



PRESS RELEASE

28 July 2025

Victorian Cemetery and Arboretum

Marlborough Town Council and The Friends of the Victorian Cemetery volunteers invite you to an open morning at the Victorian Cemetery & Arboretum at Marlborough Common

There are two cemeteries located side by side at Frees Avenue, on Marlborough Common.

The original cemetery, consecrated in 1855 as a burial ground for Preshute and the two Marlborough parishes of St Peter's and St Mary's is now known locally as the Victorian Cemetery. It was closed after the current town cemetery opened in 1924. It is now a peaceful spot with mature specimen trees, notable tombs and ironwork, benches, wild flowers, spring bulbs, beehives and nest boxes: a haven for wildlife and a tranquil space for people.

Open Morning, Saturday, 9 August, 10am-12 noon

- Starting at 10am with a short introduction to the activities on offer
- This closed cemetery has a fascinating history. Hear a little about its past, and our plans for the future
- Take a tour - there will be leaflets and maps showing where the wildflowers are planted and naming the specimen trees
- For the little ones there will be a discovery quiz and the chance to build a bug hotel
- Everyone is welcome to help create habitat piles
- Cold refreshments
- Bring along your gardening gloves and small tools such as secateurs if you'd like to join the Friends with a little weeding, pruning, or litter picking

Why not bring a camp chair and a picnic and enjoy the peaceful, birdsong filled space after the activities finish at 12?

Click <https://maps.app.goo.gl/wuAiJ2JBsZYbX18y7> for the location.

Please note there are no toilet facilities at this site and there is limited parking at Frees Avenue so walk here if you can, or park in our free car park just off Hyde Lane and adjacent to the Marlborough Rugby Clubhouse at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zLiSEJut2w8WRaaF7>

Children must be supervised at all times for their own safety, and dogs on leads are welcome.

Richard Spencer-Williams

Richard Spencer Williams, PSLCC
Town Clerk

Notes to editors

A mortuary chapel was built in 1859 and consecrated in 1860, no longer standing. The original Lych Gate can now be found at Fyfield.

There are 11 Commonwealth War Graves in the two cemeteries.

Open 24 hours. Please keep dogs on leads.

Friends of the Victorian Cemetery

In 2014 our then-Deputy Mayor, Margaret Rose, set up a voluntary group: The Friends of the Victorian Cemetery. Since then, with support from the Town Council's Grounds Team, the Friends have met regularly to clear vegetation, prune shrubs, plant wildflowers and have a general tidy-up. Their efforts have been worthwhile - entered into the Its Your Neighbourhood Category of the competition, the Victorian Cemetery was recognised as Outstanding by RHS South West in Bloom judges

<https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/the-victorian-cemetery>

Victorian Cemetery & Arboretum OPEN MORNING Saturday 9th August 2025 10am - 12 noon

- Join in with some weeding, cutting & pruning (please BYO garden tools and gloves)
- A discovery quiz for the young ones
- Help create habitat piles
- A little bit of history
- Hear our plans for the future



Dogs must be kept on a lead
No toilet facilities
Children must be supervised by an adult at all times

For enquiries, please contact Clare Williams, Deputy Town Clerk at cwilliams@marlborough-tc.gov.uk or 01672 512487