

# Friends of West Norwood Cemetery



NEWSLETTER NO 2: MAY 1990

Our Inaugural General Meeting in March was most successful, with the Constitution safely adopted, and very interesting talks given afterwards.

At a subsequent Committee Meeting, Bob Flanagan was elected as Vice-Chairman.

Memorial restoration: the Cemetery staff, as well as removing the tree from the Berens tomb in January, have now also removed the large hedge which had grown up completely obscuring the tomb of Colonel Porte, inventor of the British flying-boat. We are also getting offers of financial help towards restoring some of the listed memorials. However, the main unexpected difficulty we find at the moment is actually getting stonemasons to estimate for the work!

## FUTURE EVENTS:

### 1) OPEN DAY AT NUNHEAD CEMETERY: Saturday 19th May

The first event which everyone is warmly invited to attend, and where we shall have our own stall, is the Open Day at Nunhead Cemetery, Linden Grove SE15. This will be on Saturday 19th May. Unlike the Open Day at Norwood Cemetery in April, which was run by the Norwood Society and Lambeth Council, and really lasted from 1.30 to 3 pm, that at Nunhead lasts all day from 11 am to 5 pm. There will be stalls and exhibitions about history and wildlife at Nunhead, and by local organisations. There will also be a plant stall, and refreshments.

This is the first time we shall be manning a stall, and selling literature about some of the famous people buried in West Norwood Cemetery, as well as copies of the booklet about the listed memorials. (Extra volunteers to help mind our stall will be welcome: contact the Chairman, Nicholas Reed, at 071-732 7778.) We are still collecting relevant literature at the moment, but it includes pamphlets about John Johnstone (the Bovril man), Gideon Mantell, Sir James Hannen of the Parnell Enquiry, Sir Hiram Maxim, and John and Henry Doulton. If members know of other literature in print about people buried in Norwood Cemetery, please let us know!

### 2) CEMETERY POLICY: Tuesday 5th June

At 7.30 pm on 5th June, Mr John Day, Principal Administration and Services Manager, and therefore in charge of all Lambeth's cemeteries, will be coming to talk to us, and answer our questions, about current and previous cemetery policy. Members may know that the previous policy of removing headstones proved highly unpopular! He will also be telling us how the new scheme of management is working in West Norwood. This will be at Centre 70, 138 Christchurch Road, Tulse Hill S.W.2.

### 3) ARTISTIC TOUR OF NORWOOD CEMETERY: Saturday 23rd June

The third event will be at 2.30 pm on Saturday 23rd June, when Patricia Jenkyns will be taking us on a tour of Artists in West Norwood Cemetery. (Meet by the Cemetery entrance.) You may have noticed that the tomb of the watercolourist David Cox Junior is now visible for the first time for years, but she will be telling us about the many other artists and their relations, including David Roberts and Samuel Prout, who are buried there. This tour will be free, but for members only. (Prospective members can join at the start!)

Meanwhile, our Membership Secretary Rosemary Comber will be happy to receive further annual subscriptions of £2 (cheques payable to FOWNC), at 170 Knights Hill, West Norwood SE27 OSR. (Tel: 081-761 3996)