

# FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 29 - May 1997

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## Chairman's Report by Bob Flanagan Consistory Court

**A**t a brief hearing on Monday 3 February Lambeth at last agreed the terms of the Scheme of Management for the cemetery. Lambeth also agreed to bear the costs of the Archdeacon and of the Court in regard to the resumed hearing and indeed accepted a claim of £50 towards FOWNC's costs! We await payment. They further undertook to reinstate the missing listed monuments to Sir William Cubitt (by 30 June this year) and John Garrett (by 30 September) as well as repairing the listed tombs cited in the judgement (by 30 June). It was agreed that reinstatement of the Grane tomb may never be possible in the absence of a photo or other information. Finally, restoration of the Vallentin memorial was promised by April 1998 and reinstatement of the de Normandy memorial was promised as soon as finances permit. I will continue to press on this point.

We await notification of the first meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Group required under the Scheme. However, Lambeth having accepted that new monuments must conform to the Diocesan Churchyard Regulations, all applications for insertion of new monuments or additions to existing monuments in the consecrated parts of the cemetery are now channelled through the Archdeacon's representative, Nicholas Long.

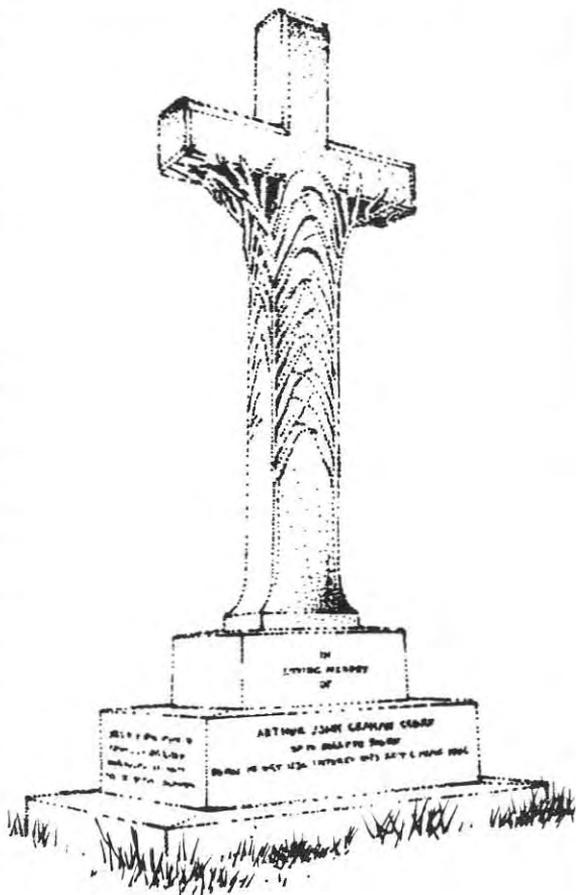
My final immediate bone of contention with Lambeth remains the advert which they took out last year claiming the right to take over all graves in the cemetery in which there has not been a burial for 75 years. I was refused leave to raise this before the Court, but I still maintain that Lambeth must withdraw this advert in order to clear the way for effective cooperation with FOWNC. What is the point of our working hard to raise money to conserve tombs if Lambeth maintain they have the right to repossess the grave at any time and use it for new burials?

## Sale of the Cemetery

I understand that the only expression of interest received by Lambeth suggested setting up a Charitable Trust to run Norwood, the approach I myself have been advocating for years! I did attend a meeting of the Environmental Services Committee where the possible sale of the cemetery was discussed. A petition with over 1,000 signatures against the proposed sale organised by the local Tories was presented. I was rather taken aback, however, to hear the cemetery superintendent described as a 'local hero'! So much for conservation in a Conservation Area. I have heard nothing further on the proposed sale save for an invitation to a meeting with Lambeth officers which never took place.

## Heritage Lottery Fund

I hear on the grapevine that not only has Lambeth's lottery bid failed, but also the bids put in by Nunhead and some other London cemetery groups have also been unsuccessful. The only bid to be funded seems to be that from the Friends of Brompton Cemetery (Brompton is owned by the Government) for a feasibility study. It is no great surprise that Lambeth's bid failed (in truth it is a relief), but the fact that other, seemingly well thought out bids also failed does cause me some concern. *Bob Flanagan*



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# Lord Hawke and West Norwood Cemetery

by Tony Bradbury

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One of the curiosities of Yorkshire cricket is that in death Lord Hawke had little connection with the county that made him in his day almost as famous as his illustrious ancestor Admiral Hawke of Quiberon Bay.

Martin Bladen, 7th Baron Hawke, was born at the family seat in Lincolnshire in 1860, but his playing days for Yorkshire and England were long over when he married Mrs Arthur Cross at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, in July 1916. Mrs Cross had been widowed in 1906. Her first husband Arthur Cross had been an exceptionally wealthy businessman who had lived in some style at 10 Belgrave Square, then one of the most exclusive private homes in London. In death, like many eminent Victorian and Edwardian citizens, he was interred at Norwood. West Norwood is only a mile or so from the heights of Crystal Palace and from the fashionable village of Dulwich.

On his marriage to Mrs Cross, Lord Hawke moved into Belgrave Square and also retained a lease on the Hawke home of Wighill Park near Tadcaster. Later his Yorkshire home was to be at Huttons Ambo. On becoming Lady Hawke, Mrs Cross acquired a title, but was not to be deprived of her London home and when she died in 1936 she was buried alongside her first husband at Norwood. Who was instrumental in that decision is not now known. Lord Hawke was then 76 and maybe the impetus came from Miss Cross, the only child of Arthur's marriage.

The Cross family also had property near Edinburgh and it was at "Glascune", North Berwickshire that Lord Hawke spent his final days. He died in an Edinburgh nursing home. After cremation in Scotland his ashes were brought the 400 miles to West Norwood and his name engraved on the side of the memorial to Arthur Cross.

Details of this last memorial were lost to Yorkshire CCC memory until a few years ago when research by John Featherstone led to an article and photograph by him in *The White Rose*. David Lee, a past Chairman of the Southern Group, then had the idea of planting a white rose (*Rosa alba*) by the gravestone. Accordingly David, with Burt Rhodes the Group President, and Tony and Rosalie Bradbury returned to the cemetery on 24 March 1996 and David's rose was firmly implanted. Its progress will be occasionally monitored as a fond memory of a Yorkshire legend.

*Opposite: Lord Hawke's Grave. (Drawing by Don Bianco).*

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# A Dying Trade

## The Archaeology of the Cemetery

Extended abstract of Bob Flanagan's talk  
to SERIAC (South-East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference) in April 1997

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In Christian countries burial was until relatively recently the only means available for disposal of the dead. In England, with some exceptions such as Jewish, Quaker or other dissenters' burial grounds, notably Bunhill ('Bonehill') Fields in London (established by 1665), most burials had been associated with churches or churchyards, some of which had been in use since the Dark Ages.

Hawksmoor's mausoleum for the 3rd Earl of Carlisle at Castle Howard (1729-45) was a radical departure and is said to be the first such free-standing structure to be built in western Europe since classical times. At the other extreme, urban cemeteries appeared in India (South Park Street, Calcutta, 1767), and in Scotland (Calton Hill, Edinburgh) and Ireland (Clifton Graveyard, Belfast) in the early 1770s. These themes of romanticism and functionality were first combined not in England, but in post-revolutionary Paris where three cemeteries (Montmartre, Montparnasse, and Père Lachaise) were established outside the city walls. Père Lachaise was the first to open (1804). Segregated burial and ownership of the plot was offered in perpetuity to all who could afford to pay, but 5-year leases for monuments and common graves were available to those who could not.

### **The Cemetery in England**

In nineteenth-century England the growth of industrial centres meant that traditional methods of disposing of the dead could not cope. The first inter-denominational cemetery in England, The Rosary in Norwich, was licensed in 1819 - this survives largely intact together with a chapel and *porte-cochère* of 1872. The cemetery largely catered for dissenters, but burial was offered to all who could pay. Further cemeteries were founded in Manchester (Chorlton Row, 1821; Every Street, 1824), in Liverpool (Low Hill, 1825; St James, 1829, the Anglican response to Low Hill), in Cheltenham (1830), and in Newcastle (Westgate Hill, 1831).

In London the first of the great commercial cemeteries, All Saints, Kensal Green, was opened in 1833. Its buildings (Anglican and nonconformist chapels in consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the cemetery, respectively, and gatehouse/office) were, however, not completed until 1837. The Greek Revival style was followed as in all cemetery buildings until the mid-1830s, including those at Key Hill, Birmingham (1835, in an active sand quarry!); Woodhouse, Leeds (1835); Newcastle General

(1836); Fulford, York (1836-7); Nottingham General (1837); Sharrow Vale, Sheffield (1837); Ardwick and Harpurhey (The General Cemetery) (both Manchester, 1837); and Arno's Vale, Bristol (1840).

### **The South Metropolitan Cemetery**

Back in London, the South Metropolitan Cemetery at what was then the hamlet of Lower Norwood was designed by (Sir) William Tite and opened in 1837. Tite was not only a Director of the company, but also quickly embraced the Gothic sentiments expounded by Charles Barry and Pugin. The architecture at Norwood was Gothic, the first appearance of this style in any general cemetery - sadly all is now lost apart from the entrance gates, boundary railings and catacombs on the site of the Anglican chapel. However, the Gothic style was thenceforth perpetuated in virtually all cemetery buildings from the 1840s [exceptions included Gravesend (1841) and Reading (1842)], and although monuments derived from classical models continued to be erected until the early 1900s, Gothic tombs, Gothic details, and Gothic forms proliferated.

Other commercial cemeteries were founded in London: Highgate (1839) and its twin at Nunhead (1840), Abney Park (1840, established without an Act of Parliament as a successor to Bunhill Fields and unconsecrated throughout), Brompton (1840), and Tower Hamlets (1841), but only Highgate challenged Kensal Green and Norwood as a fashionable burial place for the wealthier residents of London and the South-East. Further afield, small cemeteries were established at Bideford (1841), Derby (1841), Shrewsbury, Truro (1840), and Winchester, whilst others such as Abbey Cemetery, Bath (1843-4), the General Cemetery, Sheffield (1846), Warstone Lane, Birmingham (1848), and Church Cemetery, Nottingham (1848) were provided specifically to cater for Anglican burial in consecrated ground.

### **Burial of the poor**

Whilst all of the English cemeteries discussed thus far made some provision for working-class burials they were primarily aimed at middle and upper-class clients. The poor had to make the best of what was available, be it an overcrowded churchyard or simple burial yard. One of the largest of this latter group was Victoria Park Cemetery in Bethnal Green (1845); when it was closed and converted into a park in the early 1890s, some 300,000 bodies had been interred in its 11 acres, almost all in common graves. This and other examples of exploitation/insanitary practice together with continuing concerns over cholera, for example, helped prompt the first Public Health Act (1848) which laid the foundation for all subsequent public health measures up to and beyond the First World War and began the legislative process that established public cemeteries throughout Britain. The Metropolitan Interments Act (1850) extended the provisions of the Public Health Act to London as far as burials were concerned, but the only practical consequence was the purchase by the state of Brompton Cemetery.

## **The Metropolitan Burial Act**

The Metropolitan Burial Act (1852) followed and vestries were empowered to form Burial Boards and create cemeteries or make other provision to bury the parish dead. In 1853 these arrangements were extended to the rest of England and Wales, in 1855 to Scotland, and in 1856 to Ireland with especial provision for Roman Catholics as well as Anglicans and nonconformists. A further Act of 1857 consolidated changes made to the 1852 Act.

These burial acts established in essence the system of public interment that is still with us today, a national system of public cemeteries without a national bureaucracy. Burial Board cemeteries were soon opened in London (1854: Lambeth, St Marylebone, St Pancras, Westminster; 1855: Kensington, Paddington, Putney; 1856: Camberwell, City of London, Greenwich, Tottenham, Woolwich). Elsewhere the Burial Acts stimulated the establishment of cemeteries up and down the land, in agrarian parishes as well as in urban centres. But some towns and cities had already taken the initiative. In Exeter, for example, Bartholomew Street Cemetery was opened with public money in 1836-7, whilst Leeds Town Council opened Beckett Street Cemetery (Burmantofts) together with three other cemeteries in 1845.

## **Brookwood Cemetery**

There was one last major commercial fling. Incorporated in 1852, the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company bought 2,000 acres of heathland at Brookwood near Woking, but nevertheless aimed to serve the metropolis. The company's architect was again William Tite. The cemetery was connected to London by rail and possessed successive termini near to Waterloo Station and its own stations and chapels in the cemetery at Brookwood. Facilities for dissenters and Anglicans were duplicated in London, on the funeral train and at Brookwood. The funeral train ran until it was destroyed in the Second World War. The stations in the cemetery have also been destroyed, but the funerary chapels survive (the nonconformist chapel has been mutilated and is now inaccessible). The cemetery is still the largest in Britain (450 acres).

## **Cremation in England**

Cremation in its modern sense was a Victorian innovation. An important influence was the experience of those who had lived in India, but the immediate precedents were France and Italy. Sir Henry Thompson, surgeon to Queen Victoria, founded the Cremation Society of England in 1874. James Nasmyth was an early supporter. Land was purchased at St John's, Woking from the London Necropolis Company in 1878. A crematory financed by subscription containing a coke-fired cremation furnace designed by Giorini was erected by 1879. The first human cremation at Woking took place on 26 March 1885 - by 1900 1,824 cremations had been performed, mostly of members of the aristocracy. Human cremation was at last recognised by Act of Parliament in 1902.

The buildings at Woking were altered in ca. 1888 when a Gothic chapel was added. Francis Charles Hastings, 8th Duke of Bedford, was the principal subscriber; he also built a private chapel and crematorium to the south of the existing crematorium. In 1890 a piece of ground was set aside for the interment of ashes, each such interment being marked by a miniature memorial. In 1903 a marble and brass catafalque was installed in the chapel as a memorial to Richard Frederick Crawshaw. Sometime between 1910 and 1926 the Duke's crematorium/chapel was adapted for use as a columbarium which is said to be the earliest such building in the country.

Although the original Woking cremators have gone, the other buildings survive and form a unique assemblage. Architecturally, however, the finest British crematorium is probably Golders Green (1902). Other early crematoria include Manchester (1892), Glasgow (1896), Liverpool (1896), Kingston-upon-Hull (1901, the first municipal crematorium), Darlington (1901), City of London (1902), Leicester (1902), Birmingham (1903), Bradford (1905) and Sheffield (1905).

Many early crematoria were designed to look like churches with flues disguised as campaniles. At Norwood in London, a crematorium was installed next to Tite's Dissenters' Chapel, at that time (1915) one of the few such installations in the London area. This building has been demolished, but funerary urns associated with a columbarium survive in a modern building.

### **The Funeral and Funerary Monuments**

In funerals as in other things fashion and money are important. The 'Victorian way of death' has come to symbolise extravagance and ostentation, but this is a simplistic view. The vast majority of nineteenth-century burials were in common graves, and many were paid for by the parish ("pauper's graves"). Sometimes simple monuments were provided and the grieving families often went hungry to pay for them. Sadly these simple monuments are usually the first to go in 'improvement' schemes.

On the other hand, middle and upper-class burials in private graves, be they earth graves, brick-lined vaults, catacombs, or mausolea, provided income for many in addition to the officiating clergy and the cemetery owner. As well as the more obvious funereal trades such as undertaking, carpentry, and monumental masonry, sometimes architects, sculptors, photographers, and manufacturers of funeral draperies, mourning cards, and other ephemera and even market gardeners also had a part to play in the grand design.

Although nineteenth-century cemeteries are usually dubbed 'Victorian', many of those whose work helped create and sustain the Industrial Revolution in Georgian and later times, for example, were themselves laid to rest in the cemeteries which were one result of this revolution. Perhaps surprisingly original funerary monuments often survive intact on their graves when tangible evidence of their industrial and domestic premises is scant. Inscriptions often provide valuable information.

Funerary monuments may also be of interest in their own right, sometimes because they are 'designer' monuments, and sometimes because of the materials used to construct them. Wooden monuments have a limited life, but many cast and even some wrought iron monuments survive in cemeteries throughout Britain.

Bronze is used for ornamentation, but is attractive to thieves. Monuments made from pure zinc are known from North America. Even intact, well maintained monuments are easily lost, however. At Norwood, for example, original monuments to Richard Henry Brunton (1841-1901, responsible for initiating the industrialization of Japan), Sir William Cubitt (1785-1861, Grade II listed!), George Myers (1803-1875, 'Pugin's builder'), Frederick Nettlefold (1833-1913), Alexander Parkes (1813-1890, 'Parkesine'), Augustus Siebe (1788-1872, the 'closed' diving helmet) and William Simms (1793-1860, of Troughton & Simms) have been deliberately demolished in the last few years.

## **The Future**

There are some 600,000 deaths per annum in the UK. Cremation is becoming less popular and the pressure to re-use existing burial grounds will increase especially in Metropolitan areas. There has been little provision for new burial ground in Greater London since the 1880s, for example. The historic nature of many Victorian cemeteries and other burial grounds is now more widely appreciated - we will never see their like again. However, decay is inevitable, and vandalism, theft and indeed the wholesale clearance of monuments to allow for new burials continue to cause concern. Funeral directors, cemeteries and crematoria are being/have been bought up by multinational companies with profit in mind. At the very least the issues surrounding grave re-use (conservation v. demolition) deserve full debate, and if demolition is to take place, full and proper records must be kept. These important tasks cannot be left to vested interests such as burial authorities.

## **Acknowledgments**

John Clarke, Bryan Fenner

## **Further Reading**

Brooks, Chris. *Mortal Remains - The History and Present State of the Victorian and Edwardian Cemetery*. Wheaton, 1989 (a classic work, ironically itself remaindered a few years ago).

Clarke, John M. *The Brookwood Necropolis Railway*. (Edition 3). Oakwood Press, 1995.

Fenner, Bryan G. *The History of Woking Crematorium*. Address to the Cremation Society Conference, 1985 (printed privately).

Meller, Hugh. *London Cemeteries - An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer* (Edition 3). Scholar Press, 1994.

National Federation of Cemetery Friends. *Notes on Saving Cemeteries* (Edition 3). 1997.

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# David Roberts Bicentenary

by Peter Clayton

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The bicentenary of the birth of David Roberts RA, the prominent Victorian artist, fell on 24 October last year. To celebrate this the Education Department of the British Museum arranged a Study Day on Saturday 26 October entitled "The Legacy of David Roberts: Artist of Egypt and the Holy Land". The general response was far higher than expected and the museum's lecture theatre was virtually full.

The opening lecture was given by Hilary Williams of the British Museum Education Service and was entitled "Images of distant lands: The production of Louis Haghe's lithographs after David Roberts' drawings". She gave an overview of the illustrative processes that led up to the high point of the Roberts lithographs and enabled one to appreciate the skill of Louis Haghe. George Hart, resident lecturer in Egyptology in the Education Service, then examined "David Roberts in Egypt and Nubia 1838-39", concentrating, in view of the time constraints, more on the Egyptological aspects of his work than on the Islamic representations. Interesting contrasts were drawn between the lithographs (the drawings of 1838-39 that appeared in the published lithographs of the 1842-49 edition) and the sites today.

After lunch Peter Clayton took up the story with "David Roberts in the Holy Land, Syria, Idumea and Arabia 1838-39". He, having followed in Roberts' footsteps from Suez, through Sinai, the Holy Land and on to Baalbek, was able to illustrate not only the changes which have taken place in the last 150 years, but also how Roberts' training as a theatrical scene painter was employed to good effect. Hilary Williams then took a broader brush to discuss "Orientalism in paintings, prints and drawings in the era of David Roberts". Whilst appreciating that orientalism was "in" in Victorian times, the setting and inspiration for Roberts' long journey in the Near-East became more apparent by discussing and illustrating the genre both before and after his journey. Finally, Peter Clayton spoke briefly of Roberts' later years and of the Art Union Medal struck eleven years after his death. This carried his portrait and the representation of his lithograph "The Letter Writer", a scene that Roberts drew in the souk in Cairo of a young illiterate Copt (Christian) girl dictating a letter to an elderly literate Muslim.

Roberts died on 25 November (St Catherine's Day) 1864. He was presumably buried (in unconsecrated ground) at Norwood because his beloved daughter Christine and her husband, Henry Bicknell, lived nearby. First buried in the Bicknell family tomb, he was moved in 1875 to an adjacent vault and a small tombstone was set up. This, with its leaden inscription, had deteriorated considerably over the years and FOWNC, with the financial support of the Mathaf and Schuster Galleries and Peter Clayton, raised funds to provide a new stone. On Sunday 27 October last about 20 people representing the Galleries and FOWNC met at West Norwood to inaugurate the new tombstone. They then proceeded to the family vault of Louis Haghe - great friends in life, the two men also lie not far apart in death.

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# Jack Burke, 'The Irish Lad' (1861-1897)

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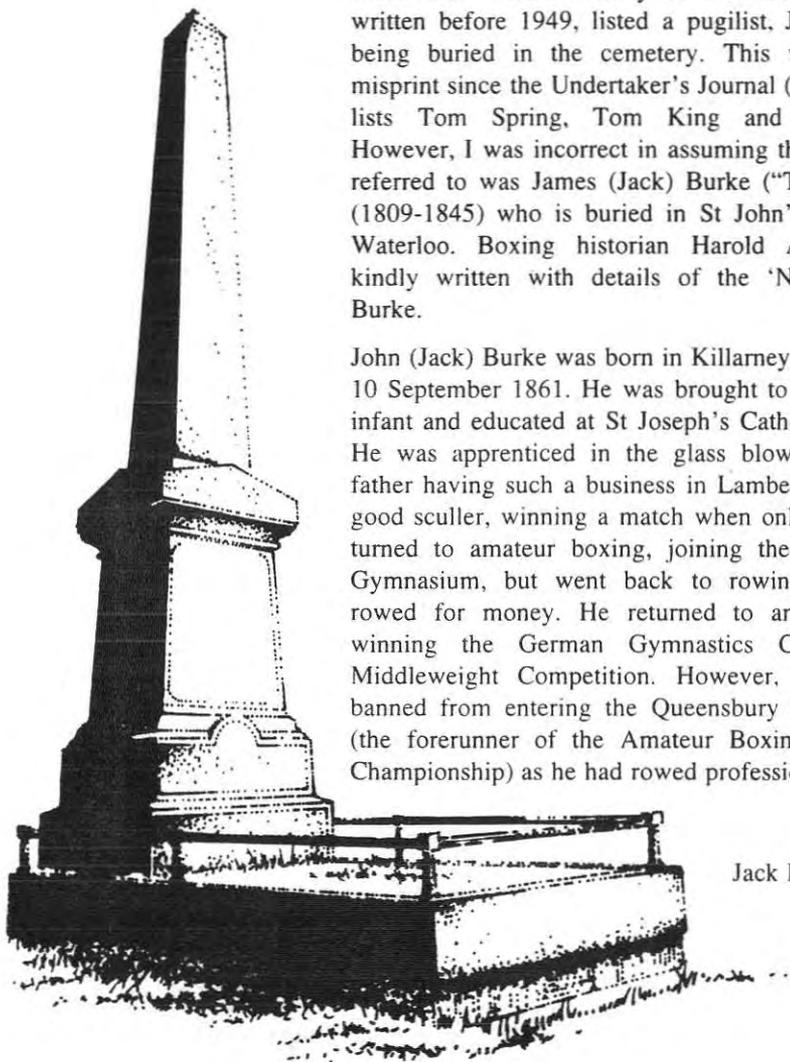
by Bob Flanagan

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In West Norwood Cemetery's Sportsmen (1995) I noted that Wilson's Story of Norwood, which was written before 1949, listed a pugilist, Jack Purke, as being buried in the cemetery. This was clearly a misprint since the Undertaker's Journal (October 1915) lists Tom Spring, Tom King and Jack Burke. However, I was incorrect in assuming that the pugilist referred to was James (Jack) Burke ("The Deaf'Un") (1809-1845) who is buried in St John's Churchyard, Waterloo. Boxing historian Harold Alderman has kindly written with details of the 'Norwood' Jack Burke.

John (Jack) Burke was born in Killarney, Co. Kerry on 10 September 1861. He was brought to London as an infant and educated at St Joseph's Catholic Academy. He was apprenticed in the glass blowing trade, his father having such a business in Lambeth. Jack was a good sculler, winning a match when only 15. He then turned to amateur boxing, joining the Broad Street Gymnasium, but went back to rowing and indeed rowed for money. He returned to amateur boxing winning the German Gymnastics Club Amateur Middleweight Competition. However, he was then banned from entering the Queensbury Championship (the forerunner of the Amateur Boxing Association Championship) as he had rowed professionally.



Jack Burke's Grave  
(Drawing by  
Don Bianco)

## **English Middleweight Champion**

Burke then turned to professional boxing, making his debut on 12 February 1881 when he beat Jem Gaiger on the Hackney Marshes under London Prize Ring rules (bare knuckles) for £20. The bout lasted 35 minutes. On 29 June 1883 in Manchester he lost on points over 3 rounds in the final of "Jem Mace's English Heavyweight Championship Belt Competition" in a bout he seemed to have won easily. Just a month before at Bob Habbijams West End School of Arms, Newman Street, off Oxford Street, he had won the English Middleweight Championship Competition, beating Jack Massey on points over 3 rounds, thus claiming the English/British Middleweight title.

Burke fought all the top men in England, heavyweights as well as middleweights. These included Alf Greenfield of Birmingham in the final of the Heavyweight competition above mentioned, and Charlie Mitchell, also of Birmingham, with whom he drew over 6 rounds (bare knuckles) on 16 June 1881 on Ascot Heath. In May 1883 he travelled to the US, staying there until 1887 and fighting all the top heavy and middleweights. He fought, for example, 4 more draws with fellow Englishman Charlie Mitchell and also drew with Jake Kilraw. On 2 March 1885 he beat Alf Greenfield, another old English opponent, over 5 rounds with gloves at Chicago. He met him again on 23 March when the result was a draw.

### **Fights with John L. Sullivan, Jack Dempsey, & 'Gentleman Jim' Corbett**

Burke received a forfeit from Dominick McCaffrey, but lost on points over five rounds to the great John L. Sullivan ('The Boston Strong Boy'), then considered World Heavyweight Champion, in Chicago on 13 June 1885. On 23 November 1885 he was pitted against Mike Cleary in a glove contest at San Francisco - after 5 rounds the police interfered and a draw was declared. However, Burke won the re-match in 3 rounds on 28 December in Chicago. He also fought a draw with 'Jack Dempsey', 'The Nonpareil' (real name John Kelly, born Co. Kildare, 15 December 1862), World Middleweight champion, over 10 rounds. On 27 August 1887 Burke lost on points over 8 rounds to the future World Heavyweight Champion James J. Corbett ('Gentleman Jim') although this is sometimes recorded as a draw.

Burke left the US for Australia in October 1887 and boxed exhibitions in Honolulu en route. He arrived in Sydney on 24 November 1887. He drew with Larry Foley, Australia's famous father of boxing. Subsequently he knocked out Peter Newton, claimant to the Australian Middleweight title, but drew and lost to Frank 'Paddy' Slavin, an Australian and a future claimant to the World Heavyweight title.

He also drew and then won against Wolf Bendorf of England. In New Zealand he beat their Heavyweight Champion Harry Laing. Subsequently, he returned to the US and on 4 May 1890 in Tacoma, Washington, won two bouts on the same night!

## **Retirement and 'Comeback' in South Africa**

In England, Burke fought holder Ted Pritchard for his British/English Middleweight title on 12 March 1891, but was knocked out in 3 rounds. The bout was at 11 stone (154 lb). A benefit was held for Burke on 12 April 1891 at the Washington Music Hall, Battersea and in May 1891 he announced his retirement from boxing. However, in late 1893 he went to South Africa and there made a comeback, going on tour with Patsy Donovan as his sparring partner.

After giving an exhibition with South Africa's then most famous boxer James Couper, Jack 'fought' two fake fights with the Australian Owen Sullivan, losing both by so-called knockouts, the first in 6 rounds, the second in 7. He sailed from Cape Town for England on 5 September 1894, virtually being hounded out of town because of the fake fights, after which he had tried to make a living as a bookmaker.

## **Death and Burial at Norwood**

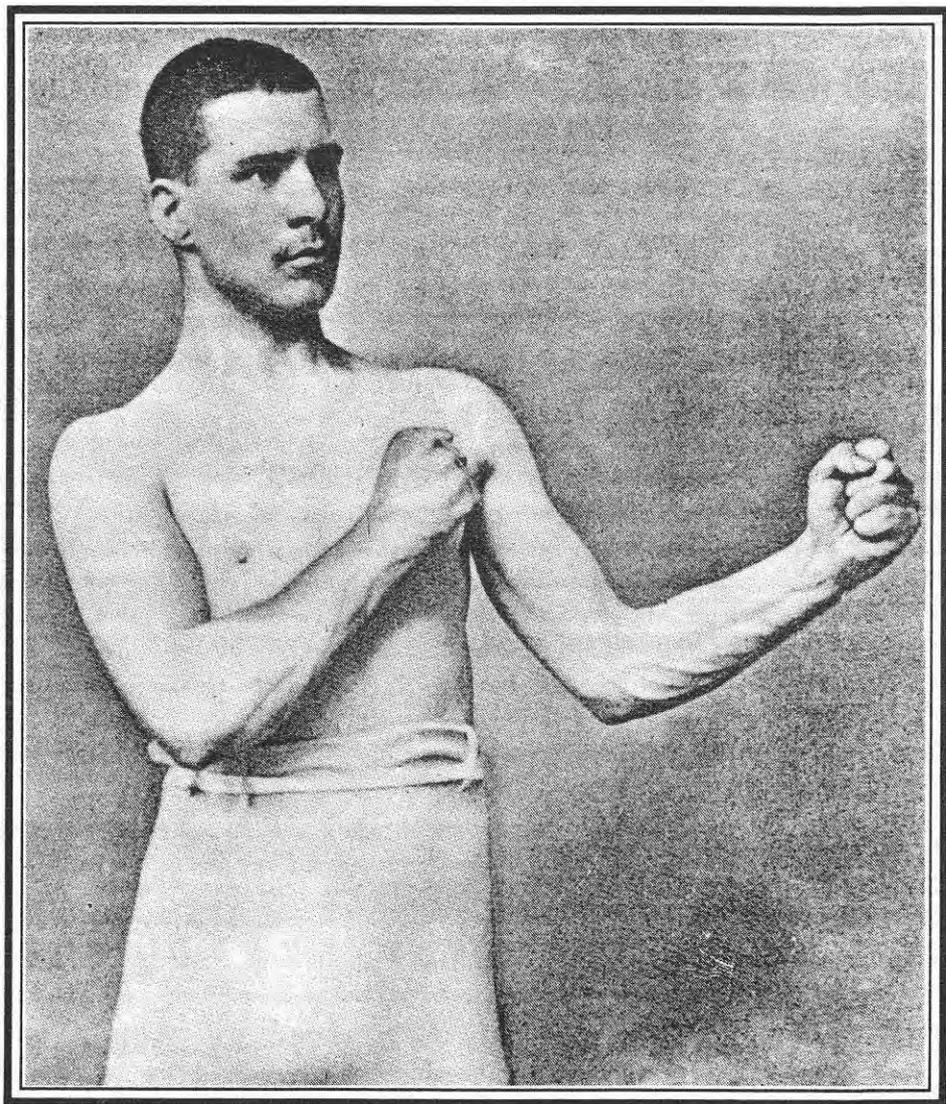
Back in England, after a few exhibition bouts Burke took over the Florence Tavern, Islington, on 1 November 1895, but left in November 1896. He developed peritonitis after catching a chill whilst on a cycle tour. He underwent an operation, but died at the Bellevue Hotel, Cheltenham at 4 pm on Tuesday 29 June 1897. He left a wife, a daughter, and also a sister. His brother-in-law was Mr J. Leftwick of Stepney.

Burke claimed the English/British and World middleweight championships. He also claimed '517 bouts, a world record', but his traced bouts are nowhere near that number. However, he was truly a great fighter. His career covered the bare-knuckle era and glove fights under Marquess of Queensbury rules. The two fixed bouts with Owen Sullivan were completely out of character for Burke, who was otherwise known as an honest and fearless fighter.

Burke was buried at Norwood on Monday 5 July 1897 from 13 Hemberton Road, off Mayflower Road, Clapham. After his death a fund was started to erect a memorial to him. This closed on 29 September 1897 with £70 collected. An old opponent, Charlie Mitchell, when donating £5 at the beginning of September, had stated that if enough money was not collected, he personally would pay to have a memorial erected 'by Christmas'. Clearly the enterprise was brought to a successful conclusion because the monument is intact (grave 27,515, square 120) except that the railings have been removed. A photograph showing the railings survives in the Cemetery office.

The monument is the large granite obelisk next to the tombstone of Burke's fellow Claphamite and former pugilist, Tom King (grave 22,559, square 120) - both feature on our postcard 'The Cemetery in Spring (Squares 119/120)'. The death of Burke's daughter, Florence Gertrude Armitage (-1915), a passenger in the Lusitania when it was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on 7 May 1915, is also recorded on the monument.

With this new information I feel even more confident in claiming that Norwood has a unique place in the history of the ring, being the last resting place of heavyweights Tom Spring, Tom King, and Harry Broome, and of middle/lightweights Ned Neale, Johnny Broome, and Jack Burke, and of the wrestler/weightlifter George Hackenschmidt.



Jack Burke 'The Irish Lad' in 1887

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# Book Review

by Bob Flanagan

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**Pa Wilson - The Father of Dulwich Hamlet FC by Jack McInroy.  
Softback, 12 pp, £1.00.**

**T**his little booklet chronicles the life of Lorraine Wilson (1865-1924). Wilson devoted much of his life to Dulwich Hamlet Football Club and is honoured as its founder (1893), first treasurer (1893-1924) and second president (1923-4). An accountant by profession, Wilson had been a pupil at Dulwich College and had maintained his links with the sporting life of the area after starting work. Not only did he become treasurer of the London FA, but also the Surrey FA as well, where he eventually became vice-president. He never married. He was buried at Norwood on Saturday 3 May 1924 (grave 22,172, square 115). His family tombstone has been destroyed.

## **Recent Additions to the FOWNC Bookstall**

**Brixton and Norwood in Old Photographs** £7.99 (by Jill Dudman - review October 1995)

**Richard Henry Brunton 1841-1901** £3.00 (by Archibald Watt - 1996 - brief biography of a notable civil engineer)

**City and South London Railway** £3.95 (by T.S. Lascelles - reprinted 1987 - review January 97)

**Crystal Palace and the Norwoods** £8.99 (by Nicholas Reed - 128 pp, some 200 old photographs and other illustrations)

**E. Nesbit and the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs** £1.50 (by Betty Griffin - illustrated, softback, 1997)

**Edith Nesbit in South-East London and Kent** £3.00 (by Nicholas Reed - illustrated, softback, 1997)

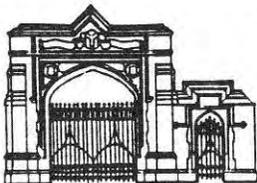
**Every Stone Tells a Story** £3.50 (by Rosemary Taylor - 1996 - history of Tower Hamlets Cemetery - review January 97)

**Norwood Past and Present** £2.99 (by Allan M Galer - reprint of 1890 edition - review October 95)

**Notes on Saving Cemeteries** £1.50 (National Federation of Cemetery Friends - Edition 3 - 1997)

**Streatham and Norwood in 1839** £1.50 (Local History Reprint - review January 97)

Postal/telephone orders to Bob Flanagan. Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of West Norwood Cemetery'. (N.B. Postage is not included in the above prices).



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# Recent FOWNC Events

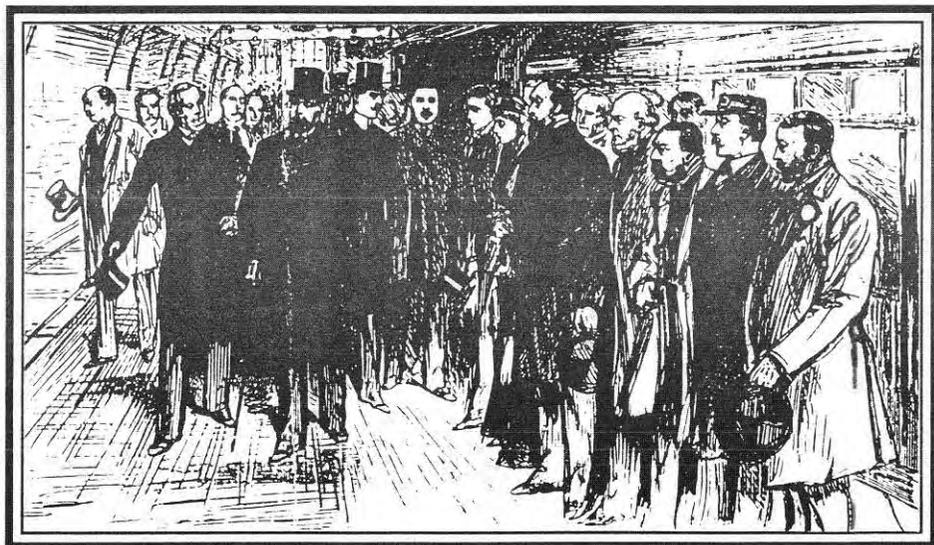
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Jill Dudman

## **J. H. Greathead: Victorian underground railway pioneer**

**A**round 40 people gathered on 18 January to hear Rob Cartwright give a detailed, copiously illustrated account of the life and work of the Victorian tunnelling pioneer James H. Greathead. The depth of Rob's research was impressive. He has managed to unearth a great deal of information about the Greathead family's early life in South Africa. He also included background material on earlier attempts at tunnelling by Marc Brunel and others against which to assess the achievements of Greathead, notably in engineering the City & South London Railway. We were especially pleased to welcome in the audience members of the present generation of the Greathead family, as well as James Butler RA, sculptor of the bronze statue of Greathead which stands in Cornhill in the City of London. The presentation was rounded off by Mr Butler talking briefly about his work on the statue. Rob has written an article about Greathead which will appear in the next Newsletter.



James Greathead (fifth from the right) being presented to the Prince of Wales at the opening of the underground railway at Stockwell.

## **Gideon Mantell: Riding on the back of Iguanodon**

Ken Woodhams has made an intensive study of the life and work of the geologist and palaeontologist Gideon Mantell, and on 15 February he treated us to the results of his research. As Ken pointed out, Mantell should not really be thought of as a Victorian, having done much of his important work and made most of his major dinosaur discoveries before Victoria ascended the throne.

Ken explained the difficulties of trying to deduce what a particular species of dinosaur looked like and whether it walked on two or four legs, based on just a few odd bones and teeth, in order to give an idea of Mantell's achievements.

Among the numerous slides were several of Ken's own drawings, including the delightful closing slide of Mantell riding on the back of Iguanodon into the gates of West Norwood Cemetery! We hope the monograph Ken has written on Mantell will be published in the FOWNC series of booklets later this year.

## **The Victorian Funerary Industry**

On 15 March we had a quite different form of entertainment - essentially the FOWNC chairman's holiday slides! Bob Flanagan makes a point of visiting the local cemetery whenever he is sent abroad to work, and many of the views were of American cemeteries. Their spaciousness compared with West Norwood was very notable, and some impressive monuments were to be seen. Most intriguing was the monument that, from a distance, resembled stone but turned out to be of cast zinc.

Some views of Portuguese cemeteries followed, the difficulty here being understanding the inscriptions on the monuments. Bob found the notices saying 'abandonado' attached to some of the monuments rather worrying (clearance?). The world tour ended nearer home with a cemetery in Stirling.

## **Echoes of Empire Cemetery Tour**

Since the first run of my Echoes of Empire tour last year was not well attended on a cold windy day, I opened this season of special theme tours with a repeat of it on 20 April - a cold windy day! A review of the original tour appeared in FOWNC Newsletter No.27, September 1996.

One advantage of holding it earlier in the year, before the brambles overwhelm the so-called nature conservation areas of the cemetery, was that we could just get a glimpse of the quite substantial monument of Matthew Whitworth, Lord Aylmer, who served as a Governor-General of Canada in the 1820s.

As we moved towards the rear part of the cemetery, singing could be heard - this turned out to be a large and enthusiastically vocal gathering around a grave right next to one of my intended tombs, that of Australian legislator Sir George Shenton.



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## Forthcoming FOWNC Events May-August 1997

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**G**eneral tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (4 May, 1 June, 6 July and 3 August); it is hoped that they will include a Catacombs visit. Special tours will also be held as detailed below. All tours start at 14.30 at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road and last for 2 hours or so. There is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects.

### **Sunday 18 May**

#### **Special Tour - Dickens connections - Paul Graham**

Charles Dickens attended several funerals at Norwood, including those of his friends journalist Douglas Jerrold, artist George Cattermole and lawyer Sir Thomas Talfourd. Paul's FOWNC booklet detailing these and many other acquaintances of the great man is still available.

### **Sunday 15 June**

#### **Special Tour - Notable women - Rosemary Comber**

A second chance for those who missed this tour last year (or who couldn't hear at the back of the large crowd!). Buried at Norwood are some notable nurses, teachers, artists, actresses, dancers, writers and even mountaineers, as well as Mrs Beeton.

### **Sunday 20 July**

#### **Special Tour - Funerary symbolism - Don Blanco**

Draped urns, broken columns, anchors, lamps, flowers and leaves - these and other features found on tombstones will be interpreted by an English Heritage architect with extensive knowledge of West Norwood Cemetery.

### **Sunday 17 August**

#### **Special Tour - Manufacturing and retailing - Jill Dudman**

A new tour of makers and sellers of food, drink and other household commodities, ranging from Sir Henry Tate (sugar) and Lawson Johnston (Bovril) to department store founders such as William Edgar and cutler Edward Mappin.

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# Other Forthcoming Events

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## **1 May-Saturday 21 June: Doctor death: Medicine at the end of life.**

A free exhibition at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, NW1. See details opposite.

## **Saturday 10 May, 10.30-16.30: British death customs**

A day school by Robert Stephenson held at City Literary Institute, Stukeley Street, WC2 (0171 242 9872). £17.50 (unwaged £8).

## **Saturday 17 May 14.30: Lecture - 'J. H. Greathead, tunnelling pioneer'**

Talk on the engineer buried at West Norwood Cemetery by Rob Cartwright at Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, SE18 (0181 855 3240).

## **Monday 19 May to mid-August: Blackwall Tunnel Centenary Exhibition**

A celebration of the centenary of the opening of the tunnel, engineered by Greathead, on 22 May 1897. Greenwich Borough Museum, as above. Free. (The exhibition will subsequently transfer to the Institution of Civil Engineers.)

## **Sunday 8 June 11.00-17.00: Brookwood Cemetery Society Open Day**

Short Walks hourly from 12.00. Many other attractions.

## **Saturday 5 July 11.00: Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day**

The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery will be holding their annual open day at the cemetery and all are welcome to attend this event from 11a.m. onwards

## **Sunday 13 July 13.00-17.00: Dulwich Picture Gallery Fete**

The FOWNC bookstall will be present - volunteers to help mind the stall will be welcome.

## **Sunday 13 July 15.30: Nicholas Reed's summer teaparty in Dulwich**

Joint event for members of FOWNC and the Edith Nesbit Society - come along after visiting the FOWNC bookstall at the Gallery fete! Admission £2 - contact Jill Dudman (telephone number on p.20) for the address details.

## **Saturday 23 August: Visit to Frogmore House and Mausoleum**

Visit organised by the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery. For further details contact FOKGC events organiser Robert Stephenson, 136 Bravington Road, W9 3AL (0181 960 4134 or 0171 402 2749).



*Doctor death: Medicine at the end of life*

24 January - 21 June 1997

An exhibition at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

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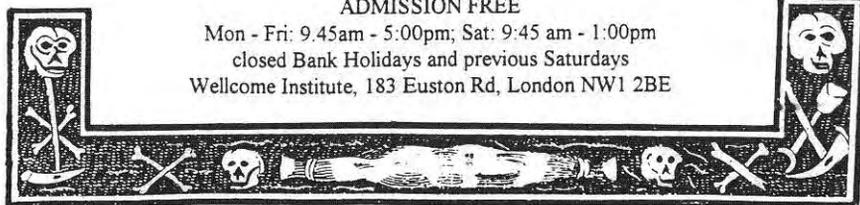
Death is an affront to medicine. But the relationship between death and medicine has been far more complicated than simply that of opposites. This exhibition is about the fascinating history of death in its medical context.

Sections of the exhibition look at the evolving definition of death, from medieval ideas of the soul leaving the body to modern concepts of brain-stem death; the increasing role of medicine in the process of dying, be it through euthanasia, execution or 'natural causes'; the use of the dead to the living in anatomical research and tuition, and in transplantation; and the medical quest for 'life after death' - from the ancient arts of mummification and embalming up to the modern cryogenic storage of corpses.

Exhibits include artworks by Goya, Köllwitz, Rowlandson and the School of Rembrandt, as well as illuminated manuscripts, medical instruments, anatomical specimens, a guillotine blade and a wallet made from the skin of a murderer.

**ADMISSION FREE**

Mon - Fri: 9.45am - 5:00pm; Sat: 9:45 am - 1:00pm  
closed Bank Holidays and previous Saturdays  
Wellcome Institute, 183 Euston Rd, London NW1 2BE



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## **Sir Henry Doulton (1820-1897)**

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**(Grave 22,589, square 36)**

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To mark the centenary of the death of Sir Henry Doulton a series of exhibitions are planned. The UK exhibition started on 12 April at the Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Art Gallery where it will remain until 6 July. It then moves on to the Richmond Museum in Surrey from 21 July - 26 October and the Sunderland Museum, 10 November - 4 January (provisional dates only).

The exhibition consists of over 150 pieces of Royal Doulton including Lambeth stonewares, Toby and Character Jugs, figurines, Series Wares, hand painted bone china, commemoratives and fine tablewares. Small touring exhibitions will also visit Royal Doulton retailers nationwide.

For Japan an exhibition of no less than 150 pieces, including works by George Tinworth, the Barlows, Mark Marshall and Eliza Simmance, is planned. In addition to the exhibitions, Alexander Clement, curator of the Sir Henry Doulton Gallery, will be performing his own play based on the life of Sir Henry at various venues in the UK and overseas. Alexander will also be giving lectures on the history of the Doulton company and will be on hand to discuss pieces brought in by collectors.

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