



Artist's neglected grave restored

By Ann Bronkhorst

The great Pre-Raphaelite painter Ford Madox Brown, famous especially for *Work* and *The Last of England*, was buried in 1893 in St. Pancras (now Islington) Cemetery. For years his gravesite has been damaged and obscured by trees and undergrowth but at last it is visible again and has a clean, upright replica headstone.

He was buried in the grave of his second wife, Emma, their baby son Arthur and their other son Oliver (born when they lived just off Ballards Lane) who had died aged 18. Two daughters survived him.



Rose and laurel

On the stone are four lines of verse in Italian, translated by Giacomo Leopardi from a French poem by Arnault called *The Leaf*. Here is the now legible inscription, followed by the translation (with thanks to Ted Green).

*Vo dov'ogn'altra cosa
Dove naturalmente
Va la foglia di rosa
E la foglia d'alloro.*

Go, where everything goes,
where of course
goes the rose leaf
and the laurel leaf.

So ... beauty, love, success and fame must perish and so must we. Sad yet stoic ideas, not the conventional religious ones usually found on graves of that period. In fact, there was no religious ceremony at Madox Brown's burial.

Mourners

Many friends attended, however, including fellow Pre-Raphaelites such as Holman Hunt and other artists and writers including Christina Rossetti, Richard Garnett and Walter Crane. One of those friends, Mathilde Blind, a strikingly handsome woman of German-Jewish background, was to

die within three years. Her tall marble monument with its fine profile portrait stands almost opposite Madox Brown's but has not been renovated.

These graves are not difficult to find, since they are behind and near to the huge Mond memorial, Madox Brown's to its left and Mathilde Blind's to its right. To find out about their lives, loves and friendships, and Madox Brown's connections with Hendon, Finchley and Hampstead, read *Into the Frame* by Angela Thirlwell (Pimlico). To discover other interesting local graves, search radavenport/cemeteries/contents.html



Kids enjoying a Fit Perfect class.

Fit club to get children active

By Diana Cormack

Worrying reports are regularly published about childhood obesity and the lack of fitness amongst some young people. Despite the much vaunted Olympic heritage it seems this "time-bomb of inactivity" could lead to these children being the first generation to die at a younger age than their parents.

Apportioning blame to such things as computer games and the education system doesn't solve the problem, but local mother-of-two Hilary Burbidge is doing her bit to improve things.

Getting fit for life

On Saturday mornings during term time she runs fitness classes for boys and girls from aged nine to teenage years (an age when youngsters may take more notice of an adult other than their parents). Hilary told *THE ARCHER*: "I am passionate about educating children and young teenagers about the benefits of being fit and healthy and making informed nutritional choices, all topical issues causing parents concern."

She emphasised that not every child is sporty so avoids the temptation to make it all about sport, but tries to encourage the children to have an interest in their own personal health and fitness. Hilary thinks this should stand them in good stead for life, whereas the love or flair for a particular sport can come and go.

Woodland setting

Personal trainer Hilary's approach has caught the attention of the media both here and abroad. As well as being appropriate and challenging, the variety of exercises practised focus on fun along with self-improvement and competition. The club, for which booking is necessary, costs £5 per session. It meets at Hilary's Summerlee Gardens' home for an 8.15 am start towards Highgate Wood, where most of the activities take



Hilary Burbidge of Fit Perfect.

place. At 9.30am they finish at the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, for a healthy drink or snack.

During the summer holidays Hilary will be running week-long fitness courses for children. For further details visit www.fitperfect.co.uk or call 07801 225 660

Farm food by click and collect

By Sheila Armstrong

A new shopping service is starting up in N2 that enables residents to click and collect local fresh food, ordering produce straight from farmers.

FarmDrop is said to be taking root in locations across the UK and launches at The Clissold Arms on Fortis Green on 11 June.

Tara Griffin manages the local online food marketplace, and is in the process of getting people in the neighbourhood signed up as members. They need 100 members to sign up

to make a launch viable, and it is free to join.

Tara explains why FarmDrop is proving so popular: "Increasingly, busy people want to shop for food online. Members of FarmDrop are able to purchase freshly baked bread and real dairy ice creams direct from farms only 10 miles down the road. What could be better than that when you care about where your food comes from?"

She says the FarmDrop initiative radically shortens

the supply chain and gives you the reassurance that you know exactly where your food has come from.

Orders are placed with a range of local producers via the FarmDrop website, with all food delivered to and collected from one venue, at one time. To find out how you can get involved visit www.farmdrop.co.uk or for further information please get in touch with Tara Griffin at muswellfarmdrop@gmail.com or on 07833 306 473.

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