

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 16 April 2018

NEWTOWN ROAD CEMETERY CHAPEL AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Newbury Town Council has recently installed a disabled access toilet at Newtown Road Cemetery to improve the facilities for those hiring the Chapel.

The refurbished Cemetery Chapel is available for hire, and has been used in recent years to host local 'Open Studios' art exhibitions and for the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery to meet.

The Chapel has space for a seating area, exhibition, small performance area and can be used for schools groups after a tour of the Cemetery. The new toilet facility will be available only to groups who hire the Chapel.

Cllr Adrian Edwards, Leader of the Council said, "There is a long and interesting history of the Cemetery and the earliest recorded burial was on 21 May 1850. Although the new Municipal Cemetery (*now referred to as Shaw Cemetery*) opened in 1913 there have still been many interments (*mostly ashes*), with the last full burial taking place in November 2007".

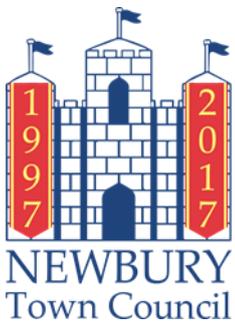
He continued, "The Newtown Road Cemetery Chapel is a lovely building, and with the new toilet facility it should be easier for groups and schools to be able to make use of the Cemetery and its grounds".

Records show that the Cemetery walls and lodge were built first, followed by the two chapels, the Anglican one in 1852 and also a 'Dissenters Chapel', as it was then called, in 1854. This Chapel was demolished in 1956 because of its unsafe condition, which is when the Borough of Newbury took control.

The fire that allegedly destroyed the Dissenters Chapel is also claimed to have consumed nearly all the Cemetery records. Newbury Town Council took on the management in 1998, which was shortly after it was formed as a Town (Parish) Council.

Continued.....





PRESS RELEASE

Date: 16 April 2018

The Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery regularly hold open days and more information on the Cemetery can be found via their website: www.fncnewbury.org.uk

If you would like to enquire about hiring the Chapel please contact Newbury Town Council's Community Services Department on 01635 35486 or email towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk

ENDS

Contacts:

Cllr Adrian Edwards – Leader of the Council adrian.edwards@westberks.gov.uk 01635 45033

Cllr Miles Evans – Deputy Leader of the Council miles_evans@hotmail.com

Hugh Peacocke, CEO, Newbury Town Council Hugh.Peacocke@newbury.gov.uk 01635 35486

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

 (01635) 35486  towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk
 (01635) 40484  www.newbury.gov.uk
 @NewburyTC  NewburyTC

1997 - 2017

20 years at the heart of the town

