



Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery

Issue No.19

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Newsletter



Jeffery Hale Award 2019

The subject set for this year's Jeffery Hale Award for primary schools was "Trees of life". Once again there were some stunning entries. Here are the Wells Free School pupils at work in Woodbury Park Cemetery researching for their entry which won top prize and the Jeffery Hale shield. The judges described it as beautiful, original and wide ranging - an outstanding entry.



Runners up were Pembury Primary School who created an artistic and original collage threading together past, present and future under an over-arching rainbow. The judges described it as a very thought-provoking exciting piece.

This year for the first time we also had an entry from a Wolf Cub pack, 14th Royal Tunbridge Wells Calverley whose entry was based on material collected at the cemetery as part of their work for their Naturalist badge. They received a special award for their informative collage of items they had drawn or collected at Woodbury Park Cemetery.

And for 2020....

Next year's topic is to be "Hidden stories", with participants being asked to create a Treasure Box



A panel from the Wells Free School collage, the trees' narratives using pupils' research, creative writing and photography



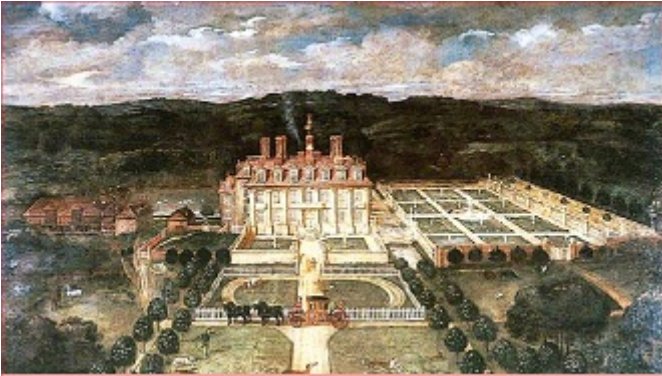
Pembury Primary School who cleverly wove items from three eras together



Calverley Cubs display their collage after a rather chilly boating challenge in Dunorlan with their Akela

The autumn outing

We were fortunate with dry weather for our joint outing with some of the Friends of TWC to the two Pembury churches dedicated to St Peter - the Old Church of 1337 opposite Kent College and the 1847 Upper Church in the village. Then on to St Denys in Rotherfield. All were well worth a visit. Of special interest to us at the Old Church were two slab memorials to the Amherst ancestors of Jeffery Hale, Lords of the Manor of Bayhall



Bayhall House, Jacobean home of the Amherst family

In the churchyard a Listed box tomb of 1803 holds the remains of a later Bayhall occupant - Ann West Fearful of being buried in a trance, she left instructions for her coffin lid to be left unscrewed with a small window above her face, and her bailiff was instructed to bring food and drink to an openable grille each evening for a year in case she woke up. Brian Kempster recalls as a boy seeing it still open with her bones visible. However in 1947 it was finally sealed up.

Both the Upper Church, opposite a row of Amherst almshouses, and St Denys Rotherfield have special interest for the FTWC because of their connections with the Hogg family of Macclesfield and Shanghai buried in the handsome mausoleum that dominates the older part of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery.



William and Eliza Hogg with their son Harry lie in the mausoleum. Lindsay is in St Denys Churchyard

In the Upper Church Pembury a dignified stained glass window commemorates Harry who lies with his parents in their mausoleum. But for his brother Sir Lindsay Lindsay-Hogg of Rotherfield Hall, it is a different story. His family, generous donors to St Denys Church, would have been appalled if they could have foreseen how a utilitarian sink, toilet and vacuum cleaner have now been installed behind a fixed screen immediately below his commemorative stained glass window.

Outside in the graveyard, our tour guide had himself early that morning helpfully hacked back the saplings and brambles to enable us to see the Lindsay-Hogg memorials in their extensive overgrown grave enclosure.

On a happier note, elsewhere in the graveyard some of the memorials were stunning. I personally have



not seen many outdoor elaborately carved wooden or intricate brass memorials. We were shown two of each, the former neatly

capped with some zinc to reduce rot, thereby providing a clearly much appreciated creche for a huge colony of woodlice.

Even more ecologically memorable was an ancient yew tree, estimated to have begun life 1500 years ago, and now receiving intensive orthopedic care.



Consider when this ancient tree was a seedling. In the Dark Ages after departure of the Romans and before Alfred burned the cakes. When wolves and bears still roamed the surrounding oak forest.

Margaret Ginman - Chair

Gardeners report

This year we, the volunteers, really feel we are making progress regarding the wildflowers. From June on there has been a wide and colourful variety of species. In fact, many more than were in that seed selection which we sowed in the autumn of 2011. We must be doing something right!

It was a good year for butterflies; clumps of ragwort were seen hosting Gatekeepers, Common Blues on bird's foot trefoil, Small Skippers enjoying the oregano. Speckled Woods spiralled away in dappled shade, Meadow Browns were numerous on the grassy bank and lastly, many Large Whites searching for non-existent cabbages - for whom next year we must provide some nasturtiums.

Can you name them? (Answers foot of page)



1.



2.



3.



4.

Mowing did not begin until late August, by which time the grass was very long giving the cemetery an abandoned look. However this was far from the case as in no way had it been left abandoned. Instead the grass had been left uncut to allow insects to complete their life cycles. We plan to put up a notice next year explaining this.

In early September we had the excitement of the emergence of the Ivy Mining Bees from their burrows 30 cms below the surface of the Cowslip Meadow where the females laid their eggs in September last year.

The males were the first to emerge and the sheer number of them quartering the area just two or three inches above the grass in readiness for the females to emerge was quite a sight.

The reason the Ivy Mining bees had chosen this site was both the suitability of the soil for excavating their burrows and the presence nearby of a very large flowering Ivy plant on which to feed.



Colletes hederæ were first recorded in the UK in 2001

Also pollen and nectar are stored in the burrows for the young larvae to feed on.

Finally we are proud to have been awarded not one but two silver gilt certificates this year; one from South and South East in Bloom and the other from Kent Wildlife "Wild about Gardens". And we must not forget our prestigious Green Flag award, now an international quality mark.

So lots of positive developments. Just one current challenge we must mention. An aspect of our cherished wildlife within the habitat we provide is the propensity of some species to dig. It was a three year battle to wrest full control of the crag back from the pioneering badgers who moved in.

Although they have now decamped elsewhere, and the holes on the top of the crag have been topped up, we are still coping with an aftermath of loose sand trickling from the widened fissures. Happily the white lilac planted by St Barnabas School beside the chapel when they reinterred an arm bone for us a couple of years ago is thriving.

But in the past couple of months a new excavator has arrived - Reynard we think rather than Brock .

A lot of digging has taken place under a couple of graves just along from the Willicombe tomb , with some undermining of the adjoining path. Together with the ever helpful Kasia, battle has commenced - in an ecological way of course.

But that is just a specific problem being tackled. More generally on gardening jobs, and on keeping the planted grave plots tidy, if there is anyone out there who would give the working party a hand , not necessarily on a regular basis, we should be so, so grateful. You do not need to be a gardener as such, but someone who appreciates our precious space and would like to help care for it.

If so, please leave a contact number with Angela on 01892 541881

Angela Swain

Gardening Team convenor

Repairs update

Memorial repairs

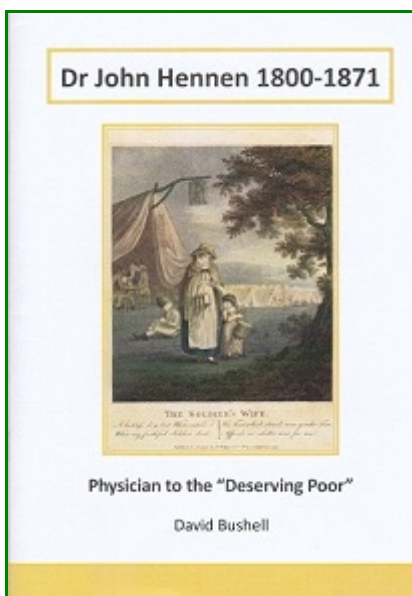
Three sets of repairs have recently been completed

1. Dr. John Hennen and Mary Dillman Hennen



After defrassing and re-engraving

This repair complements David Bushell's recent lecture and new booklet about their lives.



Renovation of the adjoining Engelheart tomb where Mary's parents and sisters are buried has been delayed by recurring problems of soaked brickwork, and now must await drier conditions.

2. Miss Amy Kennett Lodging house keeper



Before being re-erected on new base



We know little about her save that she attended St Johns and died at 41 York Road in 1875 aged 56.

3. Unknown collapsed grave



This repair was undertaken to preserve the vault not only because the collapsed structure was an unsightly blemish on the "millionaires row" of the top path, but because the crumbling mortar and bricks were threatening the safety of passers by.

Sadly, in the absence of an extant plot register, we do not know which of the people listed in the burial register are buried in this substantial tomb. In such a prime spot they were clearly persons of substance.

Nature board below the chapel

This board which was vandalised last year, has been replaced with a new updated one and slightly repositioned now that the area behind it has been opened up.

Events for your diary

Friday 8th November 7.30 pm Camden Centre Talk: Edwardian St Johns and Woodbury Park Cemetery

2020

Friday 21 February 7.30pm Camden Centre Talk : Transported of Tunbridge Wells. One way tickets to Van Diemens Land

Friday 22 May 7.30pm Camden Centre AGM and talk

Sunday 21 June pm in the Cemetery Summer concert Brass on the Grass