

A brief history of Darwen Cemetery

■ The Local Board of Health formed a Burial Board in 1858 to provide a public burial ground. Up to then the only burial grounds were the rapidly-filling graveyards of the various places of worship.

■ The Burial Board acquired land at Whitehall on the west of the Bolton road. The area was drained, fenced, and laid out into sections for Church of England, Nonconformist and Roman Catholic burials. Mortuary Chapels were erected and the cemetery opened in June 1861. In 1876 further land was obtained, the combined area being about 20 acres. The western cemetery has two parts – the Old to the south and the New to the north.

■ Towards the end of the Second World War it was becoming obvious that a further burial ground was necessary and land was acquired on the opposite side of the main road. This became known, rather confusingly, as the New Cemetery and then as the Eastern. Work was under way by 1945 and the new cemetery was consecrated in May, 1948. The area was extended in the late 1970s but it will be full within a few years.

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You can make a donation to the FODC through our colourful and ever-changing web site:

www.darwencemetery.org.uk
Webmaster: Liam Dargan

Friends of Darwen Cemetery



Come
and
give
us a
hand!

Below: Mick Walsh and his team at work on the Nature Garden whatever the weather



Friends of Darwen Cemetery (FODC)

The Friends of Darwen Cemetery (FODC) was set up in 2010 as a voluntary and charitable body to work for the benefit of the town of Darwen.

Targets and triumphs



The Friends set out to preserve and improve Darwen Cemetery and promote its historical, environmental and cultural significance. They also seek to encourage community participation in their work, especially by the youth of the town.

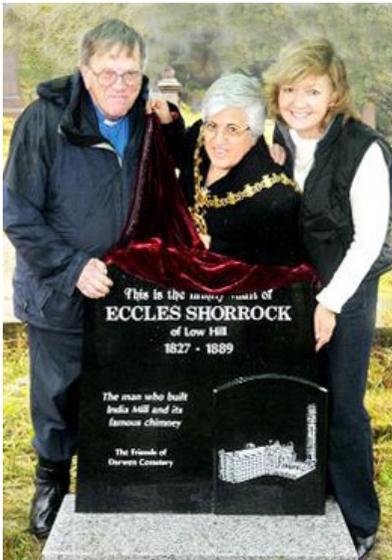
So much has been done: Overgrowing rhododendrons have been cut back ... dozens of toppled headstones have been put back up ... seeding and weeding has been extensive ... an Ashes Circle has been created ... there have been several historical walks ... work is well under way on a spectacular Nature Garden ... sunken graves have been filled ... paths have been improved ... trees and flowers have been planted ... headstones flattened by vandals have been re-erected ... and knotweed infestations have been blasted ... but so much more needs to be done ...

■ Charity registration number: 1142815

Would **YOU** like to help the Friends?
GIVE US A CALL!



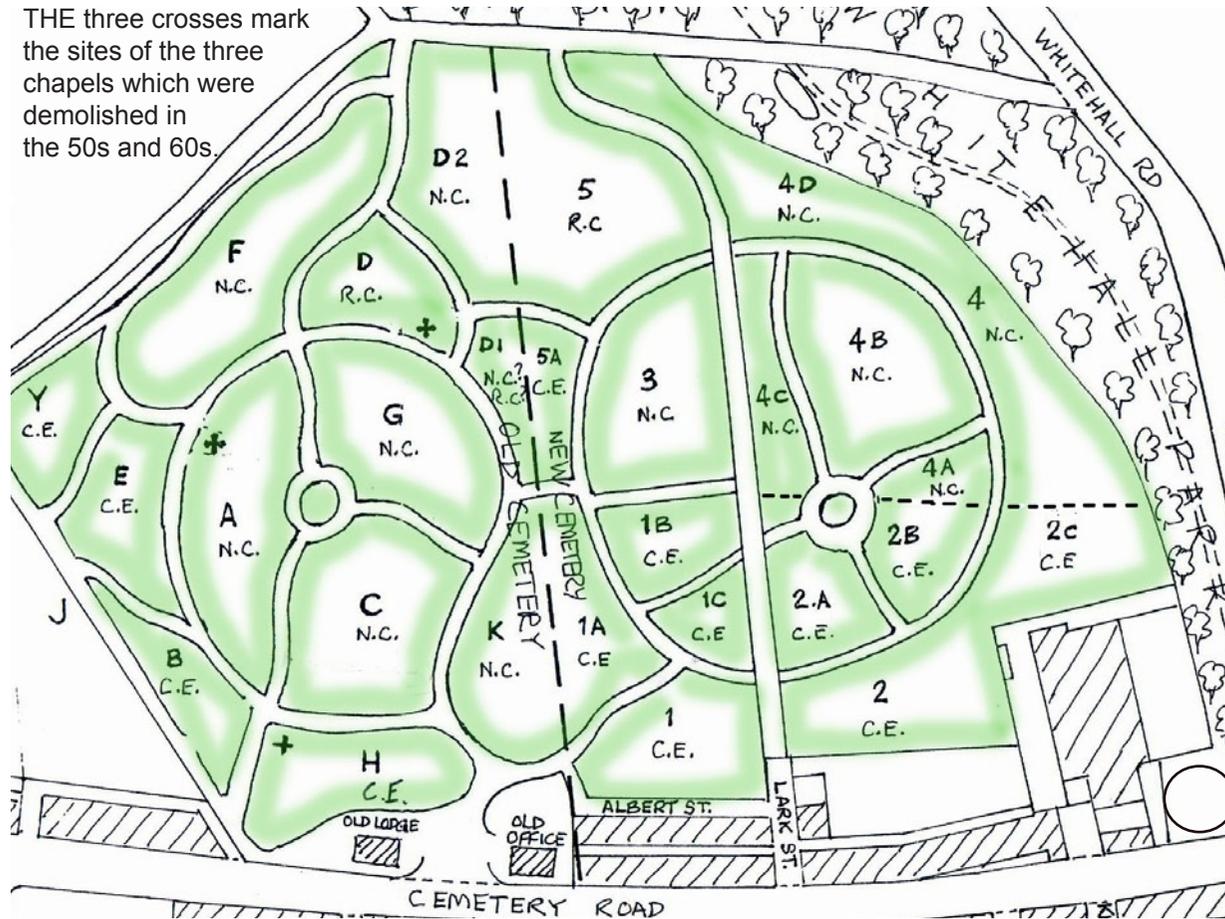
The newly-created Ashes Garden has a striking marble centrepiece and lawned areas ... children have been working hard making bat boxes for the Nature Garden



Eccles Shorrock, the man who built India Mill, now has a headstone at long last.

RICHARD HURST ECCLES
 Died 31st May 1861
 Aged 15 months
 of Red Earth Mount
 The first burial in this
 cemetery 2nd June 1861

THE three crosses mark the sites of the three chapels which were demolished in the 50s and 60s.



The first burial - a baby boy - is commemorated ... Some of the youngsters who helped at Remembrance Day



The memorial to campaigner Martha Jane Bury has been stood back up and cleaned

