



2nd March 2009

For immediate release

THE OSCARS OF THE UNDERWORLD ARE BACK FOR THE 12TH YEAR RUNNING

The *Cemetery of the Year Awards* (CYA) is preparing for another successful year. Organised by the *Memorial Awareness Board* (MAB) and sponsored by *The City of London Corporation*, *The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management* (ICCM), and the *National Association of Memorial Masons* (NAMM), CYA strives to raise standards in burial grounds; highlighting the importance they play in the community and encouraging choice for the bereaved.

MAB's Campaign Director Mike Dewar says, "2008 was a great year for the awards, and we aim to repeat that success in 2009! Burial grounds play an integral role within our local communities and we want to celebrate their excellence. This year we will be giving particular praise to the dedicated men and women who work hard to maintain our burial sites throughout the UK with the a new special award - *The ICCM Award for Operatives Team of the Year.*"

Once more the CYA judges will travel across the UK to perform 1-2-1 on-site evaluations*. The judges will be looking at a whole range of criteria, from tidiness and environmental enhancements to signage and disabled access throughout the site. The awards take into account the varying degree of funding received by cemeteries, and acknowledge innovative ideas and areas of improvement.

The competition is open to all burial sites including cemeteries, crematoria, churchyards, green burial sites, and even pet cemeteries! The closing date for entries is Friday, 29 May 2009.

- ENDS -

For more information please contact Elisabeth Edvardsen on 020 7993 3833 or email elisabethe@oneismore.com. To enter the competition please visit: www.memorialawarenessboard.com.

** Whilst it is the intention of the CYA to visit all sites, the judges / CYA administrative team reserves the right to base judgement on other evidence in the event that a site visit is not a possibility. Should this occur, entrants will be notified by the CYA administrative team and offered the option to withdraw from the competition with a full refund of their entry fees or continue to be judged solely on printed / visual evidence submitted by the site manager at a lower fee.*

Notes to Editors:

The Awards were established to encourage and reward high standards amongst the nation's cemeteries and to raise public awareness of the importance of cemeteries, which can house a wealth of historical, ecological and sociological information

2008 Cemetery of the Year Awards Winners

Category A: Cemeteries up to 5 acres

Winner: Syston Cemetery – Syston, Leicester

Runner-Up: Wickford Cemetery – Basildon, Essex

Honourable Mention: Castleside Cemetery – Co, Durham

Category B: Cemeteries between 5 and 15 acres

Winner: Bridgnorth Cemetery – Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Runner-Up: Redstone Cemetery – Red Hill, Surrey

Honourable Mention: Hoddesdon Cemetery – Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

Category (C) Cemeteries above 15 acres

Winner: Carlisle Cemetery – Carlisle

Runner-Up: Carmountside Cemetery – Stoke-on-Trent

Honourable Mention: East Sheen & Richmond Cemetery – Richmond, London

Category (D) Crematoria

Winner: West Herts Crematorium – Watford, Hertfordshire

Runner-Up: South West Middlesex Crematorium – Feltham, Middlesex

Honourable Mention: Bradwell Crematorium – Newcastle-Under-Lyme

Category (E) Green Burial Sites

Winner: Usk Castle Chase Natural Burial Ground – Usk, Monmouth

Runner-Up: Tarn Moor Memorial Woodland – Skipton, North Yorkshire

Honourable Mention: Gloucester Cemetery & Crematorium – Gloucester

Category (F) Pet Burial Sites

Winner: Penwith Pet Crematorium – Penzance, Cornwall

Runner-Up: Dignity Pet Crematorium – Hook, Hampshire

Honourable Mention: The Pet Cemetery – Brynford, Holywell

Special Awards

The National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) Freedom of Choice Award

Thornhill Cemetery and Crematorium, Cardiff

Special Award for Community Involvement

Colney Woodland Burial Park - Norwich, Norfolk

The Memorial Awareness Board (MAB) Award for Best Memorial

John A. Green, ARCA, FRSA, NDD, Sculptor of Ipswich, Suffolk

The Special Award for Best Baby and Infant Memorial Garden

Gloucester Cemetery & Crematorium – Gloucester

The IFZW Award for Environmental Awareness

South West Middlesex Crematorium – Feltham, Middlesex

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Award for Most Improved Cemetery/Crematorium

CYA Categories and Awards:

MAIN CATEGORIES

- Category A: Cemeteries up to 5 acres
- Category B: Cemeteries between 5 – 15 acres
- Category C: Cemeteries above 15 acres
- Category D: Crematoria and Grounds
- Category E: Green Burial Sites
- Category F: Pet Cemeteries and Crematoria

SPECIAL AWARDS

- Award for Community Involvement
- Award for Best Baby and Infant Memorial Garden
- ICCM Award for Environmental Awareness
- Award for Innovation
- ICCM Award for Most Improved Cemetery/Crematoria
- MAB Award for Best Memorial
- NAMM Freedom of Choice Award

NEW IN 2009!

- Award for Best Garden of Remembrance
- ICCM Award for Cemetery Operatives Team of the Year
- Award for Memorial Mason of the Year
- The City of London Award for Overall CYA Winner

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