

FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 35 - May 1999

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Chairman's Report by Bob Flanagan

There have been two further meetings of the Cemetery Advisory Group, although the AGM scheduled for April was deemed inquorate as no representative of the Archdeacon could attend. The AGM will now be held in July. The debate within the Council as to which department will take responsibility for the provision of secretarial facilities, etc. continues.

The suggestion of FOWNC helping with scrub clearance either by volunteer labour, or by financing a working party from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers remains current, although the Cemetery Superintendent, Mr. Mackay, has made a good start on this job from within his own budget. Thanks to him for that. Thanks too to Mike Dickens, Lambeth Legal Services, for his continuing efforts on behalf of the Advisory Group.

Conservation News

There has been quite a bit of progress on other fronts. Firstly, we are most grateful to the Chancellor and the Diocesan Registry for expediting the issue of the faculty needed to erect the completed Alcock monument in the Cemetery. This should be done in the next few weeks, and the question of a rededication ceremony will then arise. I think we should aim to do this, although I'm always reluctant to highlight individual graves in public in case this

attracts vandalism. The monument of John Henry Pepper, a small stone cross, shown on the front of the FOWNC Music Hall booklet, has recently been stolen.

There has also been much activity in other parts of the cemetery - these Council-funded activities are the subject of a separate report by Don Bianco. It seems that conservation/maintenance funded by the Council will continue this year. This is all to the good and it is a shame that continued arguments on the re-use of graves mean that it is as yet not possible to put together a joint package to bid for external match funding.

FOWNC News

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership. Secondly, I am pleased to report increased attendance at the February and March indoor meetings. These were both graced by excellent talks as reviewed by Jill Dudman later in this issue. Your committee hope this revival will continue throughout the year! Thanks too to those who have submitted Newsletter articles. Some have had to be held over until September.

Cemetery Friends on the Web

Visit our website maintained by Rachel Ward:

<http://www.anoraque.demon.co.uk/fownc/index.htm>

Other NCF sites that we know of are:

<http://www.abney-park.org.uk/>
(Abney Park Cemetery Trust)

<http://www.surreyweb.org.uk/bcs/index.htm>
(Brookwood Cemetery Society)

<http://www.morris4.demon.co.uk/highgate/>
(Friends of Highgate Cemetery)

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~androom/dead/kensal.htm>
(Kensal Green Cemetery - not the official FOKGC site)

http://www.queries.demon.co.uk/fonc/fonc_hp.htm
(Friends of Nunhead Cemetery)

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/web-admin/cemetery/>
(Friends of the General Cemetery, Sheffield)

<http://homepages.tesco.net/~hugh.murray/home.htm>
(Friends of York Cemetery)

Bob Flanagan

Blue Plaque to George Myers (1803-1875)

by Don Bianco

The suggestion to commemorate George Myers was put forward by Patricia Spencer-Silver, Myers' biographer, in 1994. In May 1998 English Heritage agreed to erect a commemorative Blue Plaque at 131 St George's Road, London SE1 with the inscription

GEORGE MYERS

1803-1875

Master Builder

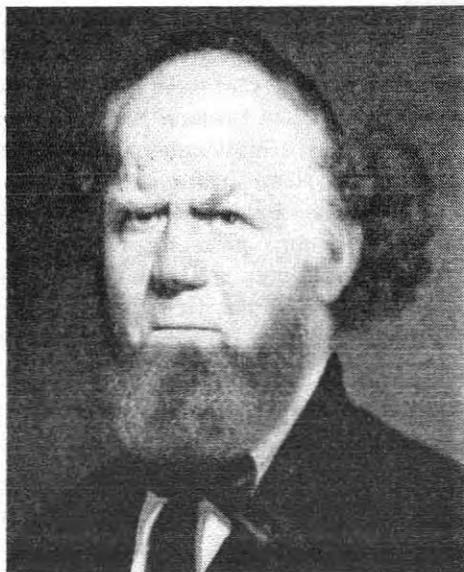
lived here

1842-1853

George Myers, perhaps most widely known as 'Pugin's Builder', was born at 8 Orcloves Place, Chariot Street, Kingston-upon-Hull in 1803, the son of a whitesmith, George Myers senior, and his wife Mary Benson. He was apprenticed under the Master Mason of Beverley Minster, William Comins. It was here that Myers first met the young Augustus Welby Pugin in 1827, a chance occurrence that would eventually lead to an extremely fruitful partnership.

"The way in which Pugin first fell in with him was singular. Pugin became acquainted with Myers at Beverley. He was then a working man in that town, and while Pugin was sketching at the Minster, rendered him some assistance in procuring ladders and scaffolding to enable him to reach the lofty portions of the building, manifesting much interest in Pugin's proceedings; but their acquaintance for a time ended."⁽¹⁾

On completion of his apprenticeship and marriage to Isobella Patterson in 1829, Myers returned to his native city, and in partnership with Richard Wilson, set up as a builder, specialising in factories,



Oil painting of George Myers c. 1860

mills and terraced housing. The business profited by Hull's industrial expansion and, not least, as a consequence of Myers' business acumen and skill as a craftsman contractor.

As a measure of their success, Myers & Wilson won two major and influential contracts: the first for the Loughborough Workhouse by George Gilbert Scott and W.B.Moffat, and the second, under Pugin, to build St Mary's Catholic Church in Derby in 1837. It is reported that Pugin immediately recognised Myers as the enthusiastic mason who had shown so much interest in his early sketching:

"Rushing to him he clasped him in his arms, exclaiming, 'My good fellow, you are the very man I want, you shall execute all my buildings.'"⁽¹⁾

Whatever the truth behind this anecdote it serves to illustrate the nature of their relationship. For in Myers, Pugin had found a man who was to be more than a contractor; his preferred builder, he was to be a friend and a collaborator. Indeed, the understanding between the two men was such that detailed drawings would prove unnecessary. It is widely held that without Myers' involvement Pugin could not have achieved such an enormous amount of work. Pugin came to rely on Myers' judgement absolutely, and in a very real sense Pugin's designs for stone carving should be seen as a joint endeavour, since the drawings he sent Myers were often very sketchy indeed and required someone with a discerning eye to translate them into full-bodied buildings. Myers' ability was due in part to his training as a master mason, but it was also a reflection of his legendary personal commitment to high standards and artistic quality.

Myers followed Pugin to London and settled in Southwark in 1842, conducting work from the building yard established on the site now occupied by County Hall. At this time Myers carried out more work for Pugin than for any other architect. He executed many of Pugin's most important commissions, such as the cathedrals in Newcastle, Birmingham, Nottingham and Southwark, as well as the influential Mediaeval Court for the Great Exhibition in 1851. Myers, often referred to in contemporary nineteenth-century press reports as the great builder, soon directed a national contracting business and was thus well placed to take a leading part in the great building boom of the 1850s and 1860s. He undertook work for nearly 100 other architects, including Butterfield, Clutton, Paxton, Salvin, Scott, Smirke, Street, White, and Woodyer.

These works included the original camp at Aldershot, the first barracks, garrison churches and Prince Albert's Officers' Library, army hospitals, and the Staff College at Camberley, Colney Hatch Asylum, Broadmoor Hospital, and restoration work at the Guildhall, the Tower of London, Windsor Castle, and following the building of Mentmore in 1850-55, all the English Rothschilds' major building programmes including the very extensive Chateau de Ferriere in France. Myers built or restored over 90 churches. From 1837, according to one calculation, he built on average three

churches a year. Myers retired in 1874, and the business passed to his sons, but by this time the firm was running down, finally to cease business in 1876. In March 1874 Myers suffered a serious stroke and died on 25 January 1875 of exhaustion, and was buried at Norwood (grave 3,114, square 37 - sadly his tombstone was demolished by Lambeth in the 1970s). He had two children from his first marriage and six from his second.

It would be difficult to imagine Pugin's life without Myers: they were friends, and the professional and artistic affinity which existed between them was not to be repeated in Myers' professional lifetime. Nevertheless, without Pugin, Myers still remains one of the great builders of the Victorian age. As an artist and master craftsman his remarkable understanding of wood and its structural requirements⁽²⁾ made him an essential example for later church furniture designers. The Pugin exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1994 certainly drew attention to Myers' historic importance and underpins his case for commemoration. He is to be included in the New Dictionary of National Biography.

Myers had two London residences, but only one now survives. On moving to London in Spring 1842, shortly after his second marriage (to Judith Ruddock) he settled in one of a row of new houses: 9 Laurie Terrace, St George's Road, Southwark, subsequently renumbered 131 St George's Road. In October 1852, leaving behind the scene of the accidental death of his eldest daughter, Myers moved to Montague House, Clapham Road, Lambeth. This property, later renumbered 139 Clapham Road, has been demolished and on the site now stands a warehouse. No 131 St George's Road, listed grade II, appropriately enough overlooking St George's Cathedral, one of Myers' best known works for Pugin, is a brick terraced house of the 1840s with stuccoed ground floor and stuccoed cornice.

First erected as long ago as the 1860s by the Royal Society of Arts and now under the responsibility of English Heritage, Blue Plaques commemorate the homes still standing of famous people from all walks of life. There are some 650 plaques in Greater London, where English Heritage erect 18 new plaques a year. The plaques are recognised as unique markers of historic interest and are a familiar feature of the London scene. This plaque to George Myers joins the 6 others that commemorate people buried at Norwood: Thomas Cubitt, Dr William Marsden, Sir Hiram Maxim, Alexander Muirhead, C.H.Spurgeon, and Theodore Watts-Dunton. The unveiling ceremony will be carried out by Hermione Hobhouse on 11 June 1999.

Notes and sources

1. Benjamin Ferrey. *Recollections of A W N Pugin and his father Augustus Pugin* (1861; repr. Scolar Press, 1978)
2. Patricia Spencer-Silver. *Pugin's Builder: The Life and Work of George Myers* (Hull University Press, 1993)

Simon Harratt (English Heritage)

Edmund Distin Maddick CBE FRCS FRSM (1857-1939)

by Chris Byng-Maddick

As far as we know the Maddick family name came from the West Country - 'Madrike' is the earliest known reference dated 1560 - and Edmund Distin (EDM) had several cousins, Dick Maddick, Dudley Maddick and George Maddick.

EDM studied medicine at St Thomas' Hospital and became a doctor and later a surgeon. In his medical career he rose to great prominence and was to become a surgeon in the Royal Navy and became Admiral (Surgeon) of the Fleet. He was also a surgeon to the Italian Hospital in London and was a Knight to the Crown of Italy.

By the age of forty EDM had become a great socialite in the upper circles of fin-de-siècle society. He is known to have entertained the King of Italy and received the Italian decoration in recognition of his work for the Italian Hospital. He also entertained the King of Greece and King Edward VII - Lilly Langtree is supposed to have put ice cream down the King's neck at one of EDM's parties.

In 1883 EDM married Violet Emily Caroline Byng (-1929), only child of Captain the Hon. William Byng. They had two children. Their son, Edmund Strafford Byng-Maddick, became a major in the First World War and subsequently joined the RAF in the Second War. He was the first 'Byng-Maddick'. His daughter was Violet Emily Alice Byng, who married Mr E.F.Spiller in 1914; they had one son.

By the end of the last century, being already in his forties, EDM is supposed to have said that, with such great advances being made in the field of medicine by the new generation of doctors, he would 'stand aside' and find other areas of interest in the new century.

This other area was to be cinematography and soon after the Great War began he became closely involved in the filming of the major battles taking place on the Western Front. His official title was Director of Kinematography and he was attached to the Intelligence Dept. of the War Office. He produced the film "The Battle of The Somme" amongst others. These films were stored for nearly fifty years in a metal cabinet in a basement in his son's house in Hove. Following Strafford's death the full contents of this cabinet, filled with highly unstable 16 mm film, were donated to The Imperial War Museum.

By the end of the Great War, EDM had found a way of combining his interests in medicine and in the cinema. *The Times* (23 June 1919) published the following article:

"Skeletons on the Screen

The advantages of the cinema in teaching of human anatomy were shown at the Summer Meeting of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland at the Royal College of Surgeons. Major E D Maddick, formerly a student of St Thomas's Hospital who is the originator of the idea, exhibited a film showing a human skeleton being gradually dismembered from head to foot and then re-constructed again.

Attention was called to the various bones by an ingeniously contrived moving pointer. It is claimed that by means of these film lessons medical students can obtain an elementary knowledge of anatomy which will be of great assistance to them when they begin the more serious part of their education. Various professors also spoke in favour."



Edmund Distin-Maddick FRCSE

(from a brochure on the opening of the Scala Theatre, 1904)

In his private life, however, EDM was no family man and he was never a faithful spouse to Caroline Byng. It was well known that he had had a number of lovers. One particular incident, which came to the fore as a result of a court case (*The Times*, 8 December 1917), sheds some light on his life-style. The issue it seems was over compensation for loss and damage resulting from the destruction of one of his houses. The reported story is that EDM had set up one of his mistresses in a house called Boom Towers, in Portsmouth, overlooking the harbour. Her name was Mrs Maria Mona and she was of Italian parentage, although she had been born in England.

She was, by all accounts, elegant, beautiful, with dark eyes and dark hair. He being, a naval surgeon, presumably visited her when his work happened to take him to that town. However, due to some blunder in the War Office, and despite the 'good work' she had been doing for the Red Cross over the years, she had been registered as an enemy alien. People in the locale began to talk and the gossip whipped up stories of telescopes seen at windows and of a radio installation on the roof. The wartime atmosphere and the fear of spies - there was a good view of the harbour from the house - was such that the War Office was informed. The consequences were disastrous for EDM. *The Times* reported that on 17 October 1914, while dining in the house with a party of Royal Academicians, together with Mme Mona at the table, two detectives burst upon the scene and ordered Mme Mona to leave the district within 48 hours. The house was to be vacated immediately.

The residence was subsequently sealed, and resealed from time to time, and the stairway "subjected to some kind of interference" (presumably it was destroyed to prevent occupancy); the result was a deterioration of the property. EDM started an action to claim compensation for the damage and loss. The defence contended that no person was prevented from living in the house, only that it was under military observation. Unfortunately, the outcome of the case is not reported and we do not know whether he recovered any money; nor do we know what happened to the house.

In the society pages this story led to endless gossip and speculation over who might have informed the authorities and their possible motives for so doing. Was it jealousy or malice? Although EDM seemed to lead a charmed and successful life, he was by some accounts arrogant and rude, and disliked by many who met him. Despite this, he was at Court and a personal friend of the King, a well respected doctor of medicine, carried high rank in the Navy and was interested in the modern developments of the new century.

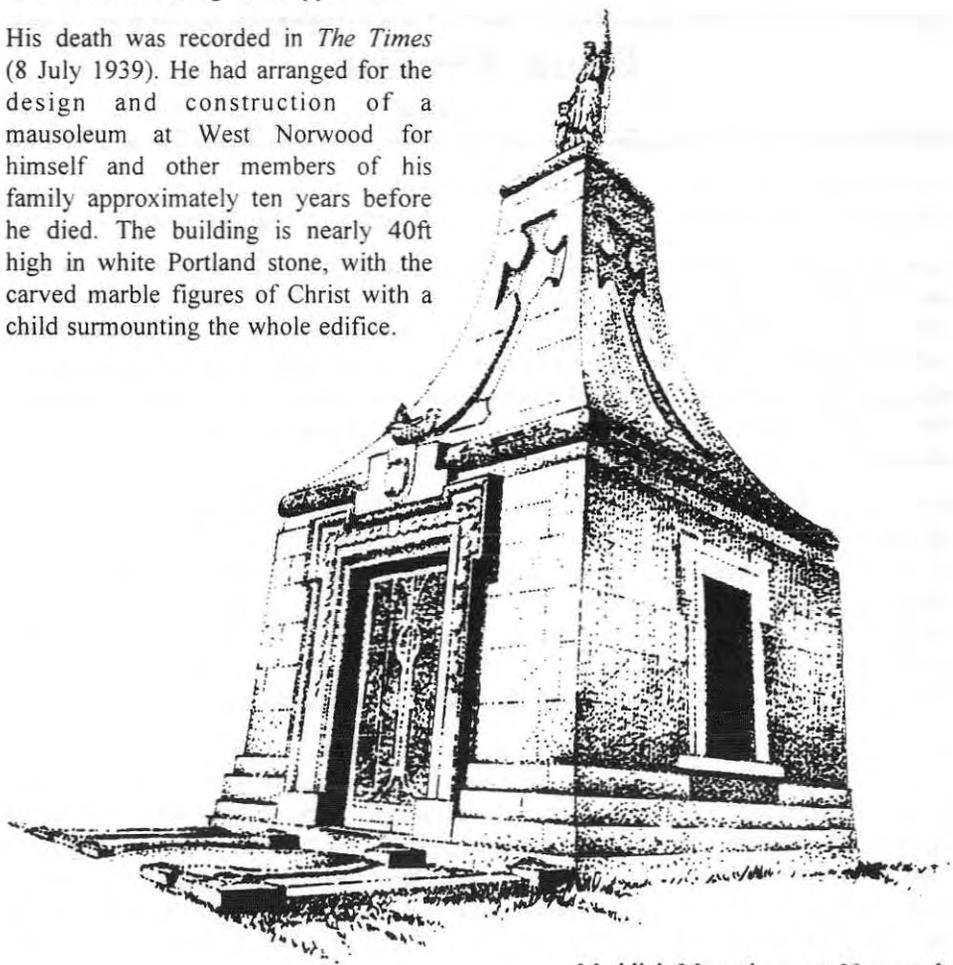
In the 1900s he developed a site in Charlotte Street which became The Scala Theatre. The theatre was demolished in 1972. In 1925 the Tory Government offered him a baronetcy. However, before this title could be adopted there was a General Election and the Tories were ousted by the Labour Government, under Ramsey MacDonald. The latter amended the offer of a title to simply a knighthood. EDM considered this to be insulting and rejected the offer. He finally was offered a CBE in 1927, which he accepted.

During this period EDM developed a close personal friendship with the then Prince of Wales with whom he travelled on a trip around China. On their return, the Prince asked EDM to organise the establishment of a night club in The West End, which would be expensive, selective and be suitable for him, the Prince, to frequent. This he did. The club was called 'Ciros'. As a nightly attraction he hired two world-famous 'pair dancers', Moss and Fontana.

EDM fell in love with Moss, but, despite all his attempts to win her affection, she would have nothing to do with him. Instead, he agreed to look after her younger sister, Amy Moss, as an adopted daughter. She stayed with him until his death, becoming firstly his mistress and eventually marrying him in 1938. During his later years she looked after him and, since he did not drive, she drove him everywhere.

Aged 77, EDM retired with Amy to live in Hove and soon afterwards, having acquired a taste for property development, built the first luxury block of flats in the town. Aged 82, he prepared a scheme for a new theatre in the centre of Hove, to be called The Majestic, at a projected cost of £150,000; the scheme, however, had to be abandoned in the face of strong local opposition.

His death was recorded in *The Times* (8 July 1939). He had arranged for the design and construction of a mausoleum at West Norwood for himself and other members of his family approximately ten years before he died. The building is nearly 40ft high in white Portland stone, with the carved marble figures of Christ with a child surmounting the whole edifice.



Maddick Mausoleum at Norwood
(line drawing by Don Bianco)

It is said that the construction gave rise to considerable interest and speculation, despite the anonymity that EDM liked to preserve around himself, and the story is that even the workmen were sworn to secrecy. During the years up to his death he made special arrangements to have the stonework regularly cleaned and the windows washed.

His intention was that this should be a family mausoleum to house not only his own remains, but also those of his son and daughter-in-law, and their son (my father). In the event, such were the poor relations between EDM and his son that he remains there alone to this day. EDM's estate was valued at £67,568. My father, who was born in 1919, remembers him well and the several occasions when they were together.

Book Review

by Paul Graham

Lewes Road Cemeteries: A Walker's Guide by Maire McQueeney. Brighton Borough Council (available free from Registrar's Office, Woodvale Lodge, Brighton BN2 3QB)

This little leaflet is invaluable to anyone contemplating the exploration of this 70 acre site. The Lewes Road Cemeteries comprise a private extra-mural cemetery opened in 1851, and the Brighton Borough Cemetery founded in 1857. It is estimated that 145,000 burials have taken place within the two cemeteries. Many of those whose memorials are identified in the leaflet are of parochial interest only, including a former Mayor of Brighton (Dorothy Stringer OBE) and a founder in 1808 of a local department store (Smith Hannington).

However, some are more widely known such as Thomas Hughes (1822-1896), author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, and Hablot Knight Browne (Phiz) (1815-1882) illustrator of some of the novels of Dickens. Browne's sister, Lucinda, was the third wife of Elhanan Bicknell and is interred with him (grave 5,930, square 38) at Norwood. Another Norwood connection is that Sir James Knowles (1831-1908), architect and journalist, who rests at Brighton, whilst his father, also James Knowles, architect of the Grosvenor Hotel at Victoria, is buried at Norwood (grave 8,643, square 75).

Some monuments have been lost, including that placed by the bare-knuckled champion Tom Sayers (1826-1865) to his mother Maria (Tom himself moved to London and is buried at Highgate). Generally though, the cemeteries seem to have been free of the systematic destruction wreaked at Norwood, and the monuments to circus proprietor John Frederick Ginnett, massive white marble base surmounted by a pony standing over the showman's hat, scarves and gloves, and to railway engineer John Urpeth Rastrick, vast granite railway turntable, stand particularly fine and themselves worth the journey to the South coast.



Conservation News

by Don Bianco

Members will not have failed to notice the repair and reinstatement works in progress in the Cemetery. These follow on from the works to the tombs of Ann Joyce, William Morley Punshon, Sir William Cubitt, John Garrett and Elizabeth Valentin, as required of Lambeth Council by the Consistory Court (Restoration) Order (1996), and are a welcome initiative in marking the onset of a rolling programme of conservation work.

The final tomb to be tackled under this order, that of James Gilbert, has now had the post and rail enclosure re-set. In addition, the damaging paint coating to the stone stepped plinth has been removed but has, unfortunately, revealed the reason for its application in the first place - to mask the past plethora of unsympathetic, inappropriate, poorly executed and ungainly repairs to the stonework. Further consideration will be necessary on how to deal with this ugly and physically detrimental repair work.

Finally, the enclosure of the Cemetery is being completed by the reinstatement of the missing section of the boundary wall at the top of Pilgrim Hill, using a combination of salvaged and new bricks, and reusing the existing stonework, and the repair of the pier that was inadvertently damaged by Council contractors whilst attempting to remove ivy from the wall.

The ornate iron gates of the entrance arch and the forecourt are being repaired and thoroughly overhauled, indeed the forecourt gates have now been re-hung. We are currently investigating the feasibility of re-instating the original colouring of the ironwork enclosure by analysing the existing paint coatings. As yet no definite conclusion has been reached, but preliminary results appear to indicate that the ironwork was at various times painted light brown, Trafalgar blue, Brunswick green, and black.

Work to one of the highly prized listed memorials in the Cemetery, that of Anne Farrow, the delicate wrought and cast iron shelter with gabled double pitched roof on a freely Gothic openwork arcade, is well advanced.

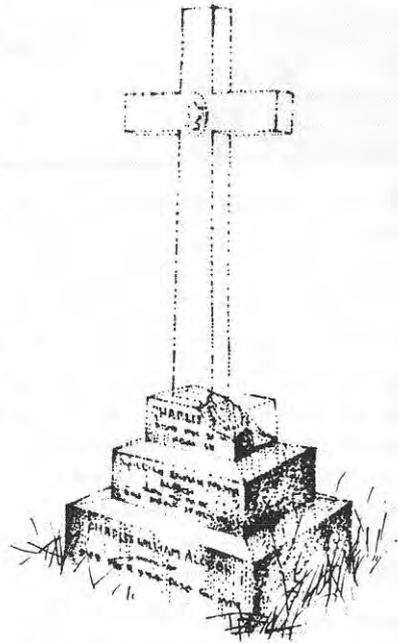
With the superstructure in the blacksmith's workshop, closer inspection has revealed the structure to be of archaeological interest. For example, the wrought iron components of the skeletal structure is framed up using early traditional jointing details used in timber construction. Likewise, the sequential marking of components which bear joiner's marks. The especial value of the fragile structure demands that any work is sensitively approached and executed. Careful conservation and judicious replacement and reinstatement will ensure that the historic integrity of the fabric is not

compromised, and is preserved as far possible. Investigation of the top soil of the grave has uncovered the masonry base, and this has already been raised out of the ground in order that when the superstructure is refixed, the memorial will be seen as a complete design as well as serving to check against decay and deterioration from the wet conditions in which the plot is located.

Following receipt of the confirmatory Faculty from the Diocese for the repair and restoration of the memorial of C W Alcock, we are now in a position to proceed with its



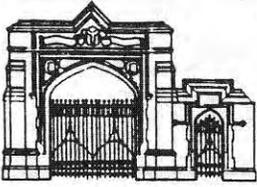
Charles William Alcock 1899



Reconstruction of the Alcock family monument drawn by Don Bianco

re-erection on the grave. With the memorial in the mason's workshop, completed and awaiting shipping to site, groundworks are underway and installation will take place soon.

Finally, repairs to several memorials required to satisfy Health and Safety considerations have been completed. The sign which the Trading Company occupying the site at the extreme corner of the Cemetery along Robson Road had illegally installed has been very carefully removed. So too has the mutilating graffiti along the same stretch of wall. With the help of the Town Centre Manager and Lambeth Council's Graffiti Busters Team, and the local residents who care for their environment, it is hoped that this problem can be kept in check.



Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

Two Victorian Horticulturalists

Royal Horticultural Society Librarian and Archivist Dr Brent Elliott shared his knowledge with us on 20 February in a talk on two Victorian horticulturalists. The journalist George Glenny (1793-1874) proved to be a fascinating character, who founded numerous gardening magazines. He seems to have spent much of his career engaged in a war of words with other writers in the field, notably John Lindley of RHS fame. The botanist Nathaniel Ward FRS (1791-1868) invented the Wardian case, a sort of mini-greenhouse, for transporting plants, and Brent showed illustrations of several designs of these and discussed their use and merits. Unfortunately, neither man's tombstone at Norwood survives.

Charles Alcock Father of Modern Sport

On 20 March we were privileged to hear Professor Eric Midwinter speaking about the life and work of Charles Alcock, set in the context of the historical development of sport. A cricketer and footballer himself in early years, Alcock was essentially the founder of professional, organised sport and of international competitions. He arranged the first Test match between England and Australia at the Oval, where he was secretary of Surrey Cricket Club; and as secretary of the Football Association, he created the FA Cup. The title "Father of Modern Sport" certainly belongs to him. Some entertaining slides were provided by Bob Flanagan. It is hoped that the restored Alcock monument will soon be in place.

Cemetery Tour of Manufacturers and Retailers

I opened the summer season of special tours on 18 April with a repeat of my tour of tombs of manufacturers and retailers of food, drink and household goods. In addition to the names listed in the report in FOWNC Newsletter 30 (September 1997), the tour included the Peek family, involved in the Peek Frean biscuit firm; Christopher Pond, co-founder of railway caterers Spiers & Pond; screw manufacturer Frederick Nettlefold, who donated the old West Norwood Library (in return for which Lambeth have demolished his monument!); and diary printer Thomas Letts. We also visited the family grave of William Redpath, who in 1873 opened the chemist's shop in Norwood Road that still bears his name, as does the memorial, although he died in South Africa aged 101 and does not lie here.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events May - August 1999

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (2 May, 6 June, 4 July and 1 August), and hopefully each will include a brief visit to the Catacombs. Special tours will be held as detailed below. All tours start at 14.30 at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and they 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 16 May

Special Tour - Ecology and nature conservation - Meg Game

The London Ecology Unit representative on the Cemetery's Management Advisory Group, Dr Game will be pointing out features of nature conservation importance.

Sunday 20 June

Special Tour - The listed structures - Don Blanco

The English Heritage officer for the Cemetery will be looking at a selection of the 64 listed monuments, including the newly-reconstructed Cubitt and Garrett tombs, and gates and walls.

Sunday 18 July

Special Tour - European communities - Bob Flanagan

A survey of some of the monuments bearing foreign names, notably those of members of the Greek and German communities.

Saturday 21 August

Special Tour - Dickens connections - Paul Graham

At the special request of the Dickens Fellowship (N.B. on a Saturday), another run of this popular tour featuring tombs of friends, relatives and acquaintances of Charles Dickens.

Advance notice: This year's London Open House Weekend will be on 18/19 September, with several tours on both afternoons (starting at 14.00, 14.30 and 15.00) each allowing a lengthy visit to the Catacombs and the Greek Chapel. A plentiful supply of stewards and bookstall minders will be needed - volunteers please contact Jill Dudman!

Erratum: The subject of Dr Richardson's AGM lecture on 16 October 1999 will be the removal of human remains from city churchyards and burial grounds because of redevelopment.

Other Forthcoming Events

FRIENDS OF KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY

All lectures start at 19.30, at the Dissenters' Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery, Ladbroke Grove, W10. Admission £3.

Wednesday 19 May

Lecture - The cult of the ruin by Christopher Woodward

Wednesday 16 June

**Lecture - The surgeon, the cadaver and the resurrectionist
by K Howell**

Saturday 10 July

Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day - 10.30-17.00

Wednesday 15 September

Lecture - The landscape of Kensal Green Cemetery by B Elliott

GUNNERSBURY PARK MUSEUM

Exhibition - Mrs Beeton's Business

- Victorian home life as revealed by Mr and Mrs Beeton

At Gunnersbury Park, Popes Lane, London W3 8LQ; free entry; exhibition runs to end 1999; access 13.00-17.00. April-October, weekends and bank holidays 13.00-18.00; Telephone 0181 992 1612 for more details.

VICTORIAN SOCIETY

Thursday 20 May 18.30

Lecture - Millais & Death by Dr Roger Bowdler, English Heritage.

At the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art, 16 Bedford Square, London WC1. Cost £6 + SAE in advance.

Saturday 19 June

Brookwood Cemetery and the railway to the afterlife by J Clarke

View the surviving LNC buildings at Waterloo then entrain to Brookwood. 10.45 at Waterloo. £15 + SAE (includes buffet lunch but not train fare).

Space does not permit notes of further items from the Vic Soc list of events which looks especially interesting this year.

King George buried at West Norwood

In our last issue we published a brief account of the attempted grave robbery which took place at St. Leonard's Churchyard in Streatham in February 1814.

One of the local inhabitants who helped apprehend the resurrectionists on that occasion was King George, not the monarch, but the son of Eliza and Joseph George. He was born in Streatham on 27th September 1786 and spent all his life in the parish.

Unlike the sovereign, Streatham's King George led a very humble life working as a casual agricultural labourer on local farms or in helping to repair the roads. For many years he lived at 11 Leigham Lane, now known as Sunnyside Road, where he died, aged 80, in 1866.

Recent research has revealed he was buried at West Norwood Cemetery and it is hoped that further investigations will help us to locate his grave.

Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

The annual subscription to the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery is £2. For further information please contact the Membership Secretary.

FOWNC OFFICERS

Chairman & Publications Officer:

Bob Flanagan,
79 Durban Road,
London SE27 9RW
Tel: 0181 670 3265

General Secretary:

Jill Dudman,
119 Broxholm Road,
London SE27 0BJ
Tel: 0181 670 5456

Hon Treasurer:

George Young,
12 Swinburne Court,
Denmark Hill, London SE5 8EP
Tel: 0171 274 5267

Membership Secretary:

Rosemary Comber,
63 Bradley Road,
London SE19 3NT
Tel: 0181 653 2741

Conservation Coordinator:

Paul Graham,
Flat 4, 9 St. Andrew's Road,
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4DT
Tel: 0181 287 6976

Events Officer:

Tony Fletcher,
11 Claverdale Road,
London SW2 2DJ
Tel: 0181 671 6551

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