

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020



**Back in
the 90s...**

**HIGHGATE
CEMETERY.**

President

The Lord Palumbo of Walbrook

Vice Presidents

Derek Barratt

Ian Kelly

John Murray

Chair

Martin Adeney

Trustees

Doreen Aislabie

Katy Baldwin

April Cameron

Charles Essex

Nicola Jones

Steve Kennard

Lucy Lelliott

Stuart Orr

Teresa Sladen

Nigel Thorne

Eve Wilder

Protectors

Dr Tye Blackshaw

Richard Morris

Philip Williams

Staff

Dr Ian Dungavell *fsa* **Chief Executive**

Nikki Druce **Volunteering Manager**

Judith Etherton **Archivist**

Claire Freston **Registrar**

Victor Herman **Sexton**

Sally Kay **Bookkeeper & Membership**

Nick Powell **Visitor Experience**

Manager

Lucy Thompson **Operations Manager**

Editor

Ian Dungavell

With thanks to

Martin Adeney, Gian Luca Amadei,
Rose Constantine, Judith Etherton,
Jennie Gray, John Shepperd.

The December 2020 issue will be
posted on 13 November 2020.
Contributions are due by 8 October
2020.

Registered Office

Highgate Cemetery

Swain's Lane, London N6 6PJ

Telephone 020 8340 1834

Web www.highgatecemetery.org

Company Number 3157806

Charity Number 1058392

Chair's note 3**Growing up by the Boneyard** 5**Unlocking the West Cemetery** ... 10**Brookwood Cemetery plans for
transformation** 12**News roundup** 14**Historic cemeteries news** 16**Cover photograph**

Crowds during a West Cemetery open day in the early 1990s. By contrast, during the recent self-guided access days an atmosphere of tranquillity has been maintained. The view is of part of the Upper Circle path, taken from the roof of the Terrace Catacombs; the Beer Mausoleum would be on the left.

Photo: Highgate Cemetery archives

Chair's note



The last newsletter was sent you at a time of great uncertainty and foreboding as the gates of lockdown were closing on us and we could see visitor income abruptly vanishing. Five months on, prospects are still uncertain but thanks to the imagination and hard work of our staff we are looking forward more confidently and enjoying an unexpected success.

As Ian Dungavell explains elsewhere, the Trustees have had the declared aim of opening up the West Cemetery for people to self-guide for a number of years. Unexpectedly the pandemic, which restricted group tours, brought an opportunity to trial it. The experiment has been a resounding success, with a lovely atmosphere, as I can confirm from my own exploratory visits.

We haven't seen anything like the clogged paths from the 1990s pictured on our cover. Visitors have been respectful, well-distanced, generally well-behaved and very appreciative of the help and information provided by our volunteers. And a recent online forum of volunteers made clear that they were enjoying it too. What a way we have come since the days described here by Jennie Gray when she characterised some of the Friends as 'very officious, brusque and rude'. Thank you to all concerned.

Now it is time to evaluate our experience paying attention to everyone's views including grave owners.

Looking farther forward, we will be reviewing our financial position, damaged by lockdown but sustained by continuing grave sales and the return of some visitor income, pressing ahead with appointing specialists for our crucial Landscape Plan and most important of all, doing our best to progress our Parliamentary Bill, currently stalled in Parliament but so vital to enable us to continue as an operating cemetery.

We are open for business again. And thank you to all our staff, working or furloughed, who have made it possible.

Martin Adeney, Chair



Growing up by the Boneyard

Writing in 1997, JENNIE GRAY remembers wandering about Highgate Cemetery as a child in the late 1950s and taking a tour almost forty years later

When I was a child, we lived for a while in Highgate, in a modernistic sub-Corbusier creation which in no way fitted in with the rest of the local architecture.

At the time our house was built, only ten years after the Second World War, Britain was in the grip of a lust for demolition. Town planners everywhere were competing to finish the destruction wrought by the German bombers, and were tipping out entire city centres on the spurious grounds of war damage. Even the most superb architectural gems could be torn down with hardly any protest if they could be said to have been damaged by enemy action. In some cases, this was taken to such extremes that just a few broken slates on the roof could be a building's death warrant.

Perhaps that is what had happened to the house which had once stood on our site. Certain evidence of it remained, such as the garden walls and the gate posts inscribed with its name, 'The Lawns'. It had been Victorian, the end house of a handsome terrace, and its two surviving fellows still stood next door, making the architectural contrast even more stark.

Our back garden had originally been very long, but the bottom part of it had been purchased by our architect for his own house. It was a while, however, before he

got round to using his plot, so we had a jungle of our own to play in. It was a most dramatic jungle, for the wall at the back ended with a long drop down into Highgate Cemetery, which panned out at a lower level than our garden over many, many acres of silent spellbound necropolis.

Highgate Cemetery at that period was almost completely neglected, overgrown, tangled, and in places quite impenetrable, the remains of hugely-expensive tombs poking out of the lush vegetation. It was virtually deserted — not even the vandals had yet acquired an interest in it. We would drop down into it — and it was a very long drop, twelve to fifteen feet, or more — and the moment of impact was always horrible, a nauseous jolting shock followed by a dull pain which reverberated through every atom of one's bones. I have no memory at all of how we got back up the wall again. Perhaps there was a tree that made it easy; perhaps we just walked round to the gates, up Swain's Lane, and into Pond Square again.

It was the West Cemetery into which we dropped, which has the most spectacular monuments, and the most spectacular of all were very, very close to our wall: the Circle of Lebanon, a weird concourse of sunken vaults, presided over by a giant Cedar of Lebanon, and the Terrace Catacombs,

Left Highgate Cemetery: '... neglected, overgrown, tangled, and in places quite impenetrable'

Photo © John Gay

Photographs In scenes from Anthony Perry's short film *Emma* (1964), children play in the West cemetery, much as Jennie here recalls playing with Nicholas. Touching or climbing on monuments is nowadays forbidden! Watch it free at player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-emma-1965-online.



an underground gallery more than eighty yards long, with 825 recesses for the receptacles of the dead. Leading to the Circle of Lebanon was the Egyptian Avenue, with an iron gateway under a massive Pharaonic arch flanked by richly ornate pillars. Near to our wall, and very visible from our garden, was the Beer mausoleum, reputedly modelled at vast expense on one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the huge burial chamber of King Mausolus at Halicarnassus. Close to that immense and bombastic creation — and likewise very visible from our garden — was the spire of St Michael's Church, the church where Coleridge, one of my heroes, is buried. The third part of the triangle was the immense Victorian church in Pond Square whose bulk overshadowed our garden. Naturally, looking out on all this stuff every day, I became infected with the Gothic for life.

Consecrated in 1839, in its heyday Highgate Cemetery was the most magnificent and fashionable burial place in London. It had a splendid hillside site and was highly dramatic — the two principal features, the Egyptian Avenue and the Circle of Lebanon, gave it an intensity of focus that other Victorian necropoli, some with equally splendid monuments, seemed to lack.

I wonder now what on earth people like my parents, or those buying the little ultra-modern boxes in Bacon's Lane, thought when they looked out over Highgate Cemetery in 1957. Such things had gone completely out of fashion, and they must have regarded the place as not only dangerous but disgustingly insanitary. The senseless carnage of the First World War had severed, apparently forever, the link to the old-style Victorian flamboyant funeral. Now people preferred to be cremated, and memorial gardens had replaced the old necropoli, neat, dull, stultifyingly boring creations, with tiny brass plates, bowling green grass, and hybrid tea roses in bald weedless beds, all thoroughly municipal and mundane.

The huge amount of money required to keep Highgate's lush plantings under control had run out with its popularity and its spare plots. When we lived in Highgate, it was just about holding its own. When we left, in the early sixties, it was entering a decade of ruin which nearly finished it.

Vandalism became for the first time an appalling problem, and there were rumours of the place being used for black magic, of unsavoury cults meeting there after dark, of tombs being broken into, coffins desecrated, and corpses used for dark





and sinister purposes. A kind of collective hysteria began to gather in the air. The place had long been reputed to be haunted, and from 1967 onwards people began to report sightings of a demonic entity, either inside the cemetery itself or at the topmost gates in Swain's Lane, which rapidly translated into the belief that a vampire walked there.

Soon the Circle of Lebanon became a particular source of fascination, and was deemed to contain the resting place of this malign entity. The mania reached a peak in 1970, when dead animals, drained of blood, began to appear in the cemetery and nearby Waterlow Park. In March of that year, a television report on the alleged vampire led to scenes of utter pandemonium as hundreds of people

converged on the scene that night, eager to hunt down the vampire. Some went through the gates, some scaled the ten foot high walls. Later there were several more commando-style raids to exorcise the vampire by sundry self-appointed vampire hunters, whose main problem was not in evading the walking dead but the hyped-up and extremely irritated local police.

The Cemetery finally closed its heavy iron gates in 1975. The place appeared doomed until the Friends, a registered charity, took over. They have performed an invaluable job in saving the place, but their work has not been without its severe critics even amongst cemetery aficionados. The Friends often seem irritable primadonnas, paranoid, suspicious, and just plain difficult for the sake of it. No one is allowed to go through the Cemetery now without a guide and they keep a very close check on the members of their party.

When I went back there with my friend, Ruth, last May, we were drilled into line by several very officious and off-putting officials, people who acted brusque and rude as if they belonged to a superior sect to us the ignorant, lumpen, gawping sightseers. Only our actual guide had pleasant manners, a neat elegant grey-haired lady who had first known the place





in the early sixties, probably about the same time that I left Highgate.

The Cemetery has a reputation of having been spoiled by the Friends. Some say the place has been tamed and dulled by an over-enthusiastic resort to the pruning hook and the chain saw, but it did not look spoiled to me the day that I went back there, last May. The Friends have removed the most rampant of the undergrowth but then that was absolutely essential if the place was not to collapse under the weight of the strangling brambles, columbine, nightshade, and ivy.

I did not see ghosts there when I was a child. What I remember most of all is the intensely exotic nature of the jungle, and the Circle of Lebanon, which was sunk into the ground like a giant biscuit tin, the pavement which surrounded the central nucleus being clearly visible from the terrace above. I don't remember descending the steps into the Circle, I just remember looking down on it from a safe vantage point. I was excessively conscious that under my feet the whole place was honeycombed with these mole-like workings, and the very ground seemed treacherous and unsafe, with none of the safe dull solidity of normal terra firma.

Children were forbidden to play in the



cemetery on the grounds that it was dangerous, but firstly the few remaining employees were easy to outwit, and secondly the cemetery was an irresistible attraction with its utterly strange and mesmerising architecture, swathed and strangled with brambles and ivy, the statues appearing out of the green murk, and the doors of the tombs, massive and portentous, sternly protecting the dread secrets inside them. And yet I did not find it particularly eerie, I felt at home there, and only that unstable feeling, the almost liquid feel of the ground, bothered me occasionally and made me feel I wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible.

The hospitals in which I spent much of my time were eerie, not this superb lush jungle full of what seemed to be impossibly



ancient monuments. I think that the fact it was full of the dead actually meant very little to us — it was the sheer exploding overwhelming romanticism of the place that attracted, and we could hardly have found anything comparable elsewhere — this was romanticism on a truly galactic scale.

I say we — I don't remember whom I went with, not my sister I am sure, because she was physically timid and rotten at climbing, and my brother must have been too small and too young. Probably it was Nicholas, a bosom pal of mine from Bacon's Lane, the tiny cul-de-sac next door which likewise backed onto Highgate Cemetery. Nicholas and I were often in trouble. Once he told me that it was okay to eat all the gooseberries in the neighbour's garden as they had given him permission to do so before they went on holiday. We duly ate all the gooseberries. Then the ill deed was discovered, and there was punishment, heavy punishment, which I regarded as entirely unfair as I had not consciously done wrong. I never, ever forgave Nicholas.

Once the plot behind our house was built on, I lost the easy access to Highgate Cemetery and it became difficult to get over the wall unnoticed. Besides, much of the fun disappeared when I broke with Nicholas. There is nothing like giggling and

scheming with an equally revolting crony and getting up to all the things one isn't supposed to. A great deal of the charm of Highgate Cemetery was precisely that it was forbidden territory. I understand entirely why the vampire hunters kept going back there a decade later — not only was there a putative fiend to locate, but also there was the never-ending fun of dodging the lumbering police and security guards. I am only sorry that my family left Highgate too early and that, as a consequence, I missed the party. ■

A longer version of this article appeared in *Udolpho*, the magazine of the Gothic Society, in Summer 1997.

ARCHITECTURAL NOTE

Jennie's childhood home, 'The Lawns', at 16 South Grove, was designed by Leonard Manasseh (1916-2017), one of the leading British architects of the 1960s and a highly-regarded designer and teacher. It was dramatically transformed in 2000 with a series of glass extensions designed by the architectural practice Eldridge Smerin for Frances and John Sorrell. This project was shortlisted for the Stirling Prize, and won a Royal Institute of British Architects Award in 2001, a Civic Trust Award and Camden Design Award in 2002.

In 1957-9 Manasseh built his own home, 6 Bacon's Lane, on the former kitchen garden of 'The Lawns', overlooking the cemetery. It attracted great attention at the time and was listed Grade II in 2009 as ranking 'among the most notable architect-designed private houses of the 1950s'. ID





Unlocking the West Cemetery

IAN DUNGAVELL says that being able to allow visitors to roam is testament to the tremendous amount of work done by the Friends over the years

Visitors to Highgate Cemetery West have been restricted to guided tours since the 1970s due to concerns about health and safety, principally unsafe trees, unstable monuments and collapsing vaults. Occasional 'open days' were held, but the last one was a long time ago.

In our Conservation Plan, published last year, we expressed the longer-term aim to open Highgate Cemetery West for visitors to roam about in as they can already on the East side. This has happened rather sooner than anyone expected.

Along came the coronavirus, forcing everyone to think again about how they do things. Once the cemetery was able to reopen after the lockdown, social distancing restricted tour groups to five people and visitor numbers were massively down. Our established operating model was

no longer viable.

Even if we filled a whole day with tours, the revenue could only be a quarter of what it would have been. And this at what should have been our busiest months of the year. We wondered whether the time had come to trial opening up the West Cemetery for people to wander as they liked.

The Friends have done a lot of work over the years, including repairs to the monuments facing the main paths, and more recently a huge amount of work on tree safety. The cemetery is still not completely safe but we worked out that if we closed side paths and gave visitors a safety briefing then the risks were not great. Thankfully our health and safety advisors and our insurers agreed.

As we are all used to booking online now, limiting numbers is not a problem.

Left For many years, guided tours have been the only way to visit Highgate Cemetery West.
Photo © John Gay

Highgate Cemetery Newsletter

Tranquillity has been maintained: there have been no crowds as there were in earlier open days, as seen in the cover photo. And visitors have behaved with the decorum we would expect.

Not only that, there has been a huge amount of very positive feedback. Children under eight have been able to visit for the first time, and people whose disabilities made it difficult for them to participate in tours can now appreciate the extraordinary landscape.

One long-term resident of Highgate who remembered visiting on his own remarked that he felt like the cemetery had been given back to him. Others appreciated the presence of very helpful volunteers: ‘the stationed volunteers were very helpful but it was a treat, as someone who has visited several times, to be able to take more time in the cemetery.’

Another wrote: We loved ‘the whole ambience, calm and reflective. It’s just orderly enough without being too “managed”. We loved the occasional wildflower bloom. We liked looking at the unknown graves as much as the famous ones. We sat quietly on benches and enjoyed the shade.’

Nonetheless, it has to be said that visiting a cemetery can be hard work, and there is no doubt that taking one of our guided tours is still the best way for a first-time visitor to understand the site. Tours, rich with information, add immeasurably to the visitor experience. It would be great if we could offer them at the same time as the open access so as to give visitors a choice in how they experience the site, but social distancing means that it is not possible just now.

This month tours on weekday afternoons have been selling well but it is clear that

people are reluctant to book more than ten days ahead. Group tours are practically non-existent. Visitors to the East Cemetery are down to a quarter of what we might expect on a busy August weekend.

Highgate Cemetery, as a charity, relies entirely on self-generated income. Having no visitors for months has had a huge impact on our finances, and we hope that being able to welcome large numbers of visitors to the West Cemetery will go some way to repairing the damage.

What does the future hold? Well, I wish I knew. At the moment, medium-term planning is impossible. Who knows when a vaccine will be available? When we’ll be able to congregate in groups again? When overseas visitors will come flocking back?

Trustees, staff and volunteers will have to respond nimbly to developments to ensure that we are able to continue to look after this remarkable site for the benefit of the public. We are tremendously grateful for all the work that everyone has done so far. ■

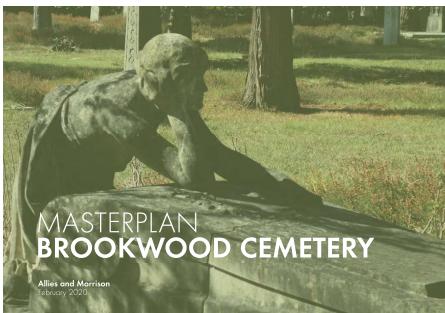
“ I had been very excited at the prospect of being able experience both the beauty and history of this very special place at my own pace. I have attended tours before which have all been excellent but had always hoped that at some point I would be afforded the opportunity to wander alone. Thus being able to truly feel at one with nature.

I was not to be disappointed and from the moment I first entered, my whole time spent there is something I will cherish. All of the staff who were on duty are a credit to the trust, highly knowledgeable, very warm and welcoming, most helpful.

”

Brookwood Cemetery plans for transformation

IAN DUNGAVELL wonders what we can learn from Woking Borough Council's recently-published Brookwood Cemetery Masterplan



Brookwood Cemetery, apparently still the largest cemetery in Western Europe is, like Highgate, a Grade 1-registered landscape. Established by the London Necropolis Company in 1854, it represents the commercial cemetery at its most ambitious. Hoping to establish a monopoly on the London burial market by planning for growth such that it could cater for all London's dead in perpetuity, famously it had its own railway line to carry corpses and mourners the twenty-three miles from a dedicated station at Waterloo.

Neglected for decades, Brookwood Cemetery was bought by Woking Borough Council in 2014. Since then there has been much conservation work, and already there is a sense of transformation about the place. Gone, for example, is much of the oppressive rhododendron. But now they are looking at the next ten to twenty years and the work which still needs to be done.

The Council began by commissioning a 'Conservation Management Framework' which set out an overall strategy for this very large and complex site. Building on that, a Masterplan by Allies and Morrison was published earlier this year which is intended to guide its future development.

The Council envisages Brookwood as 'an exemplary heritage recovery': 'a sustainable working cemetery leading the way for other heritage cemeteries'. As well as its primary function as a place of rest, it would also be a cultural destination.

The key points of its heritage vision are:

- Developing a robust model for heritage cemetery recovery after decades of neglect
- An exemplar for other Victorian cemeteries which have suffered similarly
- Making the cemetery's heritage relevant and meaningful to people today
- A unique restoration of a Victorian cemetery landscape.'

Top The Giant Redwood avenue along the former railway line is one of Brookwood's most impressive landscape elements

By necessity, projects would be phased. First would come some relatively small-scale improvements which could be implemented in the short term such as better maintenance and tree works, better parking, bins and signage, and restoration of some monuments at risk.

Visitor-focused works include the conversion of the former Superintendent's Lodge to a small cafe and exhibition space, and the enhancement of the old railway line, flanked by avenues of redwoods, as an important historic landscape feature.

Next would come a new temporary exhibition gallery. This would help promote an awareness of Brookwood's significance through hosting an expanded programme of arts and learning related to the heritage cemetery intended to attract arts audiences from Woking and London. Ambitiously, Brookwood would be established as 'a leading visitor destination in Surrey' – an aspiration not without its challenges!

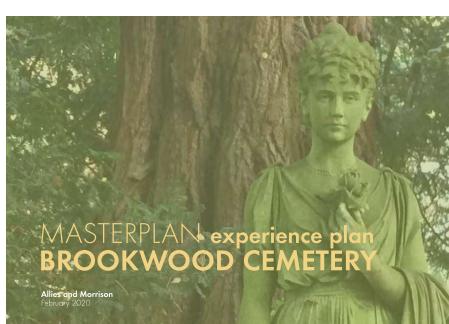
In the longer term, a second building would contain further meeting rooms and a dedicated archive to support the activities in other visitor centre buildings. Brookwood could then become a place of debate and exploration of life and death. A crematorium would also contribute to financial viability.

One particular element of the Masterplan

attracted great attention internationally: the idea of setting up a 'Museum of Death'. The suggestion was rather gingerly floated, it must be said, but the intention is that Brookwood would be a location without equal for a place dedicated to learning, thinking and talking about society and death. A museum is something Highgate Cemetery has been considering for a while; Brookwood has space we can only dream of.

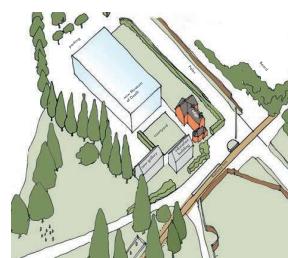
Alongside the Masterplan is an 'Experience Plan' to shape 'an enhanced visitor offer' at Brookwood. It looks at visitor facilities, audiences, interpretive themes and messages, and cultural programming. There would be more tours, talks and lectures, as well as exhibitions, concerts and cinema, as well as activities for schools.

As at Highgate, the splendour and variety of the cemetery's grounds argues against the use of overly complex or intrusive interpretative media on site, and the plan concludes that the cemetery's 'sights, sounds, smells and textures are all equally deserving of attention' and 'cautions against the development of any media (for example an audio guide) which would unduly disrupt or distract from the experience of the site as it is.' Something for us to think about! ■



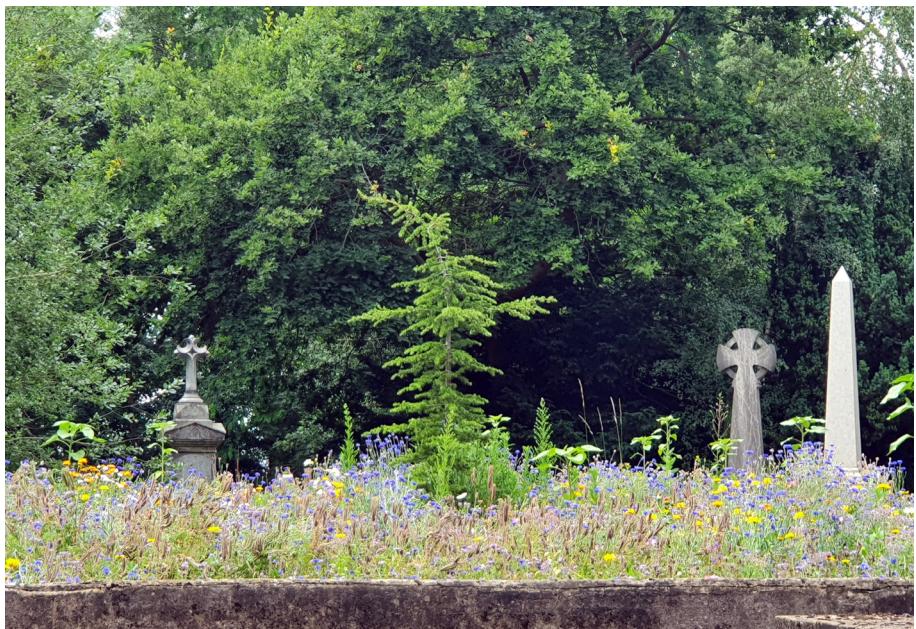
MASTERPLAN → experience plan
BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

Allied and Morrison
February 2020



Architectural drawing showing the new Museum of Death built on the site of the old office block.

Above Brookwood's 'Museum of Death' would be built on the site of an old office block



News roundup

The new cedar and the wildflower lawn

In glorious isolation at the centre of the Lebanon Circle (above), our new cedar has established itself well. No other tree at the cemetery has such a spot all to itself! The wildflower lawn planted around it has been great for birds, bees and butterflies, as well as being a very attractive thing in itself.

A new ‘Landscape Masterplan’

By early 2021 we hope to have appointed the landscape architects who will draw up the masterplan for Highgate Cemetery. Working with the Landscape Institute, we plan to hold a major competition to find the most skilled and imaginative designers to work out how the cemetery will look during the next phase of its evolution. From ‘managed neglect’ we will make the transition to ‘managed landscape’, ensuring that all that is special here is preserved and enhanced.

A new welcome for visitors

Better facilities for visitors at Highgate could enable them to get so much more out of the site, and better facilities for staff and volunteers could enable us to enhance that experience. We have been looking into what is essential, what is desirable, and where it all might go. And how much it might cost.

Improved gardeners’ accommodation and equipment storage, a proper shop, a café, the restoration of the chapel, more and better toilets, signage, and perhaps even a museum. It is time for creative thinking, so we will soon be appointing designers to help us develop these ideas into sustainable proposals we can share with you. Keep an eye on our website!

Events

Our events programme has been paused while we concentrate on our coronavirus response, but it will be back in 2021.

The price of a visit

The Cemetery's email inbox receives all manner of enquiries from around the world, but a recent one about charges in the 1990s sent our archivist, Judith Etherton, combing through the files. She writes:

Until Highgate Cemetery was purchased from the Raybourne Group in 1981, the West Cemetery had been open only for grave owners and their families. Though the Friends could not allow general public access due to problems of insurance for the perceived dangers of the site, they provided free guided tours for which visitors were encouraged to make a donation.

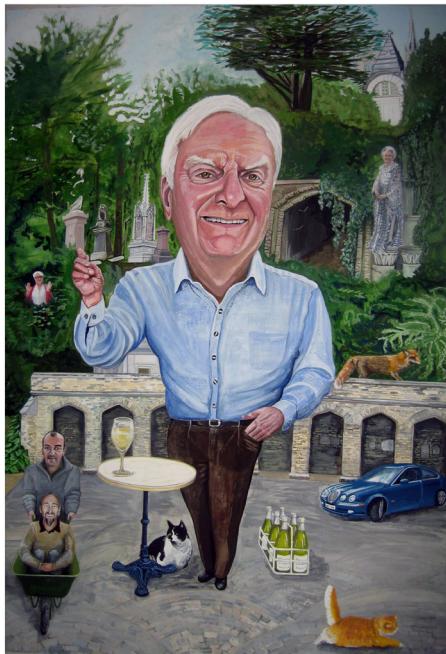
In 1984 discussions began about charging but the idea proved very controversial. It was not until October 1989 that charges were introduced: £2 per person, plus a camera charge if you wanted to take photographs. The price was increased to £3 in May 1991.

The East Cemetery was always open for access to both grave owners and public alike. Again, donations were encouraged, but volunteers generally did not like asking the visitors for these. So on 1 June 1990 charges were introduced, amidst considerable controversy: £2 per adult plus an extra £1 for a camera permit. In 1993 the entry charge was increased to £3, and a camera permit to £2.

That means a visitor who wished to take pictures would have paid more than double in 1993 what they do today, almost thirty years later: according to the Bank of England, that price would now be £10.26.

New Registrar appointed

Welcome to Claire Freston, who started as Registrar this month. We'll miss Justin Bickersteth, who has moved to Yorkshire. We wish each of them all the best. ■



Richard Quirk 1942-2020

We were sorry to receive the sad news of the recent death aged 77 of Richard Quirk, the much-loved managing director of our operating company, Highgate Cemetery Ltd, from 1985-2012. Richard saw his main achievement has having brought some commercial sustainability to the cemetery through the introduction of visitor charges.

Seen above in a characterful painting by Jackie Knight, Richard enjoys a glass of wine, his (second-hand) blue Jag parked nearby, with the guiding spirit of Jean Pateman hovering in the background. We have much to thank him for. ■

Historic cemeteries news

What's on at our sister cemeteries

The short answer is, not very much. Covid has made it impossible for Friends groups to offer many of the usual activities. Check their websites and make a donation instead!

ABNEY PARK

Abney Park have been holding live virtual events and uploading recordings on their website, along with recordings of birdsong, audio talks on heritage and wildlife, and audio tours. Most recently, a fascinating talk by Rowan Lennon on music hall star Nellie Power. See www.abneypark.org

BROMPTON

Tours and events suspended.
See brompton-cemetery.org.uk.

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY

All walks cancelled. See www.tbc.org.uk

KENSAL GREEN

Tours are being offered on Sunday afternoons, in small groups of up to 7 people. £7 per person. Book online at www.kensalgreen.co.uk/publications/sunday-tour-of-kensal-green-cemetery/

WEST NORWOOD

Events suspended. See www.fownc.org

NUNHEAD

Tours and events cancelled.
See www.fonc.org.uk.

TOWER HAMLETS

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park are facing a huge challenge as, unlike most Friends' groups, they actually have responsibility for looking after their site. They are experiencing a loss of income around £40,000 as they have had to cancel events and businesses have stopped their company volunteering days. See their website at www.fothcp.org or contribute directly at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/friends-of-tower-hamlets-cemetery-park-survival-appeal.



WILLESDEN JEWISH CEMETERY

The Cemetery is hoping soon to welcome visitors back to the grounds and to their new 'House of Life' visitor experience. Their website has a preview of a new introductory film which will be one of the key displays in their Visitor Centre. In the meantime, they have a number of online events. Sign up for their newsletter at www.willesdenjewishcemetery.org.uk