

RPS London - The Magnificent 7 plus 1 – “the cemeteries project”

We held a Zoom meeting last Sunday 11th and have a second Zoom meeting tonight (Thursday 15th) to start pulling together ideas on how this project can be drawn together into outputs when it ends next March / April. The meeting did not reach any conclusions but set out some options / thoughts on the way forward

1. It was not a project with one output, but several projects each with potentially different outputs.
2. From the images uploaded to Dropbox, we have 682 image files from 27 photographers summarised in this table – the full table is attached.

Centenary	No. Images	No. Photographers
Abney	74	5
Brompton	114	4
Brookwood	28	4
Highgate	179	9
Kensal Green	19	2
Nunhead	156	5
Tower Hamlets	55	5
West Norwood	57	5
TOTALS	682	27

3. Most photographers (20) have only photographed one cemetery; six have photographed two; and one has photographed seven. We all probably have photographs on our drives which we have still to upload!
4. The overall project will have as potential outputs a photobook and exhibition, which may be shown in more than one location. Both could be divided into sections or chapters for different aspects of the project.
5. Each cemetery has the potential to have its own outputs – again a photobook and an exhibition. This will depend on the interest from each cemetery and their “friends society.”
6. There was a general feeling that we don’t just want to produce “a book or exhibition of photographs.” That we need to produce something that has a wider appeal than to the photographers working on the project - and "tells a story."
7. As a starting point it was suggested that each photographer be asked to provide a short (< 100 words) description of what they were achieving with their images. (Some photographers may have more than one description.)
8. The coordinators for each cemetery and individual photographers will have had contact / discussions with the individual cemeteries which may have resulted in ideas for what they would like to see as potential outputs; and also what they could offer in terms of supporting the outputs from the project –such as exhibition space.

Don Cooper provided his very helpful thoughts after Sunday’s meeting – and those are attached below.

David Hicks 14th December 2022

Don Cooper's Notes after Zoom on Sunday 11th December

OUTPUT

A book makes sense supported by Exhibition/s. However a book runs the danger of appealing only to the contributors as a Souvenir and this has very little interest for me.

One thing is certain is that a collection of tombstone shots is of little interest to anyone however technically brilliant the shot. With the benefit of hindsight we perhaps should have limited the number of shots that could be uploaded. This would have encouraged people to think more about what they are trying to achieve.

The built-in danger with this project is that to do the subject justice will be expensive.

You may want to review what has been published about London Cemeteries and Darren Beach has now written two books although they are produced mainly as guidebooks.

I don't believe that we can leave the project until March to decide on what to do with it. A meaningless jumble of cemetery shots will have no value however good they may be.

BOOK

Target is essential. Who will want to read/look at it. Most cemetery themed books target the Taphophile, and this is understandable, but we have to add the photography enthusiast who will appreciate the images. There is a potential spin off with publicity but this is really only of major benefit to the RPS

Funding the book is an issue as with eight cemeteries it will be big and in colour. Is a publisher a possibility? In order to explore the possibility you will need at least a proof copy. Could a book be sold at the cemeteries involved.

Organisation of the book is critical, and the subject suggests that some narrative is required. This leads me to suggest organising a *Table of Contents* roughly as follows:-

Introduction as in why are we doing this The Mission. Why we produced this book and an overview of the subject

An introduction from a personality and I suggest Joe Cornish who co authored a book with Carolyn Campbell. Include specific subject areas such as nature, statues, memorial style, flora and famous people.

Subject which is burial in the capital. History and development and related impact of wars and other major events. There are some good examples already produced.

By Cemetery with contributions from the people involved running the cemetery, perhaps using some archive photography with then and now shots. Narrative on the location, perhaps include maps for those who want to explore using the book.

Theme and this could be a Chapter in itself and perhaps include nature, flora, statue styles, famous people etc.

Location: An introduction and contributions from local cemetery people such as Lucy Talbot at Brookwood. Needs to be a common format and structured with a limit on content amount.

EXHIBITIONS

Local appeal to individual cemeteries and broader appeal on the subject as a whole. Exhibitions could follow the same structure as the book even on a local basis.

Each cemetery to be offered an exhibition with a broader project wide exhibition produced.

OTHER OUTPUT

There are plenty of enthusiasts out there who may wish to buy prints.

Don Cooper – 11th December 2022

RPS LONDON REGION
Magnificent 7 plus 1

Photographer	Abney	Brompton	Brookwood	Highgate	Kensal Green	Nunhead	Tower Hamlets	West Norwood	TOTALS	No. Sites
Andrew Dent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	1
Anne Roache	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6	1
Anthony Bliss	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	1
Catherine Chetwynd	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	40	1
Chris Cullen	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	50	1
Chris Cumming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1
Dan Waller	3	3	0	3	3	3	6	3	24	7
David Hicks	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Don Cooper	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Edward Shipp	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	11	1
Eunice Wilson	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Gordana Johnson	0	0	10	73	0	0	0	0	83	2
Harry Roth	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	1
Hilary Barton	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	17	1
Jen Pedler	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	1
Jenifer Hurstfield	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1
Judy Hicks	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	0	22	2
Liz Wharfe	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	1
Maria Oldland	11	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	27	2
Mike Longhurst	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	1
Mike Psyllides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	1
Mo Greig	14	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	24	2
Peter Milton	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	0	70	1
Quentin Ball	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	1
Roger Towell	0	0	0	5	0	37	0	0	42	2
Rosemary Wilman	0	6	0	7	0	0	0	0	13	2
Vincenzo Albano	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	24	1
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TOTALS	74	114	28	179	19	156	55	57	682	
No. Photographers	5	4	4	9	2	5	5	5	27	