

Friends of West Norwood CEMETERY

Newsletter No. 96 – September 2019

Free to members

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Chairman's Report

Bob Flanagan

News this month is that the much-visited grave of Samuel Orchart and Isabella Mary Beeton (grave 8,348, square 64) has been renovated on the initiative of Bereavement Services Manager Jacqueline Landy with support from Assistant Director Environment, Kevin Crook. Monumental masons Barnes Memorials have done an excellent job. They have also conserved the kerbs, which may be remnants of the original memorial replaced by their two surviving sons Orchart and Mayson in 1933 having 'fallen into decay'.

Barnes Memorials have also cleaned the family tomb of John Lawson Johnston (1839–1900) adjacent to the Crematorium (grave 29,462, square 38). This Carrara marble mausoleum was damaged in the 1940s, but never fully restored, hence the strange aspect of this monument. An undated photograph in our *Norwood's Mausolea* booklet shows part of the mausoleum with the Colonnades of the Dissenters' Chapel in the background. Sadly, it is the only record we have of the intact structure.

Born in Roslin, Midlothian, Johnston studied in Edinburgh. He became interested



Samuel and Isabella Beeton

in food science and food preservation. In time he took over his uncle's butcher's shop in Edinburgh. He used the beef trimmings to make his own *glace de viande* (meat glaze) – beef stock, concentrated until it becomes dark brown and viscous, giving it a long shelf-life. This was very successful. He opened a second shop and a factory in the Holyrood area of Edinburgh to meet demand.

He moved to Canada in 1871.

In 1874 the French Army gave him a contract to supply preserved beef products, Britain not having enough beef to supply demand during the Franco-Prussian War. Whilst in Canada, he developed *Johnston's Fluid Beef*. This was different from conventional meat glaze in that the gelatin it normally contained was hydrolyzed, which made the product semi-liquid, and thereby easier to package and use. Thus, *Bovril* was born. It is thought that the name came from 'Vril', an 'electromagnetic fluid' found in Edward Bulwer-Lytton's then-popular novel, *The Coming Race* (1870), plus the first two letters of 'bovine', the Latin for 'cow'.



The renovated Johnston family memorial

IN MEMORIAM
 JOHN LAWSON JOHNSTON.
 BORN SEPT. 29TH 1839.
 DIED CANNES, NOV. 24TH 1900.
 ALSO OF ELIZABETH, HIS WIFE.
 BORN AUGUST 17TH 1851.
 DIED LONDON, JULY 6TH 1924.
 ALSO OF ELLEN MAUDE,
 WIFE OF
 WILLIAM ELLIOT LAWSON JOHNSTON.
 DIED LONDON, JUNE 4TH 1922.
 ALSO OF JOHN ORMISTON
 LAWSON JOHNSTON.
 BORN NOV. 13TH 1876.
 DIED LONDON, NOV. 29TH 1955.
 ALSO OF WILLIAM ELLIOT
 LAWSON JOHNSTON.
 BORN MAY 16TH 1872.
 DIED LONDON, MAY 16TH 1958.

Johnston memorial: detail of the inscription

Johnston sold his Canadian business in 1880 after his factory burnt down and came to live at *Bovril Castle* (*Kingswood House*, West Dulwich – see p. 15). He developed the *Bovril* brand based on the promotion of dietetics. In 1889 the business became a public company. In 1896 it was sold for £2 million to the Derbyshire-born financier and fraudster Ernest Terah Hooley (1859–1947), who was also associated with Dunlop, Raleigh, Schweppes, and a host of other companies.

Johnston, the largest shareholder in the old company, remained on the board until his death. He was also Chairman of the War Employment Bureau on the outbreak of the Boer War and a Fellow of the French Red Cross. He died aboard his yacht *White Ladye* in Cannes on 24 November 1900. His second son George Lawson Johnston (1873–1943) also managed the *Bovril* company and was raised to the peerage as the 1st Baron Luke in 1929.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

Planning to deliver the NLHF programme has commenced with the creation of a Strategic Oversight Board on which we are represented. Lambeth have also created a website <https://westnorwoodcemetery.org/> that gives further information about the bid,

including events and volunteering opportunities. Information boards have been placed in strategic positions in the cemetery (near the Tite Arch, the Greek Cemetery, and near to the proposed Hubbard Road and Robson Road entrances).

As part of the NLHF programme, Lambeth organized a Cemetery Open Day on Sunday 7 July. Some 50 people attended our afternoon tour and were taken in groups led by George Young and John White. Jill Dudman and others looked after the bookstall in the Maddick Mausoleum throughout the day. Lambeth staffed a NLHF information stall. Several funeral directors exhibited, notably J.F. Shackleton & Sons with their vintage Ford Model T hearse. A bird walk and children's activities were held. Feedback was positive.

European Cemeteries Route

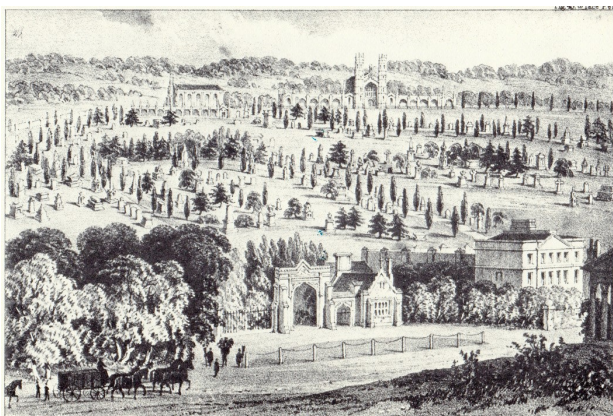
The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe has received the 2019 *Carlos V European Award*. This is the first time that this prestigious award has been given to a European programme and not to an individual. The European Cemeteries Route is proud to be a European Cultural Route!

The *Carlos V European Award* was established to reward the work of organizations, people, projects, or initiatives that have contributed to the general knowledge and the enhancement of Europe's cultural, social, scientific, and historical values. The award was officially handed over to the Council of Europe by the King of Spain on 9 May 2019 in the church of the Royal Monastery of Yuste in Spain.

On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries (J.C. Loudon, 1843)

Professor JS Curl plans to produce a numbered, hard-back, facsimile edition of this important work. This new edition, sponsored by the Friends of Brompton Cemetery, is to be on good quality paper with an enlarged font, and will include an annotated essay on Loudon's involvement with cemeteries by Prof Curl, a Bibliography, a colour portrait of Loudon, a facsimile of his 1844 Obituary, a List of Subscribers, and an Index.

The cost to subscribers (closing date 1 October 2019) is £40 incl UK postage. To subscribe contact Professor Curl at 15 Torgrange, Holywood, County Down, BT18 0NG. Tel: +44 (0) 28 90 425 141 or e-mail: jscurl@btinternet.com.



The South Metropolitan Cemetery 'Planted in the Cemetery Style' – Loudon amended this panoramic view produced to promote the cemetery to show how it would look if planted out with conifers in his preferred style

National Federation of Cemetery Friends AGM

Robert Stephenson

This year the NCFE AGM in June was hosted by the Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax. A total of 32 members attended Calderstone College on behalf of 24 groups. The day began with welcoming addresses delivered by the Mayor and MP of Halifax before the customary tour of the cemetery. Lister Lane Cemetery dates from 1841 and is Grade II listed. It covers only 3 acres, but contains nearly 20,000 burials. These include local dignitaries, chartists, and members of the Crossley family, who were the biggest carpet manufacturers in the world. Most of the headstones are made of the admirable local sandstone Elland flag that retains inscriptions for years as crisply as slate. The recently planted wild flower meadows were in full bloom and provided a multi-coloured feast for the eyes. The hosting group provided actors in Victorian costume to take the parts of various grave occupants.



Lister Lane Cemetery in the pouring rain

After lunch the AGM received officer reports. Hon Secretary Gwyneth Stokes mentioned the newly revised edition of *Saving Cemeteries*, the Federation's substantial guide to forming a group and dealing with common problems. She stated that the committee was always pleased to answer questions not covered by the book. A financial report was given by Hon Treasurer Melvyn Hawkins. Currently the Federation has over 100 members. In response to a question he stated that he was in the middle of shaping an insurance policy

suitable for cemetery groups that if accepted would result in a discount for members. He had also been responsible for overhauling *Saving Cemeteries* for reprinting.

NCFE vice-chairman Colin Fenn then reported on memorial safety and testing standards. He also spoke about the badly treated Brinscombe Quaker burial ground and Calderstones Cemetery, which is resisting the building of a crematorium. In both cases the NCFE was able to give useful advice and support. A discussion then took place over the digital plotting of graves initiated by Geoffrey Thurley of Ladywell and Brockley Cemeteries. A discussion was initiated by Mike Martin on the maintenance of the ubiquitous war memorial and finally Jeff Hart of Nunhead Cemetery proposed that successful bidders for Lottery Grants should share information and actual files with other groups further down the ladder. Finally, the proposed exposition about next year's AGM venue, Rectory Road Cemetery, Berkhamsted was hampered by their representative being unable to attend because he was involved in a car accident on the way to Halifax. The Friends of Welford Road, Leicester offered to host the 2021 AGM.

Dulwich College: A Day in the Cemetery

Bob Flanagan



Dr Carver's Gravestone

community. The students were able to choose between projects that included Dulwich Park, Foodbank, primary schools, and care homes.

On 21 June, 25 students from years 10–12 and 6 staff members each gave 4 hours labour in the cemetery. They tackled ivy removal from the South boundary wall and cut back vegetation poking through the Norwood Road railings onto the pavement. They also cleared weeds from the path in front of the Maddick mausoleum (grave 37,450, square 124) and tidied up Hiram Maxim's grave (grave 34,481, square 124).

Dulwich College has a long association with the cemetery. Most notable is the grave of Alfred James Carver DD (1826–1909; grave 23,256, square 50). Appointed Master of Alleyn's College, Dulwich (founded 1619) in 1858, he led the reorganization presaged in the *Dulwich College Act* (1857) that gave rise to present-day Dulwich College and Alleyn's School. He also masterminded the rebuilding of the college (1870). He married Eliza (1829–1907), youngest daughter of William Peek (1791–1870; grave 12,872, square 89). Carver Road, Herne Hill, is named after him.

As part of the College's 400-year celebrations, all staff and students were given the opportunity to volunteer in the



The College volunteers at Norwood



Cleared vegetation awaiting collection

The day was planned by Beth Cross, NLHF Grant Activities Coordinator, assisted by staff from Bereavement Services and followed from a contact I made with the College in 2018. The day was a great success as evidenced by the volume of vegetation removed and was enjoyed by all. It is hoped that these volunteering sessions will continue on a regular basis.

Norwood: The Monumental Inscriptions

John Clarke

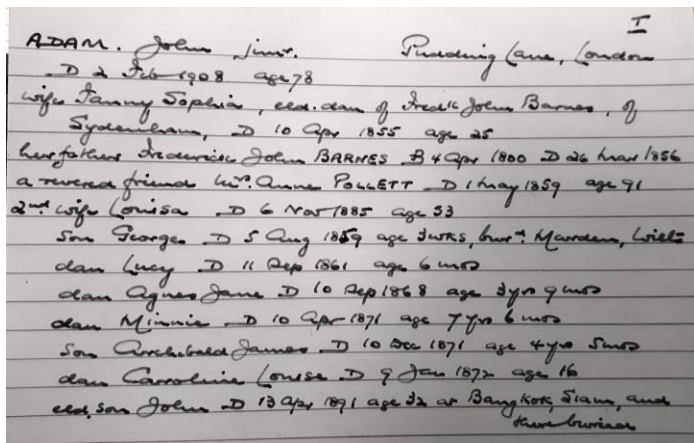
Dr Peter Hodgkinson and I have been collating information on all World War I casualties who were either buried, or recorded on monuments at Norwood. As part of this project, I have been working through the collection of monumental inscriptions held at Lambeth Archives in order to help establish how many such commemorations had been recorded on family gravestones that are now lost.

The collection was compiled by the historian Eric E.F. Smith FSA (1907–1990) from notes made 1967–80. It consists of some 29,000 6 x 4-inch cards upon which are recorded all the essential information from each gravestone examined along with any unusual wording. All this was copied directly from the memorial. But even as Mr Smith was recording these inscriptions, Lambeth Council was clearing parts of the cemetery. Sections of squares 39 and 53 had already been cleared, and the Council went on to clear the areas immediately surrounding the crematorium (squares 38 and 52).

This archive is an irreplaceable record of thousands of lost monuments. The neglected state of the cemetery meant that many of the headstones were either covered with dirt, or hidden under vegetation. Mr Smith also noted that a number of early inscriptions were illegible and that some stones had been vandalised. So even if a relevant entry is located in the archive, it is important to check

any figures on the cards against the burial records. Missing portions of an inscription are indicated on the record cards either by [.....] or by a note such as 'rest of the inscription illegible'.

The cards are filed alphabetically by the principal family name (usually male) and then first name(s). Other family names (last names) recorded on the memorial are listed underneath. These names are cross-referenced back to the main card. Double-barreled surnames are filed according to the first name (e.g. BOYS-Tombs). If the name is not hyphenated it is filed according to the final name, which is taken as the surname (e.g.



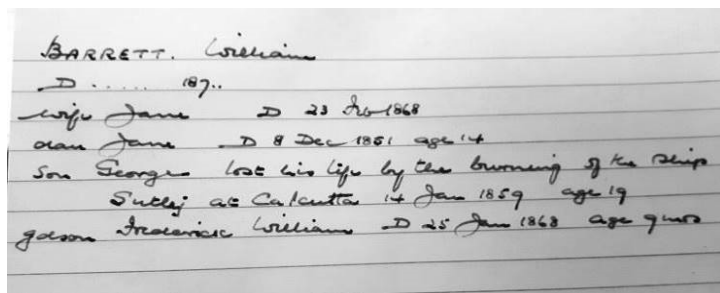
The first of two cards detailing John Adam Jnr (d. 2 February 1908 age 78), and family. He is linked to Pudding Lane, London. Reproduced by kind permission of Lambeth Archives department

BROWN, James Baldwin). Prefixes such as A, De, De La, La, Le, Van and Von are treated as an integral part of the surname even if it is written separately. Mac and Mc are treated as if they are all spelled 'Mac'. Monumental inscriptions later than the 1950s were not usually recorded, although there may be some exceptions. There is a separate sequence at the end covering entries in the catacombs, but all the names from this sequence are cross referenced in the main alphabetical series (e.g. 'AGAR, Sir Edmund Felix, see Catacomb section at end'). In the 1990s Jill Dudman spent many voluntary hours of conservation work on these cards!

Altogether there are 8 boxes. Within each box are 12 large bundles of record cards. If you know the name you want to check you can move directly to the most appropriate bundle in each box. However, as the entire collection is also available on microfiche, if you know the name you are searching for it is easy to check for any recorded inscription using the microfiche. Each fiche comprises five strips of microfilm, each one containing images of fourteen cards. Thus, each fiche contains the equivalent of seventy record cards. Every fiche is numbered consecutively and includes the first and last name along the top.

Generally, the photographic reproduction is good, but I did come across a few entries that were difficult to read. Unfortunately, using the microfiche was not an option for the First World War project as we had no idea how many memorials might include details of family members killed in action. The best option seemed to be to check through the entire collection to identify these entries. The ever-helpful staff at Lambeth Archives also recommended checking through the original cards rather than the microfiche.

Unfortunately, this is only part of the task since the cards do not give the location of the grave in the cemetery, i.e. there are no grave/square numbers. To identify the location of the grave you need to consult the burial registers (see: www.fownc.org/search/).



The card recording the death of George Barrett, who 'lost his life by the burning of the ship Sulej at Calcutta 14 Jan 1859 age 19'. Reproduced by kind permission of Lambeth Archives department

The archive includes some valuable extra information. For example, a card may record if a monument has been destroyed; there is sometimes a brief description of the design of the memorial; sometimes there is the note 'photo' in the lower left hand corner of

the card; whilst if an address or district has been identified (e.g. Streatham Hill) this will appear in the top right hand corner of the card. If the inscription is long enough to cover more than one side of a card, a second card is used (and numbered as such, e.g. I, II, III, such as for ADAM, John Jnr, see the illustration on page 6) since only the front of the cards is used to record the monumental inscription. In addition to the note 'photo', some cards have a black stamped entry such as 'SP 433/83'. This refers to Lambeth Archives'

Small Photograph (SP) collection, meaning that a definite image has been linked to that particular family grave. SP 433 is the reference number for a collection of 280 black and white images taken by either Allan Rigden, or Ray Ninnis. The photographs concentrate on memorials in the areas surrounding the crematorium, although there are a few general views. Each photo is stored in a clear plastic protective cover, and the collection is stored in five hanging files of the type used in filing cabinets. Several images of the cemetery are posted on the *Lambeth Landmark* website (<https://boroughphotos.org/lambeth/>), but none of the SP 433 series are included at present.

Eric Smith certainly had a sense of what would be valuable to posterity. He was careful to record in full some very informative – if lengthy – epitaphs. A fine example was on the grave of John Bailey (1836–1882; grave 19,442, square 118; monument destroyed). He lived at Clapham Fire Station and was buried on 26 December 1882.

‘Engineer in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in which he served for 23 years, 15 of which he was in charge of the Clapham Fire Station. Having previously served his country in the Crimean and China Wars he died 20 December 1882 from the effects of over exertion and exposure at the Great Fire at Wood Street, City, aged 46 years. This memorial was erected by his numerous friends and by the inhabitants of Clapham as a tribute of the very high esteem and respect in which he was held’.

Elsewhere key information was always recorded verbatim, usually indicated by the use of quotation marks. Thus, we can savour gems such as the epitaph of Frederick Bokenham, ‘who perished in the tidal wave and earthquake that destroyed Sou.... Pere[?] in August 1868, age 50’ (likely the 1868 southern Peru earthquake); of Amy Jane Chapman, ‘the unspeakably precious wife of Joseph Chapman’ (d. 29 November 1877); of Frank Brown, aged 16, ‘lost at sea on a voyage to Calcutta’ (on 5 December 1879); of Major N. W. Brophy of the Black Watch, ‘drowned near Dongola, Upper Egypt’ (on 27 December 1884); and of Charles Austin, ‘formerly 60 years employed in Norwood Cemetery’ (d. 6 February 1914), to detail on just a few.

We hope to share some of these lives in future issues of the newsletter. Meanwhile the task of identifying, recording, researching and writing up the lives of the First World War dead commemorated at Norwood continues, although the number of new names being identified in this archive means we will probably need to publish our discoveries in two volumes, to ensure a comprehensive record of their sacrifice.



*The Great Fire, Wood Street, Cheapside
(Pictorial World, 16 December 1882)*

Edward Cross (1774-1854): Menagerist

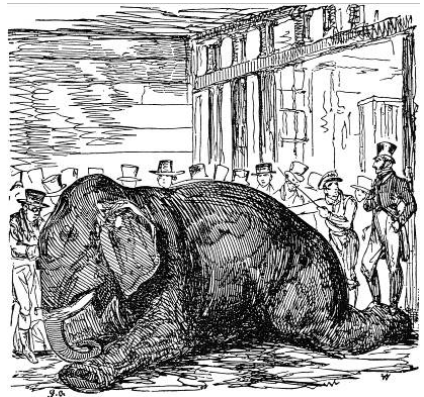
Bob Flanagan

Perusal of the *London Overlooked* website (see Newsletter 94, January 2019) revealed another Norwood connection. The *Elephant of Exeter Change* by William Ellis-Rees (2017) details one of the most notorious incidents of early 19th-century London. In 1826, *Chunee*, a 5-ton Indian elephant confined in a menagerie above a shopping arcade in the Strand, went berserk. Eventually he was brutally put down by a firing squad of soldiers from Somerset House on orders of the owner of the menagerie, Edward Cross (grave 3,014, square 92). Cross may be top-hatted figure in the accompanying illustration.

Edward Cross was born in Gray's Inn Passage off the Strand to Walter Cross and his wife Jane (née Callow). He was baptised on 3 February 1774 at St Andrew's, Holborn. Little is known of his early life save that he first worked at the *Royal Menagerie* at the Tower of London and then for Gilbert Pidcock (1743–1810) and for the Italian Stephen Polito (1763/4–1814), in turn the owners of a menagerie at *Exeter Exchange* in the Strand, for some 25 years.

In 1810 Edward had married Maria Ann Cross, daughter of the late William Cross of Bow, who had previously kept a menagerie of his own. Whether they were related to each other is unknown. Edward's sister Elizabeth Cross married one John Polito, who claimed to be Stephen Polito's brother, in 1814. Edward's other sister Ann married William Smart Herring in 1817. Edward was also a dealer in birds and beasts with outlets in Piccadilly and in the New (now Euston) Road. Herring became involved in various enterprises with Cross over the years including management in time of the *New Road Menagerie*, and he and his four sons received bequests in Edward's will.

After Stephen Polito died on 18 April 1814 his widow Sarah ran the menagerie at the Strand until her own death on 28 July 1814, whereupon Edward Cross took over. John Polito it seems took on the travelling menagerie side of the business. The menagerie at *Exeter Change* had operated at that site from 1773 in competition with the *Royal*



The Elephant

*As he laid dead at Exeter Change
In the position he liked best
He seem'd to drop, to sudden rest;
Nor bow'd his neck, but still a sense
Retain'd of his magnificence;
For, as he fell, he raised his head
And held it, as in life, when dead.*

*(Hone's Every-Day Book, Vol II.
London: William Tegg, 1838)¹*

¹ William Tegg (1816–1895; grave 12,095, square 88 – monument destroyed)

Menagerie. The *Exeter Change* menagerie was one of the most popular sights in London. Lions, tigers, monkeys, and other exotic species were confined in iron cages in small rooms. The menagerie was visited by Wordsworth and Byron, who recorded watching the ‘tigers sup’, being amused by a hyena’s affection for its keeper, and the tricks played by an elephant with its trunk. Animals in the collection were painted by Edwin Landseer RA (1802–1873) and by the Geneva-born artist Jacques-Laurent Agasse (1767–1849). Edwin’s brother Thomas Landseer ARA (1793/4–1880) also visited the collection.

But there was science too. Patrons of the menagerie included the anatomist Joshua Brookes (1761–1833), zoologist Edward Turner Bennett (1797–1836), naturalist and solicitor Edward Griffith (1790–1858), polymath Baron Georges Cuvier (1769–1832), the founder of paleontology, zoologist John Edward Gray FRS (1800–1875), and surgeon Sir Astley Cooper FRS (1768–1841). Indeed, Gray named the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) *Rhinoceros crossii* in honour of Cross. He was more than just a showman.



The Exeter Exchange in 1829 looking west



*Jacques-Laurent Agasse:
Edward Cross (1838)*

In time Cross renamed the collection the *Royal Grand National Menagerie*, and employed a door keeper who was dressed as a Yeoman of the Guard. However, the animals were kept in such poor conditions that critical comments were made even in the early 19th century. Then there were more subtle forms of cruelty. When an ostrich died and was dissected, its stomach was found to contain buttons, nails, keys, a brass door-handle, a copper candle-snuffer, a sailor’s knife, a butcher’s hook, an iron comb, small stones and marbles, and various coins amounting to three shillings and four pence ha’penny. These titbits had no doubt been thrown by visitors into the ostrich’s cage.

Cross tried to sell the collection to the new Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in 1826 and again in 1828, but without success.² The *Exeter Exchange* was demolished in 1829 as part of gen-

² The ZSL was established by Sir Stamford Raffles (1781–1826), Lieutenant-Governor of Java and founder of Singapore, in 1826 shortly before his unexpected death

eral improvements to the Strand, and Cross moved the menagerie to the *King's Mews* near Trafalgar Square (now the site of the National Gallery). Some of the animals were sold to the new London Zoo in Regent's Park. In 1831, he sold the rest to the Surrey Literary, Scientific and Zoological Institution, an institution that he had founded in opposition to the ZSL, for £3,500.

Cross in turn became superintendent of the new *Surrey Zoological Gardens*, and the animals were moved to their new home, Royal Surrey Gardens, in the grounds of Walworth Manor House, Kennington. Many of the exotic animals were housed in a large circular domed conservatory, 300 feet in circumference with more than 6,000 square feet of glass. The collection expanded to include lions, tigers, an Indian rhinoceros, an orang-utan, and several giraffes. However, the menagerie became run down after Cross retired in 1844, and the remaining animals were sold in 1856.

The gardens were some 15 acres in extent with a pleasure lake and wooded walks. Little now remains. There are terraced houses in Braganza Street that may have been built for the administrators and their staff, and there is a small park, Pasley Park, on what was once the pleasure lake. The sale of the animals paid for the construction of the Surrey Music Hall, designed by Horace Jones (1819–1887; grave 12,335, square 89), the largest hall in London and constructed in cast iron like the Crystal Palace. After the gardens were closed the hall was occupied by St Thomas's Hospital before it moved to its current site.

Edward Cross died at 45 Newington Place, Kennington on 26 September 1854.³ He had purchased a 20-foot area grave at Norwood on 30 October 1851 for £5 5s after the death of his wife. Those buried there in addition to Edward himself are his wife Maria Ann Cross (1785–1851), his niece Mary Cuming née Polito (1820–1854, from cholera), Fanny Polito Cuming (1854–1855), Ann Elizabeth Cuming (1852–1857), Isabella Polito (b. & d. 1867), his sister Elizabeth Polito née Cross (1787–1869), John Polito jnr (1819–1874), and Sophia Margaret Polito (1864/5–1879).

A fee of £15 was paid to the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company on 22 June 1938 for the grave to be 'attended in perpetuity', but nevertheless Lambeth Council destroyed the monument in their clearance operations. Sadly, there is no record of the gravestone. The Agasse portraits of Edward and his wife were left to the ZSL in 1950 by Mrs FE Emerson.



Jacques-Laurent Agasse:
Maria Ann Cross (1838)

More information on the Cross, Herring, and Polito families can be found in *Menagerie. The History of Exotic Animals in England* by Caroline Grigson (Oxford: OUP, 2016) and at: <http://london-overlooked.com/edward-cross/> and <http://london-overlooked.com/herring/>.

³ He had moved there from No 48, a larger house, after his wife's death

Benjamin Bynoe - Surgeon to *HMS Beagle*

Bob Flanagan

The Grade II listed grave of Vice-Admiral Robert FitzRoy FRS (1805–1865) lies in the churchyard of All Saints, Upper Norwood. FitzRoy of course achieved lasting fame as the Captain of *HMS Beagle* during Charles Darwin's famous voyage that started in 1831, *Beagle's* second expedition to Tierra del Fuego and the Southern Ocean. His gravestone has been restored several times, most recently in 1997.

Benjamin Bynoe, in contrast, has been largely lost to history. He was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Bynoe and was born on 25 July 1803 in the parish of Christ Church, Barbados, where he was baptized on 26 December 1803. Nothing is known of his early life until he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in May 1825. Two months later he joined the Royal Navy as a surgeon. In October 1825 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to *HMS Beagle*. He spent the next eighteen years of his life on board this vessel, taking part in extended voyages of exploration and collecting botanical and other specimens in South America and Australia.



Augustus Earle (1793–1838). Quarter Deck of a Man of War on Diskivery (sic) or Interesting Scenes on an Interesting Voyage, 1832. Benjamin Bynoe may be the figure in light grey holding a plant next to Charles Darwin (in the tall hat)

Bynoe was assigned to *HMS Beagle* during her maiden voyage, surveying the coast of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. The many bays and islands in the area known as the *Gulf of Sorrows* were explored, and Bynoe had the distinction of having a cape and an island

named after him. It was on this expedition that Bynoe confronted the first of the many medical crises he faced in his career. During a bout of melancholy (severe depression) his captain, Pringle Stokes (1793–1828), shot himself in the head. For twelve days, Bynoe attempted to save his life, but to no avail.

Back in London there followed an interval on half-pay during which he lodged at 7 Paragon Place in the New Kent Road. Here he studied through the winter and spring for his nomination as Surgeon, which he passed on 5 July 1831.

The suicide of Captain Stokes had unforeseen consequences. Robert FitzRoy having succeeded to command of the *Beagle*, was worried that the loneliness and stress that accompanied the post would likewise affect his own health. He thus sought a gentleman companion. Hence it was during *HMS Beagle's* second voyage that Bynoe met Fitzroy's chosen companion, one Charles Darwin, then aged just 22. When they sailed on 27 December 1831, Bynoe was the assistant surgeon, but he became acting surgeon when surgeon Robert McCormick (1800–1890) invalidated himself home after 4 months at sea.

Bynoe soon became indispensable to Darwin, as the young naturalist recorded in his journals. When Darwin became ill in Chile in September 1834, Bynoe stayed with him on land for a month and nursed him back to health. Darwin noted: 'I must likewise take the opportunity of returning my sincere thanks to Mr Bynoe for his very kind attention to me while I was ill at Valparaiso'.

In October 1835 Darwin and Bynoe spent nine days collecting specimens from the many islands that make up the Galapagos. Later, when Darwin was going through his notes in preparation for what became his seminal work, *On the Origin of Species*,⁴ he realized that his records were not accurate enough to identify correctly the various islands from which specimens of finches were taken. One area that attracted Darwin's attention was the different shapes of the beaks of birds from different islands. Bynoe's notes provided him with the answers he needed to formulate his hypothesis that species variation from island to island was a result of natural selection.

Whilst ashore, Bynoe married Charlotte née Ollard (1809–1887) on 17 December 1836 at St. Saviour, Southwark. In 1837 Bynoe was again the surgeon on board *HMS Beagle* when the ship left Plymouth for her third voyage, tasked with surveying Australian waters, that lasted until 1843. He encountered giant salt water crocodiles and faced parties of aborigines who were intent on protecting their territory. His captain John Lort Stokes (1811–1885) was speared by an aborigine and Bynoe was tasked with treating him. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1844.

Bynoe collected a number of important specimens, later donated to the British Museum and the WJ Hooker Herbarium at Kew. When Stokes wrote his narrative of the voyage, *Discoveries in Australia...* (London: T and W Boone, 1846), he included a number of

⁴ *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. London: John Murray, 1859. Robert Francis Cooke (1816–1891; grave 24,183, square 120), was the London agent of his cousin John Murray III and helped facilitate the publication (see: FoWNC Newsletter 78, September 2013)

papers by Bynoe, including an account of the crew's encounter with the aborigines at Roebuck Bay, a discussion of the climate, and a description of marsupials.

Bynoe's later naval career was mainly spent on ships taking convicts to Australia. From 1843–6 he served aboard *HMS Fly*. He also served on *HMS Aboukir* transporting convicts to Tasmania, 1851–2. His journals from this period, two of which survive (from 1844 and 1851) and are now in the National Archives at Kew, give a unique insight into the life of a 19th century ship's surgeon and the conditions endured by the crew and their cargo of prisoners.

Bynoe also took part in the attempts to provide relief during the Irish Famine. In February 1847 he was sent to Cork, and two months later to Belmullet, to help with outbreaks of typhus and dysentery. But the promised medical supplies were slow to arrive and Bynoe became ill. He stayed in Ireland until September, but by October he was back in London.



The remains of Benjamin Bynoe's gravestone

Benjamin Bynoe died at his home, 440 Old Kent Road, on 13 November 1865. He left less than £450. His wife purchased a 10' x 6'6" x 2'6" plot at Norwood (grave 10,023, square 32) for 5 guineas on 15 November 1865. She is also buried in the grave. Sadly, their headstone was likely smashed dur-

ing the Lambeth clearance operations in the 1970s: there is no record of it being damaged in the cemetery records where, for example, all bomb damage during World War II is faithfully recorded. However, the site of the grave is clearly identifiable. Moreover, the inscription was recorded by Eric Smith (see article by John Clarke, page 6) and included the phrase '*Who served his country for many years in different parts of the world*'.

Although no portrait of him is known, Bynoe did achieve some recognition during his lifetime. A species of shrub, Bynoe's wattle (*Acacia bynoeana*) and a lizard, Bynoe's Gecko (*Heteronotia binoei*) were named after him. Several geographical features were also named in his honour, including Bynoe Inlet and Bynoe Island in Australia.

The illustration on page 12 is a cartoon of Charles Darwin and the crew of the *HMS Beagle*. It was sold at auction in December 2015 at Sotheby's for £52,500. It was painted whilst the *Beagle* was anchored off Patagonia in 1832 and shows fossils and botanical specimens being hauled aboard for examination by Darwin. A speech bubble records him pontificating about an insect to an officer (Mr Bynoe?): '*Observe its legs are long, and the palpi are strongly toothed on the inner side*', he says. '*I think the whole insect appears of a dark chestnut brown colour with a yellowish cast on the abdomen. Its history is but little known but there can be no doubt of its being of a predacious nature. What do you think Mr –?*'. The watercolour is thought to have been painted to amuse the crew, who dismissed many of Darwin's finds as 'apparent rubbish'.⁵

⁵ For more information on Bynoe see: Keevil JJ. Benjamin Bynoe, Surgeon of H.M.S. Beagle. *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 1949; 4: 90-111



Forthcoming Events

September – December 2019

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road at 14:30 (1 September, 6 October) or 11:00 (3 November, 1 December), and lasting for 1½–2 hours. There is no need to book. Donations are welcome. These tours coincide with West Norwood Feast (street markets and other town centre events: <https://westnorwoodfeast.com/>). To register for notifications of additional events, please visit www.fownc.org/news/. To volunteer to help with vegetation clearance in the cemetery, please contact Beth Cross (BCross@lambeth.gov.uk).

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 19 October – The Cubitts and the River Thames – Chris Everett

The brothers Thomas (1788–1855; grave 649, square 48), William (1791–1863), and Lewis (1799–1883) Cubitt had a major impact on London in the 19th century. Thomas and William had extensive works at separate Thameside locations, demonstrating the importance of the Thames to London's growth. Their riverside locations not only contributed to, but also showcased Britain's expanding Empire through docks, warehouses and prestigious commercial edifices. The talk will be preceded by our AGM.

Saturday 16 November – Cherishing History, Nurturing Wildlife – Kath Church

Kath Church is the Chair of the Friends of Streatham Cemetery. Originally the 1892 Streatham Burial Board cemetery and located in Wandsworth, the cemetery came into the ownership of Lambeth Council in 1965. Kath will review the history of the cemetery, the current concerns of the Friends, wildlife in the cemetery, and points of especial interest including notable burials such as war heroes and local celebrities.

London Open House Weekend

Saturday 21 September: Cemetery tours will start from the main gate at 14:00 and 15:00.

Sunday 22 September: *Kingswood House*, Seeley Drive, Dulwich SE21 (*Bovril Castle*) will be open from 12:30–16:30. Full details at: <https://openhouselondon.org.uk/>.

Lambeth Heritage Festival

The programme of talks, walks, exhibitions, and events for September is available at: <http://bit.ly/HeritageFestival2019>.

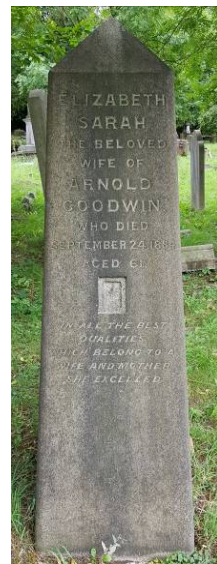
Additional Events

Tuesday 10 September, 19:00. Lecture: *The Fear of Being Buried Alive*. Robert Stephenson. The Dissenters' Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery, 391 Ladbroke Grove W10.

Monday 4 November, 19:00. Lecture: *'Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory'. Anglo-Catholics and their Funeral Ceremonies*. Dr Brian Parsons. St Cuthbert's Church, Philbeach Gardens SW5 (www.saintcuthbert.org).

A Bit of Mystery – Bob Flanagan

This granite obelisk (grave 20,336, square 56) proudly proclaims that it marks the family grave of Arnold Goodwin, engineer, of Sumner Street, Southwark. The stone records that his ancestors are interred in St Saviour's, London Bridge, and in St John's, Stamford, Lincs. His firm (established 1854) specialized in town water supply, air compressors, overhead runways, lifting tackle, patent piston rings, pullies, and power transmission accessories. Those interred in the grave at Norwood are Arnold himself (d. 26 July 1894, age 70; he left £15,955), his wife Sarah Elizabeth (d. 24 September 1884, age 61), Elizabeth Sarah Goodwin (d. 6 May 1900, age 48), and Amelia Goodwin (d. 6 January 1914, age 61). Has anyone a record of the (bronze?) plaques stolen from two sides of the obelisk?



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