Sercombe Grave Condition Update

On Saturday 24th November 2012 visitors to the Cemetery were seeking the grave of relatives, John and James Sercombe. They had located the Website record but were unsure how to locate the grave in the Cemetery. The grave is recorded on RSHG Map 018 A2 in Section G of the Old Cemetery, Plot 954 and was easily located. The grave is almost completely covered in ivy but not the variety of ivy that clings to the stonework. We were able to pull the ivy off the grave and expose the stone. The Website record states that there is a Cross lying on the gravestone but the ivy has made its way between the Cross and the stone and the gravestone and the Cross was lifted clear when the grave was exposed.

The outline of the Cross can be seen clearly on the gravestone which has laminated and sections of the stone were entangled with the ivy and can be seen on the right of the picture. The foundations which appear to have supported railings can be seen but there is no sign of the actual railings.

This view shows the Cross firmly entangled in the ivy.

This view shows the grave as it is normally seen now.

The inscriptions on the north and south edges and the end of the gravestone can be read except where the stone has laminated on the south side and are included in the Website record.

Information received from the Isle of Wight Bereavement Services provided the following information.

JOHN HENRY SERCOMBE aged fourteen years was buried on the 31st January 1871, Burial Number 1309.

JAMES MURCH SERCOMBE aged fifty-one years was buried on the 14th December 1875, Burial Number 2325.

Costs of the Burials

The first burial of John Sercombe cost £3 19s 0d which included the Burial Fee and the Purchase of the Plot.

The second burial of James Sercombe cost £1 17s 0d which was the Burial Fee.

Report compiled by David Earle 27th November 2012.