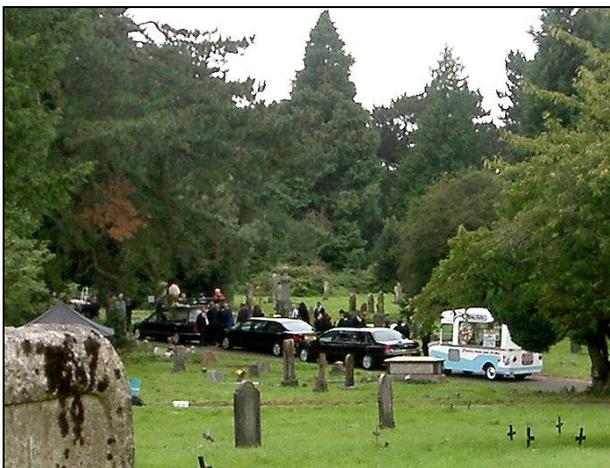




## Lively!

Perhaps an unusual adjective to describe a cemetery, but the last few weeks haven't been dull.

Hot on the heels of Trevor Fishlock, the TV film units were soon back again, for "Dr Who" and "Stella", complete with Matt Smith and Ruth Jones, respectively.



*Filming of Stella in progress*

Then, just as we were putting this edition of the Newsletter together, it was the turn of "Casualty". We can't give too much away, so you will have to watch the series to find out the story-lines. However, it is reasonable to expect a rise in visitor numbers, as fans of these programmes feed their addictions. The other benefit from this use of the cemetery is that the film companies pay location fees. It would be nice to see this bonus income to the Council being ring-fenced for improvements in the cemetery, for example, providing electricity and water services to the chapels or further restoration work on their outer fabric.

In August, the Tuesday morning walkers were surprised to be greeted at the chapels by **St David**. Well, almost! One of the regulars, Mike Peterson, was in costume ready for an appearance at the Eisteddfod at Llandow. And didn't he just look the part?



After the initial surge of yellow, the **wild flower garden** turned predominately blue (mainly cornflower) speckled with a variety of reds, purples and whites, before returning to yellow - but with a marigold type flower now dominating.



*Wild flower garden, blue period*

With the flowers disappearing, it was decided to clear the bed early, giving a more pleasing appearance for the Open Doors day and trying out an alternative regime for any self-seeding.

On the **Friends workdays** - last Saturday of

each month, from 10.00 to 12.00 - one of the main targets for clearance is bramble.



*Blackberries*

But the blackberry pickers still found plenty of fruit, indicating that the efforts of the Friends are only just maintaining the status quo, rather than altering the natural environment radically.

The warm, dry summer evenings have brought **less welcome visitors**. Despite the security railings making illicit access dangerous, it is clear that drinking parties are taking place in the cemetery. Generally, the evidence is just the empty cans filling the rubbish bins but, after a recent visit, which had been illuminated by candles, broken glass and other litter was left lying around, candle wax had defaced memorials and a marker post was left badly charred. It is to be hoped that this problem will disappear as the colder, darker nights return.



*Charred post by Balloon Girl's grave*

## **Recent Events**

**23rd July Heritage Walk:** As we have come to expect, Phil Amphlett of Bereavement Services proved an informative and entertaining guide for this stroll around the cemetery, which was also a meander through the history of Cardiff. The afternoon was enjoyed by around sixty people, many attending for the first time. Conversely, those who had been before were intrigued by the new information and anecdotes that Phil manages to come up with. All attendees were able to take away a copy of the recently updated self-guided Heritage Trail.

**11th September Talk, "The Pettigrews, the family who landscaped Cardiff's Parks":** Rosie James, a Principal Landscape Officer at Cardiff Parks & Sports Services, has researched the Pettigrews so well that you could easily believe that she knew them personally. Add to this a well-structured and illustrated talk, enthusiastically presented, and it is not hard to understand why a capacity audience of 42 people was enthralled from start to finish.

**Andrew Pettigrew (1833-1903)** came from a large working class family and started work as a gardener at the age of 12, but had the dedication and ambition to move to increase his experience and take more responsibility. He achieved the position of head gardener at Richings Park, Buckinghamshire, by the age of 29 and moved to a similar post with the Marquis of Bute, at Dumfries House about 4 years later. The Marquis was clearly impressed by Andrew's ability and brought him to Cardiff in 1873, where he stayed until his death. Initially working in conjunction with William Burges, he created the **Bute Park** that we enjoy today. He also started the **first commercial vineyard** in the UK, at Castell Coch, and became a senior figure in UK horticulture.

Andrew's **three sons** (William Wallace, Hugh Allan and Andrew Archibald) followed their father into horticulture, almost certainly helped by their father's reputation and influence. All three spent time training at Kew Gardens, achieved senior positions on big

estates at a young age, but eventually came to Cardiff to leave a lasting legacy. We can thank **William Wallace** for **Roath Park, Grange Gardens & Victoria Park**, and **Hugh Allan** for the gardens at **St Fagan's Castle** (where he was both employee and friend of the Earl of Plymouth). **Andrew Alexander** continued the close relationship with the Plymouths and was soon head gardener at their estate in Worcestershire. He then became **Chief Parks Officer** in Cardiff from 1915 to 1936. But perhaps his most important contribution to the story is the Pettigrew book, in six volumes, held in Cardiff Library archives, which provides an amazing history of the life and times of this remarkable family.

The **graves** of Andrew (the elder) and some of his family can, of course, be found in Cathays Cemetery.

**23rd September Open Doors Day and 'New' Cemetery Walk:** The weather was distinctly inclement, but this did not deter 44 people from visiting the chapels and showing a genuine interest in the re-roofing and the problems that remain. Because of the interest shown, the chapels were kept open for an extra hour.

Even more hardy were the 21 souls who joined Ivor Lippett for a walk around the northern section of the Cemetery in the afternoon. Despite the rain, all enjoyed Ivor's stories about a selection of the memorials and the people who they remember.

**29th September Workday:** Fortunately, the weather was much kinder for this Saturday morning, enabling good progress to be made by the dozen or so Friends, wielding saws, loppers & secateurs. Efforts were again concentrated in Section L: some more young ash trees were felled, fresh shoots on old stumps stripped off and the bramble battle renewed. The weather this year has favoured blackberries, with new shoots reaching 3 metres, or more, then bending back to the ground to send out new roots. It is not hard to imagine what would happen, if this were allowed to continue, and the importance of the workdays in keeping on

top of this problem cannot be over-emphasized.

## ***Raising the Profile - the Library, the Handout & the Website***

One of the most important roles of the Friends is to raise awareness of the Cemetery and to promote related activities.

We were offered the opportunity to mount a Display on Floor 2 in the Central Library for the two weeks to 14th July. So our chairman, Bill Mosley, carefully selected the photographs to be used and the categories under which to display them. History, flora and wildlife were featured, as well as events such as the recent re-dedication of Bishop Hedley's tomb and the dedication of the new headstone on the grave of Edward Savage, a survivor of Rorke's Drift.

To complement the presentation we made several issues of the Newsletter available and produced a specially updated pamphlet for people to take away. This full-coloured Handout was of A4 size, folded into three, similar to leaflets found at Visitor Information Offices. The front panel of the pamphlet featured the Chapels, the focus of the Friends' quest for restoration, while the content was well illustrated and included a location map. For the first time, the Friends' logo was incorporated and an application form for membership of the Friends was included. Production to a tight deadline was a bit of a challenge but it proved highly successful with all the copies on the display being snapped up by eager visitors. While this pamphlet was a one-off for a particular event, a Mark 2 version is to be produced as a standard publication medium.

A third approach to increasing publicity for us lay in updating our Website. It has been 6 years since John Farnhill produced our original site, so an update is overdue. We are expanding on John's original ideas to include extra items such as Upcoming Events and Workdays, publications and the stories of the more notable people buried at the Cemetery. This project is now nearing completion and we will let everyone know the web address when it is up and running.

## **Henry James Paine and Public Health**

Following on from the articles in the May & July Newsletters, this is now the final instalment of the Dr Paine story, in which we look at his influence on the health of the city.

The **growth of Cardiff** in the 19C was frantic. Between 1831 and 1856, the population grew from around 6,000 to over 30,000. The docks became very busy and prosperous as trade increased, aided by new railways and improvements to the Glamorgan Canal. But there was insufficient housing, resulting in overcrowding, poverty and poor sanitation. The Glamorgan Canal also served as a source for drinking water ... and for sewage disposal! Landore Court in St Mary Street illustrates the degree of overcrowding - in 1848, there were 27 two-roomed houses accommodating 500 people. Further, in 1858, Dr Paine who was by then Medical Officer of Health for Cardiff provided a list of 222 dwellings housing 2,920 people, including one house with 26 inhabitants.

Not surprisingly, **disease** was common and Cardiff suffered repeated epidemics, the spread of which was also aided by the increased movement of people, which came with growing trade. In 1842, the **first cholera epidemic** of the century struck Cardiff, killing many people.

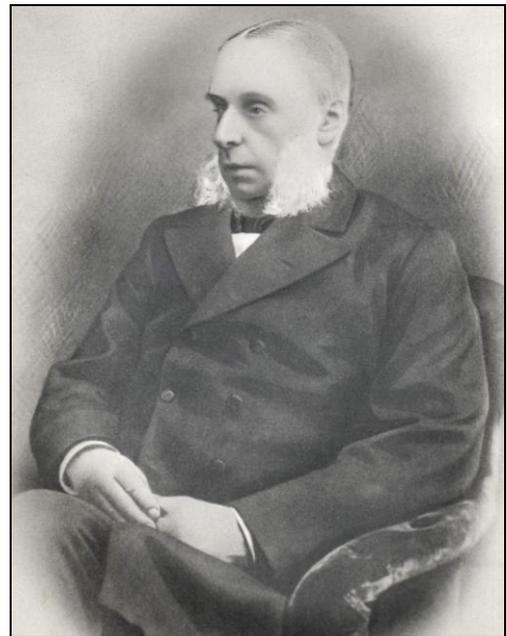
The 1846/7 **epidemic of typhus** killed nearly 200 people, while **cholera** returned in 1849 and 1854, killing in excess of 365 and 200 people, respectively. In 1857, 150 deaths resulted from a **smallpox** infection in the area around Caroline Street. The fact that a cholera outbreak in 1866 only resulted in 76 deaths was seen as a measure of the success of measures that had been taken to improve health and sanitation.

In 1847, the **Rammell Inquiry** stated that Cardiff had dangerously polluted water and no sanitation, while the Public Health Act of 1848 permitted the establishment of local Boards of Health and the new position of **Medical Officer of Health**. It was an enabling, not a compulsory, act and implementation depended

on the initiative of local communities, but Cardiff was among the first in Wales to grasp the opportunity offered by the new legislation.

Shortly afterwards, Dr Paine was appointed as Medical Officer of Health. The **Cardiff Waterworks Company** was set up to supply wholesome drinking water from clean sources and the 1850 Cardiff Waterworks Act granted the powers to do this. By 1856, a new system of sewerage/drainage was nearing completion, at a cost of £200,000.

Perhaps more important was a **better understanding of the causes of diseases** and the best way to control and minimise their spread. It had been commonly thought that epidemics had been caused by smells, bad food, cold and damp or, even, the "shocking habits of the Irish"! (The Irish Potato Famine had resulted in a lot of immigrants in the years 1845 - 1852 and there was undoubtedly some anti-Irish sentiment at the time.)



*Dr Paine – courtesy of Cardiff Central Library  
Local Studies Section*

Under Dr Paine, Cardiff was divided into **districts** and a medical officer appointed for each district. At the first sign of disease, every house would be visited once a day by a doctor. Houses were whitewashed with lime. People living near the canal were advised to move. Efforts were made to tackle the worst areas of overcrowding, which had the highest

mortality rates. **Flat Holm** was acquired for the reception of immigrants with cholera so that the disease did not enter the town.

It was widely recognised that the improvements achieved were largely due to the efforts of Henry Paine, who was the Medical Officer of Health **from 1853 to 1887**. He often had to fight both medical and political opposition but, through his pioneering ideas to improve sanitation and keep Cardiff free from disease, it is estimated that he may have saved over 15,000 lives by the time of his retirement.

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## **Notice Board**

### **Guided Walks**

**Insignia Walk: Sunday October 28th @ 2 pm** led by Bereavement Services and starting from the chapels by the Fair Oak Road entrance. This walk will look at a selection of war graves from both world wars, identifying the various insignia on them and presenting some of the stories about the service men buried in the Cemetery.

### **Work Days:**

Our next two Saturday workdays are @ **10am** on **October 27th** and **November 24th**, meeting by the chapels. The wet summer has caused prodigious plant growth in the Cemetery, so there is plenty of work for secateurs, loppers and saws. Tools are provided - or bring your own, if you prefer. And don't worry, there are no taskmasters, so you can work at your own pace. Come and enjoy the fresh air for a couple of sociable hours.

### **Talks**

**Annual Public Lecture: Tuesday November 13th @ 7pm** [with Cardiff University's School of History, Archaeology & Religion]

#### **Who Put the Stones over the Bones?**

**A look at early Memorial Masonry  
at Cathays Cemetery Cardiff**

[or A History of Mossfords]

by **Simon Morgan** [Managing Director of Mossfords] in the University's **Julian Hodge**

**Lecture Theatre** in Colum Road. Admission **£2.50** on the door.

Some of you will have heard Simon Morgan last year when he gave an informative and entertaining talk to the Friends. It was clear that this speaker warranted a wider audience, so we are pleased that he has agreed to present our annual lecture this year.

### **Annual Memorial Service at Thornhill**

This will be held on **Sunday December 9th** in the **Wenallt Chapel** at Thornhill Crematorium from **2pm** to **3pm**, with refreshments to follow. Everybody is welcome.

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## **Quick Response at the Cemetery?**

Over the last few years, QR (short for Quick Response) codes have become more and more commonplace. The codes consist of black square dots arranged in a square pattern on a white background. As a 2D development of the barcode, they can contain much more information. They were first used in industry about 8 years ago, but came into their own with the advent of the smart phone, which may have a reader to decipher the code. With Internet access, reading the QR code can take you direct to a website.

So what has this got to do with a cemetery? Well, at least one firm, QR Memories, is offering a service that creates a unique QR Code which is cut into stone or metal, tested and placed into the memorial. To accompany this, an individual web page is created for the family, who can provide whatever text, images or video, even, that they would like the deceased to be remembered by. The family would also have the ability to edit the details on the web page. Anyone scanning the code would be taken directly to the page.

If you compare some of the early memorials in Cathays Cemetery with more recent ones, one of the most apparent differences is the reduction in the amount of information

recorded on the stone - a trend often regretted by descendants tracing their family history or people researching interesting characters from the past. Because of cost and other restrictions, this trend is unlikely to be reversed, but the QR Code provides a solution that has the potential to surpass even the most informative Victorian memorial. Because they are small and can be placed so that they are unobtrusive, QR Codes should not affect the aesthetics of a memorial.

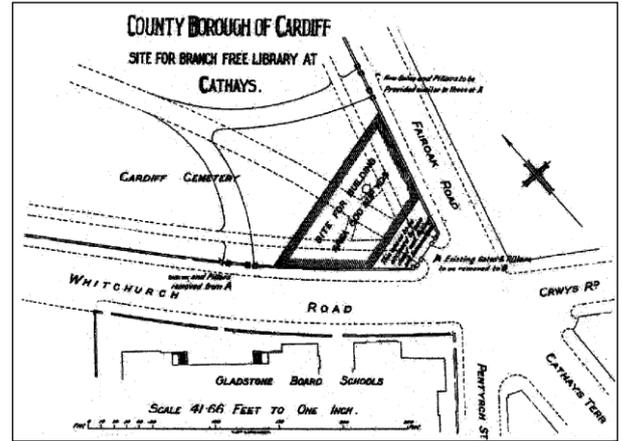
The size and cost of permanent information boards is a deterrent to providing these generally around the Cemetery beside interesting graves. However, placing QR Codes on memorials, or on small posts beside them, may be more feasible. It takes but a short step from this to, for example, providing a complete heritage trail in this form. This would almost certainly appeal more to the more technically minded modern generation.



Note that this example of a QR Code is only a demo  
So how long will it be before the first QR Code appears in Cathays Cemetery? Perhaps sooner than you think!

### Another Gate

It is thanks to an Open Doors event at the Cemetery's closest relative, Cathays Library, and, particularly, research by librarian Rodney Williams that we have learned a little more about the history of the Cemetery. The Library was one of many funded by Andrew Carnegie and was opened by the benefactor himself in 1907. But, as the original plan shown below indicates, accommodating the Library required changes to the entrance to the Cemetery, which was originally right on the junction.



Site Plan for Library courtesy of Cathays Library

The single entrance became two, set symmetrically either side of the Library. Later plans show that the twin entrances and path arrangements were provided but, by the First World War, only the Fair Oak Road one was in use and the perimeter path had been diverted to join the main drive to it. However, the Whitchurch Road gate is still there - providing a prestigious access to a very utilitarian electricity substation! The area previously occupied by paths to the gate was used to accommodate more graves in the 1980s.

### Vacancy on Editorial Team

Eric Fletcher is standing down as a member of the team that produces this newsletter. We are pleased to record our thanks for all his hard work over the last 3 years. We expect to see occasional contributions from him in the future and we are sure that readers will continue to look forward to more of his short stories. This does, however, leave us with a problem, as two people does not allow sufficient flexibility to spread the workload and to cover inevitable absences for holidays, etc. If you would like to join the team, or just to find out what would be involved, please contact Bill Mosley ([bill.mosley@virgin.net](mailto:bill.mosley@virgin.net)) or Gordon Hindess ([gordon.hindess@uwclub.net](mailto:gordon.hindess@uwclub.net)).

Don't forget to let us have your bits of news or other items for future issues!  
Contact the editorial team on 2061 2164  
or email <[gordon.hindess@uwclub.net](mailto:gordon.hindess@uwclub.net)>