



Newsletter 12

Autumn 2015

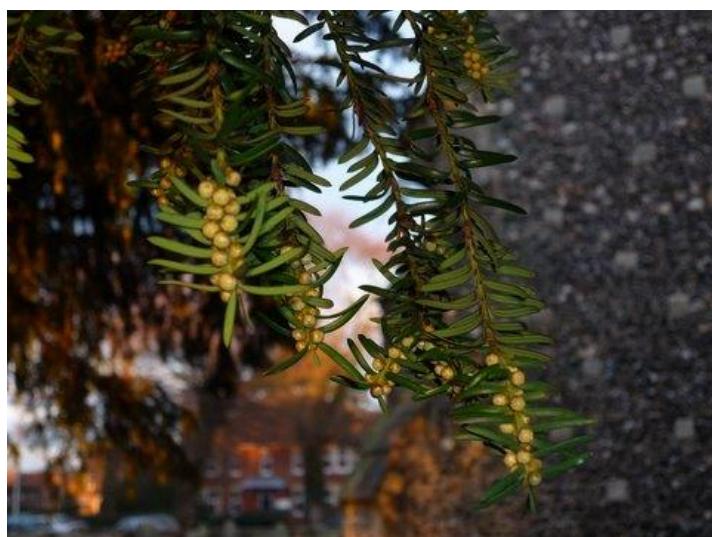
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Chairman's Chatter...

Brian Sylvester

Blimey! [My apologies for this word, maybe I should explain that it apparently originates from the late 19th century, as an altered form of "(God) blind (or blame) me!" So maybe a little extreme.] Incredibly here we are, Autumn already, "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", following what was for many of us a disappointing summer. However, judging by the crops of fruit and flowers this year, not bad for them for they've enjoyed the warm, moist atmosphere and have grown amok.



And Newtown Road Cemetery has shared in that abundance, the flora giving a marvellous showing. Have you visited our tranquil garden lately? You should, it's constantly changing and, for a place for the dead, it's very much alive.

As you most likely know, the cemetery is owned by the Newbury Town Council which has, over recent months, experienced changes of Mayor, Councillors and staff. So

when a belated joint meeting was called recently between a group of Councillors and Friends, there was quite a bit of catching up to do.

It was a pleasure to update them on our on-going and varied activities, and I'm proud to report that a remark was passed that we are looked upon as one of the more dynamic volunteer groups working in the town, and we were praised for our work.

And, in turn, I must pay tribute to the Council for their continued attention to maintaining this facility in a business-like and sympathetic manner.

Once again this year, our chapel played host to an "Open Studios" exhibition; if you missed it you really did lose out on a glorious show. Included amongst the brilliant pieces of work produced by the artists, were four translucent panels representing the four seasons, to infill the chapel side windows. We were so impressed by these, and they fitted so well into the ambiance of the setting, that your committee committed to buy them. We hope you enjoy them too.

Now, not to disappoint you all (?), I come to my regular delve into the etymological dictionary: this time to "**Resurrection**": described as "the concept of a living-being coming back to life after death". Apparently it comes from Middle English: via Old French, and then from late Latin *resurrectio*, from the verb *resurgere* 'to rise again'. You'll recall this is the very subject of our beautiful stained-glass window in the chapel – Jesus rising from the dead.

And, when you think about it, isn't that what a lot of the work we do is about? Not physically raising them from the dead, of course, but by exploring the history of our "residents" making them come to life once more – real people who have existed - much as we do - but have run their course and passed on.

In the past Ros Clow, who heads up the history group, has written and directed two great productions, one about the inception of the cemetery, and the impressive Tragedy on Enborne Road, both appearing before sell-out audiences. Not surprisingly she calls her thespians "The Resurrection Players" for bringing back to life the story of the departed is just what they do!

She has now embarked on a new project which tells of the lives of yet eight more Newburians. I've been privileged to have a sneaky preview of the scripts and can honestly tell you they are not to be missed. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find more particulars, so do come and join us and share in this great experience.





Also in this newsletter you'll find particulars of our next AGM – **your** AGM! So don't run for cover: come along and join us and enjoy the companionship. I promise you won't be roped into anything against your wishes! On the other hand, if you feel you'd like to do more, please don't hesitate to make your feelings known.

So may I close, once more, by expressing not just my gratitude, but yours too I hope, for the committee members who work so hard to keep the Friends' Group meaningful, productive and rewarding, and "*Taking the Past into the Future*"!

Monuments Recording Group

Doug Larsen

The MRG has teams at work covering all areas of the Cemetery that haven't yet been completed. These areas are ones that have been nominated from 1 to 7 for convenience in Margaret Pattison's book and appear on the map that was created for that purpose. So far we have completed Areas 6 and 7 and have a small amount to do on Areas 1 and 3(A). In terms of total area we have covered about 1/3 of the Cemetery. Mostly we work in teams of two and I help out, when necessary, if someone is unable to make it for a recording date.

We continue to make new discoveries: these are monuments that have fallen down or got buried over the years that Mrs Pattison was unable to uncover. We have recently found an inscription that was on the back of a headstone; most unusual because the convention is normally to have the lettering on the front, facing the grave. This was an inscription that was unrecorded so, again, we have got one step closer to completion. Such discoveries are always exciting because we can sometimes solve a riddle for someone doing family history by finding a monument which the records show doesn't exist.

We are also holding a long-overdue meeting on Tuesday September 15th where members can, in some cases, meet each other for the first time and share our experiences.

We continue to issue excel spread sheets of completed rows (Yes there are discernible rows!), ready for the website and post photos to the picasaweb site.



It's what we do!

History report by Ros Clow

Back from holiday in France later than expected because of the strikes at Calais, it was time to look at the 500+ emails that had accrued over the last three weeks. Some hours later there was the email from Lorraine on Vancouver Island, Canada, sent just after I left, via the website details.

I am contacting you on behalf of my husband, Colin Francis Lipscomb, who is the son of Louisa Angela Lipscomb.

By your records her burial took place on September 28, 1935. She is listed in your Book #1917, Page #190, Record # 11119.

Colin was born on September 6, 1935. His mother, Louisa, died approximately two weeks after his birth, a terrible tragedy.

He does not have the information of her actual date of death and would like to find the missing piece of this puzzle.

He is now nearing 80 and is himself dying, possibly with only a few weeks to live. There are no other family members from whom we can obtain this information.

Colin was raised by his paternal grandparents, Edgar and Eleanor Lipscomb, and had a happy childhood with them in spite of the war. He studied medicine at the University of Bristol, eventually specializing in psychiatry. He moved to Canada in 1967 and worked for many years in Saskatchewan, retiring to Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island, British Columbia where we currently reside.

Luckily Doug Larsen already had a photograph of the gravestone from which we learned Louisa's date of death and that she is buried with her mother Martha Bonney, who died in 1944. That was sent to Canada.

David Clow (who lives upstairs) then started to track down Martha's marriage to Walter Bonney. Walter died in 1957 and is also one of our residents, buried with his son Frederick who pre-deceased him in 1938, dying at Abingdon Sanatorium, which I



believe was a TB hospital? He was only 21 but must have known his stepmother and step sister Louisa from when his father married Martha Mason in 1920. The Bonneys lived (and died) at 91 Craven Road. Louisa died at 11 Arthur Road so I have sent photos of both houses in case Colin remembers visiting them.

Brian Sylvester was sent to the library to scour the NWN for death announcements or obituaries and these were forwarded to Lorraine too.

Colin had lived with his grandparents Edgar and Eleanor Lipscomb, shown in the 1911 census at 2, Oxford Terrace, Oxford Road. Strangely when I did a search on my computer I found a photo I had labelled 'Lipscomb shop'. I have no idea where I found it or where the shop was but I sent it to Canada anyway. Colin and Lorraine have the very same photo (in much better condition) enlarged and framed in their hallway and it was the home Colin grew up in. Incidentally he tells us that the man with the bike is his great-grandfather Edwin and one of the men of the roof (no Health and Safety in those days) was his grandfather, Edgar. He believes the shop was decorated for Queen Victoria's Jubilee (which one?!)



Colin's father Harry Malpus Lipscomb went on to marry twice more, the third time to Freda Longmate, the sister of Norman (Jim) Longmate, the author.

I featured this story in the talk I gave to Berkshire Family History Society and Angela Wilson remembered Colin from Speenhamland School! I have checked and she was right, they were at school together!

And so it goes on! Lorraine has asked us to buy birth certificates for Colin's parents and she is going to post a photo of her parents' wedding which will find its way to our website. Colin had a small 80th birthday party and FNRC praises were sung I suspect to anyone that would listen. When Lorraine thanked us profusely I was able to say 'This is what we do!'

The downside of all this work is that no other members of the Lipscomb family are buried in our cemetery and so their story will be lost.

Dates for the Diary



Here are some upcoming dates for your diary.

We hope you will be able to come along to some of them.

Date	Event	Place
Thursday October 15 th 7.30pm	Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery AGM	St Francis de Sales Parish Hall, Warren Road Newbury
Friday October 30 th Saturday October 31 st 6.45pm	Residents Resurrected (see below for details)	Phoenix Centre Newtown Road Newbury
Sunday November 1 st 11am – 3pm	Remembrance Event Remembering those buried or with a memorial in the Cemetery who fell in battle for their country.	Newtown Road Cemetery

Residents Resurrected

Phoenix Theatre

30th and 31st October 2015



To celebrate Halloween 'The Grim Reaper' will be bringing forth ghosts of the Victorians buried in Newtown Road Cemetery and they will tell you the stories of their lives.

Some were in trouble with the law and some worked for Queen Victoria. There will be a publican, a brewer, a laundress, a draper, a chemist and two artists. One ended up as mayor and one died in the Berkshire Lunatic Asylum.

Their stories may amaze you. They present a slice of life in the 19th and 20th centuries in a small market town.

The Resurrection Players (Members of the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery) once again play their part in "Bringing a Victorian Cemetery to Life".

For more information contact Maureen Hudd 01635 30108

Tickets on sale soon through the Corn Exchange: matinee £6, evening performances £8 (to include a drink before the performance)

Phoenix Theatre is on Newtown Road, just up the hill from the Cemetery.

Full address:

Phoenix resource Centre
Newtown Rd
Newbury, West Berkshire
RG14 7EB

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery will be holding our **Annual General Meeting** on Thursday October 15th at 7.30pm.

The venue is:

St Francis de Sales Parish Hall,

Warren Road

Newbury

Berkshire

RG14 6NH

If you would like to serve on The Friends of Newtown Road Committee please send your nomination with a seconder to Maureen Hudd, Secretary on maureen.hudd@btinternet.com by noon on 15 October. If there are more nominations than places on the Committee then a ballot will be held at the AGM.

History Report – UPDATE

Ros Clow

Following my report (see above) about the email from the family of **Colin Francis Lipscomb** regarding his ancestors buried in Newtown Road Cemetery, I have to give you the sad news that Colin died on Wednesday, September 23rd. He had a very peaceful death at home with his wife at his side. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife at this difficult time.

We (the history group) are pleased to have been able to provide Colin with the missing piece of information from his life story and revive some happy memories of his time in Newbury.

Pictured right are Colin's parents, Harry & Louisa Lipscomb on their wedding day.



**MR. H. M. LIPSCOMB and MISS
L. A. MASON.**