

Wednesday April 21, 2010

K

Cash to save landmark's future Book idea will raise funds for graveyard

By Andrew Turton

A book turning the spotlight on the history of a Black Country chapel and graveyard will help raise cash to restore the crumbling landmark.

Authors of the book which uncovers the history of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery and Chapels were able to bring their research to print thanks to a £9,900 Awards for All grant from the National Lottery. Vital funds which will help restore the Grade II listed chapels building are being sought by the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT).

And the book has been commissioned to raise awareness of the buildings and bring in cash for their redevelopment.

The book, entitled 'The Lye & Wollescote Cemetery and Chapels: A Victorian Cemetery and its Notable Burials' has been penned by local history enthusiasts Jean Weston and Marlene Price.

It covers historical development of the Victorian cemetery and the architectural significance of its unusual chapels.

The pair have also researched the history of the headstones in the graveyard, off Cemetery Road.

Many of the stories are featured within the book.

Trust chairman Alan Smith MBE, said: "This book has been 20 years in the making, through two generations of researchers.

"Our members Jean Weston and Marlene Price are the recent authors, having carried out meticulous and detailed additional research to build upon a talk originally inspired by local historian Denys Brooks.

"We are grateful to financial assistance from the Awards for All scheme of the National Lottery that has enabled this publication to happen."