

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 58 - January 2007

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## Chairman's Report

by Bob Flanagan

I am pleased to report that the sundial located at the road junction of the St Mary-at-Hill path near to the Stephenson Mausoleum (square 61) has been repaired and reinstated slightly to the east of its original location. We have agreed to pay for a replacement sundial in a suitable material. It is unfortunate that the intrusive 'Biffa' skips (there used to be only one) continue to occupy their prominent position at this junction, despite the provision of the silos at the other end of the St Mary-at-Hill path.

There is little further to report this month save that (i) plans for the new Rose Garden in the NE corner of the cemetery continue to be discussed, and (ii) ivy removal from parts of the cemetery wall has continued. Plans are also being prepared for Phase II of the roadway and drainage works.



*The relocated sundial and 'Biffa' skips (square 61)*

## **Welford Road Cemetery**

In October the Court of Arches allowed an appeal by Leicester City Council and the Rev Howard Cocks, the rural dean of Leicester, against the Consistory court judgment refusing the Council a confirmatory faculty in relation to work carried out at Welford Road Cemetery (see May 2006 newsletter). The Court of Arches concluded that the Chancellor had no jurisdiction to make a restoration order concerning the consecrated portion of a local authority cemetery for various reasons, not least the fact that no-one had sought such an order. The Court of Arches also concluded that the Consistory court had erred in refusing a confirmatory faculty. It remains to be seen what effect this judgment will have on operations in other similar cemeteries, but it does seem worrying that what had appeared a safeguard against precipitate action by cemetery managers has been swept away.

## **Brookwood Cemetery**

I'm sorry to report that founder and chairman of the UK Turkish Islamic Trust and owner of Brookwood Cemetery, Mr Ramadan Güney has died in Cyprus after suffering a heart attack. He was 74. His corpse was flown to London and was buried next to the grave of his wife, Süheyla Güney, at Brookwood. Mr Güney was a founding member of the Volkan organisation, established in the 50s as part of the struggle against the Greek nationalists, EOKA, in Cyprus. He was in later years a Member of Parliament and presidential candidate in Cyprus. In 1977 he established the first Turkish mosque in London and later became the first Turkish Cypriot councillor in London. He was the founder and first chairman of the UK Turkish Islamic Trust. He bought Brookwood with the aim of establishing a Turkish cemetery, and applied his considerable energies to reversing the neglect which the cemetery had suffered under previous owners. Sadly I never met him, but I know John Clarke, founder of the Brookwood Cemetery Society, held him in high regard.

## **William Burges and Cardiff Castle**

A work commissioned by William Burges (1827-1881) (grave 4,478, square 34) and painted by the Swedish artist Herman Axel Haig (1835-1921) has been purchased for display at Cardiff Castle. Burges was responsible for the restoration of the castle in the 19th century. The painting was purchased for £32,500, with a £5,000 contribution from The Art Fund. The watercolour was exhibited at the Royal Academy (1870) and in Paris (1878). However, it has since been in a collection belonging to David Mallock, the great, great, great, great nephew of William Burges. Mr Mallock has sold the painting to Cardiff Castle, saying that he was 'delighted to find the painting a new long-term home back at Cardiff Castle where more people will be able to appreciate it'. The work will go on permanent display when the new Burges Gallery opens at the Castle (2008), and will be exhibited alongside many of Burges' original drawings for the castle not currently on public view.



*Plot 43. Agnes Busby widow of the late James Busby, who died at Pakaraka 13th Day of October 1889, aged 89 years.*



*In memoriam. Here are the mortal remains of Agnes second daughter of James and Agnes Busby, who died 16th February 1847 aged 4 years Also of John Dow Berwick nephew of the above named James and Agnes BUSBY, who died 17th August 1849 aged 17 years, also of George Alexander third son of the above named James and Agnes Busby, who died 5th November 1859 aged 20 years and 4 months.*

### **Another Headstone for the Busby Family**

Newsletter 48 (September 2003) carried a further article about James Busby and his role in taking vines to Australia and in negotiating the Treaty of Waitangi and how, and why he came to be buried at Norwood (grave 13,335, square 86). Adele Pentony-Graham has written with details of his wife's gravestone at Paihia near to Busby's house, Treaty House, Bay of Islands.



*Treaty House, Bay of Islands, New Zealand*

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# The Pond Sundial

by Bob Flanagan

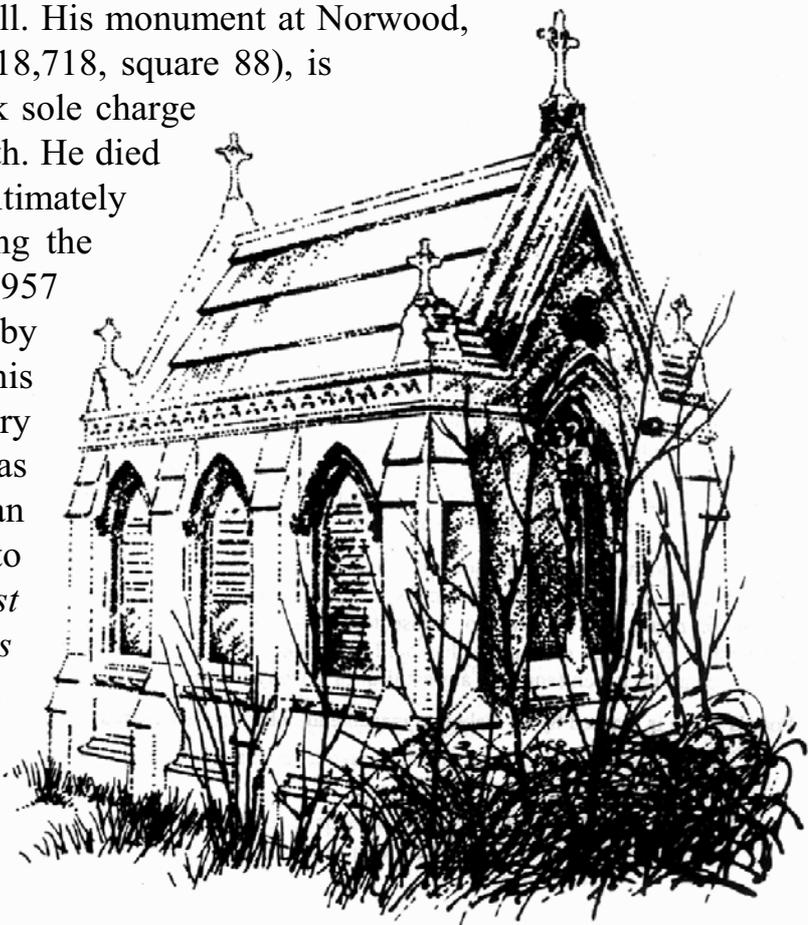
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The sundial was erected by his widow in memory of the caterer and hotelier Christopher Pond (1826-1881). Pond hailed from Essex and met Londoner Felix Spiers (1832-1910) in Australia at the time of the gold rush in 1851. They rented a room at the Melbourne National Hotel, set it up as a catering establishment and named it *The Shakespeare Grill Room*. Later they bought the *Café de Paris* in Melbourne and made a fortune from this and from providing catering on the Melbourne-Ballarat Railway. They organised the visit of the first English cricket team to Australia in 1861/2; William Mortlock (1832-1884) (grave 19,684, square 122) was one of the team. They also organized the first balloon flight in Australia.

Spiers & Pond later returned to England and introduced railway catering to the UK on the Metropolitan Railway and the London, Chatham & Dover Railway. They built the Criterion Restaurant and Theatre, Piccadilly Circus (1874), the Gaiety Theatre Restaurant in the Strand (1894), and they catered at the Regents Park Zoo and at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. They also produced an 80 page monthly mail order catalogue, *The Housekeeper*, which provided articles of interest, recipes and hints to housewives.

Pond lived at the Cedars, Herne Hill and died at Updown House, Margate, 30 July 1881. He left £215,000 in his will. His monument at Norwood, an elaborate mausoleum (grave 18,718, square 88), is listed Grade II. Felix Spiers took sole charge of the company after Pond's death. He died in Paris in 1910. The firm ultimately owned 12 major hotels, including the Grand Hotel, Brighton. In 1957 Spiers & Pond was acquired by Chicken Inns, and in 1960 this merged with the Express Dairy group. In 1969, Express Dairy was acquired by Grand Metropolitan Hotels. More details of Pond are to be found in the booklet: *West Norwood Cemetery: The Dickens Connection* by Paul Graham, available from the FOWNC bookstall.



*Pond mausoleum at Norwood  
(line drawing by Don Bianco)*

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# The de Blaquiere Family

by Lorraine Guest

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Newsletter 55 (January 2006) carried an article about William de Blaquiere by Tony de Blaquiere. In the article Tony wondered where William's daughter Rose is buried. Well, I have found (via the Surrey Family History Website) that Rose is commemorated by a plaque at Slaugham St Mary (C35): de Blaquiere - Rose de Blaquiere, 26 October 1813-11 February 1818.

I am related to the de Blaquieres on my mother's side, a branch of the family who lived in India and then in Burma. The Indian branch was founded on 31 March 1777 when Jacob Blaquiere and his son William Coates Blaquiere set sail to India in the *Seahorse*. Jacob was to take up a position for the East India Company in Bengal. My 4 x great-grandfather Jacob Blaquiere was a merchant in Calcutta. My 3 x great-grandfather was William Coates Blaquiere, who was an interpreter to the Supreme Court and Justice of the Peace in Calcutta. His likeness was used for one of the disciples in a painting of the last supper by Johann Zoffany that is in St James' Church, Calcutta.

In more recent times the family moved to Burma, and then took part in the trek out of Burma to India ahead of the Japanese invasion. My grandmother died on the trek and was buried in the jungle. Over time members of the family went to Guyana, Canada, the US, Australia, and indeed some came back to England.



*Plaque commemorating Rose de Blaquiere in the church at Slaugham St Mary, West Sussex (www.slaugham-parish.co.uk)*



There are two further Blaquieres commemorated at Norwood, my mother's uncle Donald Arthur Blaquiere (1904-1979) (grave 42,329, square 124) and her aunt Gladys May Blaquiere (née Boudville, born 16 May 1912, died May 2003). The former looks to be a cremation plot.

*Memorial to Donald Arthur Blaquiere (b.1904 Calcutta, d. 19 April 1979) at Norwood*

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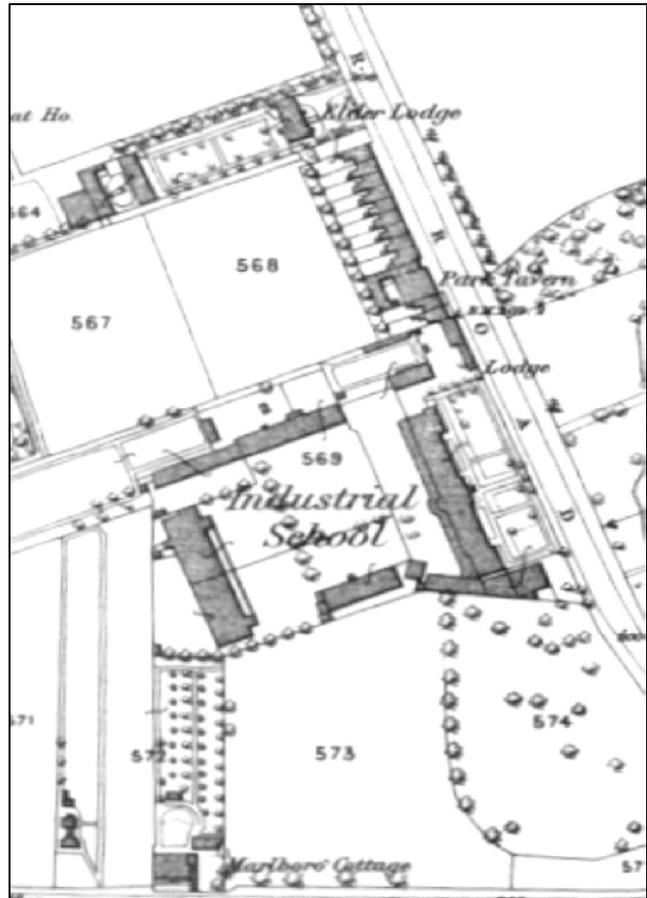
# The Rani Subhao Koir Singh (1849-1877)

by Colin Fenn

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J. B. Wilson's book *The Story of Norwood* contains an intriguing mention of an exiled Rajah and his wife who became the first Indian residents of West Norwood. Rampal Singh (1848-1909) was the son of the Rajah of Dharupur in the Indian State of Oudh (now Awadh), Uttar Pradesh. As a consequence of the violence of the Indian Mutiny in Uttar Pradesh, the ruling princes of the state had been put under a British chief commissioner, and were governed as a British province. Perhaps this added to the tension in the household, as there was a major falling-out. Although Rampal was the favoured son and heir of the dynasty, the young Rajah argued heavily with his father over religion, and rejected the family's Hindu tradition for a less specific Deist view. Spurned, the Rajah left India and settled in England, bringing his young wife Subhao, née Kunwar, with him. They moved into Elder Lodge, in Elder Road, West Norwood sometime after 1870.



*Elder Road in 1870. Elder Lodge is to the north of the Industrial School.*

Their familiarity with Indian affairs ensured their views were consulted on the British political and social scene, and the Rajah and Rani were sought out as rare and colourful additions to London high society. Indian affairs still occupied them, and between 1871 and 1876 the Rajah successfully fought off several legal actions by his uncles and cousins to disinherit him, and took steps to assign rights to his wife for various Indian villages that he had received in 1859, before the disagreement.

However, the young Rani had died at Elder Road on 1 March 1877, aged 28, and a funeral was arranged by Wilson's undertakers of Norwood High Street. She was embalmed and placed in a lead coffin with a glass lid and laid to rest in one of the (unconsecrated?) catacombs at Norwood on 9 March 1877. In the cemetery register the spaces for grave & square number, purchaser, etc. are completely blank, and the space for mode of burial just says 'P.Y.' – any ideas what this might mean? Be this as it may, the Rajah was known to be a regular visitor to the catacombs, and this probably added to the reputation he had already developed for eccentricity.



*J B Wilson's business at 103 Norwood High Street, c. 1870  
(Photograph from "The Story of Norwood")*

The Rajah left Norwood in about 1880 and turned his attention to domestic politics; after Gladstone's victory he got adopted as the Liberal candidate for Lincolnshire, though the death of his father cut short his British political career before he could fight for the seat in the next elections.

By June 1885 he had sold most of his British effects (except his three horse-drawn carriages, which became regular landmarks in the classified columns of *The Times*) and moved back to Uttar Pradesh to take up his Indian title of Taluqdar (roughly equivalent to a landed baronetcy). He continued his interest in politics and became an activist in the Indian National Congress from its inception in 1885, although he became less reactionary in later years. The Rajah married twice more, once to an Englishwoman, and once to an Indian Muslim.

The legal dispute over the rights to his father's inheritance had resurfaced by his return, much complicated by the transfer of assets to his first wife, and were still troubling the courts for years after his death.

(Rampal Singh, Rajah 1885-1909, born 22 August 1849 or 1848 in Dharupur, Pratapgarh District, UP; married (1) Rani Subhao Kunwar, died 1877 in London, (2) Rani Alice (English), (3) Rani Radha (Muslim); died 28 February 1909, Kalakankar)

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# Lt. Col. William Thomas Reay OBE CBE (1858-1929) (Cremation)

by Colin Fenn

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A newspaper editor and politician, Reay features in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. A ‘chirpy, sparrow-like man’, showing ‘marked individuality’, he was born on 10 November 1858 at Balmain, Sydney, Australia, the son of Edward William Reay, an English sailmaker, and his Irish wife Johanna née Brennan.

As a youth he ran away to sea before working as a clerk in Dunedin, New Zealand and then an accountant at the Victoria Sugar Company. However, his career took a different turn when he starting buying and editing local newspapers, until in 1891 he was employed as assistant editor and a writer for the Melbourne *Daily Telegraph* and its successors.

He took a commission in the Victorian Mounted Rifles in 1886, at that time a part-time volunteer regiment, and led a detachment to London in 1897 for Queen Victoria’s Jubilee celebration. He was with the first Australian regiments to join the Anglo-Boer War, doubling up as war correspondent for the Melbourne *Herald* and the *South Australian Register*.

Australian regiments came in for some criticism during the campaign: at one stage the British General Beatson was reported to have said:

‘The Australians are a damned fat, round shouldered, useless crowd of wasters . . . In my opinion they are a lot of white-livered curs . . . You can add dogs too’.

Proving that ‘spin’ is not a new phenomenon, Reay was able to counterbalance that view with firsthand reports of the Australian experience of the campaign written for his home audience, which were relayed by Reuters around the world. Reay was awarded the Queen’s South African medal for the action at Jansfontein farm, which was the first time that Antipodean forces saw action in a foreign war.

On his return home he wrote a history, *Australians in War* (1900), with free copies being distributed across the State of Victoria, thus ensuring an early place in the historiography of Australian nationhood. On retirement from the regiment in 1903 he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Before the war he had taken leading roles in many organizations, notably vice-president of the Melbourne Total Abstinence Society (‘T-totalers’), the delightfully-named Anti-Sweating League against exploitation of women in factories, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On his return in 1900 he was elected as a ‘radical’ Labour party member for East Bourke Boroughs. From 1902 he resumed his newspaper career, firstly as managing editor of the Melbourne *Herald* and then as its overseas representative, relocating to London in 1911.

*Continued on page 16*

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## The Doctors and the Actor: The Brookes and Frederick Robson (Thomas Frederick Brownbill)

by Robert Smith

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*Fred Robson*

Thomas Frederick Brownbill (1822-1864), who changed his name to Frederick Robson, was one of the most celebrated actors of the Victorian era. He died on 12 August 1864 at his home in Amphyll Square, near Euston Station. On the day of his funeral, 18 August, three mourning coaches followed his hearse to Norwood cemetery (grave 9,307, square 78), a journey which took four and a half hours. Most of the actors and staff of the Olympic Theatre, of which Robson remained manager and joint lessee up to his death, were present in the cemetery. In one of the coaches were his great friends, Charles and Frances Brookes. As a sign of this friendship, Dr Charles Brookes had three years earlier given a Toby Jug to Frederick Robson inscribed: 'FR - From his sincere friend - CB - 1861'.

Frederick Robson and his wife, Rosetta Frances, had two children, including a daughter Frances (1847-1921?). Charles and Frances Brookes (née Sadler, a descendant of James Sadler, the first English aeronaut) had three sons. The eldest, Robert Charles (1846-1898) married Frances Robson. Robert Charles and Frances are my great-grandparents and it is from conversations with their granddaughter, and my mother, Mrs José Lilian Smith (née Brookes), that much of the information in this article stems.

My mother has some recollection, albeit vague, of her grandmother, Frances, who died when she was about four. She remembers her as a small lady, and she later learnt that she had gained the reputation of being quite free with her allowance from the family surgery!

The Brookes were a well-known family of south London doctors. Charles had followed his father into the profession, and Charles' three sons followed him. The surgery was in Westminster Bridge Road. It later belonged to a dentist, but my mother remembers seeing the Brookes name still in the window in the 1920s. Charles Brookes died in June



*The top of a cane that belonged to Robson*

1891, while Robert Charles dropped down dead in the surgery in March 1898. My mother understands that her father, Sydney (1880-1944), who was his third son, was with him at the time. His death is said to have been connected with the fall in value of some gold shares.

Robert's brothers were Walter and Frederick and my mother can just remember the latter. In 1919, Frederick certified the death (in Lambeth) of Frederick Robson's son, yet another Frederick, described as 'formerly an actor'.

The Brookes treated all people, rich and poor. Indeed, Charles' father had in 1832 received a silver cup presented as a tribute to 'the skill, compassionate zeal and uniform kindness shown by him to the sick poor'. In the time of my mother's great uncles, patients were allowed to pay according to their means. One illustrious patient was Dan Leno, the famous musical hall comedian. Other contemporary actors were also said to have been patients. One of the doctors was also an acquaintance of Dr Crippen, and it is said that either his wife or his mistress was a patient of the surgery.

The eldest son of Robert Charles, Robert, attended Westminster School and trained as a doctor. He is thought to have worked at the surgery of his father and uncles, but he did not wish to pursue his career in London, and went off periodically as a ship's doctor. It is not known where or when he died, but my mother says that, according to her mother, his death was caused from poison passing through a damaged protective glove during an operation.

There was not enough money for all of the sons of Robert Charles to train as doctors. Sydney worked for Lloyds, then gave up his place to his more delicate elder brother, Cyril, who in fact outlived him. Sydney then worked for a time at the London Stock Exchange, before joining the firm of Arthur Cort, belonging to his wife's family. He eventually left Arthur Cort amidst some acrimony.

Sydney Brookes (1880-1944) and Agnes Cort (1881-1965), who were my mother's parents, had met when she was 16 (ca. 1897-8). My mother believes they both attended a school attached to St. John the Divine Church.

Earlier generations of the Brookes family were buried in old Lambeth Churchyard, but Charles (1821/2-1891) and Frances (1821/2-1906) and their son Walter John (1858-1914) are buried at Norwood (grave 24,011, square 99). The gravestone is still extant,

a large flat slab over a vault surmounted by a three-tiered stepped pedestal, although something, probably a cross, has been lost from the top. There is an inscription to Robert Charles Brookes on the tombstone that gives his date of death as 16 January 1899, aged 52 – this may be a mistake, but will be checked.

Although Charles' grandson Sydney was very upset when the Brookes family grave was damaged by a bomb on 10 May 1941 and arranged its repair, he himself was buried in Camberwell Old Cemetery, where my grandmother's family, the Corts, have their graves.

There are some illustrations in the book *Robson of the Olympic* by Mollie Sands published by The Society for Theatre Research (1979) that were provided by my mother. The book describes Robson's career and gives information on Robson's complicated private life – he seems to have been something of the Tony Hancock of his time! Mollie Sands records that an impressive monument was erected to mark Robson's grave, a Portland stone column on bases. By 1971 this had collapsed and that part of the cemetery was leveled. Robson's grave was then commemorated by a simple marker with name, dates and the one word 'Actor'. It is disappointing that today even the marker has disappeared.



*The Brookes family grave at Norwood*

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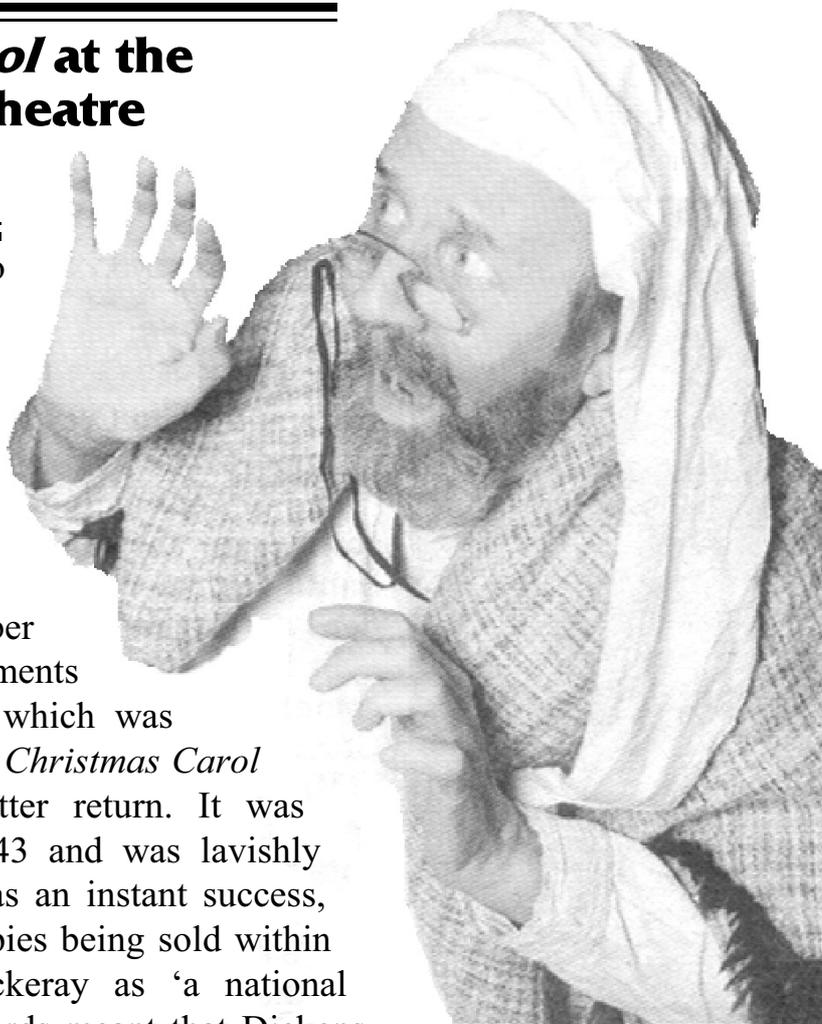
## ***A Christmas Carol* at the South London Theatre**

by Bob Flanagan

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**A** *Christmas Carol* is said to have played a major role in rebranding Christmas as a holiday emphasizing family, goodwill, and compassion. It was Charles Dickens' first Christmas book and was written in six weeks, being finished by the end of November 1843, in-between writing installments of *Martin Chuzzlewit*, a work which was causing him financial anxiety. *A Christmas Carol* would, he hoped, bring a better return. It was published on 19 December 1843 and was lavishly illustrated by John Leech. It was an instant success, the initial print run of 6,000 copies being sold within days, and was hailed by Thackeray as 'a national benefit'. High production standards meant that Dickens only made £230 from the first printing. Dramatized versions appeared almost at once - by February 1844 at least eight theatrical productions had been staged.



The February 1844 version at the Adelphi featured Richard John Smith (stage name O'Smith) (1786-1855) (grave 4,385, square 19 – monument destroyed) as Scrooge, and was advertised as being sanctioned by Dickens. Dickens saw his performance and described it as 'drearly better than I expected'. Public readings devised by Dickens from the work became one of his most popular performances in his professional reading career. Its popularity as a stage performance has never faded and it has become a perennial Christmas favourite. Interestingly, it has been identified as the only one of Dickens' works where the vast majority of the adaptations appeared in the twentieth as opposed to the nineteenth century.

The South London Theatre, which is housed in the Victorian fire station on Norwood High Street next to St Luke's Church and was founded in 1967, staged a further lively and well attended adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* in December. I will endeavour to look out for future productions with connections to those buried or otherwise commemorated at Norwood - details of forthcoming SLT productions can be found at <http://www.southlondontheatre.co.uk/whatson.php>.

*Photograph shows Alan Buckman as Ebenezer Scrooge in the South London Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol".*

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# Book Review

by Bob Flanagan

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## **The Brookwood Necropolis Railway by John M Clarke.**

Edition 4, 2006. The Oakwood Press Locomotion Papers No.143, 192 pp, £12.95.

John Clarke will be well known to FOWNC members for his tireless work over the years in researching and publicizing Brookwood Cemetery. His recent book *London's Necropolis. A Guide to Brookwood Cemetery* (see Newsletter 50, May 2004) has been followed by a further, expanded edition

(an extra 64 pages) of his classic

book on the Necropolis Railway, the London

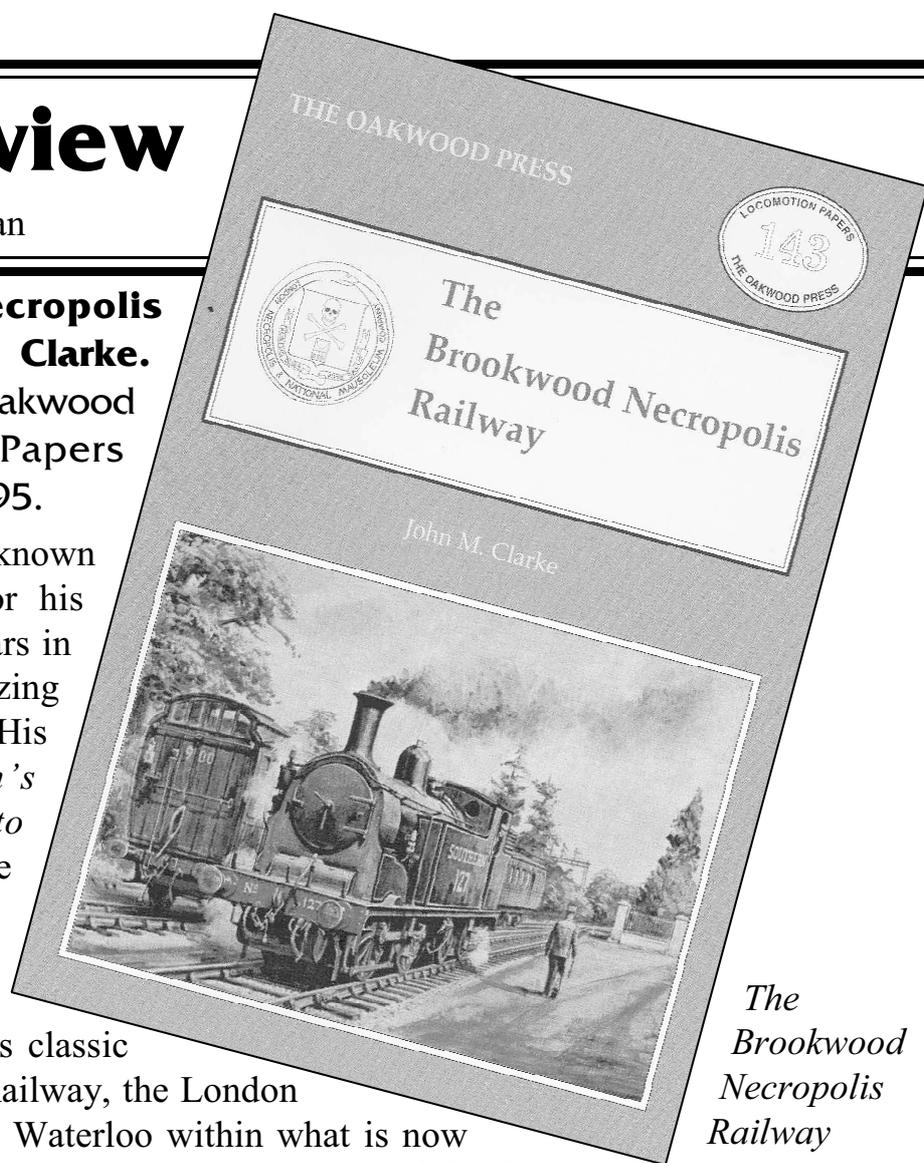
terminus of which was at Waterloo within what is now

the London Borough of Lambeth. At the other end of the line there

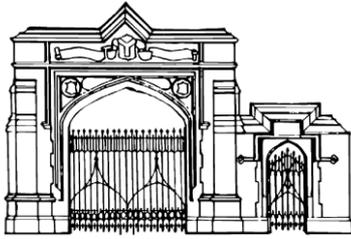
were two stations, one in the Nonconformist section and another for Anglicans, both with associated chapels. There was also a masonry works siding. Even after death class distinctions were maintained with first, second, or third class coffin tickets available (single only, of course). Perhaps surprisingly, both cemetery stations included licensed premises and it is said that notices were displayed stating 'Spirits served here'!

What is new in this edition? Well, the extra material includes accounts of the first offices at York Street (now Leake Street), Waterloo, and details of numbers of tickets issued, which has enabled an analysis of traffic 1921-40 to be performed. New illustrations include two views of Brookwood station ca. 1905, a headstone featuring Beattie 2-4-0 *Firebrand*, and a portrait of Joseph Porter, who is said to have driven the first train into the cemetery.

I confess to having much enjoyed reading the second edition of this book when FOWNC was founded in 1990, and can recommend this new edition as a worthy and erudite successor, combining as it does much useful information about Brookwood Cemetery itself with the story of its pioneering railway service. More information about the railway can be found at: <http://www.tbcs.org.uk/railway.htm>.



*The  
Brookwood  
Necropolis  
Railway*



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# Review of Recent FOWNC Events

by Jill Dudman

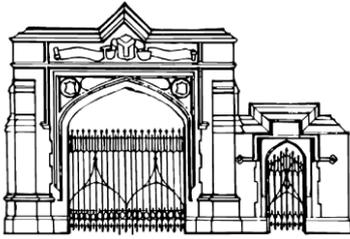
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Our contribution to the Open House London event on 17 September unfortunately ran into administrative problems. The moving of the annual memorial service and open day to June this year meant that the running of the OH event was left solely to FOWNC. As a result of misunderstandings within the cemetery office and between them and myself, although I collected in advance (because the office is closed at weekends) the usual bunch of keys, we discovered too late that a new key for a new lock, fitted recently to the Greek Chapel, had not been included. Consequently, although we carried on with the advertised series of tours, which attracted about 50 people, we were unable to open the chapel for viewing inside. Thanks anyway to all those who conducted tours, staffed the bookstall in the Maddick mausoleum, and particularly to Don Bianco for giving hastily improvised talks about the Greek Cemetery to each tour party.

The AGM on 21 October was followed by a talk by FOWNC chairman Bob Flanagan, drawing on his professional expertise as a toxicologist. He presented the known facts of the case of Hannah Russell, who in 1826 was sentenced to death at Lewes Assizes for murdering her husband by giving him white arsenic. Whilst her convicted accomplice was hanged at Horsham Gaol, her own execution was delayed on a technicality and Dr Gideon Mantell, then a local GP, set out to prove her innocent. He eventually obtained her pardon from Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel, but was she innocent or guilty as charged? Bob related interesting details of the Russell family and their acquaintances, and their not entirely legal activities, the events surrounding the death, the reported symptoms, and the autopsy results. He went on to describe the opinion that Mantell took of the evidence and his intervention in the case. Contemporary toxicologists were scathing in their criticism of Mantell's opinions, and although the evidence does point strongly to poisoning, some inconsistencies do remain.

A number of persons buried at Norwood had connections with the Elephant and Castle district, prompting us to invite Southwark Council's archivist and local historian, Stephen Humphrey, to come and talk to us on 18 November about the history of that area. He began by establishing the origin and date of the name, thereby dispelling various myths that have grown up. It seems that the symbol of an elephant bearing an armoured saddle resembling a castle, for purposes of warfare, is of great antiquity and known all over Europe, and may date back to Hannibal; certainly representations of it have been found in Norman and later architecture and art. In our locality, it was simply the name that a proprietor of a pub in Newington decided to adopt around 1760. Stephen related a general history of the development of the area, with many fascinating photographs, and highlighted Charles Spurgeon, Baptist preacher who had his Metropolitan Tabernacle built there; Richard and Henry Cuming, collectors who lived nearby (their collections now being in the Cuming Museum); and the Surrey Theatre, of which many actors and managers, such as George Conquest, are buried at Norwood.



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# Forthcoming FOWNC Events

## January - April 2007

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General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (7 January, 4 February, 4 March and 1 April). January to March tours start at 11.00 and the April tour starts at 14.30, at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and they last for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects. There is also a regular non-FOWNC event that deserves a mention: Activity Walks in the cemetery start from West Norwood Library every Wednesday at 12.30.

### Spring Lectures

Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road) as detailed below, starting at 14.30. Please note these are not our usual third Saturdays of months. There is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 per person to help cover the room hire.

#### Saturday 10 February

##### **Diversity in death: people of foreign birth buried at Norwood by Jill Dudman**

An American inventor, an Australian artist, a New Zealand soldier, a South African engineer, an Austrian ballet dancer, a Polish juggler, a German news agency pioneer, a French chemist, a West Indian writer, and a large Greek community, will be among those featured in this talk by the FOWNC secretary.



*St Stephen's Chapel in the Greek section of West Norwood Cemetery*

#### Saturday 10 March

##### **Felix Slade 1788-1868: The Slade School of Art - his collections of glass and prints bequeathed to the British Museum - and his family background by Fabian Robertson**

Slade was a passionate art collector and rich bachelor philanthropist who purchased many books, engravings and glass objects with which he adorned his home in Walcot Place. He endowed the Slade professorships of fine arts at Oxford and Cambridge universities and at University College, London, which also received six Slade scholarships in art.

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**Lt. Col.**  
**William Thomas Reay**  
**OBE CBE (1858-1929)**

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*continued from page 8*

During the Great War he became Inspector-General of the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary, which he described in his book *The Specials* (1920).

He was admitted OBE in 1917 and CBE in 1920. He died after a short illness at Woolwich Memorial Hospital on 11 November 1929, aged 71. He had been living at 47a High Road, Willesden Green.

He was cremated on 15 November 1929 at West Norwood and his ashes were scattered over a flower bed. He left a wife, Lucinda Braithwaite née Broadbent, and five daughters.

His newspaper still exists as the *Herald Sun*, a Murdoch publication.

**Friends of West  
Norwood Cemetery**

The annual subscription to the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery is £3. For further information please contact the Membership Secretary.

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**FOWNC OFFICERS**

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