

Patrons: The Earl of St Andrews
The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
Lady Camilla Panufnik

President: Field Marshal the Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank
GCB LVO OBE DL

Chairman: Dr Marek Stella-Sawicki MBE KM



Widcombe Lodge
2 Brentham Way
London W5 1BJ
United Kingdom

Phone: 0208-997-4848 / 07899-874-444
Email: admin@polishheritagesociety.co.uk
Web: www.PolishHeritageSociety.co.uk

Polish Heritage Society (UK)

Newsletter

Winter 2015 - 2016

HISTORIC GRAVES



The Polish Heritage Society working with other organisations undertakes to restore the graves of historic émigré figures within the Polish community

Polish **Vice Admiral Jerzy Swirski** was an officer in the Russian Navy and Polish Navy. He served in the Black Sea Fleet until the end of World War I. In 1919 he joined the Polish Navy. From 1925 to 1947 he was Commander of the Polish Navy in the Polish Ministry of Military Affairs.

Early in 1940 Polish Naval Command transferred from Paris to London, under the Command of Rear Admiral Swirski, in the Polish Government in Exile. After World War II he remained in the United Kingdom. He died in 1959 and was buried in Brompton cemetery, London.

General Sergiusz Zahorski was a General of Cavalry and also of the Polish Army and Head of the President of Poland's War Office during WWII. He died in London in 1962.

Both the Rear Admiral Swirski and General Zahorski are buried in the same plot, together with their respective wives. The Polish Heritage Society in partnership with The Embassy of the Republic of Poland, undertook to renovate this grave.

All Saints' Day

The annual cleaning of notable graves in various London cemeteries took place on November **1st, 2015**

The Polish Heritage Society, along with many other organisations visited cemeteries in Ealing, Brompton, Kensal Rise, Hampstead, North Sheen, and Putney Vale.

Mass in F – AD 1867



The British Premiere of the Choral Concert of the recently discovered Mass in F by Prince Joseph Poniatowski was held at Westminster Cathedral Hall. A joint venture with the Polish Knights of Malta UK and a resounding success

Back in 2013 the grave of **Prince Joseph Poniatowski** was found in Kent and fully restored by the Polish Heritage Society, this was followed by a concert in March 2014 of his opera arias at The Polish Embassy, to great acclaim. Subsequent research into the history of Prince Joseph Poniatowski led to the discovery of his Mass in F, written in the Bel Canto style and dedicated to His Majesty Don Louis I, King of Portugal.

The Polish Heritage Society (PHS) in conjunction with the Association of the Polish Knights of Malta (UK) decided to help bring this historic composition to London in 2015. Music scores were found in the British Library, two UK based Polish Choirs, one choir from Katowice, four soloists from Poland, Portugal, Italy and UK, an artistic director, a conductor, a top pianist accompanist had to be located. Each choir and soloist had to rehearse for 9 months prior to coming to London, where joint rehearsals were held. The concert, the venue, the ticket sales, the programme production and advertising were all managed by PHS.

Benefactors and the Honorary Committee were jointly co-ordinated by the two organizations with the outstanding support of many communities in Poland, France and the UK. There were three performances, the first a sung performance at Our Lady of Czestochowa and Saint Casimir Church, Islington. The Gala premiere was held at Westminster Cathedral Hall on 27th June and a full sung mass of the composition in Christ The King Church in Balham on 28th June. It is estimated that over 1,000 people attended the performance, raising over £3,000 for charity. The concert was a sell out!

HISTORIC GRAVES



Choral
Concert by
Prince
Joseph Poniatowski
June 2015

Shell shock WWII victims buried at Horton Cemetery



In February 2015 a memorial service was held for the Polish residents who suffered shell shock and other nervous trauma during WWII and resided at the Long Grove Hospital and the St Ebbas Hospital in Epsom, Surrey

Frequently these residents had no family in the UK and on their demise were buried in the hospital cemetery.

PHS has located 49 Polish names, who were mainly soldiers and died between 1948 – 1954.

There were more but records cannot be found although research is being carried out to trace more soldiers who were placed in the Hospital.

The cemetery's original capacity was 900 but around 9,000 were buried there.

When the hospitals were closed, the cemetery land was sold to a developer, but planning permission for its development was refused by the Council.

The matter came to light earlier when young boys found human bones in the area, probably dug up by roaming dogs. Epsom Council and in particular Mrs Carlson decided to take the matter up and work towards cleaning up the area and working towards protecting the area and the memorial. The Polish Heritage Society is actively supporting this initiative.

A ceremony to remember the Polish Soldiers who lay buried at the cemetery was held on 10th February 2015, attended by the ex-Mayor Epsom Cllr. Alan Carlson, Cllr. Sheila Carlson, "Friends of Horton Cemetery", Local Press, Local Rep from The British Legion, PHS Chairman and two PHS representatives, Maj. Marek Zaremba Tymieniecki, Mr. Janusz Kolendo, Canon Wladyslaw Wyszowadzki, Vice Consul Ireneusz Truszkowski, Vice Consul Ines Czajczynska-Da Costa,

Joseph Conrad Society 4th Annual Award from PHS

The Polish Heritage Society granted a 5 year annual award to the Joseph Conrad Society enabling a student to present their work at their annual conference. This year the scholar was Ewa Kujawska-Lis presenting: 'Conrad's Mastery of Language in Early Marlow Narratives. The Functions and Effects of Comparisons'.

News from the Polish Heritage Society's web page

The Society's web pages carry unique information including :

The Queens 206 Civil Honours

The Queens 83 Military Honours

The Polish Debretts List includes 19 University Professors, 14 Lawyers, 15 Artists, 9 Medical Doctors

Polish Candidates and MPs in UK Elections:

There are or have been 5 elected Polish MPs (3 Labour MPs and 2 Conservative MPs .

The Joseph Conrad PHS Award Winners and their work.

2015 : **Ewa Kujawska-Lis** (Conrad's Mastery of Language in Early Marlow Narratives. The Functions and Effects of Comparisons).

2014.: **Joanna Skolik** (Poland Revisited: A British citizen on the Polish problem)

2013 : **Malgorzata Stanek** (Caught in the Process of Remembering)

2012 : **Brygida Pudelko** (In Search of a Perfect Form and Style)



Wojciech Kilar concert

The Polish Heritage Society organized a unique retrospective fundraising concert in October 2015 at The Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

Wojciech Kilar was born in 1932 and died in 2013. He was a classical and film music composer.

His scores won many honours in such films as **Ziemia Obiecana (The Promised Land)**, **From a Far Country**, **The Pianist**,

His greatest success came in 1993 with his score to Francis Ford Coppola's film **DRACULA** from the novel by Bram Stoker.

Julia Samojlo played favourites pieces by Kilar as well as music from Chopin used in the film **THE PIANIST**. The concert was a sell out!

SAVE THE DATE

The 2nd Polish Heritage Society UK Military Conference
15th October 2016

The 2016 PHS 2nd Military History Conference

General Maczek and the Falaise Gap

The Conference will take place in central London on 15th October 2016

Register your interest at

admin@polishheritagesociety.co.uk