

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

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Chairman's Report

by Bob Flanagan

Major, sad news this month is the Lambeth Project Officer Jill O'Meara has left to return to Australia. We wish her well in her new job and wish to record our profound gratitude not only to her, but also to other Council officers we have worked with over the last couple of years. The contribution of Don Bianco, Nicholas Long and members of the Scheme of Management and Advisory Groups (and indeed the FOWNC committee, tour guides, etc.) together has also been outstanding and the progress achieved immense. Let us only hope that Jill's successor Debbie Fransen (credit to Lambeth for such a rapid response) will be able to pick up where Jill left off (we will give her all the help we can) especially as regards the long-overdue Heritage Lottery bid.

Cemetery Signage

At long last the deliberations over the cemetery signage are bearing fruit as the new direction and information signs appear in the cemetery. The model for the posts was the existing path markers (see a c c o m p a n y i n g illustration) which may not date back to Tite's time, but are certainly a



*An example
of the new signage*

well-established feature of the cemetery. I hope members are pleased with the signs and the colour scheme which reflects the original colours of both sets of cemetery railings, but nevertheless enables the information given on the sign to be picked up easily. We should clean up the existing path markers I guess. Note we intend to re-instate other grass paths such as Sopwith Path in time.

Restoration of the Tomb of Douglas Jerrold

Another recent success is the long-planned restoration of the family vault of the writer and noted raconteur Douglas William Jerrold (1803-1857) (grave 5,452, square 97). Jerrold's son William Blanchard (1826-1884) is also buried in the vault which was illegally demolished by Lambeth just before FOWNC was founded and was specifically referred to in the case before the Consistory Court as an example of cemetery maladministration. Due credit then to Lambeth now for redressing the damage as far as possible and also re-mounting the adjacent gravestone (see illustration). Remember that all the space in the area around these vaults is full of graves, it is just that Lambeth cleared away all the headstones whilst doing away with the original Jerrold memorial hence giving the false impression of unused grave-space. We hope to hold a rededication service for the Jerrold vault next year.



The newly-reinstated Jerrold tomb

pillars of the establishment in the church, the army, politics and royal family. Ironically, his greatest success in the magazine was the light-hearted *Mrs Caudle's Curtain Lectures*. He died of rheumatic fever, Kilburn Priory, St John's Wood, 8 June 1857 and was buried at Norwood to be opposite the tomb of his life-long friend Samuel Laman Blanchard (1804-1845) (Grave 1,345, square 98 – see FOWNC Newsletter 38, May 2000). W B Jerrold was also a dramatist and journalist. He assisted his father on his *Weekly Newspaper* from the age of 19. His farce *Cool as a Cucumber*, 1851, was a great success. He also wrote the authorised biography of Napoleon III, 1882, and many other works, including a biography of his father. He died at Victoria Street, Westminster, 10 March 1884.

After service in the RN, Douglas Jerrold embarked upon a career as a dramatist. *Black-Eyed Susan; or All in the Downs* (1829) was a huge success. However, embittered at the meagre financial rewards available, he turned his attention to the periodical press. He became the leading writer on *Punch* from 1841 until his death. Amongst his *bon-mots*, 'Crystal Palace' is the most famous. A political radical, he satirically attacked

Restoration of the Pepper and Colls Memorials

Two further recent success stories must also be reported. Firstly the reinstatement of the cross on the Grade II listed memorial to Benjamin Colls (1815-1878) (Grave 5868, square 39) (illustration p14). Colls was a builder and the founder of the firm of Colls & Sons, of Moorgate Street and Camberwell, which later became Trollope & Colls. He was elected Common Councilman, Ward of Coleman Street, 1867 and also became Chairman of the City Lands Committee (Chief Commoner of the City). He died at Bray, 25 August 1878. The fine medallion bust in bronze is signed G.A. Carter.

Secondly, the memorial to the scientific lecturer and illusionist John Henry Pepper (1821-1900) (grave 23,229, square 23) has been reinstated and anchored firmly to the ground (the original was stolen some 5 years ago). Details of Pepper are to be found in *West Norwood Cemetery's Music Hall* available from our publications stall or from our secretary Jill Dudman.



*The newly-reinstated
Pepper memorial*

Association of Significant Cemeteries In Europe (ASCE)

Mauro Felicori (president of ASCE) has written giving details of the ASCE 2004 AGM which is to be held in Genova (Genoa) - European City of Culture – 23-26 September 2004.

Thursday 23 September at 15.00: ASCE AGM

Friday 24 September at 9.00: Seminar on the role of cemeteries in the history of European architecture. The aims of the seminar are: (i) to demonstrate the importance of cemeteries in the history of European architecture in XIX and XX century, (ii) to examine the current best experience in contemporary cemeteries design, (iii) to encourage high quality architecture in the cemetery building and restyling and (iv) to create a club of art and architecture researchers within ASCE. Papers will be presented by Franco Sborgi (University of Genova), "Architecture and sculpture in the XIX century cemeteries"; Ornella Selvafolta (Politecnico of Milano), "The contribution of cemeteries to the history of architecture in XIX and XX century" and Gianni Braghieri (Università of Bologna), "Cemeteries in contemporary architecture". Papers about single issues, current projects and ideas for the future will follow. There will be

'scheduled interventions' by Bruno Gabrielli, Tommaso Badano, and Edoardo Vitale (Genova), Maddalena Basso and Camilla Bertoni (Verona), Maja Simoneti and Ana Kucan (Ljubljana), M. Beatrice Bettazzi (Bologna), Anne-Louise Sommer (Copenhagen), and Paolo Giordano (Napoli).

Saturday 25th September: guided tour in Cimitero di Staglieno.

FOWNC AGM – Saturday 16 October

As always thanks to all who have helped FOWNC this year. Also as always nominations for Officer and committee member posts (to me please, address at the end of this Newsletter) are welcome. The advent of James Slattery-Kavanagh as webmaster has been a welcome reinforcement, but we really would be grateful for some 'new blood'.... This being said the progress we have made in partnership with the Council



*Don & Pam
at West Norwood Cemetery*

has been immense over the last three years or so, and we look forward to that most important event in securing the future of the cemetery, a successful Heritage Lottery bid. But we should try to do more really.

It would be fun to be represented at the ASCE AGM, for example. Your committee (all getting more responsibilities as they get older!) are fully occupied with a range of tasks. This really does emphasize the point made regularly by Jill Dudman that we do need more help on the ground with FOWNC tasks.

And finally on a happy note...

Congratulations to Don Bianco and Pam Gray on their recent wedding. Don, although with due circumspection owing to his position with English Heritage, has been a good friend to both FOWNC and the cemetery for many years as evidenced in these pages.

Pam of course has been our Publicity Officer for a number of years and has likewise given valuable service. We send all our best wishes for their lives together.

Bob Flanagan

National Federation of Cemetery Friends AGM 2004

by Pam Gray

Scotland, the beautiful north... Edinburgh was the location for the NCFC AGM this year which was co-hosted by the Edinburgh Cemeteries Support Group and City of Edinburgh Council. The event took place in Adam/Fergus's decorous City Chambers, the only 18th century public building in the Royal Mile.

Following Irene Mackay's warm welcome, the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh took time out from her busy schedule to put the City on the map for us. Then straight to business. Dr Susan Buckham, Carved Stone Advisor, provided a swift run-down of the work of the Carved Stone Project Team. A short bus ride presented us with an impression of the City as we made for the Old Calton Burial Ground which dates from c.1518. The site of many old legends and a hanging spot for criminals, witches, and the internees of the leper hospital to deter escape and risk of contagion. Stephen Dickson conducted a tour of the tiny isolated north section created in 1815 by the formation of the Regent Road bisecting the graveyard, spoke of the Scottish notables interred there (inspiring one to know more about them and the tradition of Scottish memorials) and allowed us to ponder and wonder at the different kind of funerary architecture.

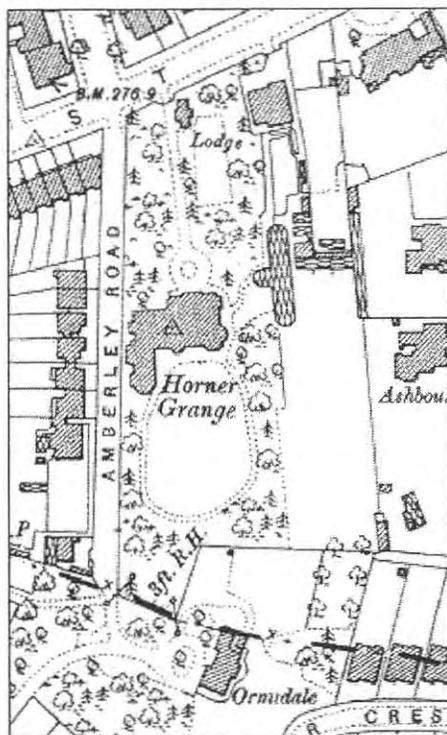
Following lunch, the afternoon was given over to the formal business of the AGM. Items covered: possible options for the development of the Federation in the light of doubts about its future and relevance which appear to be forthright and positive; proposals for upgrading the tired web-site and its future maintenance; the preparation of a databank of member groups' cemeteries based on a successful pilot scheme; the raising of the subscription rate. The Agenda included specific topics: opinions were canvassed on four principal aspects of the Home Office Consultation paper on *Burial Law & Policy in the 21st Century* for a formal, integrated National Federation response. Clearly, much thought had been invested by member groups into this crucial subject and the rare opportunity to have a say into the shaping of future direction and legislation that will affect us all. Building on responses from members, Don Bianco gave a summary of the research of the sub-group on the sensitive issue of memorial safety in cemeteries. Finally, the current officers were re-elected.

Relegated now, since the recent joining of Friends of Bellie Churchyard, Moray, to the second northern-most Friends group, our thanks to the hosts for the interesting, informative and productive day. The trip up north was long but well worth the effort. The Friends of Arncliffe in Bristol will host the NCFC AGM 2005.

William Knight (1843-1900)

by Bob Flanagan

Norwood continues to yield new items of interest. William Knight was a pioneer of gold and diamond extraction in South Africa. 'Knights' (the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company) existed until a few years ago. Knight was living at Horner Grange, West Hill, Sydenham at the time of his death. He was buried at Norwood on 16 February 1900. His grave (grave 29,020, square 94) is marked, but only by the remains of a monument (perhaps the base of a cross) with his name just faintly legible. The obituary below is from the *South African*, 17 February 1900, p. 475. We would be grateful for any further information about him.



Horner Grange at the junction of Westwood Hill (formerly West Hill) and Amberley Grove (formerly Amberley Road) in 1894. Today the house forms part of the Sydenham High School for Girls

The Late Mr W Knight

Universal regret will be found in South Africa at the announcement of the death of Mr William Knight, which took place on Monday last at his residence, Horner Grange, West Hill, Sydenham. Few men were more widely known and esteemed in South Africa than Mr Knight, who by his sterling abilities and upright character had raised himself at a comparatively early age to a position of wealth and influence.

Born in London in 1843, the son of a building contractor in London Wall, he found himself when a boy of 17 thrown upon his own resources to fight the battles of life. He took up the struggle bravely, going out to South Africa, where he started with the proverbial half-crown in his pocket. This slender capital was, however, reinforced by an abundant endowment of native wit and shrewd capacity. Success, therefore, came to him rapidly, or rather he pushed forward to it, for Mr Knight was never a believer in mere 'good luck'. He enjoyed his gains the more because conscious that they had been earned by unflinching hard work, pains-taking, and scrupulous honesty.

He was for some years a contractor in the Orange Free State, and then came the wonderful news of diamond discoveries at Dutoitspan and other places in the vicinity. Mr Knight trekked at once, and on arriving at the new Golconda found everyone engaged most industriously in scratching the surface of the diamondiferous ground. Here Mr Knight's shrewdness enabled him to come to the front. Seeing how many diamonds were discovered on the top, he divined that many more were to be got beneath. The idea was, of course, received with incredulity by most of the diggers, but Mr Knight was not discouraged. He started deep digging, and in a very short time, met with so much success that former scoffers were fain to follow his example. Thus Kimberley became the centre of a great mining industry, and for a time the old river diggings were almost deserted.



*Diamond Mining in South Africa
in the 1890s*

Mr Knight became Managing Director of several diamond mining companies, including the old British and French Companies, and the El Dorado at Bultfontein. The affairs of some of them had got seriously entangled, but Mr Knight was soon able, with his indefatigable energy and his clear perception of financial possibilities, to place them on a basis of assured prosperity. When the wonderful discoveries of gold on the Witwatersrand were exciting South Africa, Mr Knight had already amassed a considerable fortune and was on the point of going home to enjoy a well-earned period of repose. But South Africa had still need of his services. Mr Struben, the well-known pioneer of the Witwatersrand, wrote asking him to come and open up the new El Dorado. Mr Knight at first declined to do so, but was finally prevailed upon to go and make a report, even if he did not take up any of the properties.

Mr Knight's reputation as a mining expert was by this time known throughout South Africa and it was felt that a favourable report by him would give the new field, a great impetus. And so it came about. Mr Knight was one of the earliest to realise the immense potentialities of the new gold fields. He pitched upon a spot somewhat farther east than the region which has since been proved to be the most auriferous and where the most successful Companies have worked. But he was right in his general estimate of the district. More remarkable, however, is his prediction concerning the average yield of the Witwatersrand as a whole. He was an extremely cautious and level-headed man, by no means given to indulge in sanguine views. At that time most of the people on the Rand were looking for gold by the ounce, not dreaming that anything short of ounces would pay. Mr Knight, however, thought such expectations extravagant, and said so. Taking the Rand from end to end, he estimated that it would average 10 dwts

(pennyweight, 1 dwt = 24 grains = 0.64 gram). For a time he stood almost alone in expressing this opinion, most of the experts placing the average much higher. How accurate his forecast was has been abundantly shown by results.

We remember having the pleasure of visiting Mr Knight in the very early days when a plain stone dwelling was the rarest sight on the gold fields. Mr Knight's residence seemed, by contrast with most of the others, a veritable palace of luxury. Mr Knight's name became one of the most familiar on the field, although the Company he formed was afterwards officially registered as the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, it was and still remains, best known as 'Knight's', the name sticking to the various sections of the mine after the splitting up process had commenced.

As soon as it became generally known that Mr Knight had reported favourably on the prospects, the pilgrimage to the golden shrine commenced in earnest, people flocking in thousands from all parts of South Africa, followed soon by others from Europe. Thus the foundations of Johannesburg were laid in the midst of a wilderness where Mr Knight's home with its little bit of garden was one of the few bright oases. We have pleasant reminiscences of interesting days spent at his hospitable board, presided over by Mrs Knight, who remained with her husband through all the difficulties and anxieties of those pioneering days. Mr Knight continued to live in Johannesburg for about three years, but unfortunately his health broke down and this compelled him about 10 years ago to return to England. He paid a return visit to Johannesburg, however, staying there for two years. For the last four years he has resided almost continuously in England.

Being of a quiet and retiring disposition, Mr Knight never identified himself with political or other public movements, and although asked repeatedly when in Kimberley to stand for Parliament, he steadily declined the honour. He was, however, a prominent Freemason, holding high offices in the craft, and in a variety of ways, it may be said, he was one of those who 'do good by stealth and blush to find it fame'. He contributed very frequently and liberally to charitable institutions of every kind, and by the poor in his neighbourhood he was universally beloved. It used to be one of Mr Knight's characteristic remarks that 'he would rather raise his hat to a poor man than to a rich man'.

He had been in indifferent health for some years past, but he still retained those active habits which had distinguished him in his earlier days, and it was only about a fortnight before his death that we had the pleasure of seeing him in Throgmorton Street, where he was frequently to be met when the markets were moving, his interests in South Africa being very large. Last Friday week he was in the city as usual, but on the following day he was seized with paralysis, to which he gradually succumbed, passing away, as already said, on Monday last. He was conscious to the last, and his end was peaceful, his intellect remaining so clear that only a short time before the final charge he inquired by signs for news from the front. Mr Knight is survived by his wife and a son and a daughter, for whom much sympathy will be felt in their sad bereavement. The funeral took place yesterday at West Norwood Cemetery.

Obituary: Muriel Smith (1921-2004)

by Anna Long

Muriel, the widow of Eric Smith, the great authority on Clapham's past and Hon Secretary of the Clapham Antiquarian Society for over 50 years, died peacefully after a short illness on 21 July 2004. Eric was the spiritual founder of FOWNC and his work in recording what he could of the cemetery whilst Lambeth Council literally demolished it in his presence is his enduring monument.



Eric & Muriel Smith (1989)

Muriel Frances, the younger daughter of Arthur and Elsie Dawson, was born on 5 August 1921 at 23 Briarwood Road. Her father was a stationer and bookseller who, before the Great War, had had a shop in Hampstead. After military service he worked in the engineering department of the Post Office. Due to their daughters' frequent childhood illnesses Arthur and Elsie moved to the cleaner air of Tankerton near Whitstable in 1925, the beginning of Muriel's long association with Kent. Arthur, meanwhile, commuted daily to his job in London.

In 1942, aged 21, Muriel joined the ATS as a clerk. After the war she worked as an assistant to a teacher of speech and drama and later trained in the same subject at the Guildhall. Her interests at the time included the Canterbury Archaeological Society and there is a delightful memory of Muriel at this time that includes her riding her scooter to Canterbury to attend meetings. One of her other interests was the National Trust and it was on a weekend break with the Trust to the Welsh border in 1966 that she met Eric.

They married in 1969, Muriel coming to live with Eric at 49 Mayford Road. Muriel quickly became an invaluable part of Eric's life and together they shared the organization of the Clapham Antiquarian Society and interest in numerous other organizations, especially the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society and the two Kent societies. Muriel also supported Eric in his mammoth task of recording the inscriptions on thousands of memorials in the South Metropolitan (West Norwood) Cemetery.

Eric and Muriel decided that later retirement in London would not have the same quality and they left Clapham for Tankerton, where Eric coincidentally had connections, his vast Clapham collection of papers and ephemera going with them. They enjoyed an all too short four years together in retirement, but on Eric's death on 13 April 1990, Muriel found the house too much and she wished to be closer to her sister, Irene, who lived nearby. Although in indifferent health for the past few years Muriel's final illness came suddenly and death unexpectedly. A funeral service took place at Tankerton on 4 August.

Sydney Bertram Carter (1915-2004) Poet, Songwriter and Folk Musician

by Bob Flanagan



Sydney Carter, who latterly lived at 39 Holmdene Avenue, Herne Hill, died 13 March 2004 and was cremated at Norwood 24 March 2004 aged 88. He wrote *Lord of the Dance* in 1963, an adaptation of the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts*, which features in Aaron Copland's ballet *Appalachian Spring*.

Carter was born 6 May 1915 in Camden Town, and went to school at Montem Street School, Islington and later became a bluecoat boy at Christ's Hospital School, Horsham. In the mid-1930s he read history at Balliol College, Oxford, and started to write poetry and dreamt of becoming a painter or film producer. After graduating he taught at Frensham Heights School, Farnham.

With the World War II he joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, with which he served in the Middle East, and, in 1944, in Greece, along with Donald Swann, the future musical partner of Michael Flanders. On returning home after the war, he first worked for the British Council, resettling refugees in England and teaching in Germany, Spain and Poland. As a young bachelor he had a London flat, where he kept all his possessions in bags hanging on a wall. His first marriage, in 1955 to Natalia Beckendorff, a Russian emigre from St Petersburg, ended tragically when she was killed in a climbing accident on Minorca soon afterwards. It was in the aftermath of this that Carter's interest in English folk music was fuelled at a lecture given by the folksong collector A L Lloyd on the transmission of songs between generations in Romania.

After the war, folk music, both sacred and secular, took over his life. Much influenced by what he had heard in Greece, he studied folk music in its many forms; then, in 1952, he started writing lyrics for Swann, who needed revue material. So was launched what proved to be a long collaboration. He provided lyrics for Swann's *The Youth of the Heart*, which featured in the Globe Revue in the West End. In the mid-1950s, he was the lyricist on Swann's children's musical, *Lucy and the Hunter*.

In 1962, Carter teamed up with Sheila Hancock for the album *Putting out the Dustbin*, one track of which, *Last Cigarette*, on failing to give up smoking, became a minor hit. The songs on the LP were closer to cabaret than to folk, but the pacifist, political

singer was there even then. For example he wrote the CND marching song *I Want a Little Bomb Like You*. In 1964, the Donald Swann EP, *Songs of Faith and Doubt*, comprised six songs by Carter. In the 1960s he also worked as a critic for *Gramophone* magazine.

In 1965 Carter recorded his greatest success, the six-song EP, *Lord of the Dance*, with Martin Carthy on guitar, the Johnny Scott Trio, and the Mike Sammes singers. In the sleeve note, he cautioned potential purchasers about the religious content, in case they should be misled by such earlier songs as *Down Below* and *My Last Cigarette*. *Lord of the Dance* provided the theme for Michael Flatley's highly popular show of the same name and, today, is frequently used at marriages, baptisms and even funerals. Other well-known songs include *One More Step* and *When I Needed a Neighbour*.

Sydney admired Carthy perhaps most of all, and also singers like Nadia Cattouse. Over the years, many other musicians recorded his work, among them the Swingle Singers, Bob and Carole Pegg, Maddy Prior, and Sarah-Jane Morris. His anti-war lullaby, *Crow on the Cradle*, was recorded in 1962 by Judy Collins, and, 17 years later, performed by Jackson Browne, Graham Nash, and David Lindley at a *No Nukes* concert. It turned out to be an unexpected success; Warner Brothers bought the US rights and, many years later, Carter was amazed to receive £9,000 in royalties.

With irony - though never with bitterness - Sydney satirised every form of self-righteous faith; to be without doubt was, to him, the ultimate in godless pride. In two books, *The Rock of Doubt* (1978) and *Dance in the Dark* (1980), he set out the signposts of his journey in aphorisms, a journey through the holiness of humanity.

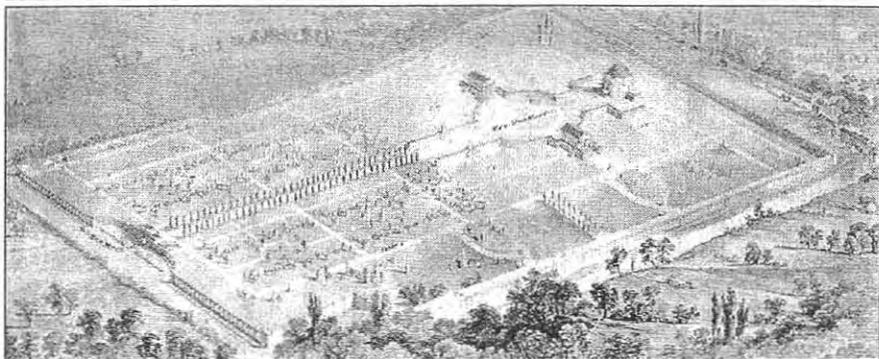
In 1999 Alzheimer's disease began to close in and he was cared for by his second wife, Leela Nair. His friend Rabbi Lionel Blue wrote that now 'our only contact is a thin thread of memory and his songs. I start singing them, and he joyfully joins in - and I leave him as he continues singing'. Leela survives him, as does their son Michael, a neurosurgeon.



Frensham Heights School, Farnham, where Carter taught before the Second World War

Brompton Cemetery: An open-air cathedral with catacombs

by Robert Stephenson



Brompton Cemetery in 1840

Brompton Cemetery was opened in 1840 and covers 39 acres. It is a Conservation Area and is listed grade II* in the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register. Being an isolated area of parkland in a crowded district it is also classed as a Site of Nature Conservation and Metropolitan Open Land. All the cemetery buildings are listed Grade II and 5 of the individual monuments are listed Grade II, however, there are more fine monuments that deserve listing and this is currently under review. Brompton is London's most central and accessible cemetery, with an adjacent Underground Station. Brompton is one of the so-called Magnificent Seven cemeteries, which opened in an irregular circle around London between 1833 and 1841. In common with the others, Brompton was established as a commercial concern and sited in open country. The cemetery has always served more than the local area and has burials from all over London. Burial plots could be purchased in perpetuity, which encouraged owners to construct grand monuments and mausolea capable of accommodating several generations. Determined to outshine all others, the directors built the most splendid architectural complex in any English cemetery. The plan was to create a garden cemetery that would be uplifting and edifying to visitors and to this end planted an arboretum with each tree labelled. The founder of the West of London and Westminster Cemetery, as it was originally called, was Stephen Geary, an architect and inventor, who had previously founded cemeteries at Highgate and Nunhead. The site, purchased from Lord Kensington, was a simple flat rectangle half a mile long without any trees because it had formerly been a market garden. The directors held an open competition for the cemetery architecture and appointed the most eminent architect of the day, Jeffry Wyattville, to judge it. He chose the design submitted by Benjamin

Baud, one of his assistants who had worked with him at Windsor Castle.

Baud's design shrewdly reflects the linear and regular nature of the site. The overall plan was to create an immense open-air cathedral with a central nave running to a high altar represented by the domed Anglican Chapel at the east end. The drive in front of the chapel is labelled the 'choir' on early plans. It connects to the colonnaded Great Circle, which is 300 feet across and said to be inspired by St Peter's Piazza in Rome. The 'transepts', on either side of the Great Circle, were to have been two additional chapels for Dissenters and Roman Catholics. The central colonnades are built above catacombs entered by impressive cast-iron doors. The original plan was to keep the space within the colonnades free of monuments but over time this was used for burial. The North Gatehouse, built in the form of a triumphal arch, serves as the great west doorway. Everything is symmetrical, with two pairs of aisles running parallel to the central nave. A catacomb with a promenade on top once ran the entire length of the west side although sections have now been removed. This was balanced by a raised terrace along the east wall. The nave was planted with an avenue of lime trees that are still extant. This was once flanked by rows of tall pine trees, but these no longer survive.

The directors pushed ahead with Baud's grandiose architectural scheme against the wishes of the shareholders, even though the project proved vastly more expensive than at first envisaged. Ultimately, the Dissenters and Roman Catholic Chapels were never built. The passing of the Metropolitan Interments Act in 1850 prohibited burial in urban churchyards and gave the Government powers to compulsory purchase commercial cemeteries. The shareholders, who had received little return for their money, welcomed the sale to the Government in 1852. Brompton remains the only cemetery to be nationalised and is now a Royal Park, which has had the advantage of providing a superior level of maintenance for the grounds and buildings.



Military funeral at Brompton Cemetery in the 1890s



Recent FOWNC Events

by Don Bianco

Conservation in the Cemetery

In this well-attended tour on 20 June, Don Bianco highlighted some of the conservation work that has been undertaken in the Cemetery over recent years and explained the philosophy, approach and nature of work to the memorials, mausolea and other structures. In the time since funding became available from Lambeth Council works to the perimeter walls and railings, mausolea, and in excess of 150 memorials have been performed. Much work was initiated by concern over aspects of Health & Safety, but there has also been work resulting directly from the Consistory Court Judgement of 1994. Several family graves have also been restored by descendants of those buried in the plots.

The conservation philosophy adopted in each case has followed principles of good conservation practice, though such a purist approach is not always warranted as some work consists of straightforward rebuilding or consolidation. Nevertheless, tight specification and close monitoring have ensured that the standards of good practice are achieved.



*The newly-reinstated
Colls memorial*

The reinstatement of the memorials to John Garrett, Sir William Cubitt, Charles Alcock, John Henry Pepper, and Douglas Jerrold has a conviction about it, while strict accuracy has been maintained as regards the memorials to Benjamin Colls, David Roberts, Dr Alphonse Normandy, Sir Henry Tate, and Sir Henry Doulton.

With varying degrees of standards being applied according to the skills of the contractor and cost limitations, we looked at good and not so good examples of work. The particular nature of traditional monumental masonry and its repair and conservation demands a thorough understanding of materials and processes with an underlying skill base in techniques. Indeed, it may be difficult to notice new work. That is the test of good conservation practice – it is meant to be discreet, imperceptible, almost invisible, the intention of the intervention is to prolong the life of a structure for us all to continue to enjoy. Clearly there is still much, much more to do at West Norwood, but a good start has been made.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events September-December 2004

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (5 September, 3 October, 7 November and 5 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.

Sunday 19 September: London Open House Weekend

For this London-wide free event in which buildings normally closed to the public open their doors, there will be tours of the cemetery starting at the main gate at 13.30, 14.00, 14.30 and 15.00, each lasting 1½ hours and finishing at the Greek Chapel, which will be open for viewing, with a short talk by Don Bianco from English Heritage. The FOWNC bookstall will be on display. Volunteers to help will be most welcome!

Autumn Lectures

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 16 October: AGM & Lecture The gruesome history of body snatching - Robert Stephenson

Following this year's AGM, a talk on this fascinating subject will be given by long-time FOWNC member Robert, who is well-known as a lecturer and for the study days on Victorian funerary customs which he runs at the City Lit.



Body-snatchers in the early 1800s

Saturday 20 November: Lecture Sir Horace Jones and Tower Bridge - Mike Stock

Our speaker formerly worked at English Heritage and is a descendant of Jones (1819-1887) who, as City Architect, designed Tower Bridge as well as Smithfield, Leadenhall and Billingsgate Markets, and some parts of the Guildhall. His fine monument (grave 12,335, square 89) is listed Grade II.



**Lambeth Archives Open Day
Saturday 25 September,
10.00am-17.00pm**

Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5.
This year's theme is 'A woman's place in Lambeth's history'. Amongst many interesting talks, FOWNC member Brian Bloice will be speaking about female artists at Doulton's pottery, the most notable of whom were Hannah and Florence Barlow who are buried at Norwood (grave 31,050, square 100). The FOWNC bookstall will be present - volunteers please!

**Friends of West
Norwood Cemetery**

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