The John Adams Memorial at the central point of the Cemetery was created in 1858. After 149 years, in 2007, some of the stone was showing the effect of decayed and rusted metal inserts, and the High-Victorian style memorial was taken down on safety grounds.

Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, The Bromsgrove Society, The Housman Society, The Victorian Society, and the District Council, began working together in 2011 to restore the Memorial, when the Heritage Lottery Fund gave a grant towards the costs of restoration and the publication of this heritage trail. Generous donations to the funds were also made by the Len Giles Trust, the Edward & Dorothy Cadbury Trust, Bromsgrove Court Leet, The Bromsgrove Society, The Housman Society, and many individuals. The Memorial was re-erected in its original position in May 2013.

www.bsoc.co.uk/cemetery-walk.html
The History of Bromsgrove Cemetery

In December 1855 a meeting was held in the Town Hall to decide whether a new burial ground should be provided. The vicar, the Reverend Mr Villers was in the chair; the proposal was made by Mr George Dipple and seconded by Mr. A. Huxley. A Burial Board was subsequently set up and in May 1856 it was decided to purchase six acres of glebe land from the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, which had previously been leased to the Baroness Windsor. The architect chosen was Mr. C.H. Cooke of John St., Bedford Row, London. The building work was done by Mr. Walker of Evesham and the groundwork by Messrs Cole and Sharpe, for the total sum of just over £2,504. Burials were discontinued in St John's churchyard and in the Baptists', Wesleyans' (Methodists), and Independent burial grounds on 31 December 1856. Bromsgrove Cemetery was consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester in January 1858, with many of the local clergy attending. Berrows Journal reported "A number of persons had congregated to witness the ceremony but principally the labouring classes and children".

The new cemetery was laid out in the latest fashion with paths running mostly at right angles. It was praised by the Journal of Civil Engineers and Architects, 1858. The lodge had extremely striking features in red brick with Bath stone dressing, roofed with red and blue tiles in bands. The lodge was replaced in 1958 but the lych gate remains.

Rev. Thomas Housman

School, who contributed a third of the cost. The design was by William Prosser who had been involved with the restoration of St John's church, working with George Gilbert Scott. The Memorial was built from four differing coloured stones in a strong High-Victorian style. The steps are red Corsehill sandstone, the column is grey Forest of Dean sandstone, and the base, superstructure and cross are Bath Stone. On the base were the four symbols of the Apostles, the name and death date of John Adams, the date of consecration of the Cemetery and text from 1 Corinthians xv 55. The inscriptions on the pediment are:

- On the South, a small Latin cross with the motto of the Emperor Constantine In this sign shalt thou conquer; on the East, Alpha and Omega interlaced beneath I am the Resurrection and the Life.
- On the North, IHS (the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus) beneath Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; on the West, XP (first and second letters of the Greek name for Christ), beneath I am the Way, the Truth, the Life.

A sketch by John Cotton of the old cotton mill, which was managed by John Adams. It was on the site that is now known as Watt Close

John Adams 1766-1858

John Adams was born at Ashby de La Zouch and was apprenticed to a Leicester hosier. It was in Leicester in 1788 that Adams' sister, Jane, met and married a young clergyman from Lancaster called Robert Housman. At this time the leading hosiers of Leicester were experimenting with new spinning machinery based on Arkwright's Water Frame. Major industrial disturbances in Leicester in 1788 persuaded one hosier, John Colman, to spin his yarn well away from Leicestershire. He sent his young partner, John Adams, to Worcestershire to manage the spinning frames in Bromsgrove's former cotton mill. There was no opposition to the new machinery in Bromsgrove and the mill was to employ 150 men, women and children, making John Adams the largest employer in the town. The remains of the huge millpond are still a feature of Bromsgrove's Sanders Park, (see No.4 on the walk).

Perry Hall

John Adams lived at Perry Hall, the large house on the Kidderminster Road which is now part of Bromsgrove School. The ruins of an older house in the garden were converted into a dye works by Adams. Initially it was run by his nephew John Housman. Adams was the prime mover in the Bromsgrove Volunteers and used the title of Captain. After his first wife Dorothy and infant son died in 1796, John Adams was left without an heir, so he promoted the careers of his sister Jane's three sons, John, William and Thomas Housman. The youngest, Thomas Housman, became the first Vicar of Catshill in 1838. John Adams married again in 1835 to a widow, Kezia Ramsden, at Halifax. She was the sister of his friend Isaac Buxton. John Adams died at Perry Hall in 1858, and Kezia died the following year. After her death the Rev. Thomas Housman's son, Edward, by this time a Bromsgrove solicitor, moved into Perry Hall. It was here that Edward Housman's son, Alfred Edward Housman, grew up. He was to write the famous collection of poems entitled 'A Shropshire Lad', which was first published in 1896. Perry Hall is now named Housman Hall in honour of the poet.
1. Rev. Dr John Day Collis 1816-1879
Born in Ireland, he was ordained in 1843 and became Headmaster of Bromsgrove School. He served Bromsgrove as a JP and chairman of the Poor Law Guardians. He was a founder of the Literary and Scientific Institute in the town and spearheaded the Anti-Truck movement to improve the nailing lives. He pressed for George Gilbert Scott's improvements to the church and for the Hop Pole, now Tudor House, to be rebuilt in New Road, where it is today. Plot F14, SO9566/7082

2. Elijah Walton 1832-1880
A Birmingham born artist and author, he studied at Birmingham School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools, London. Walton spent several years travelling and painting in the Alps, Egypt and the Middle East, and became an early member of the Alpine Club. Walton and his second wife moved to Bromsgrove, where she had family connections, and Elijah was for a time President of Bromsgrove School of Art. He died at his home in Bromsgrove, leaving three young sons. Plot no. J226, SO9565/7084

3. Sir Thomas Chavasse 1854-1913
A great benefactor of Bromsgrove and a generous supporter of the building of the Cottage Hospital. He was for 30 years senior surgeon at the Birmingham General Hospital and to the Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital. Plot no. E17, SO9565/7086 The memorial plaque is to Noel Chavasse RAMC, VC and bar MC, his nephew, who died in 1917.

4. The Sanders Family
Thomas Tudor Sanders 1805-1881
The son of Benjamin Sanders, a button manufacturer, he ran his father's business. In 1864, he inherited the Cotton Pool Estate and later drained the enormous pool, of which a small pool now remains in Sanders Park (see map on rear cover).

Benjamin Hadley Sanders 1830-1910
The son of Thomas Tudor Sanders. He was articled to a solicitor in London and became a partner with Luke Minshull, solicitor of Steps House, St John's Street. He was Clerk to the Improvement Commissioners, and subsequently to the Local Board and the Urban District Council, resigning in 1903. He founded the Bromsgrove Rovers FC. He demolished the cotton mill and built the first open air swimming pool in the town. When he died at Oakdene, Kidderminster Road (now the Conservative Club), the town's people erected a horse trough and drinking fountain in the High Street in his memory.

Lucy Mary Maude Sanders 1864-1945 & Mary Beatrice Sanders 1856-1951
The two daughters of B.H. Sanders never married and like their father showed great generosity and a well developed social conscience, donating Sanders Park to the town. Plot no. 1274, SO9563/7087

War Graves
Whether for a private or a high ranking officer, all war graves for members of the armed forces who died in the two world wars are of the same design. Each headstone has the regimental badge, the rank, name, unit, date of death and age of each casualty, and words chosen by relatives. Bromsgrove Cemetery has 23 WWI graves, 13 from WWII. A small number of the war dead from the First World War are buried in family graves at the families' request.
5. Thomas White 1819-1908
As a young man he obtained a position with John Adams as a clerk and four years later he was taken into partnership. When John Adams died Thomas took over the indigo works. He was a teacher in the Sunday school and a treasurer of the Church Missionary Society. He became a trustee of the Bromsgrove United Charities and donated to the Cottage Hospital Fund. He built the Cottage Homes in New Road to provide homes for twelve “financially deserving ladies”. Plot no. 1407, SO9567/7087

6. The Scroxton Brothers
John Harris Scroxton 1804-1890
Born in Bromsgrove, the eldest son of John Scroxton, Baptist preacher. Author, poet and amateur artist, he was a stationer and bookseller, editing 'The Gleaner', Bromsgrove's first newspaper. From his premises in the High Street he sold and took some of the first glass plate photographs. He was remembered as "one of the best and kindest of men". Plot no. D142, SO9567/7090

Thomas Scroxton 1811-1888
Born in 1811, he was a nail factor with a warehouse in St John's Street. He was later in partnership with Walter Brooke of Raglan House, High Street. Thomas built Alma House, standing on the corner of Church Lane and Kidderminster Road, which became Bromsgrove's Vicarage in 1931. He died there on 30th May 1888. Plot no. D169, SO9567/7090

7. William Crane 1844-1916
A baker by trade, he established a business in Melbourne Road, Sidemoor. He succeeded his father, James, as the Leader of the Methodist Ebenezer Chapel in 1886. From 1905 he became increasingly paralysed by illness and his son, Ashwell, became Deputy Leader to carry out many of his duties. Plot no. O18, SO9567/7093

8. Samuel Saywell 1837-1914
Headmaster of the College School, founded by his brother Lemuel. His school was in the High Street but with the opening of New Road he moved the school to The Green, a large house halfway up the hill from the town. It became known as the College, now Elmhurst, and gave its name to College Road. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the Royal Astronomical Society. In 1871 he was awarded a BA from Trinity College Dublin and two years later an MA. He served on the Worcestershire Education Committee and was involved in the life of the Church and the Court Leet. Plot no. T80, SO9556/7096

9. John Humphreys MA, PhD, MDS, FLS, FSA, FGS 1850-1937
He left school at 15 and was apprenticed to a chemist. He opened his own shop in Bromsgrove when he was 21. He then studied dentistry at the Dental Hospital in Birmingham and opened a surgery in Bromsgrove in 1877. He was the first to be awarded a Master of Dental Surgery from Birmingham University in 1901. He was the captain of the local Fire Brigade and a member of the Court Leet. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society, the Society of Antiquaries and the Geological Society. He was President of The Birmingham Natural History and Philosophy Society and a Reader in Mediaeval Archaeology. He was also President of the Birmingham and Worcester Archaeological Societies. Plot no. V321, SO9556/7106

10. The Cotton Brothers
John Cotton 1844-1934
An architect, historian, poet and artist. He was responsible for many of the buildings we see today in and around Bromsgrove, including All Saints Church and St Godwald's Church at Finstall. He left an archive of his drawings and his historical scrapbooks to Birmingham Reference Library. Plot no. M98, SO9570/7094

William Alfred Cotton 1853-1889
Auctioneer and scholar and brother of John. He wrote a history of Bromsgrove Church and many pamphlets on coins and tokens, flint chips and the geology of the area. His library of books was accepted by the Victoria Institute in Worcester (later the Public Library). Plot no. M99, SO9570/7094

Born in Birmingham he was a successful musician, composer and entertainer. During the Second World War he was working in an engineering factory and this gave him time to invent a game. This game became known as Cluedo (or in America, Clue), believed to be the second most popular board game after Monopoly. Cluedo has sold more than 150 million copies in more than forty countries and inspired a television series and the film 'Clue' (1985). Plot no. B861, SO9573/7085

12. Thomas Davies Thomas
He was born in Builth Wells, Breconshire in 1811. From 1835 he ran a drapery business in a three-storey Georgian house near the corner of High Street and St John's Street. He was a director of the Gas Company and a Commissioner named in the Bromsgrove Improvement Act of 1864. He later became General Manager of the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bank, whose Bromsgrove branch is now occupied by HSBC. He died at his house in Denbighshire, leaving £88,000. Plot no. E250, SO9568/7084