

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 105 – September 2022

Free to members

Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

News this month is that the restoration of Richard Thornton's family vault has been completed. The work was funded by donations from Nigel Pullman and Anthony Thornton, both themselves Pastmasters of the Leather-sellers' Company, with support from Lambeth Bereavement Services Manager, Jacqui Landy. Rowland Brothers have done a splendid job as usual. Thanks to Steve Rowland especially for his continuing interest in our restoration projects. Richard Thornton was the Jeff Bezos/Elon Musk of his day (see p. 5).

Progress with the NLHF project continues. Most obviously the roadway works on Narrow and Lower Roads have been completed. Secondly, works to St Stephen's Chapel and to specified listed monuments in the Greek enclosure and in other parts of the cemetery continues apace under the auspices of *Sally Strachey Historic Conservation*.

It is ironic that the effort to renovate Bee-ton Path has been a casualty of our very dry summer! The green sward established carefully by idverde is now sadly nothing but a memory. Perhaps it will re-



Richard Thornton's monument

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grow in time. Progress on other items including the proposed new entrances, the renovation of the Cemetery walls and railings, and the Visitor Centre was due to be discussed over the summer by the Management Advisory Group and the Scheme of Management Committee (SoMC). However, the scheduled meeting was abandoned because no Councillors could be bothered to attend, even remotely, two of them only indicating non-attendance within 24 hours of the meeting. The NHLF Project Report, however, is here: <https://bit.ly/3BOKY9I>.

As to other developments, Alison Plant has joined Lambeth's Infrastructure and Capital delivery team as a Senior Project Manager to manage the delivery of the NLHF project. She is a highly experienced Project Manager and Chartered member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) with a passion for the restoration of historic landscapes.



Alison Plant

Corinne Snow is the new Transition and Venues Manager, working closely with FOWNC and other key stakeholders. The aim is to develop a robust plan to transform St Stephen's Chapel and the new Visitor Centre into vibrant spaces that attract community and commercial opportunities. Corinne is a seasoned project manager working on a range of venues from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to local community spaces.



Corinne Snow

Finally, Kim Hart is the new Activities and Community Officer (West Norwood Cemetery). She has lived in West Norwood for more than 20 years and through her community work knows the area intimately. With her background in festivals and events and the wide scope of her local connections, Kim is looking forward to raising the profile of our internationally important cemetery with an engagement



Kim Hart

programme that focuses on education, accessibility, and community partnerships, and that showcases the Cemetery's outstanding heritage and exceptional natural environment. We wish them all well and look forward to working with them in the coming months.

New Cemetery Regulations

Lambeth have published agreed new regulations for the South Metropolitan (West Norwood) Cemetery. Kevin Crook (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods) and Nicholas Long (Chair of the SoMC) are to be thanked for their hard work on this document. See: <https://bit.ly/3JBLxG4>.

I did try to contribute until exhaustion set in. Regulations are useless unless enforced. Major worries remain the absence of visible security, especially at weekends. The new Regulations permit cycling in the cemetery. No objection provided cyclists respect the cemetery's intended purpose as a place of commemoration and contemplation. Dogs are

not permitted except Assistance Dogs. How is this to be enforced one wonders? A perennial problem is collecting litter/emptying litter bins. Vans are not permitted without permit. Again how is this to be enforced?

The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 (as amended) forms the basis for some of the new Regulations. Article 18 of the Order provides that no person shall: a) wilfully create any disturbance in a Cemetery b) commit any nuisance in a Cemetery c) wilfully interfere with any burial taking place in a Cemetery d) wilfully interfere with any Grave or Vault, any tombstone or other Memorial, or any flowers or plants on any such matter.

All very vague. To me a 'disturbance' or 'nuisance' is very loud music played on car radios whilst a grave is being attended, for example. Another is feeding foxes – foxes are abundant in London and predate young birds, for example.

New Cemetery Guidebook

A long-time in planning, our new 116 page full-colour guide to the cemetery is now available price £7.50 (£5.00 paid-up FOWNC members). Postage (UK address) is £1.65.

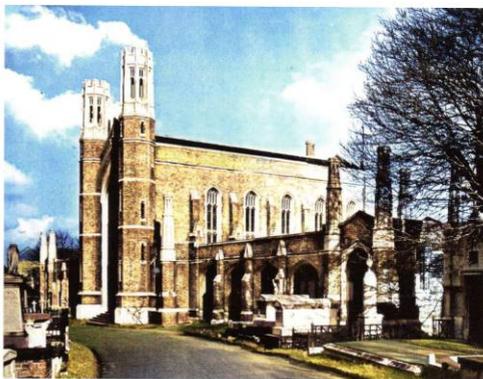
Building on our earlier guide, the book contains details of 99 graves (109 notables, 69 of whom feature in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography). Each grave/memorial is illustrated, and most entries include portraits of the principal burial(s). In addition, there is a brief history of the cemetery itself and outline descriptions of the St. Mary-at-Hill and Greek Enclosures. An innovation is the colourisation of many monochrome photographs such as that of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel featured on the cover.

All of the graves discussed may be visited except the vault of Sir William Tite (entry no. 94), which is situated in the catacombs beneath the site of the Anglican Mortuary Chapel. However, the design of the cemetery, the way in which burial rights in a plot were purchased, and the period over which interments took place mean that it is not easy to visit all the monuments illustrated in one visit. Hence, I suggest visiting parts of the cemetery in turn. The zones suggested are (i) the Gilbert monument (entry no. 36) and environs (23 monuments), (ii) the Dissenters' ground (23 monuments), (iii) Doulton Path and environs (24 monuments), and (iv) Ship/Beeton Paths and environs (28 monuments). These zones/monuments have been colour-coded on the maps on the endpapers.



West Norwood Cemetery An Illustrated Guide

Bob Flanagan



The first entry in the book is that of Charles William Alcock (1842–1907; grave 14,689, square 86). John Clarke has pointed out that Alcock is also referenced and illustrated in the Presentation Pack issued by Royal Mail for its set of special stamps marking the 150th Anniversary of the FA Cup issued on 8 March 2022. Nothing if not topical. See: <https://bit.ly/3SpuSJA>.

Monuments to be Maintained in Perpetuity

FOWNC members may have noticed the monument illustrated below that lies at the Northern end of Beeton Path opposite the crematorium. This is the family vault of Jeremiah Michael Evans ‘32 years Common Councilman and Deputy for the Ward of Candlewick’. He lived at St. John’s Lodge, Clapham Rise. He died age 76 on 31 March 1865 and was buried on 8 April. He left some £40,000.

Study of the cemetery register reveals that the Cemetery Company took money in 1840 to maintain the grave and its associated monument in perpetuity. The 1966 compulsory purchase of the cemetery specifically transferred all outstanding obligations to grave owners to the Council, but as in other areas, the Council has tried to ignore this commitment. Hopefully in time a proper repair to the vault can be effected and the ugly railings in front of the collapsed part of the vault can be removed.



The Evans family vault (grave 140, squares 51-64)

SoMC Chair Nicholas Long has gathered information on about 200 similar arrangements, some concerning listed monuments (see below) including the Tate mausoleum and the monument to Gideon Mantell (see Newsletter 104, May 2022). Yet another expensive legacy thanks to the Council’s mismanagement of the cemetery over the years.

Grave/square	Name	Covenant [date implemented]
273/100	Mantell	Stone, turf and shrubs in perpetuity [1886]
1,568/51	Capper	Gardening in perpetuity [1879]
7,523/36	Widdowson	Stone in perpetuity [1873]
16,172/27-28	Ralli	Mausoleum & inscriptions [1914]
19,897/38-39	Tate	Maintain brick & terra-cotta mausoleum [9/11/1920]
23,625/113	Wetenhall	Maintain mausoleum in good state of repair. Plant the garden with Spring and Summer flowers [12/9/1960]
37,450/124	Maddick	Maintain marble figure, mausoleum interior & exterior and all bronze work in clean & thorough state of repair [17/5/1940]

Richard Thornton, ‘*Duke of Danzig*’ (1776–1865)

Bob Flanagan

Born on 20 September 1776 at Burton in Lonsdale, North Yorkshire, Richard Thornton was educated at Christ’s Hospital, Newgate Street, 1785–91. With his elder brother Laurence (1774–1837) he started in business in the early 19th century, the time of the Napoleonic Wars. He left £2,800,000 after charitable gifts of some £100,000, the largest fortune to be valued for probate before 1870.



Richard Thornton (1823)

In 1810, with the Baltic closed to British trade, he was commissioned by the Admiralty to get as much hemp as he could from Russia for rigging the fleet. He armed one of his own ships and set off himself, leaving Laurence in charge in London. He fought off a Danish gunboat to land at Memel (now Klaipeda in Lithuania) posing as German. From there he went into Russia and bought hemp, returning to England with several thousand tons.

Two years later Laurence was in Memel when he got news of Napoleon’s retreat from Moscow. He sent an express message back to Richard in London, who got the news three days before anyone else, including the Cabinet, and made a fortune by selling futures in Baltic goods (furs, hemp, tallow, etc.) at wartime prices. He became a major ship-owner and a Lloyds underwriter. In June 1827, he sold the paddle steamer *Quentin Durward* to Kaptajn-løtnant Lauritz Christensen, of Copenhagen, who renamed

her *Dania*. Since he had first used her himself, he was thus the owner of the first ever private steam yacht. He was Master of the Leathersellers’ Company, 1836–7. He did not marry, but lived with his housekeeper, Alice Lee.

Richard and Alice had three daughters and a son. Living at 84 West Side, Clapham Common from 1815, they moved to Cannon’s Hill Park, Merton in 1832. He died at Merton on 20 June 1865 and was buried at Norwood on 26 June (grave 9,815, square 63). His sister, Ellen (1786–1870), who had married an East India Captain, William Simpson (1786–1852), and who died on 16 August 1870, is also buried in the vault.



Richard Thornton’s family monument

Basil Pandelis ~ Shipowner and Patriot. Part 1¹

Pan Pandelis and Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter FKC

In the words of obituarists ‘*a true child of Poseidon*’, ‘*a cornerstone in the development of the Greek shipping industry*’ and ‘*one of the most eminent representatives of Hellenism abroad*’, Captain Basil Pandelis (1869–1935; grave 38,598, square 29; Greek no. 84) rose from humble beginnings in Asia Minor ‘*through honesty and toil*’ to become one of the great Greek shipowners and philanthropists of the early part of the 20th century. A ‘*gem of a man*’ who always strove to bring joy and provide others with the possibility to do their best and reach high, he was a well-known figure of the London Greek shipping community in which he was much admired for his openheartedness, generosity, and absolute integrity.

His life epitomised the lives of many first-generation Greek shipowners of his era and region. Young men lured by the cut and thrust of the sailor’s life, who started as hard-worked deckhands on board small, clumsy vessels and rose in rank to become undaunted, untiring ship’s masters, saving along the way sufficient capital to buy their first sailing vessels and eventually make the transition to steamers, all the while helping kith, kin, and community.

For these toilers of the sea exploiting to the full the major transformations shipping underwent as the Industrial Revolution progressed in Europe, this seemingly linear progression from fishing nets to riches was also one of hardship and turbulence. For Basil, the hardship of island life and of life at sea with its ever-present dangers – the sea took his two elder brothers, as well as the very first vessel he acquired – and the turbulence born not only of the roller-coaster uncertainties inherent to shipping markets, but also of the epic geopolitical events that befell Greece and Asia Minor in his lifetime.

Akin to so many other ‘residents’ of the Hellenic Enclosure, Basil kept in close touch with his homeland. Indeed, his life became indissolubly linked to the island of Marmara and the fate of its inhabitants when they became embroiled in the immense tragedy out of which the Turkish Republic was born in 1923. A series of regional conflicts and a massive, forced population exchange resulted in the near-complete elimination of the Greek and Christian presence in Turkey.



*Captain Basil Pandelis (1920
photograph by Bassano, London)*

¹ For Part 2: see FOWNC Newsletter 106 (January 2023)

A friend of Greek Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos (1864–1936), Basil was a dynamic supporter of his ambitious pursuit of the *Megali Idea* project aiming to unite all Greek Orthodox people living around the Aegean and the Sea of Marmara – the ‘unredeemed’ Greeks – in a single Hellenic state. But international circumstances and their underestimation of the strength and cohesion of the Turkish nationalist resistance movement led by Mustafa Kemal, later Kemal Atatürk (c. 1881–1938), resulted in the utopian project turning into the very real Asia Minor Catastrophe. A man of humanity, Basil did much to help mitigate the plight of his fellow Asia Minor Greeks after these dreadful events and to keep alive the connection to the homeland that he and they were forced to give up.

Basil was born on the island of Marmara (then Proikonnesos) in the Sea of Marmara (then Propontis) in present-day Turkey. His father Pandelis, an itinerant haberdasher and cloth merchant who travelled the villages of Marmara, died prematurely, leaving his wife Katerina and six children poverty-stricken. It is not known what Katerina did to support her children – the social status of women on Marmara at the time was not simply confined to household activities: women participated actively in a variety of primary commercial activities such as sericulture and weaving (handmade textiles of cotton and silk made by Proconessian women were very much sought after in Constantinople), making nets for the island’s fishermen, salting fish, and harvesting grapes and olives. But whatever her employment, she succeeded in instilling in her children the values of hard work, grit and enterprise, and certainly in Basil’s case, faith in God, moral integrity, and great empathy.

Basil spent his early years in Marmara along with his one sister, Daphne, and four brothers, Alexandros, Efstratios, Dimitrios, and Zannis. After an elementary education he worked at a young age tending to the nets and labouring on the island’s very capable fishing boats. On reaching their teens, he and his brothers were accepted to work as ship’s boys under the protection of a maternal uncle, a master-owner whose vessels flew the Ottoman flag. The boys took to life on board ships like... boats to the sea. Highly competent, they showed exceptional acquaintance with maritime operations and ‘armed with just their honesty and expertise’ quickly gained the respect and attention of Constantinople’s maritime circles.

After their uncle’s death, they were sought after among local shipowners and each given command of a sailing vessel, Basil becoming captain at the age of 24 of a 27-year-old wooden brig, the *Polyxeni Omirou*. The brothers’ nautical feats eventually reached the ears of higher powers, a contemporary historian Spyridon Nestoridis (*Reminiscences from Marmara Island and national memorabilia*. Athens: The Dodoni Press, 1992) reporting: ‘The shipping agents of the then Ottoman Minister of the Navy, Hasan Pasha, seeing that the Turkish captains, operating in a happy-go-lucky fashion, were always behind with their voyages and knowing the Pandelis brothers to arrive and depart punctually without delays, found a way, notwithstanding the Pasha, to replace the Turkish captains with the Pandelis brothers, which indeed they did’.

Throughout the 1890s and early 1900s, while continuing with their voyages in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, the Pandelis brothers acquired their first vessels. Initially

coastal barges, then wooden barques and brigs, even a three-masted schooner and tugs, their command entrusted to seemingly competent cousins and fellow Marmarians.

Basil acquired his first vessel in 1903. It was a barque named *Kimissis* after the Kimissis of the Theotokos (Dormition of the Virgin Mary), to which the Church of Panagia Balinou in the Balat district of Constantinople is dedicated. It was there that he and his wife, Ariadne *née* Nestoridis (1873–1943) married, and the name of the ship was a symbol of the couple's deep, lifelong piety and devotion to each other. The vessel would be one of eight reported wrecked by Lloyd's on 15 January 1905 following a gale in the waters between Constantinople and the Black Sea port of Pontoheraclea (now Karadeniz Ereğli). By then, Basil had acquired a second barque that he named *Ariadni*. He captained her himself. She survived the winds!

By 1906, Basil and his by-then two remaining brothers had returned to *terra firma* and accumulated sufficient capital to invest in the then still-novel and improving technology of steam propulsion. They pooled their resources, set up *Pandelis Brothers Steamship Company*, and acquired their first iron ship, which they named *SS Dafni* after their sister. Independently Basil also acquired *SS Marmara*. Both ships were 42 years old!

By 1913, the Pandelis fleet comprised seven steamships, six passenger vessels, and four sailing vessels, the latter remaining competitive on longer voyages due to their low overheads. Basil, a clever, intelligent, congenial man, was also described as the '*guiding spirit*' of the Pandelis brothers. As managing partner, he oversaw operations from offices in Merkez Rıhtım Han, an office building located in the Galata district of Constantinople. It was built in 1912 as part of the refashioning of the city's waterfront and until its recent transformation into a hotel, it housed the Turkish Maritime Organisation.

In 1914 Basil, Ariadne and their young son Pandelis, 'Pan', (1906–1966), travelled to England to take delivery of *SS Prikonisos*, their first new-built steamer, from William Gray & Co. Ltd. in West Hartle-



SS Prikonisos drawn from memory by Manuel Kulukundis (1974)

pool. The vessel was launched on 24 July 1914, just a few days before the First World War broke out. Less than three years later, she would be shelled and sunk by a U-35 with the loss of four lives as she sailed in ballast from Salonica to Algiers.

By then, life for Greeks across Asia Minor had become perilous. Although loyal Ottoman citizens and key to Turkish trade and prosperity, they were the first victims of the policy of Turkification initiated by the Young Turks. The new regime feared that the Christian populations spread throughout the Ottoman Empire would threaten the integrity of a future Turkish state. Even the Greeks of Constantinople lived in fear. Beginning in the first months of 1914, aggression turned into well-planned, ruthless persecution, resulting in the deportation and death of countless Greeks, as well as Armenians and Assyrians.

Peter Crawley (1799-1864) - Prize-Fighter

Bob Flanagan

As Nicholas Long pointed out in the last issue of the Newsletter, hardly a month passes without further discoveries at Norwood. Peter Crawley (grave 7,439, square 3; monument destroyed) was briefly bare-knuckle Champion of England, having defeated the reigning champion Jem Ward (1800–1884) over 11 rounds (26 minutes), £200 a side on Royston Heath on 2 January 1827. Ward, however, quickly reclaimed the title when Crawley retired immediately after the match and ran the *Queen's Head and French Horn* public house in Duke Street, West Smithfield until his death.



Peter Crawley. Illustration to Pierce Egan's Boxiana (London: 1824)

Crawley had an inguinal hernia and it was thought that he would not fight again. Nevertheless, he sparred at benefits at the *Fives and Tennis Courts* in London with Tom Spring amongst others.^{3,4} However, after an impromptu fight with one 'Bully Southern's'

Peter Crawley was born at Newington Green on 5 December 1799, the son of a butcher. Initially a butcher himself, his first fights seem to have been impromptu affairs. In 1817 he defeated Pat Flanagan, an Irishman, over 15 rounds following a dispute over the quantity of pork purchased from Crawley senior. Other fights led to Crawley junior being sworn extra-constable at the 1818 election of the reformers Sir Samuel Romilly (1757–1818) and Sir Francis Burdett (1770–1844).

A confrontation at this time with Ben Sutcliffe, also a butcher, led to his next notable fight, Crawley emerging victorious over 7 rounds (9½ minutes) for £20 a side, close to Kingston on 7 August 1818. His next fight, however, ended in a defeat by Torn Hickman over 13 rounds (14½ minutes) for £50 a side at Moulsey Hurst in Surrey on 28 March 1820.² Subsequently, Crawley opened a butcher's shop at Seven Dials. He was employed at Westminster Hall to help keep order at the Coronation of George IV on 19 July 1821.

² Torn Hickman (the *Gas Light Man*, 1785–1822) died in a carriage accident and is buried in the churchyard of St Botolph's, Aldersgate (now Postman's Park)

³ Thomas Spring née Winter (1795–1851; grave 154, square 61/73)

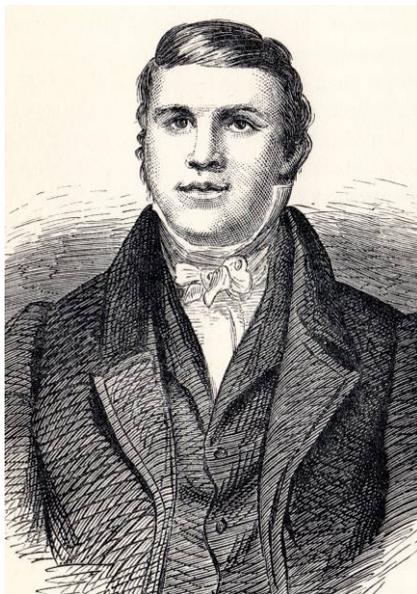
at the Cock-pit in Chester in May 1822 he agreed to fight Richard (Dick) Acton. The fight took place on 5 May 1823 (£50 a side) at Blindlow Heath in Sussex. Crawley emerged victorious over 13 rounds (16 minutes).

Next came the fight with Jem Ward for the Championship and retirement from the ring. Apparently, Royston Heath was selected for the fight because 'there being three counties handy in the event of any interference' – an early example of 'county lines'! Even then the precise location was switched at the last minute. Crawley weighed 12 stone 12 pounds, whilst Ward weighed 12 stone 7 pounds. The odds were 11 to 5 on Ward. However, at the conclusion of the fight Ward was carried unconscious to the *Red Lion* at Royston and 'put to bed between warm blankets'.⁵

In September 1851 Crawley was persuaded to stand as referee when Harry Broome fought the *Tipton Slasher*,⁶ Harry's brother Johnny having suggested a fight without a referee.⁷ In the event, the *Tipton* hit Harry with a foul punch, and Peter amidst much acrimony awarded the fight to Harry Broome.

Peter Crawley died suddenly aged 64 from 'disease of the heart' at the *Queen's Head* on 11 March 1864. He had been beaten but once in his 10-year career. His wife Sophia Crawley (1808–1861) is also buried in the grave at Norwood. Crawley was a vestryman of his parish, and 'much respected by his neighbours and friends'. He left 4 daughters.

Norwood is I feel unique in that at least 3 further bare-knuckle boxers lie here in addition to Tom Spring and the Broome brothers: near to Spring lie Edward (Ned) Neale (the *Streatham Youth*) (1805–1846; grave 1,556, square 61) and John (Jack) Burke (the *Irish Lad*) (1861–1897; grave 27,515, square 120) lies next to Tom King (1835–1888; grave 22,559, square 120).⁸



Peter Crawley (Young Rump Steak) aged 27 from a Portrait by Wyvill

⁴ See: <https://bit.ly/3BOvhiO>. The site of the building is now under the northern edge of the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery

⁵ Jem Ward retired to the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum on the Old Kent Road. He is buried in Nunhead Cemetery

⁶ William Perry (1819–1880) is buried at St John's Church, Dudley

⁷ Brothers Thomas Henry Alfred (Harry) Broome (1825–1865) and John (Johnny) Broome (*Young Ducrow*; 1818–1855) (both grave 2,008, square 61; monument destroyed)

⁸ See: *West Norwood Cemetery's Sportsmen* by Bob Flanagan (www.fownc.org/publications/) for details of all except Burke, for which see FOWNC Newsletters 29, May 1997 & 53, May 2005

Hiram Maxim ~ Some Mysteries Solved

Jill Dudman

A Bit of Mystery (Newsletter 103, January 2022) raised various questions about the Maxim family. I have been able to add some further material.

Thanks to one of our members who is on the staff of the South London Crematorium, we know that Hiram Maxim's grandson Maxim Joubert, who died at 22 Kempshott Road, Streatham SW16 on 24 November 1980, was cremated there on 27 November 1980. His ashes were removed by Maxwell Bros, Funeral Directors, Streatham High Road. However, Maxwell Bros, who were very helpful, failed to find any record of what then happened to them. So that mystery remains. Indeed, it is not known who organised the headstone inscription to Joubert at Norwood, which may be just an *In Memoriam*, unless the ashes were deposited either in, or on the grave without the cemetery office being told.

Maxim Joubert (1902–1980)

His full birth name was actually Eldon Maxim Joubert, but he always went by the name Maxim. The ensuing material has been compiled largely from newspaper reports, thanks to *British Newspaper Archive* (from the British Library) and *Chronicling America* (from the Library of Congress), and also the *FreeBMD*. More than 30 British newspapers, national and local, carried reports of what was seen as a remarkable event, the journey of Maxim Joubert in August 1909, aged seven, all alone, 4,000 miles from Boston, via New York for the Atlantic crossing on the Cunard liner *Lusitania*, to visit his grandparents, with Lady Maxim picking him up at Liverpool. The *South London Press* stepped in to do a lengthy interview, finding him to be a very keen sportsman, whilst the *Daily Mirror* showed photos of him in baseball kit, and of Lady Maxim bowling a cricket ball to him.



Eldon Maxim Joubert

The reason Maxim Joubert came to this country in the first place appears to have been the early death of his mother. As reported in American newspapers, Sir Hiram's daughter Adelaide, wife of Eldon Joubert, died from heart trouble in 1907, aged only 32, whilst living at the home of her mother, Mrs. Jane Maxim, in Hyde Park, a suburb of Boston. Mrs. Maxim is described in these reports as divorced from Sir Hiram, although they don't say when this occurred. Mr. Joubert was in New York when his wife died, and his work seems to have involved much travelling, notably with the pianist Paderewski, hence one assumes he was in no position to look after his young son.

It appears that Maxim Joubert then stayed permanently in this country and was adopted by Sir Hiram and Lady Maxim as their own son. Later reports on the death of Sir Hiram

in 1916 and of Sarah, Lady Maxim in 1941, show that they both left bequests to him in their wills.



Maxim demonstrates his gun to his grandson

Having been a first-year undergraduate at Cambridge in 1923, Maxim Joubert left to work in a bank in order to be able to afford to marry Cecile Alexandra Follain. However, they separated after five months, a divorce being granted in 1931 on the ground of her adultery, although he continued to pay her an allowance. He was then living in Drewstead Road, Streatham. In 1932 he married Ivy Irene Holmes. There do not appear to have been any children.

There are reports of him playing rugby, cricket, and baseball, even into his forties, captaining various teams, in Streatham and elsewhere, and later moving into administration in all these sports. A couple of reports in the 1950s

show him attending military cemetery ceremonies representing London Post No. 1, American Legion, a veterans' support organisation. Is there a clue here as to how he is described as a US army officer on the headstone, for which no other evidence has turned up? Was it some sort of honorary position? Another remaining mystery.

Hiram Maxim – Bigamist?

In 1898 Hiram Maxim had been arrested in New York on warrants of abandonment and bigamy and put on trial. A woman variously named as Helen Leighton or Nell Malcolm brought a case against him, claiming that he had married her in 1878, rather shockingly when she was aged only 15, thus committing bigamy against his first wife, Jane (nee Budden), and he had then abandoned her in 1881. She claimed further that Maxim had fathered a daughter named Romaine or Roumania with her, born in 1879 and thence adopted by another family.

This latter fact seems undisputed – he left a bequest in his will to Romaine. However, Maxim insisted that he had never been legally married to Helen, whilst she claimed that he had stolen her marriage certificate. There had been earlier reports in 1884 that Helen, described as his second wife, was suing Maxim for divorce, citing unfaithfulness with Sarah Haynes. Maxim did state that it was because of the affair with Helen that his first wife had divorced him. The criminal case was dismissed, but with Helen then claiming \$25,000 damages in a civil action, though finally agreeing to only \$1,000.

One further note: whatever the legality or not of Maxim's earlier marriage to his actual second wife Sarah (the date and place of which seem to be in doubt, as some websites state 1888 rather than 1881, and none state where), they registered their marriage again in London in 1890. What a tangled web of philandering!

William Baker (1849-1920) and Dr Barnardo

Bob Flanagan

The name *Barnardo's*, the UK's leading Children's Charity, is known world-wide. Less well known is the name of William Baker (grave 29,761, square 104). Baker joined Dr Barnardo's Committee in 1887, eleven years after its foundation, and became Vice-Chairman of the Council of *Dr Barnardo's Homes: National Incorporated Association*. On Thomas Barnardo's death in 1905 he resigned his lucrative practice at the Bar to become Honorary Director of *Barnardo's*, a position he retained until his death.

The son of Hugh Baker of Lismacne, Banaha, Co. Tipperary, William Baker graduated MA LLB from Trinity College, Dublin. He was called to the bar in 1875 and practiced at the Chancery Bar in London. He was very successful. A Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society, he lived at 18-26 Stepney Causeway.

He died at 45 Thurlby Road, Knights Hill, West Norwood, on 17 November 1920 aged 71 and was buried at Norwood on 20 November. He left £3,880. *The William Baker (Technical) School* at Hertford (1922-1967) was named after him. His headstone bears an inscription to his grand-daughter, Constance Selina Henshaw, who sadly was lost on the *Lusitania*, 7 May 1915, aged five months.



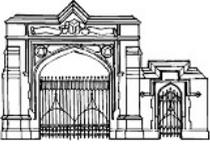
William Baker (1905)
(credit: Barnardo's)



William Baker's tombstone

Baker's successor as Director of Dr Barnardo's Homes was Rear-Admiral Sir Harry Hampson Stileman KBE (1860-1938). He held the post until 1923. An enthusiastic Evangelical Christian, he became Lay Deputation Secretary with the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society. He died after a fall at his home at Upper Norwood in 1938. A funeral service at St Paul's Church, Hamlet Road, Anerley was followed by burial in Westbourne Cemetery, West Sussex.

Barnardo himself was cremated; his ashes were interred in front of Cairn's House, the original building of his Barkingside children's village. A memorial with a sculpture by Sir George Frampton RA (1860-1928), who worked *pro bono*, was raised on the site. The memorial was listed Grade II in 1979 and upgraded to II* in 2010.



Book Review: Light Rains Sometimes Fall

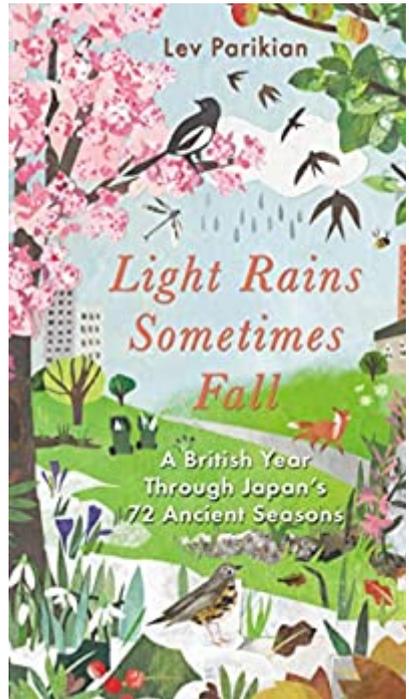
Caroline Brown

Lev Parikian. Light Rains Sometimes Fall - A British Year Through Japan's 72 Seasons. 272 pp, Paperback; £9.99. Elliot & Thomson Books, 2021.

This is an affectionate, ambling conversation about discovering the detail of green spaces in West Norwood during the Covid lockdown. When it became clear that the Covid restrictions were going to last, the author decided to make the most of his single permitted outdoor visit.

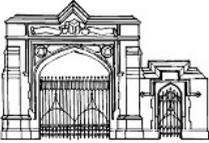
To avoid the boredom of staying in for who knew how long and with no work to focus on, he determined to get to know his patch, his manor. So sometimes he turned left, sometimes right, little variations to keep focused on the detail. What you can see when you stand still; close examination of the very familiar showing how much things change over time. The landscape of the book is tightly bounded by how far he could walk home and back in the limited time permitted for the one outing a day. In his case, one hour home and back in West Norwood. He is an orchestral conductor, so is used to form driving creativity – sonata, concerto, symphony.

There are so many green spaces in West Norwood: the Cemetery, St Luke's Gardens, Norwood Park, Streatham Common, tiny Knights Hill Wood, and more. As an experienced bird-watcher he listened out for the arrival of birds and identified dunnock, goldcrest, redwing, heron - we unskilled can use an app like Chirpomatic! He spotted tracks of foxes. Saw the peregrine fly from the church tower.



Redrafting his notes for this book, the author gathered his walks into an ancient Japanese system of five-day mini-seasons, with one chapter for each. In West Norwood 13–17 August is Bird Sounds Start Again; in Japan, Beginning of autumn, Evening cicadas sing. I really enjoyed these haiku-style chapter descriptions. I was reminded of the Japanese idea of Forest Bathing to refresh and calm the mind.

Regular visitors to the Cemetery will be aware of seasonal changes – bare branches giving more open views beyond the paths, early spring and the arrival of birdsong, autumn with its heavy rain and leaf fall. Summer showing off the rose garden. The book drew my closer attention to the need to take action to conserve our patch, our manor.



Forthcoming Events

September–December 2022

Introductory tours are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the main gate off Norwood Road at 14:30 (4 September, 2 October) or at 11:00 (6 November, 4 December) and lasting for 1½–2 hours. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations. The FOWNC bookstall will be present. Pre-book only: www.fownc.org/tickets and specify the number of tickets required (there is no need to print tickets).

We will obtain your email address from your *Eventbrite* booking, and will at times send you information as to events in the cemetery, etc. You will be able to unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time.

Lectures are held at the Old Library, 14-16 Knights Hill, SE27 0HY as detailed below, starting at 14:30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations to cover room hire. The FOWNC bookstall will be present. Booking is not required.⁹

Saturday 15 October. AGM & Lecture. Preserving Memory and Keeping History Alive. Sally Strachey.

Sally Strachey Historic Conservation have worked at Norwood for many years. In this talk Sally will explore the technical challenges of three very different conservation projects to preserve the character and fabric of buildings and monuments for the long term benefit of the public. The case studies to be explored are Norwood, Temple Church Bristol, and the Horsey and Princess Elizabeth Monuments at the Church of St Thomas, Newport Minster on the Isle of Wight. Whilst looking at these current projects we will consider what are we conserving, who we are doing it for, and the importance of memory and sense of place to allow visitors to have a direct conversation with the past.

Saturday 19 November. Sir Henry Tate: His life, work & philanthropy. Bill Linskey

Sir Henry Tate (1819–1899) made a great deal of money and gave an enormous amount of it away. He lived at the end of his life in Streatham and has his Grade II* listed mausoleum at Norwood (grave 19,897, square 38/39; see page 4). We will look at his life and the impact his philanthropy had on Lambeth. Bill Linskey is Chair of the Brixton Society and of the Lambeth Local History Forum.

Other Event: October – London Month of the Dead

Saturday 15th October (11:00 and 14:00). Guided Tour of West Norwood Cemetery. Caroline Swan.

See: <https://bit.ly/3JsB2EO> for details. Caroline Swan is a London-based historian and author of the *Flickering Lamps* blog (<https://flickeringlamps.com/>). She writes about the histories behind often-familiar buildings, parks, and graveyards.

⁹ The building is managed by the Rathbone Society, a local charity, as a community centre, particularly for youth groups, but available to all

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

The work of stonemason Alexander MacDonald (1794–1860) in pioneering the mechanical polishing of granite was described by Ron Knee in Newsletter 73 (January 2012). The article lists the 8 MacDonald monuments we had found at Norwood at the time. The oldest is that of John Doulton (1793–1873) inscribed *McDonald & Leslie Sculpt* (grave 1,808, square 40). The monument itself dates from 1847.

From the beginning the MacDonald firm incised their name discretely on their products either at the base of the monument itself, or on a kerbstone. Sadly, due to the Lambeth Clearances we will never know how many MacDonald monuments graced the cemetery at its zenith, but searching over the years has brought the total to 22, including a second really quite beautiful *McDonald & Leslie* monument. Are there more awaiting discovery? So here is the challenge: find the 14 additional MacDonalds we know about and see if you can add to the list!



John Doulton's grave

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