



PRESS RELEASE

September 2009

For immediate release

Top of the Plots

The Cemetery of the Year Awards 2009 Shortlist Announced

The Memorial Awareness Board (MAB) is pleased to announce the shortlist of the Cemetery of the Year Awards 2009. The winning sites will be unveiled on Tuesday 29th September 2009 during an awards ceremony hosted at the annual Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Conference and Exhibition at Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

The CYA, now in its 12th year, aims to reward high standards in the nation's burial grounds and encourage choice for the bereaved. Organised by the Memorial Awareness Board (MAB), the Awards endeavour to increase public awareness of the importance burial sites can play within their local communities. A vital social, historical and environmental resource, the entrants were assessed on a whole range of criteria including design, local community involvement, memorial choice and environmental initiatives.

Awards Administrator Elisabeth Edvardsen said,

“The Cemetery of the Year Awards aim to give our burial grounds the recognition they deserve. For more than a decade, the CYA has honoured high standards and rewarded the work and devotion of those that maintain the cornerstones of our communities. We are extremely impressed with the quality of this year's entrants and wish all finalists the best of luck.”

- ENDS -

For more information or to request images please contact CYA Administrator Elisabeth Edvardsen on 020 7993 3833 or elisabethe@oneismore.com.

For more details on this year's Awards and the previous winners please visit:

www.memorialawarenessboard.com

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.

Sites are assessed by a field assessment that is made on a single day against the set criteria. Entrants will be advised on the judges' visits in advance.

The Cemetery of the Year Awards is sponsored by The City of London Corporation, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM), George Squire & Sons Funeral Service (Neville Funeral Service), Blue AV and the Columbaria Company.

Burial grounds should be user friendly, include access for the disabled, and provide a quality service to the community. It is the aim of CYA to inspire communities to take pride in their grounds and encourage site managers to consider upgrades and new initiatives.

The judges will look at all aspects of the site including customer care, maintenance of grounds and buildings, safety and security, availability of choice to the bereaved, on site facilities such as bins, taps, shelters and toilets (including those for the disabled), environmental enhancements such as wild flower or conservation areas, and the encouragement and protection of biodiversity.

Cemetery of the Year Awards 2009 Shortlist

Main Categories

Category A – Cemeteries up to 5 acres

Castleside Cemetery, Consett, County Durham
Gwaelodybrithdir Cemetery, New Tredegar, Caerphilly
Syston Cemetery, Syston, Lincolnshire

Category B – Cemeteries between 5 and 15 acres

Bear Street Cemetery, Barnstaple, North Devon
Falmouth Town Cemetery, Falmouth, Cornwall
Hoddesdon Cemetery, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire
Redstone Cemetery, Redhill, Surrey
Torrisholme Cemetery, Morecambe, Lancashire

Category C – Cemeteries above 15 acres

Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire
Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex
East Sheen & Richmond Cemetery, Richmond, Greater London
Paddington Old Cemetery, Paddington, Greater London
Stapenhill Cemetery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire

Category D – Crematoria and Grounds

Bradwell Crematorium, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire
Coychurch Crematorium, Coychurch, Bridgend
Kent & Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
North East Surrey Crematorium, Morden, Surrey
South West Middlesex Crematorium, Feltham, Middlesex

Category E – Green Burial Sites

Delliefure Strathspey Natural Burial Ground, Grantown on Spey, Highland
Epping Forest Burial Park, Epping, Essex
Greenhaven Woodland Burial Ground, Rugby, Warwickshire
Tarn Moor Memorial Woodland, Skipton, North Yorkshire
Usk Castle Chase Natural Burial Meadow, Usk, Gwent, Monmouthshire

Category F – Pet Burial Sites

Dignity Pet Crematorium, Winchfield, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire
The Pet Cemetery, Brynford, Holywell, Flintshire

Special Awards

Co-operative Funeralcare Award for Community Involvement

Bear Street Cemetery, Barnstaple, North Devon
Epping Forest Burial Park, Epping, Essex
Torrisholme Cemetery, Morecambe, Lancashire
Wood Green Cemetery, Haringey, Greater London

Award for Best Baby and Infant Memorial Garden

Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex
Stapenhill Cemetery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire
West Herts Crematorium, Watford, Hertfordshire

ICCM Award for Environmental Awareness

Delliefure Strathspey Natural Burial Ground, Grantown on Spey, Highland
Paddington Old Cemetery, Paddington, Greater London
South West Middlesex Crematorium, Feltham, Middlesex

Award for Innovation

Colchester Cemetery, Colchester, Essex
Epping Forest Burial Park, Epping, Essex

ICCM Award for Most Improved

Greenhaven Woodland Burial Ground, Rugby, Warwickshire
Paddington Old Cemetery, Paddington, Greater London
South West Middlesex Crematorium, Feltham, Middlesex

ICCM Award for Cemetery Operatives Team of the Year

Cardiff Council Bereavement Services, South Glamorgan
Richmond upon Thames Cemeteries Service, Richmond, Greater London
South West Middlesex Crematorium Board, Feltham, Middlesex

Award for Best Garden of Remembrance

Exwick Cemetery, Exeter, Devon
Millport New Cemetery, Isle of Cumbrae, Ayrshire
Portchester Memorial Gardens, Portchester, Hampshire
Reigate Garden of Remembrance, Reigate, Surrey
Worthing Crematorium, Findon, West Sussex

MAB Award for Best Memorial

To be announced on the evening of the CYA ceremony

Award for Memorial Mason of the Year

To be announced on the evening of the CYA ceremony

NAMM Freedom of Choice Award

To be announced on the evening of the CYA ceremony

The City of London Award for Overall CYA Winner

To be announced on the evening of the CYA ceremony

Cemetery of the Year Awards is sponsored by:

