

The Brookwood Express

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Cemetery Society



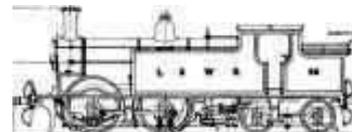
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CEMETERY AND SOCIETY UPDATES

Clearance Work

The clearance work throughout the Cemetery continues. Specialised work on the removal of the invasive Rhododendron ponticum has been undertaken and Woking Borough Council has issued a Rhododendron policy to alleviate concerns of the public and of any Society member.

There are sound reasons for the removal of this type of Rhododendron, as it has an impact on the historic landscape, historic structures and ecology.

Replanting will be undertaken where necessary, to recreate the landscape especially around such areas as the St Holborn's and Peter's plots. Planting of the new stock will be in well prepared ground, of a good size and will be protected from the deer and rabbits. If any member would like a copy of this Rhododendron policy, please contact the Editor.

The Lodge

The committee are very pleased to announce that the lodge is ready for use. Woking Borough Council have funded the installation of the site services and the

Committee in lieu of the Society's contribution, have funded the flooring, serving bar, chairs and further furnishing is still ongoing, such as the purchase of blinds and cleaning equipment.

For the Society to have a base will be a great help. The use of the storage room and display space will alleviate the problem of storage of the stock, stands and tables and other equipment, that have been stored around the Committee member's homes for the last twenty-four years.

It is also visualised that the lodge apart from use for meetings and the Society's base will become a Visitor Centre with permanent displays on the Cemetery.

The Society is very grateful for the support of the Woking Borough Council and the Management of Brookwood Cemetery

New Mausoleum Gates

On June 20th three more gates were erected on the Glorney, Montagu-Winch and Dudgeon family mausoleums.

It appears that the Glorney mausoleum had never been used by the family and is

without a door. The Dudgeon mausoleum door was in a sound condition and secure.



The Dudgeon Mausoleum

Sadly, this could not be said for the Montagu-Winch mausoleum. The door had been wrenched off its hinges, to gain illegal entry and the three coffins had been damaged.

There was one compensation, in that there is a lovely undamaged statue of Christ holding a cross at the back of the mausoleum.



The Statue in the Montagu-Winch Mausoleum

It must be emphasised that this damage to the mausoleum was carried out more than twenty years ago.

AGM 22nd June 2016

This year the meeting was held in a different setting in the church of the St Edward Brotherhood, as the Chapel roof is being restored. Nineteen members attended with a representative from Woking Borough Council; Ian Tomes. He is the Strategic Asset Manager for Woking Borough Council and responsible for the Cemetery.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Kim Lowe updated the meeting on the Lodge, and the advantages of having a base for the Society. Also that funds permitting, the Society will continue to fit protective gates on further mausoleums within the Cemetery, and renovate the mausoleums doors where necessary. There is still a continued interest in the Society's monthly and private walks and talks, which are helping towards the restoration project. She thanked members of the Committee for their hard work.

Membership Report

The membership of the Society stands at 111 which is slightly down on last year.

Treasurer's Report

Rose Falkner the Treasurer presented the Statement of affairs for the year ending 30th April 2016 *see insert*

Election of Officers

Changes in Committee members are as follows; Gail Naughton has sadly retired as Secretary and Margaret Hobbs will take on this role. There were no volunteers for the position of Treasurer, so Rose Falkner

who had proposed to also retire, has kindly agreed to carry on in this position in the interim, until a replacement can be found. She will maintain the accounts with help from Kim and Margaret with banking duties.

Other Committee Officers remain the same and there is a vacancy for an Ordinary Member.

Presentaion by Ian Tomes

Because of the importance of the content of Mr. Tomes report on the Cemetery, it is given below:

Ian thanked the Society for inviting him to the Society's AGM and introduced himself. He is the Strategic Asset Manager for Woking Borough Council and is responsible for the Cemetery, commercial properties and a new secondary school within the Borough.

He explained that Woking Borough Council had purchased the Cemetery at the same time he commenced his new managerial job with Woking Borough Council. The purchase of the Cemetery was primarily to secure the future of a site, of such historic importance. The character of the Cemetery has been maintained as can be demonstrated by the site's current appearance and many improvements already undertaken.

Last year the Surrey Wildlife Trust carried out a detailed survey of the flora and fauna within the Cemetery, and have published a report which will help improve the understanding of the ecology and help the way the Cemetery is maintained.

The policy of removing the invasive Rhododendron ponticum has been controversial but this plant cannot be left unchecked. A rhododendron policy has been developed which can be read by members. In one or two areas replacement shrubs which are appropriate and less invasive may be considered.

The Council has no plans to sell off any Cemetery land and are in fact trying to purchase land adjacent to Brookwood Station. The Council is also interested in buying further land attached to the Cemetery if it becomes available.

A considerable sum had already been spent within the Cemetery and this will continue. To date:

£100,00 was spent on the tree survey and felling of diseased specimens and a similar amount on the Rhododendron ponticum clearance.

To raise further income for the Cemetery, £500,000 is being spent on the North Side with the building of 96 new burial chambers, south of the Catholic Chapel; these are of high quality and in Portland Stone. The existing mausoleums in that area have been re-roofed.

A new vehicle workshop is to be constructed to house new equipment and machinery at a cost of £450,00. It is hoped next year to install a public toilet on the North Side of the Cemetery.

Provision of a purpose built visitor lodge to be shared with the Society was nearly complete.

The Council are working closely with Historic England in forming a Conservation Management Plan and will consult with the Society, and see the Society having an important role in the future of Brookwood Cemetery.

In the near future there will be road repairs and Szerelmey have looked at the condition of the Columbarium and the Colquhoun Mausoleums with a view to the unbricking of the latter, as it is in Ian's opinion the best in the Cemetery.

The bridge to be repaired on the lake, and the leaking of the lake to be remedied.

The Cemetery staff, the contractors Sage (the clearance of Rhododendron ponticum), and members of Barnabas Fresh Start (an organisation to help the long term unemployed) have taken a lot of time and effort in maintaining the Cemetery landscape.

There were two questions asked

1) The question was raised on the high water table within the Cemetery. Ian assured the meeting, that the Council were aware of the problem and especially in the Muslim Ground. WSP Consultants have been investigating this matter and doing test

bore holes; but some damp areas are of ecological importance and may have to remain.

2) The next question was if there would be any re-planting. There is consideration being given to re-planting in such areas of as St Albans, Holborn and St Peter Plots when the ground has been improved.

After refreshments Father Alexis gave an entertaining talk on the life of St Edward the Martyr, the founding of the St Edward Brotherhood and the eventual custody of the Martyr's relics at the church. He also spoke of the Brotherhood's source of income from candle making and bookbinding and pastoral duties among their large congregation.

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Restoration Appeal for the Old Mortuary Chapel

Work has started on the Chapel Roof, and this has brought to light many more problems than were earlier foreseen. Now the cost has leaped to **£230,000**, far more than was originally envisaged and exceeding the funds available.

Extensive damage was found to the basic structure of the building, which had caused considerable rotting of the timber roof supports and the turret.

This building was the original funeral chapel for Anglicans, designed by Sidney Smirke, and opened in 1854. It is very important to restore this building of such historical importance. The Chapel is currently used as a refectory and for guest accommodation and houses the museum.

A donation of £500 to the appeal was made from the Society to the St Edward Brotherhood in June. The outstanding amount required to complete the work is **£38,000**.

If any member would like to make their own donation please see page 8.

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 August 7th 2016 : Metropolitan Re-interments Walk led by Barry Devonshire. This walk will visit the large re-interment sites of the London parishes within the Cemetery.

Sunday September 4th 2016: VC Walk . This walk will visit the graves of the 12 VC recipients buried in the civilian Cemetery.

Saturday 10th September 2016: HERITAGE DAY. This will be in conjunction with the Cemetery Management. There will be displays with short talks & walks throughout the day from 11am to 3pm.

Sunday 2nd October 2016: FUNGI WALK led by Dick Alder. Discover the many special and amazing species of fungi within the Cemetery.

Sunday 6th November 2016: INTRODUCTORY NON - CONFORMIST WALK led by Kim Lowe & Margaret Hobbs. This walk will include visits to the graves of the free thinkers, political dissenters and airplane disasters.



The continuing story of the Lewis Family: Part III by Jenny Mukerji

Lionel Morley Lewis (1900-1944)

In previous issues of the Brookwood Express we looked at Joseph Lewis and his two sons, Joseph Robert (Joe) and James Henry Lewis who are buried in Plot 44 of the Woking Ground on the Anglican Section of Brookwood Cemetery. This time we will look at James's three sons, two of whom are buried in Plot 43.

Lionel Morley Lewis was the eldest child of the actor and actress James Henry Lewis and Violet Aileen, nee Morley. He was born in Aberdeen in 1900. The family swiftly moved to Shepherd's Bush where a second son, Gerald Wheeler Lewis was born in 1901. By 1909 James and Violet were living in Woking when their daughter Phyllis Aileen was born. Sadly, Phyllis died a year later. In 1911 George Chartris Lewis was born and two years later, Monica M V E Lewis was born.

Lionel was one of the original 48 boys who, in 1914 attended the Woking County School (later Woking Boys' Grammar School and, in 2016 occupied by Woking Police Station). Whilst at school, Lionel was a keen sportsman, something that he continued into his adulthood. He was a member of the Woking County School Old Boys Association cricket team as well as playing hockey for the Constitution Hill Hockey Club, of which he was captain.

In 1917 he enlisted in a London Rifle Regiment and later joined the Royal Flying Corps. After the First World War he joined the staff of Harrods in London and then worked for the North Light Ltd., Danish egg importers in London for 12 years. Lionel married Helen S Dixon, a fellow hockey player in 1926. Helen

was a teacher at Horsell Church of England School for many years. In February 1939 he joined the Balloon Barrage Squadron of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, doing his training in the evenings. Once war broke out, he was called up and had the distinction of serving in both world wars. The London Gazette records that he was a pilot officer on probation from 21 April 1941 having been a corporal. He later became a technical and defence officer with a commission. However, his health failed him and he died at his home, Fourth Bay, Westfield, Woking on 7 September 1944. His grave, in Brookwood Cemetery (209599) is recognised and listed by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission but only as hand-written entry in their on-line advanced records. The gravestone itself is a private one with RAF wings at the top of the headstone.

Also recorded on Lionel's headstone is the name of his brother Gerald Wheeler Lewis who died in South Africa in June 1938. The grave to the left is that of their brother George Chartris Lewis who died 19 July 1977. Their sister, Monica married Kenneth A. Baker in 1937.



The Graves of Lionel and Gerald Wheeler Lewis (Woking Ground)

A later edition of the Brookwood Express will feature Lionel's mother, the actress Violet Morley.

Zaha Hadid

1950-2016

The architect Zaha Hadid was buried at Brookwood Cemetery on Wednesday 12th April 2016, after a service at the London's Grand Mosque. A thousand mourners attended the service; then family and friends travelled by a series of coaches to Brookwood Cemetery.

Zaha the daughter of an artistic and intellectual family, was born in Bagdad in 1950. She had a flair for design at an early age and decided to become an architect by the age of 12 years. She was educated in a convent in Iraq and studied mathematics at the American University of Beirut. In 1972 she came to England to study at the Architectural Association School of Architecture. She then worked at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, in Rotterdam, Holland and Zaha was made a partner in 1977.

In 1980 she established her own practice in London, which became internationally famous after her exhibition "Deconstructivism in Architecture".

Through her teaching career which started in the mid 1980's, she subsequently held professorships with many Universities in the USA; such as the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the University of Illinois and at the Chicago's School of Architecture.

She was a guest professor at the Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg and the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University. Zaha was an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture.

She became a British citizen and was awarded the Pritzker Architectural Prize in 2004 and the Shirley Prize in 2010. She was the first woman to receive the Royal

Institute of British Architects Gold Medal in February this year. In 2012 she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Her splendid forceful style of architecture includes the Bridge Pavilion in Zaragoza, Spain, The Bergisel Ski Jump in Innsbruck, Austria and the London Aquatics Centre at the Olympic Park in London.

Zaha is buried with her father, whose amazing memorial she designed.

Past Employees of Brookwood Cemetery

There over the years have been many employees of the London Necropolis Company and the more notable are well documented. But from census records of the Brookwood area and research on line, quite a lot of information can be learnt about the general staff.

With all the clearance work being carried out in Brookwood Cemetery, I particularly thought of all the past ground staff of the London Necropolis Company.

Edmund Boylett (1858-1933) Plot 84 Occupation Gardener

Edmund was christened at Pirbright Church, Surrey on 25th April 1858; the son of Henry Boylett (1822-1884) and Sarah Simmonds. He was part of a large family and his father worked as an agricultural labourer.

At 13 years of age Edmund was living and working with his Uncle Robert Boylett at Grove Farm, Pirbright, Surrey.

Edmund married Mary Sherwood (1859-1938) on 9th October 1881 at Worplesdon, Surrey, and his occupation was an agricultural labourer. At this time the

couple were living near White's Farm, Worplesdon.

By the 1891 census, Edmund and Mary are living in accommodation provided by the London Necropolis Company, and his occupation is now given a gardener.

They had three children, Harry (1882-1948) and Daisy Minnie (1885-1966) and Mary (1895-1968). In 1901 the family were living at Brookwood East Lodge and in 1911 they had moved to South Lodge at Brookwood Cemetery.

Edmund worked for 52 years for the Necropolis Company, and in his latter working life managed the greenhouses next to the Superintendent's Office.

His son did not follow in his father's footsteps, but worked for the LSW Railway as a plate layer. Harry married Elizabeth Ellen Cheeseman at Bisley Church in 1903. They had two sons Percy and Edmund.

Daisy married Clifford Bernard Wheatland (1883-1918) in 1904 at St John's Woking, Surrey. They had a daughter Hazel Eunice (1910-2005)

Mary did not marry and is buried at Brookwood Cemetery

There will be more about the staff at the Cemetery in subsequent newsletters. If any member has any further information on Necropolis Company employees, the Society would be very interested.

Sources; London's Necropolis by John Clarke
Census Records
Ancestry

Restoration Appeal for the Old Mortuary Chapel



The Old Mortuary Chapel in the 1990's

And below with the roof tiles removed and a temporary roof cover. Work has been on hold while more extensive surveys have been carried out.



Continued from page 4

To donate to the St Edward Brotherhood's Roof Appeal is as follows:

A) Donations may be sent to the Brotherhood or paid directly into our **King Edward Orthodox Trust Co Ltd** Building Fund account, number 00089278, at the **CAF Bank Ltd**, sort code 40-52-40. When donating by cheque to the account, please write out the name in full. Previously the bank accepted cheques made out to KEOT or KEOTCoLtd, but now they are wary of this and have returned cheques.

B) You may also donate using the "donate" button and pay by card. To find the donate button, go to our Brotherhood website www.saintedwardbrotherhood.org Click on the "About Saint Edward Brotherhood and schedule of services" page, and in the middle of that page you will see the donate button. All gifts, given in this way, go to the King Edward Orthodox Trust Co Ltd account (registered charity 284929) and not to the Brotherhood itself.

C) If you are a U.K. tax-payer, you may also, of course, "gift-aid" your donation so that we may reclaim the tax already paid on it from the exchequer. We can send you a gift-aid form if requested.



SOCIETY CONTACTS & COMMITTEE

(1) Committee members

- Kim Lowe** (Chairperson) ☎
- Margaret Hobbs** Secretary ☎
- Rose Falkner** (Treasurer) ☎
- Lynne Cowley** (Publicity) ☎

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Barry Devonshire ☎

Vacancy

+++++

(2) Other Contacts

Jo Toogood (Membership Secretary)

Sarah Burt (Auditor)

Kim Lowe Publications by Mail Order ☎

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.

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