



Another Bumper Double Issue!

It's been a wonderful Spring

After a relatively harsh winter, the spring weather more than compensated and the succession of flowers and blossoms arrived early and have been exceptional. One of the most eagerly awaited displays was the blossom of the Foxglove Tree, which arrives ahead of the leaves and has a fragrance to match the beauty of the flowers.



Foxglove Tree blossom is to be sniffed at

Goodbye to A4E

We are sorry to report that the Action for Employment team have moved on - you may see them around Roath Park at the moment. With complete painting of the perimeter railings, a lot of general vegetation clearance and help clearing up the December snow damage, they achieved a great deal during 2010.

It is easy to enjoy the pleasant vistas around the cemetery today and assume that it was always like this. However, particularly in the oldest part of the cemetery, closest to the chapels, trees and shrubs had spread naturally and thickly, creating permanently shaded and dark areas and obstructing views. The two images show the dramatic change in one location and how successful the clearance work has been in opening up the area.

Unfortunately, nature responds vigorously to this sort of work and fresh shoots are already

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appearing in abundance. To maintain the gains made, the Friends will not be short of work for their workdays! See the Forthcoming Events on page 7 of this Newsletter for their dates.



Before



After

Highgate Visit

Unfortunately the Friends' proposed visit to Highgate and Kensal Green cemeteries in London has been postponed. We hope to re-schedule our visit in the Spring of next year. Details in a newsletter nearer the date.

Tracing Family History in Wales

Have you ever stood in a cemetery looking for that elusive gravestone, the one that will take your family history back another generation. You find it, usually just minutes before the cemetery gates are locked for the night, but the inscription is in Welsh. Now help is at hand in the form of a new book, written by Gwen Awbery, before her retirement a lecturer in Welsh at Cardiff University and a contributor to the Friends of Cathays Cemetery book. This handbook covers everything from personal & place names, dates, biblical verses and poems, everything you need to advance your family history. It costs just £7.50 and its ISBN number is 978-1-84524-168-1. For more details contact Gwen Awbery at 029 2038 7014 or e-mail g.m.awbery@googlemail.com.

Talking of books our offering '**Cathays Cemetery Cardiff on its 150th Anniversary**' had a very favourable full page write up in the journal '**About Wales**', the mouthpiece of the **Civic Trust for Wales**. I quote: "The history of Cathays Cemetery is a history - a biography, perhaps - of our capital city. It demonstrates that a cemetery is not just a burial place but a library of information about science and industry, politics and people. The lives of the great and the good are woven seamlessly with the stories of working families, etc."

If you do not have your copy yet there are still some available, at a reduced cost of £7; contact doricwales@o2.co.uk or telephone 029 2062 7848.

And while we are on the subject of the Anniversary Book, we are flattered that the **National Federation of Cemetery Friends** wanted to adapt part of one chapter of the book for the Spring edition of their newsletter. The section chosen was that which talks about geocaching and is pleased to note that this has brought 80-100 visitors a year to the cemetery. Most of these would probably not have visited us otherwise, yet all enjoyed the experience.

We wait to see if this hobby catches on in other noteworthy cemeteries around the UK ... or, indeed, the world.

From New Zealand to the Friends, via Salisbury!

A lot of people take an interest in cemeteries as an aid to researching their family history and the assistance of the Friends is often sought. Sometimes this contact develops into a long and fruitful two-way exchange of information. One such exchange has been with Patricia Evans, who lives in Salisbury, Hampshire. We are very grateful to Mrs Evans, who has become a member of the Friends, for allowing us access to some of her family history memoirs in order to write this article.

Her husband's grandfather, Charles Evans, was buried in 1907 in Section L of Cathays Cemetery, coincidentally, the area that has benefited most from vegetation clearance by the Friends. Five other members of the family joined him later, including Patricia's father-in-law. No doubt her mother-in-law, Mary, would have joined them had she not emigrated to New Zealand - at the age of 92 - and, as she herself put it, "thought it better to be buried in their friendly soil". But it was Mary who had collected much of the family history information: not just the basic names, dates and places, but also a narrative, packed with anecdotes, that provide a veritable social history. Patricia's late husband did the marathon job of collating everything into a book format that runs into several chapters.

While we have only been privy to extracts from this, we can see that the Evans family has been traced back into the 17th century. But perhaps the most pertinent period of the family history is the era of Patricia's grandfather, Charles: the second half of the 19th century. Charles married the daughter of Dr Henry Paine who, as Medical Officer of Health, battled cholera & smallpox epidemics and the squalid conditions of the "Irish Quarter". He suffered himself, with the early deaths of his first three children, but should take great credit for his role in expediting the provision of the first sewerage system in Cardiff, which was instrumental in halving the death rate in the course of about 10 years. Dr Paine's grave is close to that of the

Evans family.

Charles' elder sister, Blanche, married John Corbett, a name that will be familiar to those who know the Pwllpant area of Caerphilly where they lived. John's father had been Land Agent to the 2nd Marquess of Bute and managed the Bute Welsh Estate for 20 years after his death in 1848, until the 3rd Marquess came of age. John Corbett was to become solicitor to the 3rd Marquess and would have been involved in the exciting changes to Cardiff Castle, Castell Coch and, to a lesser extent, Caerphilly Castle.

Charles' younger sister, Winifred, married Dr Charles Vachell, a Freeman of the City, whose grandfather had twice been Mayor of Cardiff. Again, this name and monument will be familiar to those who have had a hand in the clearance work in Section L of the Cemetery. Mary's family memoirs recall a visit to the Vachell's grand house and surgery opposite the New Theatre in 1912, where patients were greeted by a "Buttons".

Towards the end of the 19th century, Charles, by now with a family of four children, moved to Elmsfield, in Newport Road. This name will also be familiar to regular visitors to the Cemetery, as it crops up on headstones several times. Elmsfield was one of a number of grand Bute houses in Newport and the book refers to it as *"... a spacious house with a large garden and stabling at the bottom. However, it was a spartan house; the water was often frozen in the bedroom ewers, although there was a bathroom, and the downstairs hand basin had no hot tap. Perhaps this cold upbringing accounted for Lionel's toughness: he never wore gloves and seldom an overcoat. In her widowhood, Florence kept spare beds aired by sleeping in them in turn."*

In the foregoing quotation, Florence is Charles' wife and Lionel is the son, who was to become Patricia's father-in-law. Sadly, these Bute houses in Newport Road made way for some rather utilitarian office blocks 50 or 60 years ago, with but one thing to commend them - hot running water!

It is only possible here to take a small dip into this family history treasure trove, but it is perhaps fitting to conclude with the principal author's advice, which we should all heed.

"I would say that I started these memoirs too late. I began writing in 1985 and still had some way to go when I emigrated to New Zealand [1987]. Since then, with much importuning from my children, I have done my best, with diminishing energy, to finish them from long range. I mention this in the hope it may encourage others to start their memoirs and family histories much earlier than I did, since the days when family history, stories and traditions were passed on by word of mouth during long walks to church are, alas, gone; and it is hard to talk above the television! Unless you preserve these memories, they will die with you."



The Evans family memorial

Cardiff Caledonian Society

The Tuesday morning Health Walks in Cathays Cemetery occasionally pass a large grey granite headstone in Section 'S', which overlooks six plots, all enclosed by a grey granite kerb. The walkers share not only an enjoyment of walking in the cemetery, but also enquiring minds, so we had to find out more.



Early in the 20th century, James Manuel left a legacy which initially provided 18 grave spaces and the headstone to record the gift. James, who had been Treasurer of the Cardiff Caledonian Society for seven years up to 1900 and later became President, was a JP and Manager of the London & Provincial Bank, Cardiff. It appears that, at the time of his death, Mr Manuel had returned to his native Scotland, but he had clearly retained an affection for Cardiff.

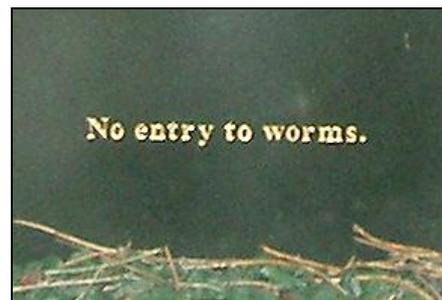
The Caledonian Society are the custodians of the Manuel Legacy. The Society when formed was not a registered trust but, to conform to changed legal viewpoints, a Trust Deed was drawn up and signed on 9th November 1926 and the Society remains a registered charitable trust to this day. As with many such charities, needs change and they respond accordingly. So we learn that during the 1914-1918 War they provided a welcome and comforts, such as hot drinks, sandwiches and cigarettes, to the vast number of troops passing through Cardiff. In its early days, the Society helped in cases of real distress but, as these became fewer, other ways to assist were found, such as providing financial awards for educational purposes to carefully chosen Scots students in Cardiff.

There was a longstanding association between the Society and the Sir Gabriel Woods Mariners Home in Greenock and, from time to time, old mariners acceptable to the Home were sent back there for their retirement.

Over the years, four further graves were acquired in the "new" part of the Cemetery. However, it seems that there remains space for a total of nine further interments, distributed across five graves, even though the last burial was in 1939. For the Society's centenary, in 1986, the main grave and stone were rebuilt, cleaned and repainted.

One of the founder members of the Society and its first President, was Archibald Hood JP, a pioneering and enlightened coal owner, who built good quality housing (with gardens!) for his workmen, both in Scotland and South Wales, as well as schools and a Reading Room & Library at Llwynpia, where a statue was erected to him in 1906. Hood died at his home, Sherwood, Newport Road, in 1902 in his eightieth year. He, too, has a final resting-place in Cathays Cemetery and it is reported that there was a very large attendance at the funeral ceremony, not only of his many friends, but also one hundred of his workmen from the Rhondda.

***Footnote:** The Health Walks take place every Tuesday morning, starting at 10.30 a.m. from the Fair oak Road entrance closest to Cathays Library. Parking is available immediately inside the gates. The leisurely walks, which are friendly and welcoming, last up to an hour, with the option to chat over a tea or coffee afterwards. Who knows, you could spot the next grave with a tale to tell.*



Inscription at the foot of a headstone

W M Pengelley [Dock]Master and Commander

Occasionally you come across a memorial in the cemetery that is just crying out for further research, and it was during a work-day that one such headstone was found.

The inscription begins:

"In memory of Ruth Evelyn daughter of Araballa Sarina and Commander W M Pengelley Indian Navy"

Who were the Pengelleys? Where did they come from? And what were they doing in Cardiff?

Walter Murray Pengelley was born in about 1824 in Devon, son of Henry Pengelley RN, and his obituary in the *Western Mail* tells us of some of his achievements during his military career which began when he was only 16:

"He took part in the China Expedition, and was present at the storming of the city of Ching Keang Foo in the forties <First Opium War>. He also helped quell the native rebellion in New Zealand, being attached to the Naval Brigade. During the Crimean War he served in the Turkish Contingent as director of the Land Transport Corps, a position that he filled with so much distinction that he was afterwards selected ... to serve in a similar capacity with the Persian Field Force".

And according to another source he was rewarded for his service with the post of British 'political agent' in Muscat in 1861-2.

At some point in the early 1850's he was given 6 months sick leave and was allowed to travel anywhere (except to Britain). He took the opportunity to join a hazardous expedition up the Nile to Khartoum in the Sudan.

Following this he took a ship to Smyrna in Turkey where he became acquainted with the Revd Buchner Lewis who was British Chaplain there, and more especially with his daughter Arabella. He had to return to duty, but at the first opportunity returned to marry her in 1854.

The Smyrna connection is key to the Pengelley

family history. Their first five children were either born or brought up in Smyrna, and many of their descendants retain strong links to their Levant heritage, a fascinating subject in its own right.

In about 1862, following his retirement from active service, Walter and Arabella settled permanently in Cardiff in Penarth, and had a further ten children. For more than 10 years Walter was Deputy Dock Master at the West Bute Dock, before becoming **Dock Master at Penarth**, a position he held to the day of his death.



© Jane Clark

The family lived at 'The Ferns' in Penarth, overlooking the docks and Cardiff Bay, probably one of the best addresses in the town, and played an active role in the social life of Penarth and Cardiff. He helped set up the Seaman's Mission in Penarth, was a founder member of the Penarth Conservative Association, and a warden at St Augustine's Church. He was often listed in the *Western Mail* as having attended some big banquet or other, or someone's wedding, or funeral.

He died on 29th December 1897 and is buried at St Augustine's.

John Farnhill
with thanks to Jane Clark for the photo,
and the Levant Heritage web-site
<http://www.levantineheritage.com>

Legless in Cathays ***[or Leg and Hip Closer than was thought]***

In the Friends of Cathays Cemetery book published to mark the 150th anniversary of the Cemetery I wrote about a Samuel Chivers and one of his legs. You haven't bought a copy? Shame on you. They're still available at a reduced price of £7 to members of FoCC.

Anyway in April 1883 Samuel was in an accident with a horse drawn cart, as a result of which he lost a leg. That leg was buried in Cathays Cemetery. He and his family were then living in Richmond Road. His occupation was listed as a Vinegar Brewer [I'm sure some of, shall we say the more senior of you, will remember the Chivers Vinegar factory near Ely Bridge, still there in the 1950's]. Half a dozen or so years later Samuel and his ever-expanding family, Mrs Chivers, twelve children, a cook plus domestic servants, moved to Llandough, near Penarth and it was thought that Samuel was buried, minus his leg, in Penarth. That is what I wrote in my original piece. But, thanks to Philip Amphlett of Bereavement Services, new research shows that in November 1902 Samuel's son, Harold C Chivers, died aged 25 and was buried in Cathays. Thirteen years later, in 1915, Samuel's wife, Mary, was buried in the same grave, Y 335. Finally two years on, in 1917, Samuel himself was interred in the same grave. He was 73 years old and was living in Sully Road, Penarth.

In my original piece I wrote: "On his death Samuel was buried in a local Penarth cemetery, a dozen or so miles from Cathays and his leg." Not so. But as any journalist will tell you. "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story!"

Eric Fletcher

Don't forget to let us have your bits of news or other items for future issues!

Contact the editorial team on 2062 7848
or email <doricwales@o2.co.uk>

Grave Questions Answered

Rachael Protheroe of Bereavement Services was our speaker for the February meeting of the Friends group. She gave a very interesting talk outlining the various changes & developments in burial practice since Cathays Cemetery was opened followed by a vigorous question and answer session. Ownership of graves generated the most discussion and Rachael has kindly written the following piece; we hope it answers most of the questions you may have.

Frequently Asked Questions about Grave Ownership

Q. *Can I be buried in my family grave in Cathays Cemetery?*

A. This might be possible but will depend on a couple of factors. Firstly, should you want a coffin burial, there needs to be enough room in the grave. For a cremated remains burial, there must be no more than 8 sets already buried. Secondly, you need to be able to obtain permission from the grave owner or their nearest surviving relative if the owner has died, if there is more than one nearest surviving relative e.g. the deceased owner had more than one child, then all must give their permission.

Q. *What happens if I can't get permission from one of the nearest surviving relatives?*

A. Unfortunately, we will not be able to let the burial take place. Under burial law, a grave owner has the right of burial in a grave and the right to place a memorial on it. If the grave owner has died and has not passed on the grave rights in a will, their nearest surviving relative needs to sign a document under oath to declare that they are entitled to use the grave and have permission from anyone equally entitled. If one of those entitled is unavailable or refuses to consent, the rights to the grave cannot be exercised and the burial cannot take place.

Q. *My father gave me the deed to the grave he owned so how do I go about using it?*

A. Simply being in possession of a deed does not make you the owner. If you have any surviving siblings, they have just as much right

to the grave as you so you will need their permission to use it. If your father left a will, Bereavement Services can look at it for you and advise whether it can be used to transfer the grave ownership and if so, who will inherit.

Q. *How can I prevent my children having similar problems using a grave that I own?*

A. Make a will and mention the grave in it, preferably leave it to one person, ideally the person that is most likely to be buried there next. If you already have a will and don't want to change it, bear in mind that the grave will form part of the residue of your estate and whoever you have left that to will inherit the grave.

Q. *Who can I contact if I am unsure about who owns a grave?*

A. Call Bereavement Services on 029 2062 3294, one of the Registrars will be able to look at the records for you and offer any advice you need.

*Rachel Protheroe – Senior Registrar,
Cardiff Bereavement Services*

Forthcoming Events

Work Days

If you haven't been to one of our work days now is your chance to put that right. Two or three hours of gentle exercise and fresh air. The Dates are: **Saturday June 25th, Saturday September 24th, Saturday October 29th.** Meet 10 am at the Chapels.

Cemetery Walks

- meet at the Fair oak Road main entrance.

Tuesday June 21st - Midsummer Walk @ 7 pm
[Led by Laura Palmer, County Ecologist]

Sunday July 31st - Heritage Walk @ 2 pm
[Led by Bereavement Services]

Tuesday September 6th - Bat Walk @ 7 pm
[Led by Cardiff Bat Group]

Sunday September 18th - New Section Walk @ 2 pm [Led by Friends Group]

Sunday October 23rd - War Graves Walk @ 2 pm [Led by Bereavement Services].

These heritage and other walks are an excellent

way to learn something about the history of the cemetery [& the lives of its more notable residents] or its flora & fauna.

Lastly: on **Tuesday September 13th**:

A **TALK** by **Simon Morgan** of Mossfords: A Mason's Chisel's View of Memorials at Cathays [7 pm in Room 4.45 of the **Humanities Building**, Cardiff University, Colum Road].

Friends' Notice Board

Bishop Hedley Update

Restoration work is nearing completion on the impressive Bishop Hedley memorial. Overhanging branches and smaller saplings have been removed and the stonework has been cleaned. The Latin inscription will be re-carved and a translation included. A service of re-dedication will be held, probably in the Autumn.

European Open Doors Festival

The Friends group in conjunction with Bereavement Services are hoping to open at least one of the Chapels to the public one Sunday in September. The newly restored Cathays Library will also be participating in the scheme; the two buildings could be visited via a pleasant walk through the cemetery.

The Open Doors Festival is held annually to encourage buildings of note, which are usually closed, to open their doors, free of charge, to the general public. It will give us an opportunity to tell visitors about the work of the Friends group etc.



© Brian Simmonds

A reminder of winter

Edward Savage, A Survivor of Rorke's Drift.

**Dedication of Memorial at 2pm on Saturday
4th June.**

The main event of our summer programme will be the dedication of a memorial to Edward Savage, a survivor of Rorke's Drift. He is buried in an unmarked grave, something the Friends group felt needed rectifying. I don't think we need to explore in detail his family history, suffice just to say he was born in Newport, Gwent in 1858 and joined the army aged 18 in 1877. The following year he sailed to South Africa where he saw action before ending up at the battle of Rorke's Drift in 1879.

When the battle began Edward was in the camp hospital with an injured knee. Rumour has it that he leapt from his bed - through a window - to join his comrades and assisted in the struggle, lying on his side and taking aim from behind a wall of biscuit boxes. Following his discharge he married and took up residence in the Riverside district of Cardiff. He worked as a council worker and died aged only 32 in 1893.

In arranging this event we will be recognising and remembering the loss of life on both sides. HRH Prince Shange, a descendant of the Zulu commander, has kindly sent a letter to be read out at the graveside. We are fortunate to have the support of The Royal Welch Regiment, of which Edward Savage was a member, Mossfords Memorial Masons and Firing Line, which is the Military museum in Cardiff Castle. Edward has descendants living in Canada and also a branch who still live in Cardiff.

Two of the trustees of the Friends group attended the opening of an exhibition in the Firing Line museum in Cardiff Castle. There were many artefacts, signed photographs, scripts etc from the film 'Zulu'. As I'm sure you all know, the film depicted the battle of Rorke's Drift and starred the Welsh actor Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins and Michael Caine.

Eric Fletcher

Thanks are due to John Farnhill for the information on which this article is based.

NB Parking in the cemetery for this ceremony will **only** be available via the gates **by Cathays Library**. Moreover these gates will be closed from 1.55pm and during the ceremony. It is suggested that visitors begin assembling by the memorial chapels in Fair Oak Road from 1.30pm onwards.

PS If anyone would like to **help set up** from about 11 am on the day, they will be very welcome - the more hands the better!

UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES

[a Talk by Rev Lionel Fanthorpe on 10th May]

Lionel began work as a journalist in Norfolk. Spent ten years as a headmaster of a comprehensive school here in Cardiff. He is an ordained Anglican Priest, a qualified weight-training teacher and a martial arts instructor. He has written over 250 books and has recently finished his first e-book.

The title of his talk was **Mind Power & Unexplained Mysteries** and touched upon such diverse subjects as telepathy, teleportation, levitation, telekinesis and, perhaps the most dramatic, O.O.B.E.'s [Out of Body Experiences]. We were taken to places as diverse as the Bristol Odeon Cinema, where the usher had given up his job because he believed psychic forces were attacking him. Just up the road to Llancaiach Fawr and the scent of lavender perfume worn by a servant 300 years ago. The Chase-Elliot tomb in Barbados where heavy lead-lined coffins moved around inside a sealed vault. We met Nostradamus and Cardinal Wolsey. Heard about Mother Shipton & her predictions and bent spoons with Uri Geller. We shared in David Everson's remarkable recovery from a terminal illness after an Out of Body Experience. Were the stones at Avebury Rings moved by mind-power and telekinesis? It all goes to show that there's a lot out there we don't yet understand. A very enjoyable evening.

Rev Fanthorpe also has a web site:
www.lionel-fanthorpe.com