



Ever-changing Face of Spring

There seems to be something new to enjoy every week in this most colourful season in the cemetery. A host of hybrid apple/cherry trees ensures a sequence of blossoms ranging from white, through pink, to red. But pride of place probably has to go to the big **magnolia** in Section L (part nearest to Section K). Sadly, it is only at its best for a few days, before the petals fall like snow to cover the grass below.



Magnolia

The trees have been complemented by the flowers on the ground. The primroses have gone from strength to strength through three months, while the later **wood anemones** have been particularly good. It was pretty enough to attract a pair of ducks to do their courting away from the crowd and bustle of Roath Park ... at least, until the near rainless weather dried up the last of the muddy puddles in the cemetery.



Wood anemones

But it is also the time to ensure that the colours continue through the summer, with the preparation for and sowing of **wild flower** annuals in the centre of the roundabout just inside the main entrance.



Preparing the wild flower garden

Dr Peter Sturgess has commenced a **biodiversity survey** of the cemetery. After just a few visits, the draft species list has around 300 entries, already confirming that the area is very diverse. The aim is to carry out more visits and the list will grow, as some species only appear seasonally while others are very much dependent on chance encounters.

After the unsuccessful check of the reptile mats in the autumn, it is pleasing to report that an April check found one adult and five juvenile **slow worms** - so they really are there! It is probable that they are quite numerous, especially in the sunny areas with the anthills.



Slow worm – image provided by Dr Peter Sturgess

In a **moss and lichen** count that exceeds 50 species, it was gratifying to record several pollution-sensitive ones, which would have been unthinkable just a couple of decades ago.

Olympic Connection

This Olympic year could not be allowed to pass without finding a link to Cathays Cemetery. Fortunately, it wasn't hard to discover - and the person featured was a pretty remarkable Olympian.

In Section D of the Cemetery, just on the west side of the path heading south from the site of the former Catholic chapel, you will find a large memorial, marking the vault of the Radmilovic family. The inscription in the stone tells us that it is the final resting-place of Antonio (Antun) Radmilovic, his wife Hannah, one of their sons, John, and his wife Maria.



A native of Dubrovnik, Antun relocated to Cardiff in the 1860s and became the landlord of the Glastonbury Arms pub in Bute Street. His wife was born in Cardiff, the daughter of Irish immigrants. Their third son, **Paulo Francesco "Raddy" Radmilovic**, born on 5 March 1886, was to become arguably the greatest ever Welsh sportsman. Before the age of 18, he had collected around 20 trophies for his achievements in athletics. He also played golf and soccer, and he entered the boxing ring a few times. But it is as a **water polo player and swimmer** that he achieved the greatest success.

Radmilovic made his début for the Wales national water polo team at the age of 15, at

the time, the youngest international player in the history of the sport. His Olympic career began as a swimmer at the **1906 Intercalated Games**, although he won no medals. (The Intercalated Olympic Games were to have been a series of International Olympic Games, always held in Athens, half-way between, and enjoying equal status with, the normal Olympics. In the event, the only such games were those held in 1906.) Sadly, none of this was witnessed by his mother, who had died in 1897 at the meagre age of 36.

At the **1908 Games**, he won a gold medal as part of the British water polo team that defeated Belgium 9-2 in the final, when Raddy scored twice. Two days later he was drafted into the 4x200 metre relay final when another swimmer withdrew due to illness. Hungary appeared to be cruising to victory until their anchor leg swimmer became ill, allowing the British to win. Radmilovic also competed in three individual free-style events, though failing to make the finals.

He won his third career gold as part of the British Water Polo team at the **1912 Summer Olympics** in Stockholm, when the Austrians were defeated 8-0 in the final. His fourth and final gold came at the **1920 Summer Olympics** in Antwerp, when Great Britain beat Belgium 3-2 in the final, with Radmilovic scoring the winning goal. At the final whistle incensed "home" spectators attempted to attack the British players and an armed police guard was needed as they left the pool. Unruly spectators are not just a modern phenomenon!

He was a member of the British team in both the **1924 and 1928 Olympic** water polo tournaments, without medal success, and was 42 years old when his Olympic career ended. His record of **four gold medals** was unrivalled by any British Olympian until Sir Steve Redgrave equalled and eventually broke it by winning his fifth title in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. If one includes the 1906 Intercalated Games, he competed at **six Olympics**. This feat was only equalled in 1976 by fencer Bill Hoskyns.

Aside from the Olympics, Radmilovic competed in **international swimming and water polo for nearly 30 years**. He won his first Amateur Swimming Association title in 1907 when victorious in the open water 5-mile race in the River Thames. His noted versatility came to the fore two years later when he won the 100 yards free-style. He won the English Long Distance Championships in 1907 and 1925 and, a year later, he won the English One-Mile Championship at the age 40. His victories at the **Welsh National Championships** took place over an even greater time-span, starting with a 100 yards title **at the age of 15 in 1901** and ending with a 440 yards **victory at the age of 43 in 1929**. Locally, he was remembered as 'the Shark of the Taff' because of his impressive performances in the Taff Swim, which was first held in 1924.



Paulo Radmilovic - courtesy of Cardiff Central Library Local Studies Section

Throughout his Olympic career he lived in Weston-super-Mare, where he ran the Imperial Hotel for many years. He was a member of the local Worlebury Golf Club - he was club Captain in 1938 - and represented the town's swimming and water polo clubs: **he was still swimming 400 metres a day at the age of 78!**

Radmilovic became the first Welshman to be inducted to the **Swimming Hall of Fame at Fort Lauderdale, Florida**, in 1969. He was the 2nd water polo player (after American Wallace O'Connor) and the third Briton (after coach Matthew Mann and English Channel swimmer Captain Matthew Webb) to be inducted. In

1988, he was one of the original ten sports people inducted into the new **Welsh Sports Hall of Fame**. To celebrate the centenary of his 1908 double-gold Olympic medals, a plaque was placed on the Cardiff International Pool to honour him.

Paulo died in Weston-super-Mare on **29 September 1968**, but was not brought back to the family vault in Cathays cemetery and is buried in the Victorian Milton Road Cemetery in Weston, which shares many of the features and characteristics found in Cathays. His son took over the running of the hotel and continued to display Paulo's vast trophy collection. But his Olympic medals have disappeared and have not been seen for many years, so could be lying lost in a cupboard somewhere in South Wales or south-west England.

Recent Events

15th April Heritage Walk: This attracted 107 visitors who were treated to an excellent account of various aspects of the cemetery's heritage. Phil Amphlett from Bereavement Services talked about some of the characters who are buried in the cemetery and explained other features that illustrate its rich heritage. And did you know why rock salt or ice could be helpful in the erection of some of the larger monuments? No! Well you should have been there to find out.

1st May Tree Walk: About 30 people enjoyed a glorious evening (a welcome change to the rain and gales of the preceding days) being introduced to a selection of the trees that enhance the cemetery. Thanks to Mike Castle of Bereavement Services, for helping us to appreciate the huge variety of trees that make this cemetery very much an arboretum. And now we know the difference between a Common Yew and an Irish Yew.

Workdays: The monthly workdays have been well supported, with good progress being made in rediscovering memorials that had been lost to the vegetation in Section L.

Henry James Paine & his Family

It is easy to assume that all of our readers are familiar with the Heritage Trail, either from one of the guided walks or from using the self-guided booklet. But not all Friends live locally and there may be some who are not sufficiently mobile to get around the cemetery. (If you are one of these, you can find the Heritage Trail Guide at

www.cardiff.gov.uk/ObjView.asp?Object_ID=3764

and will, hopefully, find much of interest in it.) However, there is often more to the characters featured on the Heritage Trail than time on a guided walk or space in the booklet can do justice to.

Dr Henry James Paine is perhaps a good example. From the walk or the booklet, you will learn that his memorial can be seen in Section L. (If you enter this section on the higher path from the chapels, then take the grassy path which arcs around to the right, you will find the memorial just over half way round on the right.) Since this is an area that has had much attention on Friends' workdays, this obelisk is more easily seen today than it was a few years ago. You would also learn from the guide that his main achievements were in bringing much improved sanitary conditions to Cardiff and establishing the **Hamadryad Hospital Ship**.

The inscription on the red granite obelisk tells you that Henry James Paine **died in 1894**, at the age of 76 and that his relict (how many wives today would welcome this Victorian designation?), Eliza, died in 1904, aged 92. But the rest of the story is more tragic. Their first three children are buried in St John's churchyard, since their deaths pre-date the opening of Cathays Cemetery, and died at the ages of 19 days, 4 months and 2 years 7 months in the years 1848 and 1849. It is probably not irrelevant that Cardiff suffered its worst cholera epidemic in 1849. Although their other two children reached adulthood, both died relatively young and failed to outlive their parents: their second daughter, Emily Louisa, died in 1884, aged 34, while their third son, Francis Trevor died in 1878, aged 25.



Memorial to Henry Paine and his family

In the face of such personal tragedy, it is perhaps even more commendable that Henry James Paine should have done so much for the health and well-being of the people of Cardiff during his own life time.

As if his medical role wasn't enough, Dr Paine also served as a Justice of the Peace for Cardiff, a role that was time-consuming and surprisingly diverse. As an example, he sat on the inquiry, in January 1886, into the circumstances attending the loss of the pilot cutter "Gertrude" through collision with the steamship "Eliza Hunting", in Penarth Roads, the previous month. The Court found that the "Eliza Hunting" failed to keep a proper look-out. Its master was deemed guilty of neglect and had his certificate suspended for 3 months - a seemingly mild punishment in the circumstances.

There is much more to the story of Henry Paine, so we will return to him in future newsletters.

Pioneer of Ophthalmic Surgery

Perhaps the most noticeable difference between the two halves of the cemetery is that the newer (northern) section has less ostentatious and less informative memorials. So, for example, the unassuming headstone marking the burial place of **Dr Tudor Thomas** does not mention his pioneering surgery on the cornea, which restored the sight of a patient, who had been nearly blind for 27 years, and attracted worldwide interest in 1934.



Grave of Sir Tudor & Lady Bronwen Thomas

Thomas was **born** in **Ystradgynlais**, in **1893**. He was educated at the Welsh School of Medicine in Cardiff, and the Middlesex Hospital in London. In 1916, he became the first person to receive the MB BCh Degree of the University of Wales and he **specialised in eye surgery** from an early point of his medical career. After the First World War, when he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he worked for a time as a clinical assistant at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital (Moorfields) before returning to Wales. In 1921 he was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon at Cardiff Royal Infirmary and United Cardiff Hospitals and served there for 37 years. He was also a clinical teacher for the Welsh National School of Medicine. It was while at the School of Medicine that he undertook his **pioneering work in corneal grafting**, initially experimenting on rabbits.

He had an Honorary LLD conferred on him by Glasgow University. In 1933 he delivered the Middlemore Lecture at the Birmingham Eye Hospital and in 1936 the Montgomery Lecture in Dublin.

Seemingly destined to be a bachelor, in 1938 he married a young vivacious Welsh lady, Bronwen Pugh, who proved a great asset in enlivening both his professional and private social life.

He was honoured by being elected **President of the British Medical Association** in 1953-54 and gave a masterly inaugural lecture. He conceived the idea of a donor system for corneal grafts and an eye bank was established in East Grinstead in 1955. In the same year, he gave the Doyne Memorial Lecture at the Oxford Ophthalmological Congress, on whose council he had sat for many years. From 1956-58, he presided as Master and his contributions and chairmanship made these meetings a great success. By a fortunate coincidence, he was **knighted** early in his term of office and, at the Congress, Lady Bronwen organised the lady visitors' social programme. In 1956 Tudor was elected **High Sheriff of Breconshire** and it gave him pleasure to entertain prominent Breconshire and Cardiff personalities to an inaugural luncheon. The Worshipful Company of Apothecaries honoured him by presenting their Gold Medal in therapeutics to him in 1960 and he was elected an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine later. At the age of 72, he was invited to be President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom and one of their meetings was held in Cardiff.

Sir Tudor **died** on **23rd January 1976** and Lady Bronwen (Bronnie) was reunited with him seven years later. The third occupant of their grave is their eldest son, David, who died in 2009.

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**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>

## Work Days

**Saturday May 26th & Saturday June 30th.**

Meet at the Chapels at **10 am**. We are starting to make a noticeable difference, tombstones lost to rampant vegetation are once again clear, their inscriptions readable. We make this appeal in every newsletter, but we do need extra help, so forget shopping and get chopping.

## Notice Board

### Talks

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May:** A talk on **War Memorials** by **David Hughes** at **7pm** in Room 4.45 in the Humanities Building, Colum Drive (behind Colum Road).

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September:** **Rosie James** on **'The Pettigrews, the family who landscaped Cardiff'** (they are buried in Cathays Cemetery). Again at **7pm** in the Humanities Building, Colum Drive.

### Guided Walks

**Tuesday 19th June: Midsummer Heritage Walk.** This will be led by the Friends and follow a new route. A lot of research has gone into uncovering the lives of hitherto forgotten residents of the cemetery. Promises to be an enjoyable evening. Meet at the Chapels @ **7pm**.

**Sunday 15th July @ 2pm: Heritage Walk** led by Bereavement Services. Meet at the Chapels. These are very popular, the last walk attracted over 100 people, so don't miss out on what is an enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

restoration programme, which included not only woodland clearance and re-planting, but also repair work on monuments and vaults and the perimeter walls. To achieve this and keep the cemetery on a sound financial footing required millions of pounds to be raised.

Jean became an authority on the cemetery - its history, flora and fauna, the memorials and its people. But she also saw the protection of the cemetery from disrespectful, frivolous and inappropriate behaviour as an essential duty, to the extent that she referred to herself as 'the dragon at the gate'.

It would be hard to find a better role model for a cemetery friend and it is most apt that her ashes were interred, alongside those of her husband, in the cemetery that she loved and which owed so much to her careful endeavour.

People for whom we have an email address will have received a copy of the Spring issue of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends' Newsletter, which contained a more detailed obituary for Jean. If any of our Friends who missed out on this would like to see the longer version, please let us know (contact details on page 5). For those on the Internet who might be interested in a personal eulogy about Jean, one can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/features/9123775/Jean-Pateman-Tender-dragon-of-Highgate-cemetery.html>

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Best Friend or Dragon?

Jean Pateman died on **11th February 2012** at the age of 90. She was a founder member of the **Friends of Highgate Cemetery**, back in 1975, the charitable group's first secretary and its chairman from 1985 until 2009. She was still a trustee at her death and had never missed a board meeting in over 40 years.

Jean was a huge influence in the setting up of the charitable trust, the purchase of the cemetery in 1981 and the considerable

Membership Renewal

Thank you to all those who have renewed in response to the reminder with the last issue [and all credit to those who renewed earlier without the need for a reminder]. However, if your renewal is still outstanding, please send it in as soon as possible.