

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 56 - May 2006

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## Chairman's Report

by Bob Flanagan

Following the flurry of activity as regards vegetation removal, the construction of the temporary roof over the catacombs, the planning of the new Rose Garden, and the roadway repairs put in train last year, there is little to report at this juncture. We await reinstatement of the sundial donated by Mrs Christopher Pond (grave 18,718, square 88) in memory of her husband on its new site at the top of Steep Hill. Clearly the damage to the road further down Steep Hill and other areas caused by the contractors' vehicles' works will have to be patched up, but this apart the major effort is now aimed at getting the new Rose Garden and associated works on stream. We also hope to work with the Cemetery management in suggesting areas for vegetation control. The dry weather so far this year has meant that growth has not as yet been on the scale of previous years.

On another front, an amendment to the Scheme of Management has been mooted, with our support. In essence this will mean that implementation of Faculty Jurisdiction on a day-to-day basis will devolve to the Council, but there will still be the option of appeal to the Court *in extremis*. Hopefully this will not be necessary. We have suggested some minor amendments to the composition of the Advisory Group and also the ability to be able to nominate proxies if a nominated member cannot attend for any reason.

Plans to build on the Vale Street site and to cram in as many dwellings as possible continue apace. There are also plans to upgrade the adjacent civic amenity site ('dump'). We have objected to the dwellings scheme, but no-one will listen. A unique opportunity to extend a major European inner-city cemetery has gone forever.

## **FOWNC Website**

I continue to be contacted by relatives enquiring about their ancestors who are buried at Norwood. Most such enquiries come via our website. Contacts to be reported on in future Newsletters include those with relatives of the actor Frederick Robson (FOWNC Newsletter 10, April 1992), the gold and diamond mining pioneer William Knight (Newsletter 51, September 2004), and Mr Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur (1788-1861), an Appointed Member of the first Legislative Council of New South Wales, 1824-43. I have also been contacted by two further relatives of Felix Slade (Newsletter 55, January 2006). Note that the website now includes an Index to all Newsletter articles compiled by George Young.

## **William Thomas Brande (1788-1866)**

A further such website enquiry has resulted in contact with relatives of the chemist and colleague of Michael Faraday, W.T. Brande (grave 1,177, square 98). Brande's wife Anna Frederica (d.1881) and their son Charles Chantry Brande (d. unmarried 1845) are also buried in the grave. George William Brande (1784-1854) was brother of W.T. Brande and his third daughter Emily Elizabeth (d.1873) married Richard George Stevens (1811-1871), a son of the Court musician Richard John Samuel Stevens (1757-1837) and the Brande connection is through this latter line. W.T. and G.W. Brande's father was of course Apothecary to Queen Charlotte (see Newsletter 47, May 2003). G.W. Brande married Mary Ann, only daughter of Thomas Horne DD of Manor House, Chiswick. She died at Southampton 1 January 1857. Her brother was Sir William Horne KC (1774-1860), Attorney and Solicitor General, MP for Marylebone amongst other places, and early dissenter against capital punishment. Thanks to Jacky F. Stevens, great great granddaughter of Richard George Stevens and Emily Elizabeth Brande.

## **National Federation of Cemetery Friends**

The NCFCF AGM this year is to be held at Nunhead on Saturday 10 June. Unfortunately both Don Bianco and I are unable to attend, but we hope nevertheless to send representatives. There will be a tour of the cemetery at 10.30 with the business meeting starting at 13.30. The Federation have commented, with help from Don Bianco, to the Home Office Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group (<http://www.dca.gov.uk/corbur/burial01.htm>). We are also informed that a London (General Powers) Act passing through Parliament at the moment has provision for re-use of existing graves in London Cemeteries. We are keeping an eye on developments. Congratulations to the Friends of Arnos Vale Cemetery who have just been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £4.82 million! Hopefully the work put in at Norwood in collaboration with Lambeth will be similarly rewarded in due course...

## **Association of Burial Authorities**

The Association of Burial Authorities was formed in 1993 to ‘fulfill the need for a consumer orientated organization to co-ordinate the activities of burial grounds and provide a tangible link between them and the public’. It is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee. This organization now has a website: [www.burials.org.uk](http://www.burials.org.uk) whence more information can be obtained. Its Chairman is Sam Weller.

## **Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE)**

ASCE is promoting its third *Week for Discovering European Cemeteries* on May 29-June 4, hence our 4 June tour will be a contribution to this event, to be followed by the open day at the cemetery on 11 June (see Forthcoming Events, page 15).

The ASCE AGM this year is to be held in Verona, 28-30 September 2006. There will be a workshop *The Splendour of Sculpture in the European Cemeteries* and submissions are invited (see [www.significantcemeteries.net](http://www.significantcemeteries.net) for more information). Many European cemeteries, Norwood included, are open-air museums and are important elements of our cultural heritage. In fact, ASCE feel that ‘European cemeteries are unique architectural compounds, a formidable summary of the history of their cities and an anthology of taste and customs of different social classes. Yet above all, they are an irreplaceable repertory of sculptures from the last two centuries, a set course for whoever wishes to be acquainted with the history of sculpture. In fact many of the most important artists of the 19th and 20th centuries created monuments for European cemeteries.’

## **DeadIreland**

DeadIreland has been formed recently to promote an appreciation for the heritage, history, culture and preservation of cemeteries in Ireland. Ireland has a number of significant cemeteries, particularly in Dublin. DeadIreland aims to promote cemeteries in a number of different ways. They have a website, [www.deadireland.com](http://www.deadireland.com). They will be part of ASCE Cemetery Week 2006 and plan tours of at least twelve cemeteries in Belfast, Dublin, and elsewhere.

## **Law Report: Re. Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester**

In an important judgement an ecclesiastical court has ruled that it should not readily grant a faculty which would result in the laying down of significant numbers of gravestones unless it was clearly shown to be necessary. If councils were unwilling to pay for repairs to memorials temporary measures should be adopted whilst the owners were contacted. The memorials should only then be laid flat as a last resort.

Diocesan Chancellor James Behrens so held in the Leicester Consistory Court on 23 January 2006 refusing to grant a confirmatory faculty to the petitioners, The Rev Howard Cocks, rural dean, and Miss Lisa Handy, Bereavement Service Manager, Leicester City Council. The petitioners were applying on behalf of Leicester City Council for a confirmatory faculty for the laying flat of over 100 gravestones in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, because they were unsafe. The petition was opposed on behalf of a number of Polish families whose relatives were buried in the

cemetery and who considered that the council had been over zealous and insensitive in the manner it had dealt with the laying down of the gravestones. They sought a restoration order requiring the council to repair and make safe at its own cost all the memorials so laid down.

The Chancellor held that article 16(1) of the *Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977* provided that 'A burial authority may: (a) put and keep in order any grave or vault, or any tombstone or other memorial in a cemetery'. The authority's power was, however, subject, in the consecrated part of the municipal cemetery, to the jurisdiction of the consistory court. In *re. Keynsham Cemetery [2003] 1 WLR 66*, confirmatory faculties were granted by the Bath and Wells consistory court for the laying down of a large number of memorials. That decision was not binding upon the Leicester Consistory Court and furthermore there had been important changes since that case was decided (September 2002).

Firstly a special inquiry had been set up by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council in 2003 after a similar dispute arose concerning public cemeteries in Stockport. The inquiry report indicated that the Stockport council should consider meeting the costs of re-erecting or re-establishing memorials even where the person responsible for the memorial was known and it did so. Secondly, the Home Office Report, January 2004, *Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century, the need for a sensitive and sustainable approach*, stated that there may be a need to review owner notification arrangements and other aspects of responding to threats to public safety. Thirdly, in a recent House of Commons debate the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions stated that any over-reaction to unsafe gravestones had the potential to cause great distress and that it was necessary to strike a sensible balance between the feelings of the bereaved and the burial authority's obligation to keep the cemetery safe.

These three matters indicated that the consistory court should not now readily grant a faculty which would result in the laying down of significant numbers of memorials unless that was clearly shown to be necessary. If councils were unwilling to pay for the cost of repairs, more use should be made of the temporary protection afforded by a stake placed behind the memorial and attached to it with a strap while efforts were made to contact the owner. Then, and only then as a last resort, might gravestones be laid flat. The confirmatory faculty was therefore refused and the council required to reinstate and re-establish all the memorials in the cemetery. A conditional faculty was granted for future work.

This judgement can only be a victory for common sense on the one hand, and a savage indictment of the Council's precipitate action in Leicester's oldest municipal cemetery on the other. The judgement is all the more ironic since the Council have trumpeted a £950,000 'restoration' scheme with the support of Lottery funding. The repair of driveways and paths, restoration of the landscape, and the creation of a new visitor centre are amongst the works envisaged. Many of the cemetery's monuments are listed on a website: [http://uk.geocities.com/welford\\_road\\_cemetery/welcem1.htm](http://uk.geocities.com/welford_road_cemetery/welcem1.htm), but since the site dates from 2001 it is unclear how many of the monuments featured have been vandalised.

**Bob Flanagan**

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# Art Fund Helps Rescue David Roberts Paintings

by Bob Flanagan

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The Art Fund (formerly the National Art Collections Fund, NACF) has played a vital role in recovering an important collection of works by David Roberts (1796-1864). This follows the sentencing in Bournemouth Crown Court of Shaun Benedict Gray for false accounting and forgery in an attempt to defraud HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) of Inheritance Tax. The collection will come to the Art Fund, as directed in the original will of Helen Guiterman, a leading expert on Roberts, whose 30 years of research into his life and work helped re-establish his artistic reputation. Miss Guiterman was very sympathetic to us in our efforts to restore David Roberts' tombstone at Norwood (grave 15,280, square 38) some years ago.

In 1990 she approached the Art Fund about her wish to bequeath six oil paintings and 51 drawings and watercolours by Roberts to a public collection. The Art Fund worked with Miss Guiterman to assess the works and find a suitable home for them. It was agreed that the bulk of the collection would be offered to the National Gallery of Scotland where it would complement their existing collection of Roberts' work. Miss Guiterman added a further work to the bequest in 1994.

When she died in 1998 and her bequest failed to materialise, the Art Fund Director of Grants, Mary Yule, contacted Mr Gray, a relative of Miss Guiterman and the person claiming to be her executor, to enquire whether she had changed her mind. Mr Gray indicated that she had executed a new will in 1997 which did not include the proposed bequest of the Roberts Collection. However his accounts of what had happened to the Collection were inconsistent and the Art Fund therefore sought legal advice. This eventually resulted in investigations by the Dorset Police and HM Revenue & Customs. Mr Gray has subsequently been sentenced to three years imprisonment.

The case was successfully prosecuted by the newly established Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO). RCPO is an independent prosecuting authority, which reports to the Attorney General, and is responsible for the prosecution of all HMRC cases in England and Wales.

Shaun Benedict Gray, born 1966, lives in Dorset. He was the grandson of Helen Guiterman's cousin and had an enduring power of attorney, signed by Helen Guiterman on 22 July 1997. He pleaded guilty, at a court appearance on 14 November 2005, to 3 counts of False Accounting and 2 counts of Forgery, including forgery of the will under which he appointed himself executor.



*David Roberts' tombstone  
at Norwood*

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# Lewis Cook Hertslet (1787-1870)

by Ian Simpson

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**B**uried under a large, but simple ledger stone (grave 12,628, square 60), near to the Grade II listed monument to Mrs Alice Moffat (grave 1,623, square 60) and immediately to the north of the large monument to John Pierson Beaumont (grave 16,076, square 60) at West Norwood, is a librarian and civil servant of note. Eight members of his family over four generations completed 398 years of service in the Foreign Office and other government departments, 1745-1919. The ledger at Norwood marks the resting place of Lewis Cook Hertslet.

His father, Jean Paul Louis Hertslet was of Swiss Lombard origin and was employed in the Foreign Office for some 50 years until he retired in 1795, whereupon he was appointed King's Messenger. His two sons Lewis Cook and James both entered the Foreign Office as sub-librarians. James, born in 1790 the younger of the two, took up the post in March 1811, in succession to his brother, and remained in post for 44 years until he retired in 1855, shortly before he died.

Lewis (Cook) Hertslet was born in November 1787 and entered the Foreign Office as sub-librarian at the age of 14 on 5 February 1801. He was promoted to Librarian and Keeper of the Papers on 6 January 1810, a post he held until 20 November 1857 when he retired on a pension aged 70.

His greatest achievement during this long employment was the collation and indexing of the many treaties between Great Britain and other states. Remarkably the first collection – *Commercial and Slave Trade Treaties*, 2 volumes 1820 – was published privately. The second collection – *A Complete Collection of the Treaties between Great Britain and Foreign Powers and of the Laws concerning the same*, 11 volumes 1827-66 – was published by the Foreign Office and formed the basis of further publications over the following years.

In addition to his role as Librarian Lewis was appointed Superintendent of Queen's Messengers and Comptroller of Accounts for three Secretaries of State Offices on 30 June 1824, a post he held until its abolition 30 years later.

Lewis appears to have been married twice with two of his sons from the first marriage to Hannah Harriet Jemima Cooke, George Thomas and Edward, following him into the Civil Service. His second marriage, to Mary Spencer, took place in the last quarter of 1837. I believe he had lost his first wife in childbirth some 18 months previously.

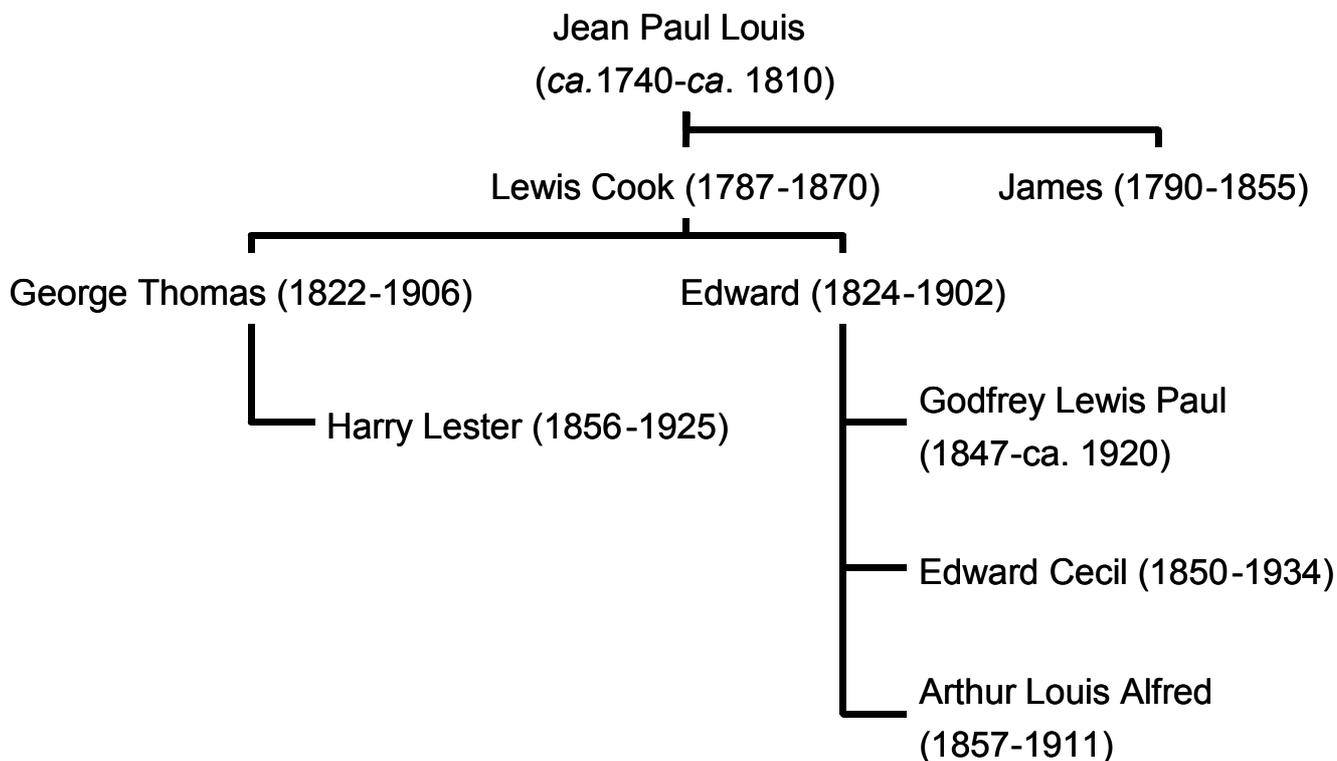
George Thomas was born in June 1822 and took up temporary employment in the Foreign Office in 1838 before moving to Her Majesty's Household the following year. He was to become Chief Clerk in 1872 and subsequently Paymaster and Sergeant of Arms, remaining in these posts until he retired in 1901 after over 60 years service. He was married twice, firstly in 1845 to Geraldine Eliza Stokes and then in 1893 to Harriot Skipper. In 1901 he was awarded the CVO and was also a Knight of St John

of Jerusalem in England. He died in Brighton in February 1906 aged 83. He is buried with his first wife on the corner of plot 13 at Brookwood Cemetery and it was the discovery of this grave some years ago that led to my researching the family and recognising Lewis Hertslet's name when I found it at West Norwood.

George Thomas had a son, Harry Lester, in 1856 who followed his father, grandfather, and great grandfather into public service. He entered the Lord Chamberlain's Department in 1874 rising to Chief Clerk by 1901 and retiring in 1908 after a mere 34 years in the Civil Service. He received the MVO and was a Gold Staff Officer at the coronations of both King Edward VII and King George V. He had married Marion Matthews in 1882 and they retired to Itchenor, near Chichester where he died in August 1925.

Edward was born in College Street, Westminster in February 1824 and was probably the most successful member of the family. He built and extended his father's literary legacy. He received private education from a tutor near Hounslow and in March 1840 was temporarily attached to the library of the Foreign Office under his father. He obtained permanent employment on 8 January 1842 as a clerk, became sub-librarian in 1855, and Librarian of the Foreign Office in 1857 in succession to his father.

He continued the family tradition, preparing several compilations of British treaties including *The Map of Europe by Treaty* (4 volumes), *The Map of Africa by Treaty* (3 volumes), and *Hertslet's Commercial Treaties, British and Foreign State Papers, Treaties between Great Britain and Austria, China, Italy, Japan, Persia, Spain & Turkey*. These publications were subsequently to become known as *The Foreign Office List*. He was also to publish his memoirs under the title of *Recollections of the old Foreign Office*.



*Four Generations of Hertslets*

In addition to his role as Librarian he combined this post with that of an Agency for members of the Diplomatic and Consular Services until 1870. He also went with Lord Beaconsfield on the special mission to the Berlin Congress of 1878. He received the CB in February 1874 and was raised to KCB in August 1892 for his contribution to the Berlin Congress.

Sir Edward had married Ellen Bull, daughter of the Clerk of Journals of the House of Commons, in 1849 and they had 9 sons and 3 daughters. She died in 1899 and he died at his home of 50 years in Richmond in August 1902 aged 78. He was buried in a family vault in Richmond Cemetery after a choral service in the parish church.

Two of Sir Edward's sons – Godfrey Lewis Paul and Edward Cecil – are known to have entered the Civil Service, each serving for 50 years in their posts. Godfrey Lewis Paul was born in 1847 and was Assistant Librarian, succeeding his father as Editor of *The Foreign Office List*.

Edward Cecil was born in August 1850 and was educated at Kings College School and Kings College. In 1869 he received an award from the Royal Humane Society for saving a drowning boy in the Thames at Richmond. He had entered the Chief Clerk's Office of the Foreign Office in September 1868 rising to First Class Clerk by 1881. Seven years later he transferred to the Treaty Department and in 1896 received his first consular appointment, as Consul General at Le Havre. From April 1903-1914 he was Consul General at Antwerp, where he remained until all his staff had left, taking the last boat out ahead of the invaders. During the war he served in the British Consulate in Zurich, but returned to Antwerp on the first civilian boat after the end of hostilities. He finally retired in January 1919 and received the KBE in 1920.

He had a great experience of International Exhibitions and acted as Commissioner for the Brussels, Turin, and Rome Exhibitions of 1910 and 1911. With his photographic expertise he acted as a juror for the Paris and Liege Exhibitions of 1900 and 1905. A keen yachtsman, he lived at Ramsgate until his wife, Euphemia, died in 1925 when he moved to Bristol to live with his son – Rev Canon Edward Lewis Augustine Hertslet. Edward Cecil was to die at Redcliffe Vicarage in Bristol in August 1936 and was buried with his wife at Ramsgate.

Little is known of his third son Arthur Louis Alfred other than his birth in 1857, marriage in 1891, death in Brookwood at the early age (for a Hertslet) of 54 in 1911, and subsequent burial at Brookwood Cemetery.

This almost concludes the story of Lewis Hertslet. He died at his home – 16 Great College Street, Westminster – on 15 March 1870 and was buried at West Norwood in a vault under the stone depicted here. He was joined in his grave by his second wife Mary Spencer aged 61 on 11 February 1871, and then on 11 March 1915 by his 79 year old daughter Georgina Wainwright Hertslet. Most of the Hertslets were long lived, but it is their long service to the Foreign Office and their contribution to political history through the publication of their various compilations of British Treaties for which they will be long remembered.



*Lewis Hertslet's family gravestone at Norwood (this may originally have been raised on a brick plinth, but all such monuments were lowered during Lambeth's operations in the cemetery in 1990)*

Inscription on the Hertslet memorial at Norwood

In memory of

LEWIS HERTSLET

Great George Street, Westminster

Who held the Appointment of Sub Librarian  
in the Foreign Office from 1801 to 1809 and  
afterwards that of Librarian and Keeper of  
the Papers in the same Office from 1810 to  
1857 a period of nearly 57 years

Who departed this life

in the sure and certain hope of  
the resurrection to eternal life  
through our Lord Jesus Christ  
on the 15th March 1870

in the same year of his age

I am the resurrection and the life  
saith the Lord

also of

MARY SPENCER

His devotedly attached wife

Who looking unto Jesus

Entered into her rest

On the 11th February 1871

Aged 61 years

She hath done what she could

Also their daughter

GEORGINA WAINWRIGHT HERTSLET

Who was born on the 27th February 1836

And died on 11th March 1915

On whose soul may God have mercy

RIP



**Charlton Higgs (1909-1996)**

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## **Charlton Higgs (1909-1996), Electrical Engineer**

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by Pat Leggatt and Rigmor Ann McGrath-Higgs

Charlton Higgs was a grandson of the builder William Higgs (1824-1883) (grave 8,520, square 52), founder of Higgs & Hill. After attending Eastbourne College, his first job was in gramophone record development and production with the old Columbia Graphophone (*sic*) Company, in a team of four led by Alan Blumlein (later to invent stereophonic recording).

In 1929 Higgs left Columbia to set up his own company, Higgs (Great Britain) Ltd, in Hove, making components and complete radios on contract for marketing by other firms. At this time he employed a staff of five. The company flourished and Higgs soon started selling radios under his own name, his main concern being high-quality all-wave superheterodyne

receivers with adequate sensitivity and selectivity for good reception in his area of the south coast screened by the South Downs.

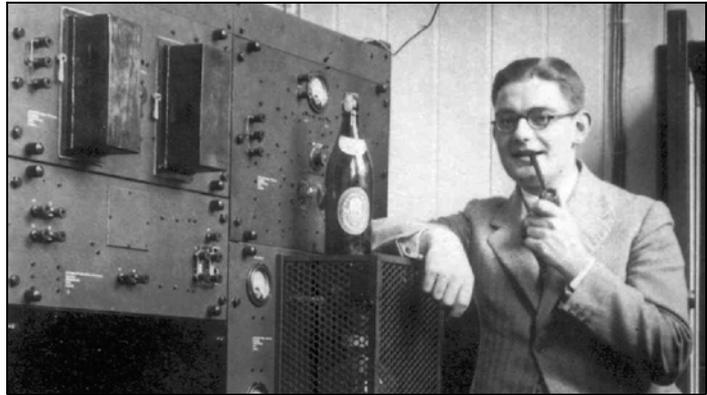
In 1932 Higgs (GB) secured a Government order for 6 all-wave receivers for overseas reception of the BBC Empire Service, soon followed by a further order for 124 which fully stretched the little company's resources.

In April 1934 Higgs (GB) was expanded and re-organised as Charlton Higgs (Radio) Ltd, with the slogan 'To Hear a Higgs is to Buy a Higgs'. The firm moved in 1937 to much larger premises in Hove with factory space of 20,000 sq. ft., but this move does not seem to have been satisfactory and a further move took place at the end of 1937 to Bradford in Yorkshire.

Between 1932-9 a wide variety of sets was produced - often favourably reviewed in *Wireless World* and elsewhere - from simple battery models to elaborate mains superhets with extensive short-wave coverage. Battery sets ranged from an elementary 3-valve detector to a 6-valve superhet. Mains sets came in AC, AC/DC, and DC versions, and most could be had in radiogram form if required; up to 9 station selector push buttons were provided on some models.

All Higgs sets were housed in handsome cabinets of good contemporary design. In 1938 some special models were on offer, termed 'custom built', with luxury console cabinets. From 1932, Higgs had operated his own hire purchase arrangement, the Higgs Hire Purchase Corporation, which must have helped to sell the more expensive models.

With the outbreak of war in September 1939, the factory was commissioned by the War Office to produce equipment for the armed forces, and Higgs (Radio) went into voluntary liquidation. Remaining stocks were sold off, many to India where Higgs had earlier established a successful export market including some special models suitable for tropical environments.



*Charlton Higgs with electrical equipment*

Charlton Higgs was turned down by the armed forces on medical grounds, and in 1940 commenced a new career in the BBC. He spent his working life there in the Overseas Service (now the World Service), initially at the monitoring centre at Caversham, and later at the headquarters at Bush House.

His experiences of wartime broadcasting and particularly the jamming of BBC broadcasts served the Corporation well during the '50s and '60s, a time of regular frequency jamming of BBC transmissions, particularly in Russia and Eastern Europe. His knowledge enabled the building up of a worldwide network of monitors, and because of his contacts with the Diplomatic Wireless Service of the Foreign Office, they were able to provide valuable reception information from politically sensitive areas. Higgs himself risked his life visiting numerous communist bloc countries during those years. He was a great supporter of the rights of oppressed minorities.

Always one to keep up with current developments, Higgs was a key figure in setting up one of the first computerised reception analysis systems in the world on the BBC's ICL 1900 mainframe, bringing about improved reception conditions for millions of overseas listeners. He retired in 1973 after 33 years' service as monitoring and reception engineer, and for the next three years worked in his brother's millinery manufacturing business.

Charlton Higgs, whose lifetime collection of qualifications comprised CEng, FRSA, MBIM, MIERE, MBCS, GradIPM, MBCA, and MIEE, died on 2 January 1996 aged 86. He was cremated and his ashes are in a marble casket in the columbarium at Norwood at niche V.64, adjacent those of his Norwegian wife Kirsten, who died in 1990, at U.64.

This article is based on articles published in 1996, in the bulletins of the British Vintage Wireless Society and the Old Eastbournian Association, and the BBC's *Ariel* staff magazine, which were founded on information supplied by Charlton Higgs's daughter, Mrs R A McGrath-Higgs, who has kindly supplied photographs of her father.

*Caskets containing the ashes of Kirsten and Charlton Higgs in the columbarium at Norwood*



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# Sir John Pirie (1781-1851)

by Dr. Martin Round

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**Sir John Pirie** is one of a number of Lord Mayors of London to be buried at Norwood. I am descended from Robert Nichol, the half-brother of Sir John's wife, who emigrated to Tasmania in 1832, and later to New Zealand. My grandmother was told that the family, including the children, always slept with pistols under their pillows when they lived in Australia. Things probably haven't changed much since then!

Sir John was born on 18 September 1781 at Duns, Berwickshire, the second son of John Pirie and Helen Renton. His business career began when he entered the London shipbuilder's office of John Nichol, and subsequently married his sister, Jean Nichol. Sir John eventually bought control of the firm and traded as John Pirie and Company. Jean Nichol was the second daughter of Robert Nichol and his first wife, Elizabeth Dickson, and was born at Kelso on 23 August 1788. Her mother died when she was an infant and, after her father remarried, she was brought up by her father's Quaker wife, Agnes Robertson. Jean married John Pirie at Kelso with the banns proclaimed on 10 April 1807. The sum of £500 was paid as her marriage portion, and another £500 under her father's deed of settlement.



John Pirie became a wealthy shipowner and by 1832 owned 20 ships; he also ran one of the largest ship brokerages in London. He operated from various premises; first 5 Pope's Head Alley, then 3 Freemans Court, Cornhill and later 71 Cornhill. He was elected Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1831 and was an Alderman for Cornhill Ward, 1834-51. He was Lord Mayor, 1841-2 and as a result was created Baronet in 1842, a title which became extinct on his death. He was granted three ostrich feathers as an addition to his arms in consequence of the birth of a Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) on the day of his inauguration. He was a founder director of the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery Company, 1841, and President of St Thomas' Hospital,

*Lady Pirie's niece, Annie Agnes Nichol, wife of Captain John Raymond of Avondale Station, New Zealand, wearing Lady Pirie's 'watch chain, seals, and appendages'*

1842-51. He was a director and deputy chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) and Treasurer of the British and Foreign Sailors Society. He died at Champion Hill, Camberwell, on 26 February 1851. Sadly his monument at Norwood (grave 2,837, square 37) has been destroyed, although that to his business associate Arthur Anderson (1792-1868), a co-founder of P&O, does survive nearby (grave 9,186, square 41).

Sir John was a prominent member of the London Emigration Committee (and chairman in 1841), a director of the New Zealand Company, and a director and one of the largest financiers of the South Australian Land Company. He was also a director of the North American Association of Ireland. In 1832 Pirie proposed an organisation promoting female emigration.

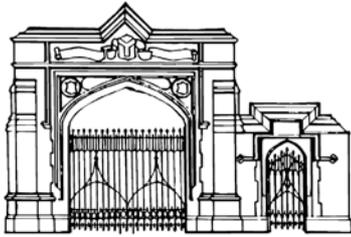


*Annie Agnes Nichol*

One of the first ships that went out to South Australia (1836) was named the *John Pirie*, and Port Pirie in South Australia was also named in his honour. The *Amelia Thompson*, the second emigrant ship to arrive in New Plymouth, New Zealand, was owned at that time by Sir John. He also owned the *Canton* and the *Augusta Jessie*, which transported convicts to South Australia in 1839.

By Sir John's will his estate, after his wife's death, was to be divided in three equal parts (other than some small legacies) between his own Pirie nephew, his wife's nephew, Dr. Robert Nichol, and his wife's great-nephew, John Pirie Richardson. Sir John and Lady Pirie's niece, my great-great grandmother Annie Agnes Raymond (nee Nichol), was left Lady Pirie's 'watch chain, seals and appendages' under her will.

Lady Pirie was a great friend and supporter of Elizabeth Fry, and accompanied and helped her with her visits to Newgate Prison. Jean's work is referred to in books about Elizabeth Fry. One incident related is when Jean persuaded Elizabeth Fry to come to a grand banquet at the Mansion House, when Sir John was Lord Mayor, at which Prince Albert and the Duke of Wellington attended, and where Sir Robert Peel proposed a toast to Jean as Lady Mayoress. Another occasion was when Jean invited Elizabeth Fry to the Mansion House to meet the King of Prussia, who later accompanied Jean and Elizabeth Fry to Newgate Prison.



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# Recent FOWNC Events

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by Jill Dudman

We enjoyed a fascinating talk on 18 February from Bill Edwards, keeper of the Gordon Museum, a medical museum at Guy's Hospital. He spoke about the life and work of Joseph Towne (1808-1879), an anatomical modeler who worked at Guy's for over 50 years. As a child, Towne began modeling animals, and at 17 made a miniature wax model of a human skeleton. He took this to doctors at Guy's in 1826, and after being approved by the senior surgeon Sir Astley Cooper it won a Royal Society of Arts medal, and led to Towne being appointed modeler to the hospital and the medical school. He had a room in the basement where he worked alone, making over 1000 models, some anatomical copied from dissections, many more dermatological copied from patients. The essential function of these models was for teaching medical students, especially at a time when insufficient bodies were available for dissection. Many of the models survive in this museum, not merely as curiosities, but still in regular use in the training of students, so skillfully were they made. An article on Towne by Bob Flanagan appeared in FOWNC Newsletter 50, May 2004.

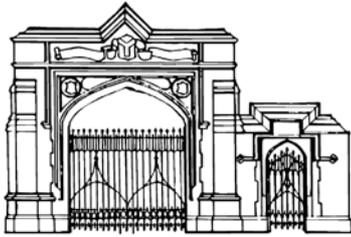
We were most grateful to Ron Woollacott, chairman of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, for coming to give us a talk on 18 March in replacement for the one advertised in the January newsletter. Nunhead was founded in 1840 by the London Cemetery Company, founders of Highgate the previous year. Its history has many similarities with that of West Norwood, but also some substantial differences. After a decline in available burial space and thus income during the 20th century, the company actually abandoned the cemetery and locked the gates in 1969 (even though just recently having sold graves).



After campaigning from local people, Southwark Council took over the cemetery in 1975 and enabled access again, but (like Lambeth at Norwood) carried out monument clearances.

The Friends were established in 1981, and in their 25 years of existence have done a vast amount of voluntary work in the cemetery, as well as guided tours, booklet publication and the annual open day. Ron highlighted several notable monuments and persons, and related a number of failed attempts to establish a crematorium.

*Thomas Tilling's Grave at Nunhead*



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# Forthcoming FOWNC Events

## May - August 2006

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General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (7 May, 4 June, 2 July and 6 August). All tours start at 14.30, at the Cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and last for about 2 hours. There is no formal charge but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects.

### **Sunday 11 June, 10.00-16.30: West Norwood Cemetery Open Day**

This event will include the annual memorial service at 14.30, an exhibition of photographs and artefacts in the chapel, horse-drawn and motorcycle/sidecar hearses, tours of the crematorium, refreshments, and the FOWNC bookstall. FOWNC guided tours, designed for visitors to the service, will start from the main gate at 12.45 (1½ hours) and 13.15 (1 hour) to arrive at the chapel in time for the service.

## **Other Forthcoming Events**

**Saturday 20 May, 11.00-17.00: Nunhead Cemetery Open Day.** *Linden Grove, SE15.* A very popular annual event by the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, including displays, stalls, guided tours, refreshments, and many children's activities.

**Sunday 4 June, 17.00: Lecture - Sir Edwin Chadwick and the London dead - Ruth Richardson.** *Dissenters' Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery, W10 (entrance from Ladbrooke Grove).*

**Sunday 2 July, 11.00-17.00: Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day.** *Kensal Rise, W10.* A major event with tours, stalls, refreshments and hearse motorcade. (Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery)

**Sunday 16 July, 11.00-17.00: Lambeth Cemetery Open Day.** *Blackshaw Road, Tooting, SW17.* This first ever event, which will be raising funds for the MS Society, will include many historic hearses and other vehicles, demonstrations of memorial masonry, stalls, exhibitions of alternative coffins and electronic book of remembrance, rides in a motorcycle/sidecar hearse, organ recitals in the chapel, and tours of the crematorium.

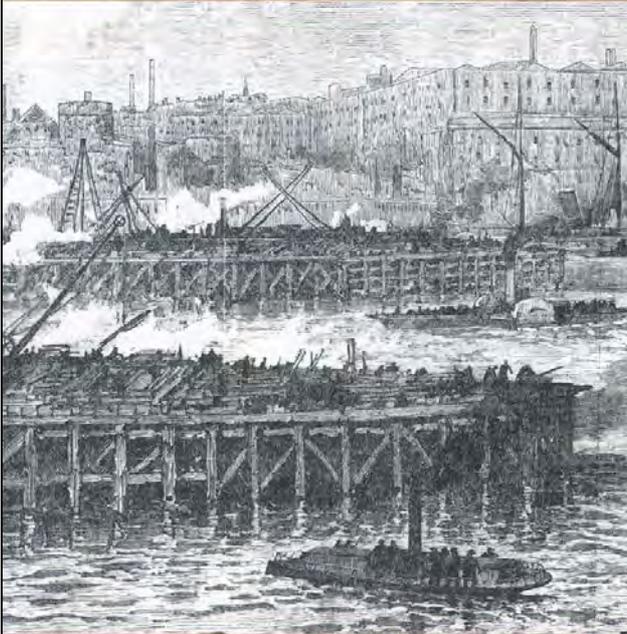
**Saturday 29 July, 11.00-17.00: Brompton Cemetery Open Day.** *Old Brompton Road, SW10.* Guided tours, organ recitals, displays of funerary items, stalls, refreshments, children's activities. (Friends of Brompton Cemetery)

**Sunday 6 August, 17.00: Lecture - The history of undertaking - John Harris.** *Dissenters' Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery, W10 (entrance from Ladbrooke Grove).*

**Thursday 17 August, 19.00: Lecture - Indignities suffered by the famous dead - Robert Stephenson.** *Brompton Cemetery Chapel, Old Brompton Road, SW10.*

# TOWER BRIDGE TO BABYLON

*The Life and Work of  
Sir John Jackson, Civil Engineer*



Patricia Spencer-Silver

A review of  
Patricia Spencer-Silver's book  
*Tower Bridge to Babylon*  
will appear in the next newsletter

## **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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## **FOWNC OFFICERS**

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### **Chairman & Publications Officer:**

Bob Flanagan,  
79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW  
(Tel: 020 8670 3265)

### **General Secretary & Tours Organiser:**

Jill Dudman,  
119 Broxholm Road, London SE27 0BJ  
(Tel: 020 8670 5456)

### **Hon. Treasurer:**

George Young,  
12 Swinburne Court,  
Denmark Hill, London SE5 8EP  
(Tel: 020 7274 5267)

### **Membership Secretary:**

Rosemary Comber,  
63 Bradley Road, London SE19 3NT  
(Tel: 020 8653 2741)

### **Conservation Coordinator:**

Paul Graham,  
Flat 4, 9 St Andrews Road,  
Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4DT  
(Tel: 020 8287 6976)

### **Publicity Officer:**

Pam Gray  
(Tel: 020 8761 3412)

### **Webmaster:**

James Slattery-Kavanagh,  
Quotes, 20A Camden Hill Road,  
London SE19 1NR  
(Tel: 020 8766 8822)

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Website: <http://www.fownc.org>

e-mail: [chairman@fownc.org](mailto:chairman@fownc.org) or [secretary@fownc.org](mailto:secretary@fownc.org)

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