

# Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 84 – September 2015

Free to members

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## Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

I am pleased to report the restoration by Ron Knee and his team of the monument to the Nicholl family (grave 1,425, square 66) at the top of the hill leading to the Crematorium. The monument was badly damaged in 2009 when a lorry in the process of delivering new cremators ran off downhill unattended. Luckily no-one was injured in the accident. Thanks to Steve Wong and the current team at Lambeth for driving the restoration process through. Unfortunately, the capstone was initially replaced upside down (!), but this mistake was quickly rectified, as illustrated below.

The inscription on the monument is badly weathered, but the cemetery register reveals that those buried in the vault are William Lewis Nicholl of 16 Aldersgate Street (d. 13 May 1846, age 64) and his wife Ann (d. 1866). His will lists him as a 'scale maker'. Also buried in the vault are Robert Lewis Nicholl Henly (d. 5 August 1837, age 5 months), and William Lewis Nicholl (d. 6 June 1841, age 18), both removed from St Botolph's, Aldersgate.



*The restored Nicholl memorial*

## *Historic England Monument Condition Survey 2015*

In February this year a survey of the Grade II and II\* monuments looked at the 20 on the *At Risk Register* (see Newsletter 82, January 2015). The survey provides a specification for tender for the conservation of each monument and budgets for developing a ten-year maintenance plan. *Sally Strachey Historic Conservation* was commissioned by *English Heritage* (now *Historic England*). Monuments were inspected visually and with a cover meter to identify iron supports. The general and specific ground conditions of the setting and context of the landscape were also given careful consideration.



*Grade II listed tomb of Christopher Trowell Gabriel (1797–1873)*

A rope access team climbed the roofs of the Dodd and Balli mausolea, and inspected the Greek chapel, removing a tree that had been growing unobserved in the gutters! They had specialist advice from a structural engineer, Margaret Cooke of *Integral Engineering Designs*, and Jamie Fairchild of *Restorative Techniques*, who tested out cleaning methods, leaving behind some strange pale stripes across six soiled monuments.

The survey is very thorough and provides valuable guidance not only for the maintenance programme, but also as regards some general principles of monument conservation at Norwood, given the clay subsoil and the fact that many brick vaults are in danger of collapse.

The survey is important in the context of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid (see next page). However, if the bid is successful it will be years before funding starts and there is an immediate need to repair two monuments, those of Thomas Letts (grave 249, square 33) and Israel Thomas (429, 34), that might not survive that long.

The other monuments surveyed are those of Thomas Ibbotson (grave 30,960, square 104); Annie Sparenborg (31,119, 81); John Wimble (2,952, 76); Thomas de la Garde Grissell (1,669, 63); Alice Moffatt (1,623, 60); John Stevens (3,817, 47); William Grane (4,894, 34); the George Dodd mausoleum (6368, 50); Elizabeth King (35,926, 51); Christopher Gabriel (2,689, 52); Benjamin Colls (5868, 39); James Baldwin Brown (7167, 40); William C Auffray and Edith O'Gorman (25,249, 54); James Kershaw (9,150, 40/41); John and Virginia Schilizzi (32,308, 42/43); Michael Emmanuel Rodocanachi (28,411, 28); the Augustus Ralli Mortuary Chapel (St Stephen's Chapel) (14,564, 27/28/41/42); and the Balli Mausoleum (19,003, 29).

## *Heritage Lottery Fund*

Lambeth have appointed *Land Use Consultants* (LUC) to help prepare a Stage 1 HLF bid, which is due to be submitted by end-August. All is going well with preparing the bid, with detailed consultation at all stages. It has been emphasised throughout, however, that a successful Stage 2 bid can only be carried through after agreement with all parties including FOWNC on the crucial issue of monument conservation and grave re-use prior to a joint submission (Lambeth and FOWNC) to the Diocesan Chancellor.

## *FOWNC Membership*

A recent analysis has shown that of 547 members, 397 live within Greater London (123 live within 1 km of the cemetery). Membership outside London is fairly evenly distributed across the counties of England with some 12 members living abroad. To have reached these figures is a great tribute to your committee especially who devote many hours to the various tasks associated with running FOWNC.

Talking of which, members may notice that this issue of the Newsletter has expanded to 20 pages. I cannot promise to maintain this length for all future issues, but I have a large backlog of articles and will try my best. The trouble is when e.g. scrub clearance is needed to see if a monument remains or not, then this all takes time, as does research in the Cemetery Office, which usually falls to our secretary Jill Dudman. Anyway, between us we will do our best to keep pace with demand.



*Dr Isaac Watts' Statue, Abney Park*

## *Abney Park Cemetery*

Romany Reagan has created a couple of audio walks in Abney Park for her PhD studies into artistic interactions with heritage sites. One walk investigates ideas of death and mourning using literary and other quotations, and evocative music. Another plays out the lives of menagerists and circus folk Frank and Susannah Bostock. Go to [www.abneyrambles.com](http://www.abneyrambles.com) on your mobile or internet-connected device to listen.

Abney Park in Stoke Newington, London Borough of Hackney, is a historic parkland laid out originally in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century by Lady Mary Abney (1676–1750) and the theologian and hymn writer Dr. Isaac Watts (1674–1748), and the neighbouring Hartopp family. In 1840 it became a non-denominational garden cemetery in succession to Bunhill Fields. In 1884 the Abney Park Cemetery Company in turn established Chingford Mount Cemetery (London Borough of Waltham Forest) as Abney Park was becoming congested – a total of 196,843 burials had taken place there as of 2000. It is now a Local Nature Reserve ([www.abneypark.org/](http://www.abneypark.org/)).

Revd Samuel Wainwright DD (1824–1899)

FOWNC Newsletter 37 (January 2000) contains a reference to the award of the degree of Doctor of Divinity to the Revd Samuel Wainwright (grave 28,850, square 20). The attention of the author of the piece, M.E. Brian, has been drawn recently to a note in the *Islington Gazette* of 29 November 1870 that vouchsafes that the degree was awarded by the University of the Diocese of Ohio (Kenyon College, Ohio) for his contribution to ‘Apologistic Literature’ via the publication of his book *Christian Certainty* (London: Hatchard and Co., 1865) written whilst he was Vicar of Holy Trinity, Micklegate, York. The book is still in print (Kessinger Legacy Reprints, 2007), but the original is on-line: <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=SRQPAAAIAAJ>.

Brief perusal of the book reveals that it is in fact an anti-Darwinian polemic! *On the Origin of Species* was published on 24 November 1859,<sup>1</sup> but was simply a ‘puerile hypothesis’ according to Dr

Wainwright... For a further example of his stance see his *Scientific Sophisms* (London: Hodder & Stoughton,<sup>2</sup> 1881; <https://archive.org/details/scientificsophi01waingoog>).



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## “SCIENTIFIC SOPHISMS.”

By SAMUEL WAINWRIGHT, D.D.

**“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” This rule Dr. Wainwright has followed in presenting a thorough review of the prevailing theories of Natural Science. He has submitted to searching criticism the views of Darwin, Huxley, Tyndall, and others on the subjects of Evolution, Transmutation, Spontaneous Generation, etc., and has ably shows the fallacies involved in their deductions. Although dealing with difficult scientific problems, the book is written in a clear and simple style, attractive to every intelligent mind. It is well calculated to remove sceptical doubts, and to confirm the old belief that “He that built all things is God.”**

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## A Taste of Victorian History

Review by Bob Flanagan

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### Saturday 13 June: West Norwood Feast – Tour and Supper in the Cemetery

This event – the first of its kind – was not only blessed with a fine evening, but was also sold out in quick time thanks to the work of West Norwood Feast in association with Grub Club (<http://grubclub.com/>) and the Tulse Hill Hotel ([www.tulsehillothotel.com/](http://www.tulsehillothotel.com/)), which provided the food. Some 60 people, most of them new to the Cemetery, were greeted with a glass of ginger wine (to guard against cholera) served in the Maddick mausoleum before assembling for introductory talks about the cemetery. The whole event served to emphasise what a fantastic community resource is represented by the cemetery in general, and by the Greek chapel in particular. The evening opening was especially atmospheric. The event was part of a wider initiative with West Norwood Feast - let us hope that more such events can be planned in future.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Francis Cooke (1816–1891; grave 24,183, square 120), was Darwin’s publisher in partnership with his cousin John Murray III (1808–1892). See Newsletter 78 (September 2013)

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Wilberforce Stoughton (1848–1917; grave 26,778, square 56)



*A tour assembling in front of the Trodd family baldacchino*

Tours led by Colin Fenn and Roger Myhill, respectively, were then taken through the cemetery to St Stephen's Chapel where further refreshments awaited. Graves visited along the way included those of Eliza Colman (grave 23,673, square 124), 'relict' of Edward Colman (Colmans mustard; 15,015, 26), James Epps (cocoa manufacture; 28,614, 105), Sir James Arndell Youl (salmon and trout to Tasmania; 31,004, 104), Eliza James, *The Watercress Queen* (33,533, 105), William George Lovell (WW1 food rationing; 37,148, 92), Thomas Kirby (dairyman; 29,530, 68), Colonel Sir James Buckingham (Assam tea grower; 33,218, 68), Isabella Mary Mayson, Mrs Beeton (8,348, 64), Julia Twining Hudson (972, 51),<sup>3</sup> John Lawson Johnston, *Mr Bovril* (29,462, 38), Sir Henry Tate, *Mr Cube* (19,897, 38).

On arrival at the Greek Cemetery, drinks were served in the Chapel portico. The food, complete with cordials and even a custom-made Swiss roll (a Victorian specialty), was laid out in the chapel itself, which had been specially cleaned and arranged for the event by Colin and Rose Fenn, Roger Myhill, with the help of several Feast volunteers. There was due emphasis on sugary items such as pastries and jellies that did not require refrigeration, as befitted Victorian taste buds!



*A Taste of Victorian History!*

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<sup>3</sup> Daughter of John Aldred Twining (1785–1855), tea merchant. Her husband Robert Hudson (d. 1883) also lies in the grave. Frances Emily (d. 1847), Charles Edmund (d. 1847), Richard Radcliffe (d. 1862) and Hannah Twining (d. 1881) lie in grave 1,638, square 34

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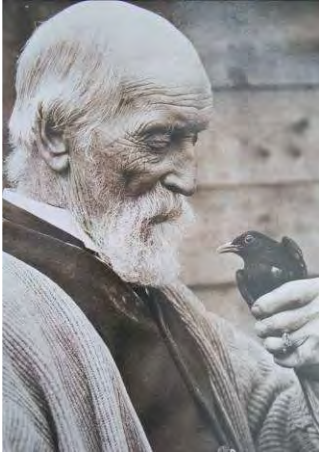
# Henry John Wilson (1834-1932)

Ian Taylor

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Henry John Wilson died on 28 August 1932 and was buried at Norwood near to the Mortuary chapels (grave 36,326, square 65; monument destroyed). The first part of the burial service took place at Emmanuel Church in West Dulwich. He was 97 years old.



*Henry John Wilson*

Henry Wilson was born in 1834 in the village of Pilsley on the Chatsworth Estate in Derbyshire. His father, a gardener, worked for the Duke of Devonshire. The head gardener was Joseph Paxton (1803–1865), later Sir Joseph, the creator of the Crystal Palace. Henry moved to London as a page to Mr Paxton in a dwelling in Portland Square. On 11 November 1852 they moved to Rockhills, a house in the Palace grounds. Rockhills was also the home of the Crystal Palace manager, Sir Henry Buckland (1870–1957), from 1922–1956.

During his working life at the Palace Henry met many dignitaries. He was given the task of arranging the visit of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, in July 1870. He shook hands with the then Shah of Persia (1873) and also the Italian revolutionary Garibaldi, when he visited the Palace in April 1864. There was also Blondin, the tightrope walker, who performed at the

Palace in 1861 and in 1862, turning somersaults on stilts on a rope stretched across the central transept, 70 feet from the ground.

Henry had many duties. One was to carry takings to the Consolidated Bank in Threadneedle Street. The cash was placed in a portmanteau and he was accompanied by another employee of the Crystal Palace Company. For 35 years he had the task of winding and tending the 40 feet wide Great Clock, made by Dent of the Strand. There were 103 steps to be negotiated and so he probably climbed over a million steps in his working life. One of his great passions was the breeding and showing of cage birds, particularly Yorkshire Canaries, for which there are still many shows today.

Other burials in the grave at Norwood are his wife Sarah (1924) and his daughter Elizabeth Wilson (1941). Henry's father John (d. 1872) is buried at St Peter's Church, Edensor, on the Chatsworth Estate (Grave No. 5B023). This churchyard is also the final resting place of Henry's beloved employer Sir Joseph Paxton (Grave No. 0A006).



*The Great Clock at the Crystal Palace c. 1935*

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## Horace Brooks Marshall (1829-1896)

Janet Weeks

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Members of the City of London police helped to control the crowds gathered around the vault when Horace Marshall was interred at Norwood in September 1896. The long funeral procession from his son's house in Streatham to the Methodist church in Streatham High Road, and thence on to the cemetery, had been watched by thousands of people, as reported in the *Streatham News*:

*At the head of the procession was the coffin and many wreaths, followed by eight 'mourning coaches' and four private carriages. Behind these were several conveyances carrying employees and children from the Orphan Working School, a charitable organisation of which Horace Marshall had been a vice-president. Representatives of several other charities which he supported were also in the procession.*



*Grey granite memorial to Ellen and Horace Marshall (grave 22,843, square 38)*

Horace Brooks Marshall was born in Holborn in 1829. His father, William, is listed in a trade directory of 1836 as a bookseller and pocket book manufacturer at 1 Middle Row, Holborn. In 1840 William Marshall & Son had an office in Leadenhall Street and began distributing newspapers. They opened the first bookstall at an English railway station at Fenchurch Street. Subsequently, they obtained the concession for all bookstalls at Great Western Railway stations. In 1860, however, they lost the concession to W.H. Smith & Son. In the same year the firm moved to Ludgate Hill and concentrated on the wholesale business. By 1896, they were dispatching about 250,000 newspapers a day. For 35 years, it was reported, Horace Marshall himself opened the warehouse at 01:30 am, missing only one day.

Marshall found time for many other activities: he was a member of the City Corporation for Farringdon

Without; a generous supporter of the Methodist movement; a contributor of time and money to many charities; and an active Freemason. He served as Grand Treasurer of English Freemasons, the highest rank open to anyone outside the Royal Family.

The civil registration of his marriage to Ellen Grimwood took place in 1865, although they were already living as man and wife in 1861 in County Grove, Camberwell New Road. At that time, marriages performed in Methodist and other nonconformist churches were not legally recognised. Their only son, also named Horace Brooks, was born in August 1865 at Clifton Villas, Loughborough Road, Brixton. He was educated at Dulwich College and, after he had obtained a degree at Trinity College, Dublin, he joined his father's business. The firm's name had already changed to Horace Marshall & Son with an office at 123–5 Fleet Street and headquarters at Temple House, Temple Avenue.

Horace snr went to live in Margate in retirement, giving some of his time in serving as Justice of the Peace for the County of Kent. When he became ill at the end of his life he went to stay with his son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter. They had just moved from Brixton to Streatham and were living in *The Chimes*, a large house on the corner of Streatham High Road and Streatham Common North.

The Marshall family had contributed to the building of the Methodist church at the corner of Streatham High Road and Stanthorpe Road in which the funeral service was held. It was conducted by the Rev. D.A. Hershell, a friend of the deceased. He spoke of the generosity of Horace Marshall, who had increased his charitable donations as his prosperity grew. He regarded himself as God's steward so far as his riches were concerned. After the service, the funeral procession made its way to Norwood, where the coffin was interred alongside the remains of Ellen, his wife (d. 1889), and of his grandson (also Horace Brooks, d. July 1893), who sadly had not survived for long after his birth in 1892.

#### *Baron Marshall of Chipstead*

Horace jnr (1865–1936) was elected unanimously to succeed his father as a member of the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Farringdon Without. He served as Sheriff of the City of London in 1902 and was knighted in that year. He became an Alderman for Vintry Ward in 1909 and was Lord Mayor, 1918–19. Victory in World War I was confirmed by Prime Minister David Lloyd George at the Lord Mayor's Banquet on 9 November 1918.

Sir Horace expanded the charitable work performed by his father. From age 15 he had been given a regular, fixed sum to be spent on charitable objectives, and after six months he had had to report on how the money had been distributed. He was an active Freemason and was the prime mover in the formation of the Streatham Lodge (1898) and was its first Master. He encouraged his future son-in-law, J. Arthur Rank (1888–1972), the flour miller and cinema pioneer, who married his elder daughter Nellie, to join the Lodge. Like his father, Sir Horace attained the rank of Grand Treasurer of English Freemasons. He was amongst the officers appointed at the first Grand Lodge of England meeting held after the Armistice, becoming Junior Grand Warden. Later in the year he was appointed by the Duke of Connaught (Grand Master) to office in the Supreme Grand Chapter.

After his term as Lord Mayor, Sir Horace was showered with decorations and honours from many countries. He was created Baron Marshall of Chipstead in 1921. He died in 1936 and was buried at St Margaret's, Chipstead. Rank in turn took over as chairman of Horace Marshall & Son, and eventually John Menzies (Holdings) Ltd acquired the company and its subsidiaries in 1962.



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# Richard Hughes, Frederick Gye & Their Legacy

Barbara Thomas

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Having discovered that Richard Hughes (1772–1856), the son of my 5 x great-grandfather, was buried at Norwood (grave 939, square 98), I was dismayed to discover that his gravestone had been demolished along with thousands of others by Lambeth Council in the 1980s. Most importantly, his son-in-law Frederick Gye, founder of the Royal Italian Opera and promotor of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, is buried in this same grave. The Hughes and Gye families were inextricably bound by marriage and business interests that included *The London Wine Company*, *The London Genuine Tea Company*, *Vauxhall Gardens*, and the *Royal Italian Opera*.

Richard Hughes' father (c. 1741–1814) was, according to Thomas Gilliland (*The Dramatic Mirror*, 1808) “bred to the ‘devil and bush’, or button-painting line in Birmingham. But having ‘a soul above buttons and panting for a liberal profession’, he frequented a house in that town, where the back parlour was fitted up for the convenience of a spouting club.<sup>4</sup> Here he and William Siddons<sup>5</sup> were one evening roused to a noble pitch of emulation by hearing that Mr Jones, the acting manager for Ward,<sup>6</sup> was to be there. They struck a bargain, and made their first appearance on the stage at Coventry where they played in a Riding-house, and dressed in Bridewell. Hughes was engaged as a painter and performer; and having a good study, was reckoned to be a useful hand.”

## *The Father of Provincial Drama*

Richard Hughes snr next joined Roger Kemble's Touring Company.<sup>7</sup> *The Thespian Dictionary* (1805) recorded that ‘His good fortune having conducted him to Plymouth-dock (Devonport), he married the daughter of Williams the manager there, and is now the proprietor of that and several other theatres. His success as a manager enabled him to become the chief proprietor of Sadler's Wells; and no man, perhaps is better calculated for.. management.. than Mr Hughes; for although he is not always agreeable to his performers, it is because he is determined that they shall be as agreeable as possible to the company who visit his theatres; he will suffer no actor or actress, to appear on his boards in an improper dress, nor allow those liberties which country performers are apt to take. Being strictly punctual in his payments, he is resolved that they shall be strictly attentive to their business; and under such management it is no wonder that the theatre of Weymouth should have so many royal visits’.

From 1789–1805, George III convalesced at Weymouth and in turn it became the global seat of power. Hughes was described as ‘industrious to an extreme, as he is scarce a

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<sup>4</sup> A meeting of ‘apprentices and mechanics’ to rehearse different characters in plays

<sup>5</sup> William Siddons (c. 1744–1808), husband of Mary Kemble Siddons (1755–1831), ‘Mrs Siddons’

<sup>6</sup> John Ward (1704–1773), actor/manager

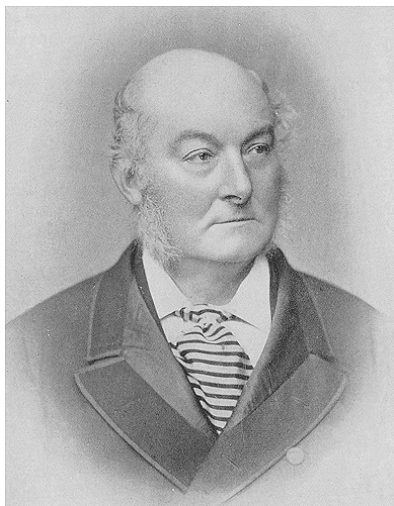
<sup>7</sup> Roger Kemble (1721–1802), actor/ manager. In 1753, he married actress Sarah Ward (1735–1807). Their 12 children formed the great Kemble family of 19<sup>th</sup> century actors and actresses

moment idle. For besides his company, performing himself.. he paints all his own scenes'.<sup>8</sup>

Hughes managed the Western theatre circuit, and by the time of his death was revered as the *Father of Provincial Drama*.<sup>9</sup> Later he formed a partnership that included William Siddons and became the chief proprietor of Sadler's Wells. He lived in the large house attached to the theatre with his wife Lucy Williams and his family of nine children. There, the oldest daughter Maria, a dancer, met and married the famous clown Joseph Grimaldi (1778–1837), but sadly died in childbirth with no heir.<sup>10</sup> Another daughter Julia was on the stage, as was Henry, my 4 x great-grandfather, and it is from his branch of the family that the theatrical connections continued. The oldest son Richard jnr continued with theatre management, and married Elizabeth Bish, daughter of Thomas Bish (1779–1842), the lottery agent. Both Richard and Elizabeth are buried in the family grave at Norwood, purchased in 1844 at the death aged 32 of their son Thomas.

#### *Vauxhall Gardens and the Royal Italian Opera*

The Gye family can be traced back to the 1600s in Market Lavington in Wiltshire. They were originally Quakers, some being imprisoned for their faith. Frederick's grandfather Waldern was an apothecary in Bath, but both Frederick snr and his father William entered the printing trade. Frederick married Sarah Dicks in Bath Abbey. On moving to London two sons were born, Frederick jnr (1810), who in time married Elizabeth Allen, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Hughes, and Edwin Eyton (1812), who married her sister Emily Frances Susannah Hughes.



*Frederick Gye jnr (1810–1878)*

Frederick snr had moved to London with his friend Giles Balne, a master printer, also from Bath. Together they established a printing business in the City, securing one contract for printing state lottery tickets and another for printing lottery posters for Thomas Bish. The story is well documented that in 1817, on the eve of drawing one of the great lotteries, Bish found himself with a whole ticket in his hand and prevailed upon Gye to release him of it. When recovering his ticket Gye found that the prize was his!

With his winnings of about £30,000 Gye first set up the *London Wine Company* (1817), and in the following year the *London Genuine Tea Company*. The tea company salon at Charing Cross was decorated by David Roberts (1796–1864; grave 15,280, square 38). In the same year Gye, together with Bish, leased *Vauxhall Gardens* from

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<sup>8</sup> Lackington J. *Memoirs ... of the Life of James Lackington*. London: 1794

<sup>9</sup> He was buried in his family vault at St James, Clerkenwell

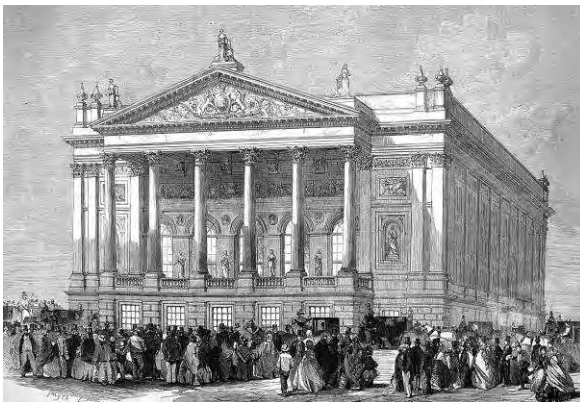
<sup>10</sup> Boz (ed). *Memoirs of Grimaldi*. London: 1838

the Tyers Family. In 1823 they were joined by Richard Hughes jnr, this being the first specific connection between the Gye and Hughes families. In 1825 the trio purchased the property, although Bish soon dropped out, possibly taken up with the lottery, the last draw of which was held in 1826.

Initially profits were good, but declined after 1827. To encourage visitors one of the most important developments during the 1830s was the introduction of regular ballooning. Nevertheless by 1840, for multifarious reasons, Gye snr and Hughes had become bankrupt.<sup>11</sup> The wine and tea companies had also failed, such that Frederick jnr resented his father's commercial downfall.<sup>12</sup> In 1826 Frederick snr had been elected as MP for Chippenham, in Wiltshire, but chose not to stand again in 1830. He spent the last 28 years of his life in Brighton, dying there in 1869.

Frederick jnr kept extensive diaries, mostly concerned with business and financial matters.<sup>13</sup> His father's bankruptcy came soon after his marriage in 1834 to Elizabeth Hughes, and 'finding himself with only £80 in the world, he at once moved to a larger house, explaining that if one is suffering misfortune, one should not let people know it'. This was Springfield House, Wandsworth Road, which had an appropriate heraldic symbol signifying strength, courage, and boldness.

Frederick jnr initially assisted his father with Vauxhall Gardens, but in 1848 he was appointed business manager of the Royal Italian Opera at Covent Garden. He faced many difficulties in the next 30 years, including competition with His Majesty's Theatre that originally had the monopoly for Italian Opera, and litigation that arose from the alleged poaching of singers. In March 1856 Covent Garden Theatre burnt down, the result of an



*The Royal Italian Opera House as rebuilt in 1858*

unfortunate let to 'The Wizard of the North', who had the dubious distinction that two theatres had already burnt down over his head.<sup>14</sup> Everything was destroyed with a total loss of £40,000, of which only £8,000 was covered by insurance. Frederick then set about raising funds from wealthy investors and in the event the rebuilt theatre opened in May 1858. The ironwork for the new building was by Henry Grissell.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Coke DE, Borg A. *Vauxhall Gardens: A History*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011.

<sup>12</sup> Vizetelly H, *Glances Back Through 70 Years: Autobiographical and Other Reminiscences*. London: K Paul, Trench, Trubner, 1893

<sup>13</sup> These have been deposited at the Royal Opera House by the Gye family

<sup>14</sup> The magician John Henry Anderson (1814–1874)

<sup>15</sup> Also buried at Norwood (grave 1,669, square 63)

Apart from further lengthy litigation in the 1870s, the Royal Italian Opera entered a period of prosperity that lasted until Frederick jnr's death. In 1874, for example, 81 performances were given of 31 operas by 13 composers, including works by Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini. The Italian Opera was popular throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a place to see and be seen. It was favoured for its melody, and audiences were drawn by renowned singers and their vocal prowess rather than an appreciation of musical drama. In 1875, however, Frederick introduced an opera by Wagner and the seeds of change began. However, catastrophe came on 27 November 1878 when Frederick, who was fond of hunting, was accidentally shot at Dytchley Park, Viscount Dillon's seat at Oxford. He died of his wounds four days later, and is buried with his wife Elizabeth (d. 1874), in the grave of his father-in-law Richard Hughes jnr.

According to Richard Northcott, a keeper of Covent Garden, Frederick Gye jnr 'didn't know the first thing about music, but was a good manager of business'. He was judged to be by far the most successful lessee of any operatic establishment in England. A five foot white marble statue made by Gleichen<sup>16</sup> was originally placed at the head of the Grand Staircase and remains on view in the Royal Opera House today (see FOWNC Newsletter 82).

On Frederick jnr's death his personal estate, still heavily mortgaged, was valued at under £35,000. He bequeathed his interest in the theatre to his five children. Ernest, his eldest son, having already been concerned with the business, assumed control. However, Ernest seems to have lacked the administrative ability of his father, for he could not sustain the financial success of the previous decade. In 1884 the Royal Italian Opera was wound up, and in 1892 the theatre now also performing French and German opera, was renamed the Royal Opera House.

#### *Edwin Eyton Gye*

Frederick Gye jnr's younger brother Edwin Eyton (1812–1893), latterly of 4 Norwood Road, continued with the tea business initially with Richard Hughes jnr's son, Richard (1811–1894, also buried in the Hughes family vault at Norwood).<sup>17</sup> Edwin and his wife (c. 1820–1893) are also buried at Norwood together with two of their children, Helen Elizabeth (c. 1849–1930) and Edwin Fanning (c. 1845–1910). Their gravestone remains in good order.



*Tombstone of Edwin Eyton Gye  
(grave 25,103, square 86)*

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<sup>16</sup> Admiral Victor Ferdinand Franz Eugen Gustaf Adolf Constantin Friedrich of Hohenlohe-Langenburg GCB (1833–1891), also known as Count Gleichen, an RN officer and a sculptor

<sup>17</sup> The name Eyton derives from lottery agent Edward Eyton of Cornhill, for whom Thomas Bish acted as agent

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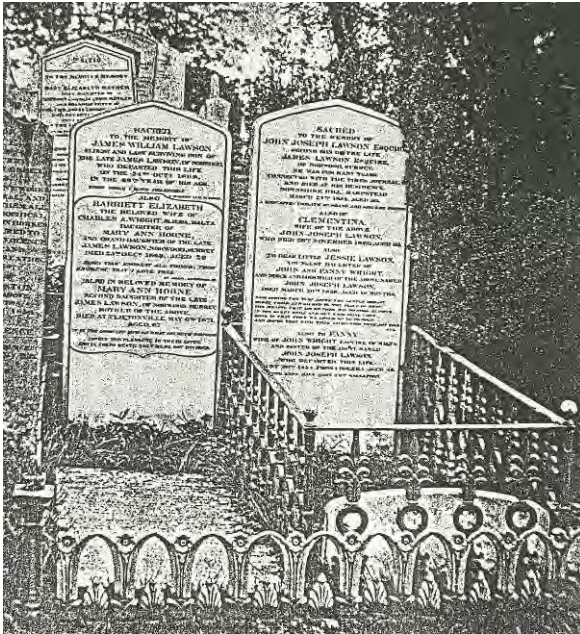
# John Joseph Lawson (1802-1852) & *The Times*

Jean Milne

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The Hayes, Horne, Lawson, and Wright families were amongst those who inherited shares in *The Times* from its original printer, James Lawson (c. 1766–1817). Their family plot at Norwood lies besides the road in square 78, and although the original headstones and enclosure were demolished long ago, the photograph below shows something of what has been lost.



In addition to the inscriptions that can be read on the photograph, there is a transcription in family papers that may have been taken from one of the flat ledgers:

SACRED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
DEAR LITTLE JESSIE LAWSON  
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF  
JOHN AND FANNY WRIGHT  
AND NIECE OF  
JOHN JOSEPH LAWSON  
OF NEWINGTON CRESCENT  
DIED MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 1838, AGED 18 MOS.  
THIS STONE WAS ERRECTED IN HER  
MEMORY BY  
HER AFFECTIONATE UNCLE AND  
GODFATHER  
JOHN JOSEPH LAWSON

*Lawson family plot (from L to R: graves 958, 8, and 957, square 78; 957 no headstone)*

John Walter (1738/39–1812), founder of *The Times*, bequeathed a 1/16<sup>th</sup> share of the newspaper jointly to his printers, Charles Bell (–1821) and James Lawson ‘of St Dunstan in the West’ and specified that they ‘should not be entitled to any Vote or Control in *The Times*’. Prior to James Lawson’s death, the 1/16<sup>th</sup> share originally given to Bell and Lawson only for their lifetimes had been transferred absolutely to Lawson, subject to a lifetime annuity to Bell. Lawson died in the year of the transfer, but on Bell’s death the entire share came into the possession of the Lawson family.

James Lawson had married Mary Ann Truman (c. 1775–1845) on 7 May 1796 at St Marylebone. He died on 6 December 1817 at his home after an illness ‘in the windpipe or quinsy’ of only 48 hours. *The Morning Post* of Tuesday 18 December described him as ‘an individual equally estimable for good temper, for friendly disposition and a kind

heart' and stated that his corpse was brought from his home at Norwood to St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, on 13 December, where he was buried in the south-west vault. His wife Mary Ann died 17 June 1845 at Great Ealing, Middlesex, where she was living with her son James and daughter Louisa in the household of her sister Elizabeth Garthwaite (c. 1773–1860). She was the second of the Lawson dynasty to be buried at Norwood (grave 958, square 78), the first being Jessie Lawson Wright (grave 8, square 78), who died 20 March 1838, aged 18 months.<sup>18</sup>

*The Times Inheritance*

James Lawson died intestate and his 8 children in time inherited his share of *The Times*. It is likely that as each of their 5 sisters married, his sons James William (1799–1868) and John Joseph (1802–1852) made sure that settlements were drawn up similar to that dated 20 August 1833 for their sister Mary Ann between themselves as Trustees and the bride and groom. This provided that the income from the bride's portion of the Lawson 1/16<sup>th</sup> share be 'for the sole & separate use and benefit without power of anticipation for the term of her life and after her death upon trust to the husband' who, if he survived her, was to receive the proceeds for life and after the decease of the survivor, in trust for all of their children. On the death of John Joseph Lawson, William Graves Hayes (c. 1805–1883), husband of John Joseph's sister Elizabeth, became the second Trustee.

SACRED

TO THE MEMORY OF  
 JAMES WILLIAM LAWSON  
 ELDEST AND LAST SURVIVING SON OF  
 THE LATE JAMES LAWSON OF NORWOOD  
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
 ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OCT<sup>R</sup> 1868  
 IN THE 68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE  
 ALSO  
 HARRIET ELIZABETH  
 THE BELOVED WIFE OF  
 CHARLES A. WRIGHT, SLIEMA, MALTA  
 DAUGHTER OF  
 MARY ANNE HORNE  
 AND GRANDDAUGHTER OF THE LATE  
 JAMES LAWSON, NORWOOD, SURREY  
 DIED 25<sup>TH</sup> DEC 1868, AGED 29  
 ALSO IN BELOVED MEMORY OF  
 MARY ANN HORNE  
 SECOND DAUGHTER OF THE LATE  
 JAMES LAWSON OF NORWOOD, SURREY  
 MOTHER OF THE ABOVE  
 DIED AT CLIFTONVILLE MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> 1871  
 AGED 67

SACRED

TO THE MEMORY OF  
 JOHN JOSEPH LAWSON ESQUIRE  
 SECOND SON OF THE LATE  
 JAMES LAWSON ESQUIRE  
 OF NORWOOD, SURREY  
 HE WAS FOR MANY YEARS  
 CONNECTED WITH THE TIMES JOURNAL  
 DIED AT HIS RESIDENCE  
 DOWNSHIRE HILL, HAMPSTEAD  
 MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> 1852, AGED 50  
 ALSO OF  
 CLEMENTINA  
 WIFE OF THE ABOVE  
 JOHN JOSEPH LAWSON  
 WHO DIED 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1869, AGED 63  
 ALSO  
 TO DEAR LITTLE JESSIE LAWSON  
 YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF  
 JOHN AND FANNY WRIGHT  
 AND NIECE AND GODCHILD OF THE ABOVE NAMED  
 JOHN JOSEPH LAWSON  
 DIED MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 1838, AGED 18 MONTHS  
 ALSO TO FANNY  
 WIFE OF JOHN WRIGHT ESQUIRE OF MALTA  
 AND SISTER OF THE ABOVE NAMED  
 JOHN JOSEPH LAWSON  
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT 1854, FROM CHOLERA, AGED 48

*Inscriptions on Lawson family monuments (graves 958 and 8, square 78)*

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<sup>18</sup> Details of other Hayes/Horne/Lawson/Wright burials will be given in subsequent articles

As noted above, ownership of *The Times* had been divided into 16 shares on the death of John Walter in 1812. Half 1/16<sup>th</sup> shares were sold by the second John Walter (1776–1847) in 1819 to Thomas Barnes (1785–1841), who edited *The Times* 1817–1841; to Thomas Massa Alsagar (1779–1846), City Correspondent; to James Murray, Chief Reporter; to Edward Sterling, Leader-writer, and to Thomas Platt, Solicitor to *The Times*; and to George Hicks, the Chief Accountant and brother-in-law of Thomas Alsagar, who bought half-shares in 1823 and 1827, amounting in all to a 1/16 share. The shares and fractions of shares were passed down by wills and trusts within the Walter family and the families of the original shareholders so that in time the list of shareholders grew, and the fractions became ever smaller. No shares were ever sold on the open market.

Lists of the proprietors of *The Times* were published in 1885 and in 1891. Dividends were paid annually and were accompanied by a letter simply noting the amount of that individual's dividend, with no statement or other accounting detail. The annual dividend varied considerably. In 1841, for example, the total dividend was £17,000 and in 1845, £29,600, but in 1846 a loss would have been recorded had not the Treasurer, William Delane (1793–1857), and possibly also Alsagar, hidden the loss by omitting the cost of paper in their account. Alsagar died from wounds sustained in a suicide attempt a year after his wife had died and Delane was dismissed, although his son, John, who had become editor in 1841, kept his position.<sup>19</sup>

John Joseph, second son of James and Mary Ann Lawson, was born in Fleet Street on 26 March 1802. He married Clementina, daughter of Moses Agar (c. 1771–1858) and Ann Lifford (c. 1775–1809), on 25 July 1829 at St Martin, Dorking. He died at his residence, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, on 24 March 1852 and was buried in the family plot (grave 8, square 78) at Norwood. John Joseph had no children. His will left everything to his wife, who died on 26 November 1869 and was buried at Norwood in the same grave. When she died intestate, her half-brother Edward Walter Agar (1812–1884), a Major in H.M. Indian Service, was granted letters of administration of her personal estate, which was divided amongst her next of kin. Hence John Joseph's portion of *The Times* share descended through generations of the Agar family.

#### *Printer and Publisher of The Times*

John Joseph Lawson was the printer and publisher of *The Times* from 1830 until his death. It was during his tenure that the newspaper gained its nickname of *The Thunderer*. In 1839 he was fined and jailed for libeling Sir John Conroy (1786–1854), a former soldier, who had been accused in *The Times* of 'peculation' (embezzling public funds) to pay the debts of his patron, the Duchess of Kent, the mother of Queen Victoria, and to acquire an estate in Wales. The case was notable as the publisher, not the editor or the author of the libel, was prosecuted.

Sir John Conroy had been equerry to Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent (1767–1820). Conroy was a controversial figure because of the influence he was thought to exert over the widowed Duchess and her daughter. Victoria dismissed him from her service when she became Queen in 1837, but he remained in the Duchess's service until 1839.

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<sup>19</sup> John Thadeus Delane (1817–1879) succeeded Barnes and edited *The Times* for 36 years

The article that formed the basis of Lawson's trial appeared in *The Times* of 9 March 1838. It did not refer to Conroy by name but the identity of the 'Baronet' was clear: 'There is a certain estate in Wales, purchased and paid for not long ago. If any public inquiry should take place whence the money for the payment came, who so competent to answer the question as the Baronet?'



*John Joseph Lawson (by James Sant, engraved by David Lucas, 1839)*  
© National Portrait Gallery, London

The trial began on 19 December 1838. The defence made much of the fact that Conroy did not give evidence and held forth at length on the inadequacies of the law of libel and the sanctity of press freedom, but Lawson was convicted nevertheless. The committal form stated: 'Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January in the second year of the reign of Queen Victoria the defendant being present here in court and being by a jury of the county convicted of a certain misdemeanour in printing and publishing certain scandalous libels whereof he is impeached upon hearing Mr Thesiger, counsel for the prosecutor and Mr Attorney General for the said defendant. It was considered and adjudged and ordered by the court here that the said defendant for his aforesaid do pay fine to our Lady the Queen of £200 of lawful money of Great Britain and that he be imprisoned in the custody of the Marshal of the Marshalsea of this court for the term of one calendar month now next ensuing'.

*The Times* did not take this lying down. Two days later it published a leading article referring to 'the low-minded and foolish trash' of Mr Thesiger and the 'amusing twaddle' of one of the trial judges, Mr Justice Littledale.<sup>20</sup> Further support was given to Lawson in a brief article that appeared on 25 February describing how the prison chapel had been 'literally thronged' with Lawson's friends on the Sunday before his release.

The Conroy affair was not the first time that Lawson had had problems.<sup>21</sup> On 20 April 1831 he had been called to the Bar of the House of Lords for printing a description of Lord Limerick as a 'thing with human pretensions'. In 1841 Lawson and *The Times* were sued by a financier, Alan Bogle, after naming him at the centre of a conspiracy to forge letters of credit. Banks in Turin, Genoa, Coblenz, Brussels, and Antwerp were among the victims of the swindle.

*The Times* was found guilty on a technicality and fined the nominal sum of one farthing, but it also had to bear the cost of the trial. In gratitude, a number of London bankers,

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<sup>20</sup> Sir Joseph Littledale PC KC (1767–1842)

<sup>21</sup> See [www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/article2304749.ece](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/archive/article2304749.ece) for a list of the most famous cases for which he was sued



headed by the houses of Rothschild, Barings, Barclays and Glyn, offered to compensate the newspaper, but the offer was refused. Instead, the money was used to set up stone tablets commemorating the newspaper's role in the trial and also in establishing scholarships at Christ's Hospital School and the City of London School to be known as *The Times Scholarship*. The printer of *The Times* continued to be a named individual until 1 January 1918, when the convention was replaced with the general title of *The Times Publishing Company Limited*.

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## William Campbell ('Torino') (1879-1943)

Peter Brunning

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The great juggler Cinquevalli (Emile Otto Paul Braun) was buried at Norwood in 1918. His impressive monument (grave 32,152, square 82) also commemorates his wife Adelina and his second wife Dora, whom he married in Australia in 1909. One of his most devoted students, William Campbell, is buried nearby.

Campbell was born in Scotland in 1879, but shortly afterwards his family settled in America. William came to public attention when, aged 19, he enlisted in the American army to fight in the Spanish–American war of 1898. He later told a newspaper that he was on a cycling holiday when hostilities broke out and that he cut short the holiday and joined up. In later life he was the proud recipient of a pension for his military service. He was apparently offered a commission at the end of the war, but instead went into the theatre. He and his brother George worked together in vaudeville in America.

In 1905 George Campbell and his wife toured English theatres for a couple of years as Campbell and Brady. It appears William's act started to appear on the bill boards as 'Torino' the juggler in about 1911. He studied juggling under Cinquevalli and may possibly have acted as Cinquevalli's on-stage assistant because Walter Burford, who had worked for Cinquevalli for ten years, had died in 1909. In 1914–1915, Torino spent some twelve months abroad, performing in India, Australia and South Africa.

Shortly after Cinquevalli's death Torino married 24-year-old May Dorothy Whiteley, who may have been related to *The Five Whiteleys*, an acrobatic and juggling troupe. George Campbell was a witness at the wedding. Dorothy acted as Torino's on-stage



*Monument to May Doris Campbell (Dolly Torino)*

assistant and was specifically billed as such. Torino's billing included the claim that he was 'the only pupil of Paul Cinquevalli'. Some of the tricks that Torino performed were recognisably those of Cinquevalli and it is believed that some of the master's props passed to him. In February 1920 the act was at the *Olympia* music hall in Paris.

William and Dorothy were working in America in 1925. Part of his ten minute act was described thus:

*'His billiard cue work is exactly as Cinquevalli did it. There as other bits as strikingly resembling Torino's tutor's work. Torino opens in pretty garden scene hammock etc. with a nice looking blonde young woman handling the props. He starts with a tennis racket. Among his best [tricks] is striking a light on a match box thrown between his heels over his head.'*

The same periodical (*Variety*) had this to say about him in 1927:

*'Torino nearly stopped the performance. In a class alone as a juggler for the work that he does, along the Cinquevalli lines. [The Lowe theatre chain] office can spot [employ] him anywhere and he'll stand up'.*

In late 1928 Torino was performing in Australia and by then his billing was 'Greater than Cinquevalli himself – he commands the biggest salary in variety to-day and he's worth it!' When not touring the couple lived in Hove. May Campbell died there in 1936, aged only 43. Her husband arranged that she be interred not in Hove, but at Norwood (grave 38,748, square 81), not far from Cinquevalli's grave. Torino remarried in 1942, aged 63. His new wife was 24-year-old Eileen Slater, a blonde haired stage dancer. In his act, Torino was assisted by 'Joyanita Cole', which was a stage name of Eileen's. A daughter (Joy Torina) was born to the couple.

William died of cancer in early 1943 in Charing Cross Hospital. His estate was valued at £1,600 (equivalent to some £220,000 today). He was buried in the grave of his first wife at Norwood, though the headstone does not record this fact. Eileen continued to work, performing in the *Marguiss Adagio Trio* (see: [www.britishpathe.com/video/she-flies-thro-the-air/](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/she-flies-thro-the-air/)) until around 1946. She then met an American named Alfred Schmidt and the couple, together with her daughter, emigrated to America in 1947.



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## Forthcoming Events

September–December 2015

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Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14:30 (6 September, 4 October) or 11:00 (1 November, 6 December), and lasting for about 2 hours. These tours coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other events: see [www.westnorwoodfeast.com](http://www.westnorwoodfeast.com)). Please register an e-mail address ([secretary@fownc.org](mailto:secretary@fownc.org)) or if not on e-mail a telephone number at 020 8670 5456 to receive notifications of additional events, including members-only tours of the Anglican Catacombs (advance bookings only), and our monthly Saturday morning scrub clearance sessions.

**Thursday 10 September. Bat Walk.** Dr Iain Boulton, Lambeth Parks Project Officer

Because an abundance of habitats provide a rich source of insects, the cemetery is visited by commoner bats such as Common and Soprano Pipistrelles. Other bats that might also use the cemetery include the Noctule Bat, the Serotine Bat, and Leisler's Bat. Prior registration essential: please email [iboulton@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:iboulton@lambeth.gov.uk) to reserve a place.

**Saturday 19 September: Open House London**

Tours will be starting at the cemetery main gate at 14:00, 14:30 and 15:00, and ending at the Greek chapel, which will be open with short talks inside. The FOWNC bookstall will be present. Visit [www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk) or pick up their booklet in libraries for details of many places of architectural interest to see for free during the weekend, including the Clockworks Museum in West Norwood.

Lectures will be held in the lounge of Chatsworth Baptist Church (access by the Family Centre entrance), Idmiston Road SE27, as detailed below, starting at 14:30. There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations to cover refreshments and room hire.

**Saturday 17 October. AGM & Lecture – Secret Underground London.** Nick Catford

A key member of *Subterranea Britannica* and an outstanding photographer, Nick has a large collection of images of underground sites in London, many of them normally inaccessible and some now lost. He also has a collection of photos of the catacombs at Norwood, Kensal Green, and Brompton, and his talk will also include mention of the now lost tunnel that joined the East and West cemeteries at Highgate. Nick will have copies of his book *Secret Underground London* for sale (£24.99).

**Saturday 21 November. Gideon Mantell: Unfair dismissal?** Professor Joe Cain, UCL

One of the most important fossil collectors and theorists of his day, Gideon Mantell MRCS, FRS (grave 273, square 100) was quickly eclipsed by competitors such as Richard Owen. They worked to humiliate and erase Mantell from scientific importance and ultimately he was reduced to a medical curiosity, with portions of his spine extracted for display. This talk examines Mantell's paleontological work, especially his theories about the prehistoric beasts he discovered, and assesses his contributions.

*Other forthcoming events*

**Tuesday 1–Wednesday 30 September: Lambeth Heritage Festival**

Amongst the highlights will be a series of walks on the Thames foreshore and along the hidden courses of the River Effra and Falcon Brook, which link with the exhibition *Water Lambeth* at Morley College. Details at: [www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lsp-Lambeth-Heritage-Festival-2015.pdf](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/lsp-Lambeth-Heritage-Festival-2015.pdf).

**Saturday 26 September: Lambeth Archives Open Day, 10:00–17:00**

Lambeth Archives Open Day, with its usual mix of local society stalls, talks and film, takes place on the final weekend of the festival and, to celebrate its own 125<sup>th</sup> year, will feature a small exhibition of the staff's favourite treasures – a quirky mix of the bizarre and the historic. Staff from the *South London Press* will also join them to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lambeth Archives, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5 9QY

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## A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

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The aerial photographs now held by *Historic England* at their Swindon headquarters make depressing viewing. They show not only the excellent state of grounds maintenance that prevailed three years after the compulsory purchase of the cemetery by Lambeth in 1966, but also lost mausolea. One such structure lay east of the Gilbert memorial (grave 8,659, square 115). The mausoleum contained the remains of Marie L M Guillet (–1906), Marie Emile William Marcel Guillet (1861–1923) and the cremated remains of Jean Albert Ovide Rouyer (–1932). All were transferred to catacomb 19 beneath the crematorium in 1961, but the mausoleum was intact in 1969 when photographed. Why were the remains moved and why was the mausoleum demolished?



*Gilbert memorial and Rouyer-Guillet mausoleum (grave 31,519/115)*

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