Chairman's Report
by Bob Flanagan

The Landscape and Ecology survey required under the Consistory Court judgement is nearing completion and is proving to be a most valuable exercise. The draft report is due in mid-September. In June the Council introduced a temporary ban on the sale of new grave plots in the cemetery pending completion of the report and other deliberations. In this context, the Council have had to ask for more time to produce a complete list of the re-sold graves in the cemetery, their original list (some 900 graves) having been found to be incomplete and to contain a number of inaccuracies.

Although re-sale of private graves for new burials was not envisaged when the ‘lawn conversion’ was started, legislation dating from the mid-1970s allowed this to be done in certain cases where there had been no burial for 100 (later 75) years. At Norwood the Council started to re-sell graves claiming at various times that this was done under the 1974 and later the 1977 Local Authority Cemeteries Orders. Most recently they have claimed powers under Section 9 of the GLC (General Powers) Act, 1976. However, the retrospective application of even this latter Act would not appear to be straightforward, especially as it specifies that a grave can only be re-sold if it has not been opened for 75 years - at Norwood it appears that in some cases less than 75 years may have elapsed since the previous opening.
Be this as it may, the Scheme of Management Committee are working with the Council to resolve the status of the re-used graves. At Norwood some 164,000 interments have taken place in some 46,000 individual graves and there have been some 34,000 cremations. At one time it was claimed that there were 14,000 private graves that had not been opened for 100 years. However, we now know that many of the cemetery records are incomplete. In addition, since no proper plans of the position of the graves were kept when the headstones were swept away, it seems that it may not be possible to locate existing graves in ‘converted’ areas of the cemetery even if the Council wished to re-sell them. Clearly all this has major implications for the future of the Cemetery.

**Repairs and Renovations**

As to the repair/renovation programme, as many members will know the repair to the Robson Road portion of the Cemetery 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 and the threat of the demolition of part of the wall. After much debate it now seems that repairs can be attempted in situ and English Heritage are to be consulted as to the best way forward.

**Annual General Meeting**

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership this year - for the second year running we have lost hardly any members and gained a few new ones. As detailed in the forthcoming events section, our AGM is to be held on Saturday 21 October prior to the lecture by Vivien Knight, Curator of the Guildhall Art Gallery. The officers and other committee members are willing to stand for re-election, but we would as usual welcome more involvement from members. Please get in touch with Jill Dudman or myself if you would like to offer your services in any capacity.

*Bob Flanagan*  
*Entrance to West Norwood Cemetery c. 1905*
On Wednesday 24 May this year four members of the Browne family visited the cemetery in their search for information on their ancestors. The visit was organised by Valerie Browne Lester from Annapolis in Maryland, USA. Valerie was in England researching her great-great grandfather, the artist Hablot Knight Browne (1815-1882), better known to posterity as Phiz, the illustrator of many of the novels of Dickens. She intends to publish a biography of Phiz. Her assiduous researches had uncovered other relatives of Phiz, three of whom accompanied her on her visit. They were Peter Browne, Bob Moxon Browne and Kiki Moxon Browne.

The first monument visited was the Bicknell family sarcophagus (grave 5,930, square 38). Phiz's sister Lucinda was the third of Elhanan Bicknell's four wives. When she died in 1850 she was originally interred in the catacombs, but her body was moved to lie beside her husband when he died in 1861.

Still in the catacombs (16D) is a brother of Phiz, Major General Charles Alfred Browne (1801-1866). He spent many years in India after entering the Madras Army in 1826 and his military career was considered distinguished enough for him to be accorded an entry in Boase's Modern English Biography - all this despite family tradition that he never heard a shot fired in anger! The party was able to find his vault with the inscription still legible.

The third port of call was to the red granite slab commemorating two other sisters of Phiz, Katherine Ann Browne (1793-1862) and Emma Louisa Grant (1798-1882) (grave 8,181, square 35). It was Katherine who was engaged to Captain Hablot of Napoleon's Imperial Guard after whom Phiz was named. It is known that Hablot fought at Waterloo. Valerie was to visit the site of the battle after her visit to Norwood. Next to this monument is a similar tombstone commemorating members of the Moxon family (grave 10,522, square 35). As the two families were closely connected, family tradition being that when ever the Brownes got into trouble it was the Moxons who bailed them out, this find will necessitate even more research.

The Browne's were also able to visit the monuments to other artists who would have been known to Phiz, such as George Cattermole (1800-1868) (grave 8,071, square 23) and Alfred Henry Forrester (1804-1872) (grave 13,816, square 123).
Major-General Charles Alfred Browne (1801-1866)  
by Valerie Browne Lester

Charles Alfred Browne was the eighth of fifteen children in the family of William Loder Browne, a Kennington merchant, and his wife Katherine, née Hunter. Hablot Knight Browne, 'Phiz', Dickens' principal illustrator, was the fourteenth child in the same family. After a short stint as a midshipman in the Royal Navy in his early teens, Charles became a cadet at the East India Company's Military College at Addiscombe, where he stunned his instructors by gaining high distinction in four oriental languages before heading East. He joined the 18th Madras Native Infantry, and then the 12th. An Adjutant in 1824, he became an examiner of Hindustani and Persian and the author of grammatical textbooks.

During the 1824-6 Burmese War, Browne was in charge of 4000 Sepoys and of the young officers being drilled for service in Burma. He was subsequently stationed at Quilon, where he underwent a religious transformation, becoming an intensely evangelical Christian but, according to one of his nephews, 'he never offended by intruding his views upon those who even in essentials differed from him'. When he was transferred to Madras, he added volunteer work for the Church Missionary Society (CMS) to his already demanding schedule, and established the first Sunday schools in that city.

Although he lived an abstemious life until his marriage at 34 - he did not eat regular meals and slept on a wooden bed with a plank for a pillow - he was known far and wide for his generosity. He occupied a historic house in Madras called Durand's Gardens which, because of his liberal hospitality, became known as Bachelors' Hall. Browne soon became a captain, and was active with his regiment in suppressing the rebellion against the Rajah of Mysore. He was an extraordinarily energetic man with a huge capacity for work. It is said that he would often work until 5 am and once spent 22 hours a day for a fortnight either working at his desk or on horseback. In 1834, his doctor insisted that he take a break, recommending that he leave India and go on holiday. After visiting Australia and New Zealand, he returned to Madras well rested and in good health, and was immediately offered a high position in Persia. Even though he had long dreamed of going to Persia, he refused the offer, saying he wanted to mortify his pride and that God always signalled him where to go.

In 1834 and already a major, Browne was promoted to Deputy Adjutant-General. In 1836 he married Elizabeth Jane Ormsby, and Bachelors' Hall became even more hospitable, opening its doors to the women it had previously so rigorously excluded. One nephew wrote: 'I have now been at my Uncle's twelve days. Nothing can exceed his and my Aunt's kindness. They are admirable ciceroni, have a capital house, and are amiable and religious without intolerance or interference with others'. Another
nephew commented: 'Amongst the numerous children of our grandfather, I think my Uncle Charles stands quite pre-eminent. Besides being extremely talented and amiable, he combined in his disposition such liberality and hospitality that his large income was almost wholly spent upon others. I have never heard a word but of the very highest praise of his character'.

The Brownes had no offspring of their own, but their abiding love of children was reciprocated by any child with whom they came in contact.

After Colonel Browne became the Military Secretary to the Government, a position equivalent to England's Secretary of State for War, he was also appointed Adjutant General. On doctor's orders, once again because of overwork, he finally went on leave, returning to England in 1859 for the first time after nearly 40 years of service in India. While on leave he visited Ireland and Palestine, where Mrs. Browne fell on the Mount of Olives and broke her arm.

He returned to Madras in 1862, became a Major-General, and assumed the command of the Hyderabad Contingent at Nagpore. In 1863, the year of his wife's death, he was appointed head of the Northern command in Secunderabad.

Browne's final departure from India in 1864 was deeply regretted, and it was said that the loss 'was not only that of an able Administrator but of a sincere and devoted friend'. Throughout his years overseas, he had shipped home exotic presents to delight the family in England and made regular contributions to his mother's and sisters' incomes and to the education of his nieces and nephews. His generosity had been of such an order that, although he received a healthy income in India, he was hard pressed to find the money for his passage home.

Back in England, his retirement was all too short before he found himself once more hard at work. His missionary friends again sought his services, and after trying to persuade him without success to convert the 'wild and fanatic Irish of the West' or 'to reclaim and educate the scum of the slums of London', finally made him agree to
become Honorary Lay Secretary of the CMS. On 13 February 1866, after addressing a meeting of undergraduates at Oxford, he dined at Balliol College, but refused to spend the night there because he wanted to be in his office early in the morning. He departed from Oxford on the last train. The next evening, after a full day’s work, he left Salisbury Square, and fell down at King’s Head Court, St Martin’s le Grand, dying almost instantaneously.

Major General Charles Alfred Browne is buried in Catacomb 16D beneath the site of the Episcopal chapel. The inscription on his tomb reads:

IN PEACE
HERE RESTS THE BODY
OF A FAITHFUL SOLDIER AND SERVANT OF CHRIST
CHARLES ALFRED BROWNE
A MAJOR GENERAL IN H.M. INDIAN ARMY
WHO WAS SUDDENLY CALLED FROM THIS WORLD
THE 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY
A.D. 1866

(Left to right) Kiki Moxon Browne, Peter Browne, Valerie Browne Lester and Bob Moxon Browne visiting the grave of Katherine Ann Browne, 24th May 2000.
The Greek Enclosure at Norwood

by Don Bianco

The mausoleum of Eustratios Stephanou Ralli (1800-1884) (grave 18,018, square 28)
line drawing by Don Bianco.

From its inception in 1837, the South Metropolitan Cemetery at Norwood was divided into a consecrated Anglican section and an unconsecrated Nonconformist section. The latter was situated in the north east of the cemetery.
On 24 December 1842 a lease was signed by the cemetery company and four prominent members of the Greek community in London: Eustacio Ralli of 25 Finsbury Circus, Antonio Ralli of 30 Finsbury Circus, Alexander Constantine Ionides of Finsbury Circus, and John Schilizzi of 37 Finsbury Circus. Each was described as a merchant. They paid £300 for the ‘exclusive right of burial and interment in the parcel of ground and the right to erect monuments or cenotaphs’. The parcel was 52 feet 4 inches long, 30 feet wide, and was situated in square 28 of the cemetery.

The first addition to this parcel took place in 1860. On 5 December another lease between the company and prominent Greeks was signed, £740 being spent on 3,200 square feet of additional burial space in square 28. The Greek community was to be responsible for the admission of bodies, and a list of burial fees was attached: prices varied from £5/5/- for the burial of an adult in a vault or brick grave, to £1/2/- for the burial of a child in an open grave.

The second and largest addition to the enclosure occurred following the signing of a lease dated 29 July 1872. No less than 17,561 square feet were added at a cost of £4,390/5/- Out of this, a large section was reserved for Stephen Ralli in perpetuity for the erection of a mortuary chapel. Burials in the chapel, “if erected”, were to be charged at the standard rate. The Greek enclosure now measured some 103 feet by 184 feet.

In 1899 the third expansion of the enclosure occurred when 3,015 extra square feet were gained at a cost of £1,432. It seems probable that an extra strip of land was added early in the last century to the west of the last mentioned parcel but there is no reference to such a transaction amongst the cemetery papers.

The monuments within the enclosure have generally fared much better than those in the rest of the cemetery. No doubt this is primarily because the Orthodox cathedral has continued to exercise some authority over it. Other factors are the continuing practice amongst Greek families of taking care of ancestral burial places and the sheer concentration of sepulchral quality within such a tight space that has encouraged maintenance.

A number of the tombs are beginning to show signs of irreversible decay: thus the painted tiles on the Ballianos monument have largely faded away and its mosaic inscription is disintegrating. While the granite on many memorials remains in fine condition, the marble elements are often blistering and discoloured. Several of the temple mausolea have been sealed permanently with concrete to avert despoilation, but such drastic, if understandable, solutions do contribute signaly to the downgrading of mausolea.

One of the main problems faced by the rest of the cemetery has been overgrowth and the invasion of vegetation, which in turn has had a grim effect on many structures. The Greek enclosure has been spared such overgrowth and the sound state of most of the monuments may be attributed largely to this regular maintenance.
Last summer Don Bianco (English Heritage) conducted a special tour of the cemetery’s listed structures. During his preparation for the event, in which I helped to locate the relevant monuments, he sent me copies of all the listing schedules and their various amendments. Initially I gave these a rather cursory glance just to check that they confirmed what we knew (or thought we knew) to be the cemetery’s collection of listed monuments. However, the numbers didn’t seem to quite add up, and the more I delved into the thick bundle of documents, the more surprised I became...

On 27 March 1981, schedules were issued listing the cemetery entrance arch, gates, railings and walls, plus 14 Greek monuments and 30 other monuments, making a total of 44. From this document, the Greek mortuary chapel seems to have been already listed on 8 April 1974, but it was included again for completeness. Most of the Greek monuments had extremely brief descriptions, rather vague indications of location within the Greek enclosure, and were identified only by surname (e.g. Ralli, hardly unique!) - the problems this gave rise to will become apparent.

On 19 September 1989, a few pages of corrections to the names and descriptions of Greek monuments were issued including the de novo listing of the tomb of Eustratios Ralli (it is rather surprising that this large and ornate mausoleum by E M Barry was missed out previously). This took the overall total up to 45 including 15 Greek monuments - an event that seems to have escaped everyone’s notice, and since then we have been counting one too few listed monuments!

During 1989 the Norwood Society had been compiling a booklet of the listed monuments based on the work of their secretary Geoffrey Manning (died January 1989), a pioneer of cemetery research and guided tours. This counted a total of 44 including 14 Greek monuments (correct for early 1989), but it included the (then) non-listed Eustratios Ralli and inadvertently omitted one of the original listings, simply described as a small Roman Doric temple to Ralli of Chios (later to be identified as Antonios Ralli). By remarkable coincidence, Eustratios Ralli’s mausoleum was listed just as the booklet was published, and this is probably why the discrepancy escaped notice at the time.

In April 1993 Don Bianco compiled a detailed illustrated study of the Greek cemetery for a conducted tour in May that year. In this he identified 15 listed monuments, the correct number at that time. However, he remarked that the Norwood Society booklet had used a picture of the wrong Rodocanachi tomb, but he added that, in any case, the tomb listed as Rodocanachi should in fact, from its description, have been Ziffo.
On 21 April 1993, revisions of all the original listings were issued, with their descriptions much amplified. For the Rodocanachi monument, this document changed the original “marble sarcophagus with acroteria at angles” to “pink granite table tomb with Ionic column at each corner and central pedestal” - this is the tomb pictured in the Norwood Society booklet! In effect, the revision switched the listing to a different monument.

On 2 August 1993, schedules were issued listing the catacombs, plus 20 further monuments of which 3 were Greek. This took the overall total up to 65 including 18 Greek monuments.

I should like to emphasize that no criticism is intended of anyone involved in the compilation of any of the above-mentioned publications. With the benefit of hindsight it easy to see how the sequence of misunderstandings accumulated and reinforced one another, based on the vagueness of the first listing schedules (which, it has been said, were done in rather a hurry at a time of extensive cemetery clearance). One last request, though - will English Heritage please stop calling the cemetery (even in the 1993 schedules!) “West Norwood Memorial Park”, a name invented by Lambeth and briefly used in the 1970s, but now totally inappropriate.

Appendix: The Listed Greek Monuments at Norwood (Grade II unless otherwise stated - Greek nos. refer to the Greek community’s own numbering system)

Ralli mortuary chapel (grave 14,564, square 27/28/41/42) (II*)
J P Ralli et al. - mausoleum (grave 12,841, square 28) (Greek no. 104) (II*)
   Eustratios Ralli - mausoleum (grave 18,018, square 28) (Greek no. 7)
A A Ralli - mausoleum (grave 16,172, square 27/28) (Greek no. 41)
P A Ralli - sarcophagus (grave 17,195, square 27) (Greek no. 40)
J S Skilitzi - mausoleum (grave 15,803, square 27/28) (Greek no. 36)
   J S Schilizzi - female figure on sarcophagus
      (grave 32,308, square 42/43) (Greek no. 250/251)
T E Schilizzi - female figure in baldacchino (grave 12,856, square 28) (Greek no. 33)
P A Argenti - mausoleum (grave 21,077, square 43) (Greek no. 174)
   Balli - mausoleum (grave 19,003, square 29) (Greek no. 112)
Spartali - mausoleum (grave 7,655, square 28) (Greek no. 6)
Ballianos (Vaglanos) - mausoleum (grave 27,142, square 42) (Greek no. 247)
   Vlasto - sarcophagus (grave 33,175, square 27) (Greek no. 39A)
   Cassavetes - sarcophagus (grave 1,971, square 28) (Greek no. 77)
Sheridan - sarcophagus (grave 8,168, square 28) (Greek no. 79)
Michalinos - stele with relief (grave 33,047, square 43) (Greek no. 252)
Mavrogordato - cross within railings (grave 23,459, square 29) (Greek no. 143)
P P Rodocanachi - table tomb (grave 29,183, square 28) (Greek no. 44) or
M E Rodocanachi - sarcophagus (grave 6,415/28,411, square 28) (Greek no. 25)
or Ziffo - sarcophagus (grave 13,305, square 28) (Greek no. 34)
   - could be any one of 3 monuments!
Barrow, John Henry (1796-1858), journalist and author, was born on 4 January 1796 in Cheapside, London, the sixth of the ten children of Charles Barrow (1759-1826) of Bristol, a partner with his father-in-law in a firm of musical instrument makers, and his wife, Mary (1771-1851), daughter of Thomas Culliford and his wife Mary. In 1801 Charles Barrow entered the Navy Pay Office and rapidly became Chief Conductor of Monies in Town, a position he systematically abused by embezzling over £5,500. In 1810 he had to seek permanent refuge from English law in Douglas, Isle of Man.

From his appointment in 1819 as reporter for the *Times* in the Ecclesiastical and Maritime Courts at Doctor’s Commons, JH Barrow became, in his own words, “one of the most extensive contributors of my day to the Political and Literary Journals, Reviews and Periodicals of the Metropolis” (RLF archives). His reporting of the trial of Queen Caroline for that paper in 1820 increased his reputation as a shorthand writer. Admitted to Gray’s Inn in 1823, Barrow was called to the Bar in 1828 but never practised. He married Kitty Collins on 16 August 1817 at St. George’s, Hanover Square. The marriage was childless. Barrow left her in 1828 for Lucina Arabella Fidelia Pocock, daughter of Major Luke Pocock, by whom he had 10 children, 6 of whom survived their father.

Barrow founded and edited the *Mirror of Parliament* in 1828 as a rival to *Hansard*. It purported to provide a full record of the debates in both Houses of Parliament. To this end, he employed his nephew, Charles Dickens, as a gallery reporter and general assistant (1831-1834), thereby considerably advancing his journalistic career. Barrow petitioned unsuccessfully for official recognition of the *Mirror of Parliament* in May 1834. The *Mirror* lost its fight with *Hansard* and ceased publication in 1841. Barrow estimated that he lost £5,000 by the venture. Both he and his journal received a posthumous tribute from Gladstone who asserted during a Commons debate in April 1877 that: “I do not hesitate to say, that Barrow’s *Mirror of Parliament* is the primary record, and not Hansard’s *Debates*, because of the greater fullness which Barrow aimed at and obtained.” (*Hansard* Vol. CCXXXIII 1877, Cols. 1576-1577).

Barrow became the leader writer for the *Morning Herald* 1839-42, the *Sun* 1842-45, and the *Hampshire Advertiser* 1848-55. He was appointed Indian correspondent for the *Daily News* 1846-47. He arrived in Calcutta in January 1846 shortly after the outbreak of the first Sikh war. His first despatch, printed in February, gave an account of the battles of Mudki and Firoz Shah. In March he reported the defeat of the Sikhs at Aliwal. Later despatches were sent from Bombay and China.
Barrow published two collections of poems and songs from the Manx tradition, *Manks Legends* (1818), of which no copy is known to survive, and *The Mona Melodies* (1820). He also wrote *Emir Malek, The Prince of Assassins*, an historical novel of the thirteenth century, published anonymously in 3 volumes (1827); and the text to accompany Thomas Landseer's engravings in *Characteristic Sketches of Animals, Principally from the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park* (1832).

Details of Barrow's formal education have proved elusive. Dickens described him in November 1845 as “an excellent scholar”, capable of translating from both the French and Italian newspapers (*Letters* 4.434). He translated contributions from both Guizot and Victor Hugo for the *European Review* in 1824.

In his final year Barrow experienced severe financial distress and on 2 March 1858 he applied for assistance from the Royal Literary Fund. In his submission he reported that in the previous year, whilst engaged on the preparation of a work to be entitled *Memoirs of the Professional Life and Times of the Editor of the Mirror of Parliament*, which sadly was never published if indeed it was ever completed,

“... had the misfortune to be exposed, for some hours, whilst much heated, to the storm which ushered in the month of July.

On reaching home I took to my bed, and the violent cold which I had contracted soon determined in a combined Malady that has ever since disabled me from all possibility of completing my outstanding engagements or undertaking new ones.

I can neither write, except at the cost of intolerable pain, with my own hand or read, owing to the position required for either pursuit. Struck down and bed-ridden by this combined lumbago of the most intense type - violent inflammation of the bowels, kidneys and stomach, with spasmodic affection of the chest; I have long since exhausted all my funds, means, resources, connexions (sic).

My doctor has pronounced all hope of my ultimate recovery vain.” (RLF Archives).

The General Committee of the Fund voted him £50 on 10 March, but Barrow died of liver disease on 29 March 1858 at his home in Francis Street, Newington, Surrey. He was buried on 3 April at West Norwood Cemetery in a common grave (grave 5,185, square 17), near Lucina Pocock who had been interred in May 1851.

After his death his widow, who had been ignorant of his whereabouts, herself appealed for aid from the Fund and received an award of £25. She had previously been receiving financial assistance from friends, including Charles Dickens. Mrs Barrow died in Clerkenwell on 9 March 1864.
Notable Women
There was a good attendance on 21 May for a re-run of Rosemary Comber’s tour of notable women interred in the cemetery. This time it was a little less satisfactory; the sun and rain of this spring, combined with reduced grass cutting, had resulted in much of the cemetery being smothered in vegetation. It has always been difficult to access the tomb of Sister Eliza Roberts, one of Florence Nightingale’s chief nurses, located at the edge of a ‘jungle’ area of brambles, but this time waist-high grass blocked the view of several other tombs - we couldn’t even find the small modern tablet to Australian artist Adelaide Ironside, only installed in the 1980s!

Scientists and Engineers
The tour of scientists and engineers by Bob Flanagan, planned for 18 June, was met by sweltering heat, which often seems to depress visitor attendance. In the event, a small group strolled around with copies of notes supplied by Bob, and found the vegetation problem to be even worse. The area lying between the Doulton path and the back of the catacombs, which contains a wealth of tombs of eminent persons, including civil engineer Alfred Burges, royal doctor Sir James Alderson, and printers William Clowes father and son, to name but a few, is now a ‘no-go’ area.

The Greek Cemetery
There was quite a good turn-out for Don Bianco’s tour of the Greek Cemetery on 16 July. Despite the tremendous amount of vegetation clearance done here in the comparatively recent past, the waist-high grass was back in some parts, and so we didn’t attempt to visit every tomb, but just a small selection with more concentration on the history of the Greek community. Nature is definitely winning this year! Don is prepared to supply a copy of the notes he wrote some years ago for the first run of this tour, to anyone who missed getting a copy - contact Jill Dudman.

Artists and Sculptors
On 20 August we returned to our earliest days with the tour by our founder chairman Nicholas Reed of artistic notables, a theme originally researched by founder member Patricia Jenkyns. An enthusiastic group managed to view most of the important tombs, including the reconstructed headstone of David Roberts, but it is a pity that the Grade II* listed monument of major Victorian artist William Burges is totally inaccessible. It was a pleasure, though, to see the recently re-erected monument to potter James Stiff, after so many years of lying under a soil dump.
Forthcoming Events
September - December 2000

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December). September and October tours start at 14.30, and November and December tours start at 11.00, at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and they last for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects. Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road) as detailed below, starting at 14.30. There is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 per person to help cover the hall hire.

Saturday 21 October - Lecture by Vivien Knight
Alfred Temple, Charles Gassiot and the Guildhall Art Gallery

The Curator of the Guildhall Art Gallery will be relating the origins of the Gallery, opened in 1886 with Alfred Temple as its first Director. A large and valuable collection of paintings was bequeathed to the Gallery by wine merchant Charles Gassiot. The original gallery was designed by Sir Horace Jones, another Norwood resident. The talk will be preceded by our AGM.

Saturday 18 November - Lecture by Bob Flanagan
Greenwich and Millennium Connections

To conclude this historic year, a look at personalities related to Greenwich and time-keeping, including William Simms, who made the transit circle instrument to define the Greenwich Meridian, and Henry Bessemer, who had a steel works near the Dome site.

Saturday/Sunday 23/24 September - London Open House Weekend

For this London-wide event in which buildings normally closed to the public open their doors, several tours of the Catacombs and the Greek Chapel will take place during each afternoon, starting at 14.00, 14.30 and 15.00 at the Cemetery Main Gate. Many volunteers for stewarding and bookstall minding will be needed!

Saturday 30 September, 10.00-17.00
Lambeth Archives Open Day. Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5.

This year’s theme is ‘Pastimes and pleasures in historic Lambeth’. FOWNC Secretary Jill Dudman will be giving a talk on the concept of the cemetery as a place of leisure interest. Again, bookstall minders will be needed, please.
M J Dudding has sent me a copy page from *Stand To* (the Journal of the Western Front Association) which included the letter reproduced below from Julie Jameson of Louth, Lincolnshire.

I have written to ask if there are any further details of Mr Honey's burial. We have had no response as yet. We have searched the burial register through August 1922 and into September, the cremation register, and the Eric Smith inscription records and can find no evidence of his being buried or cremated at Norwood. Any further information would be appreciated.

"The idea of the Two Minutes Silence was said by the BBC, during the recent commemoration of the Eightieth Anniversary of the Armistice, to have been put forward first by a South African, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick. I believe this to be incorrect.

On 8 May 1919 a letter was published in *The London Evening News* over the name "Warren Foster".
Warren Foster was, in fact, Edward George Honey, an Australian journalist living and working in London.

Some months later the idea reached King George V through Lord Milner, who had been encouraged to pass it on to the King by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, an author, and South African Member of Parliament.

E.G. Honey died on 25 August 1922 and is buried in Norwood Cemetery.

In his town of Melbourne, however, there is a memorial to him, off Birdwood Avenue opposite the Shrine of Remembrance.

The memorial plaque set in the large boulder reads:

In memory of Edward George Honey, a Melbourne journalist who, while living in London, first suggested the solemn ceremony of silence observed in all British countries in remembrance of those who died in the war. Lest we Forget.”

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.