



## Smallcombe - Bath's secret garden cemetery

### The Smallcombe Cemetery Photographic Competition

## Can your artist's eye help to save this beautiful place?

Nestling in a valley and sheltered by an ancient wood, with stunning vistas of the Georgian City to the fore, Bath's secret garden cemetery at Smallcombe is among the UK's first garden cemeteries. Indeed, its creation is believed by some to have been inspired in part by Père-Lachaise in Paris.

The National Trust is very keen to incorporate this especially picturesque cemetery into its Skyline Walk – the most downloaded NT walk of all. Bath Council is equally supportive as are local benefactors, both private and corporate.

Unfortunately, what makes the cemetery such a poetic experience for visitors of all persuasions also holds the seeds of its destruction. Nature is rather alarmingly on the reclaim, with trees toppling walls and saplings pushing over gravestones. Left unchecked, the cemetery will become an impenetrable thicket within a year or two.

A dedicated group of Friends is doing its best both to keep the cemetery open to all and to raise funding, via the Heritage Lottery Fund. As part of the process - and with invaluable support from The Royal Photographic Society - the Friends are inviting photographers of all ages to capture the secret garden cemetery's magic and its plight on film.

Entries will be judged by a panel chaired by Dr Michael Pritchard, Director-General of The Society and the best will be exhibited at the Octagon at Milsom Place BA1 1BZ, during the week commencing August 25th 2014, with a number of prizes to be won. Crucially, the best photos will also be used on a not-for-profit basis to illustrate the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. Details of the competition can be found on the website below. The final date for entries is August 7th 2014.

Those buried at Smallcombe include one of the first soldiers awarded the Victoria Cross (in 1863). You may also like to seek out the grave of the man who wrote Danny Boy. And why, you might reasonably ask, is the author of one of the most famous of all Irish songs buried here? Answer: he was an Englishman, a Bathonian lawyer and lyricist by the name of Frederic Weatherly. So to borrow from Weatherly's immortal lyrics: come to Smallcombe while summer's in the meadow, and use your artist's eye to help save this beautiful place for all.

If you would like to help in other ways, or become a supporter please visit [www.smallcombegardencemetery.org](http://www.smallcombegardencemetery.org) or contact Alastair Cowan, Chairman of the Friends, on 01225 463905.

*The Friends very gratefully acknowledge the generous support of:*

BathLife

THE RPS  
ROYAL  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
SOCIETY

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OPTICS

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**Prizes - include a £300 voucher generously sponsored by Ace Optics of Bath [www.aceoptics.co.uk](http://www.aceoptics.co.uk) to spend at their shop at 16 Green Street, BA1 2JZ.**

**Tea for two (or your family) at the National Trust, Prior Park. The Trust have generously sponsored this prize and will invite you to visit behind the scenes at their Bath HQ in the Park before taking tea.**

**Further prizes to be announced.**

### Competition Rules

#### General

1. The competition is open to all participants.
2. There is no entry fee
3. The subject should show Smallcombe Cemetery

#### Entries

4. Photographers may enter up to 10 individual digital images. For images up to A3 they should have either: a maximum width of 3508 pixels or a maximum height of 4961 pixels as either Jpeg or tiff files. This is to allow them to be printed up to A3 at 300dpi for display purposes
5. Images must be the sole work of the entrant
6. Images may be manipulated
7. The organisers may exclude any images which, in its opinion, are likely to cause offence
8. The competition will close for judging at 1200 GMT on 7th August 2014
9. The images are judged anonymously
10. The selectors' decision is final
11. The selected prints will be exhibited

#### Prizes

12. Prizes will be awarded to selected entrants. There are no cash alternatives.

#### Personal Data

13. The organisers may hold and process all personal information which is supplied, in relation to the competition
14. The organisers will not pass on email addresses or personal data to any third party
15. By entering the competition, you agree to receive emails from the organisers.

#### Copyright and Reproduction

16. The images entered into the competition must not infringe any copyright or other intellectual property right of any third party
17. The entrant will indemnify the organisers in respect of any third party claims if the copyright of or other intellectual property rights of any third party have been infringed
18. The copyright of all entries remains with the photographer
19. The photographer will be credited if the image is used by the organisers
20. Entrants will allow their work to be exhibited and/or reproduced free of charge always provided such exhibition and reproduction is on a not-for-profit basis and in connection with the competition or Smallcombe Cemetery
21. The organisers will advise entrants of other organisations wishing to use competition entries for commercial gain (e.g. to sell as postcards, calendars) that it is their responsibility alone to negotiate any such commercial usage directly with the photographer in question.

#### Acceptance of Rules and Conditions of Entry

22. Submission of any entry implies acceptance of the Rules and Conditions of Entry.

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### How to send the Photographs to the Judges

Please send an email with your photos attached(no more than 10) to this address:

[smallcombephotocompetition@gmail.com](mailto:smallcombephotocompetition@gmail.com)

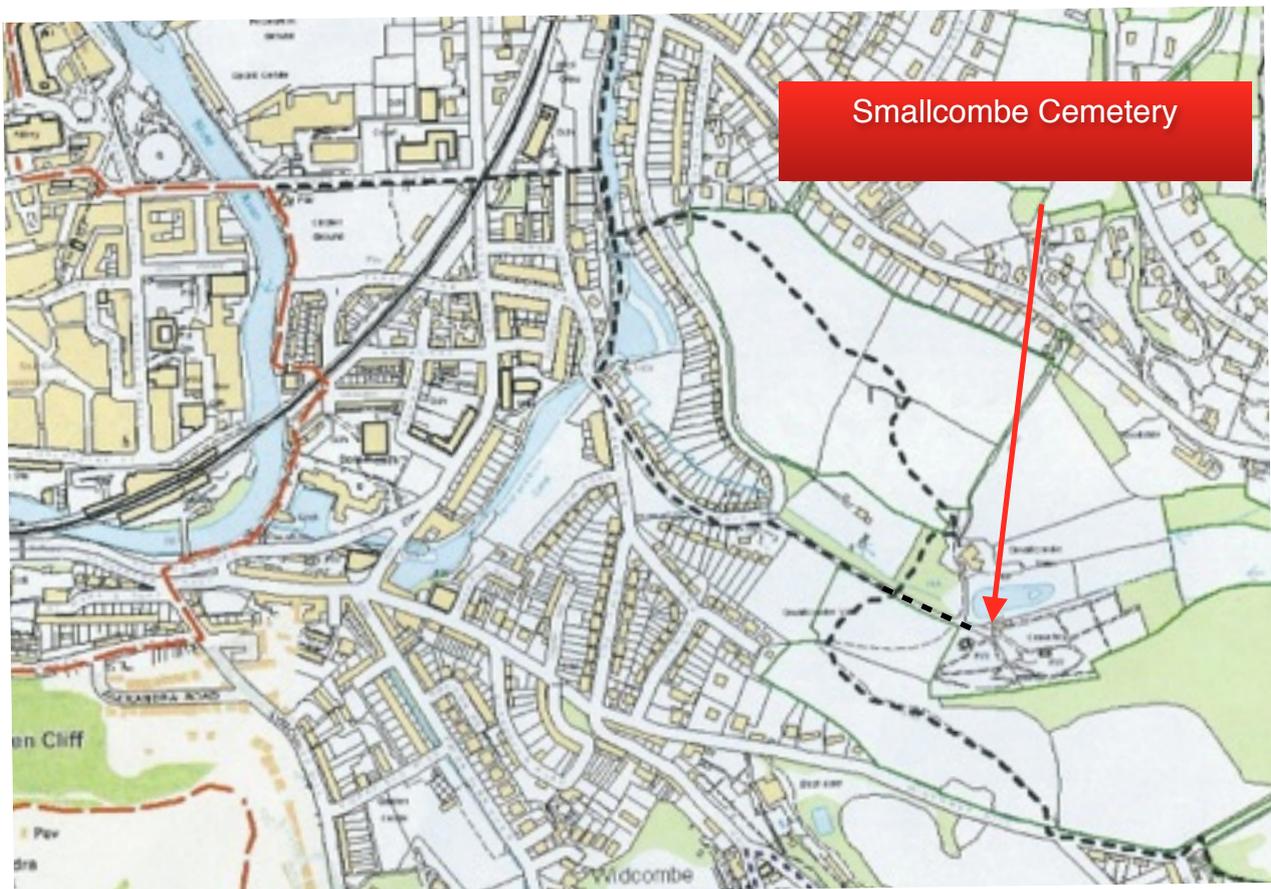
Please type: smallcombe photo competition in the email Subject Box.

Please confirm your name and state if 18 or under as there will be a young photographer prize category.

Alternatively, if you prefer to hand in prints, please deliver to 39 Sydney Buildings BA2 6DB between 10am and 12noon on August 7th 2014 only. Prints cannot be accepted on any other day.

### How to find the Cemetery

Smallcombe Cemetery can be approached by public footpath across National Trust Land. The map below shows its location. Please note there is no parking at Smallcombe, but the walking route only takes 15 minutes from the Abbey or Sydney gardens along the canal, and provides a wonderful walk with views of the City and the Cemetery as you approach it.



# Smallcombe - Bath's secret garden cemetery

## SMALLCOMBE CEMETERIES ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD & SMALLCOMBE VALE CEMETERY



1 Payne family



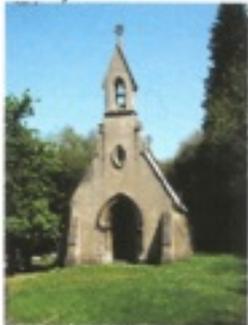
2 William Clark Russell



3 John Vaughan



4 Hardyman



Anglican chapel



Nonconformist chapel



5 Frederick Weatherly



6 Farrer & Loder



7 Asquiths



8 Fosbery



9 Mary E Jones



10 Thomas R Shute

## SMALLCOMBE CEMETERIES

### ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD & SMALLCOMBE VALE CEMETERY

#### A BRIEF HISTORY

##### St Mary's Churchyard

The rapid growth in population in Bathwick in the early 1800s required a new burial ground. The owner of the Bathwick Estate (the Duke of Cleveland) agreed to make available some wooded land in Smallcombe Vale between Bathwick Hill and Widcombe Hill under affordable terms. Trees had to be removed and large quantities of earth moved to make terraces. The private Anglican cemetery was consecrated in 1856. In 1907 it was doubled in size by extending eastwards.

The mortuary chapel was opened several months before the cemetery was completed. It was designed by Thomas Fuller who was also responsible for designing various buildings in Bath and Canada.

There were 5,139 burials and over 2,000 graves with memorials. For those for whom an occupation has been found, 80% were one of: professional, Army, Navy, clergy or fundholder. In one section are buried 12 who were in the Army (including 2 Generals and 5 Lieutenant Colonels), 16 clergymen, 1 Rear-Admiral, 5 doctors and 1 barrister. Burials of ashes still occur.

##### Smallcombe Vale Cemetery

The cemetery dates from 1861. It has two sections: Anglican one and nonconformist. A line of stones running down the hill indicates the demarcation between the two. It was administered by the Bathwick Burial Board and not by the Church of England. In 1859 there had been a heated debate in Bath about 'The Cemetery Question' and whether or not there should be a single municipal cemetery and how to accommodate the burial of dissenters.

There were 2,150 burials. Only about 20% of those buried have names on memorials. For those for whom an occupation has been found about 70% were one of labourer, craftsman or servant.

#### A SELECTION OF GRAVES OF INTEREST

##### 1 Payne Family

Shaded by trees, an elaborate headstone with a stone plaque and a separate metal plaque. The plot is double-width and double length spanning two rows with kerbstones. There are some freestanding stone crosses.

The memorial is for members of the family of Edward Robert Payne (1797-1869), goldsmith and jeweller. There is also a memorial inside St John the Baptist church, Bathwick.

##### 2 William Clark Russell (1844-1911)

A block of stone on which is carved an anchor and chain. After working in the merchant navy and then as a journalist he became a novelist and was the author of large number of novels of heroism and adventure at sea.

##### 3 John Vaughan (1787-1869)

A mason builder who worked closely with architects John Pinch and Henry Edmund Goodridge. His working life spanned both the Georgian and Victorian periods of

development in Bath and surrounding areas. He was known to be a fine and consistent builder and built many of the buildings that we see in the city today. Among the list of his constructions are the Cleveland Bridge Toll houses and Bridge 1827, Raby Villa 1827-enlarged c1840 and Beckford Tower 1827.

##### 4 John Hay Maitland Hardyman DSO MC (1894-1918)

A statue of a child on a plinth. The memorial commemorates the youngest Lieutenant Colonel in the British Army. The son of a doctor, he was educated in Scotland and became assistant Professor of Botany at Edinburgh University. He was killed in France in 1918 and is buried there.

##### 5 Frederick Weatherly (1848-1929)

Barrister, Circuit Judge, Oxford Blue (cox), Oxford Tutor. He was an accomplished lyricist who wrote the words of hundreds of well-known songs, including 'Danny Boy', 'Roses of Picardy', 'Friend O'Mine' and 'The Holy City'. He was called to the Bar in 1877 although his legal work never prevented him from writing songs as he published more than 1,500 in his lifetime and he also wrote plays. In 1925 he was made a King's Councillor.

##### 6 Mildred Farrer (1905-1967) & Mary Irene Loder (1902-1970)

The memorial is in the form of a stone seat with an extremely chubby cherub on each of the arms. The back of the bench has a nicely carved palette and brushes.

##### 7 Herbert Asquith (1831-1947) & Cynthia Asquith (1887-1980)

Double grave with matching headstones.

Herbert Asquith (known as Beb), Poet, Novelist and Lawyer, was born in 1881, the 2nd son of Herbert Henry Asquith, 1st Earl of Oxford & Asquith, British Prime Minister from 1906-1916. His experiences in WWI affected him deeply, as reflected in the poems that he wrote. His wife Cynthia was a noted diarist, write of novels and plays and a biographer.

##### 8 George Vincent Fosbery VC (1832-1907)

A wooden cross. He entered the Bengal Army and was awarded the Victoria Cross for an action in 1863 in the North West Frontier area of India. On retiring from the Army he devoted himself to perfecting machine guns and invented a semi-automatic revolver.

##### 9 Mary Eleanor Jones (1816-1888)

An unusual memorial in the form of a helix studded with small coloured stones and glass.

##### 10 Thomas Rock Shute (1801-1873)

A large block of stone. The owner of a silk factory at Watford, Herts. In 1836 he was granted a patent for a method of improving the spinning of silk. His factory was one of those subject to the investigation into working conditions in mills and factories which Parliament had ordered. He is buried with his wife and a son aged 15.