

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 76 – January 2013

Free to members

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

2012 was a year of contrasts. Whilst FOWNC had perhaps its most successful year since the 1994 Consistory Court judgment halted the planned destruction of the cemetery, relations with the Council, which we have worked hard to maintain, were largely in abeyance for most of the year. This latter situation can be attributed to the loss of Byron Miller and the failure of Lambeth to plan to maintain the momentum Byron had generated.

Be this as it may, there are signs that at last the Council may accept what we have offered for 20 years now, i.e. the planned re-use of existing graves to make way for new burials provided that (i) pre-Lambeth era monuments are respected, (ii) only private graves that can be identified on the ground are re-used, and (iii) all, old as well as new, burials are commemorated appropriately.

Further issues intimately connected with the need to reach agreement on re-use are the likelihood of HLF funding and the need to find a sustainable role for the Nettlefold Hall complex, as detailed by Colin Fenn (see p. 10). Lambeth know that FOWNC support is vital for any HLF application to have a chance of



Good catch, Sir!

success, and that we cannot support any final bid unless an agreed Scheme of Management together with appropriate governance procedures are in place. There is no point on the one hand applying for money to conserve the cemetery and its monuments, whilst on the other the Council lay plans to demolish existing monuments to make way for new burials/new monuments (see Newsletters *passim*).

As to other Lambeth matters, I am sad to report the retirement of Mike Dickens, erstwhile Head of Lambeth Legal Services. I always found Mike very fair in his dealings with us. Whilst he always was bound to adopt the Council's position on contentious matters, he never ceased to remind Members of the magnitude of the errors his predecessors had made in their interpretation of the legal situation as regards the Cemetery, and the need to comply with the Consistory Court judgment. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Cemetery manager Ken Dry has also left Lambeth. In contrast to my dealings with Mike Dickens, I always felt Ken to be ambivalent as regards the strategic role of FOWNC, and speaking personally I feel his attitude put the cause of the cemetery back 10 years at least. Perhaps he thought the same about me. Finally, we must congratulate ex-Council leader Steve Reed on his recent election to Parliament to represent Croydon North. I must admit to feeling a tinge of sadness as I did feel he was someone I could work with, but politicians come and politicians go, and FOWNC carries on...

FOWNC Annual Review

I am pleased to report that at the end of 2012 we had some 450 paid up members. The steady growth in membership we have seen in the last couple of years is in large part a tribute to those committee members and others who have helped organize and participated in events such as scrub clearance, guided walks, and special events such as the Curious art trail and the Streetscape Carousel detailed in the last Newsletter. For the record, volunteers manned the Carousel in the Greek Chapel for 21 sessions in all, enabling 650 people to see it. We hope the Carousel will go on tour to the other Magnificent Seven London cemeteries as we are keen to promote all seven as a 'cultural route'.

The scrub clearance sessions, which aim to keep monuments accessible for tours and to monitor their state of repair, were well attended, yielding a total of 300 hours of volunteer labour. As well as being good exercise and a sociable way to spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, long-lost tombs or other points of interest are often revealed. Members of the National Trust spent a whole day with us in February and local charity Emmaus joined us in the autumn. We also cleaned the Greek Chapel twice in preparation for events to be held there, hosted five lectures, and ran nearly 50 tours of the cemetery, including seven of the ever popular catacombs. These introduced nearly 780 people to the fascinating stories that bring the cemetery to life.



*Mike Dickens, ex-Head of
Lambeth Legal Services*

Our monthly tours coincide with West Norwood's FEAST market to provide an added attraction to FEAST's community regeneration efforts. We have also been forging links with other bodies to inform our research, for example we hosted visits by experts from the Classical antiquities section of the British Museum and from Cambridge University. Finally, the profile of the Cemetery continues to grow from articles in the press and it remains a popular film location: it is the backdrop to the film *The Day my Nan Died* starring Alison Steadman and also featured on the BBC's *This Week* on 1 November, coincidentally alongside Dulwich & West Norwood MP Tessa Jowell.

In conclusion, I hope that you will all renew your membership for 2013 – the more members we have, the louder our voice with Lambeth and with grant-giving bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) (see article by Colin Fenn, p. 10).

William Knight (1843–1900)

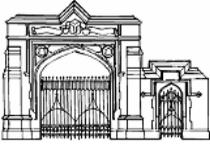
Articles in Newsletters 51 (September 2004), 57 (September 2006) and 61 (January 2008) gave details of the life and times of William Knight, a pioneer in gold and diamond mining in South Africa. Now his granddaughter Mrs Ida Field has been in touch and not only supplied the adjacent photograph of his gravestone when new, but also money towards its restoration. Mrs Field records that when she visited the grave in 1953 there was a small round-topped piece of marble (now disappeared) at the foot of the grave where her father's first wife's ashes were placed. She had died in Germany in 1923 aged 45.

The photograph is of interest not only for the view of the monument, but also for the background, which shows the cemetery 'reserve' area not long after it began to be used for burials. Within 20 years this area was largely full, as was the rest of the cemetery, hence the Cemetery Company used some roads in the cemetery for burial space such as that in front of the Berens and Beeton graves (squares 63 and 64) near to the site of the Episcopalian Chapel. This practice was of course continued by Lambeth

We will of course keep everyone informed as to the status of the Knight and other restoration projects that have stalled in part because of the current lack of engagement with Lambeth. We still await repair of the Gilbert railings and the monument at the top of the roadway leading to the crematorium, for example (Newsletters *passim passim*). Another priority has however surfaced in that a falling tree grasped the obelisk on the tomb of Fanny Martha, beloved wife of John Harrison (grave 7,448, square 102 – see illustration, p. 1). Fanny died in 1861 and she remains the only burial in the grave. The obelisk has now been laid flat by the cemetery management and will be reinstated as funds permit. The incident does, however, stress the need to get on with tree management and other works before more monuments are damaged beyond repair.



Memorial to William Knight c. 1900



Notable Norwood Anniversaries 2013

Colin Fenn

There are a number of notable anniversaries to celebrate this year. Firstly, on 13 and 20 January 2013 London Underground will be operating steam-powered heritage trains to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the world's first underground railway.



*Tomb of Sir Thomas Gabriel
at Norwood*

That the Metropolitan Railway was built was due to the foresight and perseverance of Charles Pearson (1794–1862). Pearson was solicitor to the City of London from 1839 until his death, and MP for Lambeth, 1847–50. He campaigned to improve London's transport system from 1845. He died at Oxford Lodge, West Hill, Wandsworth on 14 September 1862 and is buried in the vault of his son-in-law, Sir Thomas Gabriel (1811–1891), Lord Mayor of London 1866–7 (grave 5,534, square 52).

Secondly, January 19 sees the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir Henry Bessemer (1813–1898) at Charlton, near Hitchin in Hertfordshire. A scientist and prolific inventor, in 1856 he patented the process for the mass production of steel from pig iron that bears his name. This enabled steel to be mass produced cheaply for the first time, and revolutionised the building of railways, ships, heavy machinery, etc. Eight cities in the USA are named Bessemer in his honour. His and his wife's tall headstone of Portland stone with barrelled granite landing, on a brick vault, listed Grade II, is located at the lower part of Ship Path (grave 27,463, square 99).

Other anniversaries this year occur (i) on 1 March: centenary of the death of Frederick Nettlefold (1833–1913), woodscrew manufacturer, only the base of his monument (grave 19,602, square 37) remains; (ii) on 8 August: 150th anniversary of the death of the founder of modern banking, James William Gilbart FRS (1794–1863), his monument (grave 8,659, square 115), which may have been designed by Sir William Tite himself, is the Gothic landmark at the first fork in the cemetery entrance road; (iii) on 29 December: 200th anniversary of the birth of metallurgist and plastics pioneer/inventor of celluloid (Parkesine), Alexander Parkes (1813–1890; grave 20,927, square 7; monument demolished) – his patent for waterproofing fabrics using a solution of indiarubber in carbon disulfide was eventually sold to Mackintosh & Company; and finally (iv) 200th anniversary of the birth of the man whose organisational capabilities gave the Trade Union movement real teeth, William Allan (1813–1874; grave 11,488, square 88; monument demolished).



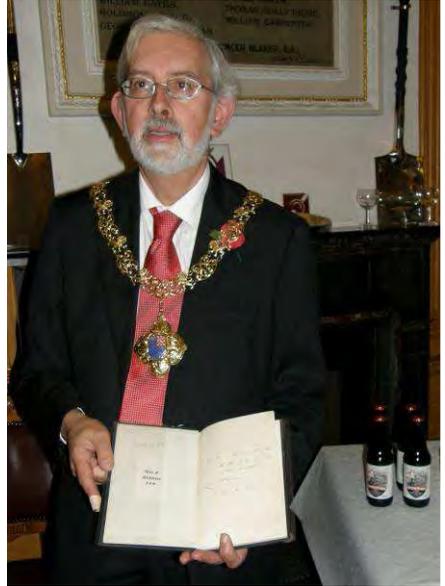
Alexander Parkes



Lewes Celebrates Gideon Mantell

Bob Flanagan

The destruction and campaign for the restoration of the Grade II* listed tomb of Gideon Algernon Mantell (1790–1852) (Grave 273, square 100) was seminal to the foundation of FOWNC in 1989. I was therefore pleased to respond to the kind invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress of Lewes, Cllr Michael Chartier and Monica Chartier, to join them at a Reception in the Council Chamber on 10 November to mark 160 years since his death. Cllr Chartier introduced the event as a celebration of Mantell's life and contribution to the history of Lewes and not a wake. He had invited a number of guests with connections to Mantell, including the current occupier of the house where he was born, 23 Station Street. Copies of some of Mantell's publications were displayed, including an autographed copy of his *Narrative of the visit of William IVth & Queen Adelaide to the Ancient Borough of Lewes* (Lupton Relfe, 1831), and local brewers Harvey's provided bottles of their Georgian Dragon Ruby Ale, the label of which commemorates Mantell's achievements!



Cllr Chartier and the autographed copy of Mantell's 1831 book

In Lewes there was also the opportunity to visit the 13th Century church of St Michael-in-Lewes to view the plaque placed there in 1857 by his 4th son Reginald Neville (1827–1857).

Also in the church is the memorial to Gideon's father Thomas, who died aged 57 on 11 July 1807. On Reginald's untimely death his father's papers and the famous *Iguanodon* fossil were sent to another son Walter Baldock Durrant (1820–1895), who had emigrated to New Zealand in 1840. Walter Mantell and many of his family are buried in Kaori Cemetery, Wellington (Plot 15 F). The fossil now rests in the national museum in Wellington and the Mantell papers reside in the Alexander Turnbull Library there. Hitherto unpublished entries from Gideon's journal 1819–1852 are now available on-line (http://www.brighton-hove-rpml.org.uk/HistoryAndCollections/aboutcollections/naturalsciences/Documents/mantell_journal.pdf).



Memorial to Thomas Mantell, St. Michael-in-Lewes

The Wright Family Vault at Norwood

Jane Mason

The article *In Memory of Charlotte Field* (Newsletter 74, May 2012) described the discovery of the note of the burial service of Charlotte, who was interred in 1851 in the vault of her father William Wright. Their monument (grave 1,604, square 51) is one of the few remaining in the area by the site of the Dissenters' Chapel. Since this article was published, some additional information has come to light on the families of William Wright and Charlotte Field. Charlotte Field's great granddaughter, possibly the last of her line, has been in touch and has very kindly shared some family history.



Crematorium, South Metropolitan Cemetery c. 1915 (Wright family monument Portland stone chest tomb on York stone ledger)

Nothing is known of William Wright's ancestors. However, we do know that he was a nonconformist and had a coach-making business in Westminster Bridge Road, Lambeth. In 1843 he withdrew from the partnership that he had set up with his sons George, William jnr, and James. William jnr withdrew in 1847. George, who is buried in the Wright family vault, died in 1848, leaving a widow Eliza Salter Wright. By the early 1850s the business at 76 Bridge Road, Lambeth was registered under the sole name of James Wright. In 1857 William and James were both described as gentlemen, having country houses in Wallingford, Berkshire and Witham, Essex, respectively.

William Field was also a nonconformist and came from a Hertfordshire family of yeoman farmers. In the 1841 census he was registered as a bookseller in Bishop's Stortford. A year later, on 4 February 1842, he married Charlotte Wright at the Surrey Chapel in Clapham and by 1846 he and his partner William Henry Miller had registered a printing press and type foundry at 6 Bridge Road, Lambeth, almost next door to his father-in-law's coach building establishment. By April 1851 he was living with Charlotte and his children at Binfield Road, Lambeth.¹



William Field (-1864), bookseller

him in great affection as he left him the house and land in Bishop's Stortford when he died in 1857. William Field himself died of tuberculosis in 1864 in Tunbridge Wells. By 1871 Eliza, his second wife, had left Woodlands House to live in Spencer Villas, St James Road, Croydon with Charlotte's children Hannah and Ernest, and her four children by William Field. She lived in Croydon for the rest of her life, dying in 1890.

Charlotte's children seem to have been well educated and well provided for. Her eldest son William became a nonconformist minister and taught at Bishop's Stortford Grammar School, and in 1879 was appointed Headmaster of the Northern Congregational School at Silcoates, near Wakefield in Yorkshire. He married Elizabeth Haslam and had six children, all of whom survived into adulthood.

Charlotte's youngest son Ernest became a doctor and practiced successfully in Bath. He married Adelaide Farewell, daughter of Major-General W.T.F. Farewell (Indian Army), and had four sons. Of her three daughters, Charlotte jnr died young, at around 12 years of age (probably from appendicitis) and Ellen was last recorded in the census in 1861, aged 15. Hannah never married and spent most of her adult life in the Croydon and Reigate areas, dying at 81 in 1931.

Charlotte Field died in 1851, possibly from complications arising from childbirth. She left five young children, the oldest of whom, William, had been born in 1844. After Charlotte's death, her sister-in-law Eliza Salter Wright, George Wright's widow, helped out with the three girls and two boys. In 1852 William Field married Eliza and they had four further children.

William Field's partnership in the bookselling and stationery business was dissolved in 1854 and by the 1861 census he was described as a landed proprietor, living with his family at Woodlands (a private house) in Bishop's Stortford. Very little is known about William Field's personality and he remains an enigma.

Whilst William certainly married very well, it is safe to assume that Charlotte's father held

¹ This road is still there, but the area is now occupied by high-rise Council flats

John James Webster - Olympic Engineer

John W Brown

The success of the 2012 London Olympics helped draw attention to the previous occasions when our capital city hosted this prestigious event, 1908 and 1948. An important figure in the 1908 Olympics was the engineer John James Webster, who designed the Olympic Stadium, at the time the largest sports stadium in the world. John Webster is but one of a number of Streatham residents who excelled in the field of engineering and construction, and who are buried at Norwood. These include James Greathead (1844–1896; grave 27,103, square 83) of Ravenscraig, Leigham Court Road, who designed the eponymous Greathead shield that revolutionised the building of underground railways, and the railway contractor John Tredwell (1804–1875; grave 11,944, square 63/75) of Leigham Court House, who worked, amongst others, with I.K. Brunel.



*John James Webster
(1845–1914)*

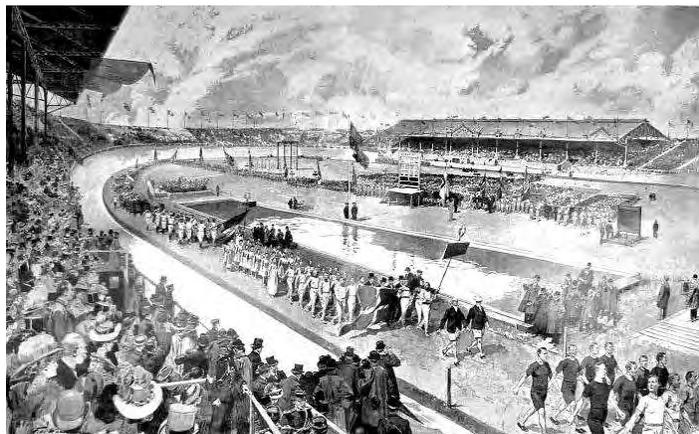


Runcorn–Widnes Transporter Bridge across the Manchester Ship Canal (1905), the first and largest such design

for the Ashbury Carriage & Iron Co. This led to his appointment as Chief of the Bridge Department of Messrs Thos. Brassey & Co., for whom he was responsible for the construction of the Liverpool landing-stage designed by George Fosbery Lyster (1821–1899), engineer to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

Webster's skill as a designer and engineer meant that he was in constant demand in the later half of the 1870s, when he worked, for example, for the Aberdeen Harbour Board and the Hull Dock Company. In 1881 he set up as a consultant in Liverpool, later moving to 39 Victoria Street, Westminster.

Webster was born in Warrington on 9 June 1845. He was educated at Owen's College, Manchester and trained with the Manchester bridge-building firm of Bellhouse & Co., where he became Chief Draughtsman and Assistant Manager. At this time Britain was the leading industrial power in the world and had a rapidly expanding empire. In 1871 Webster designed several bridges in India



Shepherd's Bush: the 1908 Olympic Stadium

bridge, as well as piers at Dover, Bangor, Minehead, Llandudno, Penmaenmawr, Egremont, and the Menai Bridge. Although bridge and pier commissions predominated, he also worked on designs for machinery for the Alexandra Dock at Hull and for the Lyndhurst Gas and Waterworks Companies.

Webster's subsequent work included the design with J.T. Wood² of the Runcorn transporter bridge, the Great Wheel for the Empire of India Exhibition at Earl's Court (1895), four of the largest buildings for the 1908 White City Franco-British Exhibition, and the athletics stadium and associated buildings for the 1908 Olympic Games.

Sports historian Kevin Kelly has recently located a photograph in a bound copy of *Young Man* magazine of the presentation of a silver model crane to mark the laying of the first stanchion for the Olympic stadium. At the time this was considered a marvel of modern



Ceremony to mark the start of work on the 1908 Olympic stadium

construction as there were only two years to plan and build the stadium following the withdrawal of Rome, the city scheduled to host the games, in 1906. It is thought that Webster is the bearded man in the centre of the group standing next to the organizer of the games, William Henry Grenfell, Lord Desborough (1855–1945).

² John Turtle Wood (1821–1890)?

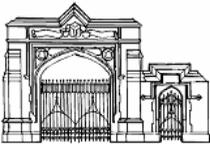
Webster's final commission was for his home town of Warrington, for which he designed a reinforced concrete bridge that was completed posthumously. This was one of the earliest uses of reinforced concrete in bridge building.

Webster was a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and was awarded the Institution's highest prize, the Telford Gold Medal, as well as gaining four Telford Premiers for papers read and discussed there. He was also a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and was President of the Liverpool Engineering Society. In open competition he was placed first or second on 14 different occasions, including in one of the competitions for the design of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, for which he was runner up.

In 1891 or thereabouts Webster moved to Streatham and spent the last years of his life there, firstly at 26 Criffel Avenue, and then at Fawley, 81 Mount Nod Road. He died suddenly on 30 October 1914, aged 69, and was buried at Norwood (grave 33,856, square 93). His tombstone, a simple granite headstone, is in good condition. His wife Anne (1853–1941) is also buried in the grave.



Norwood: Webster family grave



Conservation Update - HLF Application

Colin Fenn

Last year Lambeth's cabinet eventually voted some £750,000 to repair the drainage in the roads leading from the main gate and Church Road gate to the Gilbert memorial and also committed to supporting a HLF bid to help conserve the cemetery. Clearly the closures in turn of both the entrances to the cemetery whilst the drainage and road works take place will cause major disruption, but at least working on each roadway in turn will minimize access problems as far as possible.

In November the HLF announced a new funding programme specifically for cemeteries. Although it is a competitive process, the HLF conditions appear particularly advantageous for Norwood, since the outcomes desired are closely aligned with those of the Scheme of Management (SoMC). Moreover, an active Friends group is envisaged as a core requirement.

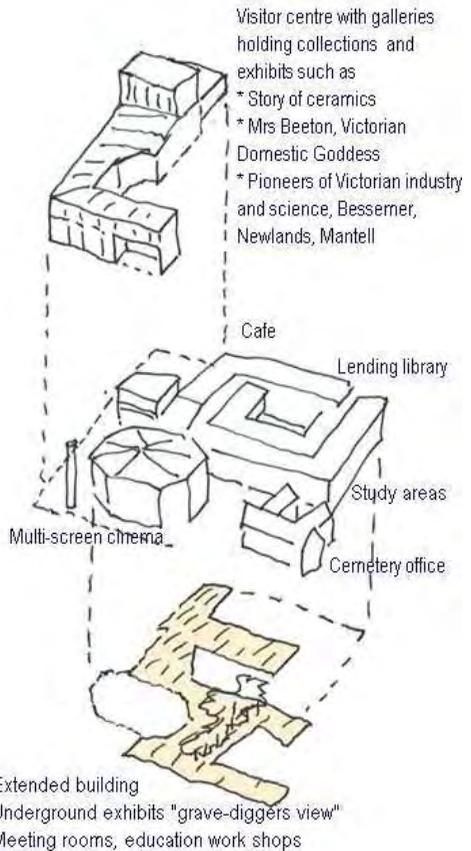
Given the blessing of the SoMC and the Trustees of the Greek cemetery, this presents an opportunity to help realize our long-held ambitions for repair and restoration in the cemetery, and to put day-to-day operations in the cemetery on a stable basis. The activities we would like to see included in the bid are (i) stabilization and renovation of the Anglican Catacombs and construction of a new water-tight building above them, (ii)

repair of the Chapel of St Stephen (Greek Chapel) and making it more usable for events and services, (iii) repair of a number of listed and other important monuments, (iv) maintaining and restoring the historic landscape, with cleared sight-lines and better-managed planting and habitat, (v) enhancing the infrastructure, including paths, drains, signage, perimeters and staff facilities, and (vi) creation of a visitor centre with space for family research and digital records, classroom activities, skills and training, etc., thereby creating new opportunities for employment, education, and interpretation of the cemetery and its history.

Meanwhile, it has been a concern that Nettlefold Hall and West Norwood Library have now been closed for 18 months. Lambeth has spent the last year considering options for re-opening them. In order to help support our derelict neighbour (and protect the cemetery), we have approached Lambeth and suggested that an HLF-funded cemetery visitor centre could be sited there to complement the operation of a re-opened Hall and associated facilities and act as a draw for new visitors, whose day-time custom would help to regenerate the high street. Such a high street location would be ideal for a visitor centre and help separate cemetery visitors from funerals, etc.

As the freeholder, Lambeth would have to lead on any HLF bid. The SoMC has asked Lambeth to meet the HLF February 2013 deadline for preliminary applications. It would then take one or two years to develop a full 5-year plan to protect and preserve the heritage of the Cemetery alongside programmes for education, culture and local regeneration. We think this combination would provide a strong HLF bid provided always that Lambeth agree a sensible way forward on grave re-use.

Lambeth have also been in discussions with a cinema company seeking to convert the Nettlefold Hall into a multi-screen cinema with bar, while preserving the lending library and working alongside our proposed visitor centre (see above illustration). The rental income from the commercial operation would be directed back into the library and centre, and some community space would be kept available during the week. Lambeth’s cabinet met in November and gave both schemes permission to proceed. We would welcome suggestions for the visitor centre or offers of assistance if you have relevant expertise.



The Wood/Howie Graves: A Personal Story

Wendy Furey

In 2009 I started researching my family history, little realising that it would lead me to West Norwood. Because of my interest, I ended up with most of the records from both sides of the family. Included in the mass of photos, letters, and other documents, was a photograph of a very impressive white marble double grave, with a semi-circular top containing a wrought iron oak tree and the name Henry Wood JP.



Catharine Coulson Howie née Davy (1836–1910)

I knew this was my maternal grandfather, who came from humble beginnings in Devon to make a very successful career in London, from which the whole Wood family has benefited. I had a vague memory that this grave was at Norwood, which is where my mother and her siblings were born, so I contacted Bob Flanagan via the FOWNC website. The result was the article on Henry Wood JP that appeared in FOWNC Newsletter 70 (January 2011).

This June I, foolishly (for a 71-year-old), took part in Nightrider 2012, an overnight 100 km ride from Crystal Palace to Alexandra Palace and back. The route went right past the gates of Norwood Cemetery, although I was unlikely to be in a state to visit, after 95 km on a bike! However, since I wanted to see the Wood grave for myself, my husband Simon and I set off to find it before the ride started. To my surprise, I found that the adjacent plot (grave 32,748, square 56) was that of another of my great-grandmothers, Catharine Davy, with a memorial to her husband, the Rev Robert Howie MA DD, who is buried in Glasgow.



Gravestone of the Rev Robert and Catharine Coulson Howie at Norwood

Robert Howie (1836–1918) was born in Kilwinning, Ayrshire, one of the seven children of a tenant farmer. He studied mathematics and physics at Glasgow University and gained eight prizes during the course of his studies. He became a minister of the United Free Church of Scotland in 1860 and in 1902 was Moderator of the General Assembly. In this capacity he attended the coronation of Edward VII and was later presented to His Majesty at the coronation banquet at Holyrood Palace. Robert was renowned for founding churches in Glasgow, some 40 in all, with a combined congregation of around 21,000.



*Constance Boulton née Howie
(1872–1944)*

Constance, married Charles Valentine Boulton in 1908 in Lambeth. In the 1911 census they were looking after Ernest and Eliza's three children in the family house on Champion Hill, while the parents were away. They had no children of their own.

Constance died in Norwood in 1944, but her husband, a civil engineer, had been killed in France in 1917 whilst serving with the Royal Engineers, and is buried near Ypres. This information comes from a memorial at the foot of the grave where Catharine and her daughter Constance are buried.

In July we visited the cemetery again, this time armed with an array of gardening tools, and cleared both the Wood and the Howie graves as best we could.



The Wood and Howie family graves at Norwood

I don't know how Robert Howie met Catharine Davy, but in 1861 they were married in the church at Madron, the parish church of Penzance. Catharine's maternal grandparents were Thomas Coulson of Gulval and Catherine Borlase, both from well-known Penzance families. Her paternal grandfather, William Adams Davy, was a vintner, a one-time mayor of Penzance, and first cousin to the chemist and president of the Royal Institution, Humphry Davy.³

My grandmother Eliza Howie, Mrs Henry Ernest Wood, was the seventh of their nine children, all born in Glasgow. Of their sons, John, the eldest child, became a doctor of medicine, the second became a minister like his father, but the youngest child, Humphry, died as a baby. Eliza married Ernest Wood in Glasgow in 1902. Her sister,

³ Sir Humphry Davy (1778–1829) is buried in the Plainpalais Cemetery in Geneva.

Another find was made by my husband, who discovered an inscription on the back of the Wood grave that reads: *Designed by his friend Geo: Sherrin. Archt.* Although from Essex, George Sherrin (1843–1909) was well known for completing the dome of the London Oratory and for designing colleges, houses, and underground railway stations. He was chosen by Cardinal Vaughan to design St Mary Moorfields in Eldon Street, EC2. I suspect George and Henry worked together when the latter was an estate agent and surveyor with Beadle, Wood & Co. Sherrin's home, which he designed himself, was in Ingatestone, a village close to Hutton, where Henry Wood bought the land that made our inheritance. So it is quite likely that Henry invested in Essex on the advice of his friend.



Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

Unfortunately our contribution to Open House London Weekend on 23 September was sabotaged by a combination of the weather and Network Rail. The rain, cold and wind more resembled November, and there were no trains to West Norwood thanks to engineering works. In consequence only a few hardy visitors attended the series of tours of notable monuments. Thanks nevertheless to everyone who helped with leading tours and staffing the FOWNC bookstall in the Maddick mausoleum, and especially to Colin Fenn, who concluded each tour with a conducted visit to the Greek Chapel.

After our AGM on 20 October, we were pleased to welcome Diana Beattie FSA, Director of the Heritage of London Trust and long-time FOWNC member. She described the work of HoLT, the only building preservation trust covering the whole of London. More than £3 million in grants have been given to a diverse selection of restoration schemes across the capital, many in the poorest boroughs. HoLT has no endowment, and sponsors include private individuals, family trusts, Livery Companies, and corporate donors. Diana particularly highlighted the large number of churches that have benefited from restoration work. At Norwood, HoLT gave over £1000 for the Hodgson/Stevenson mausoleum restoration some 20 years ago (grave 11,364/5, square 61), and more recently promised funds to help restore the monuments to Arthur Beresford Pite (1861–1934) (grave 31,852, square 23) and George Myers (1803–1875) (grave 3,114, square 37).

We were very grateful to Dr Paul Dobraszczyk for making a long journey on 17 November to give us a fascinating talk about the architect C.H. Driver FRIBA (1832–1900). Driver was an ornamental metalwork expert, and working with the engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819–1891), designed Abbey Mills sewage pumping station and is thought to have designed the ornamental ironwork for Crossness pumping station. As well as his work for Bazalgette, Driver designed many stations on the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway (LB&SCR), and Paul showed examples of his iron columns and brackets at Battersea Park station. Sadly his work at London Bridge is disappearing with the redevelopment of the station, although there is to be some effort at restoration at Peckham Rye. Driver also designed piers at Llandudno and elsewhere, and the Crystal Palace Aquarium. It seems remarkable that his work is now so little known, but, as Paul explained, in the 1800s the project engineer was the big name, the architect being a sub-

ordinate, the reverse of the situation today. Paul related Driver's work to the philosophy of John Ruskin, who hated industrialisation and railways, and advocated handmade crafts. Driver in turn seems to have accepted Ruskin's ideas and tried to make his cast iron work as artistic as possible. It would have been fascinating to have had sight of Driver's gravestone at Norwood (grave 29,387, square 83), but as far as we are aware there is no record of its appearance.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events

January–April 2013

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (6 January, 3 February and 3 March at 11.00; 7 April at 14.30) starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road and lasting for about 2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations towards conservation projects. We also offer quarterly members-only tours of the Anglican catacombs (advance bookings only - please contact Jill Dudman to book a place, contact details p. 16). Extra events may be offered at short notice – please register an e-mail address (secretary@fownc.org) to receive notification of such events.

Lectures 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. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations to help cover room hire.

Saturday 16 February: Lecture - The Passing of a Literary Hero - Michael Slater

Michael Slater, Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at Birkbeck College, will talk about the life and career of playwright and journalist Douglas Jerrold (1803–1857). Jerrold was the leading satirical writer on *Punch* from its inception in 1841, being responsible for establishing it as a successful radical journal. Jerrold was a close friend of Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray. Professor Slater's biography of Jerrold was published in 2002. More recently he has written an acclaimed biography of Dickens (2009) and *The Great Charles Dickens Scandal* (2012). The Jerrold family grave at Norwood (grave 5,452, square 97) was restored in 2003 (see FOWNC Newsletter 51, September 2004).

Saturday 16 March: Lecture - David Roberts' Egypt 1838/39: Then and Now – Peter Clayton

The provision of a faithful copy of the headstone of David Roberts RA (1796–1864; grave 15,280, square 38), a campaign inspired by the Egyptologist and authority on Roberts' work Peter Clayton FSA, was an early FOWNC success. Roberts and his engraver Louis Haghe (1806–1885), who is also buried at Norwood (grave 18,219, square 88) are remembered especially for the lithographs of Egypt and the Near East produced in the 1840s from sketches made by Roberts during tours of the region.



A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

Under the powers Lambeth claimed justified their clearance of vast areas of the cemetery they were obliged to place markers on the site of cleared monuments. Some markers were placed, but in turn many were cleared! These marker stones were recovered recently from a garden in St Julian's Farm Road. The graves referred to are those of Charles (–1944) & Hannah M. Gaudern (–1944) (grave 39,758, square 78), and Charles Smith (1843/4–1868) (grave 11,501, square 78; a 12 foot grave). The Gaudern stone is especially interesting as it gives the lie to Lambeth's claim that only monuments on graves where there had been no burials for 100 years (later altered to 75 years) were cleared. Moreover, how did they come to be used in someone's rockery?



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