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Newsletter - Autumn 2010
Our Cemeteries
For visitors and volunteers

Welcome to the third newsletter for St Albans City & District Council's cemeteries. Our aim is to keep you informed about developments in the Council's three cemeteries and also encourage participation in the way our cemeteries are used by the community.



The green burial area at Hatfield Road Cemetery is now ready for use. Please contact the Cemetery office if you wish to find out more about this area.



The water supply in Hatfield Road and Westfield Road Cemeteries suffered badly in the winter cold snap and many standpipes were damaged by the ice. Some standpipes were repaired a number of times before having to be shut down due to underground leaks. The water supply pipes to these standpipes were very old and needed to be repaired or replaced. In Hatfield Road Cemetery we have now replaced them with robust plastic pipes and installed five smart new standpipes. We apologise for the length of time this work took to be completed and the very limited access to water during this time. New standpipes are also being installed in Westfield Road Cemetery.

London Road Cemetery now has a third Garden of Rest for the burial of cremated remains.



We will commence burials in the new extension when the 'old' cemetery sections become full. The first burials are expected to take place in the Muslim section and five chamber type graves have already been prepared. Three of the sections that we do not anticipate using for some time are being left as wildflower meadow, to encourage wildlife, and will be cut twice a year.



Jaime, Leon (Chargehand), Jim and Rob from John O'Conner (Grounds Maintenance) Limited look after our three cemeteries and two of the closed churchyards as well as preparing graves for burials. They do a wonderful job and we know, from the comments made, that many visitors also appreciate their hard work.

You may have noticed that the public toilets in Hatfield Road Cemetery have needed to be closed on a few occasions due to misuse. We are very sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused to visitors and hope that this action will not be necessary in the future.



We will soon replant those sections of the Yew hedges damaged in the arson attacks at Westfield Road Cemetery. The hedges around the two giant redwood trees will not be replanted.

Grave Ownership: All graves and garden of rest plots in our cemeteries must have a living owner of the burial rights before any available space may be used (except for the burial of the grave owner). Many people wrongly believe that if they have the grave deed they are the owner. The owner is the person named on the deed or registered with the Cemetery Office as the new owner, following a transfer. Please contact the Cemetery Office if you would like more information about grave ownership.

The 'adopt a grave' scheme now has a number of families and individuals caring for graves in Hatfield Road Cemetery which the owners are no longer able to care for. If you would like to know more about this scheme please contact the Cemetery Office on 01727 819362.

Samuel Ryder – St Albans Trail

The grave of Sam Ryder in Hatfield Road Cemetery is included in this trail and we anticipate a number of visitors to the cemetery around the time that the Ryder Cup competition takes place in Wales. Leaflets about the trail are available from the Cemetery Office or the Tourist Information Office.



www.sryder.com for more information.

Song

**When I am dead, my dearest,
Sing no sad songs for me;
Plant thou no roses at my head,
Nor shady cypress tree:
Be the green grass above me
With showers and dewdrops wet;
And if thou wilt remember,
And if thou wilt forget.**

**I shall not see the shadows,
I shall not feel the rain;
I shall not hear the nightingale
Sing on, as if in pain;
And dreaming through the twilight
That doth not rise nor set;
Haply I may remember;
And haply may forget.**

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

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