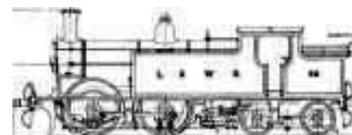


The Brookwood Express

The Newsletter of the Brookwood Cemetery Society



Editor: Margaret Hobbs
75 Ranelagh Crescent, Ascot, Berks, SL5 8LQ
☎ 01344 891041
email: margarethobbs@hotmail.co.uk
www.tbcs.org.uk email: info@tbcs.org



🌿 **No. 110 NOVEMBER 2017** 🌿

Cemetery and Society News

Garden Feature to Highlight the old Necropolis Railway

Work has commenced on an interesting garden feature around the barrier area at the start of Railway Avenue. This is to highlight the old Necropolis Railway, and its route through the cemetery. The garden will incorporate the piece of rail track, which is at present located in a rather overgrown area near Brookwood Station.

The Lake of Serendipity

The lake is not looking it's best, as the lining is leaking again. The fish have been rehomed and the newts will also be relocated, as the lake will have to be drained. The repair work will commence shortly.

Cemetery Office

Plans have been drawn up to redesign the interior of the cemetery office, with a new side entrance.

Restoration

When the Braine and Montagu-Winch mausoleums were un-bricked and gated last year, it was found that the doors were in a very poor condition.

An experienced craftsman was needed as the new doors had to be made to measure, and the attractive metal casing reattached. A suitable craftsman has been found and the work was found to be more complex than first envisaged. It is now completed, and as you can see from the Montagu-Winch Mausoleum pictures, the result is amazing.



The exterior of the Montagu-Winch Mausoleum



Interior view of the Montagu- Winch door

Monthly Walks

This year's monthly walks have been very well attended, and this has helped towards the Restoration Fund. The new walks and Barry's lecture were well received; there are new walks planned for next year.

There has also been a record number of private walks this season and the committee has been rather stretched to meet this demand. Any help to guide or steward on the walks would be greatly appreciated.

Facebook Page

The Facebook page is a success with the number of hits of over sixty and it is hoped this will continue.

Fungi in Brookwood Cemetery

As members probably know, Brookwood Cemetery is a grade I listed park and garden. It is also an area of scientific importance. There are known to be several

hundred species of fungi within the cemetery, and this year there have been an abundance; some very tall and impressive. The mushroom in the picture on page 8 was found in plot 26, near the Columbarium and in fact there are so many that it is difficult not to tread on them.

continued on page 8

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES: WALKS & OTHER EVENTS

All walks now start from the Cemetery Office entrance, off Cemetery Pales. A donation would be most welcome. We look forward to meeting you. Walks start at 2pm unless otherwise stated.

NO WALKS **DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY 2018**

Sunday 4th March 2018:
INTRODUCTORY WALK on the former Anglican Section of the Cemetery led by Kim Lowe and Margaret Hobbs. This walk will include the Glades of Remembrance and the pauper ground.

1st April 2018: *NEW WALK!*
CHRISTIANITY AND SYMBOLISM WITH AN EASTER SURPRISE led by Eileen Rogers & Alison Vince

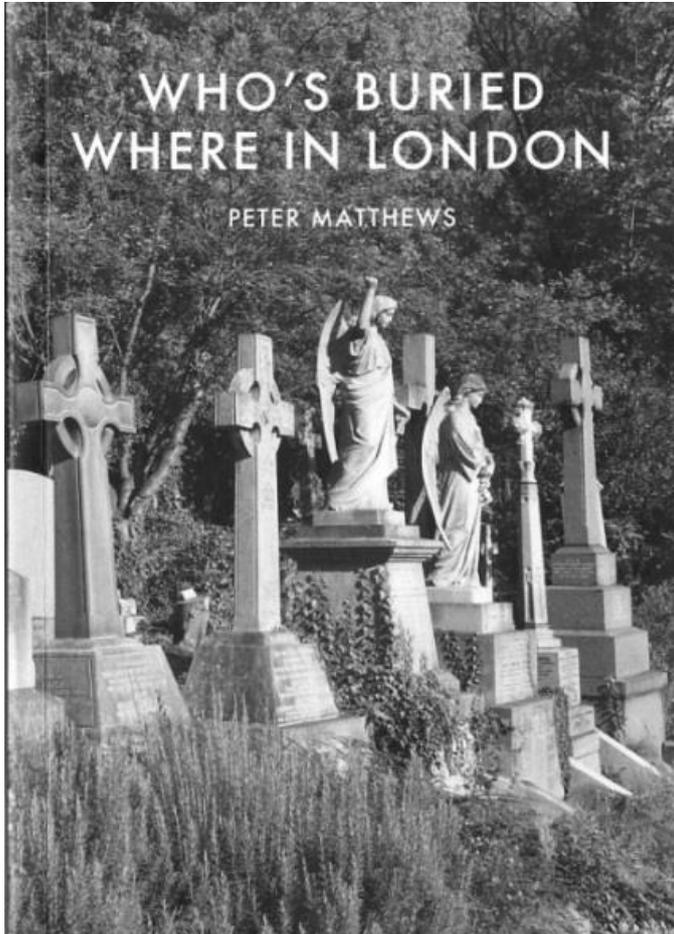
There are two more new walks planned for next year; they will be "Actor's Acre Comes to Life" and "Local Heroes". The dates and themes of next year's walk programme will be announced in the future issues of the newsletter.

The views expressed by contributors to this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor and the society.

Who's Buried Where in London

By Peter Matthews

Bloomsbury Shire 2017, 256 pages, £12.99



This is a new guide to 'the resting places of a multitude of famous figures' across Greater London. Unlike Hugh Meller's and Brian Parson's *London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide & Gazetteer* (reviewed in *The Brookwood Express* No. 75, February 2009) it is arranged geographically, not alphabetically, starting with the City of London before moving out to Westminster and the suburbs. Only four of the 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries have their own chapters (Brompton, Kensal Green, Highgate and West Norwood). This may disappoint devotees of the other three, with Abney Park and Nunhead relegated to entries within general chapters, and Tower Hamlets apparently omitted entirely. The guide includes a brief history of burial in London, a short glossary, and a very select list of further reading – just six

references. It is very much a guide's guide to the deceased, the author being a registered London Blue Badge Guide.

Is there room for another guide to London's dead? This is certainly more portable than Meller's tome; it packs in more pictures than Meller's; and the photographs are in colour – all 350 of them, including 23 full page illustrations. There is also much to celebrate within, with a wide range of famous people covered, along with their memorials. The scope of the guide is also impressive, ranging from St Paul's cathedral to many suburban parish churchyards.

The geographical approach has its merits, but since the index only covers names of the deceased, you need to know your geography and your Boroughs if you are looking for a particular site. This includes those readers looking for Abney Park (East London, London Borough of Hackney) and Nunhead (South-East London, London Borough of Southwark, covered in under two pages). However, since this is intended as a guide to the deceased, many readers may overlook this limitation. The geographical arrangement seems to reflect an overall bias towards north London. Another feature of this guide is there is virtually no reference to the history of each location or its buildings.

John Clarke

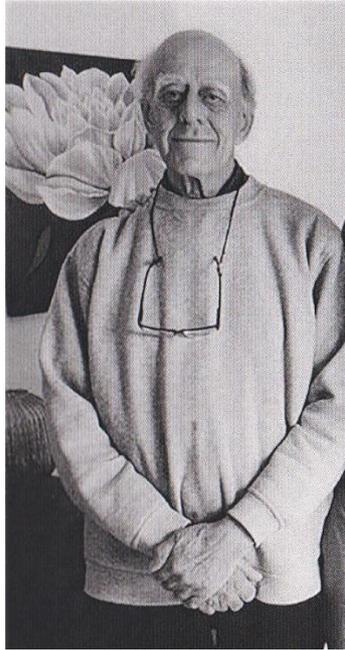
New!

**THE BROOKWOOD
CEMETERY SOCIETY**

NECROPOLIS TRAIL No. 1:

A new colour illustrated Railway Trail will be available next year. This will give additional guidance and will be printed in a different format.

Ian Robert Devine 1934-2017



The committee is sad to announce the death of Ian Devine on 14th September, who was a long-term member of the Brookwood Cemetery Society.

Ian over the years worked tirelessly for the society; researched the cemetery, he led guided walks, contributed articles to the newsletter and the Necropolis News; the latter he edited for some years.

He helped Frank Lawer with the sales stand, when it had to be set up in the cemetery grounds for each monthly walk.

He had a vast knowledge of the Cemetery, especially on the Necropolis Railway. His support and chats at the end of monthly walks will be greatly missed.

Kim Lowe and Barry Devonshire represented the society at the funeral on 3rd October 2017.

The society has sent their condolences to his wife and children.

The article below follows on from the report in the August edition on the addition of new SOEs on the Brookwood Memorial.

Brookwood Memorial to the Missing of the Second World War (1958)

On 28 May 2017, in the presence of officials from the Israeli Embassy in London, wreaths were laid at a recently installed panel on the 1958 Brookwood Memorial to the Missing of the Second World War in the Brookwood Military Cemetery.

The ceremony took place because under the section "Special Operations Executives (SOE)", 24 new names had been added. Of these, 23 were Jewish men lost on 18 May 1941. They were part of the joint operation between British and Jewish paramilitaries of the underground Haganah, to attack Vichy France through destroying the oil refineries in Tripoli. However, the ship on which they were sailing was lost under mysterious circumstances.

Their commander, Major Sir Anthony Palmer already had his name on the memorial on Panel 2-1 under the Royal Artillery. So who was number 24?

Research has found that he was **Fortunato Picchi** and he died on 5 April 1941, aged 44 (?). He was serving under the name of Dupont and was the son of Mrs Florence Lantieri of London. A letter appeared in *The Times* newspaper on 16 April 1941:

Fortunato Picchi whose death was announced in "The Times" yesterday, was a man who, in the words of the announcement "sacrificed his life for the cause of freedom".

Picchi who had lived in London for many years and was the banqueting under-manager at the Savoy Hotel, had an

intense love of his native country, but had no sympathy for the Fascist regime. Though he never belonged to any anti-Fascist organisation, he antagonised some of his compatriots by refusing to join the Fascist party in this country.



Fortunato Picchi

When Italy entered the war against Britain he, with other Italians in London, was interred in the Isle of Man, but last Christmas he was released. At 47(?) Picchi was physically fit, and he volunteered for the British Army.

Yesterday a woman friend who had known him since he came to London some 14 years ago, said that she believed the Rome announcement that he was with the party in Italy and that, captured by the Italians, he was imprisoned and after a trial was shot.

The first news of his death was received by friends who were listening to the Italian wireless, "If the report is true, in a very real sense he died for both Italy and Britain", said one of them yesterday.

In later editions of *The Times*, until 1951, appeals were made for money to establish and run a memorial cot in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children in Hackney Road in his name. **Jenny Mukerji**

**The Hon. Anne Helen
Henniker -Major
1844 -1907 Plot 30**

In plot 30 there is an impressive memorial to the Hon Anne Helen Henniker-Major. She came from a wealthy titled family with a large country estate in Suffolk and moved in high Victorian Society.

The origins of the family seat at Thornham Hall, Thornham Magna, Suffolk are interesting. The house and estate were purchased by John Major (1698-1781), a wealthy merchant who dealt in Naval supplies with the Muscovy Company. He also owned Worlingworth Hall, an adjacent property. When Sir John died his estate passed to his daughters Anne (died 1792) and Elizabeth.



The Original Thornham Hall

In 1747, Anne had married John Henniker of Newton Hall, Essex, who in 1800 was made Lord Henniker of Stratford upon-Slaney, County Wicklow, Ireland, in recognition of his successful parliamentary career.

After his death in 1803 he was succeeded by his son John (1752-1821) and the surname Henniker-Major was taken; a condition of his grandfather's will. The 2nd Lord Henniker-Major had married in 1791, Emily née Jones and as the couple were childless, the title went to his nephew John Minet Henniker-Major (1777-1832). The 3rd Lord Henniker-Major married Mary née Chafy in 1799, and they had eight children.

Their eldest son John (1801-1870); the 4th Lord Henniker who was Anne Helen Henniker-Major's father.

She was his second daughter with his wife Anne née Kerrison (1812-1889). The couple had four other children Mary (1838-1902), John (1842-1902), Edward (1848-1924) and Arthur Henry (1856-1912). The 4th Lord Henniker with the help of Sydney Smirke the architect renovated Thornham Hall. This is an interesting connection to Brookwood Cemetery as Sydney Smirke designed the first two chapels in the Cemetery.

Anne or Helen as she was known within the family was born at Thornham Hall on the 4th December 1844, and lived there and at 6, Grafton Street, London, with other members of the Henniker-Major family.

According to an account by Lady Violet Greville in the Graphic of April 6th 1907, Helen had a lively carefree nature and went everywhere and did everything, and enjoyed life to the last. She was a well-known member of society and showed a rare quality of empathy with the younger generation.

She certainly supported local events and took part in 1870 in the annual concert at Eye Church, (which is near Thornham Magna) when she sang a duet with a Mr. Roberts which was said to be the climax of the concert. She was also supported the Conservative Party of the Eastern Counties.

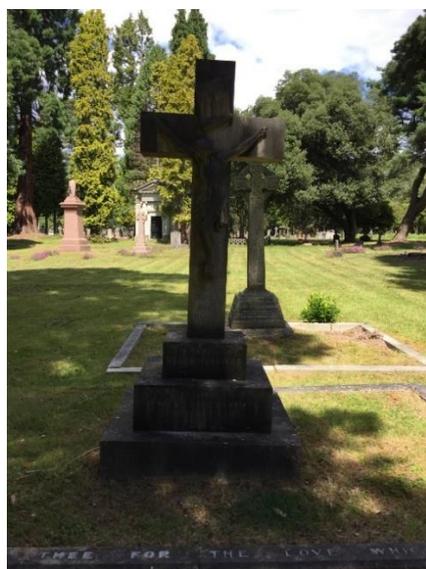
By 1901 she was living at 4, Berkley Street, Piccadilly, London and in the census of that year was given as head of the household; living with her sister Mary.

It was here that Helen died in 25th March 1907. She had made the unusual request in her will that an artery in her arm should be opened, to make sure of death, and at her own request, not to be buried in London or Thornham Magna. The decision was made for Helen to be buried at

Brookwood Cemetery on Saturday 30th March 1907.

At the same time a memorial service was held at Thornham Church, where there was a large congregation including *Prince Frederick Victor Duleep Singh.

A memorial service also simultaneously took place at St Anslem's Church, Davies Street, Berkeley Square London. The mourners included dignitaries such as Prince Alexander of Teck, the Princess of Wales and Lady Mary Forbes-Trefusis who were representing Queen Alexandra.



The grave of Anne Helen Henniker-Major and Miss Maud Miller

There is a memorial plaque in Thornham Church erected by her brothers, Edward and Arthur, that states that she is buried at Brookwood Cemetery. The same memorial also commemorates her sister Mary who died on 20th July 1902.

Her probate was made to her younger brother Arthur Henry an army officer and her effects were valued at £3500,550. Bequests were to various family members and £1,500 was left in trust to her maid Miss Maud Miller.

Miss Maud Miller (1844-1917) was buried with her mistress on 2nd March 1917 but is not commemorated on the memorial.

Sadly, a third of the original Thornham Hall was pulled down in 1890 during the decline of the Henniker-Major family fortune, and the remainder burnt down in the 1940's. The modern 20th century house is situated in the middle of the original site.

My thanks to Jannette Robinson for all her help in locating the memorial plaque at Thornham Church, Suffolk.

*Prince Frederick Victor Duleep Singh (1868-1926) was the younger son of Duleep Singh, the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. He lived near Thornham Hall.

Sources

Ancestry

The Graphic 6th April 1907

The Suffolk Chronicle 1870

Eastern Daily Press 1st April 1907

Diss Express 10th May 1907

Margaret Hobbs

Continued from page 3



A parasol mushroom found near the Columbarium

Open Day at Brookwood Military Cemetery

On 2nd September 2017 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission held an open day to commemorate 100 years of the formation of the commission.

The society had a stand in the Canadian Section, along with military vehicles and

stalls including the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, The Museum of Military Medicine, Western Front Association and Woking Peace Garden.



The Society Stand

Extracts from the play by R.C. Sherriff "Journey's End" were held in the centre of the Brookwood Memorial, and acted by members of the Mesh Theatre Company.

There were activities for younger visitors including posy making to put on graves, rubbings of headstones and the chance to have a go at stone masonry.

There were historical cemetery walks throughout the day and cemetery trails available.



A view of the Open Day

The Commission's "For Then, For Now, Forever" exhibition in Beaver House was popular, and is open until 19th November 2017. The society stand had a lot of interest and it was a lovely informative day.

Remembering Ian Devine.

Ian and I spent five years from 1999 crawling over every part of the cemetery on various projects.

We became adept at lifting and turning fallen memorials and even finding ledgers which had been completely overgrown. Ian did most of the really heavy work enabling me to sketch the memorial and record its inscription. I did some plots on my own but would never have completed the whole cemetery without Ian's help and enthusiasm every Monday morning come rain or shine.

He identified brick cleaner as the best way of cleaning gravestones sufficiently to be read but not damaged long-term! We even identified graves outside the current area of the cemetery on land that had been sold-off.

We had great fun and made many interesting discoveries, filling in gaps in the cemetery office records, particularly in the Glades.

A super chap who will be missed by his many friends.

Ian Simpson



**SOCIETY CONTACTS &
COMMITTEE**
(1) Committee members

Kim Lowe (Chair) ☎ 01483 834421

Margaret Hobbs Secretary 01344 891041

Rose Falkner (Treasurer) ☎ 01252 726995

Lynne Cowley (Publicity) ☎ 01276 474421

Barry Devonshire (Webmaster) ☎ 01276 857292

ORDINARY MEMBERS

Eileen Rogers

Alison Vince

+++++

(2) Other Contacts

Jo Toogood (Membership Secretary)
4, College Close, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 4JU
☎ 01276 63703

Sarah Burt (Auditor)

Kim Lowe Publications by Mail Order ☎01483 834421

Margaret Hobbs Newsletter Editor ☎01344 891041

(The Newsletter exists to promote contact between all members about all things regarding the Society. Margaret welcomes short personal contributions and aims to keep the content of the Newsletter current, varied and informative.)



Newsletter printed by MAIL BOXES ETC
22 Eden Street Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 1DN Tel 020 8547 1547