

## Letters To Loved Ones

In October we unveiled the "Letters to Loved Ones" Post Box at Highworth Cemetery. We felt this addition to the cemetery would encourage people to write letters to lost loved ones as part of their grieving process. We understand that coming to terms with the loss of a loved one is a personal journey and be it a birthday, anniversary or just because, putting your feelings into a letter can bring great comfort. The installation of the post box and memorial were both sponsored by Hilliers Funeral Service and Swindon Memorials, we thank them for their kind donation.

The Town Mayor Keith Smith officiated the unveiling with the following speech:

"When the question of installing a post box in the cemetery was first brought to the Council, I thought, "What a strange idea." When Deanne asked whether I would like to be present to represent the Council when it was installed, I was reticent. Then I reflected on my own relationship with the post box.

In the days before email, Skype, Zoom and so on, the letter was how you got your message across. That first letter sent in 1965. Just a simple, 'Hello, I thought I would catch up with you.....' led to two years of friendship followed by 55 years of partnership. In fact, if it wasn't for that first letter, I would not be standing amongst you today, thanking Hilliers Funeral Services and Swindon Memorials for their thoughtfulness and their generosity.

How can I sum it up? I would say 'an email is ephemeral, but a letter is eternal.'

Please may I be first to post a letter?

Thank you both Hilliers Funeral Service and Swindon Memorials for your kindness. I understand why you are doing this. I hope others will come to understand too."