

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 57 - September 2006

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Chairman's Report

by Bob Flanagan

Although the major disruption caused by the roadway and drainage works in the Eastern part of the cemetery is at an end, there are still some outstanding issues. Firstly, a walk round with site manager Avril Kirby early in August revealed damage to the two new signs adjacent to the Gilbert memorial (one has been completely knocked off its supports, one bent sideways). Secondly, several of the new litter bins adjacent to the roadways have been badly damaged. Whilst some of this may be attributable to contractors' vehicles (bins situated near to the Greek Cemetery, for example), some clearly cannot (by the St Mary-at-Hill path).

Clearly a major issue with this path is its continuing use by vehicles, including cemetery vehicles, a consequence of its narrowing by Lambeth some 20 years ago. The path is too narrow for wheeled vehicles unless specially adapted and driven with extreme care, a fact that should have been thought of by the Council when they took the decision to do away with the roadway!

As to the carriageway repairs to Steep Hill made necessary by all the heavy vehicle movements connected with the roadway works, these are still to be undertaken. The rubbish skips, however, are soon to be moved to their intended new site in the pens on the Eastern side of the cemetery. The sundial, at present in pieces outside the cemetery office, is soon to be cleaned and re-instated on a new concrete plinth at the top of St Mary-at-Hill path. The cracked bollards will be dowelled together before reinstatement, and a new bollard made to replace the broken one, and we have agreed to fund a replacement sundial. Hopefully this new location will protect the sundial from further damage. But...



***The damaged Minter memorial (square 29),
(photographed 6 August 2006)***

Carrera marble have been propped back on their supports. Both ledgers clearly show damage to their edges... I think this has been done since the contractors left the site. Also a section of the iron railings on the Greek Cemetery opposite has been taken out, possibly in the same incident. The road was deliberately narrowed at this point so that it could not be used to park cemetery vehicles, which detracted from the setting of the Greek Cemetery, and also somewhat ironically in view of what has happened, to give better protection to the Minter monument.

There has been major damage to an existing memorial, that to the Minter family, the stonemasons responsible for many of the monuments in the cemetery, on the corner of the road opposite the Greek Cemetery. Four large wooden posts, ugly in themselves, but seemingly necessary, were placed round this monument years ago. But now only one remains laid flat over the monument, which has clearly suffered a major disaster. It looks to me as if the whole thing has been run over, and the open ledgers in



***Anderson family monument (grave
39,428, square 97)***



***Collapsed modern memorial (1996 or later)
(square 30)***

On another worrying note, it goes without saying that the new drainage works have yet to be tested in earnest, but the dry weather has caused at least 4 memorials in the cemetery to topple. Three are relatively newly-introduced memorials (one dates from post-1996) that were simply laid in the ground with no anchor-points, but one is a historic memorial to the Anderson family which lies to the north-east of the Jerrold memorial on the opposite side of the road.

Scheme of Management

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Scheme of Management has been revised, a revision we were pleased to support. But on another front, I'm sorry to report that the plans for the new Rose Garden have had to be put on hold because, of all things, 'concerns' from English Heritage in relation to the 'formal' nature of the proposed design in relation to the informal design of the cemetery! To put this in context, the proposed new design has been whole-heartedly endorsed by the Management Advisory

Group and the Scheme of Management Committee, and has in part been inspired by the moves to save the Catacombs. This will serve to further delay the reconstruction of this badly-needed facility and cause further unnecessary postponement to providing a proper Garden of Remembrance in the cemetery with attendant loss of income. What a crazy world... I can't imagine anything more formal than the Greek Cemetery, the layout of which the new Rose Garden was designed to complement!

FOWNC News

January's Newsletter featured an item on the death of long-term FOWNC member and supporter Dr Eleanor Mennim, who in 1991 had a headstone re-erected on the grave of her ancestor William Simms FRS (1793-1860) (grave 79, square 64). A copy of the newsletter found its way to her daughter, Mrs Elizabeth Smith, who lives in Norfolk. After her initial surprise (she knew nothing of her mother's connection with West Norwood), Mrs Smith has expressed great interest, has joined FOWNC as a member herself, and hopes one day to visit and see the monument. Incidentally, she points out that her mother was not a gynaecologist, as stated, but was a community paediatrician. Sorry.

Another long-term FOWNC member and supporter is Celia Smith, who in our early days helped with producing copies of the Newsletter, and organised a couple of cemetery open days using her professional contacts as a funeral director to provide displays of vintage hearses, stonemasonry, etc. She then moved on to manage the crematorium at Kensal Green Cemetery, but is now working closer to home again as Projects and Memorials Supervisor at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting (which also oversees the nearby Streatham Cemetery in Garratt Lane). For historical reasons, these two Tooting cemeteries plus Norwood make up the trio owned and operated by Lambeth Council. Celia organised Lambeth Cemetery's first ever Open Day on 16 July, with numerous attractions. The FOWNC bookstall attended in the afternoon. She also intends to investigate notable persons and monuments in these two rather neglected (by historians, that is) cemeteries.

Speaking of Open Days, Norwood's event this year, on 11 June, was organised by Avril Kirby, with attractions ranging from a pair of horse-drawn hearses (one black, one white) and a motorcycle/sidecar hearse (www.motorcyclefunerals.com, I have been sent other contact details – perhaps someone is trying to tell me something!), to a display of old photographs and artifacts in the chapel. The centrepiece of the day was the annual memorial service, and FOWNC provided guided tours and the bookstall. Congratulations to Avril for a well-planned event.

Finally, a history of the British Home at Crown Point has been published (*The Incurables Movement – an illustrated history of the British Home* by Prof Gordon Cook. Radcliffe Publishing, 2006. 232 pp. £35). There are strong cemetery connections with this institution: the local reception committee at the laying by royalty of a Foundation Stone (1892) was chaired by Rev Dr Alfred Carver (grave 23,256, square 50) and included Sir Kingsmill Key (grave 5,641, square 33), Frederick Nettlefold (grave 19,602, square 37), Sir Henry Tate (grave 19,897, square 38), Sir Charles Tritton (grave 26,669, square 19), and Sir Arnold White (grave 23,057, square 49).

National and International News

Sam Weller, Chairman of the UK Association of Burial Authorities, died on Monday 12 June 2006. He was a very active member of Association of Significant Cemeteries of Europe (ASCE). The funeral took place on Wednesday 28 June 2006 at the Dissenters

Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery. Sadly I never met him, but know that his concerns for the safety of monuments and other cemetery issues earned him great respect in the cemetery and burial industry. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

On a happier note, the NCF AGM was hosted by our sister group Friends of Nunhead Cemetery on 10 June - FONC were complimented for being excellent hosts. Secondly, Undercliffe Cemetery Charity have just launched an excellent website at www.undercliffe.org that features a history of the cemetery, which was opened in 1854. A book (*In Loving Memory: The Story of Undercliffe Cemetery* by Colin Clark & Reuben Davison) (£11.99 + £1.95 p&p) and a 26 min CD-ROM (*Undercliffe – Rest in Peace*) also available.

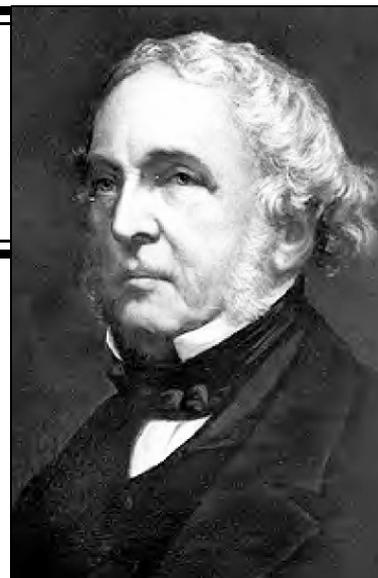
A new website (www.scottishgraveyards.org.uk) managed by the Council for Scottish Archaeology and sponsored by Historic Scotland has been launched. Aimed at professionals and enthusiasts alike, the website offers free downloads on a range of graveyard-related subjects from management and conservation, to recording and researching a graveyard's history. Links are given to hundreds of other useful contacts and sources of information. The noticeboard includes monthly updates on news, events and publications relating to graveyards. The Contact person is s.buckham@scottisharchaeology.org.uk (0131 557 0019).

Finally, the ASCE website (www.significantcemeteries.net) carries news of *Cemeteries of Europe. A Historical Heritage to Appreciate and Restore* by Mauro Felicori and Annalisa Zanotti, published by Touring Club Italiano.

Bob Flanagan

Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur (1788-1861)

by Bob Flanagan



Hannibal Macarthur, although in the end ruined by the collapse of the Bank of Australia (1843), was a leading player in the development of New South Wales from the early 1820s. His monument at Norwood (Grave 7,752, Square 59/60) was restored in September 1964 by the Queensland Women's Historical Association, but was subsequently destroyed by Lambeth Council in their clearances in the 1970s.

Macarthur was born 16 January 1788 at Plymouth, Devon, the son of draper James Macarthur and his wife, Catherine, *née* Hawkins. Persuaded by his father's elder brother John (1766-1834), an ex-army officer and leading landowner in New South Wales, he arrived at Sydney on 9 June 1805, returning to England (1808) via China and the Philippines, trading sandalwood for his uncle. He arrived in England in 1810 and rejoined John, who had returned in 1809 to attend the court martial of Major George Johnston (1764-1823) of the NSW Corps (he was cashiered, but subsequently largely reprieved) for overthrowing Governor Bligh (1808)*. John escaped trial for treason, but was advised that he would be liable to arrest in NSW as the 'leading Promoter and Instigator' of the rebellion.

In March 1812 John, essentially exiled in England, informed his wife Elizabeth that Hannibal was returning to NSW to help her manage the Macarthur estate. John sent Hannibal in his *Isabella* and he arrived in Sydney in August 1812. Hannibal's handling of the sale of the cargo did not please his uncle, but there was a very severe depression in the colony and in the circumstances he handled the venture at least adequately.

In 1812 Hannibal married Anna Maria, eldest daughter of ex-NSW governor Philip Gidley King (1758-1808), and bought a farm, The Vineyard, for £160 on the river near Parramatta. He settled down to help Elizabeth in managing the Macarthur flocks, but was denied a land grant by Governor Major-General Lachlan Macquarie. However, in 1814 he was made a magistrate, and was given grants of land, including 1060 acres in the Cooke district, in August 1819. Next month he was promised 1000 acres 'in newly discovered country south of the cowpastures', an area opened by the explorer Charles Throsby in 1817-9. In 1820 Macquarie noted that Hannibal had 1,854 sheep and 165 cattle at pasture on the Wollondilly River.

After John was allowed to return in 1817, Hannibal concentrated on his farming and business interests, which now included a store where, according to evidence given to Commissioner John Thomas Bigge, spirits were sold to unlicensed publicans. He had begun earlier to take an active part in community affairs centered on Parramatta; he joined the committee of the school for Aboriginals in 1814, and of the Female Orphan School in 1816, and in 1819 was reported to have opened the district's first savings bank.

Although Macquarie thought him 'factious and dissatisfied', by 1821 Hannibal held a position of prominence and financial security reinforced by his family connections. He had naturally gravitated to the ranks of the 'exclusives', who sought political power commensurate with their own estimate of their social worth and economic power, a policy that was intimately linked with the Macarthurs, chiefly because of the exploits of John. A feature of this policy was the vilification and denigration of successive governors from Hunter to Macquarie.

In 1821 Hannibal played a leading part in a case that involved charges of immorality against HG Douglass, also a Parramatta magistrate, laid by naval surgeon James Hall. Douglass was vindicated, and Major-General Sir Thomas Brisbane, who had replaced Macquarie as Governor in 1821, removed Hannibal, Rev. S. Marsden, and the three other magistrates concerned from the Commission of Peace. Marsden then complained bitterly about Brisbane to his English patrons, causing Colonial Secretary Lord Bathurst to initiate an inquiry into Douglass's magisterial career, but again Douglass was cleared. A final attempt to ruin Douglass was made by the Grand Jury, with Hannibal as foreman, by indicting him for sentencing a convict to daily flogging until he confessed where stolen goods were hidden. The Legislative Council investigated and found that such sentences were not uncommon, having indeed been used sometimes by Hannibal and by Marsden since 1815.

Hannibal's activities prevented his restoration to the magistracy, but he continued to make money. By 1825 when he applied with his brother Charles (-1827) for additional land he could tell Bathurst that he had purchased 300 sheep in 1813 and had 4,600 in 1824; he claimed that the flock was 'the second in value and quality in the colony' and that he had surrounded his original grant of 1,000 acres in Eden Forest, on the Wollondilly River, with 15,000 acres, to make 'the largest private establishment in NSW, so distant from any Township'. It transpired that Hannibal and Charles merely had permission to graze stock on the extra 15,000 acres, and in 1832 Hannibal was ordered to buy the land. He was interested in timber export as well as wool, and by 1826 had also developed banking interests. With other exclusives he became a director of the Bank of Australia, which that year helped the government in supporting the troubled Bank of NSW. Conditions were further aggravated by a severe drought (1827-

8), and Hannibal and 22 others were granted relief by Governor Lieutenant-General Ralph Darling in May 1828 over the payment of £40,000 for land bought during Brisbane's governorship.

In 1830 Hannibal succeeded to the Legislative Council. There he and the exclusives prospered under Darling, but wilted under Governor Sir Richard Bourke as the increased immigration of free settlers in the 1830s began to take effect. In 1830 Hannibal opposed strongly the inclusion of ex-convicts in juries, arguing that it would be 'destructive of that consideration for Virtue, Morality and good Faith, which cannot be too carefully inculcated or seriously impressed on the minds of the rising Generation of this mixed community'. His council activities included reporting on the observations of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, and acting on a sub-committee to examine the South Head Road bill in 1832. In 1836 with 426 others he signed the petition to the King and House of Commons, a response to the more democratic pressures exerted by the Australian Patriotic Association formed in 1835. The exclusives argued that 'disorganizing doctrines' were being propagated 'under the name of liberty', which 'would subvert the landmarks of Social order, and, confounding all just distinctions, sap the foundations of Society - all these are at stake'.

Meanwhile his businesses continued to flourish. He had been appointed a member of the colonial committee set up in 1824 to control the Australian Agricultural Company. John Macarthur manipulated the three active members of this committee, his son and son-in-law, and his nephew Hannibal, but the company ran into difficulties in 1827. In 1828, John seized local control and caused its shares to collapse. His mental instability became more marked and he was declared insane (1832). Chief Justice Sir Francis Forbes thought the resident committee had benefited itself 'at the expense of the employers', and had divided 'between eleven and twelve thousand pounds of the company's money' in the first year. But this was a temporary, and profitable, set-back. By 1835 Hannibal was chairman of directors of the Bank of Australia, and with his other financial interests and political activities he was one of the most prominent citizens of the colony.

The depression of the early 1840s brought a dramatic change to his fortunes. The Bank of Australia was liquidated in 1843, Hannibal lost much of his property, and his finances never recovered. He continued in the nominated Legislative Council until its end in 1843, when he was returned unopposed to represent Parramatta in the new part-elective council. However, he retired from the council in 1848 and was declared insolvent. He was appointed police magistrate at Ipswich, Queensland, at £250 a year on 1 January 1852, but his wife's death in September precipitated a breakdown. He resigned on 30 October, and in 1853 returned to England. He died at Norwood on 21 October 1861. His brother Lt-Colonel (later Major-General) John Macarthur RM (1791-1862), who attended his funeral at Norwood, was commandant of Victoria Settlement, Port Essington, Northern Australia, from 1838 until its abandonment in 1849.

Hannibal had six daughters and five sons, one of whom, George Fairfowl (1825-1890), was headmaster of The King's School, Parramatta, 1869-1886. His daughter Catherine married Patrick Leslie, a Member of the Legislative Assembly. His daughter Emmeline married Patrick's brother, George Farquhar Leslie, who was also a Member of the first Legislative Council.

Sources: *Dictionary of National Biography*, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 2; New South Wales Parliamentary Archives.

* Vice-Admiral William Bligh, FRS (1754-1817) buried in the churchyard at St Mary's, Lambeth

William Knight (1843-1900)

by Bob Flanagan



The Recent Discoveries of Gold in the Transvaal. The Graphic, 26 March 1887

As a result of an earlier article on the above (Newsletter 51, September 2004), William Knight's great-grandson Julian Knight (1960-), who has a law practice in Pretoria and has two brothers that both live in Johannesburg, has written with more information about William and his family.

Firstly, also buried in the grave at Norwood (Grave 29,020, Square 94) are William's wife - her name after remarriage was Annie Gabitas - and the remains of Ida, who was cremated at Hamburg in 1925 and who may have been William's sister.

William had made a fortune in the gold and diamond fields in South Africa, but Julian notes ruefully that the Dutch have a saying 'from clogs to clogs in three generations'. William's son Otto (-1943) spent most of the money that he could get his hands on. He had an apartment in Paris and was a regular punter at Monte Carlo. William was not that trusting of his son Otto, and left most of his wealth in a Trust. Unfortunately, the laws applicable at the time pertaining to Trusts did not allow for conversion of assets. As a result of the Wall Street crash in 1929, the nationalisation of railways, as well as the impact of the two World Wars, a lot of money was lost.

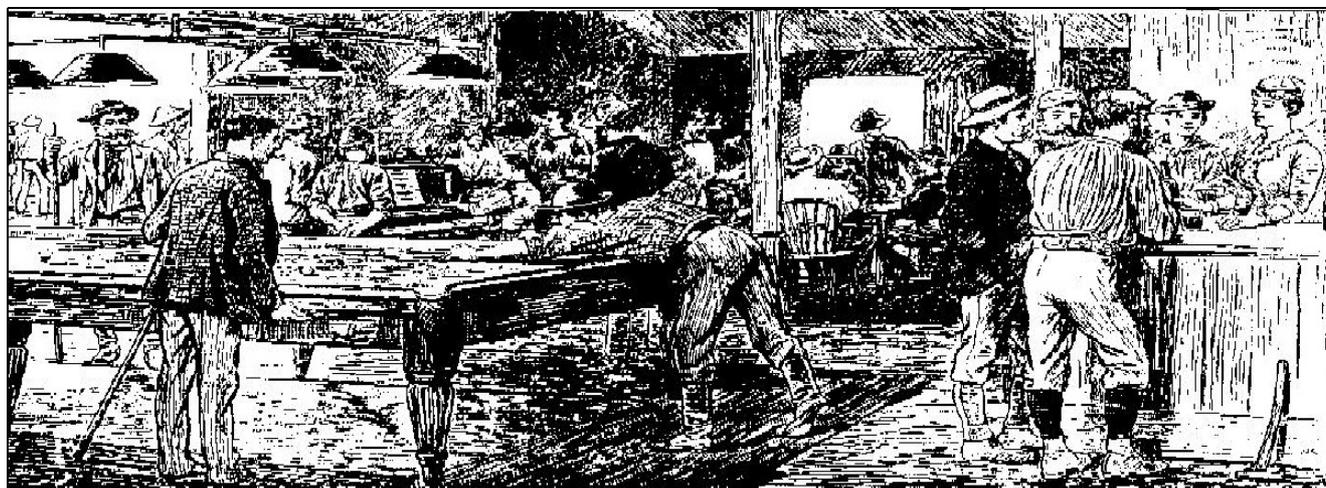
Otto's son (Julian's father) James William (-1990), who inherited what was left in 1943, had blown it all by 1967. James had served with the Canadian Army in World War 2 and returned to South Africa in 1947. He married Julian's mother in 1949. It had been William's dream to follow in his grandfather's footsteps, and soon after returning to South Africa he arranged two expeditions into Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) looking for gold, but both were unsuccessful.

A flavour of the pioneering days of William Knight and others in the Transvaal in the 1880s is given in this extract from *The Gold Mines of Southern Africa* by Owen Letcher (Johannesburg, 1936; p.91).

'Prominent amongst the pioneers, in addition to George Goch, were Henry Nourse and Knight. Knight did not live many years in which to see the maturing of his great plans. But Henry Nourse is still active in this amazing Johannesburg, this wonder habitation which he has seen grow from tent, tin shanty and mud brick house to a vast and immensely wealthy city. He is the last of the pioneers who has given his name to one of the great Gold Producing Companies of the Rand, the Nourse Mines, an amalgamation of the Henry Nourse and Nourse Deep. And of this Nourse Mines Company Henry Nourse, born on 23 April 1857, in the Uitenhage District of the Cape Province, is still an active director.

Mr. Goch obtained in Pretoria a small three-stamp battery, to be worked by hand power. It was transferred to the Rand and erected on a stream three miles south of the Wemmer claims. Goch's object was to test the banket reef. Knight acquired from the Struben Brothers the right to float, on certain conditions, the farm Driefontein. He then returned to Kimberley, accompanied by Goch and the two men became associated in the flotation of the first large company formed to mine this banket reef formation, viz. the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, commonly known as 'Knights'. This Company is still a substantial producer and distributor of dividends. Fred Struben, aided by Godfray Lys, opened up the Reef on this property by a shaft sunk to a depth of 50 feet and obtained some most satisfactory samples from it, but on account of an influx of water, and because there were no pumps available he had to cease sinking operations. The Company was, however, floated on 14 September 1886 with a capital of £210,000. Included in the price of the vendor was a Contract for the supply and erection in full working order of a battery of one hundred stamps. This was indeed a concrete testimony to the faith which was reposed in the auriferous conglomerates, and especially so in view of the fact that there were no ore reserves in the Knights mine.

The public were offered 30,000 shares in order to provide working capital, but only 11,000 shares were taken up, as the optimism of the promoters had not been wholly endorsed by South Africa at that time. There was, however, no doubt in Mr. Knight's mind, for he promptly closed the list and took up the shares himself. The flotation of this company on the data afforded by the prospectus showed how little knowledge then prevailed as to the capital requirements necessary for the equipment and development, on a hundred stamp basis, of a gold mine in the Transvaal.'



The Recent Discoveries of Gold in the Transvaal. The Graphic, 26 March 1887

Alfie Howard (1912-2006)

Lambeth Town Crier

by Jill Dudman

On Monday 8 May the family and friends of Lambeth's legendary Town Crier Alfie Howard gathered at his funeral at West Norwood to pay their respects to this much-loved civic figure. More than 100 mourners attended a service of remembrance at the Crematorium conducted by the Rev. Stephen Sichel, of St. Matthew's Church, Brixton. Alfie died in King's College Hospital on 21 April, aged 93. He had represented Lambeth for more than 60 years and was a well-known personality in his native Brixton. Even in later life he was a familiar face at Town Hall functions and at events across the borough, and would often be seen walking through Brixton dressed in the regal robes with hand-stitched borough crests which he had spent hours designing and creating himself.

Alfie's coffin was brought to the chapel draped in a Union Flag and lined with floral tributes, including one depicting a town crier's bell from London and Southwark Town Crier Peter Moore and the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers. During the service, Lambeth's Mayor, Councillor Daphne Marchant, and Councillors Clare Whelan and June Fewtrell paid tribute to Alfie's tireless service to the borough.

Alfie Howard was born into poverty in Brixton in 1912, the eldest of 12 children (Charlie Chaplin was a neighbour). For a time he was a choirboy at Southwark Cathedral. Aged 12, Alfie stole a tin of salmon and a loaf of bread and was sent to an approved school in Leicester. He remained there for two-and-a-half years, working on a farm and learning to make boots. On his return to South London he boxed bare-knuckle for cash (bare-knuckle fights were a common sight outside Brixton pubs on a Sunday lunchtime in the 1920s). At the age of 18, he attempted to become a professional boxer, but hung up his gloves after three consecutive defeats. When the Second World War broke out, Alfie was called up. He became a non-commissioned officer and was injured by an explosive bullet just after the Dunkirk operation in France.

Alfie became Lambeth's Town Crier in 1945 and met heads of state and royals the world over while carrying out his civic duties. The post took him to 48 different countries, including more than 70 visits to the US, throughout his career, as ambassador for the borough and on behalf of the British Government, the Ministry of Information, Department of Trade and Industry and various other offices. He travelled thousands of miles to represent the borough and Britain, and met many famous people and dignitaries. He won the British Empire Medal for his services in the 1950s. He was photographed with Princess Diana in *Hello* magazine, and had his portrait painted and hung in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. His favourite royal was Princess Margaret, who once



Alfie Howard, Lambeth Town Crier

invited him to holiday at her home on the Caribbean island Mustique. When he was not 'crying', his job was as Toastmaster, hosting and speaking at banquets and dinners. Even in his later years he would never miss an engagement. He had wit, charm, and warmth.

In a bizarre incident in 2002, Alfie was hit in the head with a crossbow bolt while sitting next to the flower stall in Brixton Road. He was treated at King's College Hospital and sent home after receiving stitches. The incident shocked and angered Brixtonians.

In November last year it was announced that Lambeth Council intended to recognise Alfie's tireless commitment to the borough by naming a road after him. His name, proposed by Councillor June Fewtrell, has been put in a council name bank, as 'Alfie Howard Way', to be used when a street is created or retitled. The Town Crier said he was delighted with the proposal.

In March this year Alfie was awarded the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Lambeth, the greatest honour a council can award, in recognition of his dedicated service for over 60 years. He was the first person to receive this accolade in Lambeth in 32 years. The ceremonial title is given to citizens

who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Sadly, Alfie died before a formal civic ceremony could take place, at which he would have been presented with a scroll and casket, but he nevertheless

knew he had been given the award before his death and was said to be filled with pride. Councillors June Fewtrell and Clare Whelan had campaigned together to make Alfie a Freeman of the Borough. Cllr Fewtrell said: "Alfie Howard gave so much to Lambeth and did it all in a voluntary capacity".

Information for this article has been sourced from the Lambeth Council website and the *South London Press*.

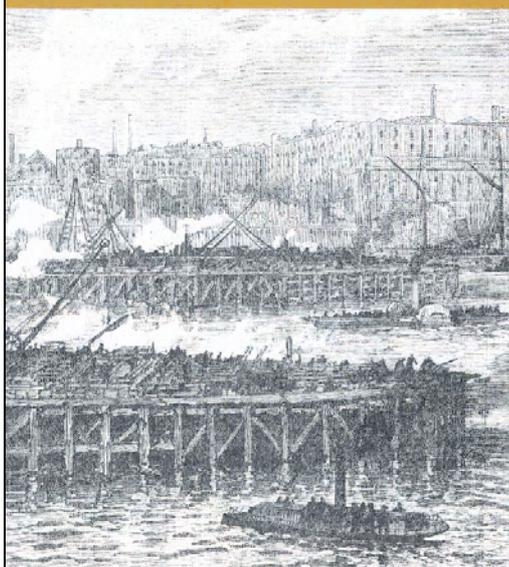
Alfie Howard, with the landlady of the Greyhound Pub in Streatham, toasting the success of the Greyhound Brewery's new Ale in 1985.



Book Reviews

TOWER BRIDGE TO BABYLON

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



Patricia Spencer-Silver

Tower Bridge to Babylon: the Life and Work of Sir John Jackson, Civil Engineer

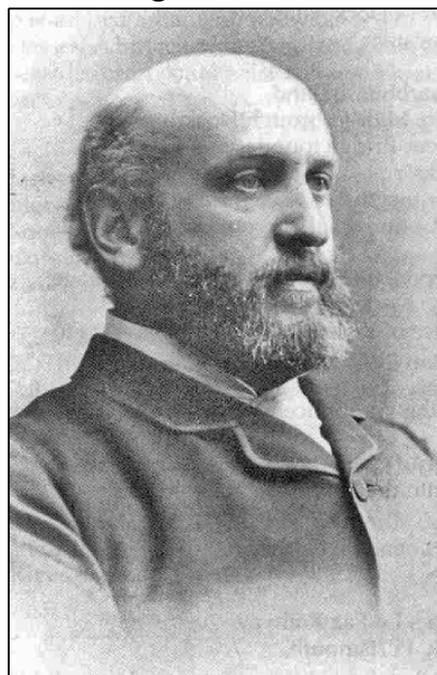
by Patricia Spencer-Silver. Technical Editor J.H. Stephens. Sudbury: Six Martlets Publishing for the Newcomen Society, 2005. Hardback, 232 pp. £28. ISBN 0-9544856-1-0.

Those FOWNC members lucky enough to attend Patricia Spencer-Silver's talk on the life and work of her relative Sir John Jackson in November 2002 (see FOWNC Newsletter 46, January 2003) will know of the extensive archive of family photographs in her possession. Many of the 150 or so monochrome illustrations in this excellent and very detailed book come from her collection.

John Jackson was amongst the largest and most successful building contractors in Britain at a time of unprecedented Imperial and Naval expansion. Successes started with the Stobcross (Queen's) dock in Glasgow, but it was the contract for the lower portions of the bridge abutments and the two piers, the northern approach, and other works on Tower Bridge that made his name. Jackson was aged just 25 when work commenced in 1886. Subsequently, he took on the largest contract of the Manchester Ship

Canal, the extension to Dover Harbour, and the huge Keyham Yard extension at Plymouth, now greatly modified and used for refitting nuclear submarines, including the Trident vessels. His overseas contracts included the Simonstown harbour in South Africa, harbour works in Singapore, and the Hindia barrage across the Euphrates in Mesopotamia. His firm also built the railway over the Andes from Arica in Chile to La Paz in Bolivia. The stories of the major works of Sir John Jackson Ltd form the bulk of the book, minor works are listed in appendices.

John Jackson and other contractors of the time had to learn how to control small armies of men at considerable financial risk. Many of his contracts broke new ground in terms of size and the technical and logistical problems that had to be overcome. However, he strove to reduce the physical risk to his labour force to an absolute minimum. Indeed, insurers were continually surprised that injuries to his employees were



*Sir John Jackson
(1851-1919)*



*Lady Ellen Jackson née Myers
(1850-1941)*

well below the number expected on the basis of the experience of others. In addition, he gained a reputation as a considerate employer no matter where in the world works were undertaken. He was also noted for employing the latest machinery and for the careful planning of every job. These considerations doubtless contributed to his financial success.

John Jackson had been born in York. He married Ellen, daughter of the contractor George Myers (1803-1875) in 1876. They had nine children. Jackson was knighted 1895 after the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal. He was MP for Devonport, 1910-8. He died suddenly on 14 December 1919, unfortunately whilst on a weekend visit to his long-time mistress, Mrs Henderson. He was buried in the family vault at Norwood (grave 21,994, square 33) where three of his children already lay. His wife too is buried in the vault. Their monument is in good condition, unlike that to George Myers (grave 3,114, square 37), which was amongst the first monuments Lambeth cleared from the cemetery.

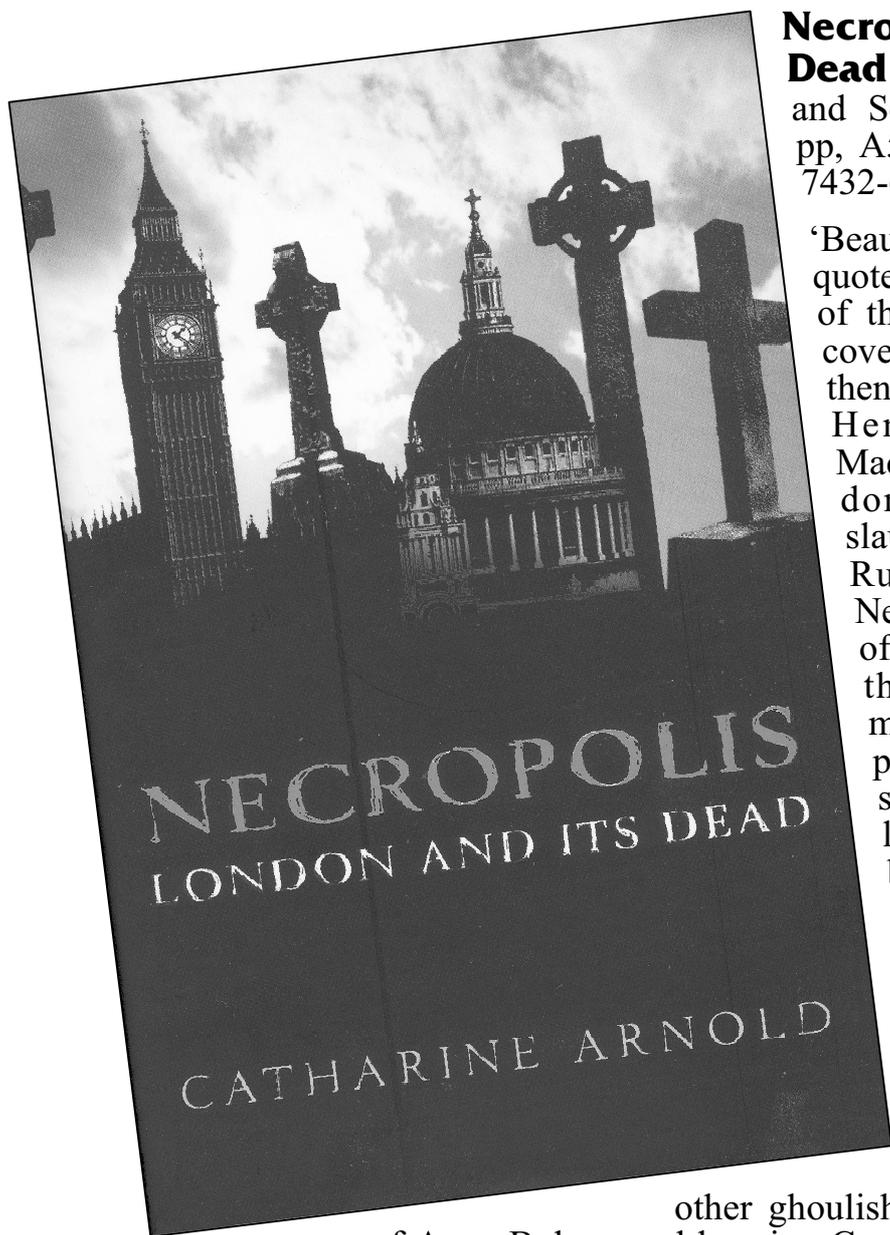
London's Cemeteries by Darren Beach. Metro publications (www.metropublications.com), 2006. Paperback, 231 pp, A6 (15 x 10 cm). 70+ monochrome illustrations, £6.99. ISBN 1-902910-23-0

This little volume is a companion to *London's Parks & Gardens* and *London's City Churches* published together in August. My first thought was that it was too compact with too little space on the internal margins, but I've mellowed to it. Any book that draws more attention to the wealth of national, local and indeed social and natural history and architecture available for free on our doorsteps must be welcome. The photographs are good and reproduction is reasonable (many are full page size), and there are 10 maps to accompany the major gazetteer entries. The style suggests a real feeling for the subject, but I do get the impression that it has been a bit of a rush job.



Tombscape in Brompton Cemetery

The Norwood entry (I must grovel here and say thanks for describing this Newsletter as ‘excellent’!) unfortunately implies that we run tours every weekend rather than every month – would that we had the resources to do weekly tours. Also it would be nice to think that we could reinstate every monument Lambeth cleared away rather than the odd exception such as the Jerrold tomb. But these are quibbles really, and our website address and Noticeboard in the cemetery give the correct information on these issues. I hope the book and its companion volumes are successful. And the revision of Hugh Meller’s definitive volume on London Cemeteries that is underway under the guidance of Brian Parsons will provide those enthused on visiting the cemeteries listed herein with more detailed information should they require it.

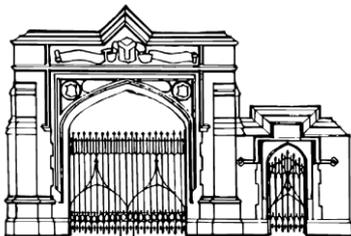


Necropolis: London and Its Dead by Catharine Arnold. Simon and Schuster, 2006. Hardback, 304 pp, A5. £14.99. Illustrated. ISBN 0-7432-6833-4

‘Beautifully written and engaging’ to quote Rosie Boycott, former editor of the *Daily Express*, on the back cover. So who am I to argue? But then she is a journalist (remember Henry Pettit’s parody of Macdermott’s War Song, 1878: ‘I don’t want to fight, I’ll be slaughtered if I do. I’d let the Russians have Constantinople! Newspapers talk of Russian hate, of its ambition tell; Of course they want a war because it makes the papers sell’) and is perforce interested in the sensational. I’m sure there is lots of sound information in this book, but I question whether it presents anything that has not been said before by the likes of Robert Stephenson, Ruth Richardson, and other social and architectural historians. Perhaps it is the references to Princess Diana (shades of Rosie Boycott again) and

other ghoulish events such as the execution of Anne Boleyn and keeping Cromwell’s head on public display on a spike for 20 years that make me wonder why this book has been written other than as a potboiler. As to presentation, there are very few line drawings to break up the text. Perhaps the dust jacket says it all: ‘*Necropolis* leaves no headstone unturned in its exploration of our changing attitudes to the deceased among us. Both anecdotal history and cultural commentary, *Necropolis* will take its place alongside classics of the city such as Peter Ackroyd’s *London*’.

Bob Flanagan



Forthcoming FOWNC Events

September - December 2006

General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December). September and October tours start at 14.30, and the winter tours at 11.00, at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, and last for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person (£0.50 concessions) towards conservation projects. There is also a regular non-FOWNC event that deserves a mention – Activity Walks in the cemetery start from West Norwood Library every Wednesday at 12.30.

Sunday 17 September: Open House London



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 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 inside the Maddick mausoleum. 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 21 October: AGM and Lecture - A petition to Mr Peel: Gideon Mantell and the case of Hannah Russell - Bob Flanagan

Following this year's AGM, the FOWNC chairman will give a talk based on his expertise as a toxicologist. In 1826 Hannah Russell was sentenced to death at Lewes Assizes for murdering her husband by giving him white arsenic. Whilst her convicted accomplice was hanged at Horsham Gaol, her own execution was delayed on a technicality and Dr Mantell set out to prove her innocent. He eventually obtained her pardon from Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel, but was she innocent or guilty as charged?



Gideon Mantell

Saturday 18 November: Lecture - History of the Elephant and Castle - Stephen Humphrey

A number of notable people connected with this area are buried at Norwood, including Spurgeon (the Metropolitan Tabernacle), Greathead (the tube railway), the Cuming family (the museum), and several managers and actors at the Surrey Theatre. Our speaker is Southwark Council's archivist and local historian.



Charles Haddon Spurgeon's tomb at West Norwood

Other forthcoming events

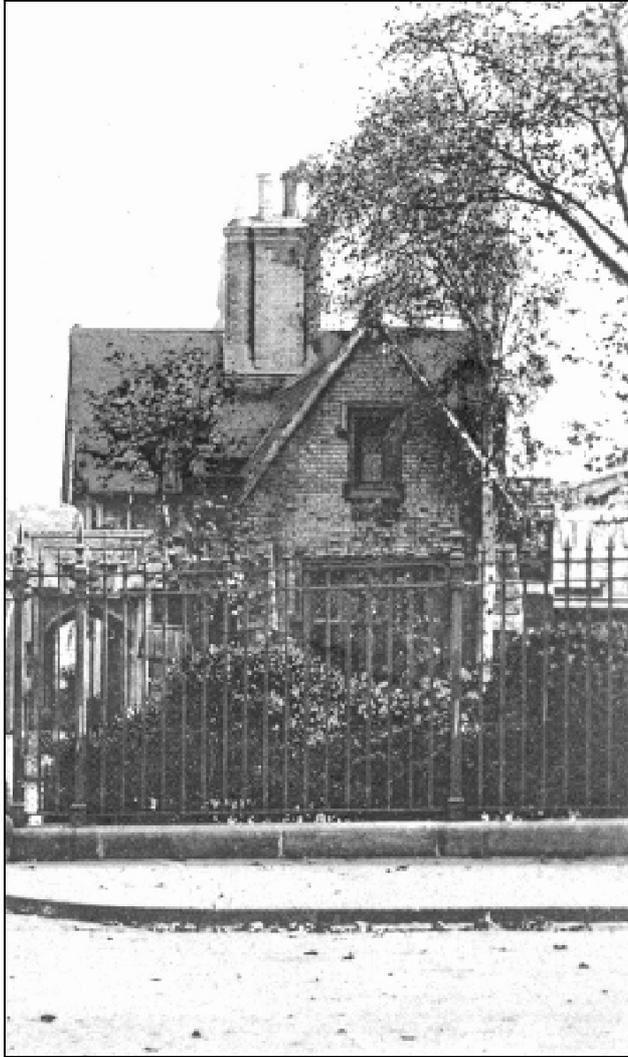
Saturday 30 September, 10.00-17.00: Lambeth Archives Open Day

Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5.

This year's theme is 'The people of Lambeth - emigrés and immigrants'. Our Secretary Jill Dudman will be giving a talk on foreigners buried at Norwood. The FOWNC bookstall will be present as usual - volunteers please!

Tuesday 28 November, 18.00: Lecture - Phiz, Dickens and London - Valerie Browne Lester

Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, EC1 (between Furnival Street and Fetter Lane). Free (organised by Gresham College).



*A recently discovered photograph of
the Lodge by the entrance to the
cemetery c1905
(courtesy Local History Publications.)*

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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