



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026



Wildflower area in July

It's been a busy year so far!

The graveyard has been a very busy place since the beginning of the year, and a lot has been achieved. 2026 started with some spectacular displays of spring flowers which attracted a rich diversity of insects. However, the exceptional heat this summer has taken its toll, although the careful management of the flora has continued to attract pollinators and other insects.



Wildflower area in August

What we have been up to!



Planting the bare root shrubs and trees

- Spring started with volunteers sowing wildflower seeds.
- Our flora diversity has received a recent boost by way of £500 provided by MCS Construction. This has enabled WCC to purchase a variety of native and non-native, chalk-loving shrubs and trees which included Quince, Spindle, Rowan, Crab apple, Damson, Blackthorn and Whitebeam.
- We have received a Greener FASTER grant from Winchester City Council to cover the cost of the batteries we need for our mower, strimmer etc. Thank you WCC.
- Steve Bolton from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust visited. He was very interested in our achievements in promoting diversity of both flora and fauna.
- Southampton Natural History Society provided the expertise for our Moth night and Bio Blitz events. The objective is to record as many different insects as possible during the survey. This is part of our ongoing programme of monitoring the progress of our work.

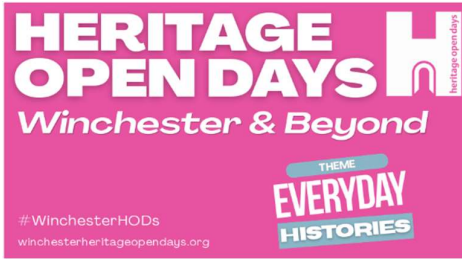


Privet Hawk Moth



Speckled Bush cricket

What's coming up



Baroque headstone

Join us on Friday 18th September 10:00 - 16:00

There will be poster displays and tours describing various aspects of St Giles Hill Graveyard, focusing on the four themes below:

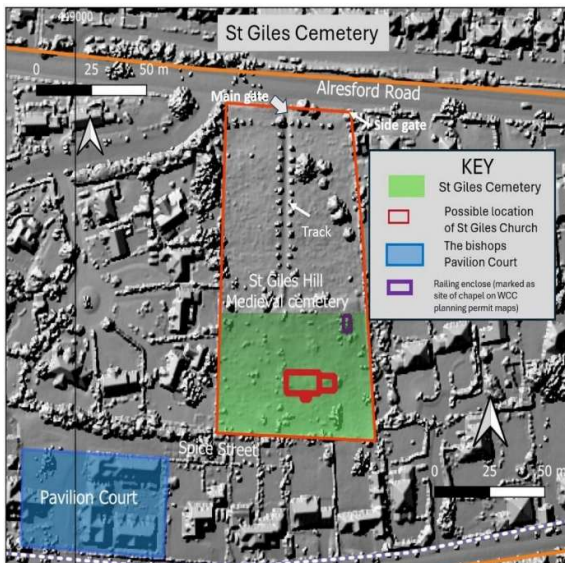
- Traumatic times - WWI and Titanic.
- Echoes of the past - important local people.
- Ancient beginnings – St Giles medieval chapel and Fair.
- 300 years of graveyard art – Baroque to Art Deco

We will also have a display of stone possibly originating from the chapel and Victorian *immortelle* that were found in the graveyard.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/a-tour-through-time-st-giles-hill-medieval-graveyard.html>



- Exciting plans for later this year - A geophysical survey to locate the lost chapel



Winchester Archaeology Group (WARG) and the University of Winchester will be working with us to do some investigations into the exact position of the medieval St Giles Chapel. Its existence is recorded in several medieval documents. The first record of a church at this location is from 1096 and the last reference is from 1542. We had hoped to do the survey in the autumn, but the very dry conditions have resulted in the investigations being delayed.



To find out more please
do get in touch:

Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard Chairman: David Stewart: (dave@stgileshill.org.uk)