

Report of Renhold WI
Renhold WI meeting
7.30 pm 5th October 2017
Renhold Village Hall

30th October Village Walk meet at Go Outdoors Goldington Road at 10am.

Coffee at Danish Camp for those who wish to join us. 11am

1. 2nd November 2017 meeting arrangements – bring some foliage and decorations if you want to have a go yourselves at making a decoration under instruction for our speaker Zannah Allen.

Talk by Colin Wolf - Bedford Cemetery

2. Colin Woolf has been a friend of Bedford Cemetery for 5 years. It is in Foster Hill Road and was opening in 1855, it is now a closed cemetery and no new burials take place there. It was designed by Bedford Architect Thomas Jobson Jackson in 1854. Then James Wyatt the Borough Treasurer and Thomas Dann the Superintendent opened the cemetery and the closed 9 smaller ones around the town. It was also the Borough Mortuary with a double chapel for Anglican deaths and others. The site spans 38 acres and has many graves to each acre. The ancient burial registers remain available and plots can be examined and researched by families for years to come. The firsts burial there was a very small child for the Tachi 'barometer making 'family.
3. Friends of Bedford Cemetery look after the grounds and grave stones, uncovering long lost overgrown graves and memorials. Work at the Chapel was done with Lottery funding. Many famous deaths are recorded in the cemetery records such as the Tennis court murders of 1883 and Sir Frank Stevens the Bedfordshire Chief Constable who died of accidental gunshot injury in 1939. Many war graves also exist. Sadly, the cemetery also has its share of vandalism and storm damage to deal with. It is a beautiful site and well worth a visit.
4. Date of next meeting 7.30 Thursday 2nd November 2017 at the village hall.