

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 86 – May 2016

Free to members

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

Progress continues with Round 2 of the HLF Parks for People bid as announced in the January Newsletter. As advised, the bid envisages capital investment in drainage, footpath, and roadway improvements, boundary wall, railings, and entrance gate repair/maintenance, landscape restoration, signage and furniture improvements, and works to monuments including some in the Greek Cemetery. A start has been made not only with meetings between the HLF, Lambeth and ourselves (and the appointment of a mentor to guide us through the bid development process), but also with repairs to two Grade 2 Listed monuments that were in urgent need of attention, those of Harriet (–1841) and Thomas (1803–1873) Letts (grave 249, square 33) and of Israel Thomas (–1842; grave 429, square 34).

Both monuments date from the early days of the cemetery. It has been found that their supporting brick vaults had collapsed completely, causing severe problems in planning their restoration. Sadly, however, the lamb that sat atop the Letts tomb, as recorded by the late Eric Smith, has been lost. Perhaps in time this too might be replaced, perhaps with funding from FOWNC.



Letts Family tomb c. 1970



The restored Kitchen monument

Restoration of the Kitchen Family Monument

I am pleased to report that the *Music Hall Guild of Great Britain and America* have, with the blessing of the Kitchen-Dunn family, renovated their family tombstone. The Carrera marble monument consists of a broken column featuring the actor's masks of tragedy and comedy mounted on a pedestal. Fred Kitchen (real name Frederick Thomas Kitchen Dunn; 1872–1951) was a popular sketch comedian and a star of Fred Karno's company. He was known for the catchphrase 'Meredith, we're in!' from *The Bailiffs* (1907); this phrase is reproduced on the tombstone. He died at Heathcote Nursing Home, Hampton Hill and was buried on 6 April 1951 in the grave of his father, the comic actor R.H. Kitchen (Richard Henry Kitchen Dunn) (1830–1910; grave 32,791, square 68/80). Fred's brother, the comic actor R.H. (Dick) Kitchen jnr (1860–1907), is also commemorated on the monument, although he is buried in Falkirk.

Fred Kitchen's first role was in the Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth, appearing in *The Dumb Man of Manchester*. He was discovered by

Karno whilst playing a small part in a sketch at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow. The chief comedian had to be replaced immediately and Kitchen was chosen to take the role. He became the lead comedian with Karno's company 1897–1910. The sketch that Karno and Kitchen co-wrote, entitled *The Football Match* made Kitchen's name. Charlie Chaplin, managed by Karno, was influenced by Kitchen's comic style, his splayed walk, and scruffy costume. Chaplin commented 'A part of the (tramp) character was inspired by Fred Kitchen, an old fellow-trouper of mine in Vaudeville. He had flat feet.'

The *Music Hall Guild* plan in time to restore the tombstone of comedian Ben Albert (1876–1925; grave 35,050, square 104), to re-letter the tomb of juggler Paul Cinquevalli (1859–1918; grave 32,152, square 82) and to renovate the monument to singer G.H. ('The Great') Macdermott (1845–1901; grave 24,074, square 98).

London Undone

In February 2014 I met Catherine Cartwright and was interviewed whilst walking round the cemetery. Catherine has put an edited version of the interview on-line and she tells me that it is the most popular of all her interviews! It can either be downloaded at:

http://londonundoneroseglobe.podomatic.com/entry/2014-07-02T07_49_54-07_00 or listened to at: <http://londonundone.org.uk/2014/03/23/west-norwood-cemetery/>.



As noted in the January Newsletter, a 25th Anniversary Booklet has been produced and is available on our web-site (www.fownc.org/publications/). Copies are being emailed to members who have registered an address and B+W print copies are being sent to other members.

Our Saturday morning Catacomb tours continue to be very popular, and Colin Fenn, Jill Dudman and I are working hard to reduce the backlog. The scrub clearance work continues too. A recent (re-)discovery has been the unusual monument to the Piper family (grave 20, square 42 - see report on Barbara Thomas' talk, p. 18). It seems that this could be the earliest surviving monument in the cemetery, a distinction I had thought applied to the monument of Richard Fillmer (grave 41, square 69; see Newsletter 78, September 2013).

Brompton Cemetery

Congratulations to Brompton, which has secured nearly £4.5 million in Round 2 Parks for People funding from the BIG Lottery Fund and the HLF to protect the future of this Grade 1 listed cemetery. Its owners, the Royal Parks, will invest a further £1.2 million with an additional £500,000 coming from the Royal Parks Foundation. Following a consultation last year to assess what the public wanted from the cemetery, the project has similar (in part conflicting) aims to ours at Norwood, viz:

- Turn the North Lodge into a visitor centre, shop, cafe and accessible toilets with two small pavilion extensions
- Restore the majestic chapel, central colonnades and catacombs
- Conserve the historic landscape, buildings and monuments
- Maintain and improve existing wildlife habitats
- Improve the community use of the cemetery with facilities and activities
- Initiate a volunteering programme to help conserve and interpret the cemetery
- Improve the funerary business to reinvigorate it as a working cemetery
- Present the 19th and 20th century history of the site in a 21st century way

Open days this year at Brompton and other Magnificent Seven cemeteries are as follows:

Saturday 21 May, 11.00–17.00: Friends of Nunhead Cemetery Open Day

Linden Grove, SE15. Bus P12, Nunhead railway station (www.fonc.org.uk)

Saturday 2 July, 11.00–17.00. Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery Open Day

Harrow Road, W10 (www.kensalgreen.co.uk)

Sunday 24 July, 11.00–17.00: Friends of Brompton Cemetery Open Day

Fulham Road, SW10 (www.brompton-cemetery.org.uk)



1990-2015

25 Years of
Research and Conservation





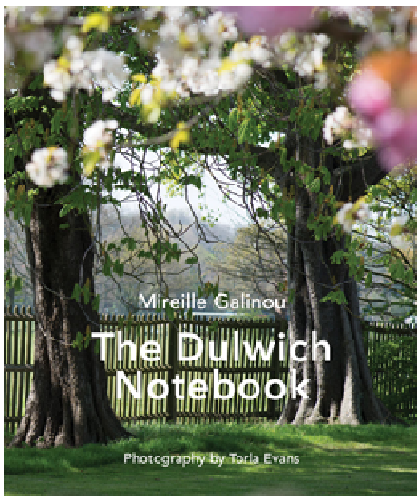
The Dulwich Notebook

Book review – Bob Flanagan

The Dulwich Notebook by Mireille Galinou, with photographs by Torla Evans. Your London Publishing, 2015. Softback, illustrated, 256 pp, £17.99

This is a cross between a coffee table book, an advertising magazine, and a local history publication, a sort of gazetteer. The saving grace of ‘this snapshot of life in a London suburb at the beginning of the 21st century’ is that it is full of interesting snippets.

There are four chapters: Dulwich Village, and West, South, and East Dulwich, the boundaries of the Dulwich Estate having been extended to include that ‘vibrant component of the modern neighbourhood’ East Dulwich. Not so Norwood, although the Berens mausoleum (see Newsletter 83, May 2015) gets a mention as a work of EM Barry,¹ and the burials of the artist Samuel Prout (1783–1852; grave 3,107, square 60) and of his patron John Britton (1771–1857; grave 5,235, square 119) are noted. Unfortunately many other relevant burials are missed. Henriette Elizabeth Benecke née Souchay (1807–1893; grave 25,101, square 106), aunt of Cicéle Jeanrenaud, Frau Felix Mendelssohn, Sir Henry Bessemer (1813–1898; grave 27,463, square 99), the Rev Dr Alfred James Carver (1826–1909; grave 23,256, square 50), after whom Carver Road SE24 is named, John Courage (1790–1854; grave 3,796, square 35), brewer, Frederick Doulton (1824–1872; grave 1,808, square 40), MP for Lambeth 1862–8, John Lawson Johnston (1839–1900; grave 29,462, square 38), *Mr Bovril*, Sir August Friederich Manns (1825–1907; grave 31,828, square 81), musician, and William Peek (1791–1870; grave 12,872, square 89), tea merchant, are those I noticed on a quick run through the book. Moreover, FOWNC Newsletter articles by George Young (No 77, May 2013) and Malcolm Chase (No 85, January 2016) give much background information on the Blades and Blackburn families and Brockwell Park, and on the Kleinworts and the German community centered on Champion Hill, respectively, and their family graves at Norwood. All-in-all it’s not surprising that so many of those associated with 19th and early 20th century Dulwich are buried at Norwood (17 of the 100 Dulwich Notables on the *Dulwich Society* website also lie at Norwood, for example). Hopefully this note will serve to emphasize how important the cemetery became to Dulwich, and *vice versa*.

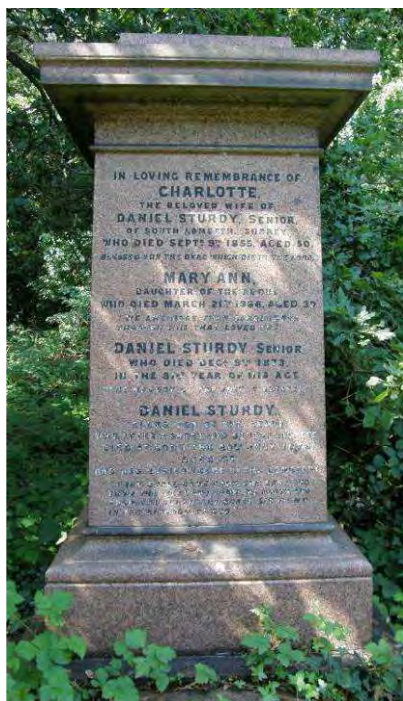


¹ The architect of Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye stations was Charles Henry Driver (1832–1900; grave 29,387, square 83 – monument destroyed) not Barry (see p. 28)

Daniel Sturdy (1793-1873)

Dawn Walker

Living in far off Cornwall, I was surprised to find, quite by accident, the article by Bob Flanagan in FOWNC Newsletter 75 (September 2012) about Daniel Sturdy. This latter name was very familiar, having caused me many problems when trying to construct the Sturdy family tree. A Daniel Sturdy was my paternal great grandfather and my early researches had stalled for some time when I found that there were no less than four men called Daniel Sturdy in the period 1767–1825, all in much the same area, with further outposts of Daniels in Cumberland and Westmorland.



Norwood: Sturdy family gravestone (grave 10,204, square 33)

I think I have now sorted it out and believe that my great grandfather Daniel Sturdy, who was born in Stockwell in 1825, was the nephew of the Daniel Sturdy buried at Norwood. The name Sturdy can be traced back to the 16th century in Reading, Berkshire and the Daniel in Norwood was in fact the son of the first Sturdy to leave Reading to seek his fortune in London. And yes, he too was called Daniel (b. 1767).

Seven generations of Sturdys are recorded in Reading. The first Sturdy who can be identified with any certainty, John, was a Freeman and Master Clothworker, with his own apprentices and paying tax to the local Lord of the Manor in 1598. In other words, he was a merchant and a man of substance in the town. Subsequent generations of Sturdys included a tanner, who was also a Warden, i.e. he was in charge of a ward of the town, a broadweaver, who was also a searcher and sealer of leather (making sure it was up to standard), a weaver and flax dresser, who had the freehold of several properties in town, a brickmaker and miller, and a baker and cornchandler – this was Daniel (b. 1767), the father of the Norwood Daniel Sturdy.

His direct descent, and mine, is never the eldest son except for this last Daniel (b. 1767), which perhaps explains why there was no family home or business to hand on – these would have gone to the eldest son in each generation, and so any other brothers had to look around for different occupations. Some were very successful, leaving property to their children, others were less so. John Sturdy, b. 1732, was bankrupt as a miller in 1763, but recovered by becoming a coal merchant and died leaving cottages and a coal wharf.

It is interesting to ponder the reasons why Daniel (b. 1767) left Reading. It could have been because the weaving and associated industries were moving north to the coalfields, or possibly because the family already had many contacts in London. His mother Margaret came from a clockmaking family in Clerkenwell. There were probably also regular business contacts via the Thames – an early Sturdy had married a bargemaster's daughter. Daniel had originally owned the land on which Huntley's biscuit factory was built so perhaps he had some capital with which to set up his family in London. There was certainly some social mobility at work, with his self-description as property developer, his son a solicitor and my great grandfather becoming a chemist in the 19th century, and marrying the daughter of a wealthy toy manufacturer in Newcastle.

I have visited Reading and had coffee at the Oracle, now a stylish shopping centre on the River Kennet, next to the town centre, with elegant shops, restaurants and bridges. It was in its day, highly industrialised and more than one generation of Sturdys worked there at their various businesses. It is quite difficult to imagine it smoky and noisy, and certainly smelly. I had also discovered that in the Civil War, Mary the wife of John Sturdy had been very pregnant when Cromwell surrounded the town and opened fire with his cannon on a Sunday morning. John and Mary's church lost its steeple and as they must have lived close by, I imagine that had the artilleryman just altered his elevation a fraction, I might not be here, and neither would Daniel Sturdy (b. 1793) be resting in Norwood.

George & Cecil Shadbolt ~ Pioneer Photographers

Colin Fenn

Stumbling across a copy of the *Blackheath Gazette* dated 15 July 1892 started a journey that uncovered the career and untimely end of Cecil Shadbolt, balloonist and aerial photographer of Beechcroft, Chislehurst.

Mr Cecil Victor Shadbolt, one of the occupants of the ill-fated balloon which went up from the Crystal Palace grounds, on the 29th ult. died from the serious injuries he sustained.... His remains were on Wednesday afternoon interred at the Norwood Cemetery. Owing in part to the steady downpour of rain, and to the fact that the deceased was not a resident in the locality, the funeral was very quietly conducted.... An open hearse conveyed the coffin from the Norwood Cottage Hospital where he died, followed by one coach containing his father and brother.

Cecil's father George (1819–1901) dealt in mahogany and other fine timber. He was an early experimenter in photography and a student of optics with a strong interest in innovative techniques. A founder member of the *Photographic Society* and a writer and editor of the *Photographic Journal* and the *Liverpool and Manchester Journal*, subsequently the *British Journal of Photography*, he produced picturesque landscapes and portraits, but was most notable as a pioneer of photographing microbes and other small objects.² Using his own honey collodion process, George Shadbolt became a leading figure in the Micro-

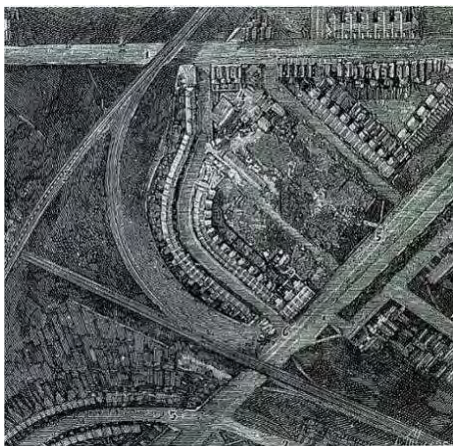
² *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, Ed. John Hannavy. London: Routledge, 2008

scopic Society. In addition, he was an early advocate of using small negatives to produce large prints on salt paper. He lived at one time at Cecile House, 104 Crouch Hill, Hornsey N8 (www.haringey.gov.uk/community-and-leisure/culture-and-entertainment/visiting-haringey/archives-and-local-history/green-plaques), but his last recorded address was 119 Hopton Road, Streatham.

His son Cecil's photographs of Welsh landscapes were displayed in the 1877 Photographic Society exhibition. In 1888 he produced 24 photogravures for *Walks in Palestine* for the *Religious Tract Society* with Henry Harper providing the text. However, he looked to combine his photographic skills with his passion for the new sport of ballooning. From the 1860s others had attempted to take photographs from the air, but the cameras of the time made it practically impossible. Photographers had to overcome a tendency for over-exposure, camera vibration caused by the basket being suspended in the wind, and atmospheric effects that were only apparent in the negative. In 1882, equipped with an improved camera, extra-sensitive plates and a 'rapid symmetrical' lens that allowed the operculum (shutter) to open and close in a fraction of a second, Cecil Shadbolt had taken to the air over Stamford Hill and produced the first successful aerial photograph.



CV Shadbolt. Bromley
Record 1 August 1902



Stamford Hill from the Air: Engraving from Shadbolt's first aerial photograph

This, *An Instantaneous Map Photograph taken from the Car of a Balloon, 2,000 feet high* was shown at the 1882 Photographic Society exhibition. Shadbolt's vertical photographs are now recognised as a radical innovation. By using his camera to record a 'map photograph' he broke from his predecessors who had used photography to mimic the artistry and composition of paintings. His 'map' paved the way towards the highly-skilled aerial surveys of the two World Wars. Encouraged by his success, he took a half-share in a balloon with W.D. Dale, and made many forays into the skies with his camera. It was in this balloon that he met his untimely demise. The *Illustrated London News* of 9 July 1892 reported that:

A terrible disaster in a balloon ascent took place on Wednesday June 29 at the Crystal Palace, where the festival of the London Sunday-school choirs was being held.³ A professional balloon-maker and aeronaut, Mr W.D. Dale, undertook to go up from the grounds for the satisfaction of the spectators. Shortly before six o'clock in the evening,

³ Shadbolt had been secretary of the West Kent Sunday School Union since 1886

Mr Dale, accompanied by his son, with Mr John Macintosh and Mr Cecil Shadbolt, entered the car. The balloon rose about 600', but in a few minutes it was seen to collapse with a large rent near the top pouring out gas; the men in the car were observed casting out all the ballast, but down fell the balloon. Everyone hastened to the spot, where they found Mr Dale quite dead. The others were taken as patients to the Norwood Cottage Hospital.⁴



Captain Dale (centre) in his balloon basket, 29 June 1892. Cecil Shadbolt is probably amongst those seated on his left (Illustrated London News)

An inquest took place at the hospital on 12 July 1892, the coroner, Mr Jackson, heard evidence before a jury from John Mackintosh, Mr Dale jnr, Mr Shadbolt (presumably his father George), and also Mrs Dale. Verdicts of accidental death were returned, the jury concluding that in their opinion the filling of the balloon was properly carried out.

The plot at Norwood in which Cecil is buried (grave 1,932, square 113) was purchased by George Shadbolt of Lambeth Terrace, Lambeth on 5 February 1848.

Those buried there in addition to Cecil are Jane (1848) and George (1849) Shadbolt, and Thomas Jackson (1850). Cecil's father George (1901) and Ernest Hill Shadbolt (–1936) are buried in grave 29,652, square 113, next to Cecil's grave. Sadly no gravestones remain.

James Pritchit of Cheltenham (1789-1870)

Phyllis White⁵

Although Norwood has many rags-to-riches tales to tell, the opposite is also true. The principal actor in this piece, James Pritchit, and his wife went through several trials and tribulations before coming to rest in separate places in the cemetery.

James was baptised on 16 October 1789 in St Peter and St Paul, the parish church of Aston, Birmingham. He was the 4th and youngest son of Rice, a brass founder and coffin furniture manufacturer of Duke Street, Birmingham and his wife Susannah née Dutton, also of Birmingham. James Pritchit's bachelor uncle John also lived and worked in Duke

⁴ Norwood Cottage Hospital on Hermitage Road had opened in 1882. Sir Ernest Tritton (1845–1918; grave 26,669, square 19 - see Newsletter 79, January 2014) was its first President

⁵ Phyllis White (1924–2006). This article is based with permission on her book *Grovefield House near Cheltenham and Captain James Pritchit of the Warwickshire Militia* (Cheltenham: Cheltenham Local History Society, 2009)

Street. He had combined a successful timber business with speculation in land and property, mainly in the Aston area. There is still a Pritchett [*sic*] Street in Aston today. In turn, James inherited both money and property from John in 1817.

The Warwickshire Militia

With the threat of renewal of the Napoleonic Wars in the early 1800s, the British Government promoted the creation of local militia to help counter the invasion threat. The Leicestershire Lieutenancy began the scheme in 1808, and such was the response that by February 1809 no less than 915 men had enrolled. Approval was given to divide the County into four districts, each of which was to raise and maintain a Battalion with its own individual headquarters. On 17 August 1809 James Pritchit enlisted as a Lieutenant in No. 1 Battalion, the Leicestershire Regiment of Militia for the required period of three years. He claimed to be 24-years-old, but was actually only 20! The Colonel was John Henry, Duke of Rutland, of Belvoir Castle.

It was not necessary to be resident in Leicestershire in order to enlist in its militia: no evidence has been found to show that James Pritchit was actually living in the county in 1809. He was described as being 'on half-pay' in the 1814 and 1824 Army Lists, and in 1817 as a Lieutenant, again on half-pay, under the heading '6th Irish Brigade, 2nd Provisional Battalion of Militia'. James Pritchit's presence in an Irish Regiment was a sign of the times. With the threat of invasion, Irish militia men were drafted in to take the place of men in the regular British regiments who were serving abroad. In 1810/11 an Act was passed: 'to permit the interchange of the British and Irish militia, ...in future all militiamen ...should no longer be of Great Britain and of Ireland, but one Militia of the United Kingdom'.

Notice of James Pritchit's transfer to the Warwickshire Militia appeared *The London Gazette* on 28 July 1817. In the *Militia Lists* of 1825 he is listed as Captain James Pritchitt [*sic*], so it must be assumed that he remained in the Militia until at least that date.

Cheltenham and Marriage

James Pritchit purchased his first home in Cheltenham, 7 Berkeley Place, one of an elegant development of 10 houses being built at the eastern end of the High Street, in about 1819. In 1826/7 he purchased the Grovefield Estate and appears to have built a large house, Grovefield House, speculatively, perhaps in an effort to emulate his late uncle's success.

On 26 March 1821 James married Lucy Lechmere, aged 24, at the parish church of All Saints, Hereford. Lucy was the youngest daughter of Edwyn Sandys Lechmere and his wife Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of the Rev. John Jones, Canon of Hereford Cathedral and Vicar of Foy. James and Lucy may have made their first home together in Cheltenham, but by 1822 they were living in Coventry, then a garrison town, in the barracks built on the site of The Old Bull Inn in 1793. The permanent presence of the military was an important part of the city's social life at that time. In 1819 the Theatre Royal replaced a temporary theatre and attracted many performers whose names were equally familiar in Cheltenham.

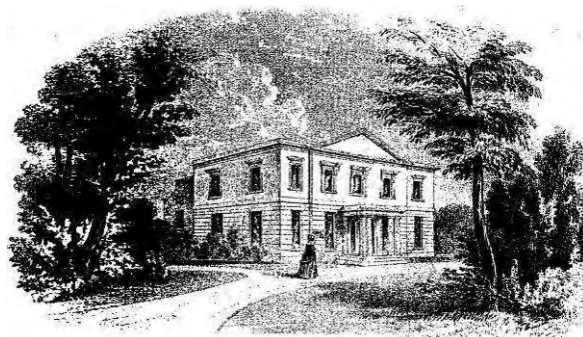
James and Lucy's first child, James Lechmere, was baptised on 3 April 1822 at the Church of St. Michael, Coventry, followed by a daughter, Lucy, on 18 August 1823.

Sadly Lucy died aged 5 months on 19 December that same year. It seems that the family were living back in Cheltenham by that time as hers was the first burial recorded in the register of the recently consecrated church of Holy Trinity, Cheltenham, where James had purchased a catacomb under the church large enough to take fifteen coffins!

On 6 March 1826 James and Lucy's second daughter Anne was baptised at St. Mary's, Cheltenham. Their last child, John, was born in Worcester, where Lucy had Lechmere relations, on 16 July 1827.

Siege at Grovefield House

As with many of his contemporaries, James Pritchit was experiencing financial problems. He already owed £1,000 to Lucy's aunt, Sarah Jones of Hereford, the younger sister of his mother-in-law Elizabeth Lechmere. James had used the money to add interest to the interior of Grovefield House, previously offered to let unfurnished, with elegant and expensive furniture and fittings, and he had also made improvements to the estate. It was a desperate attempt to attract a purchaser.



Grovefield House, Cheltenham (demolished c. 1857)

Sarah, hearing of the difficulties James was experiencing and fearing for the repayment of her loan, decided to take out writ against him. The Gloucestershire Sheriff and eight men made several attempts to serve the writ on James, who had barricaded himself into Grovefield House. On 25 April 1832 the Sheriff, determined not to waste any more time, proceeded to Grovefield, which was still closed up.

After watching in vain that day, they made violent attack on the house next morning. For a time they were held off, but at last a ladder was placed against the back of the house up to the first floor where a window had been broken and mended with paper. One of the Sheriff's men pushed his hand through the paper, drew back the bolt, threw up the sash, entered the house, and arrested James, who protested vehemently. He was taken to gaol and then removed to the Fleet Prison. After remaining there for eight weeks James was discharged 'as to this arrest' by Mr Justice Gaselee,⁶ with the provision that he still remained 'under the detainer of his other creditors'.

If James Pritchit returned to live in Grovefield, it was only for a short time. He did, however, take action against the Sheriff and his Officers for trespass, for breaking and entering into his house, and for imprisoning him for eight weeks. The defendants justified their actions under a writ of latitat. Pritchit replied that in executing the writ they had broken into his house. The case came before Mr Serjeant Talfourd in April 1833.

⁶ Sir Stephen Gaselee (1762–1839) is said to have been the original of the irascible judge represented by Dickens in the trial of *Bardell v. Pickwick*, under the name of Justice Stareleigh

It was proved that James had kept himself in his house and had for some time defied the Sheriff's Officers executing the process against him, and it was contended that he could not recover the costs he had incurred during his arrest because that was not part of the rule justified under a writ of latitat.⁷ Mr. Serjeant Ludlow, Mr. Richards and Mr. Justice, addressed the jury in mitigation of the damages caused by the Sheriff and his men. Judge Talfourd's verdict was, 'for breaking into the house, one shilling, for the assault and imprisonment £25, allowing [James Pritchit] to add the sum of £102 – the amount of the costs if the court think him entitled to recover them'.⁸ Whether James did indeed recover the costs is not recorded, but in any event it would have done nothing to improve his worsening financial situation. After eight weeks in the Fleet Prison one wonders whether he considered that it had been worth all the trouble and expense!

Sarah Jones, Lucy Pritchit's maternal aunt, was unmarried and lived in some style in Castle Street in the City of Hereford, the youngest daughter of the Rev. John Jones, Canon of Hereford Cathedral. Sarah Jones made her will on 29 July 1831, appointing her niece Sarah Jane Dansey née Lechmere, widow, her sole Executrix, and leaving her 'the messuage and garden now in my occupation'. Apart from a bequest of £10 to her sister-in-law Mrs Jones of Gloucester, residue of her personal estate was to be divided between her fourteen nephews and nieces, share and share alike, all of whom were named, and included Mary Unett, Sarah Jane Dansey and Lucy Pritchit. Lucy alone received a special mention, but strangely there was no mention of James Pritchit's outstanding debt:

'Notwithstanding the said bequest to my said niece Lucy Pritchit the same shall not be paid to her but shall be retained by my Executrix Sarah Jane Dansey who shall place the same on a ? Government Security and so pay and apply the annual interest and proceeds thereof unto my said niece Lucy Pritchit for and during the term of her natural life and I do direct that her receipt alone shall notwithstanding her present husband or any future husband be good and sufficient discharge ... and the same shall not be subject to the debts, control or engagement of her present or any future husband, and from and after the decease of my said niece the principal shall be paid to and equally divided between her surviving children when they attain the age of twenty one years.'

There seems little doubt that by the time of Sarah Jones' death, sometime after June 1833, Lucy Pritchit and her two sons had left Cheltenham and had taken refuge with Lucy's family in Hereford, where there was obviously some concern as to her future. On 17 March 1837 Lucy petitioned the Blue Coat School, Christ's Hospital, Newgate Street, City of London on behalf of her son John. He was admitted to the School on 5 May 1837 and, aged 13, was still a scholar there in 1842.

Return to the Fleet

Lucy's elder son James Lechmere Pritchit would have been about ten in 1833 when Lucy returned to Hereford. He must have received a good education because he became a surgeon in Lincolnshire. He married Mary Ann Hollingdale, a coachman's daughter, at Grantham, Lincolnshire in 1846, and the couple went on to have two sons and two daughters. John Pritchit became a successful West Indian Merchant in the City of

⁷ A writ based on the assumption that the person summoned was hiding (latitat Latin for 'he lurks')

⁸ Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd (1795–1854) lies at Norwood (grave 1,452, square 34)

London, but remained a bachelor. It is debatable whether James Pritchit can claim any part in the success of either of his sons.

The failure to sell Grovefield in 1833 was the final nail in James Pritchit's financial coffin. On 21 September that year James, 'late of Grovefield in the parish of Cheltenham, in the County of Gloucester, Gentleman', found himself once again incarcerated in the Fleet. He was discharged as an 'insolvent debtor' on 26 November 1833. Just three months later, on 15 March 1834, it was announced that Grovefield Mansion and Estate and 7 Berkeley Place, Cheltenham, then let to a tenant at the rent of £110 per annum, plus a catacomb in Holy Trinity Church, Cheltenham, were to be auctioned. The Grovefield estate was purchased although the price remains unknown, but 7 Berkeley Place and the catacomb are believed to have remained unsold. James' creditors received one shilling and eightpence halfpenny in the pound.

It seems unlikely that James and Lucy Pritchit and their two sons ever lived together as a family after James's second release from the Fleet, although they appear to have remained married. There is no trace of James until the 1851 census, when he was living at 25 Pages Walk, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey. He described himself as the 'head' of the household, 'married', aged 61, and an 'annuitant'. Ten years later, he was lodging at 2 East Street, Stockwell, aged 71. He styled himself as a 'Retired Military Officer'. This address was the home of Anne Melville, described as a widowed 'needle-woman' aged 37, and her two children, Napoleon aged 20, a merchant's clerk, and her daughter Frances, a 12 year old school girl, together with Anne Melville's sister and her three children, the youngest of whom was only one month old.

James Pritchit died intestate at 2 East Street on 8 January 1870 of 'Decay of Nature'. Anne Melville was present at his burial at Norwood in a private grave (grave 12,298, square 96 – monument destroyed). On his death certificate he is described as a 'Retired Captain in the Army', aged 80 years.

In the 1861 census Lucy Pritchit, described as a 'Fund Holder', was living at 239 Beulah Hill, Norwood, with her sister Mary, wife of Henry Unett of Marden, Herefordshire, a 'landed proprietor', together with her son John, a 'commercial clerk', and a female servant, also from Marden. By 1871 Lucy and John Pritchit were living at 2 Chilworth Street, Paddington, again described as 'lodgers', she aged 60, described as an 'owner of houses', and John aged 40, a 'West Indian merchant'.

Lucy Pritchit maintained her ties in Hereford, particularly those with her elder sister Sarah Jane Dansey, who had married as her second husband her cousin the Rev. John Jones and lived in the Vicarage at Foy until he died in 1862.



Gravestone of Lucy Pritchit (1797–1876)



Gravestone of John Pritchit (1827–1908)

Lucy then moved to Hampton Park, Hereford, where she made her will on 1 October 1875, appointing her son, John Pritchit of 23 Rood Lane, City of London, as her Executor. When Lucy died on 9 January 1876 the local paper, *Keble's Gazette*, gave her address as 1 Royal Crescent, Margate, which appears to have been a nursing or convalescent home. Lucy left the proceeds from the sale of her property in Hereford and elsewhere to her children, although her elder son James Lechmere Pritchit, the surgeon, had died on 7 July 1875 at North Parade, Grantham, aged 57.

John Pritchit died on 18 January 1908 and was interred in the same Catacomb (No 26) as his mother on 22 January.⁹ The gross value of his estate was £19,672.9s.5d. The main beneficiaries of his will were his nephews John Lechmere Pritchit and William James Pritchit. The only condition imposed on them was:

'...to keep in a fit and proper state of repair and condition forever, according to the original designs thereof, the tombs of my late father James Pritchit in Norwood Cemetery and of my late brother James Lechmere Pritchit in Grantham Cemetery, and also the catacomb of my late mother Lucy Pritchit at Norwood aforesaid.'

Charles Augustus Wright of Malta (1834–1907)

Jean Milne

Charles Augustus Wright was the son of Frances, the second daughter of James and Mary Ann Lawson, and John Wright of Tynemouth.¹⁰ He became a well-known journalist and natural scientist. Many of his friend Sir William Coles Paget Medlycott's illustrations from Malta and from Canada together with Charles Augustus Wright's journals are kept at the Natural History Museum, Tring, Hertfordshire.

In February 1854, Frances and John Wright had arrived in Liverpool from Malta where they had lived since 1841. Sadly, Fanny died of cholera on 1 September that same year. The Norwood burial register states that her abode was York Terrace, Camberwell New Road, but the announcement of her death in the *Newcastle Journal* stated that she died 'in Langdon Place, of cholera, the beloved wife of John Wright Esq., of Malta, son of the late John Wright Esq., of Wallsend, Northumberland'.

⁹ The catacomb is shared with Sir James Hannen (Lord Hannen of Burdock, 1821–1894), Lady Hannen, and the cremated remains of two of their children

¹⁰ See Newsletter 85, January 2016

Stories passed down by the children of their youngest daughter Louisa Charlotte say that the family exchanged their home in Malta for one in Norwood that belonged to the Medlycott family. It made a profound impression on the young girls because it even had a ballroom. They were deeply resentful when a year or two later, John Wright moved to Canada with the youngest children, settling in the vicinity of Magog, Quebec.

Marianne Innes née Wright

Charles Augustus and his older brother John had stayed behind when Frances and John Wright snr left Malta. Their daughter Marianne probably also remained in Malta. She married James Henry Innes, listed in 1856 in Malta as a Lieutenant in the Royal Dockyard Artillery Battalion, Royal Dockyard Company. Innes was born at 33 Surrey Street, Strand in 1834, the son of Barbara and Henry Innes, First Clerk to the Superintendent of the Naval Victualling Yard at Vittoriosa, Malta.

James and Marianne's first child, Alice Henrietta Innes, was born in Malta on 21 May 1856 and their second daughter Frances Stuart Innes was born in Bermuda c. 1859. They had 4 more daughters and 1 son born in England prior to her death at 12 Burnley Road, Stockwell on 7 July 1868. Marianne Wright Innes also lies at Norwood (grave 8,384, square 78). In a codicil to his will, James William Lawson stated that her children were entitled to receive their mother's share of his estate.

James Innes married again in England in 1869 and had 3 more children by his second wife Anne Bishop. In January 1873 he was appointed naval and victualing storekeeper and accountant of the naval establishment at Esquimalt, Vancouver Island. On 16 April 1873, he and his wife and all the children of the two marriages arrived on the *Java* at New York City from Liverpool.

In November 1893, Henry Mortimer Innes, the only son from his first marriage, drowned in the Pacific off Esquimalt. Four of his daughters married in British Columbia: Alice Henrietta Innes (1856–1926) married the Revd Alfred Shildrick (1855–1927); Frances Stuart Innes (c. 1859–1890) married the Revd Henry Irwin, known as 'Father Pat' in January 1890 and died in childbirth that same year; Marianne Lawson Innes (1862–1935) married Simon John Tunstall MD (1852–1917); Jeannie Mayhew Innes (1865–1942) married in England (Sir) Edmund Radcliffe Pears (1862–1941); and Ella Clarke Innes (1867–1950) married William Ernest Scott.

James Henry Innes and his second wife had returned to England by the time of the 1901 census. He died at 13 The Avenue, Upper Norwood and was buried at Norwood on 22 January 1913 (grave 8,384, square 78).

John Wright and Family in Canada

The dividends from *The Times* followed the Innes and Wright families to Canada, both widowed husbands having control of the funds until their children reached legal age, or, in the case of daughters, were married.¹¹ John Wright's daughters felt that his move to

¹¹ There is a full-column article in the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent* of 3 January 1889 titled *The Times and its Owners* that lists many of those mentioned in this article and states their shareholdings, some of which were as small as a 49th part of a one-sixteenth share!

Canada was to keep them from marrying. In the event the money bought a large piece of land in Quebec at the head of Lake Memphremagog, which he named *Castlebrook Farm*.

In 1861 or thereabouts, John Wright, who was about 60, married a much younger (about 27) French Canadian Roman Catholic lady named Rosalie Parent and had 5 more children, of whom only 2 appear to have survived infancy. Edmond Stimson, who died in 1934 and is buried in Magog, Quebec, and Aimee Marie Theres Rosalie ('Amy'), who married Charles Ralph Godschall Johnson, son of Sir Francis Godschall Johnson and Mary Louisa neé Mills. They had 2 sons, of whom there may be living descendants. Both John Wright and his second wife died in 1874.



Julia Lydia and Henry Esson Murray

Of the children of John and Frances Wright who are known to have come to Canada, Emily Frances married the Revd John Walters; Julia Lydia married Henry Esson Murray; Alfred Lawson married Alice Louisa Lyman Mills; and Louisa Charlotte married Dr James Burgess Hall, who died aged 33. Louisa Charlotte died in 1940, age 90. In turn, only Louisa Charlotte it seems had children: 4 daughters and one son. Of them, only Frances Agnes

Louisa Hall (who married Miles Lawrence Williams, had 3 sons and died age 37); and James Archibald Hall, whose wife Ella Adelaide Hawley also died young, and had 2 daughters and one son, have descendants.

Charles Augustus Wright

In December 1860, W.C.P. Medlycott, (1831–1887), 3rd Baronet Medlycott, of Ven House, Milborne Port, Somerset, visited the family at *Castlebrook Farm*. Medlycott and Charles Augustus Wright were both keen naturalists. Medlycott had spent many winters in Malta for his health and illustrated Maltese birds, fish, shells and animals. Charles Augustus Wright avidly collected birds, and wrote and published several articles and books about them. He also collected fossils, shells, plants, and fauna and was Vice-President of the Malta Archaeological Society.

On 18 August 1864 Charles Augustus married his first cousin (another Lawson heir) Harriet Elizabeth Horne (1839–1868), daughter of Abraham and Mary Ann Horne, at St Andrew's Church, Hove. Their first 2 children were born in Sliema, Malta: Emma Lawson (12 July 1865–1900, who died unmarried) and Charles Edward (b. 6 February 1867). Prior to the birth of their 3rd child, Harriet had returned to England where she probably lived at the home of her mother until the birth at Hove of her son Lawson Sant on 19 August 1868.

Harriet apparently remained in England after the birth. She was living with friends at 33 Pembridge Villa, Notting Hill, under the care of 2 nurses, when having 'been unwell for some time past, and laboured under delusions' she locked herself in her room and set herself alight on Christmas Eve. Was this post-partum psychosis, a serious problem even today? Harriet sadly died of her injuries on 25 December 1868, aged 29 and was in turn

buried at Norwood (grave 958, square 78). One of the witnesses who testified at the inquest, reported in the *Morning Post* of 31 December 1868, was Henry James Innes.



Charles Augustus Wright (The Ibis, Series II, volume 9, 1908)

Charles Augustus was in Malta when Harriet died. Since their son Elsworth had died in Malta on 7 April 1870, Charles and the children may have remained in Malta when she left for England. In April 1871 their two surviving children Emma Lawson, born Malta, and Lawson Sant, were living with their grandmother Mary Ann (Lawson) Horne, and her two unmarried daughters: Emma Horne, 33 and Julia Truman Horne, 30, at *Sliema Lodge*, 52 Hove Villas, Cliftonville, Sussex.

Their grandmother, Mary Ann (Lawson) Horne died on 6 May 1871, and became yet another Norwood burial (grave 958, square 78). Her son Edward Lawson Horne of 54 Angell Road, Brixton was granted probate of her estate, which was resworn in January 1872 as being under £4,000.

Emma Lawson and Lawson Sant remained in England with their spinster aunts. They were living at *Sliema Lodge*, Maple Road, Penge, on 2 September 1880 when one aunt, Julia

Truman Horne (b. 24 October 1840, Foxley Road, Kennington), died and became yet another Norwood burial (grave 14,424, square 78).

Emma Horne and Lawson Sant Wright were recorded together in the 1891 census at a lodging house in Hastings. Lawson Sant had been admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge in May, 1888. He graduated BA in 1891 and MA in 1898, and was ordained deacon in 1892 and priest in 1896. He was at St Andrew's, Stockwell Green 1891–7; St Jude's, Peckham, 1897–1900; St Katherine's, Rotherhithe 1901–2; and St Clement's, East Dulwich 1902–4. He was admitted a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1901 and was The Clerical Organizing Secretary to the Church of England Temperance Society in 1904, a position he was still holding in 1911. In 1905 he married Ethel Violet Lockyer at St Jude's, Peckham; and by 1911 he was at *Sliema*, 6 Park Crescent, Stafford. They were still living there when he died on 1 December 1918, his estate being valued at £6766 19s 6d. His widow Ethel Violet died at Stafford on 29 August 1958.

Emma Horne of 5 West Terrace, Eastbourne, died 7 August 1911 at Camberwell House, Peckham and in turn was buried at Norwood (grave 14,424, square 78). The service was performed by her nephew Lawson Sant Wright, then of the diocese of Lichfield. He was also the executor of her estate valued at £692 11s 1d.

In 1891 Emma Lawson Wright, daughter of Charles Augustus Wright, was a boarder at Clare Lodge, Hollington, Sussex, where the head of the household's occupation was

given as ‘head attendant’. Did she too suffer from mental illness, or some other disability? The census entry is a bit ambiguous: the preceding household was ‘a Licensed House for Insane Ladies’, which listed 4 patients and 5 attendants in addition to other servants. The enumerator’s use of ditto marks to record the occupation of the head of the household in which Emma was a ‘boarder’ adds to the ambiguity.

When she died intestate on 4 March 1900 at Northumberland House, Finsbury Park, her residence was given as 54 Angell Road, Brixton, the home of her uncle, Edward Lawson Horne. She too lies at Norwood (grave 14,424, square 78). Her nephew Lawson Sant Wright performed the committal ceremony. Her father was granted administration of her estate, valued at £587 17s 9d.

Shares, Shares, and More Shares

Charles Wright returned to England permanently in 1875 and on 8 August 1876, at Norwood Parish Church, Middlesex, married another first cousin, Eliza Cornwallis Hayes (1838–1912) daughter of William Graves Hayes (c. 1805–1883) and Eliza Lawson (1808–1844), daughter of James Lawson. At first they lived at 2 Lancaster Villas, Kew, where 2 children were born: in 1877 a son, William James Lawson, who died that same year lies of course at Norwood (grave 957, square 78), and in 1878, a daughter Ida Eveline Wright, who died a spinster in 1960 leaving an estate of £18,157 18s 8d to be managed by the Public Trustee.

In 1881 Charles, Eliza and their daughter Ida were living with Eliza’s father, W.G. Hayes, 76, retired newsagent, at Vine Cottage, Southall, Middlesex. At the time Charles was described as ‘retired journalist’, confirming his occupation whilst in Malta. The Hayes household included a cook, a maid, a French valet, who had been in the household for at least a decade, and a 19-year-old nurse. W.G. Hayes himself died at Vine Cottage on 8 May 1883 and was buried at Norwood in the family plot (grave 957, square 78). Probate was granted to his daughter and sole next of kin, Eliza Cornwallis Wright, of Kayhough House, Kew Gardens Road, Kew. The value of his estate was £11,733 5s 4d.

Thus, shares in *The Times* came to Charles Augustus Wright from his mother Fanny (Lawson) Wright, from his uncle James William Lawson, from the settlement made when he married his first wife Harriet Elizabeth Horne, from his intestate daughter Emma (Lawson) Wright’s portion, and via his second wife from her Lawson mother.

Life in London

Charles Augustus contributed a paper to the Zoological Society of London on 6 April 1875 on a type of weasel found in Malta, and was elected to their Society in 1880. He was a member of the British Ornithologists’ Union from 1875 and was elected to the Linnean Society on 5 December 1878. On 22 March 1883 he was made a Knight of the Order of the Crown of Italy in recognition of his ornithological studies. He had brought back to England his vast collection of Maltese specimens: birds and other animals, shells, and a large herbarium, all of which were still at Kayhough House, Kew Gardens Road when he died.

Charles’ demise was unfortunate. He was badly burnt when setting fire to scrap paper in his conservatory on 13 July 1907. He died on the 15th and was buried at Norwood on the 18th in the grave of his in-laws William and Eliza Hayes and his infant son William

Wright (grave 957, square 78). The committal service was performed by his son Lawson Sant. His widow Eliza Cornwallis Wright died at Kayhough House on 3 October 1912 and was likewise buried at Norwood in this same grave, the service again being performed by the Revd Sant Wright.¹² Their daughter Ida continued to live at Kayhough House until at least 1932. She died at *Rowdens*, Dawlish Road, Teignmouth on 1 March 1960, leaving an estate valued at £18,157.

Charles Augustus Wright's obituary in *The Ibis* in 1908 confuses him with his father when it states that he was 'founder and editor of *The Malta Times*' (he would only have been 5 at the time). However, it is possible that he become its editor at some point. The same obituary states that he 'took a large part in the politics of the day, while as special Mediterranean correspondent of *The (London) Times* he was the author of various articles on naval matters'. His obituary in the *Proceedings of the Linnean Society* (July 1907), notes that 'from about 1865–1875, as correspondent for *The Times* in the Mediterranean, he was present with a small squadron detailed to watch British interests during the Intransigeante disturbances of 1873 at Carthagen and in the same year participated in a cruise to the Levant and the Dardanelles; in 1874 he accompanied the Fleet under Admiral Sir J.E. Drummond in its expedition to the same waters'.

Postscript

There are several descendants of John and Frances Wright in Canada. I am related to the husband of their youngest daughter Louisa Charlotte, Dr James Burgess Hall. I know of no living descendants of Charles Augustus Wright. Sadly, nothing remains of any of the Lawson family tombstones at Norwood.



Recent FOWNC Events

Jill Dudman

On 20 February FOWNC member Barbara Thomas presented her research into the history of undertakers ('upholders'), stonemasons, and others associated with the funeral business in the Norwood area.¹³ Albert Yeatman's firm was founded in 1886. Originally its premises were on Norwood High Street adjacent to the cemetery, but in 1931 they moved to a building on Norwood Road opposite the cemetery that had first been Piper's and later the Art Memorial Co. The company was sold to Alfred Smith in 1974, but still retains the Yeatman name (see Newsletter 85, January 2016). The oldest business in Norwood (though no longer operating) was established on Norwood High Street by the first member of five generations all named James Benson Wilson, who had settled here in 1830. The last three generations are buried side-by-side in square 115: grave 33,132 contains JBW (–1914) and wife Esther Naomi (–1911), grave 39,783 contains JBW (–

¹² Grave 957, square 78 was re-sold in 1984 and given the number 42,925. Since this took place some 72 years after the burial of Eliza Wright, the sale was clearly in breach of the requirement of Section 9 of GLC (General Powers) Act, 1976 that Lambeth Council claimed gave them powers to re-sell private graves in the cemetery that had not received new burials for 75 years

¹³ See *The Norwood Review*, No. 212, Spring 2016.

1944) and wife Elizabeth (–1966), and grave 40,347 contains JBW (1905–1949), who wrote *The Story of Norwood*, which is available from our bookstall. The cemetery also contains graves of the Allen, Bolingbroke (grave 20,337, square 125), Deacon (grave 680, square 67), Minter (grave 40,185, square 29 – now very badly damaged: see Newsletter 57, September 2006), Piper (see p. 3), and Yeatman (grave 40,282, square 105/106) families.

Undertakers and stonemasons of Upper Norwood were also discussed in connection with the Crystal Palace District Cemetery, now known as Beckenham Cemetery. Barbara also mentioned one of her ancestors, William Octavius Garstin, who established an undertaking business in 1834 in Marylebone. One of his firm's most notable achievements was arranging the first cremation in Britain at Woking in 1885. The company was later incorporated into J.H. Kenyon.

For our 19 March meeting, Adrian Falks, chair of the Croydon Recorded Music Society, brought his audio equipment to offer us an impression of what it might have been like to have heard compositions performed, for example, at the Crystal Palace by musicians interred or otherwise commemorated at Norwood when the works featured were new to audiences. Foremost among the musicians discussed was Sir August Manns (1825–1907; grave 31,828, square 81), director of music at the Crystal Palace for nearly 50 years, who conducted first performances in this country of works by composers not only from Britain, but also from other parts of Europe.

Brought up in the Prussian military band tradition, Manns made remarkable achievements in building a full size orchestra which introduced to audiences, on the one hand, their first hearing of Schubert's '*Great C major*' *Symphony*, and on the other hand, works by young British composers whom he championed; illustrations used were Arthur Sullivan's music for *The Tempest* and Hamish MacCunn's overture *The Land of the Mountain and the Flood*. However, towards the end of his career, even Manns struggled with Richard Strauss's *Don Juan*, whose style must have felt quite alien to him. Other personalities discussed included singer Fanny Huddart (1826–1880; grave 17,899, square 102) and Lady Domini Crosfield (1884–1963; Greek section, grave 15,094, square 42 - ashes), who had a great interest in music and connections with leading performers of the day through the parties held at her huge house, *Witanhurst*, in Highgate.



Forthcoming Events

May–August 2016

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 7 August), starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14.30, and lasting for about 2 hours. These tours coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events, see www.westnorwoodfeast.com). There is no formal charge, but we welcome donations. To receive notifications of additional events, including occasional members-only tours of the Anglican Catacombs (advance bookings only), and our monthly Saturday morning scrub clearance sessions, please register an email address at secretary@fownc.org or a telephone number at 020 8670 5456.

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

The vertical space between Catacomb 7 and Sir William Tite's family catacomb at Norwood (Catacomb 90) is empty save for a drainpipe, but has an arched opening at the bottom reminiscent of a stoke-hole. The catacomb plan* reveals that there are similar structures behind the catacombs along both the sides of the central aisle, but these do not have similar openings as far as I can



Space between Catacombs 7 and 90

see. Were these spaces left for structural reasons, perhaps to help take the weight of the Episcopal Chapel above, or were they simply ventilation/drainage shafts? (*see: www.subbrit.org.uk/sb-sites/sites/w/west_norwood_cemetery/index.shtml)

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