

## Heritage Report for Friends of Heene Cemetery A.G.M. September 2023

April 2022 to April 2023 was a successful year for the heritage group. All the burials are available to view on our dedicated website: [www.heenecemetery.org.uk](http://www.heenecemetery.org.uk) and most (1850+) of them have biographies compiled by our members. All the burials are also publicly available on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) in the heenecemetery.org.uk family tree. This allows anyone with an [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) account to contact us via their messaging service. We regularly have requests about the lives of the buried from both our dedicated website and from the ancestry website.

We plan to review all our stories once each burial has a biography entry and where possible add information and photographs provided by helpful relatives. The stories are being categorised and studied by the group and used for blogs and open day events including our innovation: 'stories in the streets'. Several of our 'residents' lived in nearby streets and researchers are organising fascinating walks detailing the stories of the street dwellers, street by street.

As our uncovering of the 'residents', approaches the final stories, we plan to diversify and research the noteworthy relatives of the buried. We have at least two relatives of former prime ministers, several heroic army and naval family members, an explosives expert, innumerable notable clergy and medical men, royal connections, authors and philanthropists, bankers and bankrupts.

We have made progress on identifying the many war casualty relatives of our Heene burials. In our small Heene community, many lives were changed forever on learning of the deaths of fathers, sons, and brothers. Every year we hold a remembrance service for the war casualties buried or commemorated in the cemetery and we are now able to honour the sacrifice of more relatives of the buried.

The majority of the Heene burials are family burials. Only about one fifth of the burials have no identifiable, family member buried in Heene. The other 80% of burials have at least one relative buried at Heene. We now plan to link their website entries to the entries of their relatives. This is a big undertaking because many of our Heene families will have family links that we do not yet know about.

We have written blogs about the statistics of the Heene burials, researching and grouping some of their causes of death and other parameters such as marital status, gender and age at death. There is still a wealth of material to write about. Possible future blog topics include highlighting occupations, the occupants of a house through time, wealth and wills, health and ill-health, servants and masters, spinsters and bachelors, employers and manufacturers, and siblings and companions.

Our heritage research is mainly funded by its members. Each researcher subscribes to one or more genealogy website and or newspaper archives. New project works may depend on the purchase of wills and certificates and require additional funding from grants and donations and reserves.