

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 77 – May 2013

Free to members

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## Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Sadly, Sexton Keith Lucas finally left Lambeth employment at the end of March. Keith retired officially a couple of years ago (see Newsletter 68, May 2010), but his temporary contract has now been terminated. There was no consultation with either FOWNC, or the Scheme of Management Committee (SoMC) over this action. This seems to me to have been yet another decision that Lambeth may have not thought through properly...

Keith has served the citizens of Lambeth and the wider community in South London through his work in the cemetery for 29 years, in many cases at a time of great confusion and distress for individuals and for families. He has also played a major part in helping preserve for future generations what remains of our historic cemetery.

Keith chose to be photographed by his favourite monument, the tomb of the antiquarian John Britton (1771–1857). This is



*Sexton Keith Lucas and the Grade II\* listed tombstone of John Britton (grave 5,235, square 119)*

a massive 'henge' of Millstone Grit designed by the architectural journalist George Godwin (1803–1887), now sadly shorn of its protective railings since the clearance work in this part of the cemetery. Keith reminded me of our first meeting in 1990 or thereabouts when we walked round the cemetery after Lambeth had resumed clearance operations, in my opinion a cynical action in response to the formation of FOWNC, and I had vouchsafed my determination to stop them. Whilst clearly he could not say too much as a Lambeth employee, I was left in no doubt where his sympathies lay. So I do feel as if we and the cemetery are losing an old friend. Anyway, in order to mark our respect for Keith and the debt we owe him the committee has decided to offer him Honorary FOWNC Membership, an honour not previously bestowed. We wish him a long and happy retirement at his family home in Cumbria.

*Councillor Clare Whelan OBE*

Congratulations to Clare Whelan, who was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours List. Clare is very coy about her many achievements, but gives a lesson in time management to us all I feel. Clare and her husband John are well-known in Lambeth, having both served on the Council since 1990 and having been strong supporters of FOWNC since the early days. Clare started her working life at *The Times* and has held many positions on Lambeth Council including that of Mayor (2001–2). She is a member of the SoMC and the Management Advisory Group (MAG) and has thus been involved with the recent ground-breaking discussions over the future of the cemetery discussed below.



*Cllr Clare Whelan OBE*

*Cemetery News*

At a joint SoMC and MAG meeting on 4 February agreement in principle was reached with Lambeth on a potential way forward on the difficult issue of grave re-use. This would embrace our key objectives of safeguarding all pre-Lambeth era monuments whilst not associating FOWNC with re-use of private graves where the actual location of the grave has been lost, which I feel would be unlawful given the legal status of the cemetery. The Council's key objective of making provision to open the cemetery for new burials and thus provide an income stream would also be satisfied. We await detailed proposals from the Council in the form of a draft petition to the Chancellor.

In line with this spirit of collaboration FOWNC supported a preliminary bid to the Heritage Lottery Foundation (HLF) to finance infrastructure works in the cemetery including restoration of the Catacombs. The bid was submitted towards the end of February and the HLF have responded in detail with some searching questions, the responses to which will help shape the form of the actual bid.

Finally, I can report that the long-awaited infrastructure works to the entrance roads to the Cemetery will commence soon. The works will be phased so as to minimise disruption to the daily operation of the Cemetery and to the *Curious Art Trail* (see Forthcoming FOWNC Events, page 14), but will necessitate closure of the main gate for

a time. Up to 80 memorial roses will have to be rededicated in the new Rose Garden as part of the works. A leaflet explaining the need for this disruption has been produced by interim Cemeteries Manager Julie Dunk.

### *Cemetery Conservation*

This year the National Federation of Cemetery Friends AGM is to be hosted by the Friends of York Cemetery Trust on 8 June. Nicholas Long and either Paul Graham, or I will represent FOWNC. The Association of Significant Cemeteries of Europe is holding its AGM in Amsterdam in September, although I doubt that anyone from FOWNC will attend. Finally, members may be interested to hear of a churchyard/burial ground conservation group *Caring for God's Acre*. Details at [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk). What is the difference between a burial ground and a cemetery one might ask?



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## Norwood in the Second World War

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Bob Flanagan

Jill Dudman was intrigued by the note of the deaths of Charles and Hannah Mary Gaudern in 1944 (*A Bit of Mystery*, Newsletter 76, January 2013) and looked them up on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. They both died at their home, 10 York Hill Road, West Norwood, on 4 July 1944. Charles, son of the late Mr and Mrs Charles Gaudern, of Wansford, Northamptonshire, was 83 and Hannah, his sister, was 79. They and nine others were killed when a V1 flying bomb fell just behind the shops on Norwood Road at 13:15. Six houses were demolished and 20 others suffered severe damage. In Norwood Road, 30 shops were damaged, as were 10 houses in Ullswater Road.

At 01:19 the next day a V1 fell near to the entrance to the cemetery, destroying the two pairs of large semi-detached houses (built 1824–36) that stood where West Norwood Library and the Nettlefold Hall now stand. These houses had been bought by the Cemetery Company in 1936 when they moved their offices from 70 King William Street in the



*Cemetery Main Gate and Entrance Lodge c. 1900*

City and rebuilt and enlarged Tite's original gate lodge. In turn this too was demolished having been damaged by the flying bomb, to be replaced by the present lodge in 1950. Intriguingly, however, an aerial photograph from March 1946 appears to show the original lodge largely intact. Finally, on 17 July at 05:12 a further V1 severely damaged the Crematorium and the east wing of Tite's Nonconformist chapel, leading in time to their demolition in 1955 and the loss of the hydraulic coffin lift and other features (see FOWNC Newsletter 69, September 2010).

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# R.C. Carrington FRS, Solar Astronomer (1826–1875)

Ed Cliver

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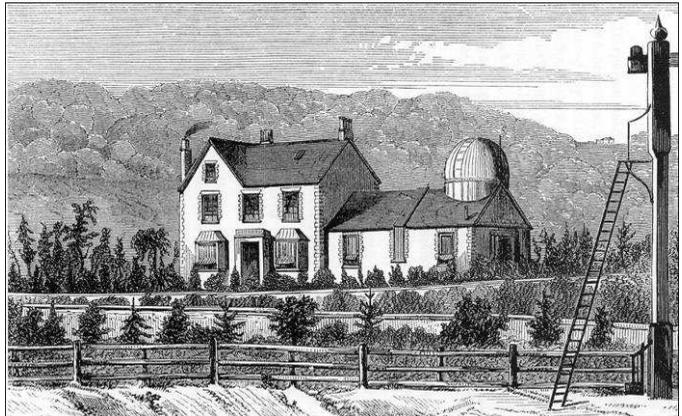
Richard Christopher Carrington was the pre-eminent solar astronomer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In a ten-year span, he measured the elements of the sun's rotation axis, discovered that the sun did not rotate as a solid body, and noted that sunspots originated at higher solar latitudes at the beginning of their 11-year cycle than at the end. But it is the solar flare that Carrington observed while engaged in his daily drawing of the sun's spots in the forenoon of 1 September 1859 for which he is most remembered today. This was the first time that anyone had seen such a disturbance on the sun.

Recently, films of solar eruptions made by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory have been made regularly as the current 11-year sunspot cycle approached its maximum. The solar events are linked to disturbances of the Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere and pose a threat to electrical power grids, airline passengers on polar routes, and satellite- and ground-based communications. Such 'space weather' effects have led to renewed interest in "Carrington's flare" because, in a quirk of history, the first solar flare ever observed was associated with what remains the largest geomagnetic storm yet recorded. The 1859 magnetic storm has become the yardstick for a 'super storm' against which current large storms are measured. Moreover, a recent estimate indicates that the causative flare observed by Carrington was the largest ever reported.

## *The Redhill Observatory*

Richard Carrington lived an eventful, if tragically short life, and for a brief period from c. 1850–1865 ranked among the great scientists of his time. He was born to Richard and Esther Clarke Carrington in Chelsea on 26 May 1826. His father was in the brewing business, and later became joint-owner of the large Royal Brentford Brewery.

After private schooling, in 1844 Carrington entered Trinity College, Cambridge, intended for holy orders. But as he later wrote 'the tenour of my mathematical studies... acting on mechanical propensities to which I had always been addicted, gradually made it clear to me that I was more naturally adapted for the pursuit of



*Carrington's Redhill Observatory from the cover of the Redhill Catalogue of circumpolar stars*

some physical science involving imagination and mechanical ingenuity...’ In the event, Carrington graduated in 1847, ranked 36<sup>th</sup> wrangler in the mathematical tripos. He had been inspired to take up astronomy by James Challis (1803–1882), Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Cambridge Observatory. On graduating, he sought help from Challis to secure a position in ‘practical astronomy’ and eventually received an appointment as Observer at the University of Durham Observatory. Carrington was dissatisfied with the instruments at Durham, however, and after a two-year stay, he decided to establish a private observatory. With a £5,000 (some £350,000 today) loan from his father, he founded Redhill Observatory, near Reigate, in 1853.<sup>1</sup>

Carrington had two main objectives. The first was to complete the cataloguing of the positions of the stars in the northern hemisphere. Friedrich Bessel (1784–1846) and Friedrich Argelander (1799–1875) in Germany had mapped the northern heavens up to latitude 81°. The polar stars were particularly important for navigation, but presented special challenges, both instrumental and intellectual, which Carrington undertook with ‘zest’ and ‘consummate skill’ in order to complete his *Redhill Catalogue* of the northern polar stars in 1857. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) for this work in 1859, but his reputation today rests on the solar work he carried out at Redhill.

#### *Solar Astronomer*

In 1844, Samuel Heinrich Schwabe (1789–1875), a German amateur astronomer, announced the discovery of the 11-year period over which the numbers of spots on the sun wax and wane, and in 1852, Edward Sabine (1788–1883) reported the same periodicity in geomagnetic activity. Sabine’s finding marked the birth of solar-terrestrial physics. Carrington was inspired by the work of Schwabe and Sabine to look for further ‘laws’ in the behaviour of the solar spots. These dark regions on the sun had been reported by Galileo and others in Europe in 1610, but over 200 years passed before Schwabe’s discovery. Carrington’s plan was to record the position of all sunspots over a full 11-year cycle. Astronomical photography was then in its infancy, and Carrington thought that ‘as an unfettered man... with my free telescope, I should probably have time to store up a respectable harvest before the new reaping machine was brought to perfection’.

Even though Carrington’s planned 11-year patrol of the sun was cut short by circumstances beyond his control, his conjecture regarding what he might accomplish proved correct. The ‘respectable harvest’ he foresaw was predicated on measuring the elements of the sun’s rotation axis in space with high precision. Carrington achieved this painstaking objective so well that the elements he obtained remained the standard for over 50 years. Once the elements of the axis were ascertained, Carrington was able to accurately record the positions and motions of sunspots relative to the solar equator and a ‘prime meridian’ that he established on the sun on 9 November 1853 when he began his patrol. With these measurements, he saw by 1858 that early in the 11-year cycle sunspots formed at high solar latitudes, i.e., ~30–40° north and south of the equator, and then formed at progressively lower latitudes, until by the end of the cycle they appeared at

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<sup>1</sup> Demolished sometime between 1950 and 1970 to make room for a block of flats

latitudes within  $\sim 10^\circ$  of the equator. He characterised this discovery as ‘another and instructive instance of the regular irregularity and irregular regularity which, in the present state of our knowledge, appear to characterise the solar phenomena’, a description of solar research that resonates with today’s solar scientists.

Carrington’s next discovery – that the sun did not resonate as a solid body – was based on the observed decrease in the solar rotation rate of sunspots as one went from low to high latitudes. This finding helped to displace William Herschel’s (1738–1822) surprisingly resilient view of the sun as a cool, dark, solid body [possibly inhabited] with a luminous atmosphere. Agnes Clerke (1842–1907), the authoritative historian of 19<sup>th</sup> century astronomy, wrote that Carrington’s finding was a key factor in helping to ‘revolutionise ideas on solar physics’. Carrington’s discovery of a solar flare in 1859 was serendipitous. His description of the discovery was as follows:

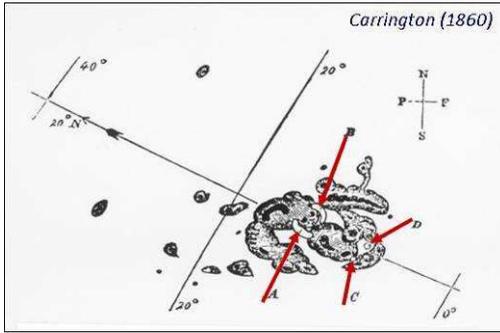
*While engaged in the forenoon of Thursday, September 1, in taking my customary observation of the form and positions of the solar spots, an appearance was witnessed which I believe to be exceedingly rare. The image of the Sun’s disk was... projected on a plate of glass... at a distance and under a power which presented a picture of about 11 inches diameter. I had secured diagrams of all the groups and detached spots ... when within the area of the great north group (the size of which had previously excited general remark), two patches of intensely white and bright light broke out, in the positions indicated in the appended diagram by the letters A and B, and of the forms of the spaces left white. My first impression was that by some chance a ray of light had penetrated a hole in the screen attached to the object-glass, by which the general image is thrown into shade... but, by... causing the image to move by turning the [right ascension] handle, I saw I was an unprepared witness of a very different affair.*

*I thereupon noted down the time by the chronomet, and seeing the outburst to be very rapidly on the increase, and being somewhat flurried by the surprise, I hastily ran to call someone to witness the exhibition with me, and on returning within 60 s, was mortified to find that it was already much changed and enfeebled. Very shortly afterwards the last trace was gone, and although I maintained a strict watch for nearly an hour, no recurrence took place. The last traces were at C and D, the patches having traveled considerably from their first position and vanishing as two rapidly fading dots of white light. The instant of the first outburst was not 15 s different from 11<sup>h</sup> 18<sup>m</sup> Greenwich mean time, and 11<sup>h</sup> 23<sup>m</sup> min was taken for the time of disappearance.*

As with all Carrington’s solar work, this observation was made with a 4.5" aperture, 52" focal length equatorial telescope provided by the noted instrument maker William Simms (1793–1860; grave 79, square 64 – see FOWNC Newsletter 55, January 2006).

By a remarkable coincidence, after some 250 years of sunspot observations the first solar flare ever recorded was seen by two people in different parts of England. Richard Hodgson (1804–1872), like Carrington a Fellow of the RAS, observed the flare from his home in Highgate. Once Carrington and Hodgson realised they had both observed the phenomenon, they ceased communication to keep their accounts independent. Hodgson’s description of the event is less detailed than Carrington’s, but he does mention that a photograph of the sun was taken at Kew on the previous day.

*Carrington's 1860 drawing of a large sunspot group observed on 1 September 1859. The initial (A and B) and final (C and D) positions of the flare are shown*



*Photograph of the same sunspot group made at Kew Observatory by Warren De La Rue on 31 August 1859 [reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library]*



Fortunately this photograph is preserved in the archives of the Royal Greenwich Observatory held in the University of Cambridge Library. An enlargement of the active region in which the flare occurred shows that Carrington's sketch provides far more detail than can be seen in this early photograph. Carrington and Hodgson both noticed that the Kew magnetometer traces were disturbed at the time of the flare and an addendum

to Carrington's account notes the outbreak of a great geomagnetic storm 'towards four hours after midnight' on 2 September 'which subsequent accounts establish to have been as considerable in the southern as the northern hemisphere'. The footnote also states that 'While the contemporary occurrence [of solar activity and geomagnetic disturbance] may deserve noting, [Carrington] would not have it supposed that he even leans toward hastily connecting them. One swallow does not make a summer'. It would take nearly 80 years before the immediate (due to flare ionizing radiation) and delayed (due to flare-associated 'corpuscular streams' or in modern terminology 'coronal mass ejections') geomagnetic effects of the Carrington flare were understood.

#### *Fellow of the Royal Society*

Carrington's astronomical work was recognised by his election to the Royal Society in 1860. Warren De La Rue (1815–1889), the pioneer of solar photography, who obtained the image illustrated above, initiated the nomination process, and endorsers included George Biddell Airy (1801–1892), James Challis, John Herschel (1792–1871), and John Couch Adams (1819–1892).

Election to the Royal Society, however, rather than broadening horizons and opportunities, provided an early capstone for Carrington's scientific career. The observation of the solar flare (or 'sudden conflagration' as he called it) was to be his last discovery. The choking off of his scientific studies began in July 1858, when his father died suddenly. Carrington was thrust into the position of being the family bread-winner for his mother

and his younger brother David, who spent much of his adult life in asylums. Carrington took on the management of the Royal Brentford Brewery while attempting to continue, with the aid of assistants, his solar observing programme. In addition, he was a very active Secretary of the RAS from 1857–1861. It was impossible, even for one as dedicated and energetic as Carrington, to keep all these balls in the air.

A way out of this pressing situation presented itself in early 1859 when Manuel Johnson, the Director of the Radcliffe Observatory at Oxford, died suddenly and an announcement to fill the vacant position was advertised openly. The following year, Professor Challis, over-burdened by teaching and directing the Cambridge Observatory, requested that he be relieved of his observatory duties. The opening of the Directorship of the Cambridge Observatory was not publicly advertised. Carrington applied for both Directorships ‘for the sake of the public position; and, secondly, because I shall have the advantage of instruments and a staff of computers, such as my private means will not support’. He was eminently well-qualified to receive either position, but there was an obstacle in the person of George Airy, Astronomer Royal 1835–1881. During his tenure Airy was ‘the official guardian of British astronomy, and even of science in general, as no one else has ever been’. The ruling feature of Airy’s character was order: ‘he had the greatest dread of disorder creeping into the routine work of the Observatory, even in the smallest matters’.

If Airy represented the stabilising hand of Victorian Age astronomy, Carrington represented the drive and turbulence of youth. Constitutionally resistant to authority, aware of his own merits to the point of arrogance, brimming with ideas, and determined in pursuit of them, Carrington presented a persistent challenge to Airy’s need for order. In this conflict of strong personalities, something had to give, and it was not going to be Airy. The formal venue for the interaction between Airy and Carrington was the RAS, the communal hall of British Astronomy, where their tenures on the RAS Council, its ruling body, overlapped from 1854–66.



*Carrington family vault (grave 3,074, square 49)*

Shortly after his election to the RAS Council, Carrington began petitioning for Airy’s support on a range of topics. He proposed Schwabe for the RAS Gold Medal and suggested expanding the yearly number of RAS meetings from 8 to 10. He also suggested that the RAS survey the programmes of British and foreign observatories to avoid duplication of effort and maximise output, and sought public funds to publish the Redhill Catalogue. Beyond his list of requests to Airy

for support and advice on various proposals, with their resulting demands on Airy's time, Carrington offended the Astronomer Royal on at least two occasions by seemingly encouraging others who had criticized Airy and/or the Greenwich Observatory.

Airy did not take criticism lightly, writing to his good friend Augustus De Morgan (1806–1871): 'I am indignant with Carrington's policy of intermeddling... I do not see how things are to go on, unless Carrington be shelved'. When Airy wrote a letter of support for Robert Main (1808–1878), his First Assistant at Greenwich, for the Oxford post, he stressed Main's sense of propriety and 'correct conduct in all external relations' (in unstated contrast to Carrington). Main was appointed to the Radcliffe Directorship in June 1860.

Although the intention was to appoint an internal candidate to the post of Director of the Cambridge Observatory, Carrington learned of the opening from Professor Challis and aggressively pursued it, writing to the selection committee:

*'I have devoted nearly the whole of the 13 years since I left the University to establishing, with such means and such abilities as I have possessed, a reputation for success in the labours of Practical Astronomy, specially with the object of obtaining such a position as is about to become vacant at Cambridge... it is as much an injustice... to pass over that person in the country who may have established the foremost claim to the vacant Directorship (and I claim to be that person) as it would be to someone else to appoint me Downing Professor of Laws or First Surgeon to Guy's Hospital.'*

Carrington's protests went unheeded, however, and John Couch Adams, the Lowndean Professor at Cambridge and Airy's choice for the post, was duly appointed. Carrington's career as an astronomer was in effect ended. He stopped his solar patrol in March 1861 when his assistant departed and in June of that year he sold Redhill Observatory and his instruments. He wrote up his solar work in a hefty volume entitled *Observations of the Spots on the Sun from November 9, 1853, to March 24, 1861, Made at Redhill*, for which he received the Lalande Prize from the French Academy of Sciences in 1864. In late 1865, Carrington suffered an unspecified illness, possibly a stroke, prompting the sale of the brewery. He established a new observatory at Churt, near Farnham in 1870, but his work there resulted in a single paper of little consequence.

### *Marriage and Controversy*

Carrington's final years were marked by his ill-fated marriage to Rosa Helen Jeffries (1845–1875), a beautiful woman that he had met in the summer of 1868. At the time, Rosa was living with William Rodway, a former soldier and circus worker, whom she passed off as her brother. Her secret relationship with Rodway continued after her marriage to Carrington in August 1869. In August 1871, Rodway, in a fit of passion, went to Churt and attacked Rosa with a knife, seriously injuring her. He was found guilty of attempted murder and sentenced to 20 years hard labour.

Despite the turmoil, Carrington and Rosa remained together. On the morning of 17 November 1875, however, Rosa was found dead in bed. An inquest was held and the cause of death was ruled to be 'suffocation, but how such suffocation came about there was not sufficient evidence to show'. Chloral hydrate, which Rosa was taking as a sleeping aid, may have played a role. Because Rosa suffered from epilepsy, Carrington

was held to be open to very great censure, considering his wife's state of health, in that he had not provided her with proper nursing attendance. On 27 November, only 10 days after Rosa's death, Carrington himself died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Carrington's will contained unusual provisions. He requested that 'if I die in England I may be buried at a depth of between 10 and 12 feet in the ground surrounding my own freehold house at Churt... at an expense not exceeding five pounds, and without any service being read over my grave or any memorial being erected to my memory, and that after my death neither my chin be shaved nor my shirt changed'. His request to be buried at Churt was not honoured, perhaps because his wife, who was his executor, had died unexpectedly so soon before him. Carrington is thus buried with Rosa in the vault at Norwood that his father had purchased when Carrington's younger sister Esther Fanny died in late 1851. I had originally thought that the Latin inscription on the vault (*sic itur ad astras*, thus you shall go to the stars) referred to Carrington, but the line spacing and order points to an alternative possibility, the farewell to a wife from a grieving husband.

Unfortunately, no portrait of Carrington is known. However, he is memorialized by the solar terms *Carrington Longitude* and *Carrington Rotation*. His book *Spots on the Sun* has been described as 'a classic studied with feelings of admiration by all sunspot observers' and, in the clear eye of Agnes Clerke, Carrington was 'a self-constituted astronomer, gifted with the courage and the instinct of thoughtful labor'.

Mankind's reliance on high technology has made modern life increasingly vulnerable to solar activity and the ensuing 'space weather', thereby rekindling scientific interest in the benchmark 1859 event and bringing Carrington's name to public consciousness. Carrington is one of the leading figures in a 2007 book by British science writer Stuart Clark describing the growth of solar-terrestrial physics entitled *The Sun Kings* ([www.stuartclark.com/publications/2-publications/4-the-sun-kings](http://www.stuartclark.com/publications/2-publications/4-the-sun-kings)).

This article is adapted with permission from Cliver E.W. and Keer N.C. *Richard Christopher Carrington: Briefly Among the Great Scientists of His Time* (Solar Physics, July 2012).

THE FAMILY GRAVE OF  
RICHARD CARRINGTON ESQ  
OF SYDENHAM HILL, KENT  
ESTHER FANNY  
ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE  
BORN 1838, SEPT. 28  
DIED 1851, DEC. 29  
THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN  
AWAY BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD  
RICHARD CARRINGTON  
BORN 1796 MAY 10  
DIED 1858 JULY 18  
THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED  
ALSO OF ROSA HELEN CARRINGTON  
(THE BELOVED WIFE OF  
RICHARD CHRISTOPHER CARRINGTON  
F.C.P.S. F.R.A.S. F.R.S.)  
BORN 1845, MAY 21  
DIED 1875, NOV. 17  
*SIC ITUR AD ASTRAS*  
RICHARD CHRISTOPHER CARRINGTON  
DIED 27 NOV. 1875  
AGED 49 YEARS  
ESTHER CLARKE  
WIDOW OF RICHARD CARRINGTON ESQUIRE  
DIED 25 JUNE 1877  
AGED 81 YEARS  
DAVID CARRINGTON  
BORN 28 JUNE 1829, DIED 15 JUNE 1902

*Inscription on the Carrington family vault*

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# The Brockwell Hall Estate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

George Young

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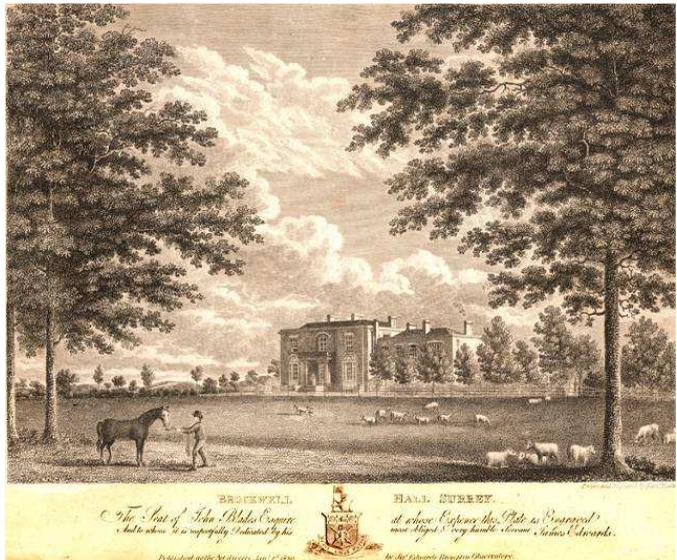
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Thomas Lynn Bristowe MP (grave 24,575, square 36) is remembered both for his campaign to preserve Brockwell Park as a public open space and for his untimely death at the opening ceremony (see FOWNC Newsletter 75, September 2012). Less well known are members of the Blades and Blackburn families, the last private owners of the Brockwell Hall Estate, who also lie at Norwood.

John Blades (1751–1829) was a wealthy City of London merchant of fine glassware with showrooms at 5 Ludgate Hill. He took the tenancy of the original Brockwell Hall, then located near the present Norwood Road in Herne Hill. It has been suggested that he held the tenancy from as early as c. 1790.<sup>2</sup> Blades purchased the Hall 1809–11 and, in a piecemeal fashion, the neighbouring land to form the estate we now know as Brockwell Park. In 1811 he employed the architect David Riddall Roper (c. 1773–1855) to design and build the present Brockwell Hall on the highest ground of the Estate, demolishing the original house in the process.

Blades served as Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1812–13. In due course he engaged the architect John Papworth (1775–1847) to lay out the estate in 1825–30 with roads and paving, to erect fencing and gates, and to build some houses and lodges, as well as directing some work at Brockwell Hall itself.

John Blades is buried in St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, together with his wife, Hannah (1766–1796) and their only son, John Hobson Blades (1796–1827). John Blades left about £140,000 in his will (£100 million in today's earnings). The Brockwell estate passed to his grandson, Joshua Blackburn jnr (1822–88), son of his eldest daughter Elizabeth, who herself inherited



*Brockwell Hall, Brockwell Park, Herne Hill, 1820*

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<sup>2</sup> *Ways in to Brockwell Park* by Peter Bradley (Lambeth Archives, 2006), p. 24

Brockwell Hall. She had married Joshua Blackburn snr (~1840), a Russia-mat warehouseman of Wormwood Street, Bishopsgate.



*Norwood (square 60): Monuments to (left) Laura Blades (grave 12,945) and the Blackburn family (grave 6,801)*

On the death of his mother in 1860, Joshua Blackburn jnr was recorded as living at 22 Norfolk Street, Park Lane, and working as a barrister. He inherited Brockwell Hall, but decided to live at Brockwell House, a new house he had built near the site of the present Lido. However, later in life Joshua was confined to a lunatic asylum, his affairs being managed by trustees. On his death in 1888 the

Brockwell Estate passed to his son, Joshua John Blackburn (1854–1898), who agreed to sell 78 acres (32 hectares), about two thirds of the present park, to the London County Council (LCC) for £117,000. The LCC acquired the remaining third of the park in 1901.

Five members of the Blackburn family are buried at Norwood: Elizabeth Blackburn née Blades (1790–1860); her son, Joshua Blackburn jnr; her unmarried younger son, Edward (1831–1888); Joshua’s wife, Mary Ann (1822–1882); and Joshua John, son of Joshua and Mary Ann. Their stone sarcophagus atop a brick vault is in good condition.

Charlotte Blades (1791–1863), second daughter of John Blades, married the Rev Edward Progdgers (c. 1787–1861) in 1828 and they lived at Clarence Lodge, a house on the Brockwell Estate. He served as the first vicar of St. Matthew’s Church, Brixton, and later as Rector at Ayott St Peters, Hertfordshire, where they both ended their days.

John Blades’ youngest daughter (‘of unsound mind’), Laura (1794–1870), is not mentioned in his will, separate provision having been made for her in 1826. She died at Russell House, Streatham, and is buried next to the Blackburn vault. In 1891 her estate was valued at just under £40,000 (about £17 million in today’s earnings).

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## Wanderers vs. Royal Engineers 2012

Paul Graham

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Football Association Challenge Cup 1872 Final Rematch, Kennington Oval, Wednesday 7 November 2012. The timing of this celebration at the venue of the first ever FA Cup Final was at first sight rather odd. 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries are not usually celebrated with such a fanfare, quite literally in this case courtesy of the Band of the Corps of Royal

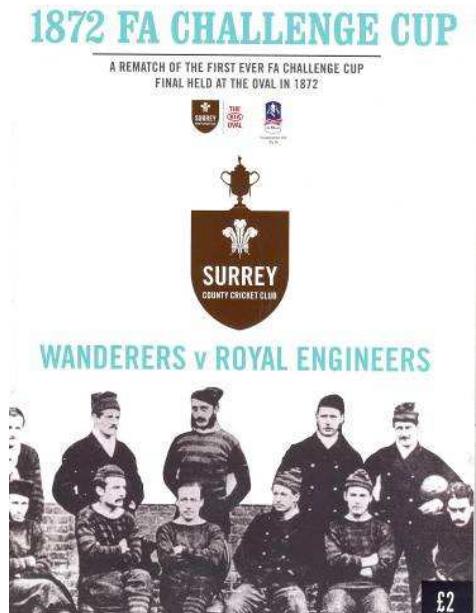
Engineers. However, 2013 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FA itself and this rematch was instigated as part of the celebrations. In the event, the sizeable crowd that filled most of the members' pavilion at the Oval simply enjoyed the romance of the occasion. And for all of the endeavours of the players on the pitch, the real hero of the evening, as the match programme made clear, was Charles W. Alcock (1842–1907).

Alcock was arguably the most influential individual in the development and organisation of sport in this country. As player, referee, administrator, and journalist he laid the foundation, for good or ill, of professional sport as we know it today. Alcock was the Secretary of the FA, 1870–95. Inspired by his experience of inter-house knockout tournaments at his *alma mater*, Harrow school, Alcock proposed a challenge cup competition. He then captained Wanderers to a 1–0 victory over the Royal Engineers in that historic first final, 'finding the net' (they didn't actually have cross bar or net in 1872) himself, but having the goal disallowed. Later he refereed the 1875 and 1879 finals. He also established international football, organising the initial England vs. Scotland games. Although living for a time in Rosendale Road, Norwood, the Oval was Alcock's spiritual home - he served there as Secretary to Surrey County Cricket Club from 1872 until his death, and in due course oversaw the first cricket Test match played in England (1880).

There were some obvious differences between the original game and the rematch. The 2,000 spectators in 1872 paid one shilling (5p) for admission against £10 in 2012. The original match was played in daylight and not under the brilliant Oval floodlights, though the Oval did host a floodlit game as early as 1878! Although the rematch took place in 'Movember',<sup>3</sup> not one of the players favoured a moustache, whilst photos of the 1872 teams suggest that they were then considered *de rigueur*. And, despite the chill north wind, contemporary shorts stayed defiantly above the knee.

As for the result, suffice it to say that the Royal Engineers gained belated revenge for their 1-0 defeat in 1872, appropriately given the venue, by something approaching a cricket score.

A video of the highlights of the game is available on the BBC website ([www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/20260462](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/20260462)). Further information on Alcock's remarkable life and career can be found in Bob Flanagan's *Sportsmen* booklet (available from the FOWNC Bookstall) and in *The Father of Modern Sport* by Keith Booth (review in FOWNC Newsletter 49, January 2004). Alcock's tombstone at Norwood (grave 14, 689,



<sup>3</sup> 'Movember' is a moustache-growing charity ([www.movember.com](http://www.movember.com))

square 86) was restored in 1999 with contributions from the Football Association and Surrey County Cricket Club (see FOWNC Newsletter 36, September 1999).



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## Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

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On 16 February we were pleased to welcome again long-time FOWNC member Michael Slater, Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at Birkbeck College, University of London. On this occasion he took as his theme ‘*Norwood Cemetery, 15 June 1857: the passing of a literary hero*’, i.e. the funeral of playwright and journalist Douglas Jerrold (1803–1857; grave 5,452, square 97). Jerrold was the leading satirical writer on *Punch* from its inception in 1841, being responsible for establishing it as an important radical journal. His most successful play, *Black Eyed Susan*, ran for 300 successive nights at the Surrey Theatre. The high regard in which Jerrold was held at the time is shown by the fact that huge crowds gathered for his funeral, and the pall-bearers included Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, and Sir Joseph Paxton. Michael gave a delightful description of a chaotic scene of hustle and bustle among the crowds. His biography of Jerrold was published in 2002 and is now rarely obtainable, but the FOWNC bookstall has a signed copy available at the bargain price of £20.

On 16 March another long-time FOWNC member Peter Clayton FSA, expert on middle eastern antiquities, returned to speak about the paintings made by the artist David Roberts (1796–1864; grave 15,280, square 38) during his visit to Egypt in 1838–9. Showing comparisons between some of Roberts’ paintings of architectural and landscape views and modern photographs, he demonstrated the artist’s skill in capturing a breadth of view that a camera simply cannot. An interesting piece of artistic licence is the painting of the approach of the Simoon [sandstorm] in the Desert of Gizeh, which for dramatic effect depicts the sphinx, the pyramids and the setting sun in an impossible orientation. Roberts had to take great care not to offend the local Muslim population, and adopted Arab dress to make himself unobtrusive while sketching. He returned home with a huge collection of drawings to work up into paintings. Many were turned into lithographs by Louis Haghe (1806–1885; grave 18,219, square 88) so that large quantities could be sold to the public.



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## Forthcoming FOWNC Events

May–August 2013

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Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 4 August), starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14.30, and lasting for about 2 hours. These coincide with Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events, see [www.westnorwoodfeast.com](http://www.westnorwoodfeast.com)). There is no charge, but we welcome donations towards conservation projects. We also offer quarterly members-only tours of the Anglican Catacombs (advance bookings only – please contact Jill Dudman, details p. 16).

Additional events may be offered at short notice – please register an e-mail address with us ([chairman@fownc.org](mailto:chairman@fownc.org) or [secretary@fownc.org](mailto:secretary@fownc.org)) to receive notification of such events.

## **22 June–28 July: Curious Art Trail**

Following the great success of last year's event, a new selection of art works will be installed, inspired by Victorian materials and technology, that each focus on a particular tomb. See: [www.westnorwoodcemetery.com](http://www.westnorwoodcemetery.com) for details.

## **Other Events**

### **Lambeth Local History Forum**

See: [www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/home/walks](http://www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/home/walks) for the 2013 heritage walks.

### **Friends of Streatham Common**

*The Rookery*, Streatham Common, was the residence of Sir Kingsmill Grove Key (1815–1899), who is buried at Norwood in his family vault (grave 5,641, square 33). His father Sir John Key (1794-1858), Lord Mayor of London 1830–2, also lies in the vault. After *The Rookery* was demolished, the grounds were saved from development by local businessman Stenton Covington (1856–1935, cremated at Norwood) in 1913. A range of events are planned to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the gardens as a public open space. See: [www.freewebs.com/streathamfriends/rookerycentenaryevents.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/streathamfriends/rookerycentenaryevents.htm) for details. A superbly illustrated history of the Rookery and Norwood Grove published by the Streatham Society is available from the FOWNC bookstall, price £5.

### **Saturday 11 May, 17.00: Old St Pancras Churchyard**

The Chair of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust Dr Roger Bowdler will lead a tour of the churchyard (with drinks afterwards) in aid of the St Pancras Churchyard appeal (details at: [www.mmtrust.org.uk/events/view/10](http://www.mmtrust.org.uk/events/view/10)).

Amongst the surviving tombs is that designed by Sir John Soane (1753–1837) for his wife Eliza (d. 1815). Soane himself lies there too.

### **Saturday 18 May, 11.00–17.00: Nunhead Cemetery Open Day**

Linden Grove, SE15. Guided tours, music in open air chapel, stalls, birds of prey, and an art exhibition in a mausoleum. Buses P12, 434, 343, 78. Nunhead railway station is 5 minutes walk away (Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)).

### **Saturday 22 June: Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day**

### **Sunday 21 July 2013: Brompton Cemetery Open Day**

Both events will feature cemetery and catacomb tours at regular intervals throughout the day, stalls selling the Friends' publications and merchandise, and invited exhibitors including other local societies, crafts and foods, as well as light refreshments (Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, [www.kensalgreen.co.uk](http://www.kensalgreen.co.uk); Friends of Brompton Cemetery, [www.brompton-cemetery.org](http://www.brompton-cemetery.org)).



*Soane family vault, Old St Pancras Churchyard*

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## A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

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The Catacombs beneath the site of the Episcopalian Mortuary Chapel contain three wood-gated areas. One pair of gates is situated at the southern end of Aisle L–M (one of the pair of aisles that lay beneath the Colonnades), when closed barring access to catacombs 76/77/83/84, whilst a single gate guards access to catacomb 78 in this same aisle. The gates illustrated stand in front of catacombs 85 and 95 at the western end of the main aisle. All these catacombs are full of coffins stacked on cast iron rails that look as if they could be of a type made for contemporary railways (1837). Catacomb 78 seems to contain a preponderance of children’s coffins. Were these simply areas where coffins were stored whilst arrangements (never fulfilled) were made to provide for permanent burial in the grounds, or did they serve some other purpose?



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### 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 7420)

*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)

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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 £5.

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