

Guided tour of Lye Cemetery

LYE & Wollescote Cemetery opened its gates for the first time in 1879, and its picturesque setting in 9.45 acres of former farm land has since become the last resting place for 17,500 of Lye's former inhabitants, and on Saturday July 24th, between 11 am and 3 pm, local authors Jean Weston and Marlene Price will be opening the gates once more as they conduct guided tours around the cemetery, completely free of charge.

The tours are part of the 'Discovering Places' campaign to inspire everyone in the UK to discover their local environment with all its hidden places, extraordinary spaces and the stories they have to tell, and there could be no guides better to share the discoveries that await you in this charmingly tranquil place than Jean and Marlene.

Book

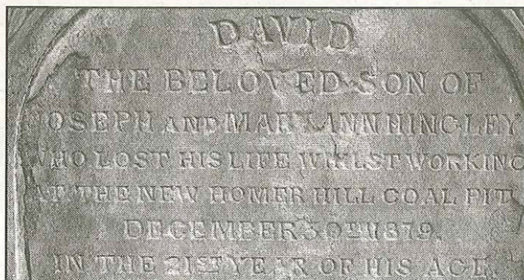
Their book, 'The Lye & Wollescote Cemetery and Chapels', published by West

Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, and launched in April this year, has been a terrific success and reveals a lot about those buried alongside each other, including pioneers of industry, religious leaders, public figures, local personalities and ordinary working folk.

Mixture

Their stories, which Jean and Marlene will elaborate on during their tour, are a mixture of humour and tragedy, but are all bound up with the history of the area and its way of life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. **Titus Webb** (son of a spade maker who left these shores to seek his fortune in America); **Thomas Rhodes** (hollowware manufacturer); and **Pharoah Adams** (local butcher), are just three whose lives will be explored on the day.

Discovering Places is being launched as part of London 2010 Open Week-end, the annual UK-wide celebration counting down to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For more information about the book, go to the website: www.lyeandwollescote.info.



A 19th c. grave inscription in Lye Cemetery that reveals the dangers of working down the pit.

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