



Newsletter

Autumn 2021

The Friends work to improve the condition of the Cemetery as a burial ground and to develop it as a place of quiet recreation for local people and as a haven for birds, bees and small mammals.

Review of 2021 by Kath Church, Chair of FoSC



The third national lockdown lasted from 6 January to 17 May 2021

2021 was a year of two halves: it started in lockdown and then slowly reverted to normality, with our first face-to-face committee meeting in May, which took place outdoors. Other outdoor events had already resumed with a **bat walk** on April 16th and two **history walks** organised by Geoff Simmons - on May 7th and 8th, all with restricted numbers of participants to comply with Covid rules.



New FoSC signage at each gate

In spite of lockdown, the Friends had been busy planning the year ahead via Zoom meetings in January and March. By the time we met for the May committee, Guy had purchased two bat detectors - which were used on our walk in April; he also installed a new FoSC metal sign at each entrance, alongside our bee poster. In addition, FoSC bought a storage container, to house new tables and benches for events.

After the May meeting several volunteers did a **litter pick** across the cemetery. In July we held our annual **butterfly walk**, with participants limited to the first 30 to request a place after advertising in the cemetery and on social media - see item overleaf.

By September, all restrictions were relaxed, so our **Open Day** went ahead as in previous years. Sadly, the weather was very unsettled. However, we put up two gazebos one for **Listening Cart** art activities, and another for a nature display with pebble painting, as well as our bees & honey table. Teas and cakes were available in the shelter of the porch in front of the vestry. In addition, we received a sizeable sum of donations for our honey, teas, cakes, woolly bees and butterfly rings. Both new and established members signed up, so the day was a resounding success. FoSC committee would like to say a big thank you to all our Friends, both old and new, who subscribed this year.



Open Day on 19 September. Damp conditions didn't deter visitors from art activities, a tree walk, enjoying tea and cakes and buying our delicious honey. (Thanks to @TootingNewsie for pictures)



Gathering at dusk for our September Bat Walk

Open day was followed by another **Bat Walk**, once again led by Lambeth's **Dr Iain Boulton**. About 70 people attended and used detectors supplied by FoSC and Dr Boulton to hear and see bats. The event was a great success and enjoyed by all participants.



Littered and lacklustre - the Friends hope to grow native bulbs and wildflowers by the gate

This year FoSC activity continues into Autumn with an exciting new project: re-planting the borders at **Broadwater Gate** to make the pedestrian entrance a beautiful, welcoming spot. The first working party met in October and started weeding and bulb planting. This project will continue during the year ahead.



Honey Fungus and Sulphur Tuft mushrooms

FoSC has recently met a local mushroom expert who showed committee members various types and where they grow in the cemetery. Hopefully this time next year we will hold a **mushroom hunt** event for all.

So 2021, which started so quietly with Covid restrictions in place, has ended with a flurry of interesting activities and events – both old and new.

Streatham Cemetery Beekeepers by Guy Eaglesfield, Head Beekeeper

Four colonies survived a long winter that included a couple of snowfalls. When May finally brought warmer weather, a lot of swarming activity began. One Sunday in May we were lucky enough to notice a colony had just relocated to a nearby fruit tree. Putting the colony into a new box seemed to satisfy its yearning for a new home and the colony has stayed with us.



June and July were favourably dry and bee numbers increased dramatically. We ended up with seven colonies - a new record. Quite a bit of time and expense was involved keeping them housed with sufficient frames. It might have been better to give away the smaller colonies rather than pay for their upkeep but Covid meant no beekeeping association meetings, limiting our contact with other beekeepers.

In early July we harvested some Spring honey in time for our Butterfly Walk. Over twenty jars were sold at the Walk and six more were donated to Lambeth staff at the cemetery.

Towards the end of August we took some Summer honey from the four strongest colonies. Forty-eight jars were sold at our Open Day in September. A fair year.



Successfully recapturing a swarm



Making frames and harvesting honey

Butterfly walk 18th July 2021

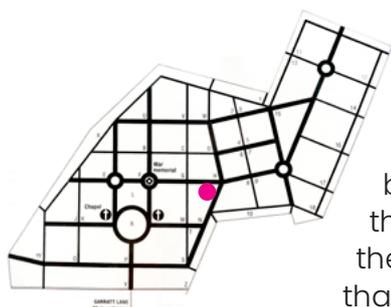
As mentioned above 30 people attended the butterfly walk which was led by Cherry. It was a cool dry day with some intermittent sunshine. However there were fewer butterflies than in previous years. This year seven types were spotted :

- Large White
- Small White
- Marbled White (see picture)
- Meadow Brown
- Gatekeeper
- Comma (see picture - not seen a lot in the cemetery; it was a lovely bright orange and stayed nearby for a while so we all got a good view of it)
- Red Admiral (always a welcome sight in the English summer)



Marbled White and Comma (Thanks to Ray Turner)

Of course the weather on the day has a huge impact on how many butterflies will be flying. It would be good to see if we can encourage other species by planting anything new to attract them. Something for FoSC to investigate and then put in our new borders at Broadwater Gate.



An Unknown Artist by Jane Winter

The north-east corner of plot N in the cemetery has an unusual headstone in the form of an artist's palette. It is between the first two trees and close to the path. It tells us that **Lilian Jessie Green** is buried there and that she died at the age of only 44 on 19th November 1937. Research reveals that she was the sister of Peter and Alfie, who worked in their

father's firm of Green & Stone. Alfred Green and his two sons had been employed by the once-famous Chenil art gallery, and Green & Stone was originally opened in the Kings Road in 1927, when it sold artists' frames. In 1934 it moved to the Fulham Road and by then had become a well-known supplier of everything artists need, especially paints. Lilian clearly knew the other family involved in the company, William and Mary Stone, as she was on the electoral register with them in the Kings Road, although the Stones lived in Norwood and Lilian's home was in Walworth. However, she obviously had links with Earlsfield, because she moved to Beechcroft Road in 1943 and spent the last year of her life there.



Her obituary in the Norwood News suggests that she was a well-known figure in the art world and a member of Chelsea Arts Club. If so, she must have been an honorary member, as CAC did not open its doors to women members until 1966. The choice of an artist's palette for her headstone strongly suggests that Lilian was herself an artist. She never married and she did not leave a will, even though she left over £5,000 when she died (worth nearly £350,000 today). Apart from that, little is known about her. She was, though, buried with "loving remembrance", so someone cared about her.

Six chess players interred in Streatham Cemetery

by Martin Smith, Streatham and Brixton Chess Club

All their graves are identified in the Cemetery except that of **Henry Edward Bird** (1829-1906) who is lost in Block H. An elite player, his 'martyrdom to gout' and lack of application prevented him achieving the highest honours. Bird was also an acknowledged expert in railway traffic analysis; he lived his final years in Chetwode Road, Upper Tooting.

Sir Wyke Bayliss (1835-1906; middle of Block S) was a life-long amateur player in Brixton and Nightingale Lane Chess Clubs, but was more famous as a painter of cathedral interiors. He was elected President of the Royal Society of British Artists in 1888 after an acrimonious fight with Whistler.



William Marshall (1857-1919: front of Block L) was Bayliss's sparring partner at Nightingale Lane CC. He was the club's secretary, leading it to success in the top Surrey and London Chess Leagues. He was a tea-trader by profession, living in Culverden Road, Balham.

Sir Wyke's nephew, **Reginald Wyke Bayliss** (1865-1937) and his wife **Ella Graham-Simpson** (1871-1914) are buried together 20 paces away from their uncle. Reginald played chess at Cambridge University, and in Croydon while a maths-master at Whitgift School. He published a maths primer, but was perhaps outshone by Ella who composed children's operettas. *The Ballad of Denton Hall*, mentioned on the eulogistic grave monument, is a more adult ghost story set in her native Yorkshire.

Frank Steadman (1880-1943; at the top edge of S) was a big-hitter at Brixton CC between the wars. He had a distinguished WW1 career as a surgeon-dentist. His collected correspondence is archived in the Imperial War Museum, and tells movingly of his war-work, and chess-playing, at the front.

Originally from Cornwall, **Carus Colliver** (1862-1954; buried in a now dilapidated grave in Block 16, by the erstwhile path) was a remarkable sporting allrounder, playing chess for Streatham CC and Surrey County, and draughts for England, while excelling in other sports besides. It is all in his Reminiscences dictated to his niece in 1945.

Forever Fishponds

This year Fishponds Field has been opened by arrangement for public recreation more often than ever before. We are delighted that our neighbouring green open space now has people enjoying the fresh air in this densely populated urban area. On October 27th there was a community fun day during the half term holiday. It was very popular with everybody including parents and children. FoSC had a tent with a bee and nature display, honey tasting and pebble painting. In addition, Lea led a walking forest of children around the field to show them the plants and trees that grow there. There were also home made cakes, tea, Listening Cart activities, rounders and boxing practice! Great fun was had by all. For more information contact forever/fishponds@gmail.com.

AGM

At **11am** on **Saturday 20 November in the Chapel** the Friends will hold their **2021 AGM**. All welcome. If you know someone who is interested in the cemetery but is not yet a Friend they will be able to gain membership at the meeting (for £5, see below).

Membership

Membership renewal for **2022** is due between now and the end of the year. We allowed existing members to continue free during 2021 as most events were cancelled. The subscription for next year is still £5. Please pay at the AGM or online to our bank account - details on the website. If you pay online, please email Carole, our membership secretary, so she can add you to our email list.

You can contact us on FriendsOfStreathamCemetery@gmail.com or or for membership and renewals email Carole on caroleaireland@aol.com.

More Links

Check out our website and Twitter account: www.FriendsOfStreathamCemetery.org.uk and http://twitter.com/FOSC_Tooting

To see pictures of wildlife in the cemetery, go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StreathamCemeteryWildlife>

For information about local history walks organised by Geoff Simmons, please go to:
www.summerstown182.wordpress.com

For information about burials in the cemetery email: bereavementservices@lambeth.gov.uk. The cemetery office is still only seeing people by appointment (Tel 020 7926 4221).

