



Newsletter 17

Spring 2018

The Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery, c/o 100 Enborne Road, Newbury, RG14 6AN
Website: www.fnrnewbury.org.uk

Tel: 01635 30108
E-mail: committee@fnrcnewbury.org.uk

Chairman's Chatter...

Brian Sylvester

Some time ago I visited Turin, famous for its shroud and many other tourist attractions. To get around them all, I joined a group using a Segway - you know, those clever little two wheeled scooters which move forward as you lean forward and stop when you pull back. They're amazing devices which take but a few minutes to get used to, and we were able to travel around the city quite freely and quickly, and relatively safely too.

Apparently, they're not allowed in this country except on private property but there are companies that organise Segway Safaris around country estates. I did wonder momentarily ..., but no, our cemetery's modest four acres are probably too small, and it would be somewhat undignified anyway!



Now, as is my wont, I wondered about this word "Segway": apparently, it's an invented word from "segue" (pronounced "Segway"). "And what's that?" I hear you cry (well those of you who've led a sheltered life, like me!). It turns out to be from the Italian for "*a smooth transition from one topic or section to the next.*"

So, please allow me to make a segue - a smooth transition onto the next part of my chatter.

Historic work goes on apace with more and more coming to the surface as we delve further into newspapers and websites. We've now identified no less than 37 former Newbury Mayors amongst our "residents" and, thanks to the help from the Town's Civic Manager, Joyce Lewis, we have pictures of 31 of them on our website: thanks also to Sylvia Green's involvement. Talking of websites, ours continues to grow thanks to the efforts of our dedicated monument recorders, and Brian Snook who enters their findings. We're also getting there with the inclusion of names from the account books for the years which have no burial registers available. And well-done Paul - our webmaster

As a result of these activities we are getting more and more “hits” from enthusiasts researching their family trees and, in turn, sharing their findings.



Apologies to those who came to the AGM on the promise that we were going to show a wonderful video about Glasnevin Cemetery in Ireland. We’d previously contacted the cemetery authorities and had their consent to proceed so were somewhat taken aback when, with just a few days to go, we were contacted by an Irish film company demanding royalties for the showing, amounting to hundreds of pounds. No amount of explanation would dissuade them from their pursuit. So reluctantly we backed off the showing. All quite silly really as there is nothing to stop us viewing the feature in our own homes. If anyone hasn’t seen it yet - and it’s well worth a look - give Ros Clow a shout.

Talking of whom, she is well into the rehearsals for the forthcoming play “wot she wrote”. Further details elsewhere in this newsletter. Tickets from The Corn Exchange - don’t miss out!

Going back to the video, wouldn’t it be nice to have one for Newtown Road! I’m sure we have enough material - nature, scenery and history. Just need a dedicated enthusiast! And, sorry to plug this again, but we still desperately need volunteers for PR and Schools Liaison.

On the latter topic we had a party of 60 children on a visit from St. John the Evangelist School last month. Quite a challenge, but thanks to some experienced input from Lorraine Corneck, Ros, Chris Reynolds and I were able to “wow” them. The teacher was so pleased; she said the kids were “buzzing” when they got back. We have such a wonderful facility for schools in our cemetery - if only we could find someone to “make it happen”.



That’s enough from me (some might say “more than enough!”). But I mustn’t close without whole-hearted thanks to those volunteers we DO have - your committee, the researchers, typists, recorders and helpers and, of course, our newsletter editor. And our sincere appreciation to the staff at Newbury Town Council.

See you at THE PLAY.

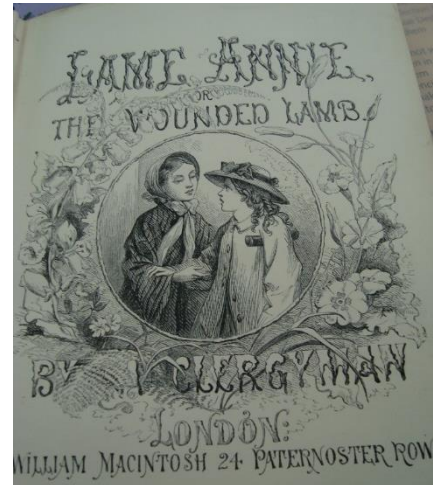
Lame Annie, or, The Wounded Lamb by a Clergyman [1865]

Ros Clow

We arrived early at the British Library for the Harry Potter and the History of Magic exhibition so to pass the time we went to Reader Reception to find out whether they had a copy of William Medland’s children’s book “Lame Annie”. William was an assistant priest at St John’s

Church. In the NWN report of 7th December 1871 an article denies that William was ever a missionary, says that the cancer he was operated on for did not result from an injury and *Mr. Medland, we may add, had established a claim to authorship by the favourite juvenile book, known as "Lame Annie" which proceeded from his pen.*

I had been looking to buy a copy since reading this report so that I could add William to the 'Angels, Artists and, Authors' tour but to no avail. The first British Library search produced no results but when I entered just the title there it was attributed to 'a clergyman'! So, the following week I ordered it out of the stores, braved the blizzard of 28th February, completed the registration for a reader's card and by noon I was holding it in my hand. Beautifully bound and illustrated it tells the story of a schoolgirl, Annie, who is pushed over at a school feast, injures her knee and a year later she can still not stand on that leg. She uses a crutch that had to be made for her.



Despite this adversity she holds no malice and Jane who pushed her over is her best friend. Also in the story are the vicar and his wife, their young sons Harry and Frank back from Boarding School, the vicar's sister who hates children but is trying to get over it (!), Miss Hammond the Sunday School teacher, Leo the Newfoundland dog and a rough family called Thorn with a nasty daughter, Sally.



Towards the end (yes, I did read it through) Annie is arrested by a policeman for murdering Sally, but all turns out well. Sally is in hiding. Rather than have her leg amputated as is suggested by her cousin Mary, Annie visits the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, 315 Oxford Street London (details given in the notes) who cure her.

While there I also managed to hold Malachi Mouldy's original three volume publication 'Stonehenge or the Romans in Britain'. It ends with a worthy essay on Druidism and was donated to the British Museum during his lifetime. We know him better as Henry Godwin in whose memory his wife installed our fantastic window.

And I skimmed several books by Sarson Ingham. I have bought several of these but had not seen her poetry before. Often she writes following an event, e.g. "*following the wreck of the 'Princess Alice'*", none of which I had ever heard of. More research needed!

Technical Drawing?

Ros Clow

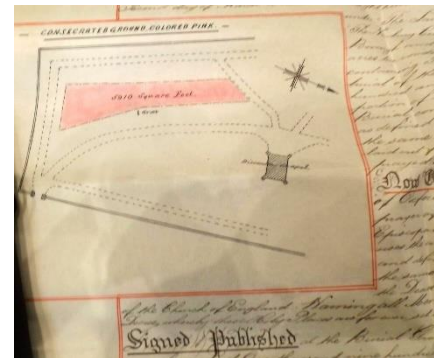
Do you or anyone you know have technical drawing skills? We have two projects which need that expertise.

Trees

Over the winter Dave Mackie, ex Chief Forester of the Forest of Dean, identified 20 different species of tree in the cemetery. I made laminated name tags, and these are now in place. We have a scruffy map showing where each label can be found. How much better if a copy of the cemetery map could have this information added tidily. We could then display it on our notice board.

1906 consecration

Thanks to the detective work of Jo Lempriere in the Town Council we now have an image showing roughly which section of the South West was consecrated by the Bishop of Reading in 1906. More research needs to be done to define it, using records we already have. Then we should map the exact section out. We need help with all of this.



Dates for your Diary

Don't forget to add these dates to your diary.

Passive Resistance	Saturday, April 14 - 3pm & 7pm Sunday, April 15 - 3pm	The Phoenix Theatre, Newtown Road Newbury <i>See Elsewhere in the Newsletter for details</i>
Meet Cemetery Friends weekend	Saturday, April 28 10-3pm	West Berkshire Museum
	Sunday, April 29 – 10-4pm	Cemetery Chapel
Open Studios	Every weekend from 12 th – 27 th May from 11am	Cemetery Chapel
Midsummer Cemetery	Wednesday June 20 th 6pm to 9pm	Cemetery Chapel
Friends' AGM	October 23rd	St Francis de Sale Church Hall Details TBC

Helpers needed

Maureen Hudd

Ros and her trusty band of actors and behind the scenes volunteers are busily preparing for our latest dramatic production. In order to support them we need the following people to help:

- **Car Park attendants** (it is a requirement of the Phoenix Centre that there is an attendant to see people into the Car Park). We will supply reflective gilets.
- **Refreshments at all three performances** – Saturday evening performance tickets include a glass of wine which is being separately organised) Two or three people for each performance to make tea/coffee and put out biscuits/nibbles and clear up afterwards.
- **Front of House** – welcomers for all performances and to act as guides in the auditorium
- **A person or persons at each performance to sit at the Reception Desk** during the performances (this is a requirement of the Phoenix Centre)

The more people who offer help the less onerous a task. Please send your offers by e-mail to me Maureen Hudd at maureen.hudd@btinternet.com by 8th April. Thank you.

50th wedding anniversary photograph of my G-G-Grandparents.

Sylvia Sellwood



I celebrated my fiftieth wedding anniversary on 15th October 2016. The following year Ros Clow was notified by eBay that a family photograph was for sale showing a couple from Newbury celebrating theirs on 14th October 1897

On finding that the couple concerned were buried in Newtown Road Cemetery Ros

circulated the information to the history group of which I am a member and had researched John and Maria. My husband and I checked out the eBay advertisement and bought it for £15 before the auction finished. It was a small amount to pay for something so unique.

The photograph duly arrived and was of very good quality considering it was taken in 1897. It is quite large 36 x 19cms and has John and Maria Hunt sat in the centre of a row of seats. Three men and five ladies are sat on the same row. I think that these, except the lady on the far right, are their children as one of the ladies is my Great Grandmother Elizabeth, John and

Maria's youngest daughter. Standing behind the people seated are what I presume to be their spouses as the man standing behind Elizabeth is my Great Grandfather, Alfred Gibbs.

In front of the people seated on the ground are children. My Great Grandmother has a daughter, Great Aunt May (Mabel Louise) sat on her lap and sat on the ground in front her are another daughter, my Great Aunt Lily (Lillian Edith Victoria) and two boys. One of the boys is my Grandfather Archie (George Henry Archibald) and the other is my Great Uncle Alfred. I just about remember Alfred who was the caretaker at Greenham House.

In the photograph John and Maria have seven children, seven sons and daughters- in-law and seventeen grandchildren. Other people in the photo I think must be nieces and nephews and possibly siblings. It would be nice to identify some of these people. If anyone can help I would appreciate it, there must be some other 'Hunts' in Newbury.

I contacted the seller of in the photo in the hope that he might have more but unfortunately, he only had the one. It had come from a house in Marchfield in Gloucestershire. I can only think that one of the younger members of the family went to Marchfield for work and took the photo with them.

The photographer named on the photo is J S Guggenheim, Swindon. Jules Sigismund Guggenheim was born in 1877, possibly Oxford, and married Kathleen Eleanor Clark in Swindon in 1902. He had a photography business in Swindon from 1891 – 1913. In 1914 he and his wife sailed second class on the 'Virginian' from Liverpool to Montreal, Canada.

I cannot find any connection between Jules and the Guggenheim Foundation and Museums.

It is hard to believe that the Hunts could afford to pay for a well-known and successful photographer to come from Swindon to Newbury to photograph them. John was a farm labourer until the 1871 census when he had moved into Newbury and worked for the rest of his life at the Gas Works. On the 1871 and 1881 censuses Maria was a laundress.

David Clow sent the photo with an explanation of how it was found to Who Do You Think You Are magazine. It was in the September 2017 issue. Editor's comment was 'What a wonderful photograph. It's amazing what you can now find on auction sites.'

I will show the photo at the next open event in the cemetery or if anyone would like to see it before then let me know. Later this year my family are having a get together so they will get to see it then. There should be about one hundred of us there related to John and Maria Hunt.

Many thanks to Ros and Dave for making it possible for me to have this photograph. It really means so much to me.

The Resurrection Players

proudly present

Passive Resistance

by Ros Clow

Hungerford 1903. Outside the Town Hall, William Rosier is about to have his goods and chattels sold. He has refused to pay his rates. He is the first of many good citizens in Berkshire, and across England and Wales, to end up in court. Find out more.

Saturday 14th April 3.00pm and 7.00pm

Sunday 15th April 3.00pm

Matinees £8.00 to include interval refreshments

Evening performance £10.00 includes wine.

Phoenix Centre Theatre, Newtown Road, Newbury

Tickets available from The Corn Exchange, Newbury.

Telephone 08455 218218

<https://www.cornexchangenew.com/>

About Passive Resistance

Ros Clow

After a false start last October, The Resurrection Players have resurrected themselves ready to perform 'Passive Resistance' on 14th and 15th April, at the Phoenix Centre. Have you bought your tickets yet?

We tell the story of a mass protest against paying the new rate laid down by the Education Act of 1902. In 1903 in Hungerford and



*Rehearsals underway in the Chapel.
Yes, it was cold!*

Newbury normally law-abiding citizens (insurance agent, tailor, draper, pig dealer, baker, builder and funeral director) were before the magistrates (which included John Rankin) to explain why they were willing to break the law. Even Charles Midwinter, Alan Vince's great, great grandfather and respected local corn merchant, stood his ground.

The cast also includes David Seward playing his great, great grandfather Samuel Seward, who ran a bakers next to The Catherine Wheel public house.

STOP-PRESS - Civic Award for Our Secretary

Brian Sylvester



At the Annual Meeting held in the Town Hall on 19th March, our secretary, the multi-faceted Maureen Hudd, following the reading of a recommendation* was given a Newbury Town Civic Award "In Recognition of an Outstanding Contribution to the Town of Newbury". Many congratulations to her for her splendid work, not just for the Friends, but all else she undertakes.

* The wording of the recommendation read out by the Town Crier was as follows:

Maureen was born and raised in Newbury and devotes much of her time tirelessly to the town through:

- **Guiding** - Maureen has been involved in Guiding for almost 30 years, she has been District Commissioner for Newbury South and helps with the running of many Brownie and Guide units in Newbury. She is currently the Secretary of Newbury Trefoil Guild.
- **Churches** – She is Parish Safeguarding Rep for St Francis de Sales Church. She is also the Independent Chair of the Methodist Safeguarding Committee for the Southampton and Channel Islands District, an area which includes Newbury. She also trains in Safeguarding for both the Methodist and Catholic churches.
- **Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery** – Maureen is the Honorary Secretary of the committee and is integral to the running of the group. She organizes venues, refreshments for meetings and functions, the ticketing for their presentations and fundraising and is a crucial focal point for communications.

Many, many thanks Maureen from all concerned.