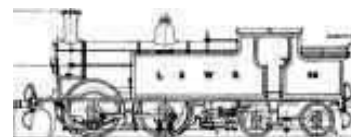


# The Brookwood Express

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Cemetery Society

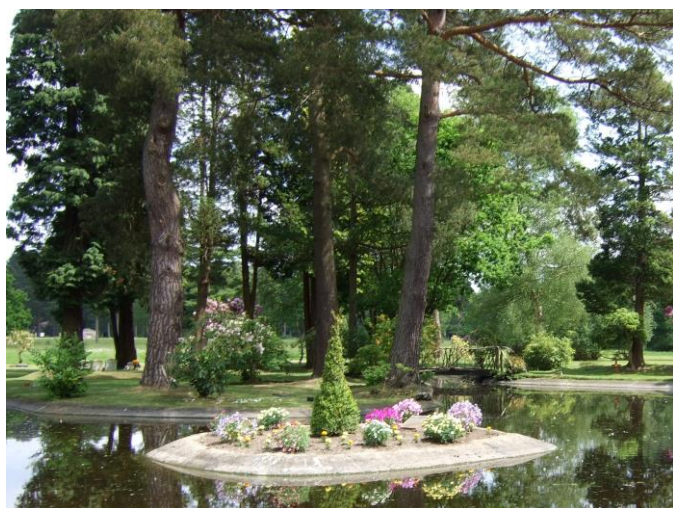


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❧ No. 100: MAY 2015 ❧

## Special Coloured 100<sup>th</sup> Edition !



**The Glades of Remembrance**

### Cemetery and Society News

#### Message from Woking Borough Council on developments within the Cemetery

In the last newsletter it was wrongly stated that Woking Borough Council was the major shareholder.

The following report is from **Mr. Ian Tombes, Strategic Asset Manager - Woking Borough Council** who explains

the ownership and the many exciting developments within the Cemetery.

"Woking Borough Council are the ultimate shareholder of the site but through their ThamesWey group of companies and have set up a new company "Woking Necropolis and Mausoleum Ltd" to whom they have given a loan. WNML will operate the site with Diane and Kevin retained as employees. I am the ultimate shareholders representative.

On trees we surveyed all the trees. A huge undertaking. Of the many thousands of trees, 240 have been identified as needing urgent work and 85 per cent of these need felling. In the context of all the trees on this site this is a relatively small number.

I have commissioned Surrey Wildlife Trust to undertake a complete ecological survey of the site which will last from now until October. This information will inform the overall management plan for the site.

I successfully bid and obtained £100,000 from English Heritage towards the cost of producing a complete management plan for the site which will take into account heritage, ecology, operational needs etc. This piece of work will be tendered over

the next couple of months and will likely take the rest of the year to complete.

On other matters we will shortly be tendering for works to the Italian Mausoleums to rectify roof drainage issues and we have just purchased £12k of grave shoring equipment to enable new graves to be dug and exhumations to be undertaken safely. Other additional new equipment is planned for the site including a new tractor and trailer which are also on order.

All historic plans and documents have now been catalogued by the Surrey History Centre and either reside there or at the cemetery archive."

Ian Tomes 2.4.2015

### **Visitors**

During the first part of this year there have been several visits by dignitaries to the Cemetery.

In February the Mayor (Cllr. Tony Branagan) and Mayoress of Woking came for informal walk. The Mayor of Runnymede also visited the St Edward Brotherhood and the Mayor and Mayoress of Rastatt at the beginning of March. **See page 4 for a full report**

During the week beginning the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, members of the V.C. Trust came to repair and cleaned some of the memorials of the V.Cs buried in the civilian sections of Cemetery.

**See pages 7-8 for a full report**



## **THE TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE at 7.30pm**

**This will be held in the meeting room of  
the St Edward Brotherhood, Brookwood  
Cemetery.**

**A talk will be given by Neil Morkunas  
from Abney Park Cemetery Society on  
Grave Symbolism**

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2015-2016 REMINDER**

This is to remind those members who have not yet renewed, that this will be the last newsletter that you will receive.

## **NUNHEAD CEMETERY ANNUAL OPEN DAY**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
11am-5pm  
Admission Free**

**Come and enjoy the unique atmosphere of  
Nunhead Cemetery. A Victorian jewel in  
the heart of the urban landscape. Music in  
our ruined chapel. Free tours, plant stall,  
children's Bug Hunt, homemade  
refreshments and many other stalls TBC.  
Limited parking. Nunhead rail station, P12  
bus. [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)**

## FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES: WALKS & OTHER EVENTS

All walks now start from the Cemetery Office entrance, off Cemetery Pales. A donation would be welcome. **We look forward to meeting you. Walks start at 2pm unless otherwise stated.**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015: Railway** Walk led by Ian Devine. This walk follows the route of the old Necropolis Railway through the cemetery.

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE AGM at 7.30pm.** This will be held in the meeting room of the St Edward Brotherhood, Brookwood Cemetery.  
**Speaker: Neil Morkunas from Abney Park Cemetery Society.**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015: The Good the Bad and the Unfortunate** led by Margaret Hobbs & Kim Lowe. This walk visits both sides of the cemetery.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015: Open Day.** This will be an afternoon when visitors can explore the cemetery with the aid of maps and information. Members of the society will be available within the cemetery to highlight the history, notable memorials & monuments.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015: Introductory Walk Part II:** Led by Margaret Hobbs and Kim Lowe. During this walk the old Non-Conformist Section of the cemetery will be explored.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015: Nature Walk** led by George Hounsom. Learn about the flora and fauna living within the cemetery.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015: Military Talk and Walk on the Battle of Britain** given by Geoff Simpson. This will be held from the old Catholic Chapel in the non-conformist section.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 AT 1.30PM; Boundary Walk** led by Barry Devonshire

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## SOCIETY CONTACTS & COMMITTEE

### (1) Committee members

**Kim Lowe** (Chairperson) ☎  
**Gail Naughton** (Acting Secretary) ☎  
**Rose Falkner** (Treasurer) ☎

**Lynne Cowley** (Publicity) ☎

### ORDINARY MEMBERS

**Jenny Graveson**  
**Margaret Hobbs** ☎

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### (2) Other Contacts

**Jo Toogood** (Membership Secretary)

**Rose Falkner** (Publications by Mail Order) ☎  
**Sarah Burt** (Auditor) ☎

**Margaret Hobbs** Newsletter /Necropolis News Editor ☎

(The Newsletter exists to promote contact between all members about all things regarding the Society. Margaret welcomes short personal contributions and aims to keep the content of the Newsletter current, varied and informative.)



**The views expressed by contributors to this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor and the society.**

## MAYORAL VISITS TO BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

... so much to see and so little time .....

During a 28 days period this Spring we had no less than three Mayoral visits to the cemetery.

In early February it was a great pleasure to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Woking and to be able to show them a little of both sides of the Cemetery. With prior arrangement I was able to show them the Stonemasons Yard complex - with its original railway lines and turntable. Dr. Gottlieb Leitner (plot 2) was our first port of call and press photos were taken - although sadly no editorial regarding Leitner's influence on the development of Woking itself was included. Margaret Hobbs and Ed guided the party round the North section, including details of our unique railway network within the cemetery. The afternoon concluded with tea and buns.

With my thanks to committee member Gail Naughton for her help in entertaining the mayor party.

Later in February the Mayor of Runnymede paid a brief visit to the St Edward Brotherhood and I joined them - for more tea and cakes - and a visit to the Monk's church. I was able to tell the Mayor a little about the Cemetery's history, the railway (the Monks have a piece of track in their reception room) and details of a few of our more interesting graves and memorials. The Mayor hopes to return later in the year for a more in depth tour.

The Mayoral visit 'hat trick' was requested through the Woking Town Twinning Association. The Mayor and Mayoress of Rastatt (South West Germany) and his party were shown the South side of the Cemetery, culminating in a visit to the Commonwealth War Graves. Again Dr. Leitner featured as did Eph Thompson the African American elephant trainer. Sadly time was limited so I was not able to take them to the North side. The Mayor and his party were charming and gracious and I do hope they have another chance of a visit when they come to Woking next. Jenny Graveson 14.3.2015

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## Franz Arthur Frederick Schuster (Sir Arthur Schuster) FRS Physicist (1851-1934) Plot 56



*Arthur Schuster*

The eminent mathematical physicist, **Franz Arthur Frederick Schuster (Sir Arthur Schuster)**, was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1851 in Frankfurt, Germany, the second son of **Franz Joseph Schuster (1824 - 1906)** and **Marie Pfieffer (1831-1890)**. His father had a textile and banking business, Schuster Son & Co, and the family moved from Germany to Lancashire in 1870; at this time Arthur was studying in Geneva, but joined his family that year in England. The family was originally of the Jewish faith but converted to Christianity. It is probable that they settled in Manchester, because at this time the city was the international heart of the booming cotton and textile trade.

Sir Arthur had an older brother, Ernest Joseph (1850-1924), who was a barrister, and a younger brother, Felix Otto (1854-1936), who was a banker and barrister; he also had a younger sister, Marie Adele Henrietta Paula, known as Paula (1863- ?). Sir Arthur subsequently, like all the family, became a naturalised British subject in 1875.

## Family Life and Career

When the family moved to England in 1870 they lived in Chorlton on Medlock, Lancashire. For the following year the census gives Franz Joseph's occupation as a merchant, as were Ernest and Arthur. After working in the family business for about a year, Arthur went to study at Owens College (later Manchester University), Manchester. Here he studied pure mathematics under Professor Thomas Barker and physics under Professor Balfour Stewart, and began research with Sir Henry Roscoe on the spectra of hydrogen and nitrogen. Then he spent a year working under the physicist Gustav Kirchhoff at the University of Heidelberg. Here he gained his PhD and returned to Manchester, where he worked for a while in the unpaid position of a demonstrator. In 1875 he returned to Germany and worked on spectrum analysis with the famous scientists Wilhelm Eduard Weber and Hermann von Helmholtz. In 1876 he visited Thailand in order to photograph the coronal spectrum of the total eclipse of the sun. There were further expeditions in 1878, 1882 and 1886.

On his return to England in 1876, Arthur worked for five years at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University, with James Clerk-Maxwell F.R.S., F.R.S.E. and John W Strutt, (3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Rayleigh); they were working on the determination of the ohm in absolute measure. Arthur was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1879 and in 1881 and he was appointed to the Beyer Chair of Mathematics at Own College, Manchester.

In July 1887 at Banbury, Oxfordshire, Arthur married Emma Caroline Elizabeth Loveday, known as Cary (1867-1962). The couple resided in Chorlton on Medlock and had five children: Leonard Francis (1889 - 1985), followed by twins Margaret (1891 - 1956) who married the well known metallurgist Robert Salmon Hutton, and Sibyl Marie (1891 - ?). Then came Norah

Henriette (1892 -?) and lastly Florence Caroline (1893- 1978).

In 1888, the year after his marriage, Arthur took up the position of Langworthy Professor of Physics at Manchester University. He held this post until 1907 when he retired, partly due to ill health and partly to promote the cause of science worldwide. He was knighted in 1920 and held various positions with the Royal Society: as Secretary (1912 -1919) and as Vice-President (1919 -1924). He was also Secretary to the International Research Council (1919 -1928) and President of the British Association in 1915.

During his time as Professor of Physics at Manchester University, Arthur set up a large busy teaching and research laboratory. By 1900 a new laboratory was opened in Coupland Street of his design. He was instrumental in the setting up, three separate universities, Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds, from out the old Victorian University in Manchester

He is best noted for his work on antimatter, spectroscopy, optics, magnetism and the mathematical theory of periodicity.

His published works include: An Intermediate Course of Practical Physics (1896), An Introduction to the Theory of Optics (1904), Britain's Heritage of Science (1917). He published his autobiography as "Biographical Fragments" in 1932.

Sir Arthur held doctorates from Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, St Andrews, Heidelberg and Geneva Universities. His family's business success allowed them to endowed readerships in mathematical physics at Cambridge and Manchester Universities.

Sometime between 1911 and 1914, Arthur and Cary moved to Wargrave, Berkshire, and it was from here that his daughter Margaret married in 1914.

There was some anti German feeling towards the family during WWI, but this was overcome when it was known that his son, Leonard, had been wounded while serving with the armed forces in 1915.

He died on October 14<sup>th</sup> 1934 at Yeldall, Wargrave, Berkshire and his flat memorial



of Roman stone includes his portrait. His wife Cary died on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1962 and is interred with her husband.

Sources Ancestry  
Wikipedia  
Free BMD  
London's Necropolis by John Clarke

*Margaret Hobbs*

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## **CHARLES BRADLAUGH 1833-1891 PLOT 198 (North Side)**

Fellow Committee member Gail Naughton and I thought it was high time the Charles Bradlaugh grave was cleared and the memorial, kerbing and chaining was revealed. Sadly the original bronze bust of Bradlaugh and the leaf decoration were stolen in 1938, and since then the yew hedging has been allowed to grow up all around, concealing the memorial. In early February, with permission from the Cemetery office we started the task. At the time of writing work has stopped as the robins are nesting in what is left of the hedging, but we plan to continue in a month or two.



*Charles Bradlaugh*

Charles Bradlaugh – atheist, freethinker, supporter of birth control and reformer was very much controversial character. He was Liberal M.P. for Northampton for 11 years – but could not take his seat in the House until 1886 when he was permitted by the then Speaker, to ‘affirm’ rather than ‘swear’ the Oath.

David Lloyd George, Annie Besant (women’s rights activist) together with a large proportion of the then Indian population of London attended his big funeral – among them the young Gandhi. The service was what we call now a humanist funeral.



*The Bradlaugh family grave plot 198*

Bradlaugh’s memorial was paid by voluntary subscription. Other members of the family are now commemorated on the sides of the memorial.

Do visit the grave in the summer – it is attractive memorial and good to see all the posts and chaining intact.

Jenny Graveson 15.3.2015

## **VICTORIA CROSS GRAVES** **RESTORED**



**During the week starting the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 members of the VC Trust worked at Brookwood Cemetery civilian sections cleaning and tidying the eleven VC graves.**

The VC Trust based in Doncaster, is a charity totally funded by donations, and works tirelessly to ensure the memory and graves of every VC recipient are remembered and maintained.

At Brookwood Several VC graves were cleared of foliage by members of the society prior to and during the Trust's visit, to help with the restoration. The VC Trust used specialized steaming equipment which gently cleans the stonework. Any broken cement from the centre of graves was removed as were weeds and grass and replaced with new shingle.

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 the VC Trust held an Open Day and many dignitaries attended, including Lord Ashcroft, the Mayor and Mayoress of Woking and members of Woking Borough Council, plus interested members of the Public.

During the morning a service was held to re-dedicate the graves, by two military padres, Gary and Charles, the last post was played followed by a two minute silence, then Reveille. The padres then went on to each separate grave to bless the head stone.

Along with the service a new book on VC heroes was available as well as one on George Cross recipients and a book on one of our own VC's John Sherwood-Kelly. Refreshments were also readily available, and all in all the day and the week were a great success.

### **GRAVE OF COLONEL EDGAR INKSON VC PLOT 74**

**Before restoration**



**After clearing & cleaning**



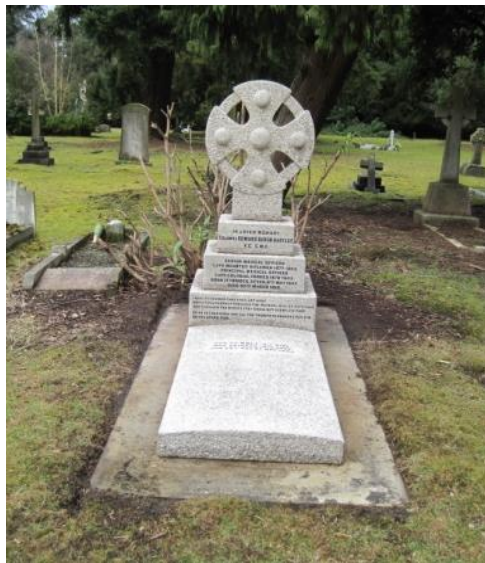
### **GRAVE OF COLONEL EDMUND BARON HARTLEY VC (1847-1919) PLOT 2**

**Before restoration**





The grave of Colonel Hartley VC after clearing and cleaning



A volunteer of the VC Trust steaming cleaning the Harris family grave Plot 23



A Military visitor at the restored grave of **MAJOR MATTHEW F.M. MEIKLEJOHN VC PLOT 3**



The Montagu – Winch Mausoleum after cleaning Plot 3



The VC Trust volunteers, on the last day, their mission accomplished, kindly cleaned the Montagu-Winch mausoleum (Plot 3) and the memorial of the **Harris family (Plot 23)**, which includes a small Spitfire memorial, to their son, Pilot Officer John Stewart Harris who died in 1941 over France.

Now the society must endeavor to keep these graves in tip top condition.

*Photographs courtesy of Margaret Hobbs and Kim Lowe.*