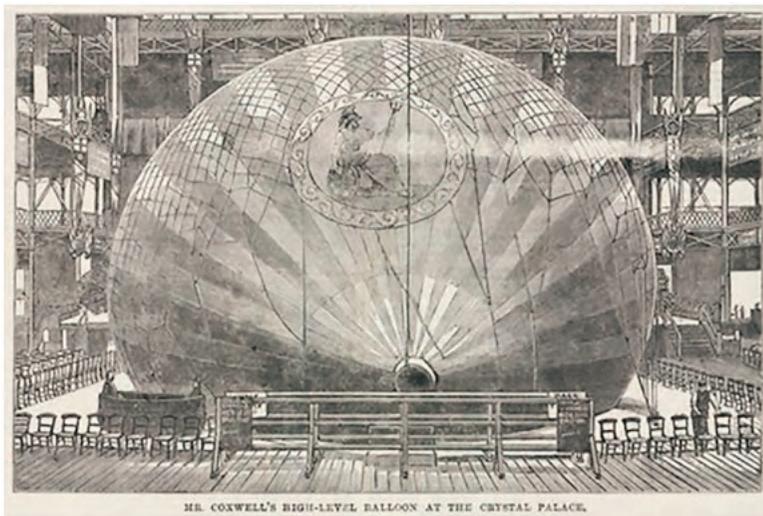


# THE NORWOOD REVIEW



No.209  
SUMMER  
2015

Free to Members (£1 for sale)



MR. COXWELL'S HIGH-LEVEL BALLOON AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

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[www.norwoodsociety.co.uk](http://www.norwoodsociety.co.uk)

# PROGRAMME OF LOCAL EVENTS

## LOCAL HISTORY

**Local History Talks** are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at the **Upper Norwood Library**, Westow Hill, SE19 1TJ.

Free entry including refreshments but donations are appreciated.

### Norwood Society Local History Meetings 2015

September 17th	The Crystal Palace - a sporting history	Stuart Hibberd has been co-author of a history of Crystal Palace Football Club and will talk about the history of the club and other pioneers of sporting history associated with Crystal Palace.
October 15th	The Business of Funerals	With one of Britain's greatest cemeteries in our midst funerals are a common sight. Barbara Thomas will explore the history of undertakers and local firms.
November 19th	William Booth	It is 150 years since William Booth founded the Salvation Army. Tony Fletcher will reveal the life of the man who preached to thousands in the Crystal Palace.

NB: There will be no Local History Meetings in July and August.

## WALKS

- July 25th**     **Sunday**     **Along Beulah Hill.**     Richard Lines  
2.30 pm. front of All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (near Church Road), SE19 2QQ, end Crown Point.
- Aug 16th**     **Sunday**     **Crown Point to West Norwood.**     Jill Dudman  
2.30 pm. Tesco Express, 4 Crown Lane, SW16 3JG.
- Aug 30th**     **Sunday**     **Weather forecasting, wine cellars, leach ponds, disabled soldiers, tea estates, and Sherlock Holmes in Norwood!**     Stephen Oxford  
2 pm, front of All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (near Church Road), SE19 2QQ
- Sept 27th**     **Sunday**     **Course of the River Effra (7 miles)**     Alun Thomas  
Brisk Walk with history content.  
10.30 am Sainsbury, Westow Street, SE19 3RW  
Lunch: Herne Hill, Picnic or Cafe/Pub  
End: Oval Station approx 4pm

# THE NORWOOD REVIEW

## Official Journal of the Norwood Society

No. 209

SUMMER 2015

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### FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

*Mr Coxwells high-level balloon inside the Crystal Palace*

### THE NORWOOD REVIEW

The Norwood Review is published four times a year. In Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The deadline for each issue is one month earlier. The next edition of the Review will appear in June 2015.

Contributions should be sent, no later than 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015, to the Editorial Board, The Norwood Review, 47 Ross Road, London SE25 6SB or [secretary@norwoodsociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@norwoodsociety.co.uk) (020 8653 8768). Would contributors please give their 'phone number, address and e-mail address.

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

The last year has been another successful one for the Society. The Society's financial year ends in December, so the financial report covers the calendar year of 2014, whereas this report given in April 2015 covers the year since the 2014 AGM in April last year. On the financial side there is a deficit of £554 for 2014. This is largely accounted for by the purchase of a laptop and software mainly for use at the monthly local history meetings. The cost was £490. Many thanks are due to our newest committee member Stephen Oxford who advised on and made this purchase. This is the first equipment purchase for many years and we would not expect expenditure of this kind every year. In addition, we were pleased to make a donation of £250 to the Lambeth Local History Forum, of which we are constituent members, towards the expenses of the Lambeth Heritage Month last September. Membership subscriptions and donations are pleasingly up at £2,004 (£1,951 in 2013). Many thanks are due to those members who have signed annual standing orders (thus saving the Secretary much work) and to those many members who have given generous donations in addition to the annual subscription. Nevertheless, the rising cost of posting the 'Norwood Review' to those members living outside the area or who cannot be reached conveniently by the deliverers by hand resulted in a committee decision to ask the AGM to approve an increase in membership subscriptions from January 2016 to £7 for individual members and to £10 for couples or households. This increase was duly approved, and it is to be hoped that members already paying by standing order will increase their subscriptions accordingly from next January.

Book sales have continued to make an important contribution to the Society's income, the bulk being trade sales to Bookseller Crow on the Hill. The books this shop orders are chiefly 'The Phoenix Suburb', 'Emile Zola, Photographer' and 'The Story of Norwood'. But we also receive book orders from individuals. A BBC Radio 3 programme in January this year on 'Zola in Norwood' resulted in three sales of this book. One of the purchasers bought another copy later for a member of her family. 'The Phoenix Suburb' (reprinted in 2008) is fast running out and the committee will need to take a decision later in the year on a further reprint of this book.

A major success has been the local history meetings at Upper Norwood Library held monthly (except for July and August) on the third Thursday of each month. Donations from attendees, by no means all of them Society members, amounted to £460 in 2014 and more than covered the cost of using the library. Many thanks are due to Alun and Barbara Thomas for organising these meetings. This is no small task and they have succeeded in securing a variety of speakers on different topics. There is a published programme up to the end of this year and they are already planning the 2016 programme. Alun operates the laptop to show the pictures which illustrate

most of the lectures, while Barbara is a most gracious ‘mistress of ceremonies’ and introduces the speakers. Attendances are often 50 or more. A special feature of these evenings has been the provision of delicious home-made cakes in the interval. Many thanks are due to our bakers: Barbara Thomas, Yvonne Roberts, Ruth Rollitt and Anna Lines. We usually run a bookstall on these occasions and this has brought in useful extra revenue. We have also recruited several new members at these meetings.

Alun and Barbara represent the Society at meetings of the Croydon Local History Forum and of the Lambeth Local History Forum, both time-consuming activities, and have continued to answer local history enquiries from researchers and scholars. These can be time-consuming too, but they have resulted in offers of two future talks. Alun has been indefatigable in leading local walks, sometimes in unpleasant weather. Summer walks last year were also led by Jill Dudman and by me. Once again, we had a stall at the Crystal Palace Overground Festival on the last Saturday in June. Unfortunately, the weather was against us and very heavy showers in the morning and afternoon meant that we had to abandon the stall for a while. The result was that we barely covered the cost of the stall. We were also unfortunate at the Lambeth Archives Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. We had a bookstall as usual, but all the stalls were moved from the Minet Library to Longfield Hall across the road next to Michael Church where the talks are held. The result was that there were few visitors and we made no book sales at all.

Philip Goddard, with his small sub-committee consisting of John Hickman, Rebecca Wheatley and lately Marion Girdler, have continued to monitor planning applications in the Croydon part of Norwood. This painstaking, detailed work has resulted in a number of modifications to applications and has succeeded in getting some refused. Lack of sufficient volunteers has prevented the Society from similarly monitoring planning applications in the parts of Norwood within the boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Bromley.

Four more issues of the ‘Norwood Review’ were published during the year under the editorship of Eric Kings, my immediate predecessor as Chairman of the Society. He has been assisted by Anna Lines who has taken responsibility for collating material and arranging for printing and distribution of the magazine. The ‘Review’ has been printed since the beginning of 2014 by Ian Reilly and his company Printinc, and this arrangement has proved most satisfactory. Thanks are due to all those who have contributed articles to the ‘Review’ and to the volunteer distributors who deliver copies by hand, often in their immediate neighbourhood, but sometimes further afield. Thanks are also due to Christine Brandon for her technical help with ‘mail-merge’ which enables printed address labels to be produced.

Work has continued on the digitizing of the archive material held in Upper Norwood Library and from other sources, thus building an expanding digital collection of images of Norwood. Records that are no longer of relevance (such as very old planning applications of which councils keep records) have been removed and the Editor of the 'Norwood Review' has a complete set of Reviews dating back to the earliest days of the Society. The Secretary holds minutes of meetings. Two cabinets are therefore no longer in the library. Thanks are due once again to Alun and Barbara and to Jerry Green for their hard work.

Welcome recent news is that the Chinese ZRG proposals to obtain a very long lease over a large part of Crystal Palace Park to build a replica of the old Palace for purposes not disclosed have now been withdrawn. It is to be hoped that the plan by the Friends of the Subway, a group in which Stephen Oxford is involved, to bring about public access to the magnificent Victorian subway under Crystal Palace Parade, will now proceed.

The saga of the future of the Upper Norwood Joint Library continues. The election of a Labour majority on Croydon Council in 2014 resulted in an increase of funding by Croydon of £47,500 for the second half of 2014/15, but this spring Lambeth reduced its share of funding for 2015/16 to £50,000 and Croydon, having promised to match the amount contributed by Lambeth, have offered the same sum. The shortfall in the sum necessary to run a proper public library would have to be found by the Library Trust. An open letter by me to Croydon councillors pointing out the difficulty in which that put the library and asking the council to assist the Trust in finding the necessary extra funding, was published in the 'Croydon Advertiser' and in the 'Croydon Guardian'. It is encouraging to note that Steve Reed, the North Croydon MP who is also a former Leader of Lambeth Council, has made public his support for continued adequate funding of the library by both councils.

It remains for me to thank all members of the committee for their efforts. Jerry Green has been an excellent Vice-Chairman and his 'ear to the ground' in all Norwood matters has been most valuable. Anna Lines has held things together as Secretary, particularly with regard to membership. Mike Warwick has contributed wise counsel at committee meetings. We are most grateful to David and Bridget Bentliff for so kindly hosting both committee meetings and planning sub-committee meetings in their house. All members of the Society are thanked for their support. Finally, I would like to thank Carol Lewis, Rita Chakraborty and Fiona Byers at the library for hosting our local history meetings and our Annual General Meeting.

**Richard Lines**

## Planning Notes

### **49-51 Beulah Hill**

The application is to demolish two pleasing but undistinguished detached houses and replace them with two six storey blocks containing 50 flats. A similar previous application for 62 flats was refused for reasons including size, height, massing and adverse effect on neighbouring properties. It is not clear that these matters have been fully addressed in the revised application, especially since there is no copy of the Design and Access Statement on the public file, which is crucial to forming a proper evaluation of this type of application. We have asked for a copy of the statement be placed on the public file, and that the consultation period be extended to allow appropriate comments to be made.

### **3 Lancaster Road**

This is a fine late Victorian house on three stories in a prominent position opposite the Goat House bridge. It has been the subject of two previous applications. The first was refused on the grounds that the owner was trying to cram six flats into a building suitable for only three. The second application, which reduced the number of flats but included two bedsitters, was withdrawn. The current application seeks to turn the property into seven bedsitters. We have objected on the grounds that use as a house in multiple occupation is inappropriate both for this house and for the area in which it is situated.

### **72 High Street, South Norwood**

The application is to turn the basement area under the fish and chip shop, currently in use for storage, into a two-bedroom flat. There would be no natural light at all in either of the bedrooms and very little in the combined kitchen/dining/sitting room. We have objected on the grounds that the accommodation so provided would be sub-standard.

### **16 Highfield Hill**

This is an application for a three storey block of eight flats on open ground to the rear of one of the fine large houses in Highfield Hill. We have expressed concerns about the scale and massing of the proposed building and the visual impact on neighbours, as well as the access arrangements and the possible threat to a number of protected trees.

### **19-21 Chapel Road**

This is an application relating to a derelict industrial site off Knight's Hill, for a change of use to residential, comprising 40 flats with 29 parking spaces. Lambeth Council's Local Plan Policy is to permit use of sites in this particular area only, broadly speaking, for business, industrial, storage or waste management purposes. Change to residential use would involve the loss of a site used for providing employment. We have made Lambeth aware of our concerns that the Design Statement accompanying the application does not contain sufficient information to enable an informed decision for a change to residential use to be made.

**CRYSTAL PALACE PARK AND SPORTS FORUM MEETING**

I attended the last meeting of this forum on the 15<sup>th</sup> May. Representatives of local societies gathered to hear reports on the future of Crystal Palace Park now that the ZRG Chinese proposals are no more. It appears that there is now funding for a 'slimmed-down' Masterplan identifying six projects for the improvement of the park. These include a new café at the bottom of the park, repairs to the dinosaurs and sphinxes and some improvements to the elevated walkway. The London Borough of Bromley intends to hand over the running of the park to independent trustees by 2017 and it was good to hear that Bromley has made nearly £500,000 available to set up the trust with two dedicated officers to advise the trustees and implement their proposals. This will be a huge challenge and one which will require considerable community input. Future projects might include a new Crystal Palace museum and even a viewing tower, a project long ago promoted by the Norwood Society. Their realisation will depend on successful revenue raising.

The Friends of the Subway hope to implement their planning permission (it expires in 2016) to create access from the Southwark side, but have a funding shortfall of between £10,000 and £20,000. A new venture is the Friends of the Dinosaurs, a new group who hope to spend £700,000 not only restoring the dinosaurs but also promoting interest in these Victorian curiosities throughout the country. The National Sports Centre will continue, with renting of accommodation in the Lodge contributing to the funding of sport. But it appears that there is no future for the Jubilee Stand which it is proposed to demolish, although the new trustees might want to bring forward proposals to convert it.

The existing forum has had its last meeting under the chairmanship of Peter Austin and Ray Sacks, but Martin Tempia, chair of the Bromley Community Stakeholders Committee, intends to re-convene it under his own chairmanship.

**Richard Lines**

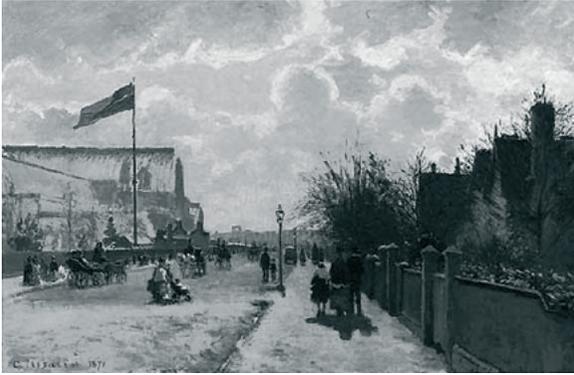
**APOLOGIES**

**We apologise for the late arrival of this issue of the Norwood Review. Unfortunately I suffered a stroke at the end of April and had to spend 4 weeks in hospital.**

**I am glad to say that I am making a good recovery but you must understand that the pace of life is still rather slow. Thank you to those of you who sent me their best wishes.**

**Anna Lines**  
**Secretary**

## Local History News



*Crystal Palace Parade. Pissarro*

The successful meetings at the Upper Norwood Library have continued with varied themes. In March Paul Graham, the Hon. Sec. of the Dickens Fellowship, shared his passion for Dickens and that author's varied Norwood Connections. The audience were enthralled to hear of the many surprising connections. Some were with those of note who are buried in West Norwood Cemetery.

Dickens generated much hot air in his time, this being an ingredient essential to the balloons that were the subject of Jerry Green's talk in April. We were all impressed by what Jerry has discovered about the importance of Crystal Palace in pioneering the taming of the skies. (Jerry has an article about the aeronautical pioneers of Crystal Palace elsewhere in this Review.) The subject of fine arts returned in May when Richard Lines spoke of Pissarro's life in Norwood as illustrated in his art. Richard revealed the depth of his artistic and historical knowledge, and the bumper audience of over 70 enjoyed this insight into Pissarro's time in the area.

The success of these talks help to balance the otherwise negative recent experience in the wider local history community. As we heard last year when Zoe Darani spoke to us, Lambeth has one of the finest and well managed archives in London. There is a significant coverage of Norwood including the West Norwood Cemetery records and much on the Crystal Palace. Understandably with the cuts to public finances, Lambeth has a public consultation concerning the future of the library and archive services in the borough. The proposals impact on the archives with a wholly inappropriate move from the Minet Library to the basement of Brixton Library. The allocated space appears inadequate for the storage of archives, both environmentally and spatially. This raises the possibility of some records being stored elsewhere thus limiting public access. The Society's Chairman has made a response on behalf of the Society expressing our disquiet at the proposals. We have also personally done so and encourage others to do likewise. Of equal concern are the future funding proposals contained in the consultation. These would bring into doubt the future funding of the Upper Norwood Library, this being the centre of the local community's survival. Lambeth have already

made a funding cut which has been matched by Croydon, contrary to the promises made less than a year ago. Prior to the General Election the politicians were quick to promise continued support for the Library and we shall do what we can to hold them to account. Richard Lines has written to the press with good effect and we are doing all we can to support Robbie Gibson of the Library Trust in his fight for the survival of our library. We sympathise with the staff of the Upper Norwood Library who continue to provide an excellent service with enthusiasm, difficult in these uncertain times.



*Anerley Town Hall*

More positively we have an interesting programme of walks over the summer, the first being in conjunction with the Crystal Palace Overground Festival. The Norwood Society will have a stall in Westow Park on Saturday 27th June. Please come and say hello and bring your friends who might be persuaded to join the

Society! On Sunday 28th at 4.15pm. outside the Crystal Palace Station Alun will be leading a walk around Anerley and some of Penge. As we heard in Martin Spence's January talk the development of Penge was influenced by the rebuilding of the Crystal Palace. Alun is researching the people who lived in the area as well as sensational events such as one or two noteworthy murders! In 1851 40% of the population was accounted for by the North Surrey Industrial School, a children's workhouse. The school had been opened in 1850 by the Richmond, Kingston, Croydon, Wandsworth & Clapham and Lewisham Poor Law Unions to provide education and 'industrial training' for 500 pauper children. The boys were taught trades or prepared for a naval career. The education of the girls was largely for a life of domestic service. Many of these girls eventually found employment in the large houses that abounded Anerley and the rest of Norwood. These girls were a preferred source of domestics as they had become used to a disciplined way of life! This institution was one of four such establishments in Norwood, the others being Mr Aubin's infamous school in the Triangle, Lambeth Union's Norwood School in Elder Road and the more enlightened Jewish Homes in West Norwood.



*Beulah Hill, The Priory*

On July 26th Richard Lines will lead a walk along Beulah Hill from All Saints Church. Beulah Hill is a fascinating road which can only be hinted at from the top of a 468 bus. There were many substantial properties such as ‘The Priory’ once the home of the Society’s late President Sir Ninian Comper (1864 -

1960). This prolific architect practised in Knights Hill where he once lived, having previously lived in Chapel Road, West Norwood.

Knight’s Hill will be the theme of Jill Dudman’s walk on August 16th. This again is a road that on first sight lacks little interest but was once a place of substantial properties. Most of these are lost including the Norwood Technical College. On September 30th Stephen Oxford will be revealing the considerable history of the west of South Norwood Hill. Weather forecasting, wine cellars, leech ponds, disabled soldiers, tea estates, extramarital relationships and Sherlock Holmes in Norwood are promised. To end the walking season Alun Thomas will, on September 27th, be tracing the course of the River Effra. This is a walk for those who enjoy a brisk all-day walk that will uncover the hidden watery depths beneath our feet. The Effra walk is part of the Lambeth Heritage Festival’s water theme. This festival will include an exhibition at Morley College as well as talks and events throughout Lambeth. This is a good



*Knight's Hill, by Rosemary branch & bus garage.*

opportunity to become acquainted with the other local history groups in the area such as the Streatham Society’s interesting programme of talks which we often attend.

*Barbara & Alun Thomas*

## NOTES FROM THE NORWOODS

CONGRATULATIONS to Crystal Palace Food Market which is at the top of Bedwardine Road / bottom of Haynes Lane (off Westow Street) on Saturdays from 10 am to 3pm.

The market, which has just celebrated its second birthday, finished joint runners-up as best food market in Radio 4's Food and Farming awards.

The market has a regular, rotating, group of stallholders which include fish, bread, cakes, meat, vegetables etc. They also sell locally-grown vegetables from gardens in the area on their Patchwork Farm stall - including produce from the garden at the side of St John's church on Auckland Road.

ATMOSPHERIC photographs of some of south London's most beautiful parks, green spaces and natural areas are to go on display at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill

Taken by London-based landscape photographer Max A Rush, the collection entitled South London Landscapes is on display from Saturday 23 May 2015 in the Horniman's Gallery Square space.

Areas featured in South London Landscapes are Brockwell Park, Crystal Palace Park, Dulwich Park, Dulwich Wood, Ruskin Park and the Horniman Gardens. Entry to the display is free.

## MORE BUSES ON ROUTE 322

Transport for London (TfL) has increased the frequency of the 322 to provide extra capacity on the busy route.

Route 322, which operates between Crystal Palace and Clapham Common via Gipsy Hill, Tulse Hill, Herne Hill, Brixton and Clapham North has had its frequency increased from every 15 minutes to every 12 minutes during the daytime on Mondays to Saturdays.

## NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

OPENING HOURS at Upper Norwood joint library have been changed with the library now opening on Monday afternoons and opening slightly later on Thursday mornings at 9.30am.

New opening times are as follows

Monday: 1pm to 5pm

Tuesday: 10am to 7pm (closed for lunch 1pm to 2pm)

Thursday: 9.30am to 7pm (closed for lunch 1pm to 2pm)

Saturday: 9am to 5pm.

## Balloons, Airships And Aeroplanes - All At The Crystal Palace!

In April 1859 Thomas Lythgoe made a little bit of history by becoming the first person to ascend in a balloon from the Crystal Palace. He won't be the last. Over the next 70-plus years there would be thousands more balloon flights from the Palace, followed by airships - and even aeroplanes.

One balloon flight from the Palace would lead to the formation of the Aero Club of Great Britain; others would reach Sweden, Russia - and some a lot nearer home. There would be tragedies - one of them involving the death of the man credited with taking the world's first vertical aerial photograph - and triumphs - the Palace being the take-off point for the first British-built flight by powered airship. Sometimes the danger isn't from the balloon, nature or the elements - it's when the balloon actually lands.

But to begin at the beginning. In 1783 two brothers named Montgolfier who were paper manufacturers in France constructed a large paper bag and inflated it with hot air and smoke from a fire of straw. Directly the bag was released it flew skywards. 1783 and 1784 saw the first manned flight, the first manned hydrogen balloon flight and the first free ascent by a woman - all in France.

The first in Britain took place in Edinburgh on August 25th 1784 - Mr Tytler in a Montgolfier balloon. The first in England by an Italian named Lunardi took place in London on September 15th 1784, and on October 4th the same year the first ascent by an Englishman named Sadler from Oxford.

1785 saw the first Channel crossing by air and the first aerial disaster. In 1794 the battle of Fleurus between the army of the First French Republic and the Coalition Army (Great Britain, Hanover, Dutch Republic, and Habsburg Monarch) would see the French use of a reconnaissance balloon which marked the first military use of an aircraft that had influence on the outcome of a battle.

In 1802 a Frenchman named Garnerin made the first parachute descent in England - five years after doing the first parachute descent from a balloon in Paris. His 1802 descent at St Pancras in London was watched by thousands, among them Robert Cocking who, 35 years later, would make his own parachute descent from a balloon - and pay the ultimate price.

In 1821 Charles Green became the first person to use coal gas in a balloon. Twice the density of hydrogen gas it was regarded as more convenient - and more economical. Coal gas has half the lifting power of hydrogen so the balloons have to be larger. However, coal gas was far more readily available and the local gas works sometimes provided a special lightweight formula for ballooning events

In November 1836 Charles Green, in the Royal Vauxhall balloon, undertook the first long-distance flight from Vauxhall Gardens in London to Nassau (Germany, not the Bahamas!) The result, as Alan Warwick says in his book *The Phoenix Suburb*, is balloon fever. To commemorate this feat the balloon was renamed *The Great Nassau Balloon*

and flown by Green for some years afterwards. The following year, on 24th July 1837, Charles Green, along with Edward Spencer, would be in the Great Nassau balloon above the basket from which Robert Cocking would make his fatal parachute descent. (Green would make more than 500 ascents in his career, his last being in 1852. He died in 1870 at the age of 95).

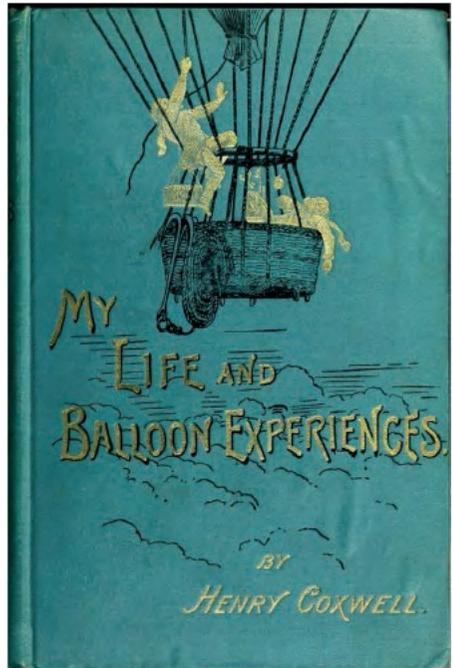
In 1849 Henry Coxwell, who would become the Crystal Palace's first aeronaut, gave ballooning demonstrations on the Continent. His services were eventually sought by the Crystal Palace Company to establish ballooning in the Palace grounds. In April 1859 Thomas Lithgoe, the aeronaut at Cremorne Gardens in Chelsea made the first balloon flight from the Crystal Palace, using existing gas pipes to inflate the balloon.

*(Cremorne Gardens was one of several metropolitan gardens in London from which balloons flew regularly. Others included Vauxhall at Kennington; Pentonville; Surrey Zoological Gardens, Kennington; the New Globe pleasure grounds on Mile End Road; and the Beulah Spa in Upper Norwood).*

1862 On September 1st Henry Coxwell, who had been encouraged by the Crystal Palace Company, flew his balloon - later to be named Mammoth - with Professor James Glaisher and nine others. Built of American cloth it had a capacity of 93,000 cubic feet. 1862, just four days later on 5th September 1862, Coxwell and Glaisher, in an ascent from Wolverhampton's Stafford Road gasworks, where there was a plentiful supply of town gas for the balloon, would make history.

The flight greatly increased our knowledge of the atmosphere and helped to lead the way to modern weather forecasting. The British Association of Science had selected Wolverhampton gasworks as a suitable location for a research balloon flight because it was sufficiently far inland to prevent the balloon from being blown out to sea, and the gasworks could supply the gas to inflate the balloon.

On the day Glaisher filled the balloon basket with 17 scientific instruments and they lifted off at three minutes past one. During the flight Glaisher intended to constantly monitor the instruments to discover the quantity of moisture that the air carries at different altitudes. At a little over 11,000 feet the balloon had risen above the clouds. Ten minutes later it was five miles high. In



Professor Glaisher's own words: "Mr Coxwell, in consequence of the exertions he had to make, had breathed with difficulty for some time. Having discharged sand, we ascended still higher. The inspirator (explained by L T C Rolt in his book *The Aeronauts* as 'a bellows for circulating air past the bulbs of the thermometers to counteract the effect of solar radiation') became troublesome to work. I also found difficulty in seeing clearly...I asked Mr Coxwell to help me read the instruments. In consequence of the rotatory motion of the balloon, which had continued without ceasing since leaving the earth, the valve-line had become entangled and he had to leave the car and mount the ring to readjust it. I looked at the barometer and found its reading...to imply a height of 20,000 feet. Shortly after I laid my arm upon the table but on being desirous of using it I found it powerless. Trying to move the other arm I found it powerless also. Then I tried to shake myself and succeeded but I had no limbs..... I dimly saw Mr Coxwell and endeavoured to speak but could not. In an instant intense darkness overcame me, so that the optic nerve lost power suddenly,

but I was still conscious with as active a brain as at the present moment while writing this. I thought I had been seized with asphyxia, and believed I should experience nothing more, as death would come unless we speedily descended. Other thoughts were entering my mind, when suddenly I became unconscious as on going to sleep. I cannot tell anything of the sense of hearing as no sound reaches the air to break the perfect stillness and silence of the regions between six and seven miles above the earth. My last observation was made at 1 hour 54 minutes above 29,000 feet. I suppose two to three minutes to have elapsed between my eyes becoming insensible... While powerless I heard the words 'temperature' and 'observation' and I knew Mr Coxwell was in the car, speaking to me and endeavouring to rouse me - therefore consciousness and hearing had returned. I then heard him speak more emphatically, but could not see, speak or move.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.**

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**200th ANNIVERSARY**  
— OF THE —  
**GRENADIER GUARDS.**

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**WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY.**

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**GREAT DINNER OF 2000 MEN**  
IN THE CENTRAL TRANSEPT

MILITARY SPORTS & ATHLETIC GAMES.  
MILITARY BANDS, AND CRYSTAL PALACE BAND, & GREAT ORGAN.

BALLOON ASCENT BY MR. COXWELL.  
DISPLAY OF FOUNTAINS.  
MAGNIFICENT SHOW OF ROSES IN THE ROSARY, &c.

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ADMISSION, - ONE SHILLING.

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**SATURDAY, 28 JULY.**

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VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL  
**CONCERT AND FLORAL PROMENADE,**  
IN WHICH THE CELEBRATED  
**MADLLE. ARTOT**  
And MR. SANTLEY will sing, with other Vocal & Instrumental Talent.

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Admission 2s. 6d.    Reserved Seats 2s. 6d.

JONES AND CO., PRINTERS, QUEEN'S STREET.      (July 24th 1870, No. 72.)

I heard him again say “Do try, now do.” Then the instruments became dimly visible, then Mr Coxwell, and very shortly I saw clearly. Next I arose in my seat and looked around as though waking from sleep, though not refreshed, and said to Mr Coxwell: “I have been insensible.” He said: “You have, and I too, very nearly.” I then drew up my legs, which had been extended, and took a pencil in my hand to begin observations. Mr Coxwell told me he had lost the use of his hands, which were blacked, and I poured brandy over them. Mr Coxwell told me that while in the ring he felt it piercingly cold, that hoar frost was all around the neck of the balloon, and that on attempting to leave the ring he found his hands frozen. He had, therefore, to place his arms on the ring and drop down. He became anxious to open the valve. But in consequence of having lost the use of his hands he could not do this. Ultimately he succeeded by seizing the cord with his teeth and dipping his head two or three times until the balloon took a decided turn downwards.”

After a rapid descent the flight ended at 2.50pm when Coxwell landed the balloon in a large meadow at Cold Weston, Shropshire near the village of Clee St Margaret. Glaisher walked the seven and a half miles into Ludlow to commission a cart for assistance while Coxwell remained on guard.

**Jerry Green**

To be continued

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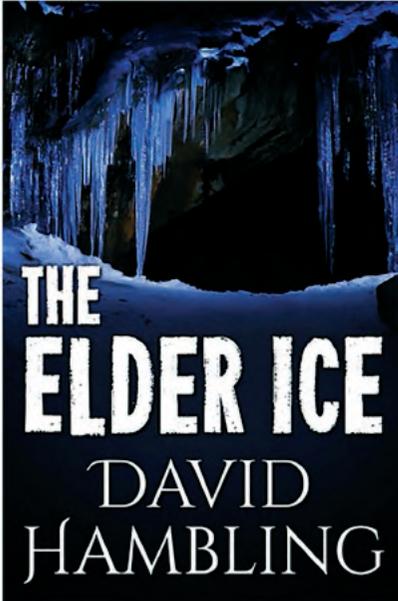
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## THE ELDER ICE

By David Hambling

£4.99 pb or Kindle edition for £0.99 ([www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk))

### BOOK REVIEW



This short novel by local author David Hambling is a mystery thriller in the manner of the works of the American writer HP Lovecraft. It is set in Norwood in 1924 and is about an ex-boxer called Harry Stubbs who is on the trail of something awful and mysterious said to have been brought back from the Antarctic by the famous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton who died in 1922 at the outset of a final Antarctic expedition. The title is a quotation from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and the theme is suggested by a passage in Shackleton's autobiography *South* where he writes of how the mind, influenced by the conditions of the Antarctic, 'responds to the unusual and weaves about it curious imaginings like the firelight fancies of our childhood days'. We are introduced

to Shackleton's brother Frank, who had once stolen the Irish Crown Jewels and is now an antique dealer in Brighton, and to a crew of murderous characters whom our hero encounters. There is a vivid description of a fight which Harry has. I thought that the author must have had experience of boxing himself, but apparently that is not so. There are horrible deaths, but also references to myth and legend, especially *The Arabian Nights*, and in a short book of just over 100 pages the author maintains the suspense. You just have to read to discover what happens and what Shackleton's horrific legacy really is. Shackleton, of course, is a local as well as a national hero. His boyhood home was in Sydenham (at the bottom of Westwood Hill) and he attended Dulwich College. A romantic and lover of adventure, I am sure he would have enjoyed the fictional liberties that David Hambling has taken.

**Richard Lines**

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Communicates informations through talks, exhibitions and the Norwood Review, our quarterly journal.

Although the Norwood Society cannot provide expert advice on planning, transport, trees and open spaces, it takes a close interest in these matters, and would welcome information about them in the Norwood area. It may not be able to become directly involved in all of them, but would be able to advise on suitable sources of help and possible strategies.