August) Friends and others join Rod Ailes of Arkley Nursery for a Working Party in the Burial Ground. Alongside jobs specific to the time of year, such as pruning and cutting back in the summer, and clearing leaves in the autumn, these task forces also systematically clear aside larger areas of growth and 'reclaim' headstones or memorials which have become overgrown and invisible.

Since October 2015 the Friends have been joined at the working parties by a group of young volunteers from the Church of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), led by Elders Brad and Vicki Jackman; their enthusiasm and energy has been a great fillip to the teams.

A traditional feature of the last working party

of the year is the provision of mulled wine and mince pies, and we have also generally celebrated barbecues in the autumn or late summer. As ever, Eric Marland has been generous in his provision of shelter in adverse weather, and many of the residents of All Souls Lane and other adjoining properties have also supplied refreshments, shelter and first aid (on the rare occasions when needed). The Friends subscriptions have recently funded a set of tools and an emergency medical kit.

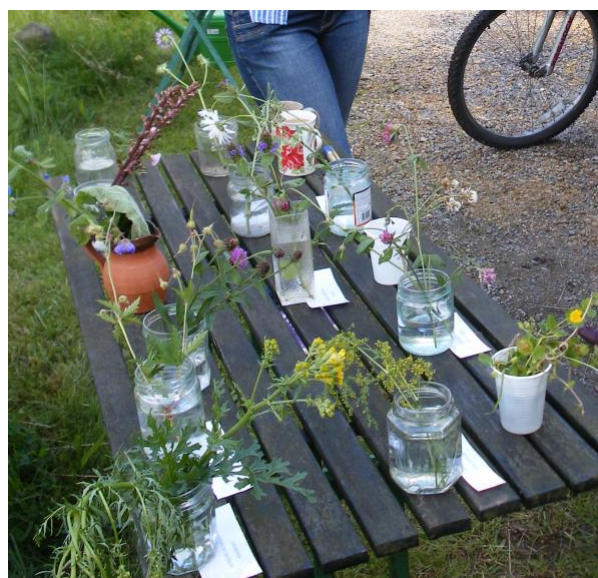
As far as is known, herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers have never been used in the Burial Ground, and the plot is managed in order to encourage wild flowers and a variety of wildlife to flourish, while retaining the graveyard as a place of remembrance and spirituality. A full conservation management plan, prepared by Rod Ailes and Andrew Birkett, can be read at

## BUTTERCUPS AND BUTTERFLIES

In the last newsletter I concentrated on one plant *Daphne laureola*. However, there must be thousands of flora and fauna species within the varied habitats of the burial ground so a faster approach is necessary. Below is part of a list of the more common plants taken from the July open day a couple of years ago. I remember people remarking that they did not realise there were so many plants growing there and yet these are just a few of the more colourful ones:

Field scabious *Knautia arvensis*  
 Creeping buttercup *Ranunculus acris*  
 Field buttercup *Ranunculus repens*  
 Red clover *Trifolium pratense*  
 Hardheads *Centaurea nigra*  
 White dead nettle *Lamium album*  
 Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*  
 Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*  
 Travellers joy *Clematis vitalba*  
 Ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*

If I had to focus on one plant it would be *Orobancha hederifolia*. This holoparasitic plant is completely parasitic on ivy (*Hedera helix*) roots. It is only found on ivy



growing just inside the entrance to the burial ground, possibly due to the heavy damp shade. It has very small scale leaves, so look out for the short spikes of dull cream reddish purple flowers in summer which often survive as dried seed-heads in winter. Other jewels of the burial grounds are those in the air. Richard Hall has diligently recorded the following butterflies. His knowledge is invaluable and, like a lot of amateur naturalists, his talents are as shy as his most prized sighting. We are indebted to him for this information.

Large skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>	27 July 2011
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	20 April 2013
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	27 July 2011
Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	27 July 2011
Green-veined white	<i>Pieris napi</i>	27 July 2011
Orange tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	5 May 2013
Small copper	<i>Lacaena phlaeas</i>	28 September 2013
Brown argus	<i>Plebeius agestis</i>	9 August 2015
Common blue	<i>Polymmatas icarus</i>	26 July 2013
Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	27 July 2011
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	15 July 2012
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	18 May 2013
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	20 April 2013
Comma	<i>Polyommatus c-album</i>	28 April 2012
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	15 July 2012
Gate keeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	27 July 2011
Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	27 July 2011
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	15 July 2012

The burial ground must be one of the few places where records are being compiled below, on and above the ground

### DATES FOR 2017

AGM: 7.30 pm 14th March, Old Vestry of St Augustine's Richmond Road (*to be confirmed*).

Dates for working parties (all 10 am –noon):

18th February	18th March
22nd April	20th May
17th June	15th July.

Please note that there are no working parties in January or August.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS 2017

Rates: £10 for individuals (£5 for students and OAPs); £15 for households; £25 for corporate subscriptions. You may also set up a standing order for your subscription;

Pat Ingham will be standing down at the AGM 2017, but will remain treasurer until then. Please send subscriptions to her at 8 All Souls Lane, Cambridge CB3 0EA.

To find out more about the Friends of the Parish of the Ascension Burial Ground, to become a member or to update or change your contact details, please write to the Secretary of the Friends:

Prof. James Clackson, c/o Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL, [jptc1@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jptc1@cam.ac.uk).