

FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 38 - May 2000

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In this issue:

- Samuel Laman
Blanchard**
Page 7
- David
"Homillist"
Thomas DD**
Page 10
- Recent
FOWNC
Events** Page 13
- Forthcoming
Events** Page 14
- Monuments to
Courage** Page 15
- James Henry
Greathead
Blue Plaque**
Page 16
- FOWNC
Officers** Page 16

Chairman's Report by Bob Flanagan

There is much to report this month. Firstly my apologies for having to stick to three Newsletter issues per year. I had hoped to go back to four, but pressure of work means that we need either a full-time Newsletter editor or a new Chairman!

Be this as it may, we are at last beginning to see the fruits of the hard work we have put in over the years as well as the efforts of Nicholas Long and the Scheme of Management Committee, of the Advisory Group, which I chair, of the Diocese of Southwark through the Diocesan Registry, and of the commitment and investment made by the Council in the last 2 years. However, we really do need more practical help with a whole range of tasks if FOWNC and the Cemetery are to reap the full benefits of the effort we have put in so far.

Of more immediate import, the Cemetery Superintendent, Mr RJ Mackay, retired just before Easter. We wish him a long and happy retirement. His successor is Mr Ray Swetman. The Head of Parks and Cemeteries is now Ms Jane Warrener and we look forward to working with her and Mr Swetman, and also Mr Mike Dickens (Lambeth Legal Services), in the months ahead and progressing a range of important projects and issues. Indeed, we are grateful to them for the help and encouragement they have given us so far.

In this context, Jane Warrener has kindly invited FOWNC to have a display/bookstall in the Parks & Cemeteries marquee at this year's Lambeth Country Show on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July. We will do our best to put together a display in the time available, but our bookstall will be there and we will be grateful for volunteers to help man it. The Council have also offered to pay for the installation our own noticeboard in the cemetery. We thought it best if this were one of a pair with the Council's own noticeboard, for which a replacement is long overdue, so we are working with them on a suitable format.

Finally, a reminder that this year's meeting of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends will be held at Highgate Cemetery on Saturday 10th June. Please contact me if you would like to attend.

Norwood Forum and Board

The Norwood Forum and the Norwood Board were established in January. I was elected unopposed to one of the seats on the Board reserved for groups. I would rather not have had to stand, but no-one else would undertake this extra commitment. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the first three meetings of the Board as I was away from London as a result of my work. We have yet to see what impact the Forum/Board will have on Norwood and on the cemetery.

In my address to the Forum I stated

(i) that I had been a Norwood resident for 25 years and FOWNC chair for almost 10 years

(ii) that FOWNC had 250 + members,

(iii) that the Cemetery was the major surviving historic feature of the Norwood area,

(iv) that Norwood was the major historic cemetery in South London and that it was the first cemetery designed in Gothic style (opened 1837) and the first cemetery to be designed *in toto* by one architect,

(v) that the Cemetery contained the greatest concentration of listed structures in Lambeth,

(vi) that the Cemetery was a major opportunity for inward investment in Norwood,

(vii) that the Cemetery was a major asset to the area as it provided for new burials/cremations, historical research, and natural history, and finally

(viii) that the Cemetery was the major feature Norwood was known for both nationally and internationally.

Conservation in the Cemetery

The renovation and painting of the gates and railings near to Norwood High Street and Robson Road has been completed and I think they look splendid. The supporting brackets to the section of the railings around the present Library are quite beautiful and can now be seen in all their glory for the first time in many years. The colour used, spice (a light brown), was selected on the basis of a paint analysis performed by English Heritage and is as near as we could get to the original colour. This colour allows the eye to see through the railings as opposed to black which cuts out vision. The rest of the railings on Robson Road are to be renovated and painted in the same colour, whilst in due course the railings on the south side of the cemetery near to the present-day Auckland Hill are to be painted a shade of green. Again paint analysis suggests that this was their original colour, the argument being that green was used in order to allow the railings to blend in with the fields which surrounded this part of the cemetery in 1837.

Reconstruction and renovation of the wall in the south-east corner of the cemetery, including restoration of the damaged pillar and capstone, was completed successfully last year. Unfortunately, the planned repair to the Robson Road portion of the wall has not proceeded smoothly. Discovery of cracks in the base of the wall led to a dangerous structure notice being served by Lambeth's Building Control Officer and to the closure of Robson Road with the threat of the demolition of part of the wall. After much debate it now seems that the wall may not have to come down and that repairs can be attempted *in situ*. It is noteworthy that many architectural fragments have been discovered during the course of the repairs so far - these are being collected and assessed on site and not simply discarded.

The Council have kindly agreed to requests to repair/reinstate a number of individual monuments in addition to repairing some others deemed unsafe and undertaking major scrub clearance along Ship Path, including removal of the scrub by the grade II listed Grissell monument, the original course of the path leading up to the site of the Anglican mortuary chapel. Individual monuments repaired or undergoing repair with funds provided either from the Cemetery's Capital Budget or by other interested parties include the following listed monuments: Anne Farrow (grave 2,512, square 7 - a splendid restoration), the mausolea of Sir Henry Tate (19,897, 38/39) and Sir Henry Doulton (22,589, 36), and Baron Julius de Reuter (28,319, 23).

Other monuments restored include those of James Reed (17,479 & 18,081, 122 - this large red granite obelisk near site of the vanished Morgan's mausoleum (12,885, 122) had lain in pieces for many years. The inscription records that Reed, formerly of Bedwell House, Tredegar, had been Master of the Tredegar Iron Works for many years), Rommel (28,441, 115 - large headstone), the hand-writing expert Charles Chabot (19,333, 99 - stepped red granite cross), the architect John Belcher RA

(33,607, 93 - marble headstone), the potter James Stiff (6,714, 24 - draped urn atop a grey granite column) and two associated graves: Dyson (7,186 or 15,708, 24 - flat slab) and Lucas (7,879, 24 - red granite obelisk), the potters John Doulton (1,808, 40 - draped urn atop a red granite column) and John Watts (4,398, 40 - flat slab), Springen (28,110, 95 - draped urn atop a red granite column), Raikes (39,829, 92 - elegant Yorkstone headstone with bronze representation of a stage front), Potts (23,096, 23), Browne (27,161, 124), Porter (28,263, 69/70), Macdonald (3,446, 70), Hammond (625, 40), Yates (22,804, 36), and the sanitary engineer George Jennings (19,077, 34 - large marble headstone).

Unfortunately the cross atop the grade II listed Schwartze memorial (19,650, 119) was damaged during the course of the repair to the Rommel gravestone but this too has now been repaired. It is envisaged that repairs to the monuments to Charles Bravo (grave 15,982, square 87) and David Thomas (grave 12,801, square 8) and reinstatement of the de Normandy and Jerrold memorials (the latter with help from FOWNC) will be undertaken in the coming financial year.

What a turnround in fortune and attitude since 1989... ! [A first floor flat in Charles Bravo's house, the Priory at Tooting (now a 'stunning grade II listed building'), has recently been offered for sale at £185,000.]

Ecology and Landscape Survey

This survey, required as a matter of urgency by the Consistory Court judgement in 1994, has at last been commissioned. Land Use Consultants are to undertake the survey and Dr Chris Brooks, Chairman of the Victorian Society, cemetery historian and author of *Mortal Remains*, has been retained by them as architectural consultant. As part of the survey it has been suggested that Dr Brooks together with a specialist stone conservator study some 150-180 memorials in depth. Nicholas Long, Don Bianco and I have drawn up a provisional list of suggestions, especial criteria for inclusion of the list being (i) listed status (excluding the listed memorials we have worked on already and those in the Greek Section which will need a separate survey), (ii) mausolea (did you know that 18 survive in the grounds again excluding the Greek section? We know of 5 which have been lost, although one, that to John Lawson Johnston ('Mr Bovril') (grave 29,462, square 38), has been converted into an ornate memorial), (iii) those with significant ironwork remaining, most notably the Bailly monument (1,900, 48), (iv) those featuring figurative sculpture such as the Horrocks (32,417, 104) and O'Gorman/Auffray (25,249, 54) memorials, or photographs transferred onto pottery plaques such as the Edwards monument (21,392, 29), and finally (v) unusual, striking, or especially decorative memorials such as those few in the cemetery made from slate or from terracotta such as that to Douglas Cow (34,406, 106).

Consistory Court Hearing

The Consistory Court sat again on 13 April in response to joint petitions from the Council and from two (sample) grave owners to whom the Council had sold existing private graves for use for new burials, a practice deemed illegal by the 1994 judgement. The owners of the new graves wanted to either erect new memorials, or have new inscriptions inscribed on memorials which had been placed on the graves by the new owners. These requests had been refused by the Archdeacon's Official. On behalf of FOWNC I formally objected to the way this was being done as I feared that the Council might seek to take over all graves in the cemetery for re-use in time, including those with existing monuments. In the event the petitioners were granted permission to erect new monuments or place new inscriptions on new memorials on the re-sold plots subject to their agreeing to remove the monument should a descendant of the original purchaser come forward and ask for the monument to be so removed. As I understand it, this also means that any potential grave purchasers will have to be told if they are offered a re-used grave and that they may have to remove any monument they erect if a descendent of the original purchaser comes forward and proves title.

This seems a sensible way forward as we would not wish to see numerous exhumations and the associated suffering this would inevitably lead to. However, the petitions were only granted with the above proviso in respect of graves sold for re-use 75 years after the last burial therein. The Council has recently produced photographs of 761 monuments it recorded and removed since it purchased the cemetery out of the 15-20,000 monuments it actually removed. Of these photographs, over half record burials since 1900, one indeed having taken place as recently as 1977. Since 950+ graves were sold for re-use in the period 1979-94 it would appear possible that some graves may have been re-sold before the critical 75 year period had elapsed. Anyway, all will become clear in due course as the Council have been ordered to publish full details of all the re-used graves on a web-site which is to be in place by October (this must include the date of the last burial in the grave to establish the basis for re-selling the grave) and to advertise the existence of the site in order to give a fair chance for the relatives of the original grave owners to come forward. This is almost certainly the first time that such a step has been taken by a Consistory Court, and we applaud the steps the Court has taken to begin to resolve this sensitive issue.

Some other potentially contentious issues such as the anomalous situation the Council finds itself in over the St Mary at Hill plot were also debated. The Council has already sold 10 grave plots in this ground without, as far as we know, permission from the title holder. Be this as it may, this problem was referred back to the Scheme of Management Committee for resolution. Costs of the hearing were awarded against the Council.

Letter from Cllr Chris Henley, Environment Secretary , Lambeth Council

I reproduce below the text of a letter to me dated 12th April 2000. In my evidence to the court, which ran to 5 closely-typed pages + Appendices, I did indeed point out that no senior member of the Council had apologised for the destruction caused by the Council's operations in the Cemetery over the years and the despair which many grave holders and FOWNC members had felt over the Council's actions. I am grateful to Cllr Henley for his letter although I would point out that not only the issues surrounding the re-use of graves in the Cemetery have given us and others cause for concern. As discussed above, I estimate that the Council has destroyed some 15-20,000 monuments in the Cemetery since 1965, no proper records of the monuments destroyed have been kept, and only a handful of marker stones have been placed on the sites of the monuments which were destroyed. Be all this as it may, Cllr Henley's letter reads as follows:

'It has been brought to my attention that, in your submission to the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Southwark you have stated that no Senior Member of the Council has at any time offered a public apology for the Council's illegal and insensitive past actions in respect of the re-use of graves at the cemetery.

As Cabinet Secretary for the Environment I would like to place on public record an unreserved and sincere apology for the past actions of the Council in respect to this matter. I am fully aware that the Council's past actions have caused distress and concern to relatives and friends of the deceased and the wider public. Indeed, the Council shares your desire that the doubt and uncertainty which is currently affecting these relatives and friends should not be prolonged and, as you will appreciate, the submission by the Council of petitions on behalf of two of those directly affected was the necessary first step in seeking a resolution to this very difficult issue.

I note that, since the 1994 judgement, the Council has complied or is in the process of complying with all the requirements of the Confirmatory Faculty granted by the Court, including restoration of listed memorials and the setting up of the Scheme of Management Committee and Advisory Group. The Council has also committed substantial sums of capital expenditure to the cemetery.

I am also aware that, in recent years, we have been working very much in partnership with the Archdeacon and his representative, yourself through the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery and other interested groups. I am grateful for your assistance in making this a constructive working arrangement and trust that it will long continue.

I would like to close with a reassurance that it is the Council's intention to build on the partnership we have and that the Council remains committed to meeting its responsibilities for the management of the cemetery in accordance with the principles which were established in the 1994 judgement and in the Scheme of Management.'

Samuel Laman Blanchard (1804-1845)

by Paul Graham

A contemporary illustration of the tomb of Samuel Laman Blanchard at Norwood (grave 1,051, square 98) has been discovered in an edition of the *Illustrated London News*. It is thought to have been one of the monuments destroyed by Lambeth in their clearances and it was believed that no record of it survived.

Blanchard was born in Great Yarmouth, but brought up in Southwark. He entered the world of journalism and soon became friendly with others similarly employed, noticeably Dickens, Thackeray and Douglas Jerrold. Another literary friend, Edward Bulwer Lytton, has left us a description of Blanchard:



*Samuel Laman Blanchard
from a miniature by Louisa Stuart Costello
(The poetical works of Laman Blanchard.
Piccadilly: Chatto and Windus, 1876)*

'In person he was small and slight, though sufficiently well-knit. His dark features, of rather an oriental cast, were prepossessing in themselves, and made still more so by their expression of intelligence and urbanity. His eyes and hair were beautiful. His manners were more than ordinarily attractive. His natural kindness was so great, so visible in the small details of life, that it imparted to him that high and delicate breeding which we are accustomed to consider the peculiar attributes of loftier birth and more tender nurturing.'

Blanchard spent twenty years working on various journals that supported the Whig interest. In October 1844 he made his debut in *Punch*. Two months later his wife died after a prolonged illness. Blanchard was plunged into a despair that unbalanced his mind and led him to take his own life at his home in Union Place near Lambeth Palace. Thackeray described his final moments in a piece that was published in *Fraser's Magazine* in March 1846:

'On the night of the 14th February, in a gust of delirium, having his little boy in bed by his side, and having said the Lord's Prayer but a short time before, he sprang out of bed in the

absence of his nurse (whom he had besought not to leave him), and made away with himself with a razor. He was no more guilty in his death than a man who is murdered by a madman, or who dies by the rupture of a blood vessel.'

Douglas Jerrold was grief stricken by the death of his closest friend from boyhood. Many years earlier they had planned to travel to Greece together and fight with Lord Byron for Greek independence. Jerrold later recalled that as they sheltered from the rain in a London doorway 'the rain washed all the Greece out of us'. Jerrold named his first-born son Blanchard in honour of his dearest friend. That son recalled that, on the death of his father 'we determined to lay the remains of Douglas Jerrold near those of his dear friend, Laman Blanchard. It was a wet morning when, accompanied by my brother-in-law, I wandered over the turf of Norwood. There was Blanchard's tomb, but tenants had come all about it. Only on the opposite side of the path could space be found'. Only now can we appreciate how imposing Blanchard's tomb appeared to those fortunate enough to see it *in situ*.

Thackeray said of Blanchard 'every person who knew him had the warmest and sincerest regard. And no wonder. It was impossible to help trusting a man so thoroughly generous and honest, and loving one who was so perfectly gay, gentle and amiable.' He added: 'His wit, which was always playing and frisking about the company, had the wonderful knack of never hurting anybody. He had the most singular art of discovering good qualities in people; in discoursing of which the kindly little fellow used to glow and kindle up, and emphasize with the most charming energy. Good-natured actions of others, good jokes, favourite verses of friends he would bring out fondly whenever they met, or there was question of them. What was better than wit in his talk was, that it was so genial.'

Bulwer Lytton lamented the fact that economic necessity demanded that Blanchard wrote mainly for periodicals, and often anonymously. Thackeray defended Blanchard from this charge that he wasted his talents and could have achieved more: 'I think his education and habits, his quick easy manner, his sparkling hidden fun, constant tenderness, and brilliant good-humour were best employed as they were. At any rate he had a duty, much more imperative upon him than the preparation of questionable great works, to get his family their dinner. A man must be a very Great man, indeed, before he can neglect this precaution.'

In addition to his journalism, Blanchard was also the author of light verse. He was only twenty-four years old when his first collection, *Lyric Offerings*, was published to general acclaim. Robert Browning later recalled that as a boy he had run from Camberwell to Bond Street to obtain a copy. Whilst space forbids the inclusion here of any of his full-length poems, a short verse from a series of poems on now long forgotten Members of Parliament gives some idea of the humour to be found in many of them.

He rose with no wish to prolong the debate,
 But just to remark that he'd nothing to state;
 To prove his assertion, he poured out a shower
 Of nothings that occupied more than an hour.

Thackeray's article *A Brother of the Press on the History of a Literary Man, Laman Blanchard, and the Chances of the Literary Profession* is republished in his *Miscellaneous Essays, Sketches and Reviews*. Blanchard Jerrold's reminiscences are contained in his *Life and Remains of Douglas Jerrold*. The poetry was collected in *The Poetical Works of Laman Blanchard* and published with a memoir by Blanchard Jerrold (1876).

The inscription on the tomb was given in the *Illustrated London News* as follows:

Sacred to
 SAMUEL LAMAN BLANCHARD
 Born 15th May, 1803;
 Died the 15th February, 1845.
 His life was devoted to the
 Honourable industry of a man of letters.
 He injured none.
 He instructed and assisted many.
 He pleased all.
 His abilities were various,
 As his toils were incessant,
 And writings
 Which have assisted social progress
 And disseminated cheerfulness
 Will preserve his memory.
 His heart was gentle,
 His manners winning and social,
 His integrity unassailable.
 The latter days of a career
 Brief and laborious
 Were embittered by the loss of his wife,
 ANNE BLANCHARD.
 Who died December 16th, 1844,
 For 22 years his beloved partner and
 consoler
 They are here,
 After two months' separate
 Reunited in the dust,
 In the sure hope
 Of an eternal union in th...



*Tomb of Samuel Laman Blanchard
 at Norwood
 (Illustrated London News,
 3 January 1851).*

David "Homilist" Thomas DD (1813-1894)

by Nick Wardrop



*The Editor of "The Homilist"
(David Thomas DD).
Engraved by J Cochran
from a photograph by Baugh.*

As my wife and I drove slowly along the narrow country lanes a few miles inland from Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire we both spotted the farm sign at the same time. *Hollybush*, a farm where David's father William had lived for a while, had also been used as the name of their house in Loughborough Park by the family when Dr David was the minister at Stockwell New Chapel from 1844 to 1877.

David was already achieving success as a young businessman before being persuaded by friends to enter the church. He was married to Elinor Rees, the daughter of a Carmarthen land and ship-owner, and had a small son, Urijah, when he started his theological training at Newport Pagnell college. His first

ministry was at Chesham where he stayed for three years. The charismatic young Welsh dissenter was 31 when he impressed the elders at Stockwell with his commanding personality and so began his long association with South London.

David came from one of the prime sources of Welsh dissension. His father, William of Hopsill (1782-1855), had little formal education and from an early age worked on the family farm. At 21 he became a dissenter and went to live with a local man, Clement Phillips, who encouraged and supplied accommodation for aspiring preachers. Hundreds traveled miles to hear the preaching of these 'giants of intellect'. William started to preach at 24. At 27 he went to farm at Hopsill where he stayed for 30 years preaching twice a week in local cottages and three times on Sundays at places far apart. David was born in 1813 followed by 9 others of whom five died young within a week of each other. The Saundersfoot Congregational Chapel, among others, owes its origin to him and was renamed the Thomas Memorial Congregational Church in memory of his son Dr David.

David's friend, the Rev Caleb Morris delivered the recognition sermon at Stockwell and urged the young minister 'to preach out the fault finders, the bigots, the persecutors, the men and women who will learn no new truth and do no good or holy thing; and to preach into their vacant places the truth seekers, the earnest workers, the men and women who have open minds, who are willing to have their prejudices examined and shaken, and for whom when they have found the right are ready to do and dare all things for it'. So successful was David that he soon had people from all walks of life from far and wide flocking to experience the originality and force of his preaching. In 1850 the Church was enlarged to enable it to hold up to 900 worshippers. It was said that he was among the most influential speakers of the age.

Among those of his congregation influenced by the originality of his thinking and his power to inspire was 'the mother of the Salvation Army', Catherine Mumford whom David married to William Booth in 1855. Another was Wilson Carlile (1847-1942), the founder of the Church Army, whose father Edward was one of David's deacons for 30 years.

Thomas became well known for his literary works. The best known of these is *The Homilist*, which he started in 1852, a scholarly periodical, of liberal and progressive theological views. It soon won a unique position in religious literature and became one of the most influential magazines of the day. It extended to over 50 volumes with an aggregate circulation of 200,000 copies. Through its influence he lessened the differences of opinion between the English and American churches and it is believed that it was for this he was awarded his Honorary Doctorate by Waynesburg college in Pennsylvania in recognition of his efforts. He became known as 'Dr Thomas of Stockwell' or 'Homilist Thomas'.

Other works included *The Augustine Hymn Book* (1866) which contains some fine hymns from his own pen especially that beginning *Show pity, Lord, For we are frail and faint*. He wrote *The Crisis of Being: six lectures to young men on Religious Decision* (1849), and *The Core of Creeds* (1851). His complete works were issued in nine volumes between 1882 and 1889 under the title *The Homilistic Library*. He founded *The Dial* newspaper (1860) which was later incorporated with the *Morning Star*. Under his influence his second son, the barrister David Morgan, founded the first daily paper in Wales *The Cambrian Daily Leader*, the first daily in Cardiff *The Cardiff Morning Express* and the *Merthyr Mercury*.

Several institutions owe their origin to his inspiration including The Working Men's Club and Institute Union (1862) and The University of Wales at Aberystwyth (1872).

His wife died in 1874 aged 64 and was buried at Norwood (grave 12,801, square 8). In 1877 he retired from Stockwell and for a short while ministered at The Augustine Independent Church in Clapham Road. In 1881 according to the census he was living with two of his daughters at 104 Upper Tulse Hill. He later moved to Ramsgate to live with another daughter and her family and he died there in 1894.

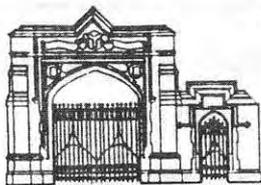
This account would not be complete without mention of the achievements of his eldest son Urijah (1839-1901) who was the much loved first minister of Redland Park Congregational Church, Bristol, from 1862 to 1901. To gain an appreciation of his character and work, and more insight into this remarkable family, I can do no better than refer the reader to the excellent biography written by his brother: *Urijah Rees Thomas* by David Morgan Thomas published by Hodder & Stoughton (1902). For further source material on the Thomas family please apply to Bob Flanagan.

Postscript: William and Catherine Booth are buried in Abney Park Cemetery. Edward Carlile is thought to be buried at Norwood and Thomas Wilberforce Stoughton (1848-1917) (grave 26.778, square 56) is buried at Norwood. Urijah Rees Thomas is buried in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol.



*Monument to David Thomas at Norwood
(Art Memorial Co., West Norwood, London S.E.)*

(The monument itself is now in pieces
but Lambeth have agreed to fund its restoration.)



Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

Ljubljana's Silent City: Zale Cemetery & Jože Plečnik's Buildings in Slovenia

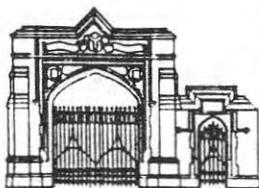
We were pleased to welcome back on 19 February the double act of Nicholas Long and Nicholas Philpot, with a further installment of their Balkan holiday slides, this time concentrating on the recently independent country of Slovenia. Their travels had involved a search for as many buildings as they could locate by Jože Plečnik, regarded as the most important twentieth century Slovenian architect. We were treated to views of Zale Cemetery in the capital Ljubljana, as well as many churches and other public buildings. This survey, including some fine interior detailing, showed Plečnik's work to be of a most interesting style far removed from much British twentieth century architecture.

Gardening in Lambeth

Judy Harris has long been associated with FOWNC, as a founder member and a previous lecturer on the subject of MP and convicted forger William Roupell. Her enthusiasm for gardening has led her to research the history of the local horticultural society in Streatham of which Roupell was a member, and in turn other local societies, flower shows, nurserymen such as John Peed, owners of estates with large gardens, etc. The most prominent local group now is of course the Lambeth Horticultural Society, whose memorial stone for deceased members stands in the small garden area just in front of the cemetery entrance arch. Judy presented the illustrated results of her work on 18 March, with around a dozen cemetery 'residents' appearing in the narrative.

Crystal Palace Tomb Tour

I opened the summer season of special tours on 16 April with a repeat of my tour of tombs of notables connected with the Crystal Palace, both the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park and the reconstructed building at Sydenham. A popular tour from our early days, this running of it was enhanced not only by the restoration a couple of years ago of the tomb of Sir William Cubitt (engineer who supervised the original Palace construction), but also by the very recent reinstatement of the massive headstone of George Jennings (sanitary ware manufacturer who installed the lavatories in the Palace building) - it looks splendid after so many years of lying flat on the ground. There is even now hope that with Lambeth's help the monument of Douglas Jerrold (journalist who coined the name "Crystal Palace") may be restored.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events May - August 2000

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (7 May, 4 June, 2 July and 6 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 21 May: Special Tour - Notable women - Rosemary Comber

A tour including writers, artists, teachers, singers, dancers, nurses, benefactors, a Greek princess, and perhaps the most famous person in the cemetery - Mrs Beeton.

Sunday 18 June: Special Tour - Scientists and engineers - Bob Flanagan

A popular tour from our early years, this is a selection of the most notable scientists in many fields, including doctors, as well as engineers, instrument-makers and inventors - some 36 Fellows of the Royal Society lie here.

Sunday 16 July: Special Tour - The Greek Cemetery - Don Bianco

The jewel in the crown at Norwood, this enclave contains a glorious profusion of mausolea, sarcophagi, statuary, carvings and mosaics, and includes 18 listed monuments (two at grade II*). Many eminent members of the Greek community in London were interred here.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July: Lambeth Country Show

See Chairman's report above.

Sunday 20 August: Special Tour - Artists & Sculptors - Nicholas Reed

A tour originated in our early days by Patricia Jenkyns and taken over by our founder Nicholas, a noted art historian, this is a miscellany of personalities involved in the visual arts - painters, sculptors, engravers, art collectors and others.

London Open House Weekend

Advance notice: This year's London Open House Weekend will be on 23/24 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!

Book Review: Monuments to Courage

Monuments to Courage: Victoria Cross Headstones & Memorials by David Harvey. 900 pp., 1999, 2 vols (boxed set from Pat M de Costa, 124 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9HL. £75.00 + £6.50 p&p, cheques payable to 'Monuments to Courage')

FOWNC member David Harvey has put 36 years of painstaking research into this definitive book. Each of the 1,316 VC recipients are featured and there are almost 6,000 photographs, many never previously published. David has also unearthed some fascinating, hitherto unknown facts, including the resting places of all deceased VC holders, dispelling many myths and errors perpetuated in previous studies.

It is sad to relate that Norwood is alone amongst the major London cemeteries in no longer being the last resting place of a VC holder, the body of Colonel Joseph Petrus Hendrick Crowe (1826-1876) (grave 15,950, square 79), being disinterred and re-buried at Uitenhague, South Africa, in 1976, his surviving relatives being appalled at the state of the cemetery at Norwood at that time. The Norwood tombstone has since disappeared. A further VC holder, Captain (Temporary Major) Stewart Walter Loudon-Shand (1879-1916) is commemorated on his family memorial at Norwood (grave 23,120, square 108), although he is actually buried in Norfolk Cemetery on the Somme.

One of the youngest VC recipients was Boy Jack Cornwell, who was mortally wounded at Jutland in 1916. His courage inspired a generation of young people who raised funds in his memory for a ward at the then newly established Star & Garter Home. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to help support the Home. David hopes to raise £30,000.

David Harvey was born in London and pursued an active horse-related career, joining the Metropolitan Mounted Police in 1969. He worked both on the training and 'public' sides of the force. He was present at the siege of the Iranian Embassy in 1980. He moved to Canada in 1980, returning to the UK in 1989, when he rejoined the 'Met'. On his 40th trip to the battlefields of the Western front, he was knocked down by a drunk driver, thus ending his active lifestyle.

His interest in military history dates back to 1963 with research into the lives of those who took part in the charge of the Light Brigade [two of whom are buried at Norwood - Trooper John Withers, 13th Light Dragoons (1823-1911) (grave 27,508, square 95) and Trooper Henry George Wickham, also 13th Light Dragoons (1836-1892) (grave 12,587, square 58 - common grave, no memorial) and holders of the VC. Whilst in America, he located some 1,500 US Civil War Generals' graves, the results of which remain in the 'Harvey Collection' at the Museum of Texas. He is the author of many military, equestrian and travel articles. His next project is likely to be a study of the 400 George Cross recipients.

Adapted from the *Brookwood Express* (Newsletter of the Brookwood Cemetery Society) No 36 (August 1999), with permission.

James Henry Greathead Blue Plaque

FOWNC member Rob Cartwright tells us that the unveiling of the Blue Plaque to James Henry Greathead on his former home at 3 St Mary's Grove, Barnes, on 18 February was a great success.

It was attended by Tony Roche (Deputy President, Institution of Mechanical Engineers), Jim Moriarty (Civil Engineer, London Underground), Councillor Michael Jones (Mayor, London Borough of Richmond), Francis Carnwath (Chairman, London Commemorative Plaques Panel, English Heritage), and James Butler (sculptor of the statue of Greathead in the City).

The plaque reads:

James Henry Greathead
1844-1896

Railway and Tunnelling Engineer
lived here 1885-1889

The unveiling was carried out by Jim Greathead, the engineer's grandson.

Friends of West Norwood Cemetery

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

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