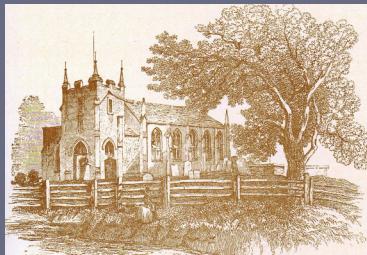


ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH



The first reference to our church is in a note listing monies owed to the Bishop of Winchester in 1270. It was recorded that the chapel at Milton owed 15 pence. In 1288 it was noted that Milton Chapel owed Christchurch Priory a wax candle and three shillings. By 1403 there was a field in Milton called 'Church Furlong' indicating that Milton had progressed from having a chapel to being a village with a church. The church was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. In the 14th century there was an annual fair held in Milton on St. Magdalene's Day, July 22nd. In 1832 the original church was pulled down apart from the tower. The church was rebuilt with a brick nave and chancel. It was further modified in 1928 and 1958 when a 'Lady Chapel' was incorporated into the north side of the nave.

Inside the porchway of the tower, there is a most striking effigy of a soldier and commander of the royal guard. He was Thomas White, Esquire. He served three Kings and Queen Anne. He lived at Fernhill Manor and, on his death in 1720, he was buried in the tower porch. His sword, made by celebrated Spanish craftsman Andrea Ferrara, is on display in a case near to his effigy. In 1727, Frances, the widow of Thomas White, gave the church a set of communion vessels which are still in use today. On entering the church you will notice to the left and right two large brass memorial tablets to the people of New Milton who were killed in the two World Wars. Beside this is a bronze plaque commemorating Major Harold



Paris MC who was killed in action in 1918. Further into the church on the right hand side can be found a memorial plaque to Lt. General Sir Henry Clinton of Ashley. He fought in a large number of the battles of the Napoleonic Wars including the 1815 Battle of Waterloo. He was a member of the family that owned the Ashley Clinton estate to the east of New Milton.



'Churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, Old Milton'

John Heath-Stubbs

Here, where my father lies under the ornamental plum,
Geese step in the next farm field, while to the Rectory elms
The rooks fly home. *Dominus exaltation mea* -
The eagle rising with its sprig of acorns.
Feet deep in sticky clay, under the kempt grasses,
Under the anglo-saxon and the celtic crosses,
The Indian Judges lie, the admirals, the solicitors,
The eccentric ladies, and the shopkeepers,
The unenterprising who would not go to the town,
The charwoman with a cleft palate, and the jobbing gardener,
And the four Germans who fell some years back,
Out of a sky of trouble, smashed
In an empty field - those have
Their regulation crosses too, of wood,
And scattered flowers, left by the prisoners:
The old woman whom I meet
Remarks that after all they were somebody's sons
And we would do as much for our people.
"The writer, returns to the scene of his childhood" -
Where he loitered and looked at the rooks, the geese and the turkeys,
Or sought for wild barley by the churchyard gate -
The caterpillar-grass
Whose insect heads climb slowly up your sleeve;
The rootless writer, filling his own lungs
With a gust of country air. A grey afternoon,
And in the sky, the promise of evening's rain.
Where people come to take the air and die,
Ending their lives on an adequate pension,
A sickly child, brought there by careful parents,
Might mend in the salt breeze. From six to twenty-four
Home was this scattered residential village of bungalows,
Of gabled villas, and neglected fallows,
Crazy-paving, gravel and tarmac. Now he comes back
And stands unrecognised among those graves.



John Francis Alexander Heath-Stubbs (1918-2006) was an English poet. He went to a preparatory school in Manor Road, New Milton, called 'Speedwell'. His family lived at 'Seaward Cottage' in Seaward Avenue, Barton on Sea, which they moved to in the early 1920s and was their home until World War II. He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1973 and an OBE in 1978. He had bad eyesight as a young man and became totally blind at the age of 60. His autobiography, 'Hindsights', describes his early life in Milton Parish. His father, Francis Heath-Stubbs, is buried in St. Mary Magdalene churchyard.

For more information please visit the Milton Heritage Society website at

www.miltonheritagesociety.co.uk

and the St. Mary Magdalene website at www.miltonparish.co.uk

MILTON CHURCHYARD HERITAGE WALK



ST. MARY
MAGDALENE
THE PARISH CHURCH
OF NEW MILTON

NEW MILTON
TOWN COUNCIL

MILTON HERITAGE
SOCIETY

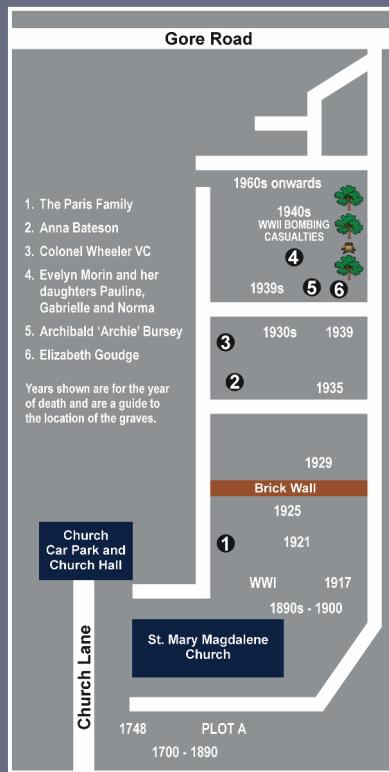
New Milton
Residents' Association



The original churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene is sited between the church and the Wheatsheaf Inn. The early Milton graves can be found there including at least one smuggler. From 1900 onwards a new cemetery was created on the north side of the church. The WW1 graves can be found nearest to the church. In the next section can be found the 1930s and WW2 graves. Later burials are to be found near to the Gore Road end of the churchyard.

Take a moment to admire the wild flowers, birds and squirrels that have colonised this area, turning it into a natural habitat.

We hope you find the Churchyard Heritage Walk of historical interest, particularly the notable graves highlighted on the map and the stories behind them.



NOTABLE GRAVES TO BE SEEN IN THE GRAVEYARD

1. ALEXANDER PARIS (1852-1925) AND FAMILY



Alexander Paris was a solicitor who, in 1903, built Becton House and also purchased Barton Common. He attempted to prevent the commoners from exercising their rights to use the land. He took legal action against them but lost his case in High Court in 1911. His son, Major Harold Paris, was killed in action in 1918 whilst rescuing a wounded soldier. Alexander died in 1925.

2. ANNA BATESON (1863-1928)



Anna Bateson was born in Cambridge in 1863. After studying botany at Newnham College Cambridge, Anna worked as a researcher for Sir Francis Darwin. In 1892 Anna moved to Bashley, New Milton where she ran a market garden for the rest of her life. Anna was a poor law guardian, a school manager, a New Milton Parish Councillor and a member of Lymington District Council. She was the president of the Milton District Nursing Association and the secretary of the New Forest Suffrage Society.

3. LIEUTENANT COLONEL WHEELER VC (1880-1938)



Lieutenant Colonel George Campbell Wheeler served in the 9th Battalion of the Gurkha Rifles in World War One. On the 23rd of February 1917 at the Shumran bend on the River Tigris in Mesopotamia (now Iraq), he led a party of Gurkhas across the river and gained a foothold on the opposing bank. Turkish forces counter attacked. In spite of a severe bayonet wound to his head, he held the position allowing other British forces to cross and push back the enemy. He retired to Beach Avenue in Barton on Sea where he died in 1938.

4. THE MORIN FAMILY



Evelyn Morin and her three daughters lived in Southampton which had suffered very badly in the 1940 and 1941 blitzes. They decided to move to New Milton where they felt safer in the countryside. They rented a house, 'Mere Villa' in Vincent Road. During the evening of 22nd January 1943 a 'hit and run rader' dropped a bomb which landed on 'Mere Villa'. Mrs Morin and her children, 11 year old Gabrielle, 10 year old Norma and 8 year old Pauline, were killed outright.

5. ARCHIBALD 'ARCHIE' BURSEY (1925-1940)



On the 23rd of August 1940, 19 men, women and children died when a lone Heinkel flew over the town dropping 20 bombs in Station Road and Old Milton Road. Among those who died was 15 year old 'Archie' Bursey, a telegram messenger working for the Post Office. He was delivering a note in Old Milton Road and was killed instantly. He was a member of the 1st New Milton Scouts. His coffin was escorted to the churchyard by members of the troop accompanied by the Scoutmasters.

6. ELIZABETH DE BEAUCHAMP GOUDGE (1900-1984)



Elizabeth was a prolific English author in the post-war period and was awarded the Carnegie Medal for literature in 1946 for her novel 'The Little White Horse', an inspiration for J. K. Rowling's 'Harry Potter' books. In 1957 she wrote 'The Herb of Grace', a novel depicting life in Keyhaven and Bucklers Hard. In the 1930s she lived in Barton Lane with her family.