

THE NORWOOD REVIEW



No.212
SPRING
2016



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The Business of Stonemasons & Undertakers

Free to Members (£1 for sale)

www.norwoodsociety.co.uk

Norwood Society

Local History Meetings & Walks

Local History Talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7.30 pm
at the **Upper Norwood Library**, Westow Hill, SE19 1TJ.

Free entry including refreshments but donations are appreciated.

- April 21st Out of the Borough Archives**
Lindsay Ould, Croydon's archivist, will inform us of what is to be found in this part of Croydon, in addition to the many other resources within the Croydon Local Studies centre.
- May 19th 'Winifred Gérin: a writer's life from Norwood to Haworth'**
Gérin spent her childhood living on South Norwood Hill. She is an important biographer of the Bronte family, and Helen McEwan, who has recently published Gérin's biography, will talk about her work and her interesting family.
- June 16th Shopping at the Palace**
Alun Thomas explores the history of shopping around 'The Triangle'

WALKS

- June 19th West Norwood Circular**
Sunday walk with Jill Dudman of about 90 minutes.
2.30pm at front steps of St Luke's Church,
Norwood High Street, SE27 0HS
- July 21st Crystal Palace to West Norwood via Gipsy Hill**
Thursday evening walk of about 90 minutes with Alun Thomas
7.00 pm outside Sainsbury, Westow Street, SE19 3RW
- August 18th Church Road & The Triangle**
Thursday evening walk of about 90 minutes with Richard Lines
7.00pm in front of All Saints Church, Beulah Hill, SE19 2QQ



: join us on Facebook - Norwood Society Local History
enquiries: norwoodshistory@btinternet.com

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Official Journal of the Norwood Society

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FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Junction S Norwood Hill/Whitehorse Lane

Oak Tree House may be seen faintly through the trees.

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THE NORWOOD REVIEW

The Norwood Review is published quarterly: at the end of March, June, September and December. Copy should be submitted a month before publication.

Contributions should be sent to the Editorial Board, The Norwood Review, 47 Ross Road, London SE25 6SB or secretary@norwoodsociety.co.uk (020 8653 8768).

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This issue of the 'Norwood Review' will be published before our AGM on 26th April. I will give a report at that meeting, but I hope these notes will suffice as an overview of the Society's recent activities. The 'Norwood Review' has been published four times a year since the Society began in the early 1960s. Under successive editors articles about local history, book reviews and more 'gossipy' items have delighted members and other readers for many years and continue to do so in the digital age. This is no mean achievement and I hope that this issue is worthy of its predecessors.

Upper Norwood Joint Library has continued as an important community 'hub' and not least in offering the Society a home for our archives and for regular local history meetings. The Society is confident that these two functions can continue from April this year when the library passes into the control of an independent trust.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, the Society has continued to hold excellent and well-attended talks in the library organised by Alun and Barbara Thomas. We make a payment to the library for use of rooms there and this amounted to £250 for 10 meetings held during 2015. This money comes from voluntary contributions by those attending and does not come out of the Society's funds. Speakers provide their services free of charge and committee members and others bake delicious cakes which are served with tea or coffee in the interval. I urge you to be generous with your contributions.

On 10th February I attended a site visit at the former cinema at 25 Church Road by the planning inspector who is determining the appeal against Bromley's refusal of planning permission to the building's owners, Kingsway International Christian Community, who wish to use it as a church. As well as the appellants and the London Borough of Bromley, there were present local residents, Annabel Sidney of the Cinema Campaign and Jerry Green. No comments on the merits of the appeal were permitted, but it was fascinating to have an extended visit to this wonderful building which I hope will eventually be able to serve the Norwood community in its original purpose. A decision on the appeal is not expected before early summer.

On 29th February I had a telephone interview with Isabella Coin, a research assistant working for the organisation Shared Assets who are advising the London Borough of Bromley in relation to the future management arrangements for Crystal Palace Park. I was able to mention the Society's role in the former Park working group and the assistance given to the Friends of the Subway. Stephen Oxford is a member of their committee and the Society gave a financial contribution of £500 to the Friends. Isabella sent me a written note of our conversation.

Richard Lines

FROM THE SECRETARY

Many thanks go to all the members who have renewed their subscriptions so promptly. We are also very grateful for the top-ups and the generous donations that have come in. They do make a difference, as do your words of appreciation. Our annual subscription rates were increased from the 1st of January. The Review went out a few days before Christmas and this left little time for members to notify their bank. Many have therefore paid at the old rate. We are not demanding that you pay the extra, but we are enclosing a standing order mandate form that will take effect from January 2017. Please fill it in and post it to your bank (or notify them on-line). And those whose mind it slipped to renew at all will find a reminder enclosed.

You are warmly invited to attend our Annual General Meeting at the Upper Norwood Library on Tuesday 26th April at 7.30 pm. After the interval Mr Sam Bentley-Toon, Project Officer for Wild London (London Wildlife Trust) will speak to us on the subject of the Great North Wood Project.

I received a present the other day from Alice Meakin Grigor, who is a member. It is a book, "The Crystal Palace – The Diary of Lily Hicks, London 1850-1851." Lily Hicks is a fictional character. The events described and the characters in this book may be based on historical events and real people. In her letter Alice writes,

"I came across this little book and wondered if any members' children or grandchildren would like it. It might foster a little local history interest! If you would be so kind as to pass it on. Thank you."

Anna Lines

PLANNING NOTES

Lidl Supermarket, Crown Point

Lidl have appealed against the unanimous refusal by the Planning Committee of Croydon Council of the second application for a supermarket on this site. The issue at stake is not whether there should or should not be a supermarket on this site, but the poor quality of the design, which is in our view, and that of Croydon Council, below what is acceptable in a conservation area. The appeal is going to be heard at the Town Hall on the 14th April and we have been invited to attend the hearing and make representations.

37 Southern Avenue, SE 19

This property is one half of two semi-detached family houses built, together with the rest of the Norhyrst Estate, in the interwar years to a good standard of design and construction. Many if not most of the houses retain many of their original features, and, though not situated in a conservation area, Southern Avenue still represents a good example of the type of suburban development characteristic of its era. A previous application (to which we objected) to convert the house into four separate flats was refused but the applicants came up with a second application which basically reproduced the first with a few modifications. We objected on the grounds that the proposal to convert a single family dwelling into four flats represented an overdevelopment of the property, and if implemented would result in sub-standard accommodation and, incidentally, represent a breach of the Council's policy restricting the conversion of houses with a total floor area of less than 130 square metres into flats. The planned side extension, which would have brought the building right up to the boundary line, would destroy the essential character of the property as one half of a semi-detached pair, and the existing front aspect of the property would be compromised by conversion to hard standing for vehicles plus bin and bicycle stores, resulting in a detrimental effect on the street scene. We are happy to report that the application was refused.

The Ship, 55 High Street, SE25

This is a former public house with an attractive mid-19th century front, which makes a particularly important contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Unfortunately it has been closed as a pub for some

time. In April last year we objected to an application for conversion to office space, as well as the conversion of rear buildings to flats with little if any amenity space and topped by a mansard roof out of character with the area. This application was refused, notwithstanding which the owners proceeded with their plans regardless. Requests for enforcement action were met by Croydon Planning Department with a demand to the owners for a fresh planning application. This envisaged the return of the main building to a public house, but the objections to the proposed flats were not addressed. Remarkably planning officers now performed a complete volte face and decided that the mansard roof was appropriate after all! The situation was complicated by a request from local people, ultimately unsuccessful, that the building be designated an asset of community value. We objected to the new application, and the members of Croydon planning committee, disregarding the recommendation of their officers, rejected it, on the grounds that the rear mansard roof extension and the changes to windows and window openings failed to protect or conserve elements of the building which led to its inclusion on the local list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and also failed to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the South Norwood Conservation Area.

150 Church Road, SE19

This is one of the large detached late Victorian villas which line both sides of Church Road and which were originally single family homes, but are now all converted to flats. An application was submitted for a substantial three storey rear extension to increase the accommodation to a total of seven flats. According to the application “The new extension will be white-painted rendered brick work with horizontal timber cladding”. Permission was granted for the extension with a condition that “No works on site shall commence until details, including samples, of the external facing materials have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing”. The applicants then submitted an application for the discharge of this condition in which they proposed making extensive use of zinc instead of timber cladding. We considered this wholly inappropriate on this building and in this location. We objected but were told that our objection was invalid because an application for the discharge of a condition was not a matter for public consultation. In other words, a developer can circumvent the consultation process by submitting an application for the

discharge of a condition in which the proposed materials are completely different from those stated in the original application. We find this situation unacceptable and will be taking the matter up with Croydon Council.

Philip Goddard

Local History News

We ended the year at the December meeting with a more light-hearted flavour. Alun showed some images from past Norwood with the theme of a journey from the South to North. January's meeting was given by our committee member Stephen Oxford who is the author of our new publication 'Exploring Upper Norwood, South of All Saints' Church'. His talk highlighted a few of the prominent personalities within that area, which was based on his extensive research. He has revealed the wealth of material in an area which has suffered a neglect of attention. Stephen is now prioritising research into those buried in All Saints' Churchyard, where he has uncovered two substantial graves. He welcomes further help from others who are interested in this project.

In February we welcomed the return of Ian McInnes, the chairman of the Dulwich Society. The focus was a more modern one than usual as he spoke about the development of housing in the 1950s-1970s in South Dulwich. Ian, as a retired architect, has a depth of knowledge about his subject and the evening was a welcome change from our normal focus on the Victorian age. This talk was informative about the architects/builders such as Wates, but also provoked a lively dialogue about the merits of 20th century housing.

We have been reading through the Norwood Review from the beginning of 1960, and realise how much of the material donated to the Society in the past is no longer in our archive. This makes it imperative that we preserve and record what we have as well as pursue further research. One important local collection, although not belonging to us, is that in the Upper Norwood Library. The Society's Thursday morning local and family history research group has now met twice at the Library, where the staff have been helpful and enthusiastic in supporting the group.



'Phonograph recording at the home of Col. Gouraud, "Little Menlo" Upper Norwood. December 1888'. From a cutting in the Upper Norwood Library

We have discovered further material there, but realise there is more. We invite others to join with us, as we are sure they will find the experience stimulating and informative. There is a sense of urgency in what we are doing as there is a current rumour that a senior officer from Croydon has proposed the collection be split up and moved to both Croydon and Lambeth archives before the Library is handed over to a Trust in April.

In the last three months we continue to receive local history enquiries of interest from afar. These include interesting exchanges of information about: Gipsy House, once near the foot of Gipsy Hill, and the connections with Horatio Nelson's family; the musical life of St Paul's Hamlet Road and the composer E.J. Moeren; Little Menlo, Beulah Hill and Colonel Gouraud; and Norwood Grove.

Consequent to last summer's Society walk along Beulah Hill we realised how much of the focus was based on information in 'The Phoenix Suburb' which is far from complete and has revealed some inaccuracies. We therefore decided to look into the history of the Grecian Villa and its owner prior to St Joseph's College. From reading early copies of the Norwood Review there were indications that he was a famous bookmaker, described as 'the leviathan of the turf'. We have had considerable help from the College's archivist Gerry Murphy, for which we are very grateful. We intend to share the results of our research in a future article in the Review, which will also illustrate how the techniques of family history and local history research are complementary.

Barbara and Alun Thomas
20th February 2016

Boundaries Project

Since our project launch in December 2015 the Boundaries Project has been working closely with older people's groups on the Kingswood Estate, resulting in a trip to the Croydon Museum and Archives on 27th January 2016. Interest in the visit exceeded our expectations with 18 people attending. Participants enjoyed a guided tour of the museum collection and then spent time in the archives where Lindsay Ould, Croydon Borough Archivist, had unearthed an impressive selection of materials relating to the heritage of our borough boundaries. These included the Norwood Plan dating from 1678 and cuttings recounting the goings-on at various Beating of the Bounds as well as historic photographs and maps

The project will work across the five boroughs of Crystal Palace and is aiming to get a wide range of local volunteers involved. We are working closely with local history libraries and archives and participants will gain a deeper insight into the history of the area.

Boundaries can offer numerous opportunities for people of all ages to volunteer, including oral history and digital recording training; heritage research; walks and talks; contributing memories and experience; creative workshops and performance, and the chance to develop ideas for a commemorative path into Crystal Palace Park marking the site of the Vicar's Oak. We would really love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved in one or more aspect of the project.

Email us on info@invisiblepalace.org.uk to get involved or call 07956 861052



What the Papers Said - Life on South Norwood Hill, 1820 -2005

(Part 2 1857- 1864)

‘An Abominable Attempt to Extort Money from City Merchants’ affected Mr Joseph Welch, a wealthy merchant and joint-owner of the firm of Welch & Margetson of Cheapside, shirtmakers. He resided, at the time, in ‘Beaulieu’, at the top of Norwood Hill, which still exists.

The culprit, Rebecca Rice Hamilton, thirty years of age and dressed in deep mourning, appeared before a magistrate in April 1857 at the London Guildhall. She was charged with writing and sending letters containing threats of the most atrocious character to Mr Welch, among others. The letters threatened spreading accusations of ‘infamous crimes including incest and another abominable crime’! The letters were found to be unsuitable for publication.

Hamilton was born in Edinburgh in 1820. The family moved to London and in 1851 she was an apprentice stocking-maker for a tailor in Cripplegate. Later she became a needlewoman constructing mantles (overcoats) for a number of companies in London, including Mr Welch’s in 1855. At that time he had received numerous disgusting letters, some brought to him by Ms Hamilton claiming she had received them addressed to Mr Welch at her address. He kept some when they became more frequent. They were all in a similar handwriting. Other letters had been sent to his employees inciting them to rob him. Miss Atkins, a witness, identified the letters as being in Hamilton’s handwriting. This led to a remand hearing and then a trial. She was also charged with planning to set fire, but vehemently denied all the allegations.

Hamilton conducted her own defence and, although it appears the letters were all in her handwriting, she cleverly directed payment of moneys to a partly blind, invariably drunken acquaintance. She also sent letters to herself and made quite a good job of incriminating the constables investigating her by inviting them to visit her rooms and then in court suggesting that they had planted letters in her room in order to incriminate her and obtain a reward. At the first hearing she was found ‘not guilty’ as the jury were unable to assure themselves that the letters were in her handwriting.

At a final hearing in June the two constables stated that they had searched Hamilton’s lodgings and found two further letters of a similar nature. Witnesses said these were in the defendant’s handwriting. They also found a letter that had

been written on the flyleaf of a book and a book with matching ripped page was found at the defendant's lodgings. More witnesses were brought forward to confirm the letters were in Hamilton's handwriting, though some had not seen her for a number of years.

Baron Watson summed up for the jury and after deliberating for about half an hour returned a verdict of 'Guilty'. The prisoner was then sentenced to be transported for life. It would appear that the sentence was never carried out as Rebecca Hamilton appears on the 1861 census as an inmate at Brixton Prison and as a plain needlewoman. Sometime after 1862 she was transferred to Broadmoor High-Security Psychiatric Asylum in Berkshire, where she is listed in the 1871 and 1881 censuses and where she appears to have remained until her death in 1884. Broadmoor opened in 1863 and because of its high walls and outside appearance it is often mistakenly called a prison. Although most patients were referred by the criminal justice system, they were still patients in hospital and their daily routines and treatment programmes were designed to assist their therapeutic recovery.

Rebecca Hamilton was a fascinating character, but at some point must have been declared 'insane', most probably shortly before her transfer from Brixton to Broadmoor. Her motive for writing the letters was probably for financial gain at a time when she would have been earning very little for long hours of work. Although we may consider her foolish to have written the letters in her own hand, she had the wherewithal to conduct her own defence with considerable skill and managed to be acquitted at the first trial. At her second trial the evidence was enhanced and she could not challenge it.

Joseph Welch continued at Beaulieu, no doubt a very relieved man at the conviction of Hamilton and the cessation of the filthy blackmailing letters. Whether his wife knew the details of the letters seems unlikely. Welch brought his son, Joseph, into the business and over the years Welch & Margetson produced a whole range of clothing items, including shirts, collars, scarves, neckties and an innovative 'exhibition valise' or business man's travelling case. Factories in Londonderry produced much of their output, and later members of the family became very prominent citizens there.

In 1865 Welch and Margetson were accused of patent infringement by a rival firm. In 1877, when they introduced new machinery to replace some of the workers, they had to put a guard on their premises as a result of some of their

employees giving vent to their feelings and threatening the company's premises with 'Rattening' (removal of tools or machinery in order to prevent production). Welch died at home in 1872 leaving his share of the company to his son. Their premises in Londonderry were put up for sale four years later and Welch's wife Lettice died in 1888.

Returning to 1857, the death of Jesse Gibbs, a carman, resulting from an accident on Beggars Hill, was reported. Jesse, 19, was found by fellow carman William Gale lying behind a cart having been thrown from it after whipping his horse. The wheel of the cart had then passed over his stomach. Jesse was seen by a local surgeon and then taken to the infirmary but according to William Gale he died before they reached it.

In 1859 the Croydon Board of Health reacted positively to a letter from Mr Fletcher, of Grange Road, requesting the erection of a lamp in the road leading from the White Lion public house down what is now called Grange Hill. One wonders if this was in order to facilitate his walk home after an evening imbibing in the aforementioned hostelry!

1861 saw a spate of offences committed on Beggars Hill. Oddly the name 'Beggars Hill' was still used in reporting even though it had been changed to Norwood Hill by the Croydon Board of Health in 1846. Edward Deadman was charged with wilfully and unlawfully causing an obstruction for the second time by leaving his cart standing in the carriageway for more than two hours. Deadman claimed that he had left his cart in a shed for repairs but that it must have been moved out by someone unknown. He was fined 10s 6d with costs.

The Roads Committee of the Croydon Board of Health recommended in 1864 that Beggars Hill in future be named Norwood Hill and that the roads in the Norwood district have their names painted on them.

The headline 'The Dust and the Dustmen', Sussex Advertiser 1864, drew attention to Norwood's refuse collectors and the early days of the service for ratepayers. Chairman of the Board of Health, Mr Johnson, said 'the Board was quite tired of the name of dust. They (the Board) had such a dust kicked up about the dust, that they were now determined to have some alterations'. Apparently there had been numerous complaints about the incivility and rudeness of the men employed to collect the dust and household refuse. The Board then decided to take over the service.

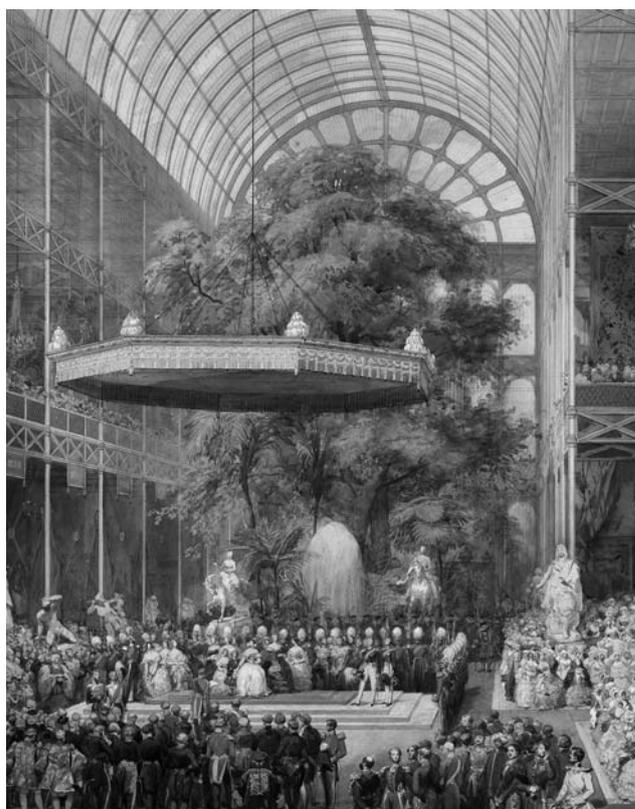
They went on to agree the contract with the Crystal Palace Gas Company, based in Sydenham, for lighting the street lamps in the Norwood Ward at £4 18s 10d per annum per lamp.

Research by Stephen Oxford & Kate Liffen.

A musical contribution to the Great Exhibition and Crystal Palace. The Bicentenary of Sir William Sterndale Bennett

The opening ceremony of the Great Exhibition on 1st May 1851 commenced with a fanfare and the National Anthem conducted by Sir George Smart followed by Handel's Hallelujah Chorus conducted by Sir Henry Bishop, then music played on organs manufactured by such great names as Willis, Walker, Hill, Du Croquet and Schulze "under the superintendence of Mr W. Sterndale Bennett" who had also been appointed as a Metropolitan Local Commissioner and one of the Musical Jurors.

It is well known that the Exhibition itself was a great national and financial success but whilst it helped stimulate the sale of these musical instruments it



1851 – Opening of The Great Exhibition

did little for musical enterprise other than to remind us that even if we could not match the Germans for composing oratorios we stood second to none with our cathedral composers and organists. However at the end of the extravaganza the musicians involved thought their labours had been somewhat wasted as evidenced by the 'superior' committee of non-musical men who declined to accept the recommendations of the Jurors (among whom was Berlioz) to give certain prestigious awards leading to some acrimonious exchanges in the press. This was compounded by the Commissioners neglecting to engage a conductor for the closing ceremony resulting in a volunteer filling that role at the last minute. However after the rebuilding of the Crystal Place at Sydenham in 1854, music



Sir William Sterndale-Bennett

March 1875 entirely devoted to his works preceded by an Elegy for Orchestra by his pupil Thomas Wingham.

Born in Sheffield on 13th April 1816, his father was the organist of what is now Sheffield Cathedral. Orphaned at the age of three he was taken into the care of his musical grandfather in Cambridge where four years later he became a chorister at the Chapel of King's College. At the age of ten he won a scholarship to the newly founded Royal Academy of Music where he studied the piano, violin then composition under Cipriani Potter gaining a thorough grounding in the works of Bach, Scarlatti and Mozart. On meeting this prodigious seventeen year old student as soloist in his first piano concerto, Mendelssohn immediately invited him to Germany 'not as my pupil but as my friend'. This led to three extended visits to Leipzig between 1836-42 where he earned high praise and encouragement from both Mendelssohn and Schumann as a brilliant pianist who also composed orchestral and chamber works, piano solos and songs. On his return to England aged twenty-six he started the Classical Chamber Concert

series at the Hanover Square Rooms in London introducing such important artists as Jenny Lind, Joseph Joachim and Clara Schumann to the London stage. He founded the Bach Society (a precursor to the Bach Choir in London today) to direct the ground breaking first English performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion in 1854. Two years later he was elected professor of music at Cambridge where he set about raising the standards for degree awards. At the same time he succeeded Wagner as conductor of the orchestra of the Philharmonic Society restoring its fortunes after a turbulent period in its history and was later to become the first recipient of their coveted gold medal. Returning to composition in later life he produced a Sonata duo for cello and piano, a symphony, several anthems and two large scale choral pieces making a total of 130 works (some of which have since been recorded)

Much has been written about an English musical renaissance naming such luminaries as Elgar, Delius and Holst. Coincidentally all three died in 1934 each of their obituaries claiming them to be the rightful successor to Purcell. However Bennett played an early and significant role helping to bridge that yawning gap, for example by nurturing a Bach revival originally initiated by such figures as Samuel Wesley and generously encouraging the work of some of his contemporaries and students. The trouble was that credit is so often given to the reaper rather than the sower. Exactly one hundred and fifty years ago in 1866 Bennett was appointed principal of the Royal Academy of Music. It could not have come at a more challenging moment for such a gentle, retiring person who shunned the limelight. The directors had voted to close the institution amid criticisms of low standards and financial problems. The government had withdrawn its grant and Henry Cole who had been a key figure in setting up the Great Exhibition sought to take advantage of the Academy's plight recommending it be subsumed into a larger educational and cultural enterprise on land purchased in the South Kensington area out of profits from Exhibition thus threatening academic independence. However, as with the Philharmonic, Bennett's greatest contribution came in time of peril. With steely determination he successfully resisted, cut costs and persuaded the new Prime Minister, William Gladstone, to reinstate the grant. By 1870 the Academy had become solvent again with a rise in standards and students numbers. He had effectively saved it from extinction and today that institution holds a most enviable position in the world. He became a highly influential music educator and his many students included Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir Hubert Parry. He was knighted in 1871 and

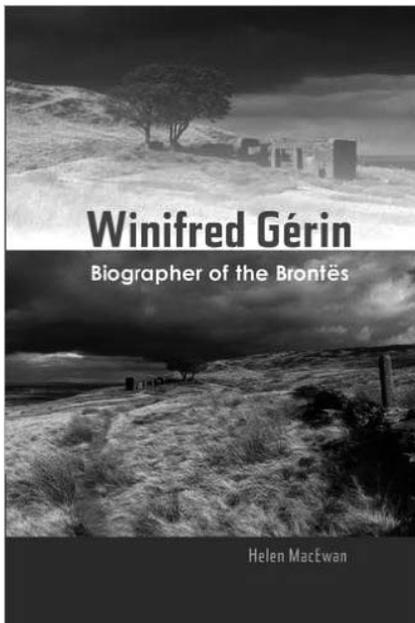
is buried in Westminster Abbey, the acknowledged head of English music at that time. Several of his descendants chose to pursue careers in the world of music and the theatre. He left a substantial and well documented music library which includes his letters of appointment, programmes, formal invitations and medal associated with the Great Exhibition.

At the turn of the century, like so many Victorian artists, Bennett became relegated to the footnotes of musical history. The great reformer Sir Henry Hadow wrote in 1931 that 'Bennett held a most honourable place on the mid slopes. He found English music a barren land, enriched its soil and developed its cultivation'. It then took another 40 years before researchers began a reappraisal only to find that under the cobwebs lay a clearer understanding of the foundations that have contributed to the vibrant musical landscape we enjoy and tend to take for granted in this country today with Groves Dictionary declaring that Bennett was the most distinguished English composer of the early Victorian era. However one thing is clear; his association with the Great Exhibition and Crystal Palace played an important part in his life and work.

Barry Sterndale-Bennett

FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE BRONTËS – THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF A WRITER FROM NORWOOD

'Winifred Gérin: Biographer of the Brontës' by Helen MacEwan
(Sussex Academic Press, 2016), 250 pages pb £19.95, ISBN 978-1-84519-743-8.



Winifred Gérin is best known as the biographer of the four Brontë siblings, particularly for her life of Charlotte published in 1967, but her life, marked several times by tragedy, is full of interest, encompassing many other roles. Winifred, the youngest of four siblings, was born in 1901 into a prosperous and cultured family who lived in Oak Tree House, No. 216 South Norwood Hill, a sixteen-room mansion standing roughly opposite the junction of South Norwood Hill with Whitehorse Lane where Howden Court now stands. The house is long gone, having been destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944. There was a long garden descending towards South

Norwood Lake and a balcony at the rear of the house gave views of the Crystal Palace to the north.

The children of Frederick and Katharine Bourne enjoyed an idyllic Edwardian childhood in this house which always had three or four servants and a governess for the children. The comfortable home had plenty of books which their parents would read to them, and all became keen readers of literature and history which helped to stimulate their imaginations. There were many visits to the Crystal Palace and also to London theatres for pantomimes and to the Royal Albert Hall for concerts.

But tragedy first struck the Bourne family at Christmas 1911 when the eldest child Phil, a fifteen year-old pupil at Whitgift School, died from diphtheria. That dreadful disease was still quite common in those days and, although an antidote was available, the



Junction South Norwood Hill / Whitehorse Lane

family doctor (perhaps intent on celebrating Christmas) failed to give prompt attention. The family moved to the Queen's Hotel in Church Road, while nurses came to care for Phil at Oak Tree House. Winifred, just ten years old, was later to record that her childhood had ended that Christmas. Both parents were inconsolable, but by the spring of 1913 they were able to take the family to Paris where they all had a wonderful time in the last year of 'La Belle Epoque'. Back in Norwood both Winifred and her sister Nell studied oil painting at the Crystal Palace Art School. Nell had a real talent for art which was fostered there, but Winifred was indifferent, her loves being history and literature. Both girls had been educated at home by governesses. But in 1915 Winifred was sent to Sydenham High School on Westwood Hill where its modern, expanded buildings still occupy the same site. Her talents were nurtured here and in 1920 she was able to take up a place at Newnham College, Cambridge to study History and French (later English and French). At Cambridge Winifred was to see much of her Norwood friend Dorothy Ely, now married to the philosopher Professor GE Moore (who also came from Norwood), regarded as a 'guru' to the Bloomsbury Group.

In 1922 tragedy struck the Bourne family a second time. Winifred's brother Roger, a brilliant Oxford student and a promising medievalist, developed symptoms of insanity and was committed to Holloway Asylum in Surrey where he spent the rest of his life and died in 1979 aged 80.

After Cambridge Winifred did not take a job, as might have been expected from a clever young woman in the 1920s, but returned home to Norwood, enjoying many holidays in France with her parents. While on holiday in Cannes in 1927 Winifred, a prolific but unpublished poet, met and fell in love with Eugène Gérin, a Belgian professional cellist five years older than her. They were married at Croydon registry office in September 1932, leaving immediately for Paris where they lived until the outbreak of war, Eugène undertaking professional engagements in France and elsewhere in Europe. In September 1939 they went to live in Brussels where Winifred worked in the British Embassy. When the Germans invaded Belgium and France in May 1940 the Gérins were separated for a while (Eugène was in the Belgian Army), but after several adventures were reunited in Nice which was in the 'unoccupied zone' of France ruled by the Vichy Government. Here they did heroic work helping Jews to escape to England through Spain and Portugal. Finally, the Gérins themselves were granted exit

visas (officially for Angola) and were able to travel by train to Spain (including a stopover in Madrid where they visited the Prado) and then to Portugal from where they were flown home to England.

Back in Britain, Winifred did political intelligence work at Aspley Guise, not far from Bletchley Park, while Eugène worked for the Belgian government in exile. The third tragedy in Winifred's life occurred in February 1945 when Eugène died from a pulmonary embolism just days before his 49th birthday. Towards the end of 1945 Winifred went to live with Nell in a house in West Cromwell Road, SW5 which she had bought with her inheritance from their mother. Winifred and Eugène had no children, but they were both godparents to his nephew Paul, born in 1933, and in due course Winifred became close to his five children. Some of the most moving passages in the book concern her relationship with Paul and his family.

Winifred had long had a passion for the Brontës and their novels. She had published poetry, and plays about Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë, but she had not achieved recognition. In 1955 she married John Lock, who was twenty years her junior. John was a Brontë enthusiast too and they moved to Haowarth in Yorkshire to study and to write. Her first Brontë biography, of Anne the author of 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall', was published in 1959. She and John separated in 1965 and she returned to London to live with Nell. Her last Brontë biography, of Emily, was published in 1971. In her later years she became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was appointed OBE. She published more books, including a biography of Elizabeth Gaskell, the first biographer of Charlotte Brontë and a famous novelist herself. Winifred died in June 1981, just a few months after Nell.

Helen McEwan has done a fine job in writing the life of this most interesting woman. Winifred Gérin was much more than 'just' a biographer of famous novelists. Helen MacEwan will be talking to the Norwood Society at Upper Norwood Library on May 19th and that will be an opportunity to learn more about Winifred Gérin's fascinating life. The author has acknowledged the help given her by the South Norwood local historian John Hickman and by Alun and Barbara Thomas, members of the Norwood Society's committee.

Richard Lines

All Saints' Church Yard Project

Stephen Oxford, Norwood Society Committee member, is currently researching the lives of the many people buried in the All Saints' Church Yard. He would welcome information from people who may know about family or other graves there as well as people who could spare time to contribute to researching some of the family histories. He may be contacted at: soxford@blueyonder.co.uk To date he has been working on the pauper orphan burials, of which there are 900!

The Paupers' Burial

The following lines, 'truly delineate the cold indifference with which the poor remains of those who are born to suffer and die, are huddled into the grave':

Bury them there
No matter where!
Hustle them out of the way,
Trouble enough
We have with such stuff,
Taxes and money to pay.

Bury them there
No matter where!
Off in some corner at best!
There's no need of stones
Above their bones
Nobody'll ask where they rest.

Bury them there
No matter where!
None by their death are bereft:
Stopping to pray?
Shovel away!
We still have enough of them left.

adapted from the Cherry Valley Gazette. 1875.

THE BUSINESS OF UNDERTAKERS & STONEMASONS IN NORWOOD

This article is based on my talk given to the Norwood Society in October 2015.

With the population growth of London in the 19th century more burial space became necessary. Thus seven private cemeteries were created around London, the second opening at Norwood in 1837 by the South Metropolitan Cemetery Company. With the advent of this cemetery the trades of undertaking and stonemasonry flourished in Lower Norwood. This continued with the coming of the Crystal Palace District Cemetery to Anerley in 1876, when these trades spread outwards.

Norwood Cemetery

This was designed by Sir William Tite on a 40 acre site with two chapels, an office, an entrance arch and was surrounded by high brick walls and cast iron railings. It was the first to be designed in the Gothic style, repeated in most other cemeteries, a style advocated by John Claudius Loudon, a landscape gardener concerned with cemetery design. The smaller dissenters chapel was demolished by 1955, as a result of WW1 damage, and replaced in 1956 by the present crematorium. The Anglican Chapel was subsequently demolished. Cremation had initially been introduced in 1915. Norwood was considered to be one of the finest cemeteries, thus in the early years those buried were more usually from outside the area, and the more wealthy. Unfortunately, cemeteries such as Norwood have not always been well cared for, and already by 1843 the condition of the cemetery was described as "the most degrading of all" by James Edwards. By 1960 it was so neglected that it was taken over by Lambeth Council in 1966. The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery continue its work to improve this situation.

The first and only burial in 1837 was on 12 December. In 1838 there were about 40 burials, rising to 90 in 1839, and by 1840 about 153 burials took place. The number of burials dramatically peaked between 1890 and 1900 to about 2,350 per year, which gradually diminished to about 1,600 in 1905, then declined further to about 1,300 during WW1.

One of the largest funerals held at Norwood was that of Charles Haddon Spurgeon in 1892. His popularity was such that he preached to an audience of 23,00 at Crystal Palace. Born in 1834 and living latterly on Beulah Hill, he was

responsible for the building of the Metropolitan Tabernacle at the Elephant and Castle.

West Norwood (Lower Norwood)

The advent of the Cemetery in 1837 saw the proliferation of undertakers and stone masons in the Lower (West) Norwood area. Probably the most familiar of these is **Wilson James Benson** – 5 generations of undertakers with the same name!

James Benson Wilson (5) wrote “The Story of Norwood”, and his original script written before he died in 1949 was finished by his brother Harry. The book was first published in 1973, then in 1990 by the Norwood Society. The quotes that follow are from that book.

James (1) was born about 1779 in Kendal, Westmorland, settled in Camberwell where he had 3 children, and then moved to Lower Norwood by 1841, his wife by then had probably died. Family accounts suggest he came to Norwood in 1830 as there was originally a lease dated March between James Corner, builder, and James Benson Wilson, yeoman, the premises described as being on the eastside of Elderhole Road, Lower Norwood, Surrey. Quote: “The premises were then just a four-roomed cottage with a small scullery at the back. Here he began his business of cabinet-maker, upholsterer and undertaker. When he retired he went to live in a house off Chapel Road where Woodcote Place now stands.” Chapel Road is one of the oldest in Norwood, and was originally called Gipsey House Road.

His will of October 1854 refers to four dwelling houses and premises, numbers 1&4 Woodcote Place Chapel Road, a dwelling house and shop known as London House High Street, and also a house and shop by Albany Street, Albany Road, Camberwell, all bequeathed to his son, also James Benson Wilson (2). He leaves to his surviving daughter, Hannah (who died in 1864), three dwelling houses and premises no 2&3 Chapel Road, and also a private dwelling house and premises next to London House. He died in December of that year and is buried at St Luke's West Norwood with his other daughter Eliza, also a single woman. She unfortunately died in 1848 age 31 having had an abortion. A coroner's inquest was held after her burial at the Kings Head, Norwood, which was reported in several papers, and where her father was described as a venerable man, near 80 years of age. In 1851 he was reported to be a retired shopkeeper, and both daughters were dressmakers.

By this time his son James (2) (born 1823) was a carpenter in the High Street employing two men, and married with a further James Benson (3) (born 1852), the eldest of 7 children. Quote: “ My great grandfather also took the cottage next door and built shop fronts on the front gardens of both of them. By this time the population had grown, his duties as an undertaker were more numerous, so one of the two shops was used for undertaking and the other for cabinet-making”. By 1881, this James (3) in turn was married with children including James Benson (4) (born 1880), and now called himself an undertaker. Quote: “furniture, cabinet-making and the building side of the business were all discontinued”.

Living with them was his mother in law, a widow calling herself an upholdress. (nb upholder is a name for undertaker)

Both she and her husband are buried at Norwood Cemetery (No 9024 Square 13), although no gravestone is apparent. By 1911 this James (3) had now moved to 9 Wolfington Road, Norwood where the family occupied 7 rooms. His son James Benson (4) continues with the business in the High Street occupying 5 rooms, is now married producing James Benson Wilson (5) in 1905. (the James who wrote the book)



Generation 3, 4 & 5 of the Wilson family are buried at Norwood Cemetery, with three gravestones clearly seen not far from the entrance. Bethel Chapel, Dunbar Street was built in 1868 by (his ggt gf.) (JBW 2) at a cost of £355. He writes that its first and only pastor Rev Silvester died in the pulpit one Sunday shortly after announcing his text “Rejoice in the Lord”. When the Chapel was taken over by the London

City Mission in 1938, Rev Leonard Wilson, James (5) other brother, preached the first sermon there from the text: “The Glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former”.

Lambeth Archives hold two of the business account books from 1852 to 1879 belonging to Wilson. In 1852 Wilson undertook just 2 Funerals which gradually increased to 164 in 1879.

Quote: “In the early days the account of each funeral took up a whole foolscap page. They include such items as the payment of tolls, hire of mutes, hire of velvet pall, hatbands and gloves for gentlemen, cloaks and gloves for ladies, and, at the end, refreshments for men”.

Mutes, there were usually two, were men dressed in black, with their top hats adorned by black silk hatbands like black silk scarves tied round the hat with the ends hanging down at the back. They wore black silk sashes over their shoulders, while in their hands they held mutes’ poles, shaped like polo sticks and draped with black crepe. I have two of these poles still. These two men would stand at the front door of the house for an hour before the funeral, and would walk in front of the cortege to the cemetery. In those early days nearly all the local funerals to St Luke's Churchyard or Norwood Cemetery were walking funerals. The coffin was carried, often by relays of men, sometimes from as far as Woodland Road, the mourners walking behind.

“The first horse-drawn hearses were like a large box on wheels (glass sided hearses came later). The sides were draped with black velvet and huge black plumes of feathers were placed on top of it. The horses also had these black plumes on their heads and velvet cloth over their backs, two, four or even six horses being used. If six were used a postillion in a black velvet jacket rode on the leading near-side horse. The bearers who walked beside the hearse carried short oak staffs with brass ends called truncheons, while beside each carriage walked a “page” who carried a “wand” like the wand of office carried by churchwardens. Its purpose was to assist him to keep the crowd back from the carriage doors. Coffins in the early days were always covered with black cloth studded with many rows of brass nails in various panels and patterns. All the pomp and show has now disappeared with all the deep mourning clothes that went with it.”

In early photographs Pipers stone masons are prominent opposite Norwood Cemetery.

Piper & The Art Memorial Company

William Piper, a mason, was established in Lower Norwood in 1837, his premises opposite the Cemetery where Yeatman now is. The original building can still be seen behind the later shop front. Street directories show that he was also at Deptford Lower Road in 1836/7.

In 1896 Pipers became the Art Memorial Company. An advert in the Times names a Daniel Wood as the principal of the A.M.Co. which suggests that he had acquired the company from William Piper. In 1933 the company moved a few doors down to where the florists now are, but in 1936 they again moved around the corner to Bloom Grove. The last entry for the Art Memorial Company in street directories is 1956. The AMCo. was responsible for a number of prominent memorials including the 27ft high Ipswich Martyrs memorial unveiled in 1903, and the one of Sir Henry Stanley at Pirbright, Surrey. William Piper is also listed in Elmers End Road, opposite Crystal Palace District Cemetery.

History of the Piper family.

Thomas Piper (1), born c1755, was the son of William Piper, a butcher from Hampton, Mdx. By 1851 Thomas is living in Denmark Hill, married to Elizabeth Benson and is a builder employing 900 men. Three of his sons, Thomas, Henry Hunt and William, were involved in his business. The eldest, Thomas (2), was a mason, his sons Wilson and Harvey also involved in the business. A younger son Reginald was a wine and spirit merchant living in Gipsy Hill, who died in 1916 at Camberwell House, Peckham, then a lunatic asylum.

Henry Hunt was a plumber, and William became a building contractor. Business was carried on at East Cheap and Bishopsgate Street in the City. William also operated from Palace Road, Stangate, Lambeth in 1855, taking over the premises of Christie's Glassworks in 1866, where he was connected with the invention of improvements in cutting stone. William soon moved out to live at Beechwood, Fitzroy Park, Highgate, the neighbour of William Ewart Gladstone. Beechwood was built about 1840 by Baseri for his brother, and presently lived in by Usmanov, the richest man in Russia! Both he and his wife Elizabeth Harvey died there. At his death in 1900 he left £117,000 to his three sons, none of whom carried on his business. The Piper family were all nonconformists, such that Thomas' (2) eldest daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Binney, a prominent preacher. A further daughter Anna married Josiah Viney who, by 1859, was the minister of Highgate Congregational Chapel. All of Thomas's children were baptised at Fish Street Hill Independent Chapel. At least 11 of the family are buried in Norwood Cemetery, marked by a rather unusual monument made by Piper, probably the earliest monument that still exists. (grave 20, square 42)

Members of the Piper family are listed in "The Biographical Dictionary of Sculptors in Britain 1660-1851" by Ingrid Roscoe published in 2009. Thomas

Piper (1) was the chief mason employed in building Fishmongers Hall from 1788 until his death in 1794, the work completed by his widow Elizabeth who took over the business. Thomas Piper (2) was the mason responsible for re-building Goldsmiths Hall in 1830. Thomas Piper (2&3) were responsible for re-building the Customs House in 1825-7, and also the Dyers Hall in 1840/1. Thomas Piper (2) was the mason for the City of London 1803 until his death in 1858. Thomas Piper (3) has been described as “a man of active benevolence”. His brother William was Piper the stone mason at Norwood.



Yeatman

Yeatman, stone masons, were founded in Norwood in 1886 and originally next to Norwood Cemetery at 1 High Street. They also had a shop at 2 Knights Hill on the corner of Bloom Grove.

Albert Yeatman was born in 1844 in Oxfordshire and by 1871 was at Somers Town, St Pancras as a mason, and by 1891 at Nunhead Crescent where he died in 1902. His son Horace Vincent (born 1868 Mdx) was also a mason, and in 1901 and 1911 was living at 2 Knights Hill. He died at 248 Norwood Road in 1949. Horace's younger brother William Arthur (born 1870) was also a mason, and by 1901 was living at 1 High Street, but by 1911 had moved to Westcliffe on Sea as a stone mason, where he died in 1914.

In 1931 Yeatman had moved into Pipers building. In time they also became undertakers, and by 1974 were no longer masons. The last remaining male member of the Yeatman family was Ronald Yeatman who sold the company to Alfred Smith of Southwark in 1974.

A condition of that sale was that the Yeatman name should be retained on the West Norwood premises.

Alfred Smith was founded in 1881 by Alfred Crawford Smith, a hatbox maker of Southwark, who, after losing one of his children, decided he could better the services of other undertakers. By the time of his death in 1933, his Funeral

Directors were one of the most renowned in South London, noted for its completely black horses. 12 years ago the Smith family split the business, with one part including Yeatman becoming part of a national combine, and the other part being an independent company based in Carshalton. Yeatman & Sons were also at Garratt Lane, Tooting & Streatham Vale.

There is another Yeatman funeral directors in the Poole area with names similar to those at Norwood, and it is possible there is a connection.

Undertakers

In the 19th century the High Street and Chapel Road were the heart of Lower Norwood.

Deacon

In his book Wilson refers to the Deacon family by the corner of Denmark Place (off Chapel Road) as ironmongers, builders and carpenters. Thomas Deacon came here in 1841, initially as a builder, with sons Alfred and Mark as carpenters. When he died in 1843, Alfred continued at 39 Chapel Place, becoming additionally an ironmonger. Mark, now at Elm House in Chapel Road, continued in the building trade. The London Gazette 31st Dec 1867 states that the partnership is dissolved between Alfred and Mark Deacon as builder, carpenter and undertaker under the firm of Alfred and Mark Deacon. The family are buried at Norwood Cemetery (grave 680, square 67), the memorial no longer there.



Stonemasons

Minter was the last remaining stonemason in the area, and Harris refers to him in “Old Surviving Trades of South London” with a description of the trade, and quotes are from that book.

Albert, son of Johnson Minter, came from Boxsted, Essex, initially to Chapel Road in 1881 as an ag lab, but by 1891 is at 41 Rommany Road, as a carman, at no 89 in 1901 as a masons labourer, continuing as a monumental mason living at no 65 by 1911.

From about 1914 to at least 1955 he is shown to have moved the business to 1 Pilgrim Hill. Albert died in 1940, probate to his son Walter, mason to whom he leaves £616,000. Walter died in 1960 in King's College Hospital, and his son Edward (born 1925) is the next proprietor by 1897. He designed and built the mausoleum at Brookwood Cemetery at Woking. "He and his staff camped in a caravan for three nights until the work was completed."

"60% of their headstone marble comes from Italy. Other marble is imported from Yugoslavia and Finland. The basic processes for making a monument are: Material acquired in raw, known as Scantling; Cut to approximate shape; Mason finishes the shape accurately; Piece is carved- roses, scrolls, tassels, etc; Piece is finely rubbed down and /or polished; Monument is lettered and erected. A 1902 Minter price list details a cross and base for £3.10 s and lead lettering at sixpence a letter (old money). Today (1987) the cross and base would cost about £150 and lead lettering is £1.10p a letter. Renovation of headstones is dependent upon the weather as the stone has to be completely dry; also, because they are so heavy they mainly have to be worked on at their resting place. It is not a good idea to place any objects in direct contact with the stone or marble as both stain deeply; rusty nails and flowers are common culprits. The stains cannot be removed."

"Edward continues to supply his customers both near and far with his high quality craftsmanship. He has two sons but they use their hands for lighter work; one is an advertising copywriter who lives in Australia, and the other one works in Dulwich and is involved with computers."

Curnick

Wilson also mentions "The house next to the Chapel at the corner of Curnick's Lane was the residence of Mr Curnick stone-mason." The Curnick family, originated in Wiltshire, and came to live in Battersea. George born there in 1798 came to Knights Hill Road in 1841 with his wife and son Edward, both carpenters. George died in 1843 and the family are buried at St Luke's West Norwood. In 1851 Richard, the son of George's brother Thomas, was living nearby at 1 Curnick Row off Chapel Road as a master stone mason employing 15 men. Adjacent to him lived more masons: Thomas Smith from Camberwell, and Samuel Bond from Norwood.

Bolingbrooke

In 1851 Edward Bolingbroke (born 1822) a stone mason from Essex, is plying

his trade at No 1 Daniel Cottage among other masons including Henry Daniel (born 1806) from Southwark at Daniel Cottage, at No 2 John Hillam (born 1793) from Peterborough, and at No 3 Benjamin Bowers (born 1791 from Dorset. By 1861 Edward had moved to 31 Chapel Road, and later to Gloucester Road (now Cotswold Street). From 1876 to 1892 he is in the High Street. His sons were all involved in the business, Edward and William as stone masons. Charles moved to Brighton as a mason and letter cutter. Henry was a monumental engraver, but by 1911 had moved to Brookwood, Woking as a letter cutter. Alfred a mason followed his brother to Brookwood and became an engraver.

Edward's brother Henry was also a stone mason with a son James who were at Pawsons Road, Croydon. Edward died on 6 August 1887 and is buried in Norwood Cemetery (grave 20337 square 125), the memorial no longer there.

Nearer to the Cemetery was **Jackson**.

William Myles Jackson, born in Pimlico in about 1820, was in 1861 living in 4 Sydenham Place, later called Lansdowne Hill, as a sculptor and mason. In 1871 he was at Castle House, Norwood Road on the corner of Lansdowne Hill. By 1881 he was a master sculptor employing 3 men and 1 apprentice, his son Oliver Myles a mason and letter cutter. His older son Arthur is shown as a photographer. By 1891 William has moved to 1 Queen Villas, New Street, Hampton, Mdx, William still a sculptor, and his son Arthur, a photographer, living with them. William probably died in 1899.

Family memoirs suggest that William worked on many of the mausoleums and head stones as well as part of the entrance archway at Norwood Cemetery, and that his work caused "a stir" in Norwood. He is purported to have built his own house, the large square house on the corner of the Norwood Road and Lansdowne Hill.

At the foot of Knight's Hill (where the bus garage now is) was **Allen**.

James Allen 1807-1891 came from Sussex as a labourer, his sons then living in Lower Norwood. Edward his second son (born 1836) was living at 4 Beadman Street, off Gloucester Road (now Cotswold Street), as a labourer in 1871. But by 1881 he had become a stone mason living at Knights Hill, and by 1901 was listed as a stone and marble (monumental) mason. He moved to 110 Rommany Road when retired and died in 1917. Edward's five sons were all involved with the local business. His son Joseph (born 1867) had moved to 3 Waldeck Road as

a letter cutter by 1891, moving to no 3 then 42 Sainsbury Road in the 1900s, and becoming a monumental mason in stone and marble. He worked for Whitehead & Sons in Kennington. Members of the Allen family are buried in Norwood Cemetery.

John (born 1849) the youngest son of James also became a stonemason and moved his business to Croydon. Some of these masons were involved with significant work, and I have to thank the Allen family for their help with this.

In Norwood Road (near Iceland where the shop 'WearAbouts' now is) was **Comley**.

Joseph Beach Comley, born in Monmouth in 1854, came to 7 High Street, Norwood by 1901 as a monumental sculptor, by 1909 at 358 Norwood Road and by 1911/9 at 198 Norwood Road until 1933. By 1907 he is also listed at 901 Garratt Lane Tooting, and by 1919 at 784 Garratt Lane as a stone and marble mason. He died in Hertfordshire in 1943, intestate, leaving £3,322 to the Public Trustees. Two sons helped him in the business, Leonard as a letter cutter, and Alan who died later in America. The eldest son William Josiah born in Brompton was an organist of some standing, moving to Hertfordshire. In 1960 JB Comley and Sons Ltd are listed as Funeral Directors at 358 Norwood Road, but are gone by 1965.

A mason that started in Norwood but moved to Anerly was **Bishop**.

Albert John Bishop from IOW (born 1856), came to 15 Knights Hill Road in 1881 as a mason. In 1891 he is living at 1 Catherine Villas, Beckenham where he is shown as a foreman of masons, and in 1901 he has moved to 129 Mackenzie Road, both addresses near Crystal Palace Cemetery. The 1903 street directory shows Bishop now owning Piper's Elmers End branch, opposite this Cemetery, and the entry claims he had been the manager for Piper for the previous 20 years.

Crystal Palace District Cemetery (and Beckenham Crematorium)

Founded much later in 1876 on a 30 acre site, was the CP & District Cemetery. It originally had two chapels, but the consecrated one was demolished in the 1960s following damage in WW11. The survivor was converted into a crematorium in 1956. Previously owned by the Beckenham Crematorium Company, it is now owned by Dignity Funerals Ltd. Inside the main entrance is a large Edwardian Lodge. There are 130 WW1 graves which include casualties from the Royal Naval Depot at Crystal Palace Park, and also 127 WW11 graves.



Upper Norwood masons & undertakers

Opposite the Cemetery was **Candy**.

William Candy a mason from Frome, Somerset had two sons, both born in Gloucs, Thomas (born 1827) and William (born 1828) who in 1841 are in Dursley Union Workhouse, Gloucs.

William became an

umbrella maker remaining in Gloucs, but by 1881 Thomas had come to 28 Sydenham Road, Sydenham as a sculptor and mason. In 1891 he was a monumental mason living in Beckenham with two sons, William (born 1876) and George (born 1882). By 1901 he is living at Derby Road Croydon as an monumental sculptor and employer and George a black and white lettering artist. Thomas had died in 1905 (buried in Queens Road Cemetery, Croydon), while living with George at Roselea, 59 Lodge Road, W. Croydon where George in 1911 is shown as the joint managing director of a monumental masons. George died in 1949 leaving almost £6,000 to his widow. William was living at Rosebank, Bourdon Road, Anerley in 1901 as a monumental mason, and by 1911 was the Director and Secretary of a Limited Company of monumental masons. He died in 1950 at Cheam Lodge, Anerley Road, leaving c £5,500 to his widow.

Thomas had another son from a previous marriage Alfred Thomas Candy born in 1857 at Hobart, Tasmania while Thomas was living there for a period. In 1891 he was living in 44 Love Lane Croydon as a mason and in 1901 he was at the Monumental Works in Elmers End Road. By 1911 he was at 263 Birkbeck Road, Beckenham, a salesman to a monumental firm with his two sons who were letter cutters. Messrs T Candy & Sons still existed in 1939 as the firm are referred to in a newspaper report of a family Golden Wedding.

Undertakers

Heynes

In 1861 John Heynes (born c1816), a cow keeper from Oxford, arrived at Westow Street, and by 1881 he had become an ironmonger at No 13. In 1881 his son Henry (born 1849) is shown as a gas fitter at 3 Heynes Yard, and in 1889 at 51 Westow Street as a plumber. From 1891 to 1897 Henry is listed at 44 Westow Street as ironmonger/gas fitter, and in 1897 also 1-6 Heynes Lane. In 1901, now living at 48 Gipsy Hill, he has become a builder & undertaker with two sons as builders assistants, but by 1911 he had become solely an undertaker, his wife an assistant in the trade. He died in 1925.

Prominent in Westow Street was **Cullen**.

In 1881 Edmund Cullen from Ramsgate (born 1835) moved from Deptford to 5 Westow Street next to the lodge of the Royal Normal College. He is described as a carpenter, his oldest son William helping him. The business expanded and now Edmund is also an undertaker with his son Edmund Ralph involved, at the same address, probably renumbered 70. The older son, William was now running a branch of the business at 3/8 Station Road, Anerley. By 1901 Edmund Ralph was married with a son William and living at 105 Central Hill. In 1905 Edmund the founder of the business died, and William now appears to be the principal, returning to Westow Street. Two of William's sons were involved in the business which continued after William's death in 1954 in Bromley. It was still listed in 44 Westow Street and 8 Station Road Anerley in the 1975 street directory. Cullens also owned property in Forest Hill, Woolwich and Norwood Road. From 1910 to 1928 they also ran a stonemason's business in Carberry Road. When the business ceased is difficult to know, but there exists a photo of a stonemason's yard in West Croydon with a lorry with E. Cullen, West Croydon written on it. There is a memorial to Edmund Ralph Cullen and family at the Crystal Palace Cemetery Company (Beckenham).

Auctioneers and estate agents often advertised as also undertakers, possibly sub-contracting this work to others. Two such firms were:

Mansell and Rowe was established in 1821 with offices at 1 Belvedere Road. The street directory of 1884/5 lists them at 120 Church Road, but by 1902 they

are at 47 Church Road as estate agents. The London Gazette of 1951 refers to the address as 99 Church Road as auctioneers.

Willoughby

Thomas Burn Willoughby came from Westminster, was living in Norwood High Street in 1851 as a cabinet maker and becoming a house agent and upholsterer. From 1861 to 1871 he is living in Thurlow Place in his upholsterer's shop. By 1881 he was living at Chestnut Villa, 7 Lansdowne Hill with two of his sons, Thomas and James, also involved in the auctioneer's business. His eldest son, William Nelson (b 1844), eventually took over the business from his father who died in 1890, which was now as an auctioneers. (William had moved to 399 Norwood Road by 1891, and then by 1900 to 53 Lancaster Road. William married Louisa Collins in 1867 at Norwood Independent Chapel.) William's brother James was also involved in the business, and by 1901 was as an estate agent, then moving to north London. William Nelson died in 1907 and was buried on 11th April in Norwood Cemetery (grave 31875 square 43 the memorial no longer there) when living at 8 York Road. His son William Henry, after marriage, became an estate agent in Bournemouth. This is a typical example of the business expanding by the family and moving to other areas.

*Barbara Thomas
November 2015*

NORWOOD SOCIETY BOOKS

BOOK	PRICE	POST
The Phoenix Suburb by Alan R. Warwick	£ 9.99	£12.60
Norwood – A Second Selection by John Coulter	£12.99	£16.50
Exploring Upper Norwood South of All Saints' Church by Stephen Oxford	£ 4.00	£ 5.50
Biggin Wood by Betty Griffin	£ 3.50	£ 5.60
Emile Zola Photographer in Norwood	£ 7.99	£10.90
The Story of Norwood by J. B. Wilson	£ 6.95	£ 9.95
Emile Zola & The Story of Norwood	£10.00	£13.00
Glimpses of Norwood by Alan R. Warwick	£ 1.50	£ 2.00
On the Trail of Norwood by John Yaxley	£ 1.50	£ 2.00
Thomas Ross of Kilravock House: His Life and Times by Eric Kings	£ 4.00	£ 6.20
Treetops & Terraces: And the walls came-a-tumbling down by Beryl Cheeseman	£ 6.00	£ 8.50
Upper Norwood Triangle Memories by Beryl Cheeseman	£ 7.99	£10.50

To order:

e-mail: secretary@norwoodsociety.co.uk

Telephone: 020 8653 8768

Post: The Norwood Society, 38 South Vale, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3BA

In order to save on postage you may collect the book(s) personally.



—The—
NORWOOD
SOCIETY

Represents the interests of the people who live or work in Norwood to local authorities and government agencies.

Researches the history of Norwood, publishes literature and sponsors publications about its history and culture.

Communicates informations through talks, exhibitions and the Norwood Review, our quarterly journal.

Although the Norwood Society cannot provide expert advice on planning, transport, trees and open spaces, it takes a close interest in these matters, and would welcome information about them in the Norwood area. It may not be able to become directly involved in all of them, but would be able to advise on suitable sources of help and possible strategies.