

Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery

In 1984 Beckett Street (Burmantofts) Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Leeds and last resting-place of 180,000 Leeds people was threatened with clearance by its owners, Leeds City Council. A few of the 'best' memorials were to be left, the rest would be destroyed and the site grassed over.

The cemetery has 8,000 memorials – the history of Leeds and its people literally set in stone. With over 110 species of plants and trees, and foxes, kestrels, and other animals calling it home, it's an essential green space area for all.

Concerned members of the public banded together to form **The Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery** to spearhead the fight to save both the gravestones and the wildlife from the bulldozer, and the clearance plans were scrapped. It was agreed that the memorials would be respected and that in future the cemetery would be carefully managed for the benefit of the wildlife it shelters and the local community.

Beckett Street Cemetery still needs friends

See overleaf for what the Friends are doing, and how you may help preserve this wonderful heritage. You can join the Friends for a small yearly subscription fee, please use the form below.

Return this to the address overleaf

Please enrol me as a member of the **Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery**. I enclose a sum of to cover my annual subscription fee of (£5 individual / £8 family / £8 association / £25 corporate)* and (optionally) a donation of.....

* delete as appropriate.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

friends of



**BECKETT
STREET
cemetery**

Since the cemetery was saved from clearance we have had to work hard to safeguard it and try to get it satisfactorily maintained. The more members we have, the better we can speak up for it and make sure it is truly safe from destruction. By becoming a member you can help support and preserve this unique piece of history and green space in the inner city. If you would like further information please contact the Secretary of the Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery at 37 Shaw Lane Gardens, Guiseley, LS20 9JQ.

Activities of the Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery

As well as liaising with the City Council and other organisations on matters concerning the cemetery, the Friends and its members organise events in and around the cemetery:

- Volunteer working parties are organised each month, so feel free to enquire and come see how you can help improve a bit of the cemetery.
- There is a programme of guided walks at the cemetery run by a Friend who is also a qualified Leeds City Guide.
- Members receive regular Newsletters and have the opportunity to attend the AGM, at which there is always an entertaining talk or film.
- There are occasional extra lectures on historical or wildlife aspects of the cemetery, or visits to other cemeteries or churchyards.

By joining the Friends you will be making your own contribution to keeping this cemetery safe....

Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery Membership Form

Please complete the details overleaf and return this form to:

**The Membership Secretary, FoBSC,
21 Nowell Street,
Leeds LS9 6HS**

enclosing your cheque/PO payable to 'Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery'

Data Protection Act 1998. Personal data is kept on computer and will only be used to send you newsletters and information, or contact you regarding the Friends or the cemetery and will not be disclosed to any external sources without your express written consent.