



Newsletter 28

Spring 2023

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Chairman's Chatter

Brian Sylvester

Come on, hands up! How many of you waded through my last Chairman's Chatter, and indeed the rest of our Autumn Newsletter? Now I warned you there would be a test! So...

Question: Who was thanked for their contribution to our fascinating project? *Pause for thought.*

Answer: Hopefully you remembered "everyone". We are lucky to have so many keen people taking part. [But having said that, there's always room for more.]



So once again, to all - as my thesaurus informs us *gratefulness, thankfulness, thanks, appreciation, recognition, acknowledgement, hat tip (?), credit, regard, respect, sense of obligation, indebtedness.*

[Mmm, here's a thought: if I misplaced my thesaurus, could I be said to be "lost for words"?]

Did-you-know time: Pin back your lugholes! The full moon in March is the WORM MOON. Native Americans called this last full moon of winter the worm moon after the worm trails that would appear in the newly thawed ground. Other names include chaste moon, death moon, crust moon and sap moon, after the tapping of the maple trees. If you are into wine making, just try tapping a silver birch tree or two. It makes a super white, I'm told. (Did you know this Joan?) You'll need to start now while the sap is rising. I promise, I did not write this on April 1st.

But now, Back to the Future...

[Interesting: I hadn't realised there's a musical version: I might even recognise the songs from 1955. I loved that bit where he played the Chuck Berry number. But I digress!]



There are some excellent things to look forward to in respect of the cemetery: details elsewhere in this publication. Musical versions to follow ... no I'm only kidding.

Do make notes in your diaries: I look forward to meeting you at these.

Still looking into the future, surely one of the key ingredients to the success of any organisation is its ability to further itself through successful succession. The Friends of Newton Road Cemetery is no exception to this.

Despite the setbacks of Covid, the Friends have been fortunate to flourish given our magnificent site, the support of Newbury Town Council, and the expertise and enthusiasm of our members. I see from my Chairman's Chatter of Autumn 2011 (yes, as far back as that!), we set out to provide *'a safe tranquil area for the pleasure of both people and wildlife'*. The interim period has had its challenges but has been revealing and rewarding. I'm confident we have lived up to that goal. However, we can't sit back - there's plenty of pleasure still to be had.

After such a long period, and in view of the fact that my wife, Yvonne, and I are planning a move to the seaside, I'm therefore looking to stand down as your Chairman at our AGM in the Autumn and am giving warning, hopefully in good time, so that the committee knows where it stands and can action as necessary.

I will be truly sorry to make this break as I have so enjoyed the experience and your company, but now it's time for a new face with new ideas to assume the pleasure of **"Taking the Past into the Future"**.



The Monument Recorders

Doug Larsen

The FNRC Monument Recorders have now been doing their work for over 10 years and have achieved a record of about 89% of the monuments. In those 10 Years we have seen many changes in the software tools we use which make the job more difficult as we learn and apply the changes.

This, inevitably, slows down the rate at which we convert our manual recordings to digital and present them to the website.

However, we are determined to finish the job off as we overcome obstacles both with the software tools and vegetation on the rows of monuments.

Nature News

Joan Stacey

As the year begins to turn, the cycle of growth and reproduction is beginning once more and will give us much to enjoy and learn about over the months before autumn and the general closing down of activity in preparation for next winter.

We continue with our regular plant surveys and record the data from these in order monitor the long -term changes in plant populations. While there is a need to keep the paths and grave areas mown, other sections are left for longer periods to allow wildflowers and grasses to reseed.



In the Chapel, on our event days, we display specimens of plants currently in flower and have a selection of reference books relating to flora and fauna available.

Throughout the year, interesting articles relating to our plants are displayed on the cemetery boards and railings and can also be accessed on the website. These are now also shared with the Newbury branch of the Friends of the Earth and some of them appear in the local newspaper.

It could reasonably be claimed that the cemetery is the natural world in microcosm where we can see, on a small scale, some of the changes that affect our whole planet.

We can also see some of the ways in which members of the plant and animal kingdoms are interdependent on each other - for example, when bees and insects visit flowers as a source of food, they pollinate the plants in their travels and enable the production of seeds and berries.

We would very much like to know a great deal more about the creatures in the cemetery and would really welcome knowledgeable people to come and help us find and identify them so that we can get a more complete picture of life in the cemetery.

The man who killed John W T Allee

Ros Clow

A very busy December meant that I didn't organise anyone to write the Grave of the Month. So, on 4th January, I looked at Brian's last list of suggestions, picked the first one, read everything that was on the website about John Allee, and hastily wrote the GOTM about him.

You will have seen that he was a local businessman who, whilst collecting his father's cattle for sale at Guildford market, was knocked over by a car. There was an inquest, and the driver

of the car was charged with manslaughter. But at the trial the jury found him 'not guilty' despite all the evidence being against him. The accident happened at East Horsley, halfway between Guildford and Leatherhead in Surrey, near the entrance to Horsley Towers, in front of the Duke of Wellington pub.

Gerald Garlick had dropped his father off at Horsley station and was on his way home to Rowbarns Manor (called Robarns Farm on this map). He was driving an Austin 15hp car.

All the witnesses said he was driving fast, and he didn't sound his horn. He said he was driving at 20mph, and he did sound his horn.



Allee, his father and three stockmen were milling around a van, preparing to load cattle in. The cattle were kept on grassland belonging to Horsley Towers.

What interested me, a connoisseur of murder mystery novels, was why did Garlick's father go to the expense of employing one of the most famous barristers in the country, to save his son from going to prison. Sir Edward Marshall Hall "the great criminal lawyer", used friendly questioning to shake the testimony of all the witnesses, suggesting that the local ones had an historical axe to grind. His summing up lasted an hour talking at 200 words a minute! Poor jury!

So, I started to research Gerald Garlick's life and family.

Gerald was born, 1896, in Llandudno, North Wales. His grandfather owned a carpet factory in Kidderminster, his father Thomas Jehu Garlick, became a chartered accountant and in the 1921 census was living at Rowbarn Manor and was a colliery proprietor - in Surrey!

First, I discovered that Gerald had served in the Great War. His younger brother, Vivian, was killed in action in Italy in 1918. His mother was Ellen née Ingham but by 1921 his father's wife was called Daisy, born in Brazil and much younger than his first wife.

I could find no death for Ellen, nor marriage for Thomas and Daisy, though I did discover her first name was actually Elizabeth.

I decided to look into coal mines in Surrey. Then I discovered that the mines that Thomas Jehu Garlick owned were in the Midlands, nowhere near Surrey. Maybe that's why he caught the train so frequently?

From mining museums and web sites I was able to piece together the father's story. When the sons were quite young, Thomas J Garlick was found guilty of fraud and went to Wormwood Scrubs prison for 9 months hard labour in 1913. His partner in crime was named Shackleton and lived in Angola, Africa. Shackleton went to prison for 15 months. They had taken money for shares to a fictitious company and kept it for themselves.

To begin with, searching online for Shackleton at that time kept throwing up the arctic explorer, which was annoying. Then I discovered that the partner in crime, Frank Shackleton, was the explorer's younger brother!

This was not his first enterprise with Shackleton. Ten years earlier they were involved in repatriating Russian troops from the Far East – goodness know how they expected to make money from that. Garlick was also involved in a swindle with the electrobus development in London¹ but seems to have got away with that one.

Thomas served his time. During WW1 he made a fortune from selling food to the Army in the trenches. His reputation restored, the last thing he needed was his son following him to prison.

Gerald Garlick married Blanche M. Timson in Berkhamstead in 1923. They had a son Thomas Vivian Timson Garlick in 1925.

Thomas Jehu had bought the Oxcroft colliery in Derbyshire and was the owner when a fatal accident happened in 1919. By 1940 both TJ and Gerald were directors of the colliery, Gerald staying on after TJ's death in 1942, Gerald was still a director when Nationalisation happened in 1947.

Gerald died in 1953 in Cheltenham.

In John Allee's obituary it states that he was well known for keeping Newbury supplied with meat during WW1. When Allee's wife sued the Garlicks for compensation it came out that despite Allee's businesses having a turnover of over £60,000 a year, he was overdrawn at the bank. Why did Allee have cattle grazing less than a mile from Garlick's house in Surrey? Did they know each other through WW1 procurement? Was it an accident?

See, too many murder mystery novels.

¹ Hamer, Mick. 2017 *A Most Deliberate Swindle: How Edwardian Fraudsters Pulled the Plug on the Electric Bus and Left Our Cities Gasping for Breath*.

Dates for the diary

Saturday April 22 nd 10am – 4pm	Spring Welcome Day Newtown Road Cemetery	Displays in the chapel, guided tours and the ‘Find-a-grave’ service.
17 th - 19 th May 7pm – 9:15pm	20 th Century Casualties Royal British Legion Club, Pelican Lane, Newbury	Tickets will soon be on sale for our latest drama, the stories of three men who died between 1938 and 1940.
June 24 th	Midsummer Welcome Evening	More details will be sent out closer to the event
November 11 th	Remembrance in the cemetery	More details will be sent out closer to the event

An update on the story of the composting toilet for Newtown Road Cemetery

John Gardner

In the last newsletter we reported that a composting toilet for the cemetery remained only a dream. Now, you will be both amazed and relieved that the toilet has been installed in the cemetery and is ready for use!

Newbury Town Council (NTC) have been very pro-active in helping to realise this improvement to the facilities at the cemetery. In addition to approving a total budget of £10,000 they obtained a licence from the Secretary of State to allow for the removal and relocation of any human remains that may be uncovered during installation of the toilet. Permission was not given to dig foundations for the toilet in the vicinity of the chapel, the preferred location for the toilet. Therefore, the type of toilet chosen (the Woo-woo 360 GT!) sits above ground level and is accessed by steps. £8000 of the NTC budget was allocated for supply and installation of the toilet leaving £2000 for future maintenance costs. The work has now been completed within budget and the facility was officially opened by the Mayor of Newbury on 9th March 2023. Due to the generosity of NTC’s support it was not necessary to draw down on the Friends’ funds for this project.

ENTERTAINING EPITAPHS

In a London cemetery:

*Here lies Ann Mann,
who lived an old maid,
but died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767*

In a cemetery inn Thurmont, Maryland:

*Here lies an Atheist,
all dressed up and no place to go.*

The story so far:



It looks like a Tardis has landed behind a large tree in front of the chapel entrance.



And the Chairman patiently waits with crossed legs for the door to open.
Who can be taking so long?



Then all is revealed.



It was the Mayor trying to get a break from busy Mayoral duties!

The current operating scheme is that the toilet will be kept locked except when there is a function in the chapel or activity in the cemetery when the toilet will be opened by the person responsible for the event activity. At the end of the activity that person will check that all is well and lock up and return the key. The NTC cemetery maintenance contractor will be responsible for changing the composting receptacle (approximately every six months) and for making sure the consumables, (wood chips, toilet paper and hand sanitiser) are replenished. NTC will be issuing the “official “operating instructions in the near future.

It is hoped that the availability of the toilet will encourage more groups to make use of the chapel and cemetery for a range of social and educational activities.

MORMONS in Newtown Road Cemetery

David and Ros Clow

On Sunday 22nd January Ros and I went to the Mormon church on Pinchington Lane, to the opening of an exhibition, on their early history in Newbury.

We knew that the Mormons were quite active in Newbury in the 19th century, and we also knew of at least two Mormons buried in Newtown Road Cemetery and so duly arrived with their 2 biographies. There were quite a lot of people present and they were very welcoming and produced soup (no coffee, tea or alcohol!) and food.

They had done a lot of work on their early history and had produced an impressive set of Panels.

Of our two biographies, the first, regarding **William Westall** (C1825-1880) and **Mary Ann Westall** (C1821-1883), (both buried in NRC) was new to them. When they checked their online records, they did have them listed. They were very grateful for the additional information.

William, of Jack Street and later Marsh Street, an employee of Samuel Biddis, was a bricklayer and journeyman painter. In November 1869 he had performed the physical part of the ceremony of 'Beating the Bounds' of Newbury Borough (an activity done every 7 years). He was also a member of the local Fire Brigade. William and Mary had lost several children but did have a Francis Maroni (a clue in the name!), who reached maturity and lived in Speen. William's widowed mother Sarah Westall, had earlier, in 1853, emigrated to the USA, with a party of Mormons from Newbury on the Utah trail, and joined her daughter Mary Ann Canning and family at Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa.

What became apparent from the exhibition was that a large number of Newbury Mormons emigrated to Utah, thereby almost totally depleting their numbers in Newbury, such that the church, in the early part of the 20th century, appeared not to exist.

The migrations were hard, and many did not survive. They died whilst crossing the USA from accidents or diseases such as cholera. Our second biography meshed perfectly with one of their stories and showed just how tragic life was for these early "Saints".

We have the story of a little one-year-old girl, Catharine Squires (1849-1850) buried in NRC.

She was born in Newbury, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Squires (nee Miles) who were married on the 9th June 1832 in Luton, Bedfordshire.

In those days there was, unfortunately, nothing unusual about a child dying except that in this case on the 28th September she was buried by the Rev. Thomas Squires - her father! He is listed in the 1851 census as a minister of the LDS church, living in Chubb's yard, and had travelled from Luton where his other six children had been born.

Three years later the Squires family emigrated to the USA, from Liverpool, aboard the S/S GOLCONDA, destined for Salt Lake City, Utah, and arrived in New Orleans on the 18th March 1854.

Of the original nine people in Newbury in 1849 (father, mother and seven children) only three survived and the sad story is best continued using the Mormon's own panel.



The City of New Orleans, Louisiana, J. H. Colton, 1856. Rootsweb

Thomas Squires: "After hearing [him]...I was convinced of the truth."

Our
Missionary
Heritage

On Saturday 18th March 1854 the steamship *Golconda* arrived in New Orleans after a 52-day voyage from Liverpool. She carried 446 Saints including eight members of the Squires family⁹: Thomas Squires, his wife Mary and their six children. His second eldest daughter, Sarah Ann and her husband John Green were also travelling with them. The family disembarked into a bustling city still reeling from a devastating yellow fever epidemic.¹⁰ As they walked up through the dockside warehouses, the tanneries, and slaughterhouses to their lodgings, they contemplated the long journey north ahead of them on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to reach Kanessville, Iowa, now Council Bluffs. From here they intended to travel west to the Salt Lake Valley.⁸

Upon reaching St Louis, Missouri later that year they waited to join a company heading west. While they waited his wife Mary, their eldest daughter (also called Mary), and their children John, Ellen, Joseph Hyrum, and Martha – who was only four years old – would all die from Cholera.⁹ Only Thomas, Sarah Ann, and John survived to make the trek to Salt Lake, reaching their destination some time in 1855. Such hardship and grief would have been unthinkable for Thomas Squires just a few years earlier.

Born in Welwyn, Hertfordshire in 1811 and baptised there, Thomas was called on a mission in 1847 and was to serve in the Berkshire and Wiltshire District of the British Mission. **Thomas and his entire family at the time (his wife Mary and five children) moved into lodgings on Bartholomew Street, Newbury.** The 1851 census records his occupation as 'Minister of Latter-Day Saints Church'.¹¹

Thomas Squires	Minister of Latter-Day Saints Church	38	17
Mary Squires	Wife	37	16
John Squires	Son	14	10
Ellen Squires	Daughter	12	8
Joseph Squires	Son	10	6
Martha Squires	Daughter	8	4
Sarah Ann Squires	Daughter	6	2

Of all the missionaries and local members that worked to spread the Gospel in Newbury Thomas Squires was far and away the most prolific. **The records show that Thomas baptised 127 of the 364 people baptised in Newbury between February 1843 and November 1851.**⁴ One of these was the 21-year-old Thomas Smith who would later write in his diary: 'I was convinced of the necessity of baptism by immersion [sic] and...was led to enquire into the Doctrine of the Saints, and after hearing Elder Thomas Squire deliver lectures I was convinced of the truth...'⁶

During his time as a missionary in Newbury **four additional branches were established**, all taking the core of their leaders and members from the congregation in which Thomas Squires had played such a significant part in building. Thomas represented the many branches and members he helped build up in successive meetings of the British Mission, and the London and Reading Conferences until his emigration in 1854. Not much is known of him after his arrival in Utah. One source¹⁷ suggests that he travelled west with the California gold rush – as did many Saints – and seems to have been less involved with the church. He died in Cañon City, Fremont County, Colorado in 1868 aged 56.¹⁶

Regardless of how he ended his days it is certain that during his years as a missionary and minister he impacted a significant number of lives. A journal entry from John Paternoster Squires, younger brother of Thomas dated August 3, 1876 records: 'Very hot today. Very interesting meeting. Old bro. Lambourne made mention of my brother Thomas which pleased me very much. He said Thomas was the instrument in bringing him into the Church and that he was a good man and did a great work...and had brought a great number to a knowledge of the truth.'⁵⁷

At the time of Thomas's ministry, the Mormons met at the old Gaol and workhouse (on the site of the old Library in Cheap street).

Past meeting houses: Newbury

Stand ye in
holy places

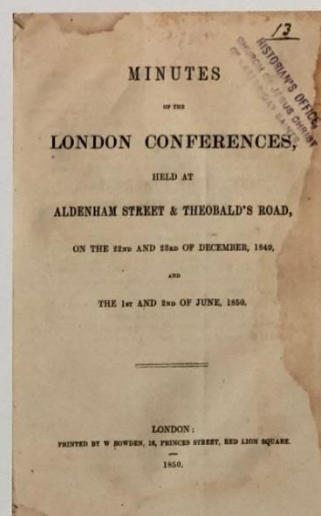
As soon as **the organisation of the Newbury branch took place on 27th June 1843**, there would have been a need to find a place to hold Sunday meetings. Until the branch's reorganisation in the mid-1960s - where the meeting places are still within living memory - it is extremely difficult to piece together a picture of where the Saints met. Only fragments of information exist in early British conference reports, local newspapers, and journals, with few definitive addresses or descriptions.

A 'large room at the Gaol': 1849 - 1854

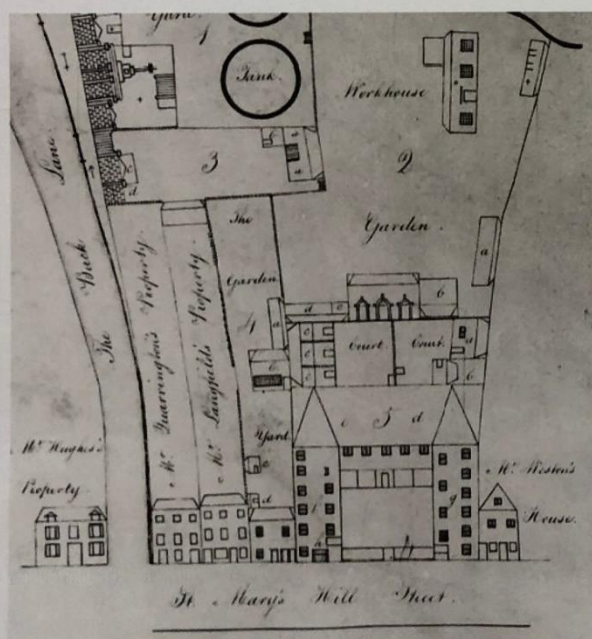
The first reliable information available is found in the December 1849 and June 1850 reports of the London Conferences. These reports - and the subsequent reports for the London Conferences of November 1850, May 1851, and December 1851 - list valuable information about the branches in the London Conference including Newbury, Hungerford, Ramsbury, Cold Ash, and Weston. Included in this information are the locations of meeting houses.

From these conference reports we know that from 1849 at the latest through to at least 1852 the Newbury congregation met at a hall on the present-day **Cheap Street**. In the conference reports, this meeting place is variously listed as '*Commercial School Room, St Mary Street*' in 1850 and '*Latter Day Saints Chapel, St Mary Street*' in 1851.^{39,40,41} St Mary's Street (or Hill) was the southern end of Cheap Street, but the entire thoroughfare is now called Cheap Street. It's probable it was named after St Mary Magdalene, a Lazar (or leper) House, later giving its name to almshouses.⁶⁰

At the time this area on the eastern side of Cheap Street was taken up by a large workhouse and gaol complex. The 'chapel' referred to in the conference reports was in reality one of the meeting rooms within this complex of buildings. This is confirmed by an article in the Reading Mercury of 4th April 1857. At a Quarterly Meeting of Newbury Town Council, the Wesleyans were seeking the use of Superintendent Deane's '*large room at the Gaol to be used for divine service.*' This room '*had previously been let to the Mormons, but the great objection against their continuing the use of it was that they did not rest their religion on the Bible.*'⁸⁰



Cover of London Conference Report 1850, Church History Library



19th Century plan, West Berkshire Museum

This 19th century plan shows the large square of workhouse and gaol buildings on 'St Mary's Hill Street', at the bottom right. These buildings occupied the site now taken up by the old library and Carnegie Road.

This site for the meeting house is also recorded in the 1851 Ecclesiastical Census. The purpose of the census was to establish the provision for religious worship in England and Wales, and the strength of the various religious denominations. The census return for the Latter-Day Saints in Newbury was completed by Thomas Squires and the '*Latter Day Saints Chapel*' is described as having been '*erected before 1800 but not used as a place of worship until 1849*'.⁵²

It also records the maximum congregation size as 150. If this not considered an exaggeration on the part of Thomas Squires, then the room within the old gaol must have been very large indeed to hold such a number.

The last documented reference to this meeting place for the Saints is found in the 1854 *Billings Directory of Berkshire*. This advertises that services were performed at 10:30am, 3pm and 6:30pm every Sunday '*in a room in Cheap Street*'⁵⁵ led by an Elder William Ellis.

An Alarming Accident At The Town Hall

Brian Sylvester



*The Old Town Hall
from a painting by Anne Andrews*

The Newbury Weekly News of 23rd January, 1908 reports an accident that befell a staff member at the Town Hall the previous week. This, of course, would have been the old Town Hall which dated from 1742 and extended over the “shambles” (formerly a slaughter house which became a covered market) in Mansion House Street.

It apparently bore a pole from which was being flown a flag at half-mast in respect of **Stephen Knight Senior**, a former Mayor of the town (1890), whose recent death “evoked universal and sincere regret from all classes of the townspeople”. *Fuller accounts of his life, death and funeral may be found on the Friends’ website.*

On the previous Friday, the report tells us, the 50 feet pole had snapped in the middle and came crashing down. It goes on to say:

“.... several men of the Surveyor's staff went up into the roof to take down the remaining half of the pole and repair the roof. During the operation one of the men stepped on a beam, apparently substantial and strong.

But no sooner had his foot touched it than the beam disappeared through the ceiling, and the man had to cling for his life to the nearest support. The beam, in falling carried away a big portion of the ceiling at the western end, and a heap of plaster and wood fell on to the Town Hall floor.

“.... Subsequently it was found that the fallen beam had rotted in the joints, the result of rain coming through the roof at the point where the flagstaff projected. and as it probably means the renewal of the whole ceiling, as well as to repair to the roof-timbers, *considerable expense may be involved.*”

Now Walter Money, in his History of Newbury (1905), tells us of an opening ceremony in 1876 by Lord Carnarvon “as part of a larger scheme by which it was proposed to remove the existing



*Mayor Stephen Knight
Photo courtesy of
Newbury Town Council*



AND DOWN SHE COMES IN 1909

Picture from:
NEWBURY - A Photographic Record 1850-1935 by
Sue Hopson

Town Hall and widen the roadway at this dangerous point, *but vested interests again prevailed*! One wonders what they were.

So did that “considerable expense” later come to outweigh those “vested interests”? It would seem so as down she came in the following year 1909, eventually leaving us with what we have to this day.

Footnote: Stephen’s son, also Stephen, became Mayor in 1911. Both were buried in NRC.

THE FRIENDS NEED...



YOU!

Doug Larsen’s Monument recording group has declined in numbers over recent years. There are only four active recorders, which means that despite their sterling efforts, documenting *all* the monuments is going to take time.

If you feel you could contribute some time, please contact Doug at douglarsen06@gmail.com
All training, and advice will be provided.