

No False Autumn Here

Towards the end of the hot and dry summer, there was talk of a false autumn, with leaves changing colour and falling earlier than usual. But not in the Cemetery, although there may have been a near miss! This lime tree in Section W developed a white mottling, as a significant proportion its leaves reduced their chlorophyll content. This was presumably in response to a reduction in water availability and the need to reduce sugar making in consequence.



But then the rain came, and quickly, the tree turned completely green again, just in time for the normal autumn colouration process.

Autumn was not only saved but, in some respects, was better than ever, with a full range of colours from yellow, through orange and red, to brown. Going through the change to different timetables, some lovely colour contrasts were created, like that below, seen along the Fair Oak Road boundary.



Framed by evergreens at either end, we have (from left to right) a pedunculate oak which is only just starting to turn yellow, a yellow festigate (i.e. columnar in shape) tulip tree, a tupelo and a liquidamber, both predominately red.

The tupelo deserves more comment. One of the many specimen trees in the "arboretum" area of the Cemetery, this one came from the Hillier nurseries and is called *nyssa sylvatica jermyns flame*. This is a variety of the black tupelo, a native of North America, also known as the black gum, sour gum, or pepperidge tree. It likes moist areas: indeed a close relative, the swamp tupelo, lives where the name implies. Small greenish white flowers are borne in clusters on long stalks and are an important nectar source for bees - tupelo honey is highly regarded. If you think you have heard the word tupelo before, it may be that the town of this name is the birthplace of Elvis Presley!



Tupelo in autumn dress

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The blackberry crop started early and with great promise, but the crop shrivelled up in the dry weather then turned mildewy in the wet so was, ultimately, disappointing. But the eating apple tree produced a good crop and there has been an abundance of rowan berries for the birds to enjoy. A surprising success was the field maple, producing enough seeds to carpet the ground locally, as the picture below shows.



There is a good crop, too, of rose hips ...



... which the thrushes and blackbirds, as well as the winter visiting redwings, fieldfares and waxwings, should appreciate. In the past, it was more common for people to harvest rose hips, which are rich in antioxidants and Vitamin C, and offer many health benefits. They can be used in homemade body care products, teas, jellies, medicinal oils, syrups and much more.

It has been a good autumn for fungi, too. The patch pictured at the top of the adjacent column was found in Section Y but, if you look carefully, fungi can be found all over the Cemetery and with a vast range of varieties.



It is gratifying to see fungi groups and individuals coming to the Cemetery because it is seen as a great natural resource for educational purposes. Among these visitors was Julie Morgan, MS for North Cardiff, who is the Wales Environment Link Species Champion for the waxcap mushroom. She enjoyed an October morning with Lizzie Wilberforce from Plantlife Cymru and Gareth Stamp, Cardiff Council's Community Park Ranger, being shown the range of waxcaps on show in the Cemetery.

We have grown used to seeing yuccas bloom in the late summer, but it seemed that they were not going to appear this year. However, they then surprised us in November by giving a good display, as shown below.



All this talk of autumn may leave you thinking that a cold gloomy winter comes next. But spring is not far away, because the Cemetery sent a sign at the end of November, in the form of flower buds on a primrose in Section S (pictured on next page).



Autumn Miscellany

We were pleased to receive a newspaper cutting that referred to Cathays Rugby team playing on what is now the Cemetery. It comes from the family history research of Jimmy and Mary Lister and reports on the golden wedding of Mary's great grandparents, William and Julia Jeanes, in 1939. The article notes that William founded Cathays rugby club, played for them against Cardiff at the Arms Park (just a roped off enclosure at that time) and, at the age of 76 still attended Welsh international matches, home and away. William and Julia are buried in the Cemetery.

Towards the end of the 1870s, additional land was acquired for the expansion of the original Cemetery. By the early 1880s, parts of this had been laid out for burials, particularly to satisfy the need for Nonconformist and Catholic plots. However, in response to a demand for recreational land, the Council agreed to the western part of this land (closest to Whitchurch Road) being used as a recreation ground. At least one pitch was provided with terracing for spectators. The recreational use lasted until about 1895, when the land was allocated for Nonconformist burials. Conveniently, Roath Park had opened in 1894.

The annual Remembrance Service, excellently organised by Bereavement Services, was held at

the War Graves plot in the New Cemetery on Tuesday 8th November. As a prelude to the main service, children from two of the attending schools had a short tour of the Cemetery, led by John Farnhill, during which they laid a wreath at the Blitz Memorial.



John Farnhill addressing schoolchildren at the Blitz memorial

The service was officiated by the Rev Lionel Fanthorpe. After the opening address by the Lord Mayor, Cllr G Hinchey, and the playing of "The Last Post" by Alan Bourne, Director of Music, RAF St Athan, twelve wreaths were laid, including one on behalf of the Friends and the Tuesday walking group, by Jimmy Lister.



Jimmy Lister salutes after placing the wreath at the Cross of Remembrance

After the service, pupils from Allensbank Primary School, Gladstone Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan read the role of honour from the headstones in the War Graves plot, the practice initiated by the walking group.

We were particularly pleased that the Lady Mayoress attended, offering another chance to

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see the "Spiridion" chain of office.



Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress wearing their chains of office

A couple of days later, a similar Remembrance Service was held in Western Cemetery, at which the Friends were represented by Des and Jean Sanford and Ivor Lippett.

We are always pleased to see the restored chapels being used, no more so than when it is a documentary drama related to the World War 1 graves and performed, most appropriately, on 11th November. "Far from Home", written by Kathy Thomas and performed by the A48 Theatre Company, told the stories of seven Australian servicemen, whose graves can be found in the Commonwealth War Graves plot in the New Cemetery. Many of you will remember the A48 Theatre Company from their annual Graveyard Voices performances in the Cemetery in June, while Kathy is the coordinator of their writing group, Living Lines.

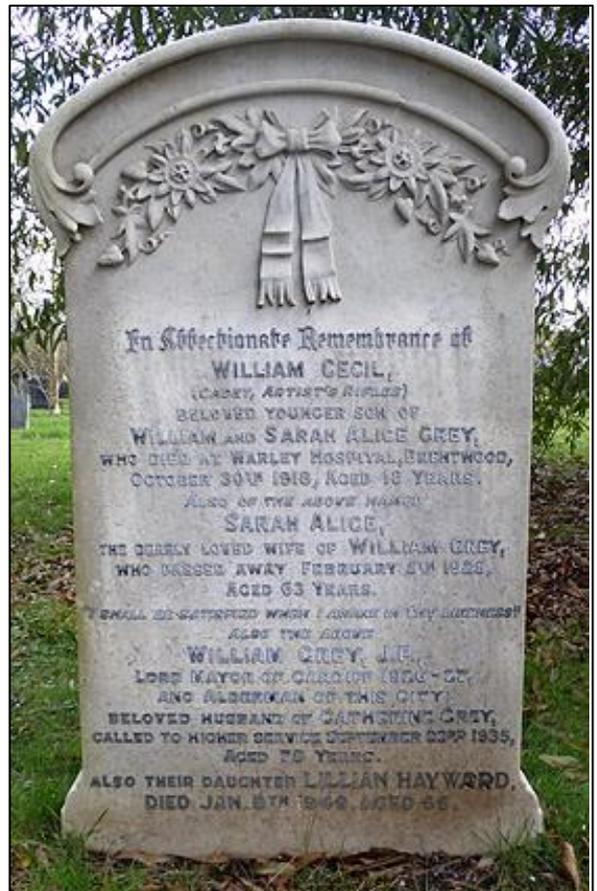
As well as coming from the other side of the world, the seven soldiers had something else in common - they had all come from Ninian Park School, which had been adapted for use as an extension to Cardiff Royal Infirmary, which was the headquarters of the 3rd Western General

Hospital, during the war. This very moving drama was enjoyed by a capacity audience.

If you have difficulty in scattering the ashes of a deceased person in accordance with their wishes, a new service may help. Aerial Ashes, which was set up earlier this year, offers the option of releasing ashes by drone and bereaved relatives can also watch the process close up from drone filming. Relatives have the option to press the release button on the drone's controls during the flight. The drone flights are licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority but have to avoid busy areas. The permission of the landowner is also required.

The FA Cup and a Curious Regiment

This attractive white marble gravestone in Section W of Cathays Cemetery ...



... marks the grave of the Grey family, William, his wife Sarah Alice, and their children Lilian Hayward and William Cecil.

William Grey senior was born in Cardiff in 1861.

He was a butcher by trade, having a shop at 164 Cowbridge Road. At first the family lived 'above the shop' but later moved to nearby Severn Road. Grey's shop still sells food, but now it is pizza, not lamb chops.

William Grey was also a J P, an alderman, and was elected Lord Mayor of Cardiff for the year 1926-27. 1927, you may recall, was the year that Cardiff City won the F A Cup. When the train carrying the victorious team arrived at Cardiff Central Station a huge crowd was waiting, as many people had evaded the vigilant policemen at the station entrance and reached the platform. A mighty roar arose from this crowd as the captain, Fred Keenor, was spotted at the train window with the F A Cup in his hands. Thousands of people lined the route to the City Hall and excitable young women throwing bunches of flowers ran alongside the cars carrying the victorious team. A large number of people had gathered on the canal bridge for a better view of proceedings when a gust of wind carried away a dozen hats, depositing them on the towpath and in the water. An enterprising young boy made himself a tidy sum of money by volunteering to climb down the bridge and retrieve the lost headgear at tuppence a hat!

Once they arrived at City Hall the players were greeted by Lord Mayor Grey who shook hands with each and every member of the team. There then followed a celebratory dinner at City Hall hosted by the Lord Mayor and his wife the Lady Mayoress; let's hope she was wearing the Spiridion chain! (see Newsletter number 49)

William's son, William Cecil, was born in Cardiff in 1900. In 1918 he joined the Artists Rifles, probably the most curious regiment in the British army. It was formed as a volunteer regiment in 1860 by a group of painters, architects, sculptors, poets, musicians and actors who were concerned about a possible French invasion due to the political situation in Europe at the time. The regimental badge was designed by Leonard Charles Wyon, an engraver

at the Royal Mint. The badge is a striking representation of the heads of Mars the god of war and Minerva the goddess of, among other things, wisdom and the arts. Originally the regiment was designated as The Artists' Rifles. The apostrophe was officially dropped from the full title in 1937 as it was so often misused, as is the case on the grave stone of William Cecil Grey.



Regimental badge of Artists Rifles

Famous names who served in the Artists Rifles include most of the Pre-Raphaelite painters along with William Morris and John Ruskin, the war artists Paul and John Nash, and the poet Wilfred Owen. Even Noel Coward was conscripted into the regiment in 1918, but was soon assessed as unfit for active service and discharged. The engineer Barnes Wallace was briefly in the regiment until the War Office was persuaded to release him to work on airship design. He famously went on to design the Wellington bomber and invent the Bouncing Bomb.

In the TV series *Blackadder goes Forth*, Captain Blackadder, played by Rowan Atkinson, has a cunning plan to avoid the trenches ... he becomes an artist. However First World War artists did not have an easy time behind the

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lines, they had the very dangerous job of crawling into no man's land to sketch the enemy's defences. That is one reason why the regiment had one of the highest casualty rates of any regiment in the First World War and 8 Victoria Crosses.

In 1915 the Artists Rifles became basically an officer producing unit, another reason for their very heavy losses and the reason why William Cecil, as it says on the gravestone, was a cadet, not a private. The regiment functioned as an officers training corps during the Second World War and became part of the 21st Special Air Service Regiment in 1947.

Poor William Cecil survived only 2 months after enlisting. He died of pneumonia in Warley hospital, Brentwood, in October 1918 at the age of 18, having never served overseas.

There are other Artists Rifles connections in Cathays Cemetery.

George Leighton Seager, the third son of shipping magnate William Henry Seager, served in the Artists Rifles in the First World War. He survived and died in 1963 at the age of 67. He is buried Section O.

In the New Cemetery is the grave of Edward Ricketts Turner who served for a very short while in the Artists Rifles. He enlisted in 1915 at the age of 31 and, as he was a clerk/cashier in civilian life, he did much the same job in the army reserve. He did not see active service abroad. He died of polio-encephalitis at the 1st London General Hospital on 14th February 1917.

Captain Hans Heinrich Baselow

If you have been on one of the Heritage Walks, you will have been impressed by the sculpture of a woman and child on the grave of Frank Baselow and his family. But to tell the family story, we have to start with his parents, Heinrich and Sophie, who are buried 100m or so away, also in Section L. Their memorial is a more modest obelisk, but distinctive enough to spot. It is a little way from the path and, being in the

conservation area, easier to access after the autumn/winter strimming.



Heinrich Baselow memorial

Hans Heinrich Jacob Baselow, was born in the port of Rostock, on 26th Jan 1816. At that time, Rostock was in Prussia. Today it is in Germany, between Hamburg and the Polish border, strategically placed on the east side of the narrow channels between Danish islands and Sweden that connect the Baltic Sea to the North Sea. In the first half of the 19th century, Rostock gained economic importance, initially due to the wheat trade, but then, from the 1850s, because of industry, especially shipbuilding - the first propeller-driven steamers in Germany were constructed there. In many respects, its rapid growth and expansion of its economic importance mirrored what was happening in Cardiff at the same time.

On 4th December 1846, Heinrich married Marie Henrietta Sophie Olerich, who had been born in

Rostock around 1826, and was generally known as Sophie. The couple had four children before emigrating to Wales. What prompted Henrich and Sophie to leave the prosperous city of Rostock and settle in Cardiff remains a mystery, for the time being. They emigrated to Wales in the 1860s, with Heinrich bearing the title Captain, presumably because of maritime experience in his earlier life. The 1871 census shows the Baselow family living at 162 Bute Street. At this time, he is a partner in a ships chandlers and sail making company, Baselow, Gensz & Goulter and also works in the maritime insurance industry. However, in 1874, he and his business partner Albert Goulter are declared bankrupt.

By 1880, his fortunes had revived and the family were living in 17 Mount Stuart Square, a prosperous location overlooking the central green park. This prospect would have changed a few years later, the Coal Exchange being built on the park between 1884 and 1888. Henrich was now working as an agent for Germanischer Lloyd, a classification society based in Hamburg that established and maintained technical standards for the construction and operation of ships. (The similarity between this society and Lloyds Register will be clear.) A certificate issued by the society was required by a ship's owner in order to register the ship and obtain marine insurance, had to be produced before a ship could enter some ports or waterways and was of interest to charterers and potential buyers.

Captain Baselow died on 8th September 1881, aged 65, and was buried in Cathays Cemetery. The 1891 census tells us that, after Henrich's death, Sophie continued to live at 17 Mount Stuart Square with her children and still employing a servant. However, by 1901, she had moved to 1 Howard Gardens with her eldest son, Franz. This house was called 'Rostock'. Howard Gardens was one of several town square garden developments created by the Bute estates and was large enough to include tennis courts. If you visit Howard Gardens today, you will find

that modern buildings have encroached on the area but, with a bit of imagination, you can picture it in its Victorian heyday. Sophie died on 9th March 1902, aged 76, and is buried with her husband.



Panel on Baselow obelisk recording the deaths of Heinrich and Sophie

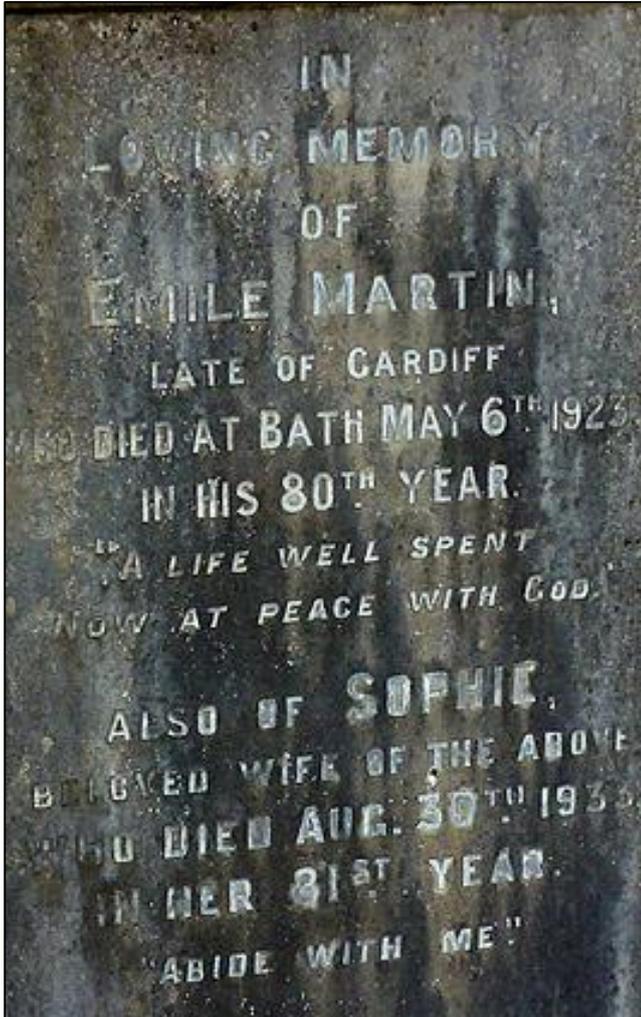
Note the touch of Victorian symbolism in the anchor above the panel, befitting of a sea captain.

You will find another panel on the memorial recording the deaths of Emile Martin, of Bath, and his wife, another Sophie. Johanna Eliza 'Sophie' Baselow was Captain Baselow's only daughter. She married Carl Johann 'Emile' Martin in Cardiff, in 1875. Emile, was born in Oldenburg, in north-west Germany, but had also moved to Cardiff, where he was a shipbroker and, conveniently, lived in Mount Stuart Square.

Emile and Sophie had eleven children, nine of whom survived into adulthood. As their family grew they moved from Mount Stuart Square to

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Stacey Road, in Roath. Later, the couple moved to Bath where Emile worked as a timber merchant. They were both to die in Bath, Emile in 1923, in his 80th year, and Sophie in 1933, aged 81. They are both buried in the grave of Sophie's parents.



Panel on Baselow obelisk recording the deaths of Emile and Sophie Martin

In our next issue, we will look at Captain Baselow's male children, who all have interesting stories.

Recent Events

Open Doors

After the Covid interruption, it was a huge pleasure to resume this event. On **Sunday September 11th**, from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, the restored Cemetery chapels, including the vestries, were opened to visitors.

Refreshments, displays and information were

available in the Anglican chapel. In addition, Gordon Hindess led a guided walk in the morning and Ivor Lippett led a different walk in the afternoon. With about 40 people enjoying each walk, it was clear that this additional feature of the day was much appreciated. With a steady flow of visitors throughout the day, the members of the Friends manning the chapels were gratified by the high level of genuine interest apparent from people's questions. While most of the attendees were from Cardiff (although a significant number were making their first visit to the Cemetery), we were pleasantly surprised to find that several had travelled from further afield.

Walk

On **Sunday, 23rd October**, Roger Swan led the **Heritage Trail**, for **Bereavement Services**. Taking in some of the most prominent graves in the Old Cemetery, the tour provides a popular introduction to the Cemetery. It was enjoyed by about 32 visitors, many of whom used the opportunity to buy some honey from the Cathays Cemetery bee hives.

Talk

On **Tuesday, 8th November at 7.00 pm**, the annual Bill Mosley Memorial Lecture was able to resume its pre-Covid format - delivered in a lecture theatre to a live audience. After postponements in the previous two years, **The Cemetery Year** was finally presented by **Gordon Hindess** of the Friends of Cathays Cemetery. This was a comprehensively illustrated talk, the large number of images allowing the Cemetery to speak for itself. Starting in the winter, in snow and with a snowman, the lecture progressed through the seasons highlighting the ever-changing flora and fauna and ending on a festive note, with holly, a robin ... and Father Christmas! Unsurprisingly there was a post Covid hangover with a smaller attendance than usual, but the 20 or so attendees thoroughly enjoyed the lecture.

Our Regular Events

Monthly Workdays

Our workdays continue to be well supported and it was particularly rewarding to help prepare the area around the War Graves plot for the November Service. We have also returned to where the Friends' workdays started, in Section L, clearing away excessive regrowth, to make the many interesting memorials in this area more accessible.

Tools and gloves are provided and you can work at your own pace, so why not join us for a couple of hours of sociable exercise? We **meet by the chapels at 10 am** and work until noon, with a break for elevenses. Because of the festive season and likely weather, there will not be a workday in December or January. After this, put the last Saturday of the month in your diary, as the next dates are **25th February, and 25th March.**

Weekly Walks

The walks, which last about an hour, start just inside the **gates adjacent to Cathays Library at 10.30 am every Tuesday morning.** All are welcome on these walks and we continue the chat afterwards over tea or coffee in a local cafe. These are gentle walks, with the emphasis on sociability and with pauses to talk about the history of the Cemetery and its "residents". The routes vary to take advantage of the floral highlights during the year and we keep our eyes open for transient birds, animals and insects.



Autumn colours on a Tuesday walk

Future Events

AGM

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Friends will be held in the Anglican chapel on Saturday 4th February 2023 at 10 am. Agendas and other relevant papers will be sent out in January 2023. While this is a return to the pre-Covid normal and will be welcomed by those without the ability to join online meetings, we recognise that others have found Zoom meetings more convenient and, in some cases, are unable to attend on the day. If you can't get to the meeting but have issues that you would like raised, please write to us in advance. Otherwise, our next newsletter will give a comprehensive report on the meeting.

Talks

The first lectures in the 2023 programme will be delivered in **Room 2.03 of the John Percival Building, at the University.** You can find this towards the southern end of the strip between Colum Road and the railway. Vehicular access to the service road alongside the railway boundary is off Colum Road about 250m from its junction with North Road. Alternatively, there is a convenient, and short, pedestrian access off Corbett Road, close to the railway bridge.

On **Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.00 pm,** **Rosemary Challenor** will talk about "**Angels in the Line of Fire**", looking at the bravery and tragedy of women in times of conflict. Many readers will be familiar with Rosemary from her book about Louisa Maud Evans, "The Balloon Girl", or, indeed, her talk to the Friends on the same subject a few years ago. In her past, she has been a dancer, stage manager, Redcoat, hotel hostess and facilitator at the Cardiff Story Museum. But now she is committed to researching and writing about fascinating people with a local interest ... and this lecture will show how well she does it.

On **Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.00 pm,** **Peter Finch** will give a talk on "**Edging the City**", on the theme of his book of the same

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title, published in August 2022. Peter's response to the 2020 lockdown restrictions, confining people to their local authority area, was to begin walking the boundary of his, Cardiff. This talk will tell you what he found. Peter is a prolific poet and perhaps the foremost chronicler of Cardiff, past and present. He is also a critic, rock fan and psychogeographer and much in demand as a reader and lecturer, where he is always entertaining. You may be tempted to "google" psychogeography, but still be none the wiser about this newly emerging discipline. Maybe this lecture will help your understanding with some local examples.

Publications

Books (about 100 pages, full colour) - £5:

Cathays Cemetery on its 150th Anniversary
Hidden Histories: Tales from Cathays Cemetery

The books are also available by post, with an additional shipping cost of £3: in the UK, by sending your name & address and a cheque payable to "Friends of Cathays Cemetery" for the book price plus postage and packing to:-

Friends of Cathays Cemetery
c/o Bereavement Services
Thornhill Cemetery
Cardiff CF14 9UA

For orders from outside the UK please email us for a costing.

Themed guides (12 - 20 pages) - mostly £1.50 with black & white images or £2.00 for those with colour images. Because of disproportionate postal charges, these booklets have generally only been sold at events, then, because of Covid, the stock was allowed to run down. However, we have now replenished the stock and there are some 20 titles available, many with new subjects. Those currently available are:

Murder at Cathays
The Cardiff Blitz and Cathays Cemetery
Another batch of Murders at Cathays

Builders & Architects at Cathays Cemetery
The Five Legs of Cathays
Restoring the Chapels at Cathays Cemetery
Sportsmen in Cathays Cemetery
Doctors & Men of Medicine
Exotic Trees in Cathays Cemetery
Cathays Cemetery Tree Trail
Cardiff Mayors in Cathays Cemetery
More Mayors & Councillors in Cathays Cemetery
Circuses & Funfairs in Cathays Cemetery
Wild Flowers in Cathays Cemetery
Another Bunch of Wild Flowers
Men & Women of The Church
Mentioned In Stone - - Non-CWGC Graves
The Cemetery Gates
Queen Victoria's Wars in Cathays Cemetery
The Crimean War in Cathays Cemetery
The Boer War in Cathays Cemetery

There are also several free publications which can be downloaded from our website in pdf format.

Epitaph

Mary Broomfield (1675-1755)

The chief concern of her life for the last twenty-five years was to order and provide for her funeral. Her greatest pleasure was to think and talk about it. She lived many years on a pension of 9d per week and yet she saved £5, which at her own request was laid out on her funeral.

And finally...

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

Contact the editorial team on 029 2061 2164
or email <gordon.hindess@uwclub.net>

You can find past Newsletters, the latest news of events and lots of other information about the Cemetery on our website at www.friendsofcathayscemetery.co.uk.