

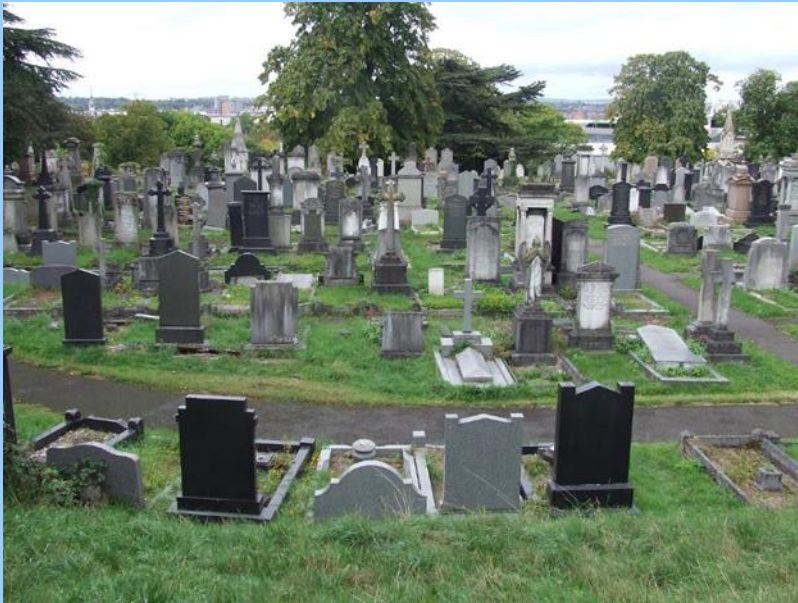
# Community involvement in memorial recording: mutual benefits for management and the public

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*APSE Seminar Birmingham – April 2019*



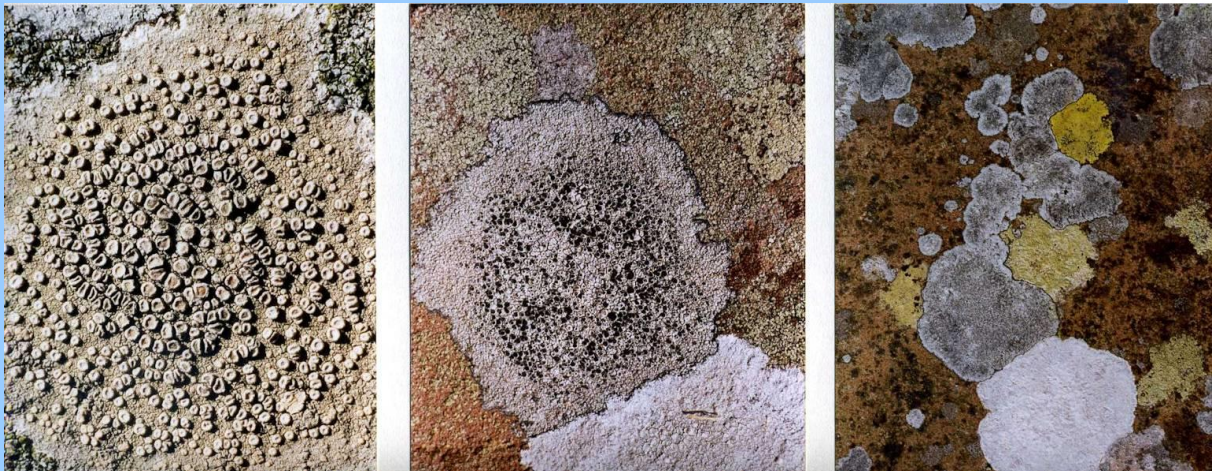
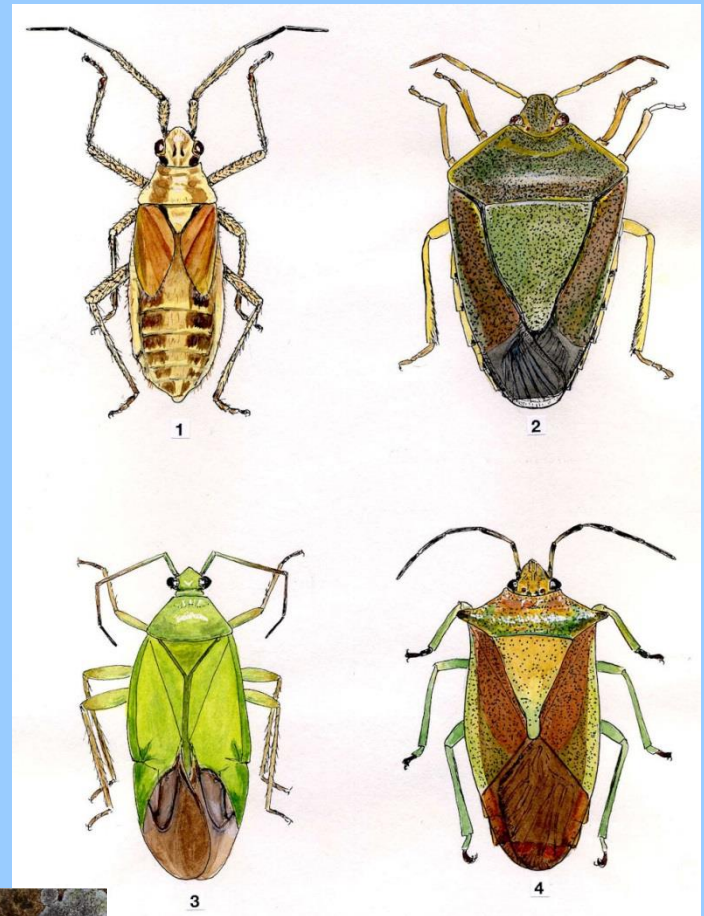
# ***Parish, DAC and Cemetery Managers – heritage data***

- Parishes have variable records, and may not even have a graveyard plan
- DACs have limited data and largely linked to faculty applications, nothing digital
- Nonconformist burial grounds even more poorly documented
- Cemetery Managers vary from full digital to only paper; most interest in active burial areas



# ***Conservation often seen only as ecological***

Conservation, management may only be seen in terms of environment, not cultural heritage – long-running efforts by ‘green’ conservation bodies to maximise benefit of churchyard and cemetery habitats

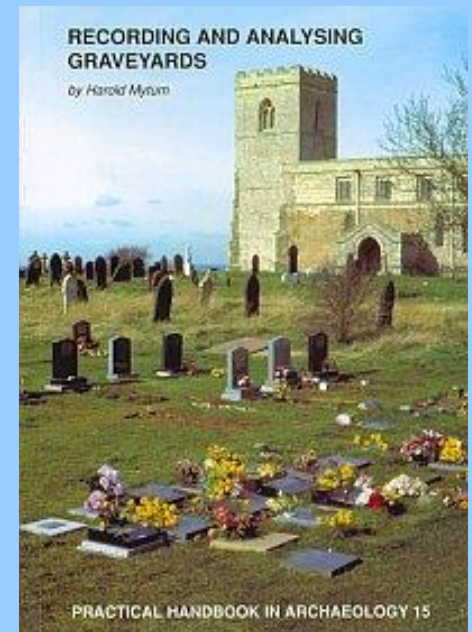


*Caring for*  
  
*God's  
Acre*

# ***Historic England project now developed with new collaboration***

Developing Local Assessment Toolkits – a scoping study to look at developing a standard model for recording cemeteries and burial grounds (Mytum et al 2015)

<https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/3001175/>



Discovering England's Burial Spaces (DEBS) 2017-2020

<https://discoveringburialspaces.wordpress.com/>

- Standardised vocabulary for describing burial spaces, building on the Mytum 2000 CBA *Practical Handbook*
- Training materials for groups embarking on a research project or preparing existing data for archiving
- Desktop software and a mobile app to use for fieldwork recording and data entry



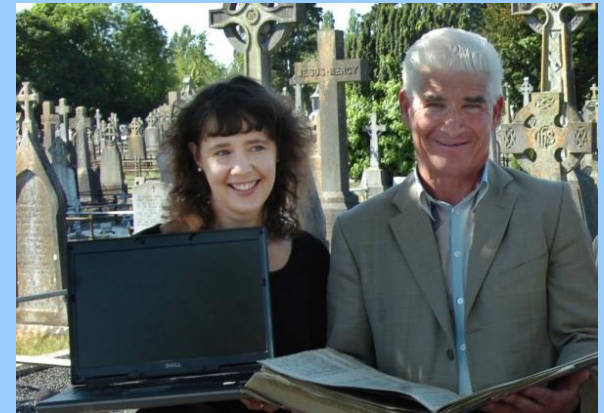
# ***What is being done – recording and curation***

- Large numbers of graveyards have transcribed inscriptions – largely paper
- Some groups have done CBA recording, often forms partially filled, rarely digital
- Cemetery friends – some recording but often not widely accessible and sometimes just names
- Digital increasingly used but no standardisation or clarity over final deposition
- Very few project archives have been deposited anywhere



# What is being done?

- Web sites hold data – often with wide remits, often commercial
- Shift from only transcriptions to incorporating images
- Some have interactive site maps
- Sort/search facilities often very limited
- Most sites not institutionally supported so curation uncertain
- None have landscape data (any map is just a means to locate monuments)
- There is no way in which such sites assist management



Historicgraves



FIND A GRAVE



TheGenealogist.co.uk

# ***Results from project for Historic England***

*There is historically/archaeologically/culturally/socially important data to be collected and remains to be managed*

Burial grounds are interesting and significant to local communities and tourists, and valued by them.

*Cemetery data is potentially of use to various constituencies*

It is of value to parishes and cemetery managers at a detailed level, to heritage managers at a more generalized level (though some desire the finer-grained detail), to family and local historians, as a resource to be used in local (often but not exclusively primary) education.

*The digital format is effective in collecting the data*

This format is now both fast and inexpensive, and provides relatively flexible, adaptable data sets that can be accessible



*Volunteer groups can collect digital data and order the data into a suitable format for deposition*

But they may not be interested in all data that heritage and cemetery managers would like. Ordering for deposition is being developed with detailed protocols than can create data sets that have viability for long-term curation. At present if any are in place they are ad hoc.

*The data be curated in the long term, and be accessed by all if curated in the appropriate archive*

Protocols are being designed to ensure that data is deposited in a format and structure that allows integration, interrogation, access, and long-term curation, supported by programming for searches and analysis. Archaeology Data Service offers archiving for a one-off fee (based on file size); local authorities may also provide this and could be linked to Archives and Museum services.



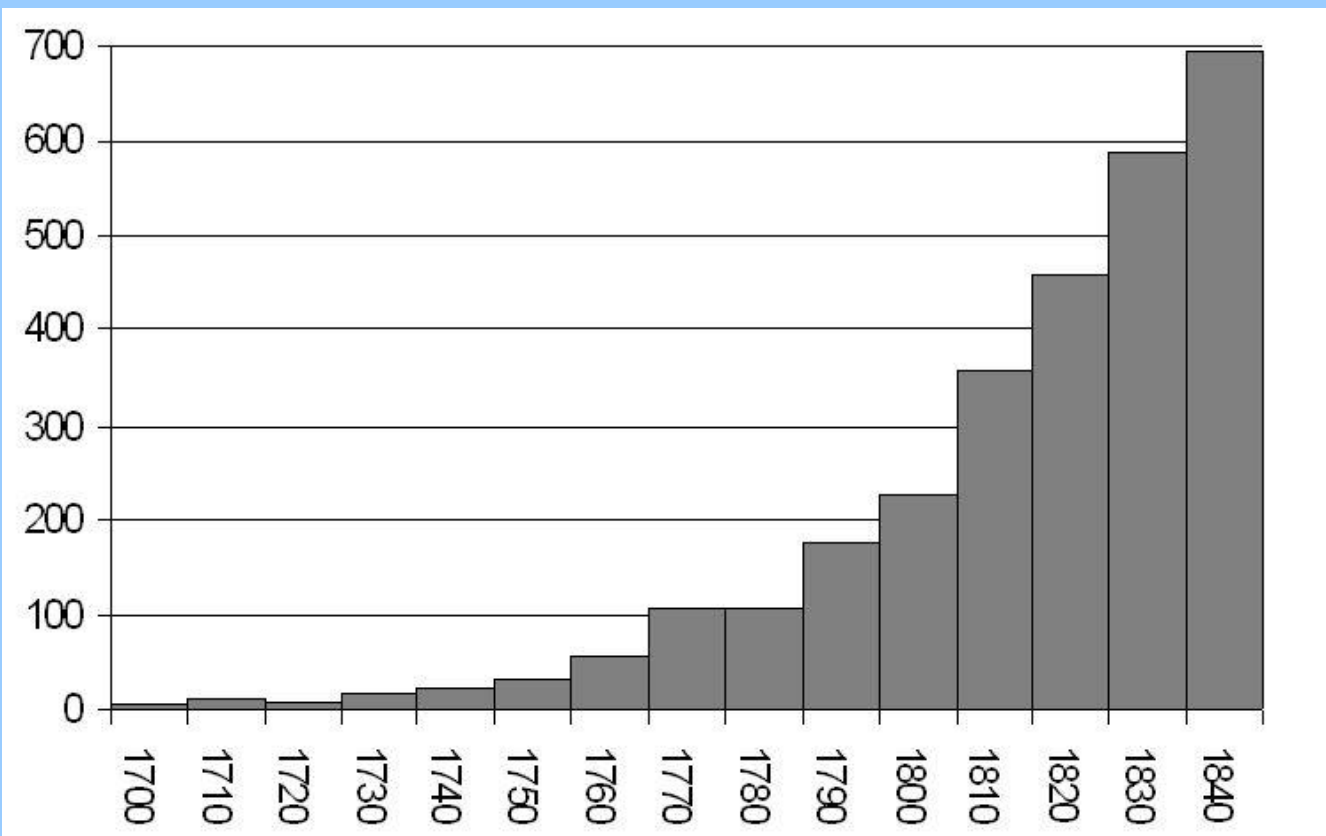
*Volunteer groups can contribute to cemetery heritage management and interpretation*

Providing they are encouraged and trained in the first place and have the ongoing enthusiasm to continue (which may require some intermittent ongoing support and encouragement, but not too much interference). They may only be interested in one cemetery or those of a wider locality – issues of identity and ‘ownership’.

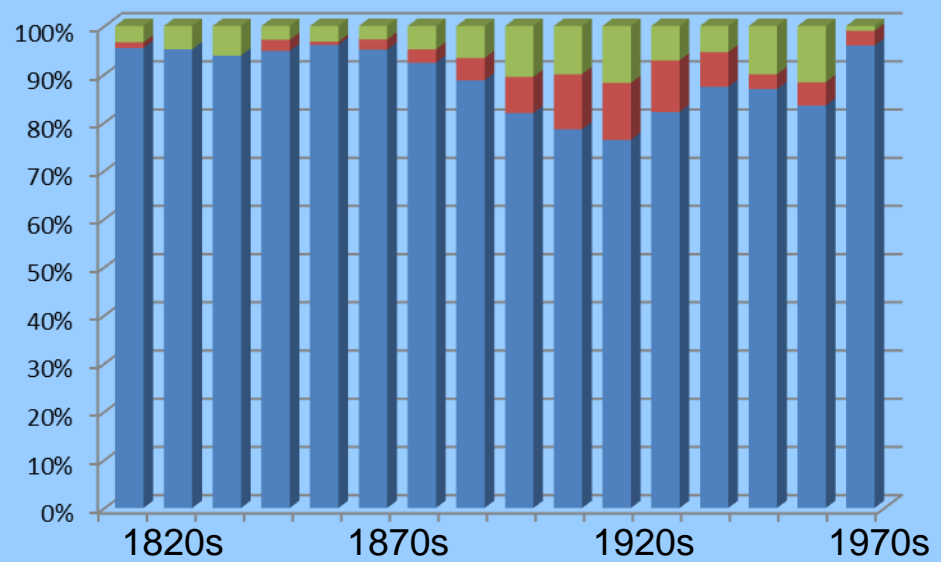
*The data be curated and accessed in the long term*

This requires funding (solutions will vary), and the protocols that will soon be available will ensure that the data is deposited in a format and structure that allows integration, interrogation, access, and long-term curation, supported by programming for searches and analysis.

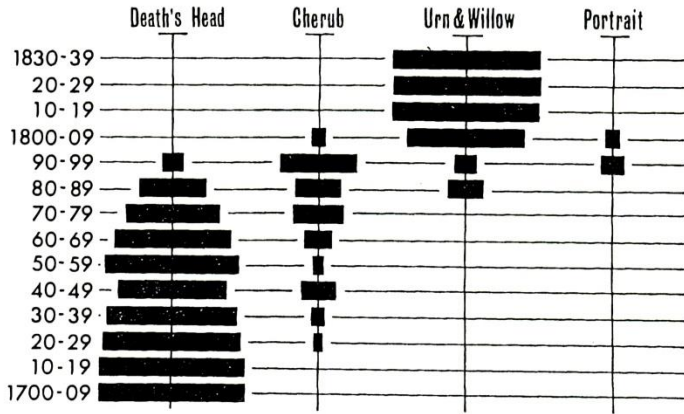




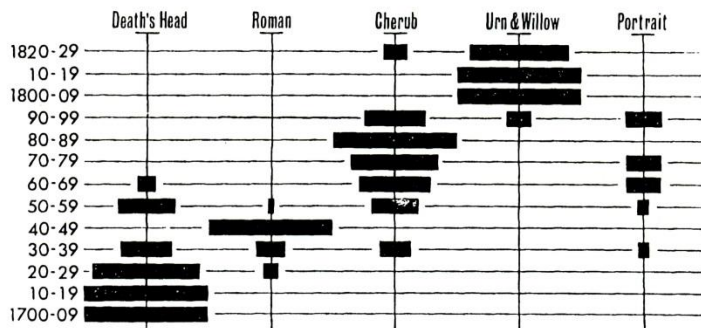
Rise of external commemoration



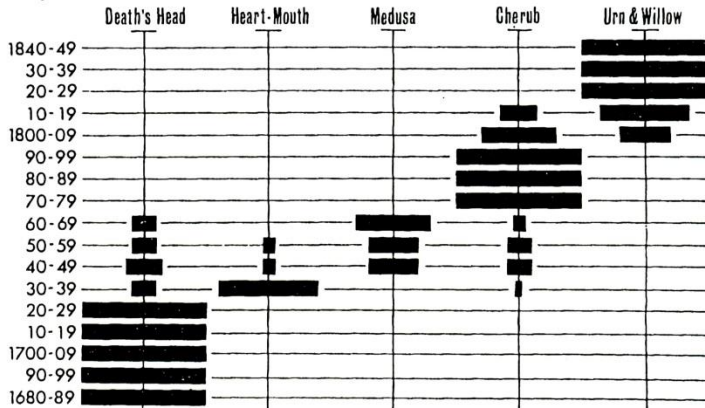
## Cambridge



## Concord



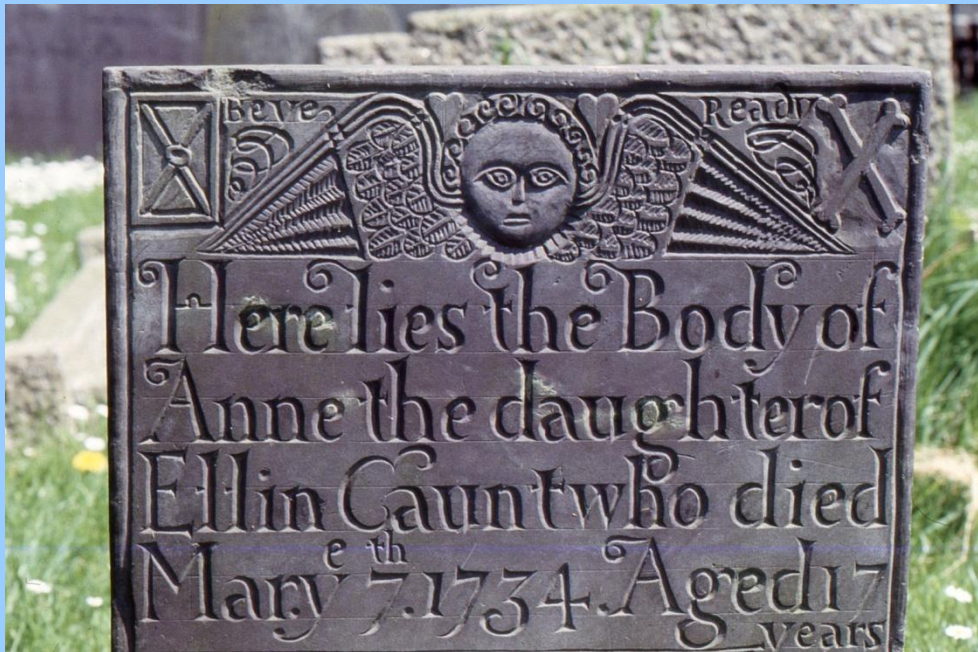
## Plymouth



# Dethlefsen and Deetz: Deaths Head Cherub Urn and Willow



# Mortality symbols and cherubs



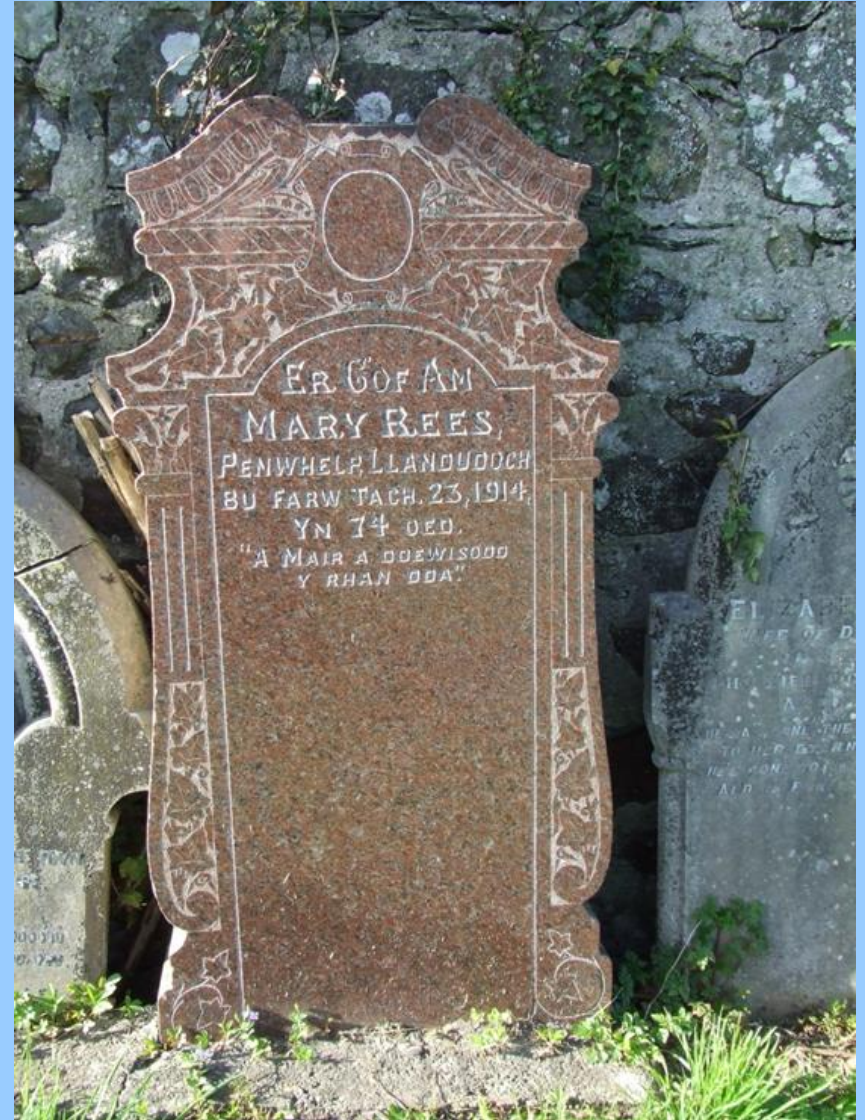
# Urns and willows



# *Religion and emotion*



# *From craft to industry*



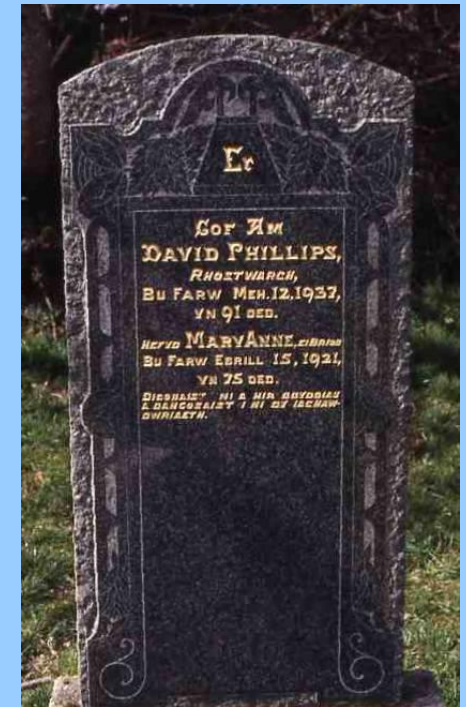
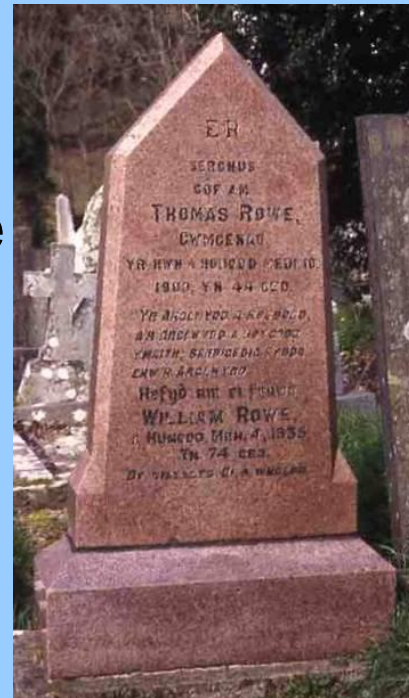
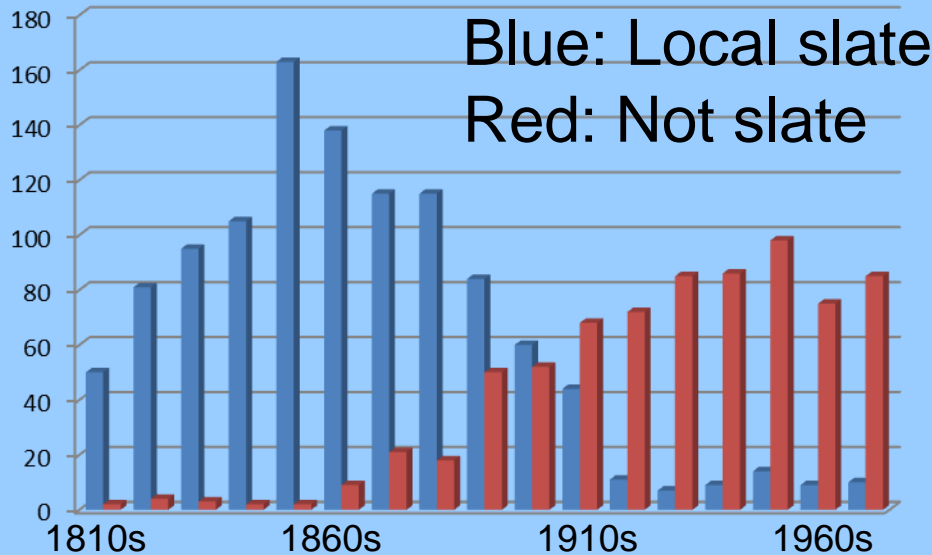
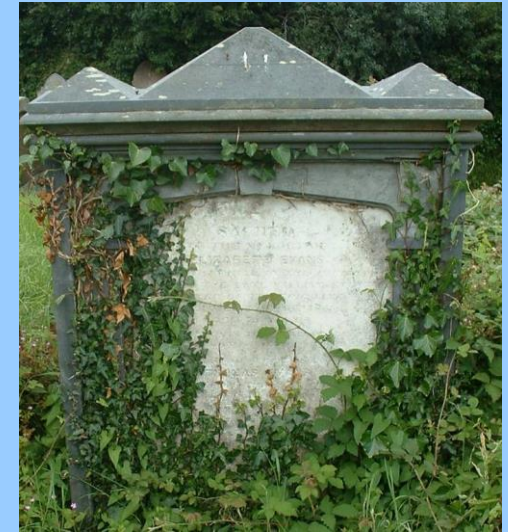


# Geology

Early monuments all of local materials – e.g. slate, limestone

First marble appears, especially for text panels and decoration

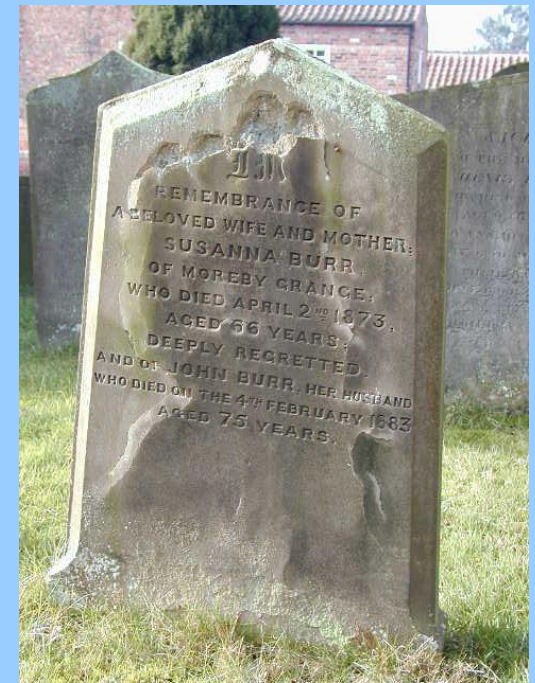
Then granites in various colours – pink, grey, black



# Other materials



# Revival Styles: Classical

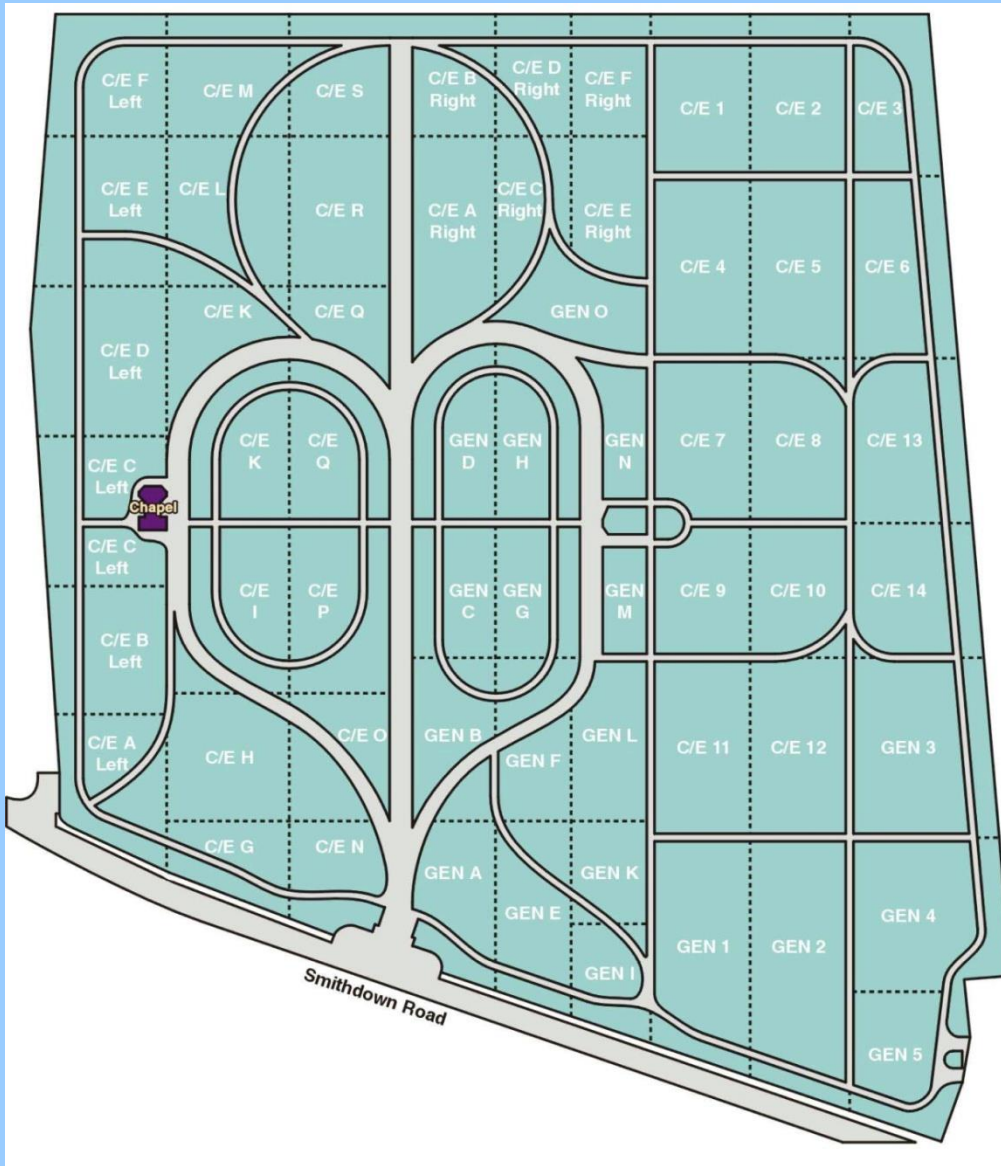


# Revival Styles: Gothic



# Revival Styles: Egyptian and Celtic

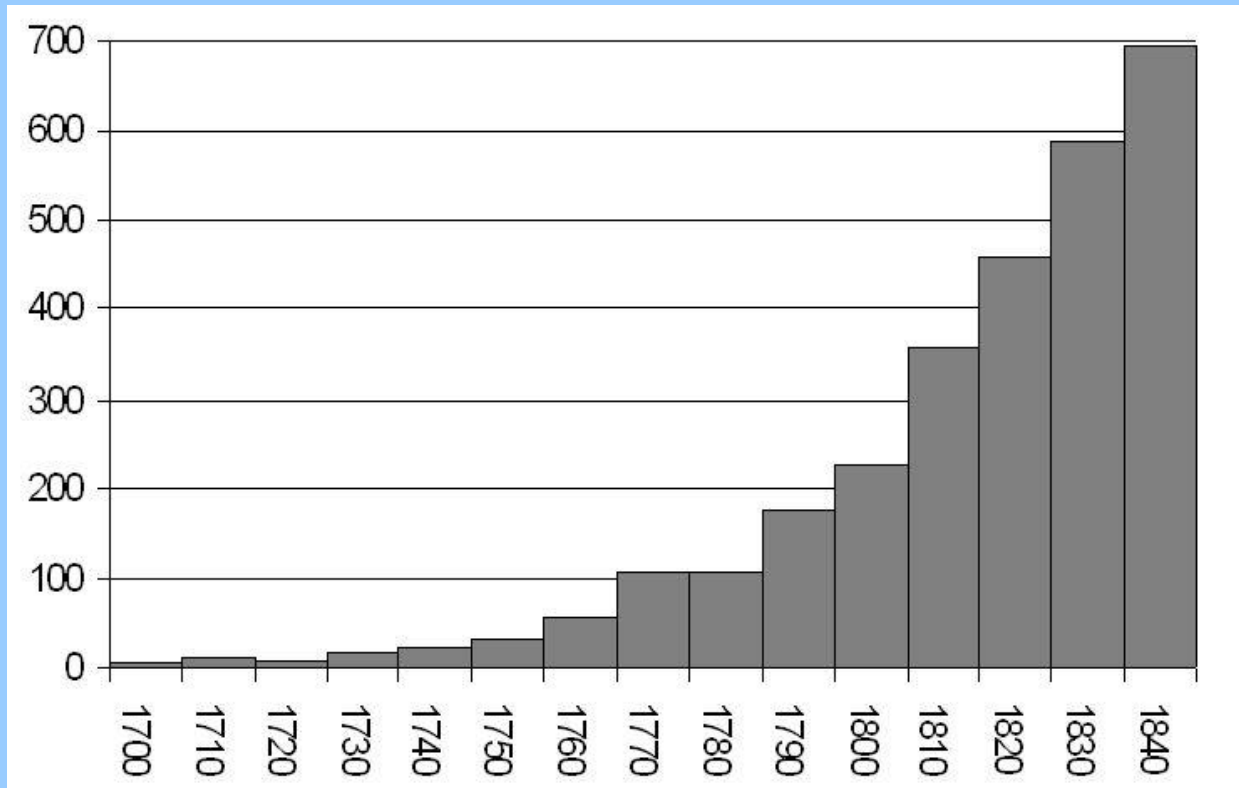




Deane Road Jewish  
Cemetery Liverpool  
1835 – 1929

Toxteth Cemetery  
Liverpool 1856

## Local history and biographies



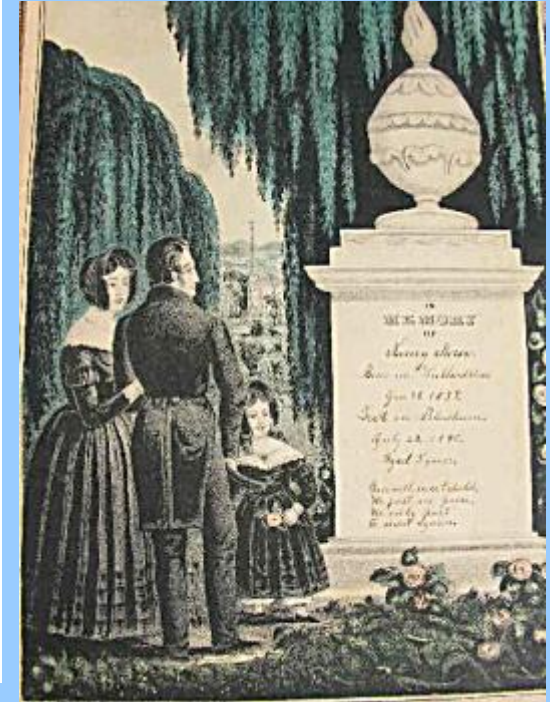
Increasing:

- Prosperity
- Population
- Middle classes
- Literacy

Increasing:

- Industrialisation
- Transport links
- Knowledge of fashion

## Interpretive themes



Change in attitudes:

- The body
- Memory
- Materialism / consumerism