

Friends discover jewellery heist!

John Vaughan, Media Officer of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery



*Jewellery items found in the undergrowth
Photograph courtesy of John Vaughan*

On the last Saturday of every calendar month throughout the year the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, located in South Farm Road, attend a two-hour cemetery clearance and maintenance session where they prune trees, trim shrubs and bushes, cut down brambles and re-discover long lost grave headstones. On Saturday 31st March 2018 a total of seventeen

of their one hundred members attended to keep this 14.5-acre Worthing 'oasis' in good shape.

Towards the end of the 10.00am to 12.00 noon session a large clump of ivy was being trimmed back when the Friends' Media Officer and Treasurer, John Vaughan and his workmates Norman and Carole Manning, discovered a bag placed or perhaps hidden in the undergrowth. With some caution the bag was removed and the contents examined. It appeared that there were a number of jewellery boxes in the bag and it soon became apparent that the bag was full of jewels.

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The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the NCF. All material by the editor unless otherwise attributed.

Although 'bottom end' of the market items and some costume jewellery were present there were also Tiffany bracelets, Sekonda watches and Elements items, earrings, bracelets, rings, necklaces, a cameo brooch and many other items. Clearly some thief had quickly disposed of his ill-gotten gains and had used the undergrowth as a hiding place, or he or she may have extracted the most valuable items and disposed of the rest. It has been known for drug addicts to gather in the cemetery, although there is, of course, at this stage no evidence of who the culprit might be.

The Friends have handed-in their find to the Police station. The find caused much excitement and one Friend uttered that he would 'take the items to the police immediately following his round the world cruise!' The public are welcome to attend our maintenance days, at 10.00am on the last Saturday of every month, meeting by the cemetery chapels. You never know what you are going to find; last month it was rugby and footballs kicked into the cemetery from the adjacent school and the month before that a 'bong' used for smoking certain substances!



*The maintenance group on site that morning
Photograph courtesy of John Vaughan*

NFCF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hosted by

The Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery

Newcastle upon Tyne.

Saturday 9th June 2018

Any members who have not received details

please contact the NFCF secretary

gwyneth1@btinternet.com

Successful unveiling of Hither Green and Sydenham civilian memorial, Saturday 21st October 2017

by Geoffrey Thurley, Chair and Secretary of the Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, South East London



The Chair of Lewisham Council, Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye, his wife Sandra, the Rev Juliet Donnelly (St. Swithun's, Hither Green) and poet Isabel White with members of the Delohoy extended family and members of the Friends' group after the unveiling.

Photograph by Robert Clark

This event marked the halfway stage of a project by the Friends of Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries to have two memorials to civilians killed by air-raids during the First World War renovated. This memorial is in the Ladywell Cemetery and is a replacement for one which was badly worn and had toppled. The other memorial in the Brockley Cemetery is to those killed in Deptford. Plans are progressing to have the memorial, a large Celtic cross, straightened and cleaned. All this has been made possible by a grant from the local assembly and from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is also contributing to the cost of explanatory booklets and display boards.

During 2017, historians in the Friends' group have led several walks in the Cemeteries linked in with the various significant battles in 1917, especially the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele).

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A small group of members visited the Ypres Salient in November and took part in a dedication event for Hugh Gordon Langton, a gifted musician memorialised with a stave of music on his Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstone at the Poelcapelle Cemetery. His parents and brother are buried in Brockley Cemetery.

The group celebrated its tenth anniversary last July with an expanded Open Day, which attracted around 300 visitors. It is hoped to repeat that figure this July.

Beautiful Burial Ground Project

The conservation charity Caring for God's Acre has been awarded a £586,700 National Lottery grant in support of their Beautiful Burial Ground Project which will put thousands of burial grounds across England and Wales on the heritage map. The intention is to create an easily accessible database with interactive map of individual burial grounds linked to records of their built heritage; social history and biodiversity. This four-year project which will be delivered with the help of volunteers and over forty partner organisations (including the NCFE), aims to encourage more people to visit burial grounds, and to ensure these sites are cared for into the future.

To find out more about Caring for God's Acre and this project, visit: <http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/index.php/our-projects2/the-beautiful-burial-ground/about-the-beautiful-burial-ground-project.html>

Let us know

Please keep sending the newsletter editor your news stories and events (contact details on the back page). You get publicity for your events, a place to trumpet your successes, and a chance to air your woes. We get the articles to fill and update our pages.

The official opening of the Anglican Walk

from Lynda Kitching, Secretary of the Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery



After over a year of fundraising and planning, the project to re-lay the setts of Anglican Walk was completed in January, topped off by the Lord Mayor of Leeds officially cutting the ribbon and declaring the thoroughfare 'open'! Representatives of the six funding organisations congregated alongside the

Friends Chair, Alun Pugh and Secretary, Lynda Kitching, to see how their funds had been used, and to pose for photographs, - all taking the opportunity to gain some publicity, as photos were promptly tweeted!

In addition, the Lord Mayor unveiled an information board, erected nearby, which was part of the project to acknowledge the funders. The morning continued with a leisurely stroll up Anglican Walk and across the Cemetery, concluding at the North Lodge.



Top left: Cutting the ribbon

Above: The Lord Mayor and funders

Left: The restored Anglican Walk

*Photographs courtesy
of Lynda Kitching*

Needless to say, we are relieved that the project has been completed, and we are very pleased with the work done.

Shining the light on hidden heroines

forwarded by Kate Campbell, Community Engagement Officer at Rectory Lane Cemetery Project for the Friends of St Peter's, Berkhamsted

To mark International Women's Day on March 8th and the hundred-year anniversary of Women's Suffrage, the Friends of St Peter's, Berkhamsted published the latest in their educational booklets entitled *Remarkable Women*. It charts the lives of ten notable women associated with the Cemetery between the 1840s and 2005.

It begins with the Countess of Bridgewater who donated land for St Peter's Churchyard (Detached) and who was very influential in the design and community participation for the project. It then goes on to tell the life stories of women ahead of their time whose contribution really counted. They came from all walks of life and included a philanthropist, a benefactor and lunatic, livestock breeder, an actor, a WW1 Nursing Matron, the founder of a magazine and an Innkeeper who befriended exiled Royalty.

This booklet, by Jenny Sherwood of the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society, is the fifth in the series but has taken the longest to produce. The reason for this is quite poignant: information about women's lives in Victorian England is much harder to come by than about their male counterparts. Some of these women came to public notice only after they were widowed. One Eliza Quincey Lane, who founded a local magazine which eventually became a national title, wrote as 'Quincey Lane' to disguise her gender.

Kate explains "This represents the latest fruits of our research into the important people of Berkhamsted of yesteryear. We are very excited by the results and plan to host events which will bring these stories to life over the coming year. We hope that will prompt further information about relations buried in the Cemetery – who knows, perhaps we can publish a second volume!"

The booklet can be downloaded from the website:

<http://www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/projects/cemetery/cemetery-trails/>

Kate Campbell can be contacted at Campbellkate01@gmail.com

Notes from the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group (BCAG) meeting

Ann Wilkinson attended the November 2017 meeting of BCAG on behalf of the NFCF

Dr Phillip Lee MP was unable to attend the present meeting so the invitation to attend the next BCAG meeting was taken forward.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) reported on several matters relating bereavement issues including the progress on the New Southgate Cemetery Bill which having completed its passage through parliament in October was now awaiting Royal Assent; the House of Commons debate on Local Authority Funeral Charges with concern about increasing funeral costs and difference in charges across burial authorities, and a second reading of the Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill, a private member's bill concerning provision for leave and pay for employees whose children have died.

The MoJ was asked if they had anything to report on alternative methods of disposal of the dead particularly resomation and ecolation. Although aware of the issues, the MoJ had nothing to report at the time and will give feedback in due course. It was noted that a planning application submitted for an ecolation crematorium on a site in the Edenridge area had received over thirty objections to the proposal.

Members were made aware of the Quaker Social Action group's 'Bury the debt' campaign calling for an increase in the amount available from the Government towards funeral costs which is currently capped at £700.

On the matter of dogs in burial grounds it was advised that any restrictions imposed is down to the respective burial authority.

It was reported that there are now two coffin accreditation schemes whereby coffin manufacturers can have their products accredited. The schemes are run independently by the Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association and the Coffin, Casket and Shroud Association.

Badgers in cemeteries

by Colin Fenn

Recently we have seen a number of instances where burial grounds have been disturbed by the digging of badgers. They are far more powerful diggers than rabbits and foxes and, as well as undermining the perimeter walls, once settled in a churchyard or cemetery they have been known to cause public outcry and distress by strewing human bones and coffin furniture around the site. It can be a fine line between the wonderful natural diversity in cemeteries and determining which beasts are 'vermin'.

As the controversial programme of badger culling expands, particularly in the West of England, we may find they make more incursions into suburban and urban locations as the survivors get displaced. However, badgers are otherwise legally protected and may only be disturbed once a licence has been granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Scottish Office or Welsh Office.

So, for further information we refer to the RSPCA, which has produced some useful guidance to the law and appropriate measures. We reproduce some of the most relevant sections below:

6.3 Badger damage to golf courses, bowling greens and churchyards

... Badgers sometimes carry out extensive nocturnal excavations within old churchyards or cemeteries, both to the distress of the public and the concern of the local Environmental Health Officers. In one Essex churchyard an extensive sett was dug amongst the graves and human bones appeared on the spoil heaps! Badgers have also been known to dig up and eat the bulbs of flowers planted in the same areas. If possible, any excavations in a churchyard should be filled in as soon as they appear, and the badgers should be deterred from entering the churchyard, either by filling in any entrance tunnels under walls, or by erecting a temporary electric fence. Badgers have been known to excavate extensively under walls, such as those around churchyards, thereby rendering them liable to collapse. In such cases it may be necessary to exclude any resident badgers as described in 5.7.2 Chapter 5. Badgers in the

Way, and then fill the tunnels with concrete to underpin the wall. An electric fence should then be used to deter the badgers from digging around the concrete plugs. The fence can be removed when the badger activity decreases.

5.7.1 The use of chemical deterrents

... Since 1 January 1988, users of animal repellents must comply with the conditions of approval stated on the label and use them only for the purposes for which they have been tested. Creosote and diesel oil would not be passed as animal repellents since that is not their primary use. 'Renardine', a bone oil formulation, is perhaps the most quoted badger repellent but the terms of its approval currently only permit its use against dogs, cats and rabbits. 'Rabbit Smear Liquid', another bone oil preparation, has approval for use 'for the prevention of damage by rabbits, hares etc to fruit trees and market garden crops, also for the protection of game birds from foxes, moles etc'. It would be for the courts to decide if the 'etc' covered badgers, but advice from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is that it would be prudent to avoid using it as a badger repellent.

... Finally, we must stress that if any animal repellent is used, the manufacturers' instructions relating to use and safety must be followed, and at the time of writing, the efficacy of none of the products has been tested for the purpose of deterring badgers. It would appear then that chemically deterring the use of a sett must await the development of a suitable, safe and efficacious repellent for badgers and we cannot find anything to recommend in those legally available at present.

5.7.2 The use of physical deterrents

The only other method, which can legally be used at the time of writing, and which is likely to be stipulated by the Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies in their licences, would appear to be a physical one. A strong fence (fig. 12) should be built around the sett, with badger gates positioned at intervals where the main paths from the sett intersect the fence; only two or three gates may be required.

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... When issuing a licence to deter badgers from using a particular sett, English Nature usually requires periods of one week with the gaps open before the gates are hung, one week with gates opening both ways, and two weeks with the gates opening one way only. However, this may be adapted to suit the time of year or prevailing weather conditions, and to be sure that a sett is empty in winter it may be necessary to extend the latter period to three to four weeks, because badgers are much less active and may stay below ground for long periods. The other Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies are likely to require the gates to be in position for similar periods.

... Some people have successfully excluded badgers from setts by placing one-way gates directly over each entrance hole. While this does work, some badgers may be deterred from coming out and so stay underground for an extended period. Also, it is difficult to be sure that all the badgers have left, since you cannot use the stick and sand technique to monitor any badger activity.

One other means of deterring badgers from using a sett is to place objects which are designed to disturb the badgers near to all the holes. Pieces of flapping plastic on sticks have been found to be very effective under some circumstances, particularly if there are other setts nearby, and the use of flashing traffic-type lamps has also worked in similar situations. The disadvantage of flapping plastic flags is that some nights are perfectly still. For either flags or lights, they should first be placed a little way from the holes, and moved closer on subsequent nights. None of these measures should be undertaken except under expert guidance, and all will require licensing.

See: *Problems with Badgers?* (RSPCA, Wildlife Department, Horsham, RH13 7WN Tel: 0870 010 1181). The complete publication can be viewed online at the Twycross Zoo website:

http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/S/00Ref/bookscontents/rspca-problems_with_badgers/Contents.htm

BACSA remembers and records British dead in SE Asia

Gwyneth Stokes picks quotes from website of this wide-reaching, cemetery organisation

As a result of India's turbulent history many British soldiers and civilians lie buried in an eastern 'foreign field' far from home. Growing awareness of the neglect of cemeteries and the loss of memorials led Theon Wilkinson and his supporters to launch the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) in 1977. Last year they celebrated 40 years of achievements in caring for some of the many hundreds of European cemeteries, isolated graves and monuments in that area.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission takes responsibility for military cemeteries of the two World Wars so BACSA aims to look after the graves of thousands of soldiers killed during the many other wars and campaigns fought by the British in India or of the many civilians who died in south-east Asia from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

There is a steady membership of over 1,100 drawn from a wide circle of interest: government, churches, armed services, business, museums, historical and genealogical societies. More members are needed to support the rapidly expanding activities of the Association – the setting up of local committees in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaysia etc, and building up the Records Archive in the India Office Collections at the British Library; and many other projects for the upkeep of historical and architectural monuments.

Over the years BACSA has helped to fund over 100 conservation projects. They seek local partners to whom it can make grants for cemetery restoration work. All names and inscriptions are recorded, and they have published over 40 record books and their archives contain many more lists of memorial inscriptions. They can also help track down graves of relatives and others of interest. Monuments and inscriptions in British cemeteries relating to the British in SE Asia.

Any cemetery lover about to visit India may well find help and advice from BACSA if given the area, and also if the visitor discovers an interesting or neglected burial site on an Asian holiday, they would be pleased hear from you.

Continued over page

The Association has its own newsletter *Chowkidar*, which is distributed free to members twice a year. BACSA exchanges newsletters with the NCF and the secretary is fortunate to have the opportunity to read the reports of successful searches, poignant memorial services, heart-warming stories of local support and the drama of men and women who died caught up in the conflicts of previous centuries.

Chowdikar is a Hindustani word meaning 'watchman' or security guard and can be employed to look after a cemetery, so chosen as an appropriate logo for BACSA.

See their website for more details about their work and membership:
www.bacsa.org.uk

New Members and Associates

The following groups have recently joined the NCF

Friends of Pudsey Cemetery and Chapel, Leeds

Pudsey Cemetery is a working cemetery of 4.8 hectares, opened in 1875 and owned by Leeds City Council. It holds several thousand burials, 160 war graves and many of the town's mayors and eminent citizens. Divided into two sections, the western half is consecrated Anglican and the eastern half unconsecrated. Straddling the two sides is a Grade II chapel of rest in need of renovation. Following the interest of the Civic Society in organising local history events in the cemetery, the community had started to ask if more could be done for the preservation and the tidiness of the cemetery and consequently a proposal was put to the Council. Now with the support of the Bereavement Services team a Friends group has been set up who are working on and planning improvements.

No website yet.

Facebook group: 'Friends of Pudsey Cemetery and Chapel'

Contact: Damon Sugden, friends.of.pudsey.cemetery@gmail.com

Friends of Walthamstow (Queens Road) Cemetery, London E17

The obvious neglect in the closed east London cemetery of Walthamstow (Queens Road) has prompted a small group to see if they can help. They have joined as an Associate while setting up as Cemetery Friends. The 11 acre cemetery opened in 1872 and is owned by the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

Search: Walthamstow (Queens Road) Cemetery

Contact: Samantha Barber, [sibswanshope@gmail.com](mailto:sjbswanshope@gmail.com)

East Grinstead Town Council, West Sussex (for Mount Noddy and Queens Road Cemeteries)

Mount Noddy is the current working cemetery for the town but the Council is looking for volunteers to assist particularly in the care of the closed Victorian cemetery of Queens Road which is 'in desperate need of attention'.

Website: www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Contact: Sarah Jones (Cemeteries Officer), s.jones@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Friends of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Sheffield

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, Crowdfunding and a Big Lottery Sharing Heritage Grant, the Friends have been able to purchase the disused burial ground of Zion Congregational Church and save it as a historic and national heritage site. It was the search for the burial place of leading 19th century anti-slave campaigner Mary Anne Rawson that led to the surprising discovery of a locked and forgotten graveyard in the industrial area of Attercliffe, Sheffield. The full story is on the Friends' website. They are planning to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) and would be interested to hear from any groups with experience in a similar ownership situation.

Website: www.ziongraveyard.btck.co.uk

Contact: Penny Rea, ziongraveyard@gmail.com

Friends of Stafford Cemeteries

This recently formed group is interested in three cemeteries: Stafford Crematorium, Tixall Road, Stafford Cemetery, Eccleshall Road and Stone Cemetery, Stafford Road, Stone. They are working cemeteries, owned by Stafford Borough Council.

Website (in development): www.friendsofstaffordcemeteries.org.uk

Contact: Melvyn Hawkins, friendsofstaffordcemeteries@virginmedia.com

Members News

A selection of news and events from Members newsletters and websites

Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff

The Friends report that the Victorian floor tiling in the chapels has now been restored to its former glory.

Three new information boards have been erected around the Old Cemetery. One board is dedicated to the story of James Howell (1835-1909) of Howells store fame, another shows the position of the chapels and the third explains the achievements of the Conservation Area.

Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster

With the aid of funding from the Greggs Foundation Environmental Grant Fund and working in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers, the Friends have been able to proceed with their project to transform a corner of the cemetery into a wildlife haven. Work started with clearance of rubbish and litter and then a 120 square metre slope being dug over and planted with over a hundred wildlife friendly shrubs.

Newtown Road Cemetery, Newbury

Last December, a visiting forester carried out a survey of all the trees currently found in the cemetery identifying several varieties in addition to species noted in a 2009 survey undertaken by the Wildlife Survey Unit. These additional varieties included sycamore, silver birch, rowan, purple beech, Atlas and Indian cedar, Lawson cypress, Maritime pine and Irish yew. To aid visitors with tree identification in the cemetery, labels have been attached to specimens of twenty tree varieties.

Northwood Cemetery, Cowes, Isle of Wight

Following events of last October marking the completion of restoration work and the re-opening of the chapels, the Friends have noted a significant increase in visitor numbers to the chapels and grounds. The restored West Chapel is now used as a Heritage Resource Centre and the East Chapel is being used again for funeral services.

In agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Isle of Wight Council (IWC), a Management and Maintenance Plan has been put in place with the aim of securing the legacy of what has so far been accomplished for the next ten years. The progress of this plan will be overseen by a Partnership Board consisting of Trustees of the Friends group and representatives from the IWC.

Nunhead Cemetery, London

A grant of £5,400 has been awarded under Peckham and Nunhead Community Council's Cleaner Greener Safer programme for 2018-19. The bid application included provision for new fox proof, Nunhead Cemetery branded refuse bins and for an information banner to be sited at the Friends' portacabin providing the public with news on their activities and giving contact details.

Spital Cemetery, Chesterfield

Professor James Stevens Curl has become the first Patron of the Friends of Spital Cemetery.

The member of the Friends group who organises the monthly general cemetery tours is now an official 'Walking for Health' leader with the certificate to prove it.

St Helens Cemetery

The Friends have produced a database of more than four hundred headstones in St Helens Cemetery and more than fifty headstones in Newton Cemetery which have a reference to a World War One casualty. These records include the graves of individual casualties and others named on family headstones. This information is available to anyone on request by contacting the Friends at:
friendsofsthelenscemetery@gmail.com

The Down Cemetery, Trowbridge

The Friends are undertaking a wildflower meadow trial which will last for two years. Four areas have been marked out. One area will be left as grass and a second will have the grass cleared. A third area will be for a wild flower seed mix and the fourth will be for wild flower turf

NFCF contact details

A list of members is available from the Secretary

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Copy date for next issue: 30th September 2018

Printed by Inprint + Design Ltd, WBO7 Richmond Building, Carlton Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP and published by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (Editor's address above).