



# Rectory Lane Cemetery

BERKHAMSTED

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## Cemetery Stories Writing Competition

Are you aged between 4 and 16?  
Do you like stories from the past, ghostly stories,  
adventure stories, wildlife stories, poetry or true tales?

Come along to the launch at BerkoFest  
Book Festival in Rectory Lane Cemetery

09.30 - 18.00 Sunday 12th May 2019

Meet Theresa Breslin, Carnegie Medal-Winning  
author of 'Whispers in the Graveyard'.  
Listen to stories by local and national authors and  
be inspired to write your own!

You could win a prize or have your writing  
published in our Cemetery Stories book!

Submission deadline Sunday 9th June  
Entry to competition is free. Details overleaf of gravestone!

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Cemeteries feature in many children's books, such as Neil Gaiman's 'The Graveyard Book', Terry Pratchett's 'Johnny and the Dead', Patrick Moody's 'The Gravedigger's Son' and Theresa Breslin's 'Whispers in the Graveyard'. Cemeteries can be places of sanctuary, of discovery, of connections with the past or with 'the otherworld'. They can inspire feelings, thoughts and writing like no other places.

As part of BerkoFest Book Festival, the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project wants to fire up your imagination to write a short story, a poem, a playlet, a factual work - whatever you are inspired to do by visiting our 'hidden gem' of a cemetery. It should be no more than 500 words but do illustrate if you like. Our authors will inspire you to by reading from their stories, sharing how they got started and encouraging you with ideas and tips. You don't have to come to the Book Festival on 12th May to enter the competition - Rectory Lane Cemetery is always open so you can visit any time - but that day will be a brilliant opportunity to get ideas and meet real, published authors!

**COMPETITION ENTRY IS FREE.** There are three age categories: 7 & under, 8-12, 13-16, so tell us your age as well as your name. All writing must be your own work - you don't need your parents for this challenge! **SEND YOUR ENTRY** by email to Kate Campbell, Rectory Lane Cemetery's Community Engagement Officer - [Campbellkate01@gmail.com](mailto:Campbellkate01@gmail.com) - or in hard copy to 31 Cedar Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 2LB (take a copy before you send and enclose a SAE if you want it returned to you). It's very important that you include a parent or guardian's contact details.

**YOUR DEADLINE** is Sunday 9th June. An independent panel will judge submissions, select the winners and choose work for the Cemetery Stories book (panel members will be announced at the launch on 12th May) and their decision will be final!

**OUR DEADLINE** for judging is Sunday 14th July. Winners will be contacted shortly afterwards and the news shared in The Gazette, local social media and the Rectory Lane Cemetery website.

**PRIZES** are definitely going to be awarded! There will be gorgeous books kindly donated by WATERSTONES and perhaps some other special mementos! And don't forget the chance of being published yourself in a **BOOK!**

Further details [www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/news](http://www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/news)