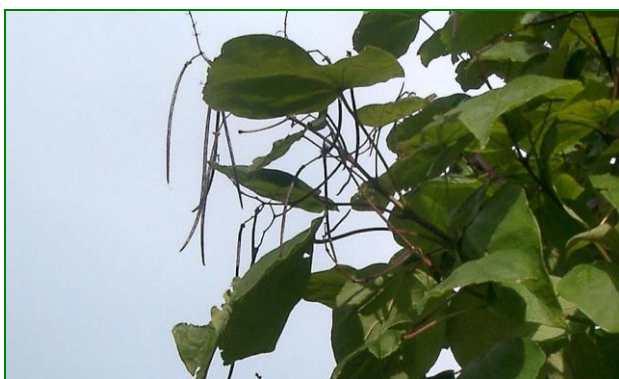


Nature Notes

After featuring Farges Catalpa in our last issue, it is only appropriate to report that, just a few weeks later, two specimens of a cousin, flowered and fruited. This version, with larger leaves and lilac tinged blossom is thought to be a hybrid of the Indian Bean and Yellow Catalpa, known as **Catalpa Purpurea**. The beans which it produced are much shorter and less prolific.



The other Catalpa's blossom



Its bean pods

It has turned into another good year for **Rowan berries**, but does anyone make use of these nowadays? It is not recommended to eat them raw, but they can be used to make a jelly and there is even a traditional Welsh recipe for an alcoholic liquor called *diodgriafel*. The brewing process, according to an 18th century traveller, involved pouring water over the berries and setting the infusion to ferment. After maturing, the result was described as by no means an unpleasant liquor. While most berries ripen to red, at least one of the Cemetery's specimens produces orange berries. This may be **Sorbus Puhuashanensis** - but we would welcome an expert view.



Orange berried Rowan

Also spotted around the Cemetery in late summer and autumn have been a clump of **Hydrangea** in Section L and a lone **Evening Primrose**, under the protective eye of an angel, in Section R.



As is often the case, autumn came at different times around the cemetery, with nature producing a series of cameos. For example, a **magnificent maple** or a **carpet of golden leaves**. This only emphasises that, at any time of year, exploration will normally be rewarded with beauty or surprise.



Hydrangea



Maple



Carpet of leaves

Advance Notice

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at 1pm on **Saturday January 25th** in the **Meeting Room** in the Bereavement Services Office building at **Thornhill**, with refreshments to follow. We hope to have the plans for the partial restoration of the chapels outlined for us then and to hear about the Keep Wales Tidy project for the cemetery. Full details for the AGM will be circulated in the New Year. Everybody is welcome.

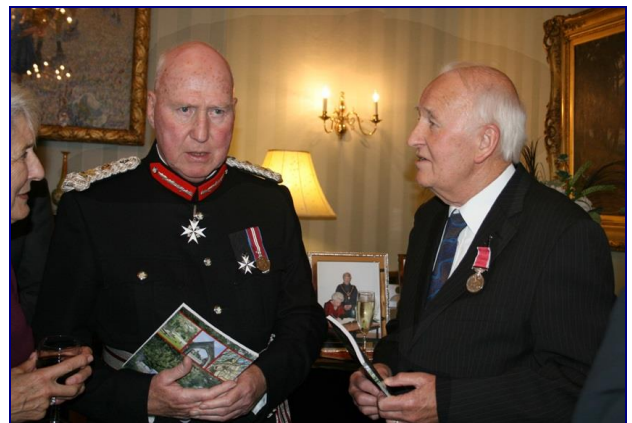
Autumn Miscellany

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission paid a pre-Remembrance Day visit to ensure that the World War 1 plot was looking its best. This included spraying headstones with a moss/fungus inhibitor and replacing several memorials that had passed their best. If you look carefully, you will see that the replacement headstones are made from an Italian marble. The change was prompted by increasing difficulty in obtaining supplies of traditional Portland Stone, coupled with a desire to find a more durable material. The new stone has a more polished appearance, a faint primrose tinge and allows finer etching for inscriptions and insignia. The CWGC is also aiming to be more proactive in the future and there have been preliminary discussions with the Friends, with a view to using Cathays for a pilot outreach programme for local schools and youth groups.



Spraying war grave memorials

We are very pleased to report the award of the **British Empire Medal** to one of our founder members, **Ivor Lippett**. The award recognised his services to the community in Cardiff and to the Miskin Mill Scout Village. The BEM was presented at a ceremony in the Mansion House, Cardiff, on 1st October, by the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck. Those of you who know Ivor will be aware of his ceaseless efforts to promote the Cathays Cemetery 150th Anniversary book and it would appear from the photograph below that the opportunity afforded by the award ceremony was not wasted!



We are grateful to Bereavement Services for placing crosses at the previously unmarked graves of Maria Dolores de Pico (in Section D) and victims of the Senghenydd Disaster.

Another welcome addition to the Cemetery has been the anonymous placing of a pair of **boxing gloves** on the grave of Jim Driscoll. This goes some way to compensate for the stolen pair of the boxer's gloves, which were originally

mounted on the grave in a transparent case.



New marker for Maria Dolores de Pico



Path edge sign for Senghenydd victims



New gloves on Jim Driscoll's grave

Unfortunately, not all news is good. A metal thief attempted to steal the **lightning conductor** on the chapels. The conductor was broken from the ground rod and then pulled with such force that it was pulled from its fixings almost to the top of the spire. But the thief



only got away with a couple of feet of the copper rod - a minimal reward. However, it leaves a more costly repair job and leaves the chapels at risk in the meantime.

Digital Newsletters?

Would you like to have future issues by email rather than by post? If so, please let us know and we will arrange with Bereavement Services for this to be done.

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

Monkey Puzzle

You surely cannot miss the tree that stands to the left, as you come through the main entrance to the Cemetery. Looking like a giant chimney sweep's brush, it is eye-catching at any time of the year.

Araucaria araucana, to give it its proper name, is a native of the south-central **Andes**, typically growing above 3,000 feet. The tree was introduced to Britain in 1795 by Archibald Menzies, a botanist and naval surgeon. Having been **served the seeds** of the tree while dining with the governor of Chile **as a dessert**, he stowed them on board the ship, and returned to England with **5 healthy plants**. However, it was Cornishman and star Victorian plant collector, William Lobb, who ensured that there were sufficient to satisfy the demand of the landed gentry. In 1842, he travelled to Chile, where he collected more than **3,000 seeds** by shooting the cones down from the trees with a shotgun. One of this first batch of seed was taken to **Pencarrow**, Sir John Molesworth's Cornish estate, where Lobb's father was the estate carpenter. The proud owner showed it to a group of friends and one remarked that it would puzzle a monkey to climb it. The **common name for the tree was born**. Coincidentally, if you closely at smaller young branches, they can look remarkably like the prehensile tail of a monkey.



Monkey "tails"

The Monkey Puzzle is usually dioecious (having male & female cones on separate trees) though occasional individuals bear cones of both sexes. The male pollen cones expand to 8-12 cm long at pollen release, relying upon the wind for dispersion. The female seed cones mature about 18 months after pollination and are 12-20 cm diameter, holding about 200 seeds. The cones disintegrate at maturity to release the 3-4 cm long nut-like seeds.

The **seeds are edible**, similar to large pine nuts, though taste better roasted rather than raw. They are extensively harvested in Chile and the tree has potential to be a food crop in other areas but does not yield seeds until it is around 30-40 years old, which discourages investment in planting orchards. But yields at maturity could be immense and, once established, trees could live for 150 years or more.



Monkey Puzzle cones

The **timber** was once valued, resulting in over

harvesting, but the tree is now on the IUCN Red List of endangered species. The tree in Cathays Cemetery is female and currently bearing cones (though we are not sure where its nearest male counterpart is). When the seeds fall, should we be planting them ... or eating them?

Full House

You may have noticed a communal plot in Section F (on the left, towards the top of the main drive) where the large granite memorial is headed **Rosminian** ... You may also have noticed that the last space on the stone was taken up in 2010, while a burial in 2012 required an extension to the plot outside the corner marked with a temporary cross in the picture below.



Rosminian memorial

But who are the Rosminians?

Antonio Rosmini-Serbatì (1797-1855), now more commonly known as Antonio Rosmini, was an Italian from Rovereto in the Austrian Tyrol. He was ordained in 1821, and his two life-principles were written down at about this time. These were, firstly, to apply himself to correct his faults and purify his soul by prayer, living a life as close to the teaching of Christ as possible, and, secondly, to accept any opportunity to do charitable work. He was the author of more than 100 works and the founder of two religious Orders - the Institute or Society of Charity, first organised in 1828, and the Sisters of Providence.

In 1838, the Vatican's Congregation gave its opinion that the society should have the status of a religious congregation, a decision

immediately ratified by the pope. The following year, vows were first made, by 20 in Italy and 5 in England, and Rosmini was named as the first provost-general of the institute. The institute is divided into provinces, including the Gentili Province which covers England, Wales, Ireland, the United States and New Zealand.

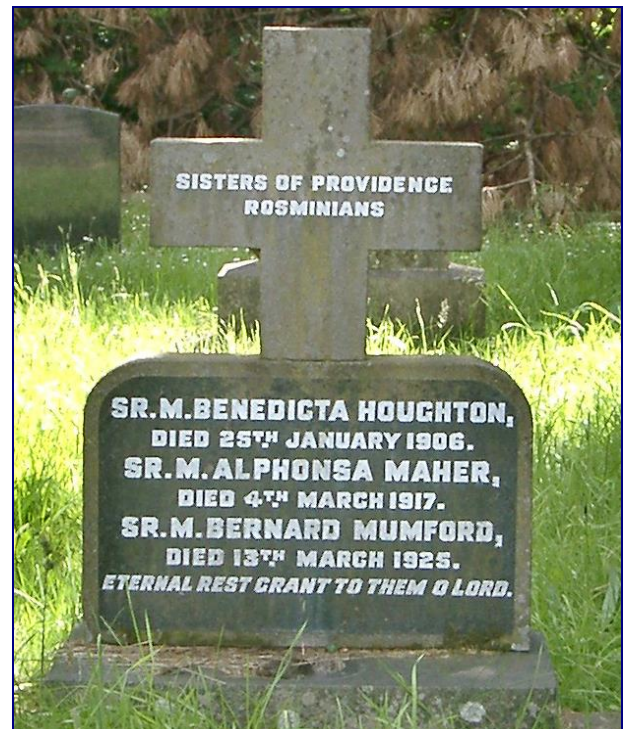
In the 1840's, **Newport** was the largest town in Wales and Irish immigration had swollen the numbers of Catholics living in and around the town. Bishop Brown, of the diocese of Newport and Menevia, belonged to the Benedictine Order and it had been his hope that his own brethren would be able to administer all the new parishes which were springing up in his diocese. But, by 1847, the Benedictines were being stretched to their limits for manpower and, following a successful mission the previous year by two Rosminians, Fr Luigi Gentili and Fr Furlong, Bishop Brown gladly turned for assistance to the Institute of Charity. It wasn't long before the Institute took over the pastoral care of St. Mary's parish, in Newport, which, at that time, included Cardiff.

It was not long before **Cardiff**, too, began to expand quickly, with a similar Irish influx. The Bishop again requested the Institute to send priests to take over the care of St David's Church in the town and, in 1854, this became the second parish in Wales to be administered by Rosminians. An expanding congregation led to the opening, in 1862, of a second church, St. Peter's in the Fields, as it was then known due to its rural location east of the town, also administered by the Institute.

The brothers also came to South Wales to develop an extensive system of **schooling** and the Sisters of Providence followed to take on the teaching of girls, opening their first school in Cardiff, in 1856. The plans to bring the Sisters to the town caused non-Catholic residents to petition against the arrival of nuns. Entitled "**A Petition from the Ladies of Cardiff**", it was sent to Queen Victoria. The reply acknowledging receipt of the petition included the words "*Her Majesty was not aware*

that there were any ladies in Cardiff". In 1904, the Sisters of Providence opened a pupil teacher centre at Heathfield House to combat the shortage of teachers and, by 1907, there were 7 schools in and around Cardiff, all built by Rosminians.

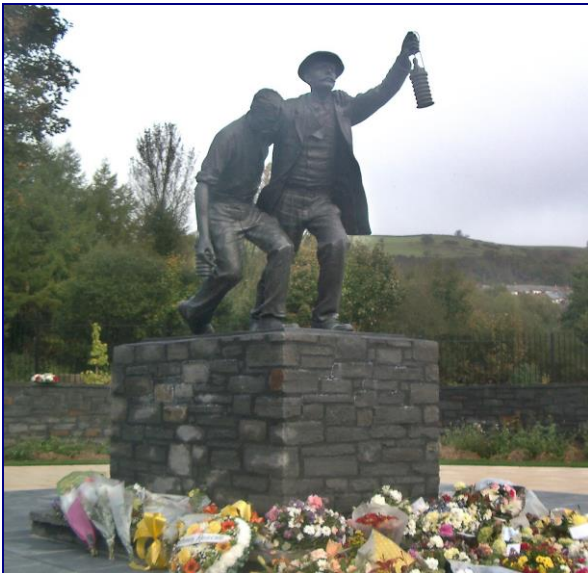
By this time, the Archdiocese of Cardiff had come into existence, new parishes formed and larger parishes divided. In this process, part of St Peter's became the newly founded St Alban's parish. Another Rosminian parish, St. Joseph's was established about 1913. Today, the Rosminians serve in about 15 parishes throughout England & Wales: of these, 3 are those of St Alban, Splott, St Joseph, Gabalfa, and St Peter, Roath, in Cardiff.



Sisters of Providence memorial

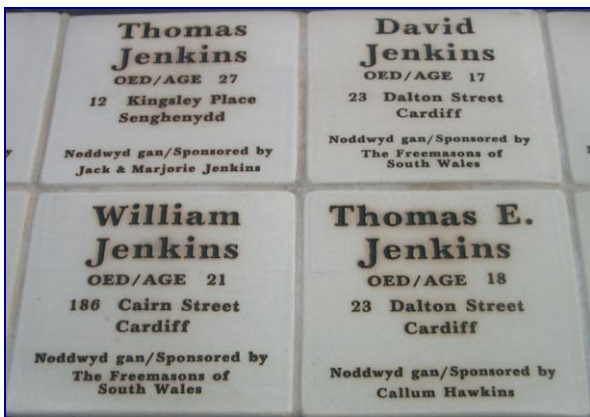
Senghenydd Re-visited

In the article in our last issue, we left the new **mining memorial** with much work still to be done. As many of you will have seen from the extensive TV coverage, the moving memorial was successfully completed in time for the 100th anniversary of the disaster, so it is appropriate to provide more details of it.



centrepiece sculpture

The centrepiece is a **sculpture of a rescuer helping an injured miner**. The rectangular wall around this is topped by 521 hand-made tiles, which were created in community workshops by local volunteers, including primary school pupils. Each tile records the name, age and address of one of the victims of the two disasters at Senghenydd, in 1901 and 1913. Fundamental to raising the money for the memorial was a sponsorship plan for tiles, so the name of the sponsor is also included on the tiles.



Tiles for three of the Cardiff miners buried in Cathays

Conjoined with the rectangular wall is a circular **Walk of Remembrance**, the edging tiles of which record every Welsh mining disaster which claimed five or more lives. This is the **Welsh National Mining Memorial**. (Please note that this corrects the statement in the previous newsletter, indicating that this was a memorial for the whole of the UK.)



Walk of Remembrance



Aberfan tile

These tiles are also hand-made and of similar style, but are much larger. Each records the colliery name, disaster dates (some had more than one qualifying disaster), number of fatalities, and the name of the sponsor of the tile. Poignantly, Aberfan is included in the memorial.

It has become apparent that there was an error in the details of the victims buried in Cathays Cemetery. We reported that Charles Peters shared a grave with George Pingree, but we have now learned that Charles's body was taken to his home village, Llantrithyd, where he was buried along with his brother John, another victim of the disaster.

In researching this information, we have also learned that there is an even sadder side to **George Pingree's story**. He had only been married in September 1913 (to Jane Prosser) and his son, also named George, was born the same month. If it was not enough to lose her

husband just a month after the wedding, the child died in the December, to be buried with his father. We know that Jane remarried in 1920: we can only hope that this proved a more fortunate and happy union.

John Batchelor and a Prime Minister's Reputation

We saw in our last edition how two sons of John Batchelor resorted to physical assault to try to defend their father's reputation. But their prosecution in the magistrates' court was not the end of the matter.

The following year, the indictment of Thomas Ensor and Lascelles Carr for criminal libel came before the *Nisi Prius* Court in Cardiff. This case established a **legal precedent** which aroused great interest nation-wide. The judge concluded that **libel on dead men is not indictable**, saying *"It is as safe to call one who died last year a liar and a murderer as it is to apply these epithets to Julius Caesar or Oliver Cromwell"*.

The Prime Minister to whom we link this case is none other than W E Gladstone. Gladstone devoted much time to saving what were then known as 'fallen women'. Ignoring the temptation to use that joke with the punch line *"Can you save one for me?"*, it is noted that Gladstone's habit was to talk to prostitutes on the streets and to even visit them in their rooms. He quite understood what malicious minds would make of these practices and sure enough slanderous allegations against him began in 1876, often in the form of unsigned letters. These continued after his death but it wasn't until 1925 that legal redress was sought. A Captain Peter Wright wrote *"Gladstone founded a great tradition ... in public to speak the language of the highest and strictest principle and in private to pursue and possess every sort of woman"*.

Mr Gladstone's two sons, Henry and Viscount Gladstone (both in their seventies), were

advised that a private prosecution for libel against their dead father would fail, with the leading case of *Regina v. Ensor and Lascelles Carr* being cited. But they felt that they could not let the slur pass unchecked, so they wrote to Wright, copying the letter to the newspapers, *"Your garbage has come to our knowledge. You are a liar. Because you slander a dead man you are a coward. Because you think the public will accept inventions from such as you, you are a fool."*

Wright responded with a libel action of his own. But the defence counsel for the Gladstones demolished the evidence presented by Wright and the jury not only found for the defendants, but also added the rider *"In our unanimous opinion, the evidence that has been placed before us has completely vindicated the high moral character of the late Mr W E Gladstone."* With Captain Wright having to pay £5,000 costs, the non-indictable libel had been very satisfactorily countered.



When you next pass John Batchelor's statue in the Hayes or his grave in Cathays Cemetery, remember how events after his death have influenced the law of libel.

Recent Events

On **Tuesday 10th September** over 30 people came to our lecture on **"Redundant chapels and churches - the dilemma for re-use"** by Tony Whyman. Tony, an architect from Cardiff Metropolitan University, recognising that he was a replacement for the person originally programmed, described himself as second best ... but then proceeded to show that this was not the case.

This is the second occasion on which the Friends have been entertained with a lecture by Tony, who had previously spoken about projects carried out by his students, looking specifically at ideas for the re-use of the Cathays Chapels. Like his previous talk, this lecture was very well received and was attended by an appreciative audience of 32 members & guests. The lecture was very wide ranging covering redundant religious buildings not only in Britain but throughout Europe.

Some of these re-uses were more creative and more successful than others. For example the conversion of a Cathedral into a bookshop in the Netherlands by inserting a metal gantry arrangement which did not damage the fabric of the building, but which used the space well for the bookshop while providing high level viewing platforms for some of the Cathedral's wall murals.

Arguably less successful were some of the conversions of small chapels or churches for domestic use. However, even these remained essentially unchanged for those viewing them from outside (which is, of course, the only way to see them without being invited in by the owners). Under UK legislation it is necessary to make changes which are, generally, in keeping with the building and which are easily reversible. With this in mind, whilst one might take issue with the detail of some of these domestic conversions, they had successfully preserved the exterior structure, while the interior could readily be changed back were this required.

Key factors in a successful restoration were people with energy and interest, a realistic and viable plan for future use and, of course, the resources to undertake the work. While the last of these often appears the biggest hurdle, his examples indicated that, if the first two are in place, funding and support will follow. In at least one case, it was clear that a staged approach had been adopted, with the building being put to good use as soon as it had been made safely habitable.

For the Friends, this was a stimulating lecture, giving plenty of food for thought.

On **Sunday 22nd September** an Open Doors Day was held. For the first part of the day, both the **Episcopalian Chapel and the Cemetery Office were open**, while a **guided walk took place in the "New" cemetery** in the afternoon.

At the Chapel, visitors could see the repaired roof and appreciate the scale of restoration still required, while learning more about the Friends and the Cemetery. **At the Office**, Bereavement Services provided an on the spot response to enquiries about the location of people buried in the Cemetery, with detailed location plans. Equipped with these plans and aided by members of the Friends, successful excursions were made into the depths of the Cemetery, including the long grass of the Environmental Area, to find individual plots. While this was the first time that this service had been tried, it worked very well and those visitors that used it were very satisfied with the result.

On a dry, mild afternoon, 48 people enjoyed the sedately paced **walk led by Ivor Lippett**. This visited ten locations, with particular attention directed to the First World War Commonwealth War Graves, tucked away at the southern end of the site and immaculately maintained by the Commission. At the final stop, in the Oriental section, a young lady guest provided a translation of the Chinese characters on a headstone, which was greatly appreciated by all present. The flow of intelligent questions during the walk and the favourable comments

made at the end, confirmed the success of the afternoon.

The weather conspired against the **Insignia Walk** led by Phil Amphlett of Bereavement Services on **Sunday 27th October**. But this did not deter a few hardy souls, who enjoyed the informative tour of graves of military personnel, seeing the various insignia and hearing stories about the servicemen buried there and their regiments.

Around 30 people attended this year's **Public Lecture** on **Tuesday 19th November**, when Rosie James talked about "**The Victorian Parks - an Enduring Legacy**". To set the scene, Rosie explained how the concept of a public parks did not exist until the middle of the 19C, although there were areas of private land where people might gather, notably the Arms Park (named as such on Speed's Map of 1610). For a period around 1800, the **Marquis of Bute** allowed the public to walk through and admire his Castle Green, which he had had landscaped by **Capability Brown**. The Bute family went on to provide, in 1873, a "park for the people" across the river - Sophia Gardens - but the entrance was via a gatehouse, manned by a "bouncer" to keep out undesirables.

The **Royal Commission of 1843** had recommended the provision of "public walks" and, indeed, the first temporary solution to meet this need was Cathays Cemetery. So it was only towards the end of the 19C (and of the Victorian era) that the Council provided proper public parks. Roath Park opened in 1894 and was quickly followed by Grange Gardens and Victoria Park. These were augmented by smaller local parks, like Loudon Square and Clare and Howard Gardens, which were included in new development layouts and given to the Council.

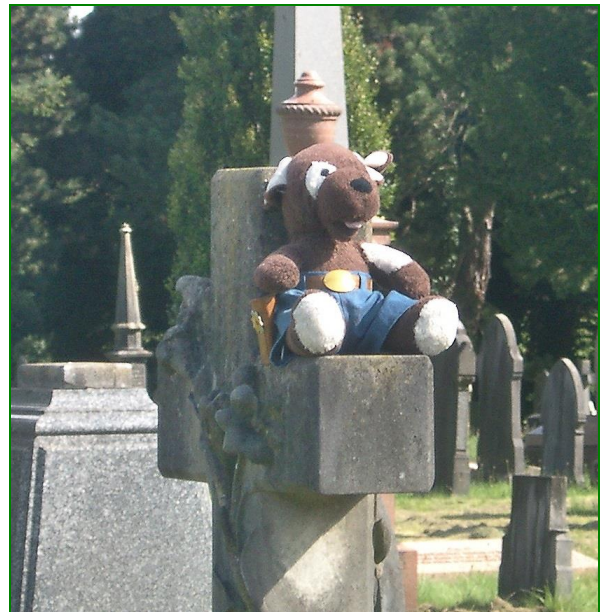
Rosie's well-researched talk was illustrated by many contemporary pictures and plans and her thorough knowledge of the subject was fully demonstrated in the enthusiastic question and answer session at the conclusion. You could still use the original Victorian plans to find your way

around these parks more than 100 years later: a strong endorsement of the "enduring legacy" in the title of the lecture.

Our Regular Events

Weekly Health Walks:

These sociable walks are well supported with numbers often topping the 20 mark. During the summer, we often enjoy the company of children, who may bring their own special friends - one week, a **toy dog** was seen taking a rest while chatting to the Reverend Alfred Tilly - and at least one week provided an opportunity for **blackberrying**.



Dog in conversation with Rev Tilly

We have had two especially themed walks. The first, on **14th October**, was to commemorate the **100th anniversary of the Senghenydd Disaster**, when all the graves of victims in the Cemetery were visited and the tragic story was recounted.



Senghenydd walkers

On **12th November**, our walk took us to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission World War 1 Plot in the "new" cemetery, where all present participated in a reading of the more than 200 names commemorated on the gravestones. This simple but moving act was appreciated by all members of the group.



Reading of names at WW1 war graves

All are welcome on these friendly health walks, whether on a regular basis or just occasionally. Just turn up at **10.30 am on a Tuesday** morning, just inside the **gates adjacent to Cathays Library**. We walk every week, regardless of weather, except on the one or two Tuesdays closest to Christmas/New Year - so, this year, not on Christmas or New Year Eves. If you have the time, the socialising on the walk continues with a chat over tea or coffee in a cosy local café afterwards.

Monthly Workdays

During **September & October** the band of volunteers concentrated its efforts on clearing brambles and shrubs in the area where Sections H, L & K meet. Several memorials have been exposed for the first time in many years, new vistas have opened up and the area around John Cleal's grave has again been cleared. The **November** workday concentrated on clearing a patch of brambles and shrubs in Section I, exposing a number of memorials that had not been seen for some time. Already, one of these has revealed a story that will appear in a future issue. After the annual strimming of the Conservation Areas, which had seen exceptional growth this year, it has been deemed safe

enough to work again in these areas, enabling new growth and saplings to be cut back in these sections.



Clearing vegetation in Section K

If you fancy some gentle exercise in the fresh air, with good company, why not join us? Workdays are held on the **last Saturday of each month, except** in December & January and July & August. Tools and gloves are provided and we **meet by the chapels at 10 am** for a couple of hours that really do make a difference.

Future Events

Don't forget that the **AGM** is at 1pm on **Saturday 25th January at Thornhill**.

Talks

On **Tuesday 25th March 2014** there will be a talk by Dr David Jenkins from the National Maritime Museum on "**Last port of call - Shipowners' graves in Cathays Cemetery**". This will take place at **7 pm** in Room 4.44 in **Cardiff University's John Percival Building** in Colum Drive (behind Colum Road).

Walks

The next **Heritage Walk** led by Bereavement Services will be on **Sunday 6th April 2014 at 2 pm**.

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>

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