

## The Lloyd Family - Monumental Sculptors

Lloyd's was established in 1790, and (among many other activities) was involved in the construction of the canal and built the 1835 Great Bedwyn school.

The Lloyd family arrived in Great Bedwyn from Wales in the late eighteenth century and, after well over 200 years, are still the village stone masons. Their work has gained wide recognition over the years and they are famed for their statue of Queen Victoria outside Buckingham Palace. The yard is a virtual open air museum of their work as can be seen from the picture below.



©Wiltshire OPC Project/2015/Paul Vivash

Some of the inscriptions on their work are very amusing as can be seen from the following examples:-

In Memory Of James Webb Who died April 26 1747 aged 50 years DEVIL IS BLOWING LAST TRUMPET HAIR STYLE MEANS HEATHEN HEADSTONE SHAPE = SELFISH BAD WOMEN 7 FINNED TAIL = ADULTERY LIFE TREE BRANCHES DROOP



Another inscription to the memory of probably a pork butcher reads:-

HERE LIES JOHN HIGGS A FAMOUS MAN FOR KILLING PIGS FOR KILLING PIGS WAS HIS DELIGHT BOTH MORNING AFTERNOON AND NIGHT BOTH HEATS AND COLDS HE DID ENDURE WHICH NO PHYSICIAN COULD ERE CURE HIS KNIFE IS LAID HIS WORK IS DONE I HOPE TO HEAVEN HIS SOULD HAS GONE

Finally an inscription to the memory of a local blacksmith:-

MY SLEDGE AND HAMMER LIE RECLINED MY BELLOWS THEY HAVE LOST THEIR WIND MY FIRE IS EXTINCT - MY FORGE DECAYED AND IN THE DUST MY VICE IS LAYED MY COALS ARE SPENT - MY IRON IS GONE MY NAILS ARE DRIVEN MY WORK IS DONE MY FIRE-DRIED CORPSE LIES HERE AT REST MY SOUL WEL SMOKED SOARS TO BE BLEST

My Sledge and Hammer Lie Reclined My Bellows they have lost their Wind My Erie extinct - my Forde decayed And in the dust my Vice is layed My Coals are spent - my Iron is gone My Nails are driven my Work is done My Nails are driven my Work is done My Erie-Dried Corpse lies here at rest My Soul well smoked Soars to be Blest.

The Post Office building next door to the masons yard is also decorated with several examples of Lloyds work.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2015/Paul Vivash



The business closed in 2009.

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2015/Paul Vivash