

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 106 – January 2023

Free to members

Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

The NLHF-funded works at St Stephen's Chapel have given further opportunity to study the casts in the frieze above the North portico (see: Newsletter 100, January 2021). The detail in the metopes, which feature scenes from the New Testament, is quite stunning. Interestingly the metopes on the side panels are some 2 cm wider than those above the North portico. It is hoped to produce a booklet to document not only the history of the chapel, but also its restoration in due course.

Elsewhere in the Greek Enclosure, the restoration of the Rodocanachi (grave 29,183, square 28) and Schilizzi (grave 32,308, square 42/43) monuments is well in hand. Moreover, work has commenced recently on the Balli mausoleum (grave 19,003, square 29).

Finally as regards the Greek Enclosure, I am pleased to report that repairs to the boundary wall are planned. These include metalwork repairs and redecoration, stone repairs, underpinning collapsed parts of the wall and reinstating lost decorative features, e.g. the crosses that once were present



St Stephen's Chapel: Metope detail

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The Balli mausoleum undergoing restoration

As to other initiatives in the enclosure, I am sorry to report that the Vaglianos Foundation in Cephalonia have decided not to fund the restoration of the mausoleum in which their founder rests (grave 27,142, square 42 – see Newsletter 99, September 2020). However, we are still looking for funds to look after this important Grade II listed structure. But some bad news: the Grade II listed PA Argenti mausoleum (grave 21,077, square 43) was vandalised in December, emphasising once again the absence of security in the enclosure.

Elsewhere in the cemetery, the steps linking Narrow Road with Crematorium Road were one of the final stages of the roadway works to be completed by contractors *idverde*, the railings a necessary addition in these Health & Safety conscious times.

The Cemetery and the River Effra

As a final contribution, *idverde* have paid for a copy of the plaque on the pavement on Pilgrim Hill just outside the cemetery that marks the point where the (culverted) River Effra flows beneath. This and two other new plaques have been inserted in the cemetery in the road by the Grade II listed Wetenhall mausoleum (grave 23,625, square 113), on Narrow Road between graves 44,634 and 29,815 (squares 114 and 115, respectively), and finally on Lower Road near to grave 28,800 (square 115) to chart the course of the Effra culvert in the cemetery (see: https://tom-castle.co.uk/portfolio/p1_effra.html).

It seems that this latter culvert was constructed in 1836–37 simply to contain the flow of the river along its original line across the fields within a brick drain. This ceased to be part of main drainage c.1862 when, as part of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's system of sewers/outfalls for London, a new sewer was constructed under Norwood High Street to the junction with Robson Road.



Reinstated steps, Narrow Road

The sewer then turns roughly north-east and runs ‘cross-country’ under roads and (in time) houses towards Peckham and New Cross. The lake in Belair Park is the only substantial stretch of the river that remains above ground. As to the culvert in the cemetery, this likely became redundant when Bazalgette’s scheme came into being and is now a supplementary part of the cemetery’s drainage system, although it is badly silted. I suspect it still connects to the Robson Road main drain. When partly exposed on Narrow Road during the recent roadway works the top of the (red) brick culvert appeared to be in good condition.

Historic England Heritage at Risk

I am pleased to report that the Auffray (grave 25,249, square 54) and Baldwin Brown (grave 7,167, square 40) monuments have now been removed from the HE Heritage at Risk list. Thanks to Sally Strachey Historic Conservation for their excellent work on the restorations. I am only sorry that we could find no trace of the kerbs and landing that were once associated with the monument. Presumably these were swept away during the

Lambeth clearances. On reflection a close encounter with a JCB or similar could be the reason the monument suffered so much damage in the first place!

In this case I can quite understand why nothing further can be done to return the monument to its original condition in the absence of photographic or other evidence of its original condition. On the other hand, it seemed obvious to me that the Stevens monument (grave 3,817, square 47) should have its missing ledger stone replaced as part of the restoration process. Not so apparently ‘because we don’t know what it looked like’! Quite amazing. It was a ledger stone. Half of it remains under the granite obelisk!

Excavation of the smashed Stevens vault yielded bits of broken tombstone from when Lambeth were clearing the area. There may even have been bits of the Grade II listed Grane monument (grave 4,894, square 34) for all we know. Again, with Grane we can’t do a proper restoration without knowing what was there. However, with the Grissell (grave 1,669, square 63) and Moffatt (grave 1,623, square 60) monuments we have photos/drawings yet these two tombs are again only being partially restored. Very frustrating. One minor victory though: the missing masts on the Wimble monument (grave 2,952, square 76) are being reinstated.



The Pilgrim Hill ‘Effra’ plaque



The Stevens obelisk

Norwood and the Great War

The result of much painstaking research, our new 400-page full-colour volume *Norwood and the Great War – Reflections on Military and Social History* is now available, price £15.00. A spreadsheet giving key information concerning the 595 servicemen or women who died either during, or after the war of service-related conditions, 27 who served and died well after the war, and 16 civilians with WW1 connections is at www.fownc.org/gwcl/. There are also photographs of all the Great War graves and of family graves bearing commemorative inscriptions that survive in the cemetery, as well as web links to photographs of some of the individuals. In addition, there are photographs of some now lost gravestones.

Commemoration of those who died in conflict changed significantly in 1914. Service personnel who died as a result of injuries received during combat or sickness were normally buried close to where they died. This left many bereaved families in need of a focus for their mourning and existing memorials often received inscriptions reflecting the loss of a son or daughter who had died. Many were poignant reflections of the pain felt by those left behind. This book stands as a tribute to the sacrifices of service personnel and their families from South London in general and from Norwood especially at this time.

Sadly, Lambeth Council carried out extensive, indiscriminate, illegal clearance operations that continued until 1991, when they were stopped by order of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Southwark. The clearances swept away, unrecorded, many thousands of gravestones including some that marked the locations of ‘war graves’. Fortunately, and perceptively, the late Eric E.F. Smith FSA recorded the inscriptions of many, but by no means all, of these now lost monuments.¹

Detailed study of these and other records has enabled Peter Hodgkinson and John Clarke to compile as detailed a picture as is now possible of the sacrifices made by the individuals and families of Norwood and elsewhere as recorded originally in the Cemetery. Not only were there burials and some cremations of those who died on active service, but also many hundreds of those who gave their lives overseas were recorded on family memorials. Notably, 38% of these have no known grave. In addition, some who contributed to the war effort in other ways came to rest at Norwood and are also discussed in the book.



Norwood and the Great War

Reflections on Military and Social History

Peter Hodgkinson and John Clarke



¹ See: *Norwood: The Great War* by John Clarke and Peter Hodgkinson (FOWNC Newsletter 103, January 2022)

Communications with Members

The advent of the internet has been of immeasurable help in our efforts to safeguard the future of what remains of our once-magnificent cemetery. The landmark order of the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Southwark dated 13 April 2000 that the Council should publish on its website a searchable list of illegally reused graves is a case in point (<https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/bereavement-services/our-cemeteries-crematoria/west-norwood-cemetery/west-norwood-cemetery-historical-legal-background>).

Details of the Management Advisory Group (MAG) that I continue to chair and of the Scheme of Management Committee (SoMC) are available on the Council website (see: <https://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/mg/OutsideBodyDetails.aspx?ID=318>). FOWNC were also instrumental in enabling the cemetery records to be made accessible (at a fee payable to Lambeth) via Deceased Online (www.deceasedonline.com/).

Our policy of making all our newsletters (and more recently our AGM minutes) freely available on our website and searchable by Google, for example, has also borne fruit. Contact with relatives of those buried or otherwise commemorated in the cemetery has added greatly to our knowledge of the cemetery and in some cases has facilitated restoration of important monuments, notably the Grade II* listed mausoleum of Otto Alexander Berens (grave 5,408, square 63; see: www.fownc.org/pdf/newsletter83.pdf).

We aim to make the Newsletter a publication of record and each issue is approved in advance by the Trustees, as are our formal publications. The website has the advantage of full colour and makes the Newsletter available to our many overseas members at no added cost. An increasing number of our UK members opt not to receive the printed Newsletter and thus help minimize costs – please email secretary@fownc.org if you would like to join them. Printing and mailing the Newsletter is our largest recurring cost.

Time and FOWNC do not stand still. Our use of Eventbrite for pre-booking tours has proved most successful. Paypal makes paying for publications, renewing subscriptions, etc. easy. Our webmaster James Slattery-Kavanagh has established a Mailchimp list that anyone can join via our website, and long-time member Roger Myhill runs our Twitter feed (see p. 16). All this in addition to the use of e-mail for day-to-day communications as with the ‘scrubbers’ for example, the conservation working parties organized by Madeline Brockbanks (see: www.fownc.org/pdf/newsletter103.pdf).

A working group led by Trustee Caroline Brown now plans a monthly e-mailing to further encourage member engagement. Whilst a handful of members are involved in activities such as tour guiding, giving talks, and offering practical help within the cemetery as regards vegetation management, etc., more help would be welcome. Ideas in need of further development include child-focused appropriately respectful family events. There are also thousands of graves in need of care and attention, and one approach may be to invite members to adopt-a-grave to keep clean and tidy in accordance with conservation protocols. Similarly, there are many thousands of graves/burials that are yet to be researched in detail.

We hope that the Monthly Mailing will be a place to talk about these projects, all to further essential understanding of the value of our historic cemetery. Please check your spam folder if the mailing does not appear in your inbox.

NLHF Public Engagement Programme

Kim Hart

An important component of the NLHF lottery grant is outreach to the local community and extending the enjoyment of the cemetery beyond its primary function of burial, cremation, and remembrance. Aspects of this initiative include the provision of new entrance(s) and the new Visitor Centre. Increased public engagement via events, workshops, training courses, etc. is also envisaged. As noted in the September Newsletter, I have been appointed Activities and Community Officer (West Norwood Cemetery) on a fixed-term part-time contract to help further these aims.

I have made a start and have expanded the list of activities and events listed on the *West Norwood Cemetery: A New Beginning* website (www.westnorwoodcemetery.org/events). In so doing, I have built on the established programme of FOWNC events and those of other organisations such as the Norwood Forum, South London Botanical Institute and the South London Theatre, including the popular bat walks hosted by Dr Iain Boulton of Lambeth's Parks. We look forward to a New Year full of thought provoking and engaging events and activities for the community! An important initiative is to nominate a theme for each month's activities – please consult the website for the chosen themes.

Report of Recent Events

On Sunday 25 September 2022 the Bat Walkers were treated to a view of the International Space Station as it carved a perfect arc in the midnight blue sky. Then, suddenly, the bat detectors started to squeak and Common Pipistrelle, one of the five species of bats that might be found in the cemetery, were swirling around the tops of the trees hunting for their suppers and then swooping down to our level. It felt like they were almost brushing our cheeks as they amazed everyone with their night-time navigation skills.

Other guided walks have included the first in a series of seasonal guided bird walks led by *Guardian* Country Diary columnist and well-known local bird watcher Lev Parikian (20 species were recognized, including a kestrel whirling high on the thermals), and a walk looking at some of the remarkable trees to be found in the cemetery; some old, some rather younger, and some very unusual. Highlights of the walk included a 'Baobab' plane tree and what could be London's oldest field maple. Seventeen trees are thought to pre-date 1836, including 13 along the mediaeval boundary shown on the 1836 deed (see: Newsletter 54, September 2005). This walk was led by London's best known tree expert, the aptly named Paul Wood, who plans to produce a self-guided walk that everyone can enjoy at their leisure.



Ancient oaks, Norwood

Stevens & Son ~ Signal Engineers

Bob Flanagan

A chance observation on the Isle of Man Railway last summer prompted further research on the Stevens family (see p. 3). John Stevens (1779–1861) was born in Birmingham. Moving to London in the early 1800s, he supplied agricultural implements, including pick-axe handles and shovels, to the army during the Napoleonic Wars. Later he moved into supplying chemical apparatus, gas pipes, railway fittings, and whistles amongst other items. His son James John Stevens (1807–1881) joined the firm, and Stevens & Son, gas fitters, were established at 4 St George's Circus, Southwark by 1832, later moving to *Darlington Works*, Southwark Bridge Road.²

In 1847 James John Stevens filed his first patent (no. 11,612) for using oil lamps in conjunction with semaphore railway signals. Stevens & Son went on to introduce various important developments, notably the tappet system of interlocking signals and points, and installed much equipment for the London and South Western Railway, including a large signal box at Waterloo.

Stevens & Son exhibited a model of railway junction semaphore signals at the 1851 Great Exhibition. Two signal-posts represented the meeting lines of a railway. The arms and lamps were worked by the foot of the signaller, leaving his hands free to pull over the switches or shifting rails; on the removal of his foot from the stirrup and his hand from the switch lever, the signals readjusted themselves, the arms standing out at right angles, and the lamps 'red', stopping both lines.

The firm was very successful. Their branch in Glasgow had some 70 employees by 1865. Their name changed to Stevens and Sons in about 1870 when James John's sons James Jr (1840–1911) and Warwick Alan (1842–1924) joined the firm. The business carried on signalling work until 1923.

James John had moved with his family to Glasgow in the 1860s, but died at his house on Clapham Common on 16 May 1881. John Stevens himself had died at *Darlington Works* on 4 December 1861, aged 82. Their monument, a tall grey granite obelisk with incised decoration by Anderson and McKenzie of Aberdeen, is listed Grade II. Examples of their work obviously survive on the Isle of Man Railway, which dates from 1874.



Stevens & Son signal lever, Isle of Man Railway

² See: John Stevens (1779–1861) and James John Stevens (1807–1881) by Lesley Kitching (FOWNC Newsletter 60, September 2007)

Basil Pandelis ~ Shipowner and Patriot. Part 2³

Pan Pandelis and Victoria Solomonidis-Hunter FKC

In 1914, with the wind of change gathering momentum across the Ottoman Empire, and drawn by the importance of the London maritime market, Basil Pandelis and his family settled in England. They lived between Hampstead and the then fashionable seaside resort of Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex. Basil's siblings would leave Constantinople and move to Athens soon after.

While remaining controlling partner of *Pandelis Brothers Steamship Company*, which was transferred to Piraeus, Basil set up *Pandelis & Co., Ltd.* and later *Marmara Steamship Co., Ltd.* in London to manage his independent interests. He also acquired an office building he named Marmara House at 13 St. Mary Axe in the City, a few doors away from the Baltic Exchange. The story goes that the building was really only acquired because Basil, a man of some bulk, found himself one day 'jammed' in the main staircase when a similarly portly man, a lawyer working upstairs, tried to come down. Someone had to give! Instructions were soon given to acquire the whole building in order to avert any such vexing future contact.

The purchase of the building also enabled Basil, who greatly missed Constantinopolitan coffee and food, to prompt a junior employee in his office, a young Greek named Aleco, to set up a kafenio/restaurant in the basement. It became known as *Aleco's* and, although small with just a few tables (and Aleco was famously rude!), it was enjoyed as a sort of club by many Greek shippers until the 1960s, when the site was redeveloped to build the Commercial Union building.

Indeed, though Basil would later be nicknamed *Englezos* ('the Englishman'), his early days in London required a little 'adaptation'. One amusing (with hindsight) anecdote occurred soon after his arrival when he was involved in an instance of 'misconduct'. In January 1916, the press reported the case of '*Basili Pandeli, the London partner of the well-known firm of Pandeli Bros., shipowners, of St. Mary Axe, the Piraeus and Constantinople*' who was brought to trial under the charge of '*trading with the enemy*'.

Basil and his two brothers wished to acquire full ownership of SS *Pandelis*, a freighter that was partly owned by other Greek and Italian interests. In order to acquire the latter's shares of the vessel, in August 1915 Basil sent £3,000 to one of his brothers in Constantinople, thus '*good English money went out to an enemy country*', the Ottoman Empire having entered the First World War as Germany's ally. While it was recognised that he had had '*no intention of helping the Turk*', Basil was nonetheless fined the considerable sum of £450 and £50 costs.

During the Great War the Pandelis shipping operations suffered several ship losses due to the effectiveness of German U-boats. Still, the brothers held on tight '*despite the torpedoes and all the destruction*' and continued post-war with new and bigger ships, to

³ For Part 1: see FOWNC Newsletter 105 (September 2022)

the extent that one market observer referred to them in 1919 as ‘*Hercules of Greek shipping*’. Operations also diversified and in 1918 Basil and his close friend, Nikolaos G. Kyriakidis (1869–1935), set up a marine insurance company, *Propontis Marine Insurance SA* in Piraeus. Kyriakidis was also a Marmarian shipowner, who subsequently became President of the Union of Greek Shipowners.

In 1918, Basil was the victim of another instance of ‘misconduct’, this time in Westcliff-on-Sea, where his driver accidentally set fire to a car and a garage situated in Mrs Jane Musgrove’s hotel. This seemingly straightforward mishap led to the oft-cited ‘troubling’ case of *Musgrove v Pandelis*, which went before the Court of Appeal. The decision remains contentious to this day. Basil’s driver, a Mr Coumis, described in various reports of the case as ‘inexperienced’, ‘unskilled’ and ‘incompetent’, started the engine of Basil’s car to move it within a garage. For some unexplained reason – Mr Coumis was probably a smoker – the carburettor exploded and the petrol caught fire, destroying the car, the garage and Mrs Musgrove’s rooms and furniture located above the garage.

It was found that if Mr Coumis had had the good sense to close the petrol tap immediately, the fire would have burnt out harmlessly. But, as he had failed to do so, the Court of Appeal decided that although Mr Coumis could not be blamed for the explosion that ignited the petrol – it was an accident – he consequently failed to prevent the fire from spreading. Basil was therefore held vicariously liable not for the original fire, but for its spreading. Mr Coumis’s fate is unknown (unless his first name was Aleco!).



The Pandelidia building today (Ioannis Papachristou)

By now, Basil and Kyriakidis had devoted themselves increasingly to helping the Greeks either living under or fleeing from Turkish rule, especially their fellow Marmarians. Their efforts and the devastating events that occurred in Asia Minor from 1912–22 are tightly intertwined. The fate of the school built by

Basil and his brothers for Greek Orthodox girls in Marmara illustrates this connection.

Construction of the *Pandelidia*, as the school was named, began in 1912, when the Balkan Wars broke out. At the end of the wars in 1913, the weak and near-bankrupt Ottomans, humiliated and stripped of the bigger part of their European territories, sought to prioritise the creation of a homogeneous Turkish national homeland in Asia Minor. The school opened in 1914 with ten classrooms and some 200 pupils who were taught mathematics, geography, religion, Greek history, calligraphy, embroidery, singing, gymnastics and foreign languages (English and French).

By that time, the Ottoman Empire had joined the First World War on the side of the Central Powers. Fearing that the Greek Orthodox inhabitants of Proikonissos would support Entente landings and furnish supplies to British submarines, the Turks deported them to the Anatolian hinterland, along with many thousands of Ottoman Greeks who had lived along the Aegean littoral for centuries.

Families were separated. Many died of disease, exhaustion, and starvation. Young girls were stolen and taken to Turkish harems. Young boys were kidnapped, placed in Muslim households and forcibly assimilated into Turkish society. Personal belongings left behind were stolen. Properties, churches, schools and boats were confiscated. Many buildings were destroyed, including the *Pandelidia*. Basil and Kyriakidis provided much support to cover their displaced compatriots' basic needs, such as housing, clothing, and food.

In 1918–19, in the months following the Armistice of Mudros, as those who survived the excesses gradually returned to Marmara and reclaimed what remained of their ruined homes, fields and businesses, the two friends helped with the restoration of houses, churches, monasteries, boats, vineyards, and schools, including the *Pandelidia*, which Basil had rebuilt at his own cost.

The school resumed operations with 135 pupils. However, in October 1922, shortly after the defeat of the Greek Army in Asia Minor put an end to the *Megali Idea* project and it became clear that the coexistence of multi-ethnic communities in Asia Minor was no longer possible, the school was once again abandoned, this time for good: the Greek Marmarians were made to leave the island as part of the population exchange between Greece and what was to become the Republic of Turkey. Basil sent ships to transport the refugees to Greece. The school building became a gendarmerie and, later, Marmara's town hall. It remains extant and is now under restoration as a museum.



SS Ariadne Pandelis

of patriots – and generosity – ‘*distinguished by modesty and never boasting*’, ‘*this unforgettable Greek shipowner honoured the nation with his donations*’ of ‘*hegemonic*’ proportions – to his homeland and its people.

A great benefactor of the *London Committee of Unredeemed Greeks*, of which he was Honorary Treasurer, Basil continued his support after 1922. He tried via political and diplomatic means, but without success, to facilitate the return of the Greeks of Marmara to their homeland. Press reports, private correspondence and meticulous accounts show his devotion – ‘*one of the purest*

Constantine Spanoudis, the Constantinopolitan newspaper owner and close political associate of Venizelos, wrote in an obituary that Basil and Kyriakidis ‘*created a nobility and a kind of aristocracy within the world of shipping. And to stand beside them or face to face with them one must do good works.*’ In 1919, Basil’s humanitarian work was recognised by the award of the *Silver Cross of the Order of the Redeemer*, the oldest Greek order of merit.⁴

The *Roaring Twenties* were not so roaring for shipping. In 1929, once the American economy collapsed, world trade collapsed, trading opportunities dried up, and the shipping sector suffered severely. Basil – then with seven steamships on order in England – was hit particularly hard. By the time of his death in 1935, he was down to one ship, SS *Ariadne Pandelis*, named after his much-loved wife. Their son and only child, Pan, now took the helm of the family business. He was educated in Constantinople and England, a keen anglophile by then married to an English rose, Marjorie *née* English. Pan was able to steer the business astutely through the troubled waters of the early 1930s, and, by 1936, he became the young owner of nine ships. A competent businessman, Pan’s subsequent success in shipping would owe much to an ability to time opportunities perfectly and a remarkably successful gambling streak, but also, without doubt, to the practical maritime knowledge gained from an inspirational and resilient father.

Basil died in Westcliff-on-Sea from a massive heart attack on 6 October 1935. He is buried in the Hellenic Enclosure with his beloved wife and son. The cross, anchor and clipper depicted on his grave reflect his faith, his maritime life, the culture and spirit of Marmarians, and their pride and hope in difficult times.



Norwood: The Pandelis monument

In 2015, the co-author of this article, Basil’s great-grandson, and his wife Christiane visited Neos Marmaras, a small town in northern Greece where many Marmarians settled after the population exchange of 1923. The warm welcome and the affection shown to us, as well as the stories told by descendants of those who sought refuge in Greece a century ago, moved us deeply. For the past sometimes is not past, and good people do not die.

Acknowledgement: We thank Ioannis Papachristou for help with this article.

⁴ Fellow members of the *London Committee of Unredeemed Greeks* also interred in the Greek Enclosure at Norwood include Chairman George Spyridon Marchetti (grave 37,292, square 43; Greek no. 273), Vice-Chairman Nicholas Aristides Eumorphopoulos (grave 39,287, square 42; Greek no. 269), Pandeli Nicholas Caridia (grave 14,870, square 28; Greek no. 123), Alexander Constantine Ionides (grave 24,220, square 42; Greek no. 171) & Zorzis George Michalinos (grave 33,047, square 43; Greek no. 252)

The Newgate Street Prison Treadmill

Bob Flanagan

Our new Cemetery Guidebook⁵ notes that Sir William Cubitt FRS (1785–1861; grave 7,740, square 36 - replacement memorial) invented the prison treadmill in about 1818 and that one survives at Beaumaris Gaol and Courthouse Museum, Anglesey. I have now found that the Jersey Museum has another intact example.

The prison treadwheel was originally a wooden cylinder with metal framing about 6 feet in diameter. On the exterior of the cylinder were wooden steps about 7.5 inches apart. As the prisoner put his weight on the step it depressed the wheel, and he was forced to step onto the step above. Prisoners walked in silence for six hours a day, taking 15 minutes on the wheel followed by a 5-minute break. First installed in the prisons at Bury St Edmunds and at Brixton, the labour was intended to be simply punishment, resistance to the motion being



The Newgate Street Treadmill (Jersey Museum)



The Jersey Treadmill mechanism

provided by straps and weights, or as at Coldbath Fields, by large sails atop the prison ('grinding the wind'). Later it became acceptable to use the energy generated to power pumps and corn mills. Forty-four prisons in England adopted this form of hard labour to grind grain. The average distance prisoners walked per day varied from the equivalent of 6,600 vertical feet at Lewes to as much as 17,000 vertical feet in ten hours during the summer at Warwick gaol. The use of treadwheels was abolished in Britain in 1902.

Newgate Street Prison in St Helier opened in 1812. It cost £19,000. A Treadmill House was added in 1839. For 40 years it was used to drive a small mill for grinding peppercorns. It was dismantled in 1937 and donated to the Jersey Museum. Sadly, I could not find any evidence of a maker's imprint. It is an impressive survival nevertheless.

⁵ *West Norwood Cemetery – An Illustrated Guide*. Full colour. FOWNC, 2022. 116 pp. £7.50



Recent FOWNC Events

John Clarke and Caroline Brown

After our AGM on 15 October last year, we welcomed Sally Strachey, who gave a fascinating and profusely illustrated talk about the issues involved in conserving memorials at Norwood. An edited version of her presentation, concentrating on work at Norwood, is available at: <https://www.fownc.org/pdf/sallystrachey20221015.pdf>.

Sally established her company (Sally Strachey Historic Conservation, SSHC) some years ago. It is a team of consultants and conservators of historic monuments, sculpture, buildings, etc., working on various projects. These include Royal Palaces, cathedrals, churches and other historic buildings, and cemeteries.



St Stephen's Chapel: S Portico

Sally discussed the wide range of projects her team has been working on recently. After completing work on the Letts and Thomas memorials they are back at Norwood,⁶ funded by our NLHF grant. There are 110 people working at the cemetery. Sally showed us the range of skills and technologies needed to conserve the memorials. The site is challenging, having been established on clay soil, which shrinks when dry and swells when wet, meaning the vaults and vertical monuments are very prone to collapse.

The roots from self-seeded trees also damage vaults. This is an especial problem at Norwood where trees have been allowed to grow unchecked in historic areas of the cemetery. A memorial may crack, but remain held in place by compression after a first ground movement, only to find that another shift causes it to collapse.

There is no standard structural solution for conservation. Where coffins are still intact, they are carefully preserved, and replaced *in situ* following conservation. Careful observation and recording of how the parts of a monument are put together, any damaged parts, the subsoil and the angle of tilt are all needed to identify how to go about the work. Deconstruction of the memorial is highly skilled physical work, based on this deep understanding of the memorial.

Sally concluded her presentation with another aspect of her company's work, that of outreach to schools. She showed us an example of their Education and Engagement Programme with pupils from Year 6 at Quainton School.

⁶ See: FOWNC Newsletters 94 (January 2019) and 97 (January 2020)

On 19 November Bill Linskey, Chair of the Brixton Society and of the Lambeth Local History Forum, gave a well-attended lecture on the life, work and philanthropy of Sir Henry Tate (1819–1899; grave 19,897, square 38/39). Despite his many achievements, no full biography of Sir Henry has been written and Bill has spent many years researching his life and legacy.

Sir Henry's fortune was made by the changes he made to sugar production. In the early 19th century sugar was produced as a solid cone, typically weighing between 1 and 3 pounds, between 8 to 12 inches high, with a base up to 6 inches diameter. There was no standardization in the size and shape of sugar cones, which were usually supplied wrapped in blue paper to make the sugar look whiter. Once in the home, the housewife or servants used metal 'sugar nippers' to break chunks of sugar off the hard cone, a domestic chore described by Mrs Beeton (1836–1865; grave 8,348, square 64) in her *Book of Household Management* (1861).

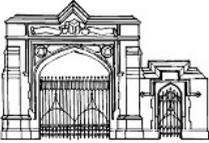
By the 1850s Tate ran a wholesale trade business in addition to his several grocery shops. In 1859 he became a partner in John Wright & Co. (Sugar Refiners), and in 1861 he sold his grocery business. In 1869 he took over the sugar refining business, which became Henry Tate & Sons. A new refinery was opened in Liverpool in 1870 using the 'Greenock method' to increase the 'whiteness' of the product to suggest greater purity. Tate also pioneered the use of other patent methods of sugar refining to improve productivity and reduce costs. In 1878 he opened a refinery in Silvertown, and in 1881 he moved to live at Park Hill, Streatham. Sugar cubes arrived following Tate's adoption of a process patented by Gustave Adant in 1892. Tate retired in 1896 and accepted a baronetcy in 1898, having refused this honour twice before.



Sir Henry Tate

Bill Linskey had calculated that Sir Henry made donations amounting to at least £725,000 during his lifetime (equivalent to well over £110 million today). He gave to causes that interested him, namely projects in Liverpool and London dealing with health, education and women's causes. The Tate Gallery at Millbank evolved from his collection of contemporary paintings that were displayed in a specially designed extension to Park Hill. He wanted to bequeath the collection to the National Gallery, but it did not have enough space to display it hence he gave the money for a new gallery as well. His wife continued his charitable work after his death. She gave money under covenant, for example, to lay out the Tate Memorial Gardens in front of his Tate Library in Brixton Town Centre, now transformed into Tate Library Gardens/Windrush Square.

Due to Tate's perceived connection with the sugar trade, Bill Linskey also addressed the issue of slavery. He reminded us that the international slave trade was outlawed by the British Government in 1807, followed by the total abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire by 1843. It was only from the partnership with John Wright & Co. (1859), that Tate became directly involved with the importation of cane sugar. Moreover, as a Unitarian, Tate believed that all men and women were born equal.



Forthcoming FOWNC Events

January – April 2023

Introductory tours are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the main gate on Norwood Road at 11:00 (1 January, 5 February, 5 March) or 14:30 (2 April) 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 sometimes send you information as to events in the cemetery. You will be able to unsubscribe from the 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.⁷

Saturday 18 February. The Margravine Cemetery: Its Trials and Triumphs. Robert Stephenson

The 16-acre Margravine Cemetery (also known as ‘Hammersmith Old’) was laid out by local architect George Saunders and opened in 1869. It lies behind the new Charing Cross Hospital. This lecture will tell the story of the up-hill struggle to establish a humble cemetery that ultimately held 83,000 Hammersmith residents. There are several notable memorials including those relocated from the J Lyons & Co factory at Greenford in 2002. The cemetery has served as a park since it was designated a *Garden of Rest* in 1951, although recently burials have again been accepted. Robert Stephenson is Chair of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends and is a Trustee of FOWNC.



Margravine Cemetery: J Lyons & Co war memorials

Saturday 18 March. The Development of Modern Medicine. Prof Sir Colin Berry

Some of the distinguished figures that lie in the Cemetery are important in European and indeed World medical and scientific history. However, the circumstances in which they worked were quite unlike our own. The development of what we now call public health and the ‘disappearance’ of childhood fevers, for example, ensure that the issues that they faced are very different from those that confront us now. Prof Sir Colin Berry was Dean of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry amongst many other appointments and distinctions. He is a Trustee of FOWNC.

⁷ 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

Simon McGillivray FRS (1785–1840) lies in the vault of his father-in-law and business partner Sir John Easthope MP (1784–1865; grave 121, square 34/35 - see Newsletter 80, May 2014). Simon and his brothers Lt.-Colonel The Hon. William (1764–1825) and Duncan (1770–1808) were partners in the North West Company, which together with the Hudson's Bay Company, were the major fur traders in Canada in the late 18th–early 19th centuries.

William died in London in 1825 and was buried in St James's Church, Piccadilly. There was a memorial to him and his wife Magdalen née MacDonald (d. 1811) in the church, but it was destroyed by bombing in World War II. Intriguingly, various sources note that he was buried at Norwood, but whether his remains and those of his wife were in fact relocated to Norwood after the church was bombed remains a mystery because there is no record of such an event in the cemetery records. But then again experience has shown that reburials sometimes do not feature in the records...



William McGillivray (1820)

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