

Wither Winter?

When you can find vestiges of autumn at the same time as shrubs and flowers awoken for spring, this is a valid question. With a bumper crop, some of the rowan trees were still laden with berries in January, as pictured below.



At the same time, in Section N, this beech tree was still in its autumn dress.



Okay, so a beech hedge retains its brown leaves through the winter, but this is because it is trimmed, making the foliage denser, protecting all but the surface leaves from the wind. This tree has grown naturally like this without ever

seeing a trimmer. But this is an unusual specimen - its pyramidal shape is atypical and at about 2 metres high after 20-30 years of growth, it is a dwarf. Look more closely and you will find that it doesn't have the normal oval leaves but, instead, elongated serrated ones. You might conclude that this is not a beech at all. However, it is ... but a very unusual hybrid.

It is very much a manufactured shrub. The root stock is a common beech, which has had an unusual, but compatible top grafted on to it. If this was a rose bush, you might expect shoots from below the graft to replicate the rootstock, but all new growth above the graft would be true to the surrogate top. But this is not the case here. While most new branches will conform, a few will have the characteristics of the root stock. The tree is trying to revert to its more dominant parentage and would succeed, if the new branches that look like a common beech were not cut out regularly. In the composite image below, the hybrid leaves are on the left, while those reverting to the common beech root stock are on the right.



This is not the only unusual beech in the Old Cemetery. Elsewhere in Section N and adjacent parts of Sections M and Q, you can also see the columnar Dawyck beech, variegated, yellow and purple types and weeping varieties.

Returning to our opening theme, the first primroses appear in January, while the buds on the elder burst into leaf, as the picture on the following page shows.

Friends TOPICAL



As we have noted in previous issues, in the first half of February, the primroses are joined by celandine, snowdrop, daffodil and crocus, and the first blossom, on the bird cherry, joins in. The bergenia (elephant ears) under the cedar of Lebanon seem to be at their best when the days are shortest. With few frosts and little sign of snow, it does appear that winter is being squeezed out of the seasonal calendar.



Purple crocus, dwarf daffodils and bergenia

This all goes to emphasize that the cemetery can be enjoyed at any time of year. Even the low winter sun can produce pleasing long shadows, as the picture in Section V below shows.



In February, three named storms in successive weekends created some apprehension but,

thankfully, casualties were relatively minor. The fallen bough shown below was sufficient to block a path in Section F ... until the health walkers pulled it aside!



In Section H, four of the multiple trunks of a once coppiced ash fell, blocking a path, but these were quickly converted to log piles by Bereavement Services.



Log pile in Section H

Winter Miscellany

Our last issue reported that work was in progress to make the vestries habitable. This has taken longer than anticipated because of the need to carry out remedial work on the floor in one vestry, which required the replacement of tiles. As with the replacement tiles in the Anglican chapel, new tiles had to be made by specialists, using the original patterns. We are pleased to report that the work has now been completed.

On the subject of the chapels, it is slightly worrying that these are underutilised. The Congregational chapel is a long way from being overwhelmed by weddings and funerals, while

the Anglican chapel has seen a writing workshop and has been used for ad hoc meetings and by one regular group. Both chapels may be used during events at the Cemetery, but these useful spaces could be more productive. If anyone is looking for a room to use, please contact Bereavement Services.

Did anyone catch an item on the radio about the Writer in Residence at Manchester Southern Cemetery? Having recently moved to Manchester and discovered the cemetery, Tania Hershman, opened discussions with the staff there, who were enthusiastic about the idea. So, with the aid of a grant from The Royal Literary Fund, a UK charity, she became the cemetery's first Writer in Residence (and probably the first at any cemetery) at the beginning of 2018. She attended four funerals on her first day! She chats to gravediggers and funeral directors, sits in the office to learn 'the business' and looks through Grave Books dating back to the cemetery's founding in 1879. She describes herself as a delightedly single woman without children ... and to be especially interested in women like her buried in the cemetery! She is currently writing a book which, amongst other things, involves a woman walking through a cemetery talking to the dead ... and the dead talk back to her! It sounds as if every cemetery should have a writer in residence - including Cathays? But, perhaps, we already have an abundance of writers in residence - the Living Lines authors who script the June "Graveyard Tales" and the members of the Friends that produce books, booklets and newsletters.

If you are looking for a short break in September, how about "Cemeteries and Sewerage: the Victorian pursuit of cleanliness"? The long weekend will tour a number of old pumping stations, a succession of cemeteries, reservoirs in the Peak District and several other locations, all of which illustrate the Victorian response to the sanitary problems of

the time. There is just one snag - the tour costs about £1000.

National Cemeteries Week this year is between 9th and 17th May. Many cemeteries around the country will be running events during this period. While Cathays has not got anything on during the week, we have a talk on 19th May.

We have mentioned before (lastly in June 2019) the frustrating problems over the re-use of pacemakers from the deceased. The NHS has now ruled that it considers its pacemakers to be single use and that they become part of the deceased estate, so the family can now instruct a funeral home to remove the device and donate it to overseas charities. The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management has started a scheme to facilitate this.

From time to time, we have also mentioned innovative approaches to the disposal of bodies and now note that a British university has undertaken a trial of resomation - chemically dissolving corpses. There remain issues related to the regulation of such a system and over the disposal of the chemicals involved but, maybe, we shall see this offered as an alternative to cremation in the future.

The increasing number of potholes in the public highway gets plenty of press attention, but Cathays Cemetery is not immune from the problem. In wet weather and with dubious drainage, wear and tear can be rapid and muddy ruts can appear. Graves close to these paths can be at increased risk of damage. Through the winter, Bereavement Services have been filling ruts and potholes, while posts have been put in to curtail vehicular use of one path in Section B.

In February, Gordon Hindess gave an illustrated talk to the Marshfield WI, about the Cemetery, its link to the heritage of Cardiff and the work of the Friends. The presentation was well received at a well-attended meeting.

Friends FEATURES

Weaste Victorian Cemetery

Weaste Cemetery was Salford's first municipal cemetery and opened in 1857, a couple of years before Cathays. Like Cathays, it was designed as a landscaped park, as an amenity for the population, and it remains so today. It occupies some 39 acres (so somewhat smaller than Cathays Old Cemetery) and was extended in stages over the first 50 years or so of its life. The cemetery, originally known simply as Salford Borough Cemetery, is just a short distance from Salford Quays, some of the taller blocks of which can be seen in the image below. It aimed to offer the most desirable final resting-place for well to do Mancunians and Salfordians and its success in this is evidenced by the large ornate monuments in what has been dubbed 'Rich Man's Plot'.

It remains a local authority responsibility, now only has occasional burials in existing graves ... and has a Friends group. It is perhaps not surprising that it has, much in common with Cathays, as Cardiff and Salford were both transport hubs that grew rapidly in the 19C.

But there are noticeable differences between the two cemeteries. There are large areas at Weaste devoid of headstones but, where there are memorials, they are densely packed, as the image below shows.



Like Cathays, the original layout had defined

areas for the three religious denominations recognised at that time, Church of England, Dissenters and Roman Catholics. Some references refer to a fourth chapel, but none of these give more detail about it. Endorsing its park-like nature, Weaste also had a glazed summerhouse. As at Cathays, there was a lodge and administrative buildings, although the latter were replaced during an extension towards the end of the 19C. Sadly, the only building that remains on the site today is the entrance lodge. Perhaps this reinforces the importance of the 1850s buildings that we still have at Cathays, that is two of the three chapels, the lodge and the main entrance arch.

Like Cathays, the majority of Weaste is grassed and mown regularly, with a relatively small portion allocated to conservation objectives. While, in Cardiff these objectives are aimed at biodiversity, in Salford, the aim is to recreate an historic meadow of the early Victorian era. The part of the site which was originally low-lying pasture close to the River Irwell has not received chemicals in over 150 years and is generally free of memorials. The grass here is allowed to grow long to encourage the development of wildflowers, examples of which are cuckoo flower (which in turn attracts the orange-tip butterfly), self-heal, rough hawkbit, and ribwort plantain. While there is a wide range of trees on the Weaste site, it cannot match the variety, or indeed the exotic nature, of those at Cathays.

While Cathays suffered some damage during Second World War bombing, at Weaste you can still find several headstones that are peppered with marks and holes caused by the shrapnel, from a German bomb that landed in the cemetery during a raid on the nearby docks, at Christmas 1940.

Weaste has its share of notable people buried in it. Of national significance, you will find the grave of Charles Halle, the pianist and conductor who founded the longest established

professional orchestra in Britain, formed in 1858. Halle was committed to providing opportunities for people from all walks of life to enjoy an evening of orchestral music and would demand that concert organisers provided cheaper tickets to this end.

Like Cathays, it has a good proportion of people notable in a local context. For example, Mark Addy (1838-1890), a local boatman and later innkeeper, is famous for rescuing more than 50 people from drowning in the River Irwell, resulting in him being presented with the Albert Medal by Queen Victoria. He made his first rescue at the age of 13. During a rescue in 1890, he became fatally ill due to swallowing the heavily polluted waters of the river and died. During his lifetime, his rescue rate is more than one a year, which seems almost incredible ... unless he had an accomplice pushing people in! Mark's 4m high memorial was paid for by public subscription. He is also commemorated by the pub that bears his name, by the river.

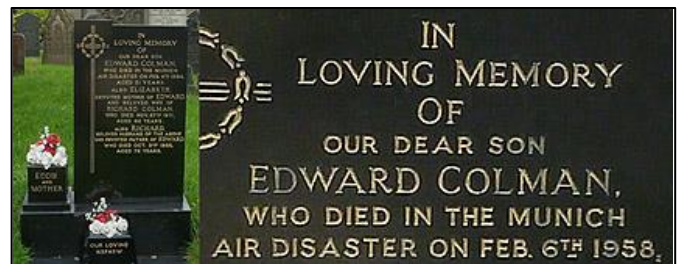


Memorials to Mark Addy (left) and Charles Halle (right)

Cathays is proud to boast two people who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade, at Balaclava on October 25th, 1854, but Weaste easily beats this with a remarkable four people

who survived the Charge being buried in it.

Perhaps the most poignant memorial, that will still trigger the memories of readers, is that of Eddie Coleman, one of the Manchester United players who died in the Munich air disaster of 6th February 1958. He was a Salford lad, so it is fitting that he is buried at Weaste. Stand at the graveside on a match day, and you may just hear the noise of the crowd at Old Trafford, which is a couple of miles away.



Eddie Coleman Memorial with detail of inscription

Before we leave Weaste, we must make one more comparison that blows the trumpet for Cathays. Thanks to the efforts of Bereavement Services and the Friends, it is far easier to enjoy our cemetery, through walks, talks and other events, newsletters and publications and the wealth of online information. But that is not to say that a visit to Weaste will be unrewarding, so call in if you are in the area.

As a general point, visits to other cemeteries in the UK, or around the world, will usually be rewarding, especially if you do a bit of preparation online beforehand. And we are always keen to learn from these experiences - so please write to tell us about it afterwards, either as an article or in the form of rough notes and an image or two.

Friends

FEATURES

From Tolpuddle to Cardiff

SAMUEL LOVELESS- Born 1850, Died 1917,
Buried at Cathays Cemetery in Grave No. G 389



Samuel Loveless Memorial

To many people the name Loveless will be recognised as one of the the Tolpuddle martyrs -George Loveless. Loveless, along with the names Standfield, Hammett and Brine, all of whom were punished and transported to Australia, for forming the Tolpuddle Friendly Society and their activities in what we would

recognise now as a union, in its very earliest days.

It may come as a surprise that a former publican at the Royal George Public House on the corner of Mackintosh Place and Crwys Road was Samuel Loveless, born Tolpuddle, Dorset. In the 1901 census he appears with:

- his second wife, Susan, whom he had married in 1890 at Roath Parish Church
- a widow Susan Nott Burns
- and three surviving children from his first marriage to another Susan, Susan Moffat/Moffett (spellings vary, in some records even appearing as Moppett), whom he had married in Bristol in 1879.

Samuel Loveless was the son of Stephen Loveless and Elizabeth Hammett of Tolpuddle. Samuel's father was not a direct descendant but a second cousin, or possibly third cousin, of George. However the links with both families - Loveless and Hammett - are clear when one studies the family trees.

Samuel's first address in Wales was in the Pontypool area, in the parish of Trevethin, where he was publican at the Forge Hammer. It was there that his four children were born and baptised - twins Daisy Adele and Violet Louisa in 1882, Leonard Samuel in 1883, and Lilly Frances in 1885 but who died in 1886 aged 14 months. Samuel's first wife died three years later, aged only 36, in March 1889, and she was buried at Trevethin as was their youngest child.

The resting places of many descendants of the martyrs are in Canada where they had settled eventually after their release and return to England. It was only James Hammett who stayed in England where his grave can be visited at the churchyard in Tolpuddle. The village in Dorset with the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum is well worth a visit.

Margaret Smith

Recent Events

The AGM

The well-attended Annual General Meeting was held in the Episcopalian Chapel on Saturday 25th January 2020. A few apologies for absence were noted and the Chairman, Paul Jones, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted and, with no matters arising, the Chairman presented his report on the last year. There was an impression that, after the first few months, the year had been rainy. However, this had not prevented it from being one of the most successful ever. With contributions from the Friends, a new bench had been provided opposite Bishop Hedley's memorial and the excellent Timeline display board had been installed alongside the Green Flag and Green Heritage Award plaque, both of which had been won for a further year. It was pleasing to see the refurbishment of the vestries, funded by Bereavement Services, proceeding, while good progress had been made on the recording of memorial inscriptions. This information feeds into the expanding website and the growing social media activity.

A lot of interest was shown at the Open Doors event, which was enhanced by the opening guided walk led by Roger Swan and short excursions into the Cemetery led by Ivor Lippett. Other events in the Cemetery included the excellent Graveyard Voices, now extended to three performances. The Friends had again been prominent at the Cathays Street Fayre, from which Ivor had led short guided walks in the Cemetery and had participated in the annual Remembrance Service by the Cross of Sacrifice. The year had seen the publication of two additions to the booklet series.

The Chairman closed his report by thanking all the members of the Friends, who had done so much to make the year's activities a success, and Bereavement Services for their continued help and support.

Paul Nicholson, the President, thanked the Chairman for all his work for the Friends, which went well beyond the basic duties of the office, particularly the ever-expanding website, the production of the popular booklets and the recording of memorial inscriptions. Special thanks were given to Linda Jones for allowing her husband to spend so much time for the Friends and for the support work which she did herself. He also praised the full support provided by the rest of the committee, noting that there were no passengers. He thanked, particularly,

- John Farnhill for continuing with the onerous Treasurer's duties and also managing the social media activity which continues to grow,
- Ivor Lippett, for his organisation and input at workdays, events and health walks,
- Gordon Hindess, for his involvement with the excellent newsletter, leading walks and giving talks,
- the memorial inscription recorders, particularly Paul Jones, John Farnhill and Jean and Des Sanford
- Bereavement Services, especially Carmel Thomas, Roger Swan and Martin Birch.

Paul closed his report by noting that, despite another year of excellent progress, the Friends were always in need of new support and urged anyone who could help to make contact.

In presenting the Statement of Accounts for 2019, the Treasurer explained that both income and expenditure on regular items were slightly down on the previous year, but the overall position was broadly similar to the previous year. While booklet sales had increased, perhaps unsurprisingly, book sales had reduced. The largest item of Expenditure was the contributions made to the new seat near Bishop Hedley's memorial and the Timeline information board. Attention was drawn to the special notes to the accounts:

Friends EVENTS

- the book stock was being depreciated as described at last year's meeting. It was emphasized that this did not represent a real loss as the production costs of the books had been fully met by the HLF grant at the time of publication. No matter how slow sales might be, every one was in profit,
- the contribution of Bereavement Services for continued administrative support and the use of facilities represented a significant benefit
- the use of their meeting rooms represented a similar benefit from Cardiff University School of History, Archaeology and Religion

The Statement of Accounts was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

There was no competition for officer or member posts on the Trustees, all nominees were duly nominated and seconded and the new committee was elected unanimously. Those elected were:

Chairman: Paul Jones

Treasurer: John Farnhill

Trustees: Jean Sanford, Margaret Smith, Ivor Lippett, Paul Nicholson (Honorary President), Des Sanford and Ian Campbell

It was particularly noted that the post of Secretary had not been filled and that the number of committee members continued to be well below its allowable maximum. As always, anyone interested would be welcome to attend committee meetings to find out more about what was involved.

Carmel Thomas, reporting on behalf of Bereavement Services, thanked the Friends for their continued cooperation and support, and noted that a new application for the Green Flag had just been made. Each year, Bereavement Services aim to take on board suggestions made at the previous year's inspection, so the award of the flag implied continuing improvement. The work on the vestries had taken longer than

anticipated because of an issue with the floor, but would soon be completed. The small rooms would enable new requirements for the conduct of marriages to be met, enable bride and groom to be accommodated apart, prior to the ceremony, and provide an office facility.

Carmel noted the considerable help in maintaining the Cemetery of the Community Payback team and also the valuable eyes of the Walking for Health group that ensured that even the more remote parts of the site were visited regularly, picking up potential problems. She noted that the current 10-year management plan for the Cemetery was halfway through and would be reviewed this year, in which process the Friends would be consulted.

Bereavement Services were keen to optimise the use of the chapels and would welcome suggestions towards this objective. One thought was that the provision of external lighting around the chapels and main entrance, would encourage more evening use during the winter months.

Questions, Discussion and Any Other Business were conducted jointly, commencing with details from John Farnhill about the social media accounts. Facebook had now been running (and growing) for two years and attracted mainly local users. Twitter had been live for about a year but reached a worldwide audience. Both systems helped the Friends reach a wider audience, provided a medium to help people and also brought in new valued information about the Cemetery and its residents. Social media generated more use of the website which now had about 300 'hits' each month.

There was a constructive exchange of thoughts and ideas on diverse topics, such as:

- Request to visit the bell tower when the current work on the vestries is finished: Bereavement Services would look into this
- Dead/dying trees: investigation ongoing and awaiting density testing

- Toilets: situation is unchanged - abusive use means that they are currently only opened for workdays and events, while a health walk leader carries a key
- Thanks were expressed to Denise Rogers, grave-digger/gardener, for enabling our workdays to take place and for the important role that she plays in environmental initiatives, which are often a continual learning process

Talk

On Tuesday 3rd March, Ted Richards, Chairman of the Roath Local History Society presented "Norman Briggs - Death by Poison". The subsidiary title of "An unfortunate end to a Welsh legend" only made the subject more intriguing. In a thoroughly well researched tale, Ted charted Norman's life, from birth in 1870 into a well to do brewing family, with a house with servants in St Andrew's Place. A precocious sporting talent saw him playing against a Cardiff University 2nd XV at the age of 13 and becoming the youngest player to represent Wales, at the age of 18. This record stood for 120 years. While at Cambridge University, his running came to the fore and he may have been the fastest, at that time, over 100 yards. He also played cricket at county level. He continued to play rugby for Cardiff until 1896, logging a record personal scoring tally in 1893-4, and then for Bath until 1899.

In 1900, Norman joined the Glamorgan Imperial Yeomanry, to fight in the Boer War. He was wounded in the leg, narrowly avoiding capture by the Boers, and invalided back to the UK. On recovery, he returned to South Africa and saw out the rest of the War. Staying in Africa, he went to the colony of Nigeria, where he was shot by a poisoned arrow, apparently as a result of mistaken identity. He died four days later, in 1908, and his grave in a local cemetery is still marked by a cross.

Ted quickly outlined the history of the rest of Norman's large family, some of whom are buried in Cathays, although, as yet, no marked

graves have been located. This is a subject for further research. This enthralling talk was enjoyed by about 20 people.

Publications

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

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

Themed guides (12 - 20 pages, black and white)
- £1:

Tragedy at Sea
Builders & Architects
The Five Legs of Cathays
Restoring the Chapels

....More on the way

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.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST ADVICE
AND FOR THE BENEFIT
& WELL-BEING OF OUR MEMBERS**

**ALL FRIENDS OF CATHAYS CEMETERY EVENTS
- WEEKLY WALKS, MONTHLY WORKDAYS
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**UNIVERSITY LECTURES TO BE HELD
IN APRIL & MAY
HAVE BEEN POSTPONED**

**PLEASE CHECK WITH THE FRIEND'S WEBSITE
& SOCIAL MEDIA SITES
FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION**