

# The Friends of Hartwood Paupers Cemetery

## Newsletter

Autumn 2021

And an invitation to join The Friends.

[hartwoodgraveyard@gmail.com](mailto:hartwoodgraveyard@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/922448381938628/>

### *The aims of The Friends are:*

“To preserve and protect the former Lanarkshire, Hartwood, Paupers Cemetery site and enhance the site as a public amenity. To maintain, repair, restore, preserve, improve, beautify and reconstruct the Cemetery site as a place of historical merit and to advance public education in the history of the mental health and the cemetery”.

### *Compassion and Friendship.*

We are sure we can learn from each other and flourish whilst improving our wellbeing in these strange times.

For those, who these grounds are their last resting may no longer have a voice but we can help to make sure they are given the respect they most rightly deserve.

Nowadays, attitudes have changed and are continuing to change towards mental illness and the stigma that historically sits uncomfortably within it. We, as a group will do our utmost to help break down this stigma and help build hope in those affected by mental illness, where we will provide a safe and empowering space.

### *A Haven for Nature*

Though funding, donations and sales of our merchandise, we will continue the project, where we hope to :

- ◆ Publish Newsletters online.
- ◆ Improve our grass cutting schedule so that visitors can gain access to the gravestones and other features.
  - ◆ Plant bulbs as well as new bee-friendly flowers and shrubs.
- ◆ Install some raised beds to grow produce to help our local food bank and residents.
- ◆ Improve all our own mental health.
  - ◆ Make new friends

The first burial was on 26th August 1896 and it's last on the 09th April 1952.

There is 1255 named individual within the 634 graves, which were marked with a simple number plaque.

If you are aware of the history, you may know the majority of the plaques where thrown away and many headstones removed as deemed dangerous a few years ago.

“The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them.”

## Here Comes Autumn

After what has been the strangest of years not only due to COVID, we have made so much progress, new friends and build new networks across many organisations.

So, where do we begin ...

We will be featured on BBC Scotland's 'My Kind of Town' which will be aired around November, where we met the lovely Ian and his guide dog Major.

Then the stakes were upped when we were approached by the Discovery/ Yesterday channel for information, little did we know that we would become the 'story tellers' for the lost building and history we call Hartwood.

We are currently in talks with NHS Lanarkshire to have an entrance board with the history of the cemetery placed at the gate and 4 other plaques at the corners of the cemetery with all 1255 names listed, so they will never be forgotten about again.

We have been working alongside NLC Restorative Justice, who have made us bird boxes, signs and we look forward to a continued partnership.

In the next few days, we will have a Wee Library box installed, where you can take a book and sit on the seat, taking in the peace and tranquillity or leave a book for others to enjoy.

We will continue to work to have the approx. 60 graves that lie behind the fence brought back in, so they are no longer separated and isolated from the others.

## Our Upcoming Diary

### *October*

The install Mr Fox proof netting in all the barrels before

Plant all the bulbs and winter plants in the barrels

Build a raised bed around the tree, so planting and weeding is easier for all

### *November*

Purchase a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday

### *Ongoing*

Look to build beds to grow produce for the local food bank and local residents .

Complete the listing of the 1255 names onto files.

Rotovate the overgrown area and plant wild meadow seeds

Continue the genealogy research with Tom and Terry, and uploaded onto the spreadsheet and social media files.

Continue with painting the number plaques and have the missing ones replaced, funding depended

We would like to thank the following :  
NLC Community Justice, NHS Lanarkshire.  
Tom Gormill and Terry along with Wizard for endless hours researching the records.  
To all the volunteers who have gave up their free time.

To all those who visit the cemetery, so our 1255 are remembered.

To everyone who has wished us well and joined our social media platforms.

*If you have any information or photographs of how it once looked we would appreciated it whole heartedly*

Thank you