

The Brookwood Express

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Cemetery Society



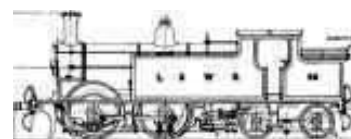
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❧ No. 101: AUGUST 2015 ❧

A Victim of an Air Crash Thomas Clement Brett 1903-1932

In plot 134 is the grave of Thomas Clement Brett, a young pilot who lost his life at Waltham, Lincolnshire, on the 18th May 1932. The inscription on his headstone, simply states:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY ONLY SON
THOMAS CLEMENT BRETT
KILLED IN AN AIR CRASH
18TH MAY 1932
RIP
Gone but not forgotten

There is no indication that Thomas was a husband and father.

Thomas was born in Canterbury, Kent on the 20th January 1903, and was the son of Thomas a retired draper and Frances Elizabeth née Norris.

Thomas Clement married Violet Ella Trimmer (born 1902) at Witley Church, Surrey, on the 22nd September 1924. Thomas gave his occupation as a labourer and the couple settled in the area, where their first daughter Vera was born in 1926, followed by Patricia in 1928 when the family were now living in Farnham, Surrey.

The family later moved to Guildford, Surrey, sometime between 1928 and 1931. It was at this time that Thomas obtained his pilot's licence with the National Flying Services, in a D.H. Moth Cirrus III at Hanworth Club, Middlesex, on 31st March 1931.



**Thomas Clement Brett from his Royal
Aero Club Aviators Certificate number
9778**

The National Flying Services (N.F.S.) was formed in November 1928, turning Hanworth Park into a functional aerodrome, which was later, renamed London Air Park. Hanworth Park House became a club house and headquarters of N.F.S. The park was well known for garden party fly - ins, air pageants and air races. It was in this exciting environment that Thomas learnt to fly.

In 1932 the N.F.S. was in financial difficulties and a year after Thomas's death went into liquidation.

The Crash

In the list of fatal accidents on the website www.rcawsey.co.uk the following information was given.

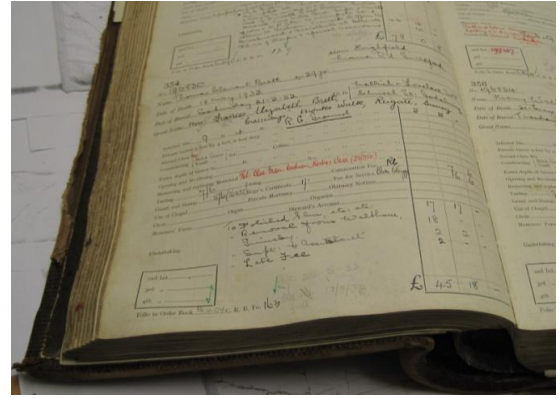
A De Havilland 60X Moth-G-AAPL of the National Flying Services Ltd. Hanworth, crashed after an in-flight wing failure, at 1,500 feet, at Waltham near Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Both occupants of the plane, the pilot Thomas Clement Brett aged 29 and the passenger Montague Montgomery Hobbs aged 28 were killed. The plane had been manufactured in 1929 and put into service the same year.



DH 60X Moth Cirrus III

Thomas was buried in grave number 19680, on Saturday 21st May 1932, and from the funeral book the exact location is given as "Selective site, side of the path near the Roman Catholic Chapel". The funeral and memorial costs met by his mother, Mrs Frances Elizabeth Brett and the deed of grant for the grave was issued to her. The grave was for one burial only.

Sometime in the following weeks after the crash, Violet gave birth to a son Samuel. Probate was granted to her on the 10th August 1932 and indicates that Violet received £1157.



The entry in the Funeral Book

It is a bit of a mystery why there is no mention of his married status; may be Violet was so distraught, that she left the funeral arrangements and the erection of the headstone to her mother-in-law or because of some rift in the family.



Thomas Clement Brett's headstone

The other occupant of the plane, Montague Montgomery Hobbs, also lived in Guildford. He had a wife Dorothy and a young daughter Rita aged 4 years. Montague was buried on 24th May 1932 at St Mary's Church, Guildford. Were the two men friends and out on a joy ride, that ended in such a tragedy?

Sources: The London Necropolis Registers
Ancestry
www.rcawsey.co.uk

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES: WALKS & OTHER EVENTS

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

Sunday 2nd 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 6th September 2015: Nature Walk led by George Hounsom. Learn about the flora and fauna living within the cemetery.

Sunday 4th October 2015: Military Talk and Walk on the Battle of Britain given by Geoff Simpson. This will be held from the former Catholic Chapel in the non-conformist section. Please meet in the Glades of Remembrance car park at as usual.

Saturday 31st October: Halloween Walk: please come at 6.30pm for 7pm. **BRING A TORCH.** Hot refreshments will be available.

Sunday 1st November 2015 AT 1.30PM: Boundary Walk led by Barry Devonshire. This will be in the former Anglican Section.

The committee is considering extending the Walk season to December and further details can be found on the Society webpage and in the next edition of the Newsletter.

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



SOCIETY CONTACTS & COMMITTEE

(1) Committee members

Kim Lowe (Chairperson) ☎
Gail Naughton (Secretary) ☎
Rose Falkner (Treasurer) ☎
Lynne Cowley (Publicity) ☎

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Barry Devonshire ☎
Margaret Hobbs ☎

+++++

(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.)



SOCIETY AND CEMETERY NEWS

Since the last newsletter there have been several exciting projects and developments to report.

Society Walks

The regular monthly walks have been especially well attended and the June walk attracted over 50 visitors. The demand for private walks continues, and the next day on the 8th June, two classes of year 6, from Sythwood School, Woking, came on a tour of the Cemetery. This walk was part of a week of activities for the children, to learn more about their local area, and they were a delightful enthusiastic group of youngsters, who enjoyed reading some of the grave inscriptions and were impressed by the mausoleums and the angels. Kim and Margaret would like to thank Ian Devine and Eddie Evans for their help on the day.



The group at the Chelsea Pensioner's Memorial

The **Informal Open Day** at the beginning of July went well with about forty visitors. There were two walks; one to each side of the Cemetery, and visits to the Columbarium.

Bookbinding Project

The society is continuing with the bookbinding project; three funeral books have been renovated and there are seven in urgent need of restoration. These ledgers will be given to Father Thomas at intervals over the next year.

Tree Conservation

Work started in May to fell the diseased trees within the Cemetery and although it is sad to see this operation in progress, it has become obvious how badly diseased some of the trees had become. This work has ensured that important monuments, such as the Pelham-Clinton memorial (which was surrounded by dead trees) are protected from damage. The ecology study under the direction of Isobel Girvan of the Surrey Wildlife Trust will continue throughout the whole of this year.

Restoration

The committee has ordered three custom built wrought iron gates, from Surrey Wrought Iron Ltd., for the Hughes, Normand and Brain mausoleums; they will be installed later in the summer. The breeze blocks covering the entrances will be removed prior to the installation of the new gates, and the original doors exposed; although the condition of the latter are unknown after so many years being bricked up, and may need remedial work. Fund raising is continuing to further this project to other mausoleums within the Cemetery.

Lodge

The Society has been working closely with the Cemetery Office and Ian Tomes of Woking Borough Council. It is hoped that planning permission will be granted for a wooden lodge that the Society can share with the Council; the lodge will be

partly funded by the Council and the Society. This will enable the Society to have a permanent place to set up displays, and have a sales and refreshment area.

AGM Report

On the lovely evening of the 3rd June, twenty five members attended the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman reported on the change of ownership of the Cemetery to Woking Borough Council, and that this change had not affected the position of the Society in supporting and promoting Brookwood Cemetery.

Sadly Jenny Graveson as retired as a committee member and the Society thanks her for all her past hard work. Barry Devonshire has kindly agreed to fill the vacancy; Barry is a founder member of the Society and his experience and knowledge of the Cemetery will be invaluable.

The Treasurer, Rose Falkner presented the Statement of Affairs for the year ending the 30th April 2015 *see insert*.

After the official business and refreshments Neil Morkunas from the Abney Park Cemetery Society, gave an extremely interesting illustrated talk on "Grave Symbolism". He told the meeting of the history of burial monuments, drawing his examples from the dissenter's Abney Park Cemetery, London, one of the "Magnificent Seven".

Membership Secretary's Report

The membership to date stands at one hundred and five; this consists of 32 individual memberships, 13 family (26), and 47 pensioner memberships. Although 6 people did not renew the Society has attracted 7 new members. Within the membership there has always

been a high percentage of "senior citizens". The decline in membership coincided with the time of the protracted legal wrangle over ownership.

From Jo's report it seems that a decisive effort should be made to attract new members.

Membership Renewal

In the future if a member wishes to renew using electronic transfer, the Society's bank details can be obtained from the Treasurer, Rose Falkner.

Invite Civic Service

Kim and Margaret represented the Society at the Civic Service on the 28th June for the new Mayor of Woking, Councillor Derek McCrum. The service was held at St Peter's Church, Old Woking, followed by a reception in the church hall, it was a very pleasant experience.

Other News

Kim took part in filming on the 2nd July at the Cemetery for a programme to be shown on Channel 4, the title of which is to be confirmed; *please check our web site for details*, there will be more news on this in the next newsletter.

Margaret showed Aly Warner around the Anglican Section, and she is doing research for an article for "Surrey Country Life" that will be published shortly, and will include publicity for the Society. We also have a good write up on the Society, in the August Edition of Current Archaeology, much thanks to Ian Devine for his help for suggesting advertising on the publication's Odd Soc page.

So the last three months have seen great interest in Brookwood Cemetery as

a national treasure that it is and in the Society.

A Wedding

On the 9th May, Deputy Cemetery Manager Kevin Holliday married Hanna Kahn. The Society sends many congratulations and wishes them success and every happiness for the future.

Emily Shepley Hulme 1860 – 1904 Plot 26

Concealed under years of soil and heather and damaged by tree roots, is a lovely Arts and Crafts style memorial.



The memorial to Emily Shepley Hulme

After very careful uncovering it was found that the memorial was very unusual, in that the flat marble stone has the relief of a cross overlaid with metal. Sadly, the metal covering is rather damaged but it is easy to imagine how lovely the memorial would have originally looked. The memorial is shorter than the average and this puzzle was solved by checking the Funeral Book for 1904.

From the Funeral Book; the size of the plot purchased was 9ft by 4 ft, for brick lined graves and was designed to hold up to four urns of ashes. As the plot was specifically for the interment of ashes, this

is probably why the memorial is only 5ft by 2ft 6 inches. In fact only the ashes of Emily Shepley Hulme were interned in the plot. The total cost of the funeral including the cremation, obituary notice and plot was £61 9s.0d

The Family

Emily Shepley née Cappel was the daughter of Louis and Theresa and was born in London on 14th November 1860. Her father was born in Germany and became a naturalised British subject, who was a Lutheran Minister at Hampstead, London. Emily was one of six children.

She married **Edward Wyndham Hulme** on the 7th October 1890 at St John's Church, Hampstead. The couple had two children; Edward Arthur (1892 - 1990) and May Evelyn (1894 - 1990), while living in Marylebone, London. By 1901 the family had moved to 22 Granville Road, Sevenoakes, Kent and it was here that Emily died on 14th October 1904.

Edward Wyndham Hulme (1859-1954), the son of the eminent doctor Edward Charles Hulme, was educated at Oxford. He worked as a Civil Servant in the Patents Office and was the first person to use in 1923 the term "statistical bibliography"; a bibliometric pioneer. He wrote many journals on the subject and the history of Patent Law. He later married Helene Louisa Gibson in 1908.

Emily and Edward's son **Edward Arthur** served with the Canadian Armed Forces in WWI, after studying at Agricultural College in England. So presumably he had emigrated Canada, but returned to England and died in Somerset in 1990, the same year as his sister May.

May Evelyn, married Stephen Gaselee (1882 - 1943), on 17th July 1917 at St Marylebone, Westminster, London and they resided in Kensington. Stephen was a British diplomat, writer and librarian, who was later knighted and there are

several interesting biographies of his achievements on the web. May and Stephen had three daughters, Ursula, Julitta and Stephana.

Sadly Emily did not live to see her husband's many achievements and her children grow into adulthood.

Margaret Hobbs

Sources: Ancestry,
The London Necropolis Co. Archives,
Wikipedia

The Slovak President visits Brookwood Military Cemetery 22nd June 2015

President Andrej Kiska of the Slovak Republic, visited the Czechoslovakian Military Cemetery at Brookwood, to pay tribute to those servicemen and women, who were killed in WWII.

The Cemetery contains a general memorial to the fallen and contains the graves of 45 airmen, with a further two buried in the main RAF Cemetery.



The Memorial

Also attending the wreath laying ceremony were representatives from the Slovak Embassy in London, the Ambassador Miroslav and his deputy Imrich Marton. Representing the Czech Republic was the Deputy Ambassador Dr. Antonin Hradilek and the Defense Attaché, Col. Roman Siewk and Military Attaché, Lt/Col René Klapac. The RAF was represented by G/Cpt Mike Longstaff, W/Cdr Paul Brook and S/Ldr Barry Matthews.

Two Czechoslovak RAF veterans attended with the press, staff of Brookwood Cemetery and many well wishers



The scene at the wreath laying

After the wreath laying a piper from the RAF Regiment played the last post, which was then followed by a minutes silence. The national anthems of the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and Great Britain then followed.

The party then walked along to the Post WWII Czechoslovakian Serviceman's Plot, where President Kiska placed a commemorative ribbon on a tree, which had been planted in May, to commemorate the end of WW2. Then British Legion Cross's were placed nearby by Ambassador Miroslav Wlachovský, and Col Milan Gavlas which concluded the service.

The Diaries of Ernest Childs 1877 - 1964

Published in the summer edition of the Woking Magazine is a feature on the diaries Ernest Childs; grandfather of member Judith Childs.

The article is part of a series in conjunction with the Surrey Records Office to commemorate WWI and its affect on Woking residents.

Ernest was born in Melbury Osmond, Dorest, the son of Henry (a farmer) and Elizabeth Childs. Between 1891 and 1900 he moved to Woking, where he remained a resident until his death. He married Florence Ann Woodyard of Windlesham, Surrey in 1900 and they had four children.

He was a devote Christian and a lay preacher in the Gospel Hall of the Plymouth Brethren in Portugal Road, Woking. He is buried in Plot 105 at Brookwood Cemetery.

Judith deposited the diaries with the Surrey History Centre, as the dairies are of local importance, (Surrey Records ref 9425). The diaries contain interesting references to Ernest's work at Martinsyde Ltd., the aircraft manufactures, including the long hours he worked, the pay and bonuses he received

Ernest had several occupations other than working at Martinsyde during WWI; including a builder, foreman and inventor. Also he had a small side line business selling newly laid eggs.

The Martinsyde factory was sited at the former Oriental Institute, founded by Dr. Gottlieb Leitner (1840 – 1899) who is buried in plot 2.

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THE BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY

BATTLE OF BRITAIN LECTURE AND WALK BY GEOFF SIMPSON SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 2PM

This lecture will be held in the Roman Catholic Chapel Brookwood Cemetery, followed by a walk in the Military Cemetery.

Geoff Simpson is a member of the society, and has enjoyed a long career in journalism and public relations.

He has been researching the history of the RAF since the 1980s, initially as a hobby. He has met and corresponded with several hundred of the RAF airmen who flew in the Battle of Britain in 1940 and many others who saw service in the Second World War. He is the author of *A Dictionary of the Battle of Britain*, *A Dictionary of Bomber Command*, *Guy Gibson Dambuster* and numerous articles.

Geoff is a Trustee of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, a former Council Member of the Friends of the Imperial War Museum and a member of the RAF Historical Society, and the Society of Authors.

Geoff has been made an Honorary Member of the Pen and Sword Club for serving and former service personnel concerned with media relations.

**Parking will be at the Glades of Remembrance
Car Park
off Cemetery Pales**

**Refreshments will be available
Donations would be welcome**

**For further details please contact Margaret
Hobbs on 01344 891041 or 07710546275**