

Newsletter January 2011

ASCE AGM Cagliari

In September the event which we hosted in 2008 took place in sunnier climes in Southern Sardinia. The AGM was attended 137 delegates from 17 countries, making it, in terms of numbers, the most successful conference so far.

There were a total of 5 delegates from the UK, representing Arnos Vale, The National Federation of Cemetery Friends, with John Moffat and Anne Brannick representing our Society.

Overall, the standard of presentations was high, however a number of

delegates from Scandinavian and Benelux countries made clear to our delegate John Moffat that the content of the 2008 Conference was better.

The event took place in the Bastion of St. Remy in central Cagliari, a dramatic fortified position overlooking the city. The delegates also enjoyed a tour of the historic San Michele Cemetery.

President Louisa Yzagurie reported that ASCE now had 170 members in 22 countries and was receiving 26,500 web hits a year.

An important part of the Conference was a presentation by Mechthilde Fuhrer, Head of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. She said that she was very pleased with the way ASCE had progressed the European Cemeteries Route Project. The project, which the Friends of Flaybrick are part of, now encompasses 49 cemeteries in 37 cities in 16 countries.



Conference Delegates in front of the Bastion of St. Remy in central Cagliari

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The Society's Secretary, John Moffat, at the Conference

The Cross of Sacrifice at Flaybrick Memorial Gardens

The public have been unable to gain access to the Cross of Sacrifice for a number of years due to a fence being placed round the area for safety reasons. This year Friends of Flaybrick asked for access to the Cross of Sacrifice to place a Poppy cross and wreath on November 11th and this was granted. There are approximately 150 Commonwealth War graves and 300 other military graves or memorials to casualties of war from 1879 to 1945 within the cemetery.

The Friends of Flaybrick are trying their best to bring the cemetery back into the community and a number of regular cemetery visitors said they were very pleased to see the Poppy tributes in place this year.

Following the placement of these poppy tributes other small wooden crosses have been put on the fence near the Cross of

Sacrifice so I hope that we have started something.

We must express our thanks to the Birkenhead Branch of the Royal British Legion for their donation of the Poppy Cross.



The Cross of Sacrifice with poppy cross and wreath

Have Friends, Will Travel

Displaying admirable dedication to the Society, member Jerry Gearing attended our October meeting despite having to travel from the town of Eye in Suffolk. Jerry came by train and stayed overnight at the Shrewsbury Hotel in Oxton.

Jerry has been with the Society since May 2007 and said that he really enjoyed attending the meeting and is hopeful of being able to attend more in the future.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Friends of Flaybrick is 29th January 2011, 10.30 a.m at Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm.

All Members Welcome. Please come along and have your say in the running of the Society.

Flaybrick Walks for 2011

Come and find out about all the fascinating history of Birkenhead and stories of the personalities that helped make it the way it is.

2011's Guided Walks will place on the following Saturdays:

- 9th April** - Non-Conformist Area, Part I
- 14th May** - Church of England Area, Part 1
- 11th June** - Roman Catholic Area
- 9th July** - Non-Conformist Area, Part 2
- 13th August** - Church of England Area, Part 2
- 10th September** - Military Walk (taking in Military and War related graves)

**** New for 2011 **** - Tree Walk

Available upon request for groups, phone Tam O'Shanter

Meet at Tam O'Shanter Farm at 11am
(Flat shoes recommended and an umbrella and raincoat in case it rains)
Walks last approx. 2 hours

Please ring Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm on 0151 653 9332 to book your place.