

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Cemetery, which is managed and maintained by Henfield Parish Council, is non denominational and remains open at all times throughout the year.

The Clerk to the Council can be contacted at:
The Council Office Henfield Hall Coopers Way

Henfield BN5 9DB.

Phone: (01273) 492507

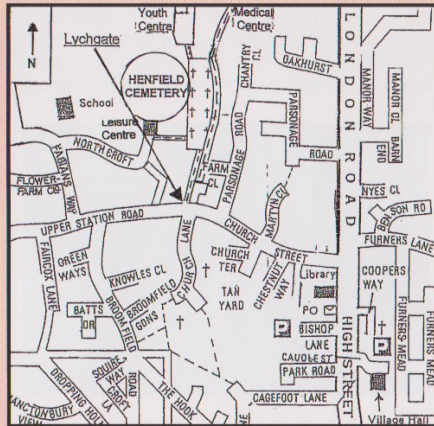
e.mail: office@henfield.gov.uk

(Office open to receive visitors between 10.00am–1.00pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and 10.00am – 3pm on Wednesdays and at other times by prior arrangement).

Matters on which the Clerk is able to assist include:

- Arranging a burial space or space for the interment of ashes.
- Purchasing exclusive rights of a burial space for future use.
- Approval for erection of headstone or other memorial.
- Arranging for a plaque on the Memorial Wall.
- Providing details of the Cemetery fees.

Whilst primarily for the people of Henfield Parish and those with links both past and present with Henfield, the Cemetery is available for all people and a sliding scale of fees reflects this. For those wishing to plan ahead, the exclusive right of burial in respect of a pre-reserved burial space can be purchased.



Cover sketch of Lychgate re-produced by kind permission of Janet Kersey

HENFIELD CEMETERY



Church Street (opposite Church Lane)
Entrance through The Lychgate

THE CEMETERY GROUNDS

The Cemetery is a serene and tranquil tree lined area north of the Parish Church of St. Peter's. A number of benches provide seating for those wanting a place for quiet contemplation and remembrance.

The enclosed map shows the location of the Cemetery and its entrances. The main entrance is through the Lychgate in Church Street (junction with Upper Station Road). Visitors using the western entrance can use the car park at Henfield Leisure Centre. There is also a pedestrian access from Farm Close and a northern entrance in Deer Park beside the Youth Centre where a small car park is also available for visitors.

In addition to the areas available for graves, at the northern end of the Cemetery there is an area set aside for the interment of ashes. Beyond is a Memorial Wall which can be reached by passing through a rose arbour. The Wall provides for the placement of engraved plaques for those who wish loved ones to be remembered in this peaceful place. There is still plenty of space for new burials in the Cemetery.

The Grounds are regularly maintained and water is available at a central point for those who are tending graves.

Many graves date back to the 19th Century and there is also a number of war graves. At each Armistice children from the local St. Peter's School place poppy crosses on these graves as a token of remembrance.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1884 the Parochial Church Council took out a loan of £650 to purchase a new burial ground. This was because the churchyard at St. Peter's Parish Church had become fully used.

The southern part of the Cemetery was opened in 1885 and was run by the then Henfield Burial Board. In 1894 the first Henfield Parish Council was elected to office and one of the responsibilities of this new local civic authority was to take on the administration of the Cemetery.

For the past 100 years the Parish Council has tended and cared for this quiet village sanctuary on behalf of the people of Henfield, maintaining its beautiful grounds and peaceful surroundings.



The Lychgate at the southern entrance to the Cemetery was initially erected to protect the coffin and mourners from inclement weather while they awaited the arrival of the minister and officials. The original wooden cross which graced the roof was removed in 1991 and is now in Henfield Museum at The Henfield Hall. The oak gates at the southern entrance were erected in 1885 at a cost of £7.



In 1907 the Cemetery was extended north to its present boundary and in years to come the adjoining field will be incorporated into the Cemetery when additional space is needed. In the meantime, this field, which the Memorial Wall overlooks will remain a wild meadow with access for those who wish to wander in peace and solitude.

Amongst the memorials in the Cemetery are several World War I and World War II graves which are maintained by Henfield Parish Council for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Generations of Henfield families are buried in the Cemetery with many recorded surnames repeating on headstones in nearby St. Peter's Churchyard, some dating back to medieval times.

Many famous people have lived in Henfield through the ages and this Cemetery being a mere 100 plus years old is peacefully gathering names of note, including Prince Littler the Theatrical Impresario and Admiral Oliver, Beach Master for the Normandy Landings in 1944. Also remembered in the Cemetery is Arthur Reed Ropes, better known under the pseudonym Adrian Ross, the British stage's senior lyricist through several eras of musical theatre from the 1890's to 1930's. His family lived in Henfield at Lipride.