

Details of graves recorded for posterity thanks to £9.9k grant

E+S 24-6-09

Cemetery secrets unlocked by lottery

By Andrew Turton

The hidden secrets of a Black Country cemetery will be revealed thanks to a £9,900 lottery grant awarded to conservationists.

Graves of long forgotten residents of Lye and Wollescote will be recorded for prosperity when a book detailing the history of the chapel is published. West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHBT) have long worked on restoring the Grade II listed chapel and burial grounds. And members are celebrating the news today they have been awarded £9,900.

The money comes from the awards for All scheme by the National Lottery.

Cash will be put towards the publication of a history of the site which will plot the individual graves that may have been forgotten over the years.

An interactive 'interpretation board' will also be erected with the money giving visitors more information on the chapel and cemetery buildings, in Cemetery Road, Lye, near Stourbridge.

Trust spokesman David Trevis Smith said the WMHBT was delighted with the award.

"We are hoping the release of the book will help raise the profile of restoration work happening on the site at the moment."

Published

"Its great to have been able to get this money which sets us up to get the board put up and the book published within six months."

The WMHBT is still hoping to restore Lye chapel, creating a GP or dental surgery or business offices, to lease part of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel.

The trust was dealt a blow last year when a bid for £500,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to convert the site, in Church Street, into offices was rejected.

Staff and pupils at Ashwood Park Primary School, in Bells Lane, Stourbridge, were also celebrating today after receiving £10,000 from the lottery scheme.

Other project across the Black Country were celebrating picking up a share of £400,000 lottery cash.

Holy Cross Community Centre in Tividale has been given £9,980.



Marlene Price, Alan Smith and Jean Weston who have researched Lye and Wollescote Chapel and Cemetery to produce a book revealing its history