

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 73 – January 2012

Free to members

## In this Issue:

- **FOWNC  
Calendar 2012**  
Page 2
- **Alexander  
MacDonald  
(1794-1860) –  
Stonemason**  
Page 4
- **The Founders of  
Camberwell  
House Asylum**  
Page 8
- **The Iron Tsar**  
Page 12
- **Roofing the  
County of  
Surrey with  
Crystal** Page 13
- **Recent FOWNC  
Events** Page 14
- **Forthcoming  
Events** Page 15
- **A Bit of Mystery**  
Page 16

## Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

This year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the cemetery (1837). For the last 23 years FOWNC has worked to preserve and enhance what remains from further desecration by Lambeth Council. The FOWNC years have been a see-saw ride, dependent to an extent on the interest and commitment of some Council officers, and the indifference and ineptitude of others. No one showed more ability and commitment than Byron Miller, arriving as he did with relations with the Council at a for then all time low, and achieving a complete turn-around of relations within 3 years, as documented in recent Newsletters. Unfortunately, Byron's contract has been terminated, and inertia reigns supreme once more.

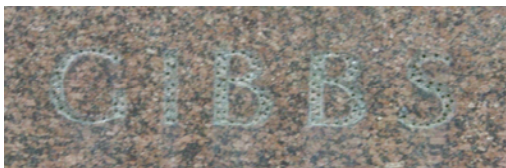
After the October Advisory Group meeting I offered a way forward on the difficult issue of grave re-use, and in turn the Council promised to expedite the stalled roadway works. But nothing has happened. I have told them that there is no point in meeting again without some evidence of commitment on their part. Perhaps it is time to invoke the 'Big Society' and take over. Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol, for example, is run as a Charitable Trust, so why not Norwood?



*Bust of Benjamin Colls  
(grave 5,868, square 39)*

### *Metal Theft*

This continues to be a problem. Most notably, an attempt has been made to remove the bust of Benjamin Colls from his Grade II listed monument. Elsewhere in the cemetery, I am reminded that three of the bronze grills on the Grade II listed Spurgeon memorial (grave 24,395, square 38) were stolen a while back.



*The result when lead lettering is stolen*

The theft of lead lettering seems to get worse by the day, especially along Lower Road where ironically many monuments survived the clearances. Please be vigilant when in the cemetery and report and if possible record suspicious activity, although don't take any personal risk.

### *FOWNC News*

Our membership now stands at approximately 400. As always thanks to all for your support. Unfortunately rising costs necessitate a subscription increase this year, as approved at the AGM in October. The new rates are: annual £5, 5-year £25, unlimited £100.

Scrub clearance working parties continue, and Members' Tours of the catacombs are planned at approximately 3-month intervals – the first dates proposed are 19 February and 12 May – contact Jill Dudman (details page 16) to book a place.



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## FOWNC Calendar 2012

Colin Fenn

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Attendance at our regular monthly tours has been boosted by ensuring our dates coincide with the West Norwood Feast market, which started in April 2011 and brings many visitors to the town centre. We also led catacomb tours, Cemetery Open Day and Open House weekend tours, tours booked for groups, and a Crystal Palace commemoration performance in the Greek Chapel (see page 13). All in all, we introduced the cemetery to about 850 visitors during the year, over and above the visitors that the cemetery attracts during the week. Thanks as always to Jill Dudman, who arranged the tours and the bookstall for these events.

2012 will put London in the spotlight with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and the London Olympics. We have planned a number of events to coincide with these dates. Hopefully the associated publicity will encourage more new visitors to the cemetery and thus help remind Lambeth Council what a gem lies in this much neglected corner of the Borough.

### *Dickens Bicentenary*

On 18 February, Prof Leonee Ormond will talk to us about Dickens' friend and illustrator George Cattermole (see page 15) and on 18 August Paul Graham, author of our *Dickens Connections* guide, will lead a Dickens-themed tour. Dickens was a frequent visitor to

Norwood, and was a pall bearer at the funeral of his great friend Douglas Jerrold (grave 5,452, square 97) in 1857.

### *'Curious'*

A *'Curious'* art trail will feature in the cemetery for four weeks from 22 June. Two dozen artists, led by curator-artist and FOWNC member Jane Millar, are excited at the chance of placing works in the cemetery. The pieces will reflect personalities interred at Norwood and the special nature of the site, including works in ceramics and sugar that complement the Doultons and Sir Henry Tate. We have discussed this approach with the Scheme of Management Committee and will ensure that we are sensitive to the needs of people visiting recent graves. We hope to get funding from the Mayor and from Arts Council England. We will ask for volunteers to assist during the show, perhaps to help the artists with the set up and take down, and to walk the trail and direct visitors when the trail is running.

### *The Olympics and 'Hidden London'*

The Olympics run for a fortnight from 27 July, followed by the Paralympics after a two week break. Visitors and Londoners will be encouraged to explore our local culture and heritage through the *'Hidden London'* programme.

Events will be hosted in parks, lidos, and in some of the Magnificent Seven cemeteries. We hope that Norwood will be selected as one of these showcases, and that we can develop some joint material as a legacy to promote all Seven cemeteries. The format is still being finalised, but each week we expect chosen sites to host after-hours events, which will be promoted by the Olympic organisation. The Museum of London will work with the chosen cemeteries to develop stories about them, supported by some well known artistes and local groups.

It will be a great opportunity to put ourselves firmly on the map and boost the local area, as we have some excellent stories to tell, whether in respect of stunning architecture or fascinating people. Members will know that Norwood is the last resting place of the pioneers and developers of several modern sports and competitions, including track and field events, the FA Cup and international football, and the Ashes. Also interred here are Olympic medallists and Anglo-Greeks who helped the Greek government fund the re-launch of the Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.

It promises to be an exciting summer. If you'd like to help with either of these summer events then please contact me (see page 16).



*Memorial to Charles Alcock (1842-1907; grave 14,689, square 86). He helped found the FA Cup, international football, and much else*

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# Alexander MacDonald (1794-1860) ~ Stonemason

Ron Knee

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Alexander MacDonald was born in 1794 at Foss, Perthshire, the son of a crofter. After receiving some elementary education at the local parish school he joined his father in working on their farm. His father's income was not sufficient to pay young Alexander a wage so he encouraged him to take up an apprenticeship as a stonemason. Alexander completed his apprenticeship in 1820 and set off to Aberdeen to start up on his own. He rented a little workshop at 83 Queen Street, producing granite hearths, mantelpieces, paving stones, and funerary monuments in marble and other types of stone.

Alexander worked hard and in 1822 moved to larger premises in West North Street, where he now employed a journeyman and an apprentice. In 1829 he read that an exhibition of ancient sculptures recently brought back from Egypt had opened in the British Museum. Giovanni Belzoni, a fairground entertainer turned traveller, explorer, and rogue had returned to London with relics pilfered from the tombs of ancient Egypt, and had sold them to the Trustees of the British Museum, where they were displayed to the public.

As the young MacDonald viewed these exhibits he noted that the granite had a polished surface, an art that the ancient Egyptians had discovered thousands of years before. He was so impressed by these works he was determined to experiment with polished granite when he returned to Aberdeen. Initially he confined himself to plain works, small headstones of simple design and bust pedestals. His implements were crude and the hand polishing process was slow and laborious. However,

with the aid of a wheel turned by two men, he succeeded in producing rounded forms. It must be remembered that at that time, the work of cutting, carving and turning stone was all performed by manual labour. As a contemporary remarked:

*'The whole granite trade in those days consisted of three journeymen masons, two or three apprentices and a dog'.*

But luck was on Alexander's side.... in the form of steam. Next to the MacDonald works was the famous comb making business of John Stewart, who had just installed a steam engine, at that time a novel form of power. Alexander arranged with his friend to obtain power from this source and thereby made the first attempt at polishing granite by machinery. The experiment proved a great success and MacDonald found that he could produce polished granite, an art forgotten since the days of the Ptolemys.



*Alexander MacDonald snr*

In 1832 the first polished tombstone of Aberdeen granite to be erected in an English cemetery was installed at Kensal Green. It caused a sensation in the London monumental trade and for some years all polished granite ordered came from MacDonalDs. In the early days granite was shipped down the East coast and up the Thames to Lambeth pier, where it was dispatched by cart pulled by Shire horses to monumental masons' yards and to the newly founded cemeteries in London.

The next big step Alexander MacDonalD was to make was to enter into partnership with the master mason and architect William Leslie in 1834. For the next 20 years Leslie designed many of the impressive monuments that were to come from the Constitution Street works, one such being the fountains in Trafalgar Square. All the Leslie-designed works were marked McDonald & Leslie.

William Leslie left MacDonalDs in 1853. He went on to design many great railway works in Scotland and eventually in 1869 became Lord Provost of Aberdeen. He died in 1879 and is buried in Oldmachar Churchyard, Aberdeen.

Alexander MacDonalD ran his firm alone from 1853 until his death on 23 March 1860. During this period MacDonalDs were producing polished works of many forms using Cairngall, Peterhead, and Aberdeen granites, and exporting them all over the world. On his grave in Nellfield Cemetery, Aberdeen, his son Alexander erected a mural monument in Aberdeen granite embellished by a bronze medallion.

After his father's death the firm was carried on under trustees by his son and Robert Fergusson, In 1863 Alexander the younger assumed direct control of the business with Sidney Field as his partner. Robert Fergusson also acquired an interest in the firm at this time and for the next 20 years the business carried on under the name Alexander MacDonalD, Field and Co. This period was the pinnacle of MacDonalDs output. The workshops at 121 Constitution Street, Aberdeen covered four acres!

Sidney Field was an artist as well as an architect. He designed many of the embellishments that were used on large public buildings that give the firm its reputation. Field was also responsible for designing many of the firm's cemetery monuments. He produced some innovative designs that were still available from the MacDonalD catalogue in the 1930s.

Alexander jnr died on 27 December 1884 and was buried in St Machar's Cathedral burial ground, Aberdeen. During the 20 years he ran the company, which now employed over



*Grave of Alexander MacDonalD snr, Nellfield Cemetery*

100 people, he had amassed a large fortune. He bequeathed his huge art collection, which included works by Millais, Leighton, Watts, and Alma-Tadema, to the Aberdeen Art Gallery, one of the largest collections ever donated to it.



*Grave of Alexander MacDonal jnr, St Machar's Cathedral burial ground*

After the death of MacDonal, Robert Fergusson joined Sidney Field as a partner and the firm became a limited company with the name Alexander MacDonal & Co Ltd. Fergusson was Managing Director until he retired in 1893. The MacDonal Company was acquired by Henry Hutcheon in 1912 and traded as Henry Hutcheon Ltd until it closed in 1941 – Hutcheon's father had served his apprenticeship along with Robert Fergusson under Alexander MacDonal snr.

Many MacDonal monuments were purchased by companies who only erected them on site. MacDonals had offices at 369–375 Euston Road from

the 1860s, hence all the London area orders and designs would have been initiated from there. As no records or catalogues survive the only way to confirm that a monument was made by MacDonals or a successor to the firm is to look for a signature at the base. They are not always easy to spot!

One of the most famous MacDonal monuments is the huge double Cairngall sarcophagus at the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, which contains the remains of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The block for the sarcophagus is the largest block of flawless wrought granite in existence, and the fourth block quarried: the first three attempts ended in failure when flaws were discovered underneath the stones after they had been detached. The block of granite originally weighed 30 tons. Twelve Clydesdale horses were needed to pull it from the quarry to the MacDonal works.



*Gravestone of Thomas Newman Farquhar at Norwood (grave 10,420, square 32) and detail of signature at bottom right*



Manager Robert Fergusson stated that after the rough granite was shaped, hollowed out, and polished it gave a total weight of nine tons. The lid alone weighs five tons and the whole sarcophagus rests on polished granite blocks. The four massive bronze angels attached to each corner were designed by Marochetti and cast by Barbedienne in Paris. Alexander MacDonald received Letters Patent as “Her Majesty’s Workers in Granite” in 1867 after completing the sarcophagus.

*Some MacDonald Monuments at Norwood*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Principal burial</i>	<i>Company</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Grave (square)</i>
1847	John Doulton (1793–1873)	McDonald & Leslie Sculpt	Aberdeen	1,808 (40)
1856	James Clark (d. 1856)	A MacDonald Sculpt	Aberdeen	4,994 (36)
1857	John Hepburn (1789–1876)	MacDonald Field & Co	Aberdeen	5,308 (69)
1864	James Kershaw MP (1795–1864)	A MacDonald	Aberdeen	9,150 (40/41)
1866	William Joshua Hollebone (d. 1866)	A MacDonald	Aberdeen	10,101 (61)
1866	Thomas Newman Farquhar (1809–1866)	A MacDonald	Aberdeen	10,420 (32)
1879	Mary Murrell (d. 1879)	MacDonald Field & Co	Euston Road, NW	17,340 (38)
1887	Henrietta Louisa Ingram (d. 1887)	A MacDonald & Co Ltd	Aberdeen & Euston Rd	21,623 (120)



*Square 40/41: James Kershaw MP (1795–1864) (grave 9,150) and behind Charles Elworthy (1834–1870) (grave 12,958)*

MacDonalds produced their finest commissions in the period 1860–1900. They received medals at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and at other International exhibitions: three in Paris, 1867; Philadelphia, 1876; Paris, 1878; and Melbourne, 1880. Interestingly, much of the evolution of the firm can be traced at Norwood, as the above table shows. Without doubt the finest of the surviving Norwood memorials is that to the cotton mill owner James Kershaw MP, attributed to Alfred Waterhouse, and listed Grade II together with the adjacent tomb to Charles James Elworthy, also by Waterhouse. I would be surprised if there were not further MacDonald monuments at Norwood.

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# The Founders of Camberwell House Asylum

Fiona Subotsky and Jill Dudman

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In W.H. Blanch's *Ye Parish of Camerwell* (1877) we read that:

*'The asylum known as Camberwell House, in the Peckham Road, with its surrounding pleasure and garden grounds, occupies a space of some 20 acres, part of which is laid out in a park-like manner, the remainder being kept for the use of patients who take an interest in garden pursuits. The principal building on the north side of Peckham Road was built ... for a school... and in 1846 the late Mr Aubin, with Dr Paul and Mr Richards, opened it as an asylum for the insane, and the two latter gentlemen have made such additions and improvements as to render Camberwell House Asylum the largest of its kind in the metropolis...'*

Numbers 30, 32 and 34 Peckham Road date from 1790. Nos. 30 and 32 were occupied as a school and were named Alfred House. The school was later sold to the Royal Navy and became the Royal Naval School. When the School relocated in 1846, Alfred House was re-named Camberwell House and converted to a mental asylum by Dr Paul. It closed in 1955 and the building was occupied by Southwark Council as offices. The buildings are now again changing use, having been largely taken over by the Camberwell College of Arts. No trace is left of their former function as even the lettering 'CH' has been removed recently. However, explorations in the cemetery records have helped unearth more information about Dr Paul and his associates Frederick Aubin and Alfred Richards.

*Dr John Hayball Paul (1816–1899)*



*John Hayball Paul (Journal of Mental Science 1899; XLV: frontispiece)*

John Hayball Paul was born on 1 January 1816, in the Isle of Wight, to John and Sarah (née Hayball) Paul, both of Newport. John Hayball came to London for medical training, being apprenticed to Mr Newington, a surgeon general practitioner of Spital Square. He studied at Westminster and St Bartholomew's Hospitals and obtained the basic qualifications of Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) in 1840, and of Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries (LSA) in 1845. Later that year he married Frederick George Aubin's 18-year-old daughter, Mary Ann, at All Saints Church, Croydon.

In December 1845 he and Frederick Aubin applied to the Lunacy Board for a licence for an asylum in Camberwell. This was opposed by local residents, but the conclusion was that:



*'the Board would not feel justified under the circumstances in refusing the licence, especially after the heavy outlay incurred by Messrs Aubin and Paul under the reasonable expectation of its being granted'.*

The Camberwell House venture was a great success. Its timing was excellent as the Lunacy Act (1845), attempting both to obtain better provision for the mentally ill and remedy a variety of abuses, had recommended that lunatics should be removed from pauper workhouses and looked after in special premises licensed for the purpose.

Paul became MD St Andrews (1854), FRCP Edin. (1858), and MRCP Lond. and FRCS Eng. (1859), and amassed a small fortune – his estate was worth £238,000. He was a popular treasurer of the Medico-Psychological Association, in part no doubt because he subsidised it from time to time out of his own pocket, and was a benefactor of several charitable organisations, and a Governor of the Bethlem Hospital. He was described as:

*'esteemed and beloved by all', 'a wealthy man who dispensed charity with a liberal hand, he was always a kind, sympathetic friend, considerate and courteous to all, an honourable and upright man in all his dealings'.*

It was known from obituaries that Hayball Paul had been buried at Norwood hence a search for Paul graves was made. It transpires that John Paul, Hayball Paul's father, of Cannon Street, City of London, was the owner of grave 665 (square 66). Therein lie Thomas Binney Paul (d. 1843), Hannah Tayler (d. 1858), and Sarah Paul (d. 1859). A search of this extensively-cleared area has revealed no trace of a gravestone, and indeed the plot may have been re-used.

Thomas Binney was Hayball Paul's younger brother, who like him had been born in the Isle of Wight; in the 1841 census he was (probably) a pupil aged 16 at Claremont House School, Peckham High Street; Sarah Paul was John Hayball's mother, and Hannah Tayler her widowed sister. Curiously, in the censuses of 1841 and 1851, it is Hannah who is recorded as living with John Paul snr, while Sarah is living with her daughter Mariana at Camberwell House, where she died.



*Tombstone of Mary and John Hayball Paul (grave 28,193, square 34)*

Hayball Paul died from renal disease shortly after his wife in 1899. They are buried in the same grave at Norwood. The *South London Press* reported that Dr Paul's cortège included a car and six carriages, two of which belonged to prosperous local doctors, Dr Stocker, the Medical Superintendent of Peckham Road Asylum, and Dr Shapter Robinson of Telfourd House. The chief mourners included his son-in-law William

Boteler, all six of his grand-daughters, two husbands, and a fiancé. Paul's daughter Elizabeth was not present, perhaps ill, as she died in the following year.

Hayball Paul's wealth had no doubt helped the social advance of his grand-daughters. Elizabeth had married into the aristocratic Boteler family. Her husband, William John Casberd Boteler, attained the rank of Commander RN. They had 6 daughters, Ethel, Inez, Ella, Blanche, Dorothy, and Muriel.

#### *Frederick George Aubin (1807–1860)*

Whilst little is yet known of F.G. Aubin's antecedents it is clear that he too was a successful businessman who married advantageously. His father-in-law, William Richards, had been the proprietor of Marlborough House Workhouse in Peckham High Street, which for many years took both the long-term paupers from the City and also all the many 'casuals', who caused problems in the workhouse and in the neighbourhood. Several members of the Richards family also became managers of workhouses, so there was a family tradition. Census studies have revealed that John Paul snr worked for the City of London Union, which suggests one possibility of how the Pauls and Aubins met and worked together. F.G. Aubin himself owned and ran the large Aubin's Norwood School of Industry, which received all the pauper children from the City of London.<sup>1</sup>

The City took over ownership in 1849, keeping Aubin as Superintendent, and built an even larger institution in Hanwell, where Aubin died in 1860. Although some complaints emerged causing Aubin to defend himself in *The Times*, the Norwood School was generally well thought of, with even Charles Dickens commenting favourably on its combined régime of education and vocational training after a visit in 1850. Aubin's wife Elizabeth (née Richards, J.H. Paul's mother-in-law) died at Camberwell House in 1848.

One of Frederick Aubin's sons, also Frederick George (1832–1906), qualified as a doctor and moved about considerably, giving different information about himself. He married his first wife, Alvarella Garman, in 1852, but in 1861 she is living with her mother 'on a weekly allowance'. Frederick George jnr, also known as 'St Aubin', was by then in Worcestershire with another 'wife' and child. Alvarella's children, Elizabeth (1854–1934) and Waterhouse (1859–1886) are not buried with either parent. However, Elizabeth married Alfred Lidington in 1874, with John Hayball Paul as a witness, which explains the purchase on 7 October 1895 of grave 26,571 (square 122) at Norwood by Alfred Lidington. The grave contains one burial, that of Frances Alverella Aubin (d. 1895). Sadly, this part of the cemetery has been cleared extensively and no monument remains.

#### *Alfred Richards (1821-1887)*

In 1841 Alfred Richards, Aubin's wife's younger brother, was at the Norwood School of Industry as a 'clerk' and in 1851 at the Camberwell Asylum as a 'gentleman'. By 1861, still at Camberwell House and now a qualified barrister, he is named as a proprietor, having become a partner in the business of 'Aubin & Co'. By 1871, Alfred had moved to Tewkesbury Lodge, Forest Hill, where he died in 1887, leaving nearly £72,000. There is

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<sup>1</sup> The School was located on the south side of Westow Hill, Upper Norwood. It was a quite separate establishment to the similar-sounding workhouse school run by Lambeth parish, which was situated on Elder Road, West Norwood (see [www.workhouses.org.uk/Norwood](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Norwood))

mysteriously little trace of any wife, but he had three daughters: Emma Sophia (1851–1937), Alice Florence (1853–1929), and Elizabeth Evelyn (1856–1937).

Alfred Richards lies in a vault purchased on 20 April 1887 by Claude Baggallay for £43 17s 6d (about £23,000 in today's earnings). Subsequent burials in the vault were Alfred's daughters Alice (d. 1929) and her husband Edward Dugdale (d. 1931), Emma Moore-Brabazon (d. 1937), and the cremated remains of Elizabeth Baggallay (d. 1937). The final burial (1947) was of Evelyn, Lady Amherst, née Baggallay. The last owners of the plot (1937) are recorded as Alfred Dugdale and Lord Brabazon of Tara.<sup>2</sup>

Claude Baggallay KC (1853–1906), Elizabeth's brother-in-law, was the 4<sup>th</sup>

son of Sir Richard Baggallay. Claude was born on 26 October 1853. He was called to the Bar on 3 July 1878 by Lincoln's Inn, and worked mainly at the Parliamentary Bar. In 1881 he married a daughter of Sir Richard Henry Wyatt of Garthyngared, Merionethshire. Much involved with the Thames Conservancy Bill (1894), he worked for most of the London Water Companies. He died on 13 July 1906, and is buried in Lingfield.



*Sir Richard Baggallay (1868)*



*The Family Vault of Alfred Richards Esq  
(grave 21,749, square 34)*

The Rt Hon Sir Richard Baggallay QC MP (1816–1888) was born in Stockwell and was one of the original proprietors of the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company. He was knighted in 1868 and was Solicitor General in 1868 and again in 1874, and Attorney General, 1874–1875. He was appointed to the newly-established Court of Appeal in 1875 where he served until his death in 1888. He is buried at Norwood (grave 13,875, square 33) together with some members of his family, viz. Richard Baggallay (d. 1872), Vera Baggallay (d. 1883), Lady Marianne Baggallay née Lacy (1824–1890), and Marian Baggallay (d. 1914). While Lady Marianne was Sir Richard's wife, the identity of the others is not yet clear. More anon...

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<sup>2</sup> The son of Emma and John Moore-Brabazon, John Theodore Cuthbert Moore-Brabazon, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Brabazon of Tara GBE MC PC (1884–1964), was an aviation pioneer and Conservative politician. The first Englishman to pilot a heavier-than-air machine under power in England, he served as Minister of Transport and Minister of Aircraft Production during World War II until forced to resign for expressing anti-Russian sentiments.



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## The Iron Tsar

The Life and Times of John Hughes

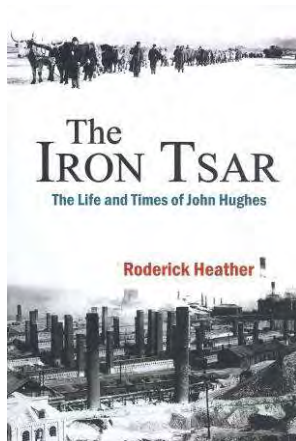
Book Review – Bob Flanagan

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*Roderick Heather. Brighton: Pen Press, 2010. Illustrated, 217 pp. Softback, £8.99*

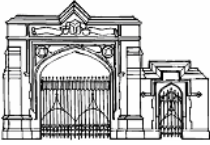
It is a coincidence that this book should appear as the restoration of the Hughes family grave at Norwood was being planned. Illustrated by images from the Glamorgan Record Office collection, this volume not only tells the story of Hughes' remarkable career and of the establishment of Hughesovka in the Ukraine, but also gives much background information. The fact that so many photographs of the enterprise survive, for example, is attributed to the presence of three photographic studios in Hughesovka by 1897, a measure of the relative wealth of the community at that time. Also detailed is a problem that arose over the naming of the community – the Russian tradition was to adopt the name of the founder or owner of the area, but there is no 'H' in the Russian alphabet hence Yusovka or Iuzovka in addition to Russian Юзовка and Ukrainian Юзівка. The role of Hughes' four surviving sons in running the company after their father's death is outlined. In turn all the sons were dead by 1917 when the Bolshevik revolution took hold, and perforce the family interest in managing the enterprise lapsed. Albert Llewellyn Hughes (1857–1907, grave 18,353 square 91), the youngest of the four, had trained as an analytical chemist and took over the management of the blast furnaces and analytical laboratories when John Hughes himself died in 1889. On Albert's death his wife moved to St Petersburg and re-married into the Tolstoy family. Both his daughters married Russian noblemen, one of whom had the sad fate of being buried alive by the Bolsheviks.



This book is not the first to be written about Hughesovka and the New Russia Company.<sup>3</sup> However, I did find that it helped place Hughes' achievements in the context of the political and industrial developments that were taking place in Britain and in Russia during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Amongst the challenges that faced Hughes was the need to convert to large-scale steel production because of the discovery of the eponymous converter by his contemporary and near-neighbour in South London and in death, Sir Henry Bessemer (grave 27,463, square 99). In the US, I understand that some eight towns or cities bear the name Bessemer. Although the name Hughesovka has disappeared from contemporary maps, the Hughes legacy lives on in the Ukraine.

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<sup>3</sup> Others include *Iuzovka and Revolution*, vol. I: *Life and Work in Russia's Donbass*, vol. II: *Politics and Revolution in Russia's Donbass, 1869–1924*. T.H. Friedgut. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989 and 1994, respectively, and *Dreaming a City: From Wales to Ukraine* (Book & DVD). Colin Thomas. Aberystwyth: Y Lolfa, 2010



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## Roofing the County of Surrey with Crystal

A play by Sue Blundell

Review – Paul Graham

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On Saturday 26 November 2011 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire that destroyed the Crystal Palace, the South London Theatre company gave a reading of a play in the Greek Chapel especially written for the occasion. The action was set in 1854, shortly after the move from Hyde Park to Sydenham, and also in 1936, as it burned to the ground. The link was Lizzie Jackson, a ten-year-old girl visiting the Palace with her parents at the earlier date, and who lived long enough to witness its destruction.

Imaginatively capturing one of the most remarkable features of the Palace - the indiscriminate mingling of the classes - the young Lizzie (Lorraine Spenceley), her mother Nancy (Jeanette Hoile), and her father Jack (Stevie Hughes), a navvy who worked on the move from Hyde Park, encounter some 'toffs' in the guise of Harriet Martineau (Janet Haney), Charles Darwin (John Irvine), his brother Erasmus (Derek Dempsey), and John Ruskin (Christopher Poke).

Ruskin's intemperate disdain for the building and its contents, both representing for him a cheap and tawdry replica of genuine culture, was convincingly conveyed. It was his sneer that you might: 'roof the whole of the county of Surrey with crystal, and still not see any worthwhile art' that provided the title for this entertainment. Ms Martineau fulsomely expressed the contrary view; being impressed by the spectacle of the working-classes enjoying their recreation in a peaceful and rational manner.

Ms Haney captured the loud, hectoring aspect of Ms Martineau's character splendidly. The ear-trumpet reminded everyone of her being hard of hearing, and therefore of her right to be somewhat overbearing. This was the Harriet Martineau whose publicly expressed anti-theological views provoked Douglas Jerrold, originator of the name 'Crystal Palace', to his celebrated quip: 'There is no God - and Harriet Martineau is his prophet'.

There was much to amuse apart from the clash between Martineau and Ruskin. Fun was had with the fact that the nude male statues (an innovation at Sydenham) were anatomic-



ally correct. The move to apply strategically placed fig leaves at the insistence of self-appointed guardians of the nation's moral welfare was thwarted by a shortage of plaster foliage!

Although the cast immersed themselves in their characters by adopting period costume, this was a rehearsed reading rather than a staged performance. The positioning of the cameraman from Croydon television (for later transmission via their website) did obscure the view for some of the audience, but in essence this was an audio entertainment rather than a visual one. Given the nature of the production, a special mention must also be

made of the sound effects produced by Ri Iyovwaye. The crackle of the flames engulfing the Palace and the military and patriotic music within it, all added to the effectiveness of the production.

This play gave voice to the contrasting views of notable opponents and proponents of the Crystal Palace. It also contrasted the unprecedented wealth and ingenuity on display with the poverty of some of those who had contributed to its success. The performance, in this marvellously atmospheric venue, was judged an unqualified success by an appreciative audience whose walk through the cemetery at night was well rewarded.



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## Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

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Some 70 visitors attended our tours on Open House Day on 18 September despite Lambeth's Car Free Day restricting access to the cemetery, and a further 20 or 30 made their own way directly to the Greek Chapel. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day and especially Colin Fenn, who concluded each tour by talking about the Greek Chapel.

Following our AGM (15 October), we welcomed Jonathan Lovie, Conservation Policy Advisor and Principal Conservation Officer for England at the Garden History Society. The GHS is a statutory consultee on planning proposals for historic landscaped sites identified by English Heritage as being of national significance, and which are included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. Jonathan spoke about the factors considered in grading, as well as his views on the aesthetic aspects of cemetery landscapes in general.



*St James' Gardens, Liverpool – Grade I (?)*

Some of the cemeteries described included London Road Cemetery, Coventry, designed by Joseph Paxton and opened in 1847, and now Grade I on the Register thanks to the survival of Paxton's layout and the cemetery structures, and the high standard of planting. Another at Grade I (despite being largely cleared in the 1970s) is St James's Cemetery, Liverpool. This opened within a disused quarry in 1829, resulting in a dramatic landscape with ramps for hearses coming down the quarry walls and catacombs cut into the rock face.

On 19 November John White gave an update of his talk on Brompton Cemetery. The Brigade of Guards memorial has been restored recently, and John showed views of the re-dedication ceremony at which soldiers from all five regiments of Foot Guards were present. There was also discussion about the planning application to build multi-storey blocks overlooking the cemetery. Notables mentioned and that were not mentioned in the report of his earlier talk (Newsletter 67, January 2010) included John Wisden, cricketer

and publisher of the famous Almanack; Brandon Thomas, actor and playwright best known for the farce *Charley's Aunt*; George Borrow, author who wrote about the Romany gypsies; and Charles Fremantle, naval officer who claimed possession of Western Australia, and after whom the city of Fremantle was named.

Some striking monuments were highlighted. That to 'Gentleman' John Jackson, pugilist, is topped by a massive lion, and that of Robert Coombes, champion Thames oarsman, has statues at its corners of Coombes and three other champion oarsmen, sadly vandalised. John pointed out some further Norwood connections: before her marriage to Charles Bravo (grave 15,982, square 87), for example, his wealthy wife Florence had been married to Alexander Ricardo (d. 1871), who is interred in the catacombs at Brompton.



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## Forthcoming FOWNC Events

January-April 2012

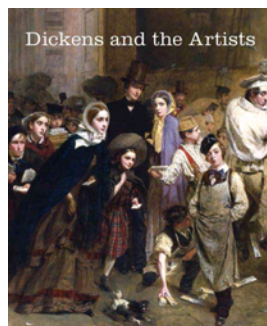
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Introductory tours of the Cemetery (1 January, 5 February, and 4 March at 11.00, 1 April at 14.30) start at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road and last about 2 hours. Talks will be held at Chatsworth Baptist Church, Chatsworth Way (off Norwood Road), SE27 (enter by second door on right in Idmiston Road), starting at 14.30. Talks and tours are free, but welcome donations towards conservation projects.

### **Saturday 18 February: Lecture – George Cattermole (1800–1868), Leonee Ormond**

The artist George Cattermole (grave 8,071, square 23) specialised in scenes of chivalry and medievalism. He was employed as an illustrator by John Britton (1771-1857, grave 5,235, square 119) and was related by marriage to Charles Dickens, for whom he contributed illustrations for *Barnaby Rudge* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Leonee Ormond is Professor of Victorian Studies at King's College London, and has published books on Frederic Lord Leighton, Linley Sambourne, and George Du Maurier. She is an author of *Dickens and the Artists*, which is to be published by Yale University Press in June 2012.



### **Saturday 17 March: Lecture – White Bronze: A Lasting Legacy, Bob Flanagan**

Blue-grey cast zinc ('white bronze') memorials are a delight that can be found in many cemeteries in the US and Canada. They were produced from 1873–1914 and were never fully accepted because people did not believe the claim that they were superior to stone. How wrong can you be? Many of these relatively inexpensive monuments remain in excellent condition, with detail as crisp as when they were cast, although some have sagged a bit. The chemistry is simple: a tough zinc carbonate skin protects the underlying metal from corrosion, as in the case of galvanized iron, and also gives the monuments their characteristic colour, which is a valuable aid to field identification as the monuments were cast in the same style as contemporary tombstones. Amaze your friends with your ability to spot them amidst a forest of marble!

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## A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

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The cast iron ornamental supports to the railings that surrounded the houses that stood on Norwood High Street where West Norwood Library now stands are one of the glories of the cemetery. Presumably cast by Bramah & Robinson (see Newsletter 68, May 2010), the railings are intact save for a section that has been reinstated in tubular steel. However, at the right-angle turn in the railings (square 126, see illustration) there is an extra support that boasts two spindles on which presumably a gate once hung. But a gate to where? There was no path here according to the cemetery plan, and anyway no break in the railings that needed a gate.



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

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