

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 70 – January 2011

Price £1.00 (Free to members)

## Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

There is some good news to start the year. I was surprised to find that my January 2010 article on John Hughes quickly became front-page news in Donetsk, the city he founded as Hughesovka in the Ukraine! Journalists of the *Donetsk News* (<http://dnews.donetsk.ua/>) had been looking for his grave for some little time, and had assumed he was buried in St Petersburg, where he died in 1889.

In October, Rimma Fil, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, and Elena Dovzhenko, press secretary to Mr Rinat Akhmetov, the sponsor and head of the Foundation for the Development of the Ukraine, visited Norwood to place flowers on the grave. A once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Emirates Stadium to see the Donetsk team Shakhtar (Шахтер; <http://shakhtar.com/en/>) play Arsenal in the Champions League followed – sadly Shakhtar lost, but they won the second leg and finished top of their group.

More importantly for us, the Foundation has generously offered to sponsor the restoration of the Hughes family gravestones (graves 18,072, 18,353, 18,354, 32,549, square 91). Assuming that Conservation Area Consent and Faculty Jurisdiction issues can be resolved, all is set to for the work to commence in April.

More good news this month, in that the repairs to the section of railings opposite St Luke's Church have been completed except for a final coat of paint. Unfortunately, a tree planted in 1890 had to be felled as it had undermined the railings. Secondly, excavations by conservation expert Ron Knee at the site of the grave of George Myers (1803–1875) adjacent to the Crematorium (grave 3,114, square 37) have suggested that a ledger stone may in fact still be present. It is not clear as yet if this is the Myers

### In this Issue:

- ❑ **John Hughes and Norwood**  
Page 3
- ❑ **The Taylor Family – Black Ball Line to Tibet** Page 4
- ❑ **Henry Benjamin Hanbury Beaufoy (1786-1851)**  
Page 6
- ❑ **Thomas Kirby (1840-1901)**  
Page 9
- ❑ **Henry Wood JP (1842-1900)** Page 11
- ❑ **Recent Events**  
Page 14
- ❑ **Forthcoming Events** Page 15
- ❑ **A Bit of Mystery** Page 16

tombstone, which has long been thought a victim of the Lambeth clearances of the 1970s. This excavation has been prompted by an initiative from Patricia Spencer-Silver and the Pugin Society aimed at ensuring that a proper headstone marks the site of the grave. We await developments.

#### *Other Initiatives*

We have not given up hope that we will also be allowed to proceed with repairs to the graves of architect Arthur Beresford Pite (1861–1934; grave 31,852, square 23) and of toxicologist Sir Thomas Stevenson (1838–1908; grave 26,543, square 95), the first official Scientific Analyst to the Home Office (1872). Some funding for these projects is available. Placing a fitting memorial on the grave of potter and sculptor George Tinworth (1843–1913) presents more difficulty since the grave (18,786, square 118) has been illegally re-used. Finally, we still await repairs to the railings to the (Grade 2 listed) Gilbert memorial and to the important monument at the top of the hill leading to the Crematorium (grave 1,425, square 66), both damaged some two years ago now during roadway works (see Newsletters *passim*).



*Repaired railings, Norwood  
High Street*

#### *Scheme of Management*

There is welcome news that the Trustees of the Greek Necropolis are interested in meeting to discuss the future management and maintenance of the area, it having become clear that urgent action is needed as regards reinstating the collapsed portion of the boundary wall, for example. Moves are also afoot to regularize the position of the St Mary-at-Hill plot, Lambeth having illegally taken part of the plot for new burials some 20 years ago. Finally, work has started to plan for a structure to take the place of the 1960s Rose Garden on the site of Tite's Episcopal Chapel. The continued protection of the Catacombs and also the reinstatement of the 1839 Bramah & Robinson coffin lift (see Newsletter 68, May 2010) must be embraced in the plan. The Scheme of Management Committee will be consulting widely on this issue – suggestions welcome.

#### *FOWNC News*

Please note that we have reached an arrangement with Lambeth that FOWNC members may visit the Catacombs (pre-booked guided tours only, first tour Saturday 12 February, 11.00). Please e-mail or telephone Jill Dudman (contact details page 16) to book a place.

Development of the European Cemeteries Route continues apace – see January 2010 Newsletter for details. Colin Fenn is to attend a planning meeting in Barcelona this month.

Finally, thank-you to everyone for your support over the last 21 years. We could not have achieved so much without your support – we now have some 400 paid-up members! Please renew subscriptions promptly (PayPal facilities are available – see our website for details), and give an e-mail address if possible so we can advise you of events that don't make it to the Newsletter. Perhaps also consider the 5-year subscription option?

---

---

# John Hughes and Norwood

Bob Flanagan

---

---

A trip to Glamorgan Archives in May last year revealed a photograph of the intact Hughes family headstone from 1919. Hopefully the inscription survives intact on the fallen headstone (see Newsletter 67, January 2010), which is due to be reinstated in April.



24 Kirkdale, Sydenham, December 2010

John's wife Elizabeth died in Swansea on 6 November that same year and was also buried in grave 18,072. John himself died, of the effects of apoplexy, in St Petersburg on 29 June 1889. His funeral, which took place on 12 July, was reported as from 2 Church Villas, St John's Road, Lewisham High Road. In his will he left the bulk of his property to his sons John James, Arthur David, Ivor Edward, and Albert Llewellyn. Kyra Blackwood née Hughes (1894–1937, grave 18,353, square 91) was a daughter of Albert Llewellyn Hughes. Alice Hughes née Hirschfield (1873–1929) was the wife of John James Hughes. Gladys Morgan (1900–1934) was their daughter – John, Alice, and Gladys are all buried in grave 18,354. I have not as yet managed to work out the connection to Cypka Ptashinsky Hughes (grave 32,549, square 91); I wonder if she was a further daughter of Albert Llewellyn Hughes?

But why was Hughes, who died in St Petersburg, buried at Norwood? The first burial in the family plot (grave 18,072, square 91), was that of his son Owen Tudor Thomas Hughes, who died on 25 May 1880, aged 21. He had been studying Applied Sciences at King's College, London. Another son Ivor Edward Hughes had also enrolled for evening classes at King's College and it seems that both were resident at Milverton Lodge, Sydenham, now 24 Kirkdale.



Elizabeth Hughes née Lewis (c. 1824–1880)



The illustrated 72 page booklet on the history of Hughesovka (*Hughesovka, A Welsh Enterprise in Imperial Russia* by Susan Edwards) published by the Glamorgan Record Office in 1992 is now available from the FOWNC bookstall or via the our website price £2.50. A 218 page book (*The Iron Tsar, the Life and Times of John Hughes* by Roderick Heather, Penpress 2010 – the publishers feature a giraffe on their logo) is also available. I hope to obtain a copy to review for a subsequent Newsletter.

---

---

# The Taylor Family – Black Ball Line to Tibet

Bob Flanagan

---

---

The Black Ball Shipping Line was founded in 1852 by James Baines and Thomas MacKay of Liverpool and provided a regular packet service to Australia at the time of the gold rush.<sup>1</sup> Joseph Greaves and John Taylor were junior partners. The company also traded to other parts of the world, notably to the Crimea and to India for transport duties. Other services ran to China and New Zealand. The Black Ball Line traded until 1866 when Barned's Bank collapsed and the company, one of its main debtors, was forced to sell many of its ships. The Line ceased trading in 1871. Some of the ex-Black Ball liners, including *Flying Cloud*, were bought by John Taylor; he and partners ran passenger clippers from London to Queensland for several years.

John Taylor (1827–1904) had traveled widely. His wife, Carolina Francisca née Foulkes (1833–1906), was born in Brazil. They had ten children. Their daughter Annie, missionary and explorer, was born Hannah Royle Taylor at Egremont, Cheshire, on 17 October 1855. After voluntary work and studying medicine in London she sailed for Shanghai on 12 September 1884 in the service of the China Inland Mission, an evangelical Protestant society founded in 1865. The mission recruited single men and women to carry Christianity into remote areas of China. Taylor was determined to introduce Christianity into Tibet, where Westerners had been forbidden to travel since the journey of the French Catholic missionaries Evariste Regis Huc and Joseph Gabet in 1846.

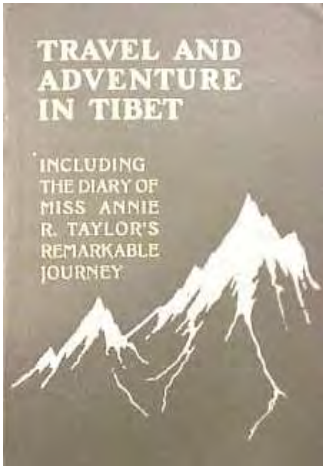
In 1886 she was posted to Lanzhou in NW China and worked for seven years on the borders of Tibet, both in Sikkim and in China. Late in 1892 she learned that a Chinese Muslim named Noga and his Tibetan wife were travelling to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. Noga agreed to take Taylor along with them. The party left Tao-chou in the Chinese province of Szechwan on 2 September 1892. Taylor was accompanied by three servants, including a Tibetan named Pontso, whom she had converted to Christianity. There were many difficulties. One servant died and another deserted. The party was attacked by bandits. They ran out of food and a horse died from exhaustion as she was riding it.



*Taylor family monument at Norwood  
(graves 16,637 & 24,452, square 43)*

---

<sup>1</sup> Not to be confused with the pre-existing US-owned Black Ball Line that operated on the Transatlantic run. The fashion of naming shipping lines after flags was very successful, e.g. White Star Line, Blue Star Line, etc.



Carey W. *Travel and Adventure in Tibet* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1902)

the de facto invasion of Tibet by an Anglo-Indian army that reached Lhasa. She stayed in Yatung until c. 1907. On returning to Britain she lived at Otto House, a private asylum in North End Road, Fulham. She died on 9 September 1922 and was buried at Norwood on 13 September.

Other family members recorded on the tombstone in addition to Annie's parents include John Burnett Taylor (1794–1885), Maud Beatrice Taylor (1866–1886), and sister Susette Martha Taylor (1860–1920).

Susette was born on 20 September 1860 at Egremont Villa, Lower Norwood. She was educated at King's College, London, before reading modern languages at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 1884–6. She obtained a baccalaureate in Spanish language and literature from the University of Barcelona in 1890. She spent three years as modern language mistress at Kensington High School. She shared the family interest in travel, visiting her sister at Yatung in 1903. She was involved in teaching and in censorship and intelligence work in World War I. She published several works, mainly translations from Spanish and Russian, having studied in Moscow in 1913. She was among the first women to be elected a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (1913). She died on 28 January 1920 of pleurisy at 22 Cromwell Crescent, Kensington. She never married.

They might yet have made it to Lhasa, but Noga became increasingly aware of the danger of escorting strangers to Lhasa and betrayed them as they neared the city. On 3 January 1893, only three days travel from the Tibetan capital, Taylor was arrested and placed in a narrow, coffin-shaped hole in the ground. She was told she would have to return to China by the same route she had taken into Tibet. However, she demanded good horses, sufficient provisions, and safe conduct out of Tibet. In April she and Pontso arrived safely in China. They had covered some 1,300 miles.

Taylor returned to England to much acclaim. She failed, however, to establish a 'Tibetan pioneer band' on the Sikkim–Tibet border and in May 1894 she and Pontso moved to Yatung, from where there was a view of Tibet down a narrow valley. A British trading post had been established there and Annie opened a store. Her edited diary was published in 1902. In 1904 she served as a military nurse with the Younghusband expedition,



*Taylor family monument at Norwood (inscription detail)*

---

---

# Henry Benjamin Hanbury Beaufoy (1786-1851)

## The Australian Connection

Warren Dent

---

---

Henry Beaufoy died in Lambeth on 12 July 1851 and was buried in the family tomb at Norwood, a brick vault with a York stone ledger, now in dire need of repair. A Lambeth vinegar manufacturer and educational philanthropist, Henry was born on 22 April 1786, the eldest son of Mark Beaufoy (1764–1827), vinegar manufacturer and amateur astronomer. Henry accompanied James Sadler (1753–1828) during a balloon flight from Hackney, Middlesex, to East Thorpe, Essex (five miles from Colchester) on 29 August 1811, and took readings with various instruments. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1815 and was also a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He established four scholarships at the University of Cambridge and donated £10,000 to the City of London School.



*Henry Benjamin Hanbury Beaufoy, 1848*

Henry's younger brother George (1796–1864) entered the Royal Navy in 1810. He was gazetted lieutenant (1821) and commander (1838) and served in the Mediterranean and in the West Indies. Placed on half-pay in 1845, he succeeded Henry in the family business, South Lambeth Road on Henry's death. He died at Lyston Hall, nr Sudbury, Suffolk, 3 August 1864, and is also buried in the family vault at Norwood (grave 1,613, square 48).<sup>2</sup>

Henry had married Eliza Taylor in 1838 after living with her for 25 years or so. She had been a Columbine at Lord Astley's circus. She was a supporter of the Lambeth Ragged School, which had been started in 1845 in the railway arches on what was then Doughty Street (now Newport Street). Solicitor Frederick Doulton (1824–1872), son of John Doulton (both grave 1,808, square 40), was secretary to the committee.

In 1851 Henry built (£10,000) and endowed (£4,000) a new school in Newport Street as a memorial to her. The *Illustrated London News* described it thus:

There are two large classrooms – one for boys and one for girls; ... At the opening, Lord Ashley declared *'There was no reason whatever why Lambeth should not rescue itself from the present disgraceful opprobrium which attached to it,'* and then, *'Let the great basis of all Ragged School teaching be true sound evangelical Protestantism. (Great applause) The Bible, and the Bible alone, is the religion of Protestants.'*<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> See: <http://www.vauxhallcivicsociety.org.uk/home/history/beaufoy-vinegar-factory>

<sup>3</sup> Lord Ashley, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury



*Eliza Taylor Beaufoy (1794–1847)*

parents with means. It is also possible that Henry paid for Eliza’s education if Charlotte came to live nearby early on. Supposedly, Joseph was educated in Paris as he was destined to manage Henry’s business. Evidence of this is found in the registration of Joseph jnr’s first child Annie where he listed himself as a ‘Wine and Vinegar Maker’.

For whatever reason and presumably whilst Joseph was in Paris, Charlotte and children Eliza and Henry left London on 27 October 1833 in the barque *City of Edinburgh*, arriving in Sydney on 30 March 1834. Eliza wrote a beautiful account of the voyage, now held at the Australian National Maritime Museum. In time Joseph entered his Uncle’s business, but didn’t enjoy it. He married Emma Spicer in June 1845, and followed his mother and siblings to Australia, arriving late 1845 or early 1846. His first born, Annie, was baptized in Sydney. Joseph became a teacher, as did his sister Eliza. Joseph and Emma had 8 children, one of whom, Paul, was my great grandfather. Eliza married in 1840 and named her first daughter Eliza Beaufoy Rogers. Sadly she died aged 2 years and was buried alongside her grandmother Charlotte.

However, this is not quite the end of the story. The Beaufoy name lived on ‘down under’ through the photographer Henry Beaufoy Merlin (c. 1830–1873), cousin to

The Revd Henry Christmas (1811–1868) (grave 261, square 64 – monument destroyed) moved the vote of thanks to Henry Beaufoy.

Eliza had an elder sister Charlotte, who was born in 1792. Charlotte had three children: Eliza born in Dublin 1818, Joseph born in Manchester 1822, and Henry (date of birth unknown). It is not known whether the three children were legitimate, although on both Joseph’s and Eliza’s birth certificates their father was listed as a ‘gentleman’ named Joseph Taylor. So it is also possible he had the same last name as their mother (but died early). In any event it is clear that young Eliza was extremely well educated – such education probably only being affordable by

In the vault beneath  
Are deposited the remains of  
Eliza the beloved wife of  
Henry Benjamin Hanbury Beaufoy  
Who died the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1847  
In the 54<sup>th</sup> year of her age  
Also the remains of her husband  
Henry Benjamin Hanbury Beaufoy  
Of Caron Place South Lambeth  
Who departed this life July 12<sup>th</sup> 1851  
In the 66<sup>th</sup> year of his age  
Likewise George Henry the child of  
George youngest brother of the above  
Henry Beaufoy  
Who died January 21<sup>st</sup> 1854 aged 14 months  
Here also  
Trusting in the mercy of his saviour  
Resides the body of  
George Beaufoy  
Who was born October 11<sup>th</sup> 1796  
And died August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864  
The work of righteousness shall be peace  
and assurance for ever Isaiah XXXLI, 17  
Likewise of his wife  
Anne Beaufoy  
Who was born July 29<sup>th</sup> 1825  
And died December 13<sup>th</sup> 1894  
A gracious woman retaineth honour  
Proverbs XI, 16

*Norwood: Beaufoy tomb inscription*

Henry Benjamin Hanbury Beaufoy. He was the son of Frederick Merlin (Murlin), a chemist, and his wife Ann Harriett, daughter of Lieutenant Benjamin Beaufoy, RN (–1807). Henry Murlin arrived in Sydney from London with his mother on 8 December 1848 as a steerage passenger. Ann Murlin married Henry John Forster in 1851; Mrs Forster was later described as an ‘artist in wax flowers’.



*Norwood: Beaufoy tomb (grave 1,613, square 48)*

In 1853 Henry was granted three licences for marionette performances and from April to May was based in the former Olympic Circus, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, advertising as the Royal Marionette Theatre. In 1858 he gave a lecture to accompany Guy and Merlin’s Grand Indian Panorama in Sydney as Henry Merlin and was so listed on the 1859–60 East Sydney electoral roll.

Henry Merlin married Louisa Eleanor Foster (1844–) on 27 January 1863 at St Mary, Stratford, East London. By 1866, and henceforth known as ‘Beaufoy Merlin’, he was back in Victoria, Australia working as a travelling photographer, using the wet-plate or collodion method for glass negatives, under the name American and Australasian Photographic Co (A & A Photographic Co). In 1869 he presented the governor of Victoria with his photographs of the Western District. He advertised his arrival in Sydney in September next year, claiming to have worked extensively in Victoria as well as at Yass, Braidwood, Queanbeyan, Goulburn, and Parramatta in New South Wales.

In late 1871 Merlin sailed as official photographer on the eclipse expedition to northern Queensland, reporting on the journey and its disappointing outcome. By the end of March the A & A Photographic Co. had established itself at Hill End. There Merlin met the German-born goldminer B.O. Holtermann and a studio was built for the A & A Photographic Co. on a block Holtermann owned. After three months of photographing at Hill End and Tambaroora, Merlin’s company travelled to Gulgong where they set about photographing practically every building, giving an unrivalled picture of a town of that era.

In December Merlin photographed settled areas of New South Wales and Victoria for the Holtermann Exposition. He took pictures at Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo and smaller towns, and wrote an extensive account of the journey. By August next year he had returned to Sydney and took more photographs. He also wrote a vivid, second-hand account of Captain Moresby’s expeditions to New Guinea.

Merlin died of pneumonia on 27 September 1873 aged 43 at his home in Abercrombie Street, Leichhardt, Sydney. His wife and their two daughters and two sons survived him. He was buried in the Anglican section of Balmain cemetery (Pioneers’ Park, Leichhardt). See <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10338b.htm>.



---

---

# Thomas Kirby (1840-1901) – Of Milk and Silage

Anthony Kirby

---

---

My great, great, great, grandfather Thomas Kirby was born in Towcester, Northamptonshire. He established the Salisbury, Semley, and Gillingham Dairies (SS and GD) Co. Ltd, which became United Dairies (1920), later Unigate (1959), both household names until recently. He introduced ensilage (silaging) in the UK, receiving the science certificate from the Royal Agricultural Society signed by the President, HRH the Prince of Wales.

London's demand for liquid milk began to increase rapidly after the rinderpest (cattle plague) outbreak of 1868 devastated the local herds. Wiltshire became an important source of supply as it was easily accessible by both road and rail from London. In 1871 Thomas opened his first creamery in Semley, Wiltshire with the aim of supplying London with dairy products by train. He also wanted to prevent surplus milk going to waste in summer via the manufacture of butter and cheese. The business grew gradually, and a second depot was opened at Gillingham in Dorset. In 1880 about 1,500 gallons of milk were sold daily.

After this progress was rapid and new depots were opened at Salisbury, Tisbury, and at Temple Combe and Wincanton in Somerset. Two London businesses were also acquired. In 1890 a limited company was formed, the chief shareholder being WH Gramshaw, a London stock-jobber. The company prospered at first, but between 1896 and 1909 did little more than maintain its position. By far the greatest volume of the company's trade was in liquid milk. Cheese was the most important product, and butter formed a very small proportion of the total trade. Pigs were kept to use up the whey: the receipts for 1908 included £1,572 for the sale of pigs. In 1920 the head office was at Salisbury, and there were also depots in Wiltshire at Semley and Tisbury.<sup>4</sup>

As to silage, green fodder for animals had been preserved in Germany by a process similar to that used for sauerkraut from the early 1800s. In 1877 a French agriculturist, Auguste Goffart, described this method of preserving green crops in silos. In the US the ensiling of green maize fodder was widely adopted and proved very successful, increasing productivity significantly, hence the stimulus for Thomas to introduce the process on his Wiltshire farms, the first person to do so in Britain.



*Thomas Kirby (1840–1901)*

---

<sup>4</sup> *Other industries, A History of the County of Wiltshire*. 1959; 4: 220-253

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=102814>



*Kirby monument at Norwood  
(grave 29,530, square 68)*

For relaxation, he indulged in trotting and owned some of the fastest such horses in England. He was one of the stewards of Alexandra Park Racecourse. He had a home life too. His wife Sarah née Sporle was born in 1840 in Ipswich. Her father Joseph had been born in Marylebone. Her mother Mary née Bowman was from Ipswich. Thomas and Sarah married aged 16 in Tower Hamlets, and had 9 children.<sup>5</sup> By 1871 Thomas, Sarah and their children, apart from the two oldest boys are recorded as living at Chapel Farm in Hastings. About this time Thomas opened his first creamery in Semley, Wiltshire. It is believed that the family moved to Semley in the early 1870s - his last two children were born there. In 1880 they moved to Hook Farm, Bromley.

Thomas died on 18 January 1901 at 86 Tweedy Road, Bromley. He was buried at Norwood on 22 January. His wife Sarah died 18 January 1910 at 50 Chelsham Road, Lambeth and was buried in the family grave on 21 January. Their polished pink granite memorial with inlaid lead lettering still survives in the area of the cemetery consecrated in the 1880s. The memorial is in excellent condition, although it has subsided a little.

As noted earlier, Thomas and Sarah had moved the family to Bromley in 1880. However their older children remained in Wiltshire. Thomas jnr married Isabella Dowers and they farmed in Sedgehill. Sarah jnr married James Smith in Lambeth in 1875, but by 1881 she is recorded as a widow living in Salisbury with her brother William Martin where they both managed the creamery. In 1882 Sarah married Thomas Ford, a widower with two daughters from a previous marriage. Charlotte married Henry Johnson and they lived in Semley at the SS and GD depot.

Three of Thomas and Sarah's children settled in Canada: Charlotte, Thomas jnr and my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandfather James Kirby. Charlotte settled in southern Saskatchewan about 1906 where I believe she and her husband are buried. Thomas settled in central Saskatchewan in 1906, but later moved to central Alberta. He died at Lac Ste. Anne in 1911. James Kirby settled in southern Alberta in October 1912. With his second wife he established Kirdon ranch and imported cattle from England. By 1916 he had sold the ranch, moved his family to Edmonton, and started a second career as an accountant. He died in 1949 in Kamloops, British Columbia and is buried at Pleasant Street Cemetery. I think all the other children remained in England. Percy Edwin was interred in a second plot Thomas snr had purchased at Norwood (38,786, square 68). He was buried at Abney Park Cemetery on 16 October 1936, but was re-interred at Norwood on 5 November. There is no stone.

---

<sup>5</sup> Sarah (1857–), Charlotte Elizabeth (1859–), Thomas Charles (1862–1911), William Martin (1865–), James Sporle (1866–1949), Samuel Sporle (1870–1935), Albert (1874–1927), Edith Florence (1876–1958), and Percy Edwin (1879–1936)

Thomas Kirby's nephew was William Claude Kirby (1867/68–1935). He was the chairman of Chelsea Football Club from March 1905 until his death in 1935. He lived at 22 Wardo Avenue, Fulham. Two of Thomas Kirby's grandsons, Remington and Alfred, enlisted in the Lord Strathcona Horse in 1914 and fought in France. Alfred returned home in 1919. However, 2 months into the fighting Remington was injured and sent back to England, where he joined the Royal Field Artillery. When he left the Canadian forces he was already a Sergeant, and by 1918 he was a Lieutenant. He was gazetted Military Cross in June 1918. He married Gertrude Will in England on 8 September 1919, and a month later returned to Canada. In 1923 he suffered a head injury when his horse fell on him at the third hurdle of the steeplechase at a sports event and he was forced to retire from the Alberta Provincial Police. In 1925/26 he and his family including his daughter Pamela returned to England where I believe he re-joined the Royal Field Artillery and retired as a Captain. He died in Lewisham, South London on 17 March 1968.

---

---

## Henry Wood JP (1842~1900) – Estate Agent

Wendy Furey

---

---

Henry Wood was born in Honiton, Devon in March 1842, youngest of the five children of Joseph Wood, thatcher, and his wife Mary. His mother died when he was 10 and his father remarried two years later. Family legend has it that aged 14 he set off for London, Dick Whittington style, but without a cat, and very nearly became Lord Mayor of London. However, in the 1861 census he was still living with his father and stepmother in Honiton, as a solicitor's clerk. His father by then was an estate agent as well as a thatcher.



*Henry Wood and his wife Elizabeth*

In 1867 Henry married 28-year-old Elizabeth Mary Madge from Gittisham, a village near Honiton. Elizabeth's father, Abraham, also a thatcher, died the same year, aged 46, following her mother, Maria, who had died two years earlier in childbirth, aged 39. Their younger children were brought up by Abraham's sister. Henry and Elizabeth married in Lambeth, so presumably he, at least, was living there then. Their son, Henry Ernest Wood, was born in Camberwell in 1868.

In 1871 the family was living at 1 Clarence Cottages, Warner Road in the parish of St Matthew, Denmark Hill, Camberwell. Henry was an estate agent's clerk and his sister-in-law, living with them, a draper's assistant. By 1881 they had moved to 14 De Crespigny Park and Henry is described as a surveyor. In 1891 they were at 16 Royal Terrace, Southend and five members of Elizabeth's family were living with them. Their

son Ernest was a surveyor's assistant in 1891. At each census they had a domestic servant or maid-of-all-work. Henry was a partner in the firm Beadle, Wood & Co. of Gresham Street, in the City of London, and had many titled clients. It is said that he was invited to be Lord Mayor of London, but that he declined because it would have been too expensive.

Henry Wood's story is not exactly one of rags to riches, but he was obviously a very able and well-liked man, who used his success for the benefit of less fortunate people as well as for his family. He died in October 1900 aged 58. Elizabeth died unexpectedly in 1896 aged 58. They now lie together in the family plot at Norwood (grave 27,079, square 56).

In 1900 Henry and his son were living at Highlands, Champion Hill, off Denmark Hill, but according to his headstone, he still owned a house in Southend. In 1902 Ernest married Eliza Howie of Glasgow. They lived in Champion Hill until 1916, when they moved to Hutton Manor, nr Shenfield, Essex. They had 4 children, all born at Highlands, and 9 grand-daughters, of which I am one.

Henry, Elizabeth, Ernest and Eliza were all devout Christians. Eliza's father, Robert Howie, had been Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland. Henry was a deacon of the Baptist Church at Denmark Place, Camberwell and was Treasurer of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland. Because Henry had been so successful in business, Ernest was sufficiently well provided for that he was able to spend his life in charitable works. He was Chairman of the Baptist Missionary Society and President of the Baptist Union in 1937. He was also Chairman of many other charities and

became an Essex county councillor and a JP. He sold Hutton Manor in the late 1930s and moved to Musbury in Devon, where he spent the war with his wife, youngest daughter, and numerous refugees, including my mother and her 3 children. He died in 1946 and is commemorated on the family monument, although his ashes were scattered over the iron-age hill fort behind his home. Sadly, time has not been kind to the monument, the ornate ironwork of oak leaves in a Tree of Life having been ripped out and the kerbs displaced.



*Wood family monument at Norwood, c. 1900. Mausolea in the Greek Cemetery can be seen in the background. Detail: CHARLES STANFORD at the base of the Tree of Life*

### *Charles Stanford*

Careful study by Colin Fenn of the photograph of the Wood tombstone reproduced above has revealed the name 'Charles Stanford' at the base of the Tree of Life. Son of Joseph Stanford, shoemaker (–1862), Charles was born at Green Lane, Northampton, on 9 March 1823. A shoemaker, a lawyer's clerk, then a book-seller's assistant, aged 16 he took up preaching.

“Until the day dawn and the shadows flee away”  
Here lies the body of  
HENRY WOOD JP  
of Champion Hill SE, Southend, Essex & Gresham Street EC  
born Honiton, Devon 5 March 1842  
Deacon of Baptist Church at Denmark Place, Camberwell  
Treasurer of the Baptist Union of Great Britain & Ireland  
at rest 6 October 1900  
Also of ELIZABETH MARY  
eldest daughter of the late Abraham Madge  
of Giffisham, Devon born 8 July 1838  
became the wife of the above named 14 April 1867  
suddenly translated 6 October 1896  
“Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”

### *Principal inscription on Wood family monument*

He entered the Bristol Baptist College on 22 October 1841. His first pastorate was at Sparrow Hill, Loughborough (1845–6). On 7 March 1847 he became minister of the United Presbyterian and Baptist Church at Devizes. In May 1858 he was elected co-pastor with Dr. Edward Steane of Denmark Place Chapel, Camberwell and became pastor in May 1861, hence the connection with his one-time neighbour in De Crespigny Park, Henry Wood.<sup>6</sup>

In 1878 Stanford received the degree of DD from Brown University, Rhode Island. He was president of the London Baptist Association (1882). Almost blind from glaucoma from November 1881, he wrote using a typewriter. He died at 26 De Crespigny Park on 18 March 1886, and was buried at Norwood (grave 21,161, square 56) on 24 March. His monument is immediately behind that of Henry Wood and is intact beneath ivy save that the presumably inscribed oval bronze plaque has been stolen.



*Remains of Wood Family Monument at Norwood, 'before and after', 2010*

---

<sup>6</sup> Unless the numbering of De Crespigny Park has changed since the 1880s, the houses where Wood and Stanford lived are no more, the Institute of Psychiatry now occupying much of the south side of the road. The name de Crespigny and that of Champion Hill reflect a Huguenot refugee of the time of William III. His house, Champion Lodge, was demolished in 1841



---

---

## Recent FOWNC Events

---

---

Jill Dudman

At least 75 visitors attended the series of tours of the notable monuments on Open House London Weekend on 19 September. Thanks to everyone who helped with leading tours and staffing the bookstall in the Maddick Mausoleum, and especially to Colin Fenn who concluded each tour with a talk about the Greek Chapel, which was open for viewing.

Following our AGM on 16 October, the work of the London Parks and Gardens Trust was described by its former chairman, Christopher Sumner. Launched as a charitable trust in 1994, its objectives are to promote education in the arts and sciences of historic garden land; and to preserve and enhance for the enjoyment of the public historic garden land in and around London. The Trust runs an Open Garden Squares Weekend in June each year, and maintains an inventory of nearly 2,500 parks, gardens, squares, churchyards, cemeteries, and other historic green spaces across London. It runs a programme of lectures, guided walks and visits to historic parks and gardens, and publishes a magazine *London Landscapes* – see [www.londongardenstrust.org/](http://www.londongardenstrust.org/) for more information.



*Green Park: Artists' impression of the new Bomber Command memorial*

One issue discussed was the practice of installing memorials in public parks; these range from the Princess Diana memorial 'fountain' in Hyde Park, whose design flaws are costing Royal Parks a fortune in maintenance, to the new RAF Bomber Command memorial to be built in Green Park – the commemoration of the more than 55,000 crew members who lost their lives in the Second World War is certainly long overdue, but the structure is going to be very large and has provoked some controversy.

On 20 November Michael Slater, Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at Birkbeck College, talked about the relationship between Dickens and the poet John Augustine Overs (1808–1844, grave 576, square 8; common grave, monument destroyed). A superb raconteur, Michael easily captured our attention.

Overs was a carpenter by trade. Like many other literary hopefuls in that era, he sent samples of his poetry to Dickens. Dickens patiently engaged in lengthy correspondence with Overs, initially trying to dissuade him, but eventually providing him with extensive help and advice. Although Dickens found the poetry produced by Overs to be of poor quality, he was impressed by some pieces of prose written by the carpenter based on his working background, especially a detailed response by Overs to a text on Chartism by Thomas Carlyle. His description of the agricultural rebellions of 'Captain Swing' dramatically featured the sharpening of scythes. Dickens wrote a preface to a collection of writings by Overs, *Evenings of a Working Man*, published in the year of his death, and helped his widow financially. No portrait of Overs has survived.

And finally, a first for FOWNC and for the cemetery on 15 December – a walk in the dark! This was an initiative by librarian Keith Davies, based at West Norwood Library, who organized the annual Christmas evening where Reading Groups from Lambeth's Libraries come together to toast the year in books. This year they wanted to include a brief tour of the cemetery before returning to the Nettlefold Hall for food, drink, and quizzes. Colin Fenn and I shepherded a group of some 40 people equipped with torches to the Greek Chapel, where Keith in top hat and black cape stood on the steps and read a tale of the supernatural by Marghanita Laski. Fortunately the weather was kind (in between the snowy spells) and everyone safely enjoyed the experience of the cemetery by moonlight.



---

---

## Forthcoming FOWNC Events

### January – April 2011

---

---

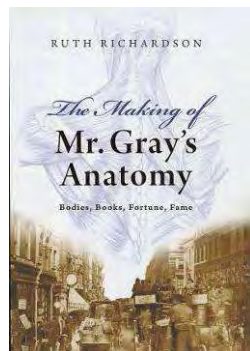
General tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (2 January, 6 February and 6 March at 11.00, 3 April at 14.30) starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road and lasting for 1½-2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations of £1 per person towards conservation projects. All welcome.

#### Spring Lectures

Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road), starting at 14.30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations.

#### **Saturday 19 February: Lecture – Mr Gray's Anatomy, and a desecrated Norwood stone – Ruth Richardson**

Dr Richardson is an Affiliated Scholar in the History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge University, and is well known for her book *Death, Dissection and the Destitute*. In telling the story of the creation of the world-famous textbook *Gray's Anatomy*, she will glance at the relationship of both its author (Henry Gray) and its illustrator (Henry Vandyke Carter) with Professor Henry Minchin Noad FRS (1815–1877) (grave 16,626, square 21; monument destroyed), who taught for many years at St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, where the work for the textbook was done.



#### **Saturday 19 March: Lecture – Norwood's latest sporting discoveries – Colin Fenn**

Fifteen years have elapsed since Bob Flanagan's booklet on the sportsmen buried or cremated at Norwood was published. Although some further discoveries have been documented in these pages, vice-chairman Colin Fenn has recently discovered many more. They include Harry Green, record marathon runner; Charles Percy Dixon, George Caridia and the Mavrogordatos, tennis champions; and Lady Domini Crosfield, tennis super-socialite. Between them they have 6 Olympic medals, have set several world records, and had influence that went way beyond the sports arena. Colin will relate stories of challenge and international intrigue from champions of the Edwardian and inter-war period.

---

---

## A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

---

---

*In ever loving memory of Amelia Mckeown ~ Minnie ~  
who passed away August 21<sup>st</sup> 1906 aged 50 years.  
Sweetest of mothers and the devoted wife of Henry  
Frederick Dale*

*‘On that happy Easter morning all the graves their dead  
restore, father, sister, child and mother meet once more’*

Words from the 1864 hymn *Resurrection Morning* by Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924, best known now for *Onward, Christian Soldiers*), music by Ira David Sankey (1840-1908), grace this delicate Doulton porcelain tombstone (grave 31,615, square 128). One mystery of course is how it survived the brutal clearance of this part of the cemetery complete with its porcelain kerbs. Has anyone any information about Henry Dale and his wife?



---

---

### FOWNC Officers

*Chairman & Publications Officer:* Bob Flanagan, 79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW  
(Tel: 020 8670 3265)

*Vice-Chairman:* Colin Fenn, 20 Selsdon Road, London SE27 0PG (Tel: 020 8670 4146)

*Secretary & Tours Organiser:* Jill Dudman, 119 Broxholm Road, London SE27 0BJ (Tel: 020 8670 5456)

*Hon Treasurer:* Anna Long, 58 Crescent Lane, London SW4 9PU (Tel: 020 7622 7240)

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

*Webmaster:* James Slattery-Kavanagh, Quotes, 3 Cricketfield, Newick, East Sussex BN8 4LL (Tel: 0871 703 2210, Fax: 0871 703 2220)

---

© FOWNC January 2011

The FOWNC Newsletter is published three times a year by

The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, 79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW

Website: [www.fownc.org](http://www.fownc.org); e-mail: [chairman@fownc.org](mailto:chairman@fownc.org) or [secretary@fownc.org](mailto:secretary@fownc.org)

If you would like further information about the Friends, please contact the Secretary.

The annual subscription is £3.

Registered Charity No 1063450. Member of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF, [www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk](http://www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk)) and of the Association of Significant Cemeteries of Europe (ASCE, [www.significantcemeteries.net](http://www.significantcemeteries.net))

---

---