

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 80 – May 2014

Free to members

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## Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Good news in that the long-delayed drainage and roadway works to the main entrance and to Church Road are complete apart from some tidying up. This was always going to be a difficult operation, involving as it did firstly closure of Church Road, and in turn use of Church Gate as the entrance to the Cemetery for some 3 months whilst the works to the main entrance area were carried out. An operation not made easier by concurrent major roadworks in Norwood High Street! However, this did mean that the contractors Conway, who in my opinion have done a very good job in the Cemetery despite this winter's appalling weather, were on site with heavy equipment and this will have minimised costs to an extent. Thanks too to Conway for agreeing to fund the repair to the railings of the Gilbert memorial damaged in the preceding phase of the roadway works.

Whilst the new tarmac looks stark at the moment, the aim is to cover this with a bonded gravel surface when funds permit. Such a surface would not only be in keeping with



*Tite Arch and War Memorial, March 2014*

the original plan for the Cemetery, but would also hopefully help calm traffic in the cemetery, speed humps of course being out of the question. The plans for the forecourt aim to open up the area to provide a transition between the busy main road, and the tranquil and respectful area within the Cemetery itself. The new roadway and planting scheme will still provide for services to be held at the War Memorial, of course a 20<sup>th</sup> Century addition to the area, and will enhance the setting of the Tite Arch and its accompanying Bramah railings.

On other fronts, there is at last progress towards our long-term aim of working with Lambeth to develop a process whereby the conflicting aims of conservation, including nature conservation, heritage, and use of the cemetery for new burials might be reconciled within the complex legal framework that applies at Norwood. We did seem to be on the point of agreement on all this until the upheavals in Lambeth a couple of years ago. Let us hope we are not yet again frustrated. The crucial thing in all the discussions is to agree a way forward on the difficult question of re-use of burial space in the Cemetery whilst conserving pre-Lambeth era monuments (and in time removing more recent time-expired gravestones). We see this as the only way in which funds to preserve and enhance what remains of the Cemetery can be obtained, whilst at the same time opening the way towards a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to help with monument conservation.



*The newly-revealed railings in the Cemetery forecourt*



*Work in progress: tomb of Otto Alexander Berens (grave 5,408, square 63)*

As regards actual progress with conservation issues, work has started on the Grade II\* listed Berens mausoleum, as reported in the last Newsletter, and the long-awaited repair to the monument at the top of the hill leading to the crematorium (grave 1,425, square 66) demolished in 2009 is in hand thanks to Alastair Johnston and his team at Lambeth. Unfortunately the ever-deepening trench in the road up from the Greek Cemetery still awaits attention. Our own contributions continue, and in addition to more scrub clearance work in areas near to Ship Path, we have funded repairs to the tomb of Sir William Dunn and his wife (grave 33,242, square 43) and to the Maddick mausoleum (grave 37,450, square 124). Let us hope this rate of progress can be sustained.

*Councillor Mark Bennett*

It is with great personal sadness that I record the sudden and unexpected death of the Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Mark Bennett on 4 February this year at the age of 43. It is thought that he suffered a heart attack. Mark visited the Cemetery in the company of HRH the Duke of Gloucester in June last year (see Newsletter 78, September 2013) and expressed great interest in our work, he himself having family burials here. He was Labour Councilor for Streatham South. Before his election to Lambeth Council, Mark had worked for Alastair Campbell at 10 Downing Street and later he helped edit his diaries for publication. Alastair Campbell read the oration at his funeral, and Tony Blair was in attendance. Cllr Bennett was known throughout the Borough for his enthusiasm for, and interest in, local history. I'm sure he would have supported our efforts to preserve and enhance the cemetery by ensuring an income stream via provision of burial space for Lambeth residents, whilst at the same time keeping within the law and ensuring that surviving historic monuments are safeguarded.



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## The English Heritage *At Risk* Register

Bob Flanagan

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The English Heritage *Heritage at Risk* programme every year publishes a list of the sites most at risk of being lost through neglect, decay, or inappropriate development ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/)). The entry for Norwood makes sad reading. In addition to the Catacombs beneath the site of the former Episcopal Chapel, the 17 monuments listed below feature on the Register at present. A 4- or 5-year rolling conservation programme, for example, could see all these significant monuments restored given that work on the Berens monument is already in hand. This must be a priority if our negotiations with Lambeth as to the future of the Cemetery prove fruitful.

<b>Tomb</b> (Grade II unless indicated)	<b>Grave (square)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
William Charles Auffray (d. 1893) & Edith O’Gorman (d. 1929)	25,249 (54)	Edith O’Gorman achieved fame as the ‘Escaped Nun’. Pedestal tomb with carved wreaths, faces and anchor. Leaning significantly (see Newsletter 5, February 1991)
James Baldwin Brown (d. 1884)	7,167 (40)	Celtic cross on pedestal faced in terracotta in Romanesque/Gothic style. Leaning heavily with side tablet disengaged and pinnacle tip in storage (see page 14)
Xenophon E Balli (d. 1877)	19,003 (29, Greek)	Ionic temple mausoleum. Evidence of movement to entablature and collapse of steps (see <i>West Norwood Cemetery’s Greek Necropolis</i> by Colin Fenn)
Otto Alexander Berens (c. 1797–1860) (II*)	5,408 (63)	1858 chest tomb designed by E.M. Barry. Pink granite plinth, with marble superstructure and Portland stone sculpture (see p. 2 above)

Christopher Trowell Gabriel (1797–1873)	2,689 (52)	Chest tomb in Portland stone with carvings by Kelsey. Cracking to stone panels on side of tomb (see Newsletter 72, September 2011)
William Grane (d. 1856)	4,894 (34)	Noted in listing description as having pink granite cross with foliated arms and vine trails to stem, but only the base remains (see Newsletter 71, May 2011)
Thomas De La Garde Grissell (d. 1847)	1,669 (63)	Cast iron, stucco and pink granite tomb. Wrought iron railings ripped out in the 1980s (see Newsletter 72, September 2011)
Thomas Ibbotson (1832–1904)	30,960 (104)	Cross decorated with blue and buff ceramic tiles by Doulton of Lambeth on pedestal with grave slab. Tiles missing and cementitious repairs causing further damage
James Kershaw MP (d. 1864)	9,150 (40/41)	Chest tomb in Gothic style with elaborate carving. By Mac-Donald of Aberdeen, design by Alfred Waterhouse. Structural ironwork corroding, causing splitting of stone. Railings affected by movement (see Newsletter 73, January 2012)
Thomas Letts (1803–1873)	249 (33)	Pedestal monument and slab above a vault with rams' head decoration of 1841. Figure of lamb lost from the top. Tomb began to fall over early in 2013, now some 20% from horizontal
Mrs Alice Moffatt (d. 1847)	1,623 (60)	An arcaded chest tomb. The columns and top slab were lost apparently when the tomb was hit by lightning, leaving the structural rods exposed
Elizabeth King (d. 1922)	35,926 (51)	Statue of an angel mounted against a rough headstone over rough base. In the style of the 1878 Oneto Monument by Giulio Monteverde in Genoa. Statue and headstone are leaning significantly
Peter Pandia Rodochanichi (1831–1899)	29,183 (28, Greek)	Pink granite table tomb dating from c.1899. Invasive vegetation is causing damage to the stepped base and the pillars surrounding the central pedestal (see <i>West Norwood Cemetery's Greek Necropolis</i> by Colin Fenn)
John Stephanovich Schilizzi (1840–1908)	32,308 (42/43, Greek)	Monument with stepped granite base with sarcophagus surmounted by white marble female figure with flowing robes and veiled head. Figure is subject to movement and is now close to edge of sarcophagus (see <i>West Norwood Cemetery's Greek Necropolis</i> by Colin Fenn)
Annie Sparenborg (1854–1904)	31,119 (81)	Tomb in the style of a small Greek temple, dating from 1904. Movement evident to columns and base
John Stevens (d. 1861)	3,817 (47)	Obelisk by Anderson and McKenzie of Aberdeen with incised fret pattern. Leaning significantly (see Newsletter 60, September 2007)
Israel Thomas (d. 1842)	429 (34)	Pedestal monument above a vault in Egyptian Revival style, c. 1842. Overgrown, plinth broken and open to the elements
John Wimble (c. 1797–1851)	2,952 (76)	Chest tomb with finely carved reliefs showing ships at sea. The stone ship surmounting the tomb is subject to movement. Cast iron masts lost (see Newsletter 69, September 2010)

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# Benjamin Disraeli and Kaiser Bill's Mother

Lester Hillman

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Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881) might never have been Prime Minister without the early guidance and support of his godfather, Sharon Turner FSA (1768–1847). Turner, who lived in Red Lion Square, Holborn, encouraged his friend Isaac D'Israeli (1766–1848) to have his children baptized into the Church of England at nearby St Andrew's Church in 1817. Turner's son-in-law, William Ellis, an educationalist, in turn had a profound impact as tutor to Princess Victoria, daughter of Queen Victoria, Empress of Germany, and mother of Kaiser Wilhelm II, 'Kaiser Bill'.

## *Sharon Turner*

Born in Pentonville, Turner was a devout Anglican, writer, sometime lawyer, and a student of Icelandic and Anglo-Saxon literature. His first and most important work, *History of England from the earliest period to the Norman Conquest*, four volumes, 1799–1805, was lauded as 'a complete revelation'. He published many other major historical studies. Sir Walter Scott, Robert Southey and Alfred, Lord Tennyson were amongst his admirers. He received a civil list pension of £300, 1835–47.

On 18 January 1795 Turner married Mary Watts (1777–1843), with whom he had at least six children including a daughter, Mary, who in turn married William Ellis at Ewell, Surrey, in 1825. They lived in Croydon before moving to Champion Hill, Camberwell. When Mary died in 1870 they were living at Lancaster Terrace, Regent's Park. She was buried at Norwood on 15 January

1870 in the grave that William Ellis and Sharon Turner had purchased on 10 November 1843 following the death of William's son, also William, on 2 November 1843, and where Sharon Turner himself also lies. William himself died at 36 Lancaster Terrace on 18 February 1881 and was buried in the vault on 25 February.

## *William Ellis*

Ellis was descended from a Huguenot family named De Vezeian. He went to school in 'the quiet village of Bromley' and left aged 13 to work for his father in insurance. He became assistant underwriter to the Indemnity Marine Insurance Co. in 1824 and chief manager in 1827. By 1825, married and living in Croydon, he was walking nine miles to go to work and to attend 8.30 am meetings in Threadneedle Street twice weekly to discuss political economy and kindred subjects. He worked near London Wall, where Deutsche



*Sharon Turner c. 1817 by Sir Martin Archer Shee (National Portrait Gallery)*

Bank is today. In a City career spanning 50 years his company rose from one with stock trading below £5 in 1826 to one with a share valuation of £160–170. Sought out for arbitration cases, he earned £2,200 p.a. with profit shares in ‘many consecutive years’ of £10,000. He became a member of Lloyds in 1846. His company is today part of Aviva.

John Stuart Mill (1806–1873) described Ellis thus: ‘*William Ellis, an original thinker in the field of Political Economy now honorably known by his apostolic exertions for the improvement of education...*’ In the 1840s, professionally established and with considerable wealth, he was able to indulge these passions. He founded schools, promoted teacher training, and wrote extensively. He was ‘*The founder of social science*’ according to the *Times* (10 November 1873).

‘*Six of the best*’

From 1848–52 William Ellis founded at least six ‘Birkbeck Schools’ across London, named in honour of Dr George Birkbeck (1776–1841).

Willow Brook Road, Peckham, the fifth Birkbeck School, was established on 19 April 1852 on freehold land acquired for the purpose. It accommodated 400 boys, girls and infants, but was soon massively oversubscribed. Its head, William Andrew Shields, proved a resounding success, but when he left because of ill health in 1877 the school faltered, and it closed at Easter 1887. It was from here that Eddie Teather went to north London to become the first Head of what became William Ellis School. He may have been related to Herbert Teather, the last headmaster at Peckham.

Ellis’ work attracted the attention of Prince Albert. From 1855 Ellis gave tutorials on social and political Science at Buckingham Palace to the eldest of the royal children, Princess Victoria, the Prince of Wales, Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt, and Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. A second course was later given to the two Princes alone. Facilitated by George Combe and Frederick Weymouth Gibbs, tutor to the Prince of Wales, these tutorials took place on Saturday afternoons for upwards of a

THE FAMILY VAULT OF

SHARON TURNER OF WINCHMORE HILL MIDDLESEX MARY THE BELOVED WIFE OF SHARON TURNER BORN JANUARY 4 <sup>TH</sup> 1777 DIED NOVEMBER 20 <sup>TH</sup> 1843 AGED 66 YEARS SHARON TURNER BORN SEPTEMBER 24 <sup>TH</sup> 1768 DIED FEBRUARY 13 <sup>TH</sup> 1847 <i>ASPIRING TO NEW LIFE IN WORLDS ABOVE                  IN FAITH AND HOPE AND TRUST AND LOVE</i> WILLIAM TURNER, ESQ <sup>R</sup> . SECOND SON OF THE ABOVE BORN 5 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 1804 DIED 9 <sup>TH</sup> JULY 1832	&	WILLIAM ELLIS OF CHAMPION HILL SURREY WILLIAM HENRY ELDEST SON OF WILLIAM & MARY ELLIS BORN OCTOBER 18 <sup>TH</sup> 1826 DIED AT COBLENTZ NOVEMBER 2 <sup>ND</sup> 1843 AGED 17 YEARS ALSO SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF EDWARD ELLIS OF CLAY HILL, EPSOM, SURREY DIED FEBRUARY 14 <sup>TH</sup> 1865 AGED 35 YEARS <i>THE SURVIVING SON OF THE ABOVE                  WILLIAM &amp; MARY ELLIS</i> ALSO MARY WIFE OF THE ABOVE WILLIAM ELLIS DIED JANUARY 9 <sup>TH</sup> 1870 AGED 69 YEARS ALSO WILLIAM ELLIS DIED FEBRUARY 18 <sup>TH</sup> 1881 AGED 81 ALSO ELLEN JANE ELLIS DE VESIAN WIFE OF EDWARD ELLIS DIED JANUARY 26 <sup>TH</sup> 1925 AGED 89
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*Inscription on the Turner/Ellis Family Vault*

year, but had been discontinued by 30 September 1858. In Volume 1 of his biography of King Edward VII (1925), Sir Sidney Lee summed up the results thus: *‘Ellis noted the superior quickness of the girl, and his failure to move much interest in the boy’*. Contact with members of the Royal family continued after the tutorials. After the death of the Prince Consort we find Ellis writing to the Queen’s Physician from his home at 36 Lancaster Terrace, Regent’s Park in January 1863.



*Turner/Ellis Family Vault (grave 781, square 64)*

cherish.’ The mother of the future Kaiser (in 1869, the very year of his birth) had herself expressed it thus: ‘Dear good Mr. Ellis! Why does he never come to Berlin? I cannot tell you how much I learnt from that man! My father also valued him so highly.’ Ellis’ lessons to the then 15-year-old Victoria were roughly coincident to the arrangements afoot for her betrothal to the future Prussian Emperor, the marriage taking place on 25 January 1858 in the Chapel Royal, St James’s. It is interesting to speculate what, if any, of Ellis’ views on economics, trade and industry percolated through to the future Kaiser.

On a visit to Britain during Ellis’ last years, Her Imperial Highness invited him to Marlborough House. He had to decline because of ill health, but on 26 March 1879 he wrote: *‘Last Wednesday at midday I received a visit from Her Imperial Highness the Crown Princess of Germany, in remembrance of the benefit which she said she had derived from my lessons at Buckingham Palace 25 years ago. She was very affable and unceremonious, and asked me to add my autograph to her collection, and of course I did so.’* The Crown Princess’ visit was of more than an hour and gave Ellis a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction. On the accession of her husband Emperor King Frederick III of Prussia on 9 March 1888 she became Her Imperial and Royal Majesty German Empress

Julie Salis Schwabe, writing on 31 August 1888, recounted how, in 1887, the Princess Royal, then Her Imperial Highness Crown Princess of Germany, when attending a function at the Drapers’ Hall in the interests of the Maria Grey Institution, had almost certainly remembered Ellis as one of her teachers, a memory ‘she has never ceased to



*William Ellis, 1877 (William Ellis School)*

Queen of Prussia, but the Emperor's death just 99 days later saw the accession of her son Wilhelm II. As a widow she established schools in Berlin for the higher education of girls and for nurse training. She died on 5 August 1901.

### *Sesquicentennial of William Ellis School*

The schools that William Ellis founded include one in North London that bears his name and continues to flourish next to Parliament Hill Fields. In 2012 the School celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Those commemorations in turn drew two visitors to Norwood, Charles Commander and Lester Hillman, who in 1962 had arrived at the School as centennial year pupils. With a Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games to contend with, William Ellis School deftly navigated the year with open evenings, exhibitions, receptions, concerts and dinners, including one in the House of Commons. The School has produced its fair share of writers and journalists, film makers and musicians, and the celebrations featured in the press, in publications and on the web.

Karl Marx lived near the School at its founding and politicians have continued to make their homes near Parliament Hill Fields. The school was previously a Boy's Grammar School and has been a comprehensive since the 1970s. A number of sons of politicians, of both the left and right, have been pupils, and former pupils have featured prominently in local and national government. So perhaps there is a Benjamin Disraeli in waiting? Messrs Turner and Ellis would surely have approved.

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## The Brookes: a Dynasty of Lambeth Doctors

Robert M. Smith

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In Newsletter 58, I wrote of the friendship between Frederick Robson, one of the most celebrated actors of the Victorian era, who died on 12 August 1864 aged 43, and a well-known Lambeth doctor, Charles Brookes. It has been possible to trace three Brookes graves at Norwood. The first (grave 4,227, square 79; monument destroyed) contains the remains of Charles's father Robert, who died on 12 February 1855, aged 67. Robson lies in an adjacent vault (grave 9,307, square 79; monument destroyed). The second Brookes grave is that of Charles himself (grave 24,011, square 99), who survived his friend by nearly 27 years, dying on 27 May 1891. Charles's son, Robert Charles, lies in grave 27,807 adjacent to his father's grave.

Robert was the first Brookes to be buried in the then fairly new South Metropolitan Cemetery. His father and grandfather, both called Thomas, were interred in an impressive tomb that can still be seen in front of St Mary's, Lambeth (now the Garden Museum). If the inscription is anything to go by, the tomb was becoming rather crowded, for it tells us that inside lie not only the two Thomases, but also the wife and five children of Thomas senior, the wife and two children of Thomas junior, as well as Robert's wife, four infant children and two infant grandchildren, a total of 18 people. St Mary's churchyard was closed for burials in 1854, and in October of that year Robert and Ann Brookes (probably his sister), of 57 Mount Street, Lambeth, bought grave 4,227 at Norwood.





*Brookes Family Tomb, St Mary's, Lambeth*

Family tradition is that the Brookes were doctors. I have not so far been able to establish if both Thomases were doctors or surgeons. However, in 1832 Robert was presented with a silver cup 'By a few friends on his retirement from the Office of one of the Surgeons of the Parish of LAMBETH as a sincere, though very inadequate tribute of esteem for his private character and of regard for the skill, compassionate zeal and uniform kindness shown by him to the sick poor committed

to his care, during the Twelve Years he so ably filled that office'. The 1851 census shows him as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. He had either 10, or 11 children who survived to adulthood. Two of his sons, Robert (1815–1894), and Charles (b. 1820), became surgeons, i.e. general practitioners. Robert is shown from the 1841 census onwards to be a surgeon living in Waterloo Road, which is perhaps where he had his practice. He is buried with his father in grave 4,227 together with his wife and probably a step-daughter. He appears to have had no children of his own, and the Brookes tradition of naming the eldest son Robert was taken up by Charles.

In the 1861 census Charles and family are recorded as living at 57 Mount Street, the house where his father had lived. He is described as Member of the Royal College of Surgeons 'in practice'. By the next census, he and his family were living at 137 Westminster Bridge Road, which might in fact have been the same house under a new designation. At any rate, it was very close and it was here that he and his sons were to practice for the next 60 or so years.

Charles's wife, Frances, was the daughter of John Sadler, who was in turn the son of the first English ball-oonist, James Sadler (1753–1828). Charles and Frances had three sons,



*Charles Brookes family monument at Norwood*

Robert Charles, Walter, and Frederick. It was Robert Charles who married Fred Robson's daughter Frances, and they are my great-grandparents. All three sons were doctors working from 137 Westminster Bridge Road, probably until the 1920s. Frederick was the last to die (in 1938), but he was by then aged 80 and had presumably retired some time

earlier. My mother (b. 1917) said that the Brookes name continued to be visible on the front of the property even after a dentist had taken over. It still stands and was in September 2011 a hairdresser's salon. I would be interested to hear from anyone who remembers parents or grandparents talking of the Westminster Bridge Road surgery. Frances, who died in 1906, is buried with her husband Charles in grave 24,011, as is their son, Walter (d. 1914), who did not marry.

The gravestone also records the presence of their eldest son, Robert Charles, who died aged 52 on 16 January 1898. In fact he was buried in grave 27,807, as was his wife Frances, who died 3 February 1922. The fact that one memorial seems to record two graves might be due to the fact that, according to the purchase registers, both graves were 'damaged by enemy action' on 10 May 1941. It is not known how extensive the damage was; it is believed that a Calvary cross is missing from the memorial, but it is not known when this was lost. But my mother recalled that her father, Sidney, youngest son of Robert and Frances, arranged for repairs to be made; it may be that this involved consolidation of names on a single memorial.

Robert Charles and Frances had eight children, the eldest of whom, Frederick Charles, died on or shortly after his birth in 1874 and is buried in Fred Robson's vault. Only their second son, another Robert, became a doctor and, although he is thought to have worked in the Westminster Bridge surgery, he went off periodically as a ship's doctor. He died in 1932 aged 57, according to my grandmother from poison that passed through a protective glove. With him died the Brookes dynasty of Lambeth doctors.

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## Simon McGillivray FRS (1785-1840)

Gianni Lombardi

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Simon McGillivray lies in the family grave of his father-in-law and business partner Sir John Easthope MP (1784–1865). Simon was one of the partners of the North Western Company (NWC), which together with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), were the major fur traders in Canada in the late 18<sup>th</sup>–early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Simon and his brothers William (1764–1825) and Duncan (1770–1808) became very wealthy and powerful traders in their own right.

Simon was born at Bochrubane, Stratherick, south of Inverness. His parents were Donald Roy MacGillivray (1741–1803) and Anne McTavish (1740–1807), daughter of Lieutenant John McTavish of Garthbeg. He had four brothers and five sisters. His father was the grandson of a younger son of the Clan Chief, who had held the Dunmaglass estate since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However, on his side of the family, the land had dissipated, so that Simon's father was a small tenant on what had become part of the Lovat estate, a tacksmen (landowner) of Achnalodan in Dunmaglass and later of Dascoil in Strathnairn. Therefore the family was unable to pay for their boys' secondary schooling. Meanwhile Simon's uncle, Simon McTavish (1750–1804) had become a very wealthy businessman with a fur trading empire in Canada. He not only paid for the education of Simon and his brothers, but also brought them to work with him.

Simon McGillivray had a lame foot and poor sight in one eye, so instead of going to Canada and being put through an apprenticeship with the NWC like his brothers William and Duncan (who died in Montreal in 1808), he was sent to London to work for another branch of his uncle's business, McTavish, Fraser & Co. The London company was set up to maximise profits by supplying the Canadian firm with trade goods obtained on credit, looking after shipments, and selling the pelts at the best price on the London market. In 1802, Simon went to the United States and then to Montreal. After the death of his uncle in 1804, in 1806 he became a partner in the firm of McTavish, Fraser & Co. and then of McTavish, McGillivrays & Co. In the ensuing years he traveled frequently between Montreal and Britain. He also journeyed to Fort William, at the western end of Lake Superior, where was a base of the subsidiary NWC, of which his brother William was Chief Director.



*Simon McGillivray FRS (1785–1840)*  
*(Library & Archives Canada)*

*Merger with the Hudsons Bay Company*

In 1819–20 the NWC ran into financial problems, mainly related to competition with the HBC. Simon sailed to Montreal when needed, but otherwise remained in London where his authority had grown to supersede his cousin John Fraser, the financial expert in Simon McTavish's time. Together with his friend Edward Ellice, they devised a plan to merge the two giant fur companies. During the discussions that followed, Colin Robertson of the HBC remarked: 'I like Simon much better than his friend the Member of Parliament (Ellice); there is a sort of highland pride and frankness about the little fellow that I don't dislike'.

The merger was completed by 1821, and having broken the news to the partners in Canada, Robertson again commented 'Simon McGillivray has carried everything without even the semblance of opposition. The first day he opened the business, the second the Deed and Release was signed, and the third all was peace and harmony'. Simon and William were placed on the board of the new organisation after investing £164,000 between them, but the peace did not last long. By 1825 their Montreal and London firms, McTavish, McGillivrays & Co., and (since 1822) McGillivrays, Thain & Co. were bankrupt and they were left £200,000 in debt. Blame for the failure is generally apportioned to the Ellice family, which since the American Revolution had coveted the riches of NW Canada. William retired to his estate on the Isle of Mull, but died in London in 1825 and was buried in St James's Church, Piccadilly. His monument and that of his wife Magdalen née MacDonald (d. 1811) was destroyed by bombing in 1940.

Simon had been forced to sell his valuable art collection at Christies, but his talents did not go unnoticed and his career continued to prosper. In 1829, he was chosen by the United Mexican Mining Association of London to go to Mexico to help reorganise the administration of the company's silver mines. He was successful and by 1835 was back in London, becoming co-owner with Sir John Easthope of the *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser*. Charles Dickens had been employed as a Parliamentary reporter on the *Morning Chronicle* in 1834 and led a short, successful strike against Easthope and McGillivray in February 1836 over the terms of employment of journalists. Easthope of course was known as a difficult employer, with the nickname 'Blast-hope'.



*Family Vault of Sir John Easthope (grave 121, square 34/35) with inscription to Simon McGillivray*



*Anne McGillivray née Easthope, 1838 (Library & Archives Canada)*

Simon was Provincial Grand Master of Upper Canada (1822–1840), a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a member of the Beaver Club at Montreal and of the Canada Club in London. In 1837, in London, he married Anne Easthope (1808–1869), the eldest daughter of Sir John Easthope, of Firgrove, Surrey, by his first wife, Ann (d. 1840, the first burial in the family vault), daughter of Jacob Stokes, of Leopard House, Worcestershire. The McGillivrays kept two houses, a London home at 13 Salisbury Street, Strand, and a house on Dartmouth Row, Blackheath, Kent. Simon died on 9 June 1840 at Blackheath. He was survived by two daughters, one of whom, Mary Louisa McGillivray (1840–1897), married Rear-Admiral Richard Dawkins RN (1828–1896), of Stoke Gabriel, Devon in 1870. They were the parents of three daughters and three sons, one of whom was the archaeologist Prof. Richard MacGillivray

Dawkins (1871–1955). His sons had no issue. Two of the daughters came to Italy for the Grand Tour, met two Italian brothers, and in 1903 they both married and remained in Italy. One of the daughters, Mary Katherine Dawkins, my grandmother, lived with me in Rome until her death in 1971, aged 97.



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## 31 London Cemeteries

to Visit Before You Die  
Book Review – Bob Flanagan

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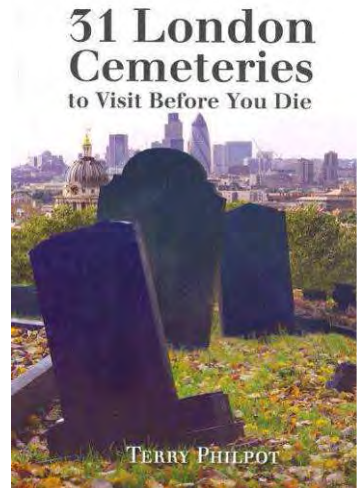
*Terry Philpot. Brighton: Step Beach Press, 2012. Illustrated, 170 pp. Softback, £12.95*

The enduring interest in the cemeteries of London is shown by the publication of yet another guide and gazetteer derived from Hugh Meller's classic *London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer*, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition (2008). This latest offering has a short history of London burial grounds and then brief notes on 31 cemeteries, with even briefer notes on 12 more as an afterthought. Why 31 one might ask? The 'Magnificent Seven' are in, as are Bunhill Fields, Hampstead Cemetery, St John at Hampstead Old Churchyard and Additional Burial Ground, and Old St Pancras Churchyard, but Putney Vale Cemetery, for example, is relegated to the 'also rans' and other notable churchyards such as St John's, Shirley (with the marvelous monument to John Ruskin's parents) don't even get a mention. One can't cover everything admittedly, but to include the Moravian Burial Ground, King's Road and the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery in Hainault in the list of '31 to Visit Before You Die' means I'll have to get moving pronto!

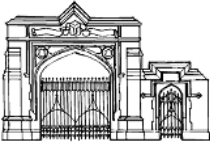
What do I think of the book? It is pleasant enough, and anything that encourages interest in our fragile cemetery heritage has to be welcome. This being said there is no mention of the big issue, the threat of re-use of graves with attendant loss of existing memorials. And the layout follows the modern trend of wide peripheral margins and close binding, which means that the internal margins are too near to the spine for comfortable reading.

And what of Norwood? I did help in supplying information and photographs for the gazetteer (6 pages), and the entry is accurate enough I guess, albeit shorter than that on Abney Park (10 pages), for example. But the author has I feel not spent much time at Norwood, and has failed the statutory test: yes, it's Mrs Beaton and not Beeton yet again. I wish I'd kept a record of the number of times people have made this same mistake. As to '10 things you probably (didn't) know about London's cemeteries', there are working coffin lifts at Beckenham, Honor Oak, Kingston, Lewisham, and Putney Vale Crematoria, for example, to add to the three working coffin lifts in the UK that are mentioned, and the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery did publish a guidebook to their cemetery, although it may be out of print at the moment.

The saving grace of the book is that there are a number of interesting snippets – for example I either didn't know, or had forgotten, that John Claudius Loudon (1783–1843), who hated the idea of Norwood of course, had advocated in 1830 that burial grounds be



developed ‘on a plan similar to that adopted in the burial-ground of Munich, and not left to chance like Père la Chaise’. By chance I spent a day taking photos of what remains of the Alter Südfriedhof in Munich last year and will put together a talk about it and the later Alter Nordfriedhof for a future FOWNC meeting. The Südfriedhof was established in 1563 for plague victims and located outside the city gates. From 1788–1867 it was the single collective burial ground for the dead of the city. Notable burials include Justus Freiherr von Liebig (1803–1873), chemist, natural scientist, and inventor of the eponymous condenser, and the physicist Georg Simon Ohm (1789–1854) of Ohm’s Law fame.



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## Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

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Our series of excellent lectures this year began on 18 January with Susan Mossman, materials science specialist at the Science Museum, speaking about two inventors sharing a birth year, Sir Henry Bessemer (1813–1898: grave 27,463, square 99, Grade II listed) and Alexander Parkes (1813–1890: grave 20,927, square 7, monument destroyed). She outlined their work, Bessemer on ‘gold’ (bronze) paint and steel processing, and the rather less successful anti-seasickness ship cabin; Parkes on electroplating and more famously the earliest synthetic plastics; and she then gave some intriguing insights into their characters and how these affected their work. Bessemer was an outstanding businessman, making a fortune from his inventions, whereas Parkes seems to have been a less driven personality who failed to profit from his inventions, leaving other entrepreneurs to develop his work. In 2002 the Plastics Historical Society placed their first commemorative plaque on a surviving house where Parkes had lived at 32 Park Hall Road, West Dulwich. The new edition of *The Story of Sir Henry Bessemer*, by Patricia M. Jenkyns, Herne Hill Society, is available from the FOWNC bookstall.

On 15 February we were pleased to again welcome Michael Slater, long-time FOWNC member and Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at Birkbeck College, University of London. As ever, a fascinating raconteur even without visual materials, he presented a most entertaining view of the 19<sup>th</sup> century London theatre scene. He discussed the fraught relationship between two of its notable figures, George Bolwell Davidge (1793–1842: grave 398, square 62, see Newsletter 59, May 2007), a noted Harlequin who became manager of the Coburg (now the Old Vic) and the Surrey Theatres, and playwright and journalist Douglas Jerrold (1803–1857: grave 5,452, square 97, vault recently restored). A characteristic of that era was that actors and managers made far more money than playwrights, causing Jerrold much bitterness, and leading him to write his hilarious caricature of Davidge, *Bajazet Gag, the Manager in search of a ‘Star’*, serialised in *The New Monthly Magazine* in 1841–2. Michael’s much heralded biography of Jerrold was published in 2002.

On 15 March Malcolm Cooper, formerly Historic Scotland’s Chief Inspector, now honorary research fellow at the University of Edinburgh, treated us to a lecture based on the Brown and Leifchild memorials. Grave 7,167 (square 40), surmounted by a Grade II listed elaborate terracotta monument, contains the remains of the Rev James Baldwin

Brown, his wife Elizabeth née Leifchild, and their children, including their son Gerard and his wife Maude Annie née Terrell. James (1820–1884) was Congregational minister at Claylands Chapel and later at Brixton Independent Chapel, and was noted for his liberal philosophical views. Elizabeth was a friend of Christina Rossetti; and her brother Henry Stormonth Leifchild (1823–1884: grave 20,386, square 40, with a beautiful headstone designed by Leifchild himself) was a Pre-Raphaelite sculptor who mixed with Dante Gabriel Rossetti and John Ruskin. Gerard (1849–1932) was the first Professor of Fine Art at the University of Edinburgh, a post he held for 50 years, and he became not only an expert on Anglo-Saxon architecture, but also a key figure in the development of the conservation movement in Britain. His landmark book *The care of ancient monuments: an account of the legislative and other measures adopted in European Countries for protecting ancient monuments and objects and scenes of natural beauty, and for preserving the aspect of historical cities* (Cambridge: University Press, 1905) has recently been reprinted in paperback.



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## Forthcoming Events

May-August 2014

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Introductory tours are held on the first Sunday of each month (4 May, 1 June, 6 July and 3 August), starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14.30, and last about 2 hours. These coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events, see [www.westnorwoodfeast.com](http://www.westnorwoodfeast.com)). There is no charge, but we welcome donations towards conservation projects. We offer quarterly members-only tours of the Anglican Catacombs (please contact Jill Dudman to book a place, details p. 16). Future events are listed on our website as they are arranged. Additional events may be offered at short notice – please register an e-mail address ([secretary@fownc.org](mailto:secretary@fownc.org)) to receive notifications.

**Saturday 17 May, 11.00–17.00: Friends of Nunhead Cemetery Open Day**

Linden Grove, SE15. Buses P12, 484, 343, 78, Nunhead railway station. Guided tours, music in ruined chapel, stalls, plants, home-made refreshments ([www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)).

**Friday 23 May–Sunday 1 June. Week of Discovering European Cemeteries 2014**

Our 1 June walk will be a special architectural tour ([www.significantcemeteries.org](http://www.significantcemeteries.org)).

**Saturday 28 June, 11.00–16.00: Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Summer Fair**

Southern Grove, E3. Mile End tube station, free parking in street ([www.fothcp.org](http://www.fothcp.org)).

**Saturday 5 July, 11.00–17.00: Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day**

Harrow Road, W10 ([www.kensalgreen.co.uk](http://www.kensalgreen.co.uk)).

**Sunday 20 July, 11.00–17.00: Friends of Brompton Cemetery Open Day**

Fulham Road, SW10. Guided tours of cemetery and catacombs, exhibitions, stalls, birds of prey, children's activities, refreshments ([www.brompton-cemetery.org](http://www.brompton-cemetery.org)).

FOWNC is a member of the Lambeth Local History Forum. For the full listing of this summer's heritage walks see [www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/home/walks](http://www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/home/walks).

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## A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

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Lieut. Charles H. Wilkinson RFA MC Croix de Guere Belge died in Liverpool Military Hospital and was buried at Norwood on 18 October 1918 (grave 34,937, square 95). The grave was purchased on 16 October 1918 by Mrs Hannah Chapman of 3 Hopton Road, Streatham, but was transferred on 17 May 1923 to his father Charles A. Wilkinson in Eltham, New Zealand, where the family monument in the local cemetery includes an inscription to Charles jnr., stating that he was born on 26 August 1897, enlisted in England aged 17, and died on 13 October 1918. Apparently he had travelled to England as a student. But why is he buried alone at Norwood, who was Mrs Chapman, and what is the story of his war service?



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If you would like further information about the Friends, please contact the Secretary.

The annual subscription is £5.

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