

The Garrison Cemetery

The Garrison Cemetery at Seringapatam, remains in a state comparable to that of last year. The old lady, employed by the de Meuron family, continues to sweep up and burn the leaves and ask visitors to sign the visitors' book. Some of the tombs are affected by the weather and damp is spreading, and others show a little movement from tree roots growing.



But the most worrying development is the burgeoning building bang alongside the cemetery wall of the Parivarthana School, rising up further floor (see above photo) which has encroached over the direct entrance into the cemetery from the Mysore – Bangalore Highway, which was accessible last year. There is now a tiny sign at a tea stall on this main road a few hundred yards west of the earlier entrance marking the access. It is a wonder that any visitors find it – they could hardly expect to by chance!



Also, the wall leading from the Cemetery gate down to the river, which I reported last year had been breached, has now been reinforced by ugly temporary fencing.



Meanwhile the area beside the river itself at this point has been cleared, obviously for further building, and the dug earth from the clearing is now piled in the Cemetery itself. With no shared language I sought to remonstrate with the building contractors and they gesticulated in response that the area would be restored. However small, I believe it serves a purpose merely to show that occasionally people are noticing and questioning what is going on, as land encroachment is happening everywhere.



I hope to visit the Cemetery again later in the year, with Jean Leonard de Meuron, the son of Dominique who paid for the restoration of the Cemetery

Baillie's Memorial

The deterioration of the Baillie Memorial slowly, but noticeably, continues. And the dumping in the coach park bazaar by tourists arriving by coach to visit the Gumbaz of the wrappings and containers of the food and drink piled upon them is as bad as ever.



Upon consultation and consideration and with the agreement and private support of Alan Tritton, we have decided on a solution. This is to make a new gateway into Baillie's memorial so that it can easily be entered from the road which runs alongside. This means that all the distracting mess on the original approach, coming from the Gumbaz itself, can simply be ignored and avoided. We will seal up the old gate and cut a new gate into the low perimeter wall, with a signpost in English and Kannada, explaining the significance of the memorial. Gumbaz visitors, Muslim tourists in their coachloads, are not likely to have much interest in straying from the beautiful Gumbaz parkland, where they go for a day out, but this arrangement will make it much easier for visitors who come to visit the Memorial to access it, and there will be the added benefit that they will not be required to pay for car parking in the Gumbaz car park.



Proposed new gateway in the low curve of the perimeter wall, beside the concrete post.

The signpost, in English and Kannada, would read: -

This Memorial to Colonel William Baillie of the Madras Army was erected by his nephew Colonel John Baillie of the 4th Native Infantry, then the British Resident at Lucknow in 1816..

Colonel William Baillie died in 1782, a prisoner of Haidar Ali, in the nearby Seringapatam dungeon.

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