

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 101 – May 2021

Free to members

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Good news this month is that restoration of the monument to dramatist and judge Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd (1795–1854; grave 1,452, square 34) has been completed save for work on the brickwork that will be finished once (if) the weather improves. The elegant cross atop the monument had been demolished and the vault damaged by a falling tree (see Newsletter 87, September 2016).

Thanks to the Old Redingensians Association, the Dickens Fellowship, Kevin Crook & Jacqueline Landy (Lambeth) and to monumental masons Rowland Brothers. They have as always done an excellent job!

Other news is that the contract for the roadways and drainage package of the NHLF grant has been awarded to idverde UK Ltd. However, seemingly work cannot start until May at the earliest. Inevitably this work will be disruptive, but a one-way traffic system is being planned that should allow unimpeded access to all parts of the cemetery.



The restored Talfourd cross



Hubbard Road: Damaged gatepost

Planning for the new entrances on Robson Road and at Hubbard Road continues. At Hubbard Road it is apparent that one of the original gateposts has been hit recently by a high-sided vehicle. The damage will be repaired as part of the works to enable this entrance to be reopened. I am pleased to report that there have been no issues arising from consultations over reopening the entrance (pedestrian access only) and reinstating a footpath within the cemetery, although concerns over facilitating cycle riding and dog walking within the cemetery remain (dogs except assistance dogs are not permitted in the cemetery, and cycling is prohibited).

There has been limited progress in other areas. Planning for level access to St Stephen's Chapel continues. Almost unbelievably, Historic England insisted on an excavation beneath the planned site of the new bridge across the wall from the proposed new footpath in the unconsecrated area in case 'there was anything there'. Two archaeologists had to be paid to be in attendance whilst cemetery staff dug the pit. Of course, nothing was found as indeed had been ascertained from study of the cemetery documentation beforehand. What a waste of effort, time, and money.

Frustratingly and despite much agitation by Nicholas Long and I, there is no progress to report as regards the renovation of the Baldwin Brown (grave 7,167, square 40) and Auffray (grave 25,249, square 54) monuments despite these monuments being taken out of the blanket monument restoration package originally envisaged with the aim of facilitating action. Lambeth procurement processes are indeed tedious in the extreme.

Likewise there is nothing tangible to report on the remaining work packages, i.e. the planned visitor centre and the public engagement initiatives. I never thought that two years into the five-year plan I would be saying this.

Tree Works and the Burges Monument

At long last I can report the removal of the tree that was damaging the Grade II* listed tomb of the Burges family (grave 4,478, square 34). Hopefully, the kerbs can be realigned once the tree stump has decayed. A number of other dead/dangerous trees have also been removed, including some 20 dead conifers and the large sycamore that was threatening St Stephen's Chapel (square 28). Much overgrown vegetation has been removed too in order to help facilitate the NLHF project, notably from around the entrance and from railings along Robson Road. Thanks especially to South London Tree Surgeons and to Charles Hurst, Kevin Crook, Kevin Wallace, Jacqueline Landy and their teams (Lambeth) for performing/facilitating these essential works.



The Burges family grave

The Burges tomb is important on many levels. Alfred Burges (1796–1886) was apprenticed to the engineer James Walker (1781–1862), and in turn trained several other engineers, including Sir Joseph Bazalgette (1819–1891).¹ Walker and Burgess (his name was often spelt Burgess on advertising material) were responsible for railways, bridges and many marine works. He died at Worthing on 12 March 1886. He left £113,000.

His son William Burges ARA (1827–1881) won his first major commission, Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, in 1863. He designed churches, a cathedral, a warehouse, a university, a school, houses, and castles. His most notable works are Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch, both of which were rebuilt for John Crichton-Stuart, 3rd Marquess of Bute. He died at his Melbury Road, Kensington home, *The Tower House*, aged only 53. He designed the monument at Norwood for his mother Elizabeth, who died in 1855. His sister Elizabeth (1842–1859) also lies in the vault.

Security in the Cemetery

Yet again there has been an attempt to break into the Tapling Mausoleum (grave 13,902, square 38; see Newsletter 72, September 2011). The slate door was damaged by an attempted break in many years ago, but this time the damage is much worse. One does wonder why this was done – there is no way to obtain entry to the mausoleum without first working out how to remove the accumulation of pigeon droppings from behind the door.

Worryingly also, a man has been charged with an attempted rape in the cemetery. The incident is alleged to have occurred on Tuesday 26 May 2020 at about 17:35. An investigation was launched and a man was arrested and charged on



Tapling Mausoleum: Detail of the damage

Tuesday 2 June. He appeared in custody at Croydon Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 3 June and was remanded in custody to appear at Inner London Crown Court on Wednesday 1 July. These incidents only serve to heighten my fears as to the possible consequences of making the cemetery more accessible to visitors.

¹ The architect Charles Henry Driver (1832–1900; grave 29,387, square 83) worked with Bazalgette on the Thames Embankment (see article on the Mabey Sculptors, p. 10) and on Crossness and Abbey Mills pumping stations, amongst many other projects. Sadly, his gravestone was a victim of the Lambeth clearances in the 1970s-1980s

Our Norwood Fox

Domestic cats are almost always to be seen in the cemetery happily patrolling their territories adjacent to Hubbard Road, whether simply for pleasure, or whether to snatch a trophy to take home for supper I know not. In addition, frequent visitors to the cemetery are bound to have been greeted by our resident canine, who is always on the search for titbits! I'm struggling to find a suitable gender neutral name for him/her. Sadly, I found a dead fox too on a recent visit.

Unfortunately, the massive increase in cemetery visitors associated with lockdown together with staff shortages has made it difficult to keep emptying the litter bins on a regular basis. The result has been litter, litter everywhere whether by animal action (crows, foxes, magpies?) or simply strong winds hence the wonderful effort inspired by Madeline Brockbanks and Sue Williams to reinstitute FOWNC working parties with the aim of helping spruce up the cemetery (see p 15).



Our friendly fox

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

Recent scrub clearance work has restored access to the Carrington family vault (grave 3,074, square 49). As made clear in the article by NASA scientist Ed Cliver (Newsletter 77, May 2013), Richard Carrington was the pre-eminent solar astronomer of the 19th century. His work remains extremely relevant in these days of solar exploration. The Carrington Event of 1859 remains the most violent solar storm on record. A storm of its magnitude in today's technological era would have devastating effects.

According to a report by the Royal Academy of Engineering published in 2013, the first in depth risk assessment of the effects of a second 'Carrington Event' performed in the UK, a further solar superstorm is inevitable and will degrade the performance of the electricity grid, satellites, GPS networks, aviation, and possibly mobile communications. The Science Museum has some information on its website. Sadly I missed their autumn 2018 exhibition *The Sun: Living With Our Star*, but some details remain on their website: <https://blog.sciencemuseum.org.uk/surprise-solar-storm-underlines-need-for-citizen-science-experiment/>.

The Church Monuments Society (CMS)

The CMS is for all with an interest in tomb carvings and other funerary monuments. They organise excursions and study days, publish a journal and a newsletter, and advise on monument conservation and interpretation. Recently they have presented a series of free on-line lectures with such titles as *Fine and Private Places: or, Why Study Funerary Monuments?*, *The Cross-Legged Effigy in Context: Myth and Legend*, and *A Dead Good Job: Gravedigging in Municipal Cemeteries*. For details of their forthcoming events visit: <https://churchmonumentsociety.org/events>.

John Bazley White (1784-1867): Solid Foundations

Nicholas Long

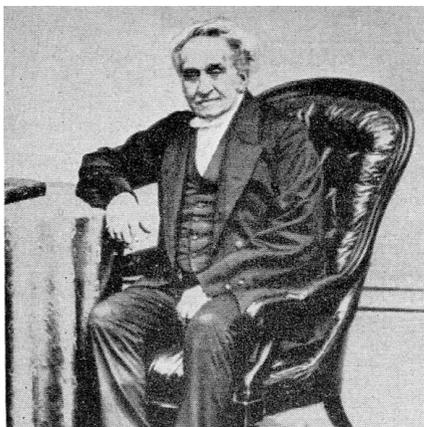
The White family, originally of Nine Elms, epitomise Victorian entrepreneurial verve with an associated rise in social standing. Clearly ambitious, John Bazley White founded an exceptional family business that prospered in the cut-throat world of cement manufacture whilst at the same time demonstrating a strong social conscience.

John Bazley White is interred at Norwood in a plot in the unconsecrated area of the cemetery. He was a founder Director of the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company and a shareholder, a role that was carried on by his son, John Bazley White jnr (1814-1893) for 57 years in all.

J.B. White snr was one of the eight children of John William White (1759-1840) and Mary, née Harwood (1760-1829). He was born at Whitechapel on 7 October 1784 and baptised at St Mary's, Whitechapel, that same day. Bazley does not appear to be a family name.

Nothing is documented about his early years except that in 1810 he opened a cement plant at Nine Elms producing 'artificial' and 'Roman' cement in partnership with Charles Francis.^{2,3} The firm was successful and expanded with acquisition of the Swanscombe, Kent, plant of James Frost in 1833,⁴ continuing to make 'artificial' cement. The partnership with Francis was dissolved in 1836, Francis retaining Nine Elms whilst White took over at Swanscombe.

A charge-hand at Nine Elms was the father of Isaac Charles Johnson who, while studying chemistry, worked as a labourer for Francis & White. As part of his studies he undertook experiments to discover the composition of a rival's product, which was purportedly protected by patents and manufactured in great secrecy.⁵ After two years Johnson was



John Bazley White Snr

² Roman cement was developed by clergyman James Parker in the 1780s and patented in 1796. It has no connection with the Romans

³ Charles Francis (d. 1863) and his son Charles Larkin Francis (1801-1873) both lie at Norwood (grave 3,878, square 63). See: *Crystal Palace Connections* by Bob Flanagan (FOWNC, 2018)

⁴ James Frost (c.1780-c.1840) was born in Finchley, Middlesex. He established a cement plant producing Roman cement at Harwich and acquired Swanscombe in 1825. After disposing of the business he emigrated to New York and established himself as a civil engineer

⁵ William Aspdin (1815-1864) of Leeds altered the formula that his father, Joseph Aspdin, had patented for a method for cement manufacture in 1824, called Portland cement because its finish resembles Portland stone, and which is how cement continues to be made. William failed to

successful and started marketing his own considerably improved cement. Following the split with Francis, Johnson moved to Swanscombe, where he became plant manager.⁶

Production of Portland cement at J.B. White's Swanscombe plant under Johnson commenced in 1845. After a slow start production grew aided by exports notably to France, with Swanscombe becoming the largest British cement manufacturing plant for the next 80 years. They supplied the cement for the Brunels' Thames Tunnel and much of the cement for Bazalgette's London sewerage system and the Thames embankments. The company went public in 1883 as John Bazley White & Brothers Ltd., with continuing family involvement, eventually through merger becoming Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (APCM) in 1900, once part of the Blue Circle Group, now Lafarge. Swanscombe with sixteen rotary kilns was principal APCM plant.

J.B. White snr married Henrietta Clarke Tindale (1787–1858) on 13 January 1809 at St George's, Hanover Square. After early years of married life at Nine Elms and briefly at Norwood (no address identified), they settled at Belgrave Place, Blackheath. They were to have at least twelve children. Various dates are shown in the registers for the purchase of the family grave at Norwood, initially, 25 October 1854, but 21 December 1858 seems more likely. Henrietta was buried there on 30 December 1858.

Ellen Henrietta Ranyard née White

The Whites' eldest child, Ellen Henrietta (1810–1879), was born on 8 January 1810 at Nine Elms. She married Benjamin Ranyard at Swanscombe on 10 January 1839. In 1857 she and her family moved to Hunter Street, Brunswick Square. Soon afterwards she founded the *London Bible and Domestic Female Mission* at Seven Dials. In 1868 a Nursing Branch was opened at Regent Square, Kings Cross.

The Ranyard nurses were in fact the first District Nurses and, with their bicycles, were a familiar sight on the streets of London for many years (see FOWNC Newsletter 32, May 1998). Ellen and Benjamin had four children: Edith Ellen (1843–1861); Herbert Cowden (1845–1898); the astronomer Arthur Cowper (1845–1894);⁷ and Alice Margaret (1846–1865). Edith and Alice are buried in the grave at Norwood together with their parents.



Ellen Henrietta Ranyard

obtain patents for his more successful product, opening a number of plants across the country, including Rotherhithe. His business methods were dubious, however. Eventually declared bankrupt, he fled to Germany in 1857 and died near Hamburg

⁶ Isaac Charles Johnson JP (1811–1911) is acknowledged as the inventor of Portland cement as formulated today, albeit with technological improvements. After leaving White's employ Johnson took over Aspdin's Gateshead plant, making further production improvements. He was noted as a highly moral man and became Mayor of Gateshead

John Bazley White jnr

It is unclear if J.B. White snr's daughter Mary Ann (b. 1811) and son Henry Clarke (b. 16 October 1812) survived infancy. However, his next son John Bazley White jnr succeeded to the family business. In 1851, J.B. White jnr and his family were living at South Road (now part of Kings Avenue), Clapham Park. He had married Mary Leedham (b. 1817) at St Matthew, Brixton on 24 May 1837. Before moving to Clapham Park they had lived in Lower Tulse Hill. They were to have five children. He died at *Braddon Court*, Torquay, Devon on 9 March 1893, leaving £19,094 17s 9d.

One of his sons, a further John Bazley White (1848–1927), was born whilst the family lived at Clapham. He worked for the family company and was MP for Gravesend, 1885–1892. He married Grace Leslie (d. 1933), daughter of Mary Elizabeth, Countess of Rothes (1811–1893), on 10 April 1876 at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street.⁸ They had six children. In 1889–90 he was living at 21 Princes Gate, South Kensington and later at Hunton in Kent. He was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant. He died on 9 February 1927 at 19 Salisbury Road, Hove, leaving £14,054 16s 11d.



William Leedham's lost tombstone

The Whites' next daughter Henrietta (1815–1896) was born in Surrey on 3 December 1815. She married merchant William Leedham (1792–1876) at Swanscombe on 6 July 1842. They lived at Highfield, Andover, Hampshire. He was buried at Norwood (grave 16,191, square 53; monument destroyed) on 28 September 1876. She died at *Studlands*, Boscombe, Bournemouth on 19 November 1896, leaving £3,979 14s 7d.

George Frederick White (1816–1898) was born to J.B. White snr and his wife at Nine Elms on 24 December 1816. He was involved in the management of the family business, and became both a JP and a Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey. He married twice, first to Sarah Brown (1814–1879) at Holy Trinity, Clapham Common, on 29 April 1841. They had four daughters. Sarah died on 3 May 1879. George next married Kathleen Maria Kennedy (1837–1891) at Clondalkin Parish Church, Dublin, on 21 December 1880. He died at Holmwood, Wimborne, Dorset, on 11 August 1898 and was buried at Brompton Cemetery on 16 August 1898 (grave ET/456.9/0).

⁷ Arthur Cowper Ranyard (21 June 1845–14 December 1894). Astrophysicist. Among other major achievements he documented all solar eclipses to 1878. He was elected a member of the London County Council in 1892 and contributed to the creation of the (London) Building Act 1894

⁸ Her father was Martin Edward Haworth-Leslie (d. 1886), a Captain in the 60th Rifles

The Reverend Edward White

Edward (1819–1898) was the seventh child of J.B. White snr. A minister in the Congregational Union, of which he became chairman. He trained at Glasgow, serving at Cardiff and Hereford before Kentish Town, where he remained for almost 40 years. He married Rachel Ainsley Aldersley (1821–1864) at Epping, Essex, in April 1843. They had nine children. Rachel died in 1864 and was buried in the family grave at Norwood. Also buried in the grave is their daughter, Margaret Aldersley White (1852–1859). Edward next married Margaret Gillespy (1827–1918) at St James, Croydon, on 29 August 1867. He died at Mill Hill on 25 July 1898.

Edward was a prolific author, his best-known titles being *Life in Christ* (1875), *Mystery of Growth* (1877), *Tone and Teaching of the New Testament on Certainty in Religion* (1881), *Life and Death: A Reply to the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown's Lectures on Conditional Immortality*, and *The Minor Mortalities of Life*. He wrote that his father "was 'an Israelite indeed' of most upright character, sunny temper, and endless industry" and his mother was "a woman of sound judgement, high principle, and indefatigable energy". These characteristics appeared also in their son. His



John Bazley White snr's family tomb at Norwood

great-grandfather, John Albra Witt, was a Hollander who had immigrated to East London in the time of George II. His son John William, without consideration for Teutonic etymology, altered his name to the English White, as being nearest in sound to the original and proper surname of Witt, which is said to have been derived from an old favourite German hero-god, the tenth from Odin'.

The Reverend James Fleming

Mary Anne White was born to J.B. White snr and his wife at Norwood on 5 November 1821. She married James Fleming (1816–1879), a Congregational minister, at Lancaster. They had seven children. A daughter, Isabella Fleming (1856–1862) was buried in the grave at Norwood. The Reverend Fleming was buried at Highgate (East) Cemetery on 13 November 1879 (grave 23,525, square 84). Their eldest son, Sir John Ambrose Fleming FRS (1849–1945), gained a BSc from University College, London in 1870 and continued his studies at the Royal College of Science (now Imperial College) and at Cambridge University. An electrical engineer, he invented the first thermionic valve (vacuum tube) that was later modified by the American Lee de Forest (see article on Stanley Watkins,

FOWNC Newsletter 92, May 2018). In addition, he designed the radio transmitter with which the first transatlantic radio transmission was made (1901), although Marconi refused to acknowledge his contribution. Fleming is known also for his right- and left-hand rules for electrical generators and motors, respectively.

Robert Owen White

Robert Owen (1824–1892) was born at Norwood on 3 January 1824. He worked for the company at Swanscombe. He married Caroline Brewer at St Leonard, Streatham on 25 May 1848. They had four children. One, Henrietta Lucy (1859–1943), married [Reverend] Christopher Hare Simpkinson de Wesselow (1855–1912) at St Jude, South Kensington, on 14 November 1882. Their daughter, Catherine Evelyn Vaughan Simpkinson (1887–1888) died whilst he was the Vicar of St Paul, Lorrimore Square, Walworth, and was buried at Brompton on 17 January 1888 (grave ET/269/0). Another daughter, Dorothea Simpkinson de Wesselow married Arthur Salusbury MacNalty. ⁹	<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of interment</i>
	Henrietta White	73 yr	30 December 1858
	Arthur Mansell White*	22 mths	9 April 1859
	Margaret Aldersley White	7 yr	18 May 1859
	Edith Ellen Ranyard	18 yr	13 March 1861
	Isabella Fleming	6 yr	29 January 1862
	Rachel Ainsley White	43 yr	16 December 1864
	Alice Margaret Ranyard	18 yr	4 July 1865
	John Bazley White Snr	84 yr	26 October 1867
	Ellen Henrietta Ranyard	69 yr	18 February 1879
	Benjamin Ranyard	76 yr	15 March 1879

*Interments in the White/Ranyard vault (grave 4,220, square 40). *It is not clear how AMW is related to J.B. White snr*

Caroline White died on 17 May 1892 at 8 Lansdowne Terrace, Eastbourne and Robert died on 12 November 1892 at 180 Cromwell Road, Kensington, leaving £11,696 19s 4d. Both were buried in baby Catherine’s grave at Brompton Cemetery on 20 May and 16 November 1892, respectively.

The Remaining Children of J.B. White snr

Samuel Francis White (1826–1904) was born at South Lambeth on 9 January 1826. He married Henrietta Price (b. 1827), the daughter of Frederick Price, at Adelaide, South Australia on 27 March 1851.¹⁰ They had nine children. He was a banker and discount broker. He died on 29 December 1904 at 69 Warwick Gardens, leaving £264 19s 0d.

Finally, Isabella White (1828–1905) was born at Lambeth on 17 February 1828. She married Septimus Richard Scott (1822–1895) from Stoke Newington, a stockbroker, at Lewisham in 1863. They had two daughters. He left £33,828 17s 9d. She died on 10 January 1905 at 163 Widmore Road, Bromley, leaving £35,105 17s 7d.

⁹ Sir Arthur Salusbury MacNalty (1880–1969), pioneer cardiologist, Chief Medical Officer (1935–1941), and founder of the Public Health Laboratory Service, amongst many other achievements

¹⁰ Henrietta may have been the sister of the political economist Bonamy Price (1807–1888)

The Mabey Sculptors: An Immense Contribution

Philip Young

Three generations of Mabeys were sculptors: James Mabey (1811–1871), his son Charles Henry Mabey snr (1835–1912), and his grandson Charles Henry Mabey jnr (1867–1965), my great grandfather. He died when I was 12. He was a lovely old bright intelligent gentleman, who had scores of clocks to wind up in his home in Cambourne Road, Sutton. I can remember waiting in great anticipation as 12 noon approached and the clocks began to chime. Had I known then what I know now about the Mabey sculptors, I would have spent many hours finding out from him about their art.



James Mabey (1811–1871)

Born in Langport, Somerset, in December 1811, in 1842 James was engaged by the sculptor John Thomas (1813–1862) as foreman of the Modelling Department for the New Palace of Westminster, a position he held until 1858. Models of the Victoria and Central Towers survive and are exhibited on the first floor of the Victoria & Albert Museum. Another model attributed to James, of St. Stephen's Chapel as it appeared before the Great Fire of 1834, was reconstructed in 1958 and is displayed in the Jewel Tower. A model of the Clock Tower (Big Ben) also survives and is being restored prior to exhibition.

James Mabey established his own business in 1857. He lived at 16 Gloucester Villa, Loughborough Road, Brixton, but died at Hastings on 21 April 1871. He was buried at Norwood on 27 April 1871 (grave 13,205, square 43). His wife Hannah (1807–1890) is also buried in the grave. Their tombstone is in the form of a pall with rope motif edging on a rectangular monument with roof-shaped lid, by the Mabey firm.

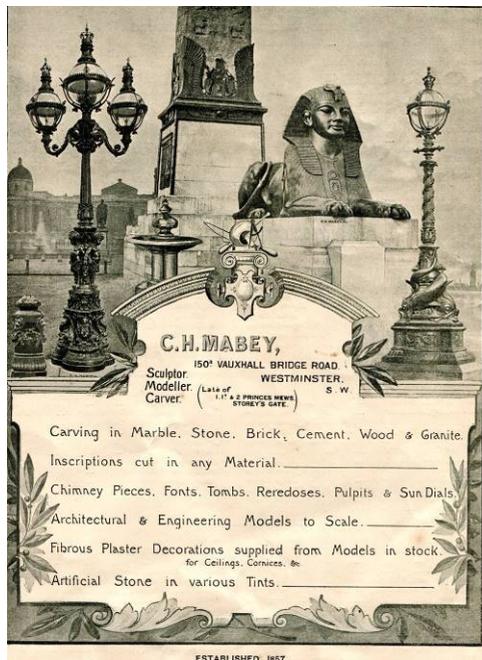
Their son C.H. Mabey snr was born on 9 September 1835. He also worked in John Thomas' studio at Westminster. He joined his father's firm with its studio in Storey's Gate when the Palace of Westminster was completed and helped develop the business. He described himself as a Sculptor, Modeller, and Carver. His catalogue has a very long list of the projects he undertook with illustrations of some of his most impressive work.

The Victoria Embankment was constructed during the 1860s. Three architects



Gravestone of James and Hannah Mabey

were invited to design a lamp standard. The winning design, the Sturgeon (colloquially Dolphin) Lamp, was claimed by George John Vulliamy (1817–1886), superintending architect to the Metropolitan Board of Works. However, C.H. Mabey jnr recorded that it was his father's design: 'Photographs of the three were given by me to the London Museum and can be seen there'. He went on: 'In 1878 my father was commissioned by George Vulliamy ... to design a lamp standard for Trafalgar Square (near the Grand Hotel built in 1880). When completed Vulliamy disputed the payment and the model remained in the studio for five years when Henry Currey, Architect was appointed arbitrator - the two dates 1878 and 1883 may be seen on the standards today. I visited the studio and watched the lamp being modelled by my father in 1878'.¹¹



Title page from C.H. Mabey snr's catalogue

Mabey and supervised by T.H. Vernon¹² for Eustratio Stephen Ralli (1800–1884) and family (grave 18,018, square 28) to the design of Edward Middleton Barry (1830–1880).

C.H. Mabey father and son worked together from 1882 or thereabouts. One notable work was the bust of Gladstone. C.H. Mabey father and son stayed at No. 10 Downing Street for three days. On completion of the bust Gladstone told them that Mrs. Gladstone had said that it was the best likeness she had seen, adding 'she ought to know'.

The Dolphin Lights are to be found on both banks of the Thames and are often seen in the foreground when the Houses of Parliament are viewed from the South Bank. In 1997 I walked along both sides of the Embankment and counted a total of 215 Dolphin Lights. The first lights were made in 1870, and many were made in the 1960s for the improvements on the South Bank. Further Dolphin Lights were added on the North and South banks in 1977 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, but I was surprised to find two made as recently as 1995, which shows their lasting popularity.

C.H. Mabey snr also modelled the sphinxes for Cleopatra's Needle and the bronze work at the base of the needle. In addition, the Temple Bar memorial has three panels designed and made by him. An important surviving work is the Grade II listed mausoleum built by C.H. and J.

¹¹ Henry Currey (1820–1900; grave 26,777, square 124 – monument destroyed). Architect of St Thomas' Hospital, 1868. C.H. Mabey jnr designed his memorial plaque in the Hospital Chapel

¹² Thomas Heygate Vernon (1838–1888; grave 22,459, square 26)



The Eustratio Ralli Mausoleum

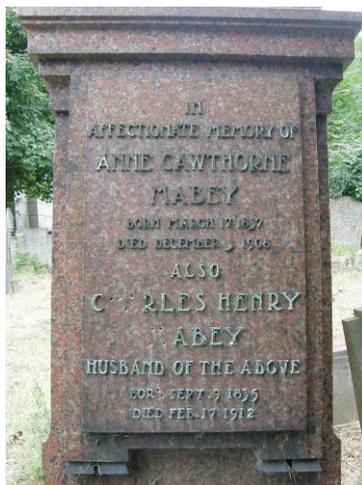
Temple Bar Memorial was unveiled in 1880 by Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853–1884). C.H. Mabey snr was amongst those presented to HRH. City architect Sir Horace Jones (1819–1887) was in charge. He engaged C.H. Mabey father and son on Leadenhall Market, the Guildhall School of Music, and Tower Bridge, 1887–94. C.H. Mabey jnr attended his funeral at Norwood (grave 12,335, square 89) in the company of Sir John Mowlem Burt (1845–1918).

In 1872 C.H. Mabey snr was engaged on the figure models for Burlington House, Piccadilly. In the studio in 1882 C.H. Mabey father and son were modelling a large figure of Britannia for South Africa and obtained a large block of Sicilian Marble. When the work was finished and ready for shipping a cable arrived saying they had no means of lifting it into position, and it would have to be sawn into pieces. Terrible, but there was no alternative.

In 1891 C.H. Mabey father and son worked at Knowsley Hall, near Liverpool, the seat of Lord Derby, who was to entertain HRH the Duke of Clarence. However, the visit did not materialize because the Duke passed away suddenly in January 1892. His mother the Princess of Wales later Queen Alexandra commissioned C.H. Mabey jnr to execute a tablet to be erected in his memory in a West End Hospital.

In 1906 a dinner was given to the Overseas Premiers at the National Liberal Club. The Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836–1908) introduced C.H. Mabey jnr to General Louis Botha (1862–1919). Winston Churchill was also present. They called to see the bust of Gladstone that had just been completed at 10 Downing Street. The original plaster bust was given to the National Liberal Club.

C.H. Mabey snr had retired in 1899. He died at 4 Stonehill Mansions, Streatham, on 17 February 1912 and was buried near to his father (grave 20,220, square 43) on 21 February 1912, age 76. His wife Anne Cawthorne Mabey née Symons (1837–1908) is also buried in the grave. They had married on his 21st birthday, 9 September 1857, at the Congregational Chapel, York Road, Lambeth. Their son continued the family business.



Gravestone of C.H. Mabey snr



C.H. Mabej jnr. Lion: Admiralty building

to government design that were exhibited at the Central Wesleyan Hall. Then followed many War Memorial commissions including the Cenotaph at Belfast for architect Sir Brumwell Thomas (1868–1948).

Work on rebuilding Regent Street was commissioned by John Murray, the Crown Surveyor, who also supervised alterations to 145 Piccadilly, the new residence of HRH the Duke of York. Models for the new Science Museum were prepared for Sir Richard Allison (1869–1958), Chief Architect of H.M. Office of Works. He was presented to King George and Queen Mary at the opening of the building.

There was also work on the Admiralty, the War Office, the National Gallery, Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Windsor Castle, the Wallace Collection, and Chelsea

Hospital Chapel. Mabej also modelled lions, including one for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley based on a design by Frederick Charles Herrick (1887–1970). Mabej retired in 1933 and died at Worthing on 1 June 1965. He had married Emily Sarah née Catterson (1867–1949) in 1889. Their son Harold Victor (b. 1897) had worked with him for several years, but the business, I believe, closed in 1933.

A further Mabej plot, that of C.H. Mabej snr's brother James (c.1837–1883) and his wife Eliza (c.1822–1892), lies nearby (grave 19,865, square 43). James lived at 14 Evandale Road, Burton Road, Brixton and died at Oakdale, 17 Hopton Road, Coventry Park, Streatham on 20 October 1883. He was buried at Norwood on 27 October 1883, age 45.

In June 1891 the Mabejs' studio had moved to 150 Vauxhall Bridge Road overlooking Vincent Square. The lease of these premises was sold to the Infants' Hospital in 1928 and the freehold of 45 Durham Street, Kennington was purchased. The Mabej firm remained there until 1933.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, C.H. Mabej jnr became an Hon. Assistant Administrator for lead. When the war ended he was commissioned to prepare scale models of houses



Lion modelled for the British Empire Exhibition

The Curlings, The Hunters, and the Dunns

Nicholas Long

Daniel Curling (d. 1844; grave 929, square 66), a furniture (fabric) printer, and his brothers fish merchant Alexander (d. 1866; grave 10,367, square 65), furniture printer Joseph (d. 1866; grave 381, square 53 – monument destroyed) and fish merchant William (1780–1866; grave 152, square 66/53) were all amongst the original promoters of the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company.¹³



Lord Mayor Brown's monument

In 1892 their son, the Rev Andrew Hunter Dunn DD (1839–1914), was appointed 5th Bishop of Quebec. Born in Saffron Walden, he had married his first cousin, Alice Hunter (1839–1931). They had seven sons and two daughters. One of the sons, Edward Arthur Dunn (1868–1955), became Archbishop of the West Indies in 1936. William Hunter senior's great-great granddaughter Joan Hunter Dunn (1915–2008) was the subject of Sir John Betjeman's poem *A Subaltern's Love-song* – both of her father's grandparents were descended from him.



Lord Mayor Hunter's monument

¹³ Joseph married Charlotte Holbert Wilson (1808–1857), daughter of Captain James Wilson (1760–1814) of Denmark Hill. Wilson had commanded the *Duff* (264 tons), which the London Missionary Society contracted in 1797 to convey a team of missionaries (30 men, 6 women, and 3 children) to their postings in Tahiti, Tonga, and the Marquesas Islands

Tidying-up the Cemetery

Bob Flanagan

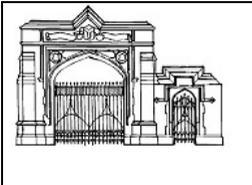
A chance meeting with FOWNC members Madeline Brockbanks and Sue Williams at the end of a lockdown walk in February prompted the question: ‘When is the next work party in the cemetery?’ My response ‘please organise one, there is plenty to do’ elicited the reply ‘When can we start?’



Having received the blessing of the cemetery management and been assured that a supply of large rubbish bags would be forthcoming, the next step was to ensure that all prospective volunteers were paid up FOWNC members for insurance purposes. Our risk assessment having been approved and circulated to all volunteers, the result has been working parties on most Saturdays starting towards the end of February each attended by 10 or so volunteers. A great deal of rubbish has been collected; in one case the accumulated bags were deemed too heavy for Lambeth Parks to clear away!

A problem of course is that litter

continues to appear in the cemetery. Be this as it may, it is hoped to continue the work parties throughout the Spring and Summer months and in time to move on to tidying up some of the graves in the historic areas of the cemetery. More volunteers will always be welcome.



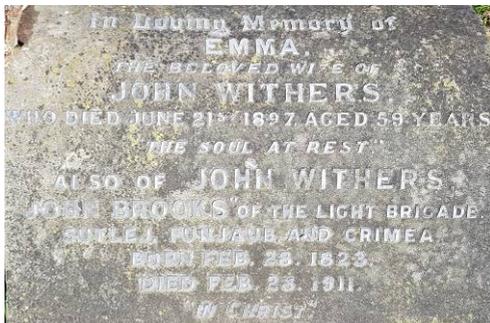
Forthcoming Events

May – September 2021

In the continuing wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are not certain when we will be able to restart tours of the cemetery, but hope to be able to start in July. Thus, introductory tours (pre-book one month in advance only, www.eventbrite.co.uk) will be held on the first Sunday of each month subject to Government guidance, starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14:30 (4 July, 1 August, 5 September), and lasting for 1½–2 hours. Donations will be welcome. These tours coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events: <https://westnorwoodfeast.com/>). To register to be notified of additional events, please visit www.fownc.org/news/.

A Bit of Mystery ~ Bob Flanagan

Norwood has many connections with the Crimean War. The burials of survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade, the disastrous cavalry charge at Balaklava (1854), are amongst the most poignant. The grave of Trooper Henry George Wickham (1836–1892; grave 12,587, square 58; common grave), who rode with the 13th Light Dragoons, is now unmarked. The gravestone of his fellow Trooper John Withers (1823–1911; grave 27,508, square 95) is, however, unscathed. Withers joined the 3rd Queen's Dragoons in 1842 as John Brooks and served in the Sutlej and Punjab (Sikh Wars). Exchanging into the 13th Light Dragoons in 1854, he was present at the Battle of the Alma prior to Balaklava, where he was severely wounded. An appeal raised 500 guineas for him in 1895. But why did he use the name John Brooks throughout his Army career?



FOWNC Personnel

Chairman & Publications Officer: Bob Flanagan, 79 Durban Road, London SE27 9RW
(Tel: +44 20 8670 3265; e-mail: chairman@fownc.org)

Deputy Chairman: John Clarke, 35 Addison Gardens, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8DJ
(Tel: +44 20 8390 7121; e-mail deputychairman@fownc.org)

Hon Secretary & Tours Organiser: Jill Dudman, 119 Broxholm Road, London SE27 0BJ
(Tel: +44 20 8670 5456; e-mail: secretary@fownc.org)

Hon Treasurer: Anna Long, 1st & 2nd Floor Flat, 47 Hambalt Road, London SW4 9EQ
(Tel: +44 7940 581 654; e-mail: treasurer@fownc.org)

Webmaster: James Slattery-Kavanagh, Quotes, 3 Cricketfield, Newick, East Sussex BN8 4LL (Tel: +44 1825 723943; e-mail: webmaster@fownc.org)

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