

Dying to Talk Project

University of Bradford and University of Wolverhampton



Cemetery Case Studies Booklet



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Let's talk about cemeteries...



Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford

(Image source: Instagram @pathologicalbodiesproject)

Cemeteries are places where loved ones are buried after they have died. Although they are often associated with being sad places, cemeteries can be interesting places to learn about people in the past. Archaeologists and historians often study cemeteries to learn about past societies.

Talking about cemeteries doesn't have to be morbid! Have a look through this booklet to see some interesting grave monuments that are found in cemeteries. Maybe next time you are near one, you can have a look out for some cool examples too.

Animals on grave monuments

- *Now we will have a look at animals on graves, can you think why someone might have an animal on their gravestone? Fill in some suggestions in the box below.*

A 3D rectangular box with a gray interior and a white exterior, intended for writing suggestions.

- *Turn to the next page to see some examples!*



Lamb

- *Example: Early 20th century example from Fethard, Ireland.*

This headstone shows an image of a lamb. In this example, the lamb is shown as it is a religious symbol. The gravestone is in a Catholic cemetery, and the lamb refers to the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei).

- *How does this image make you think and feel?*

- *Have you ever seen animals on a grave before?*

Image source: Taken by Aoife Sutton



Horse

- *Example: 19th Century Horse Grave - Highgate Cemetery, London.*

This grave monument shows a horse that is in the famous Highgate Cemetery in London. Here the horse is associated with a family profession - the Atcheler family.

- *How does this image make you think and feel?*

Image source: Taken by Aoife Sutton



Dogs

- *Examples: Both examples are from Highgate Cemetery in London. On the left is the grave of a sporting hero called Thomas Sayers. The dog depicted was his faithful companion called Lion. On the right is a grave of someone who owned a dog called emperor - it says 'Her faithful dog Emperor' around a relief of his head.*

Image source: Taken by Aoife Sutton.

- *How do these images make you think and feel?*

- *Is this a nice way for someone to remember a loved one, by including their beloved pet?*

Memorials and Jobs

- Next, we will have a look at some examples of graves showing what someone worked as.



Artists

- Examples: On the left is the grave of the artist John Worsnop, Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford. On the right is the grave of the artist Lucian Freud, Highgate Cemetery, London.

Images source: Aoife Sutton and Instagram
@pathologicalbodiesproject

- What can you spot that shows us these people were artists?

- Do you think this is a good way to remember someone? -----



Sailor Memorials

- *Examples: These are memorials to sailors lost at sea. On the left is Memorial Garden to those lost at sea, Kilmore Quay in Wexford, Ireland. On the right is the Southport Lifeboat Memorial to those who died in a tragedy in 1886.*

*Image Source: Aoife Sutton and Instagram
@pathologicalbodiesproject*

- *Can you spot anything that shows these were people who worked as sailors?*

- *Do you think this is a good way to remember them?*

Symbols in cemeteries



- Did you know that some of the images and monuments we see on graves are symbols for something? Here are some examples you can look out for!*



- Obelisk*

Did you know that the obelisk dates back as far as Ancient Egypt? They are thought represent the afterlife, health, and the sun. They are tall and four sided with a pyramid shape on top.



- Broken chain and anchor*

This doesn't always indicate this person was a sailor! - the broken chain often refers to a broken link in the family chain.

Image sources: Aoife Sutton and Instagram @pathologicalbodiesproject



- *Broken Column*

Unlike the obelisk, the broken column is round. It often is thought to refer to the loss of a family member and life cut short.



- *Draped Urn*

The draped urn represents death and the return to dust. Sometimes a flame is seen with the urn representing an ongoing remembrance.

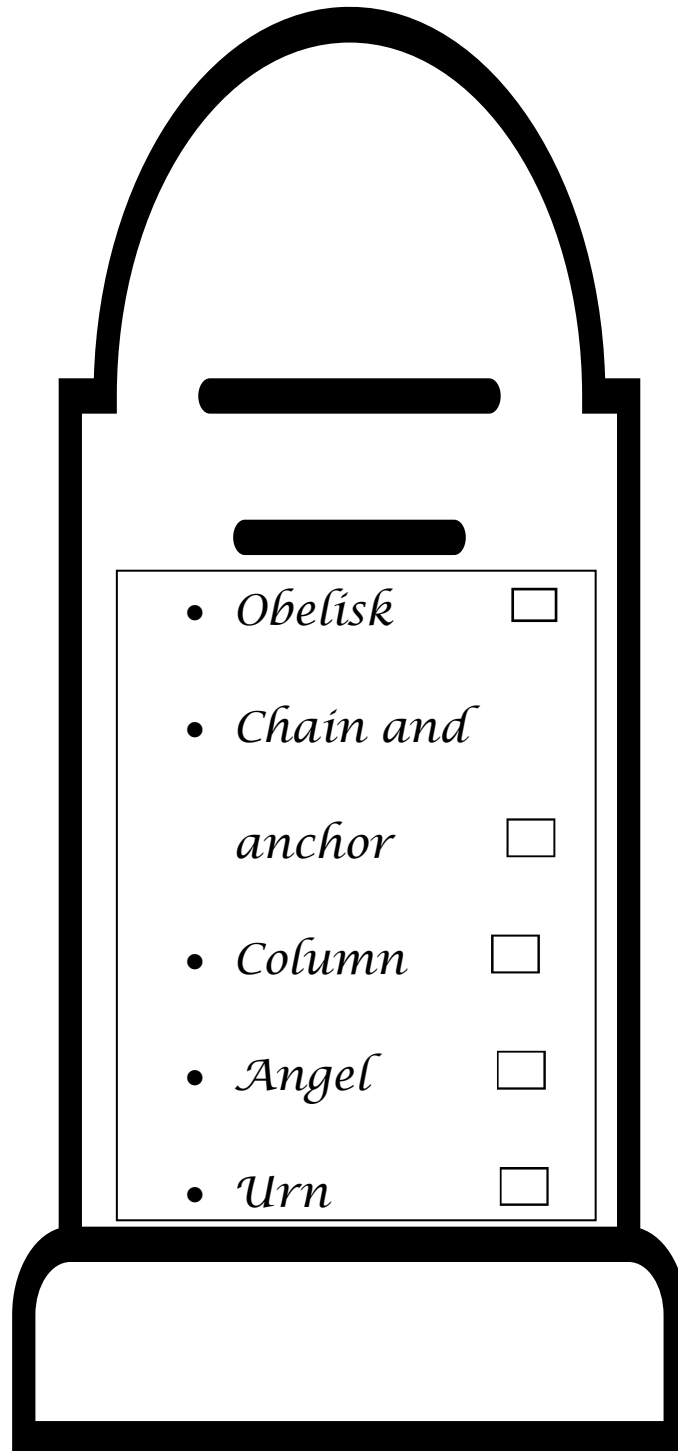


- *Angels*

Angels in a praying position are thought to represent the religious devotion of the person who has died. They are messengers of God in Christianity.

Image sources: Aoife Sutton and Instagram @pathologicalbodiesproject

*Have a go finding these symbols!
Tick off what you find below.*



*These are just some images! See if you can spot
any more at the cemetery.*

Sources

<https://www.undercliffcemeterly.co.uk/the-symbolism-of-victorian-funerary-art/>

<https://highgatecemetery.org/visit>

Brilliant, R., 2017. *Death: From Dust to Destiny*. Reaktion Books.

Bulmer, J., 2021. *Highgate Cemetery: Saved by its friends*. Highgate Cemetery and Jigsaw Design and Publishing.

Curl, J.S., 1972. *The Victorian celebration of death*. David & Charles.

Interesting videos to check out

The Fascinating History of Cemeteries -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HegwRtbDSU>

Dying to Talk -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQFiPPyaz-k>