

Hackney U3A
Exploring London

Abney Park Cemetery

Abney Park Cemetery was created in 1840 as a garden cemetery, from the gardens of two large houses and a smaller one. The large ones were Abney House and Fleetwood House, the smaller one Summerhouse.

It was planted also as an arboretum with trees supplied by Loddiges Nursery, Hackney. They imported trees from many parts of the world.

In the centre is a chapel which could be used for funeral services of any denomination.



Sir Thomas Abney (1640-1722), Lord Mayor of London (1700-1701)

His wife was **Mary** and it was she who inherited the Manor of Stoke Newington. She outlived her husband by many years. She died in 1750.

Isaac Watts, the nonconformist hymn writer ('O God, our help in ages past' was one of his) was a house guest for 36 years. His statue stands near the centre of the cemetery, just south of the chapel. In the north east corner there is a mound that marks his favourite spot to sit and contemplate.





Charles Fleetwood was a staunch supporter of Oliver Cromwell. He married Cromwell's daughter, Bridget. Fleetwood House was on Church St.

The chapel in the centre of the cemetery was for funeral services of any denomination. Funding has recently been obtained to renovate it.

Designed by William Hosking, controversial professor of architecture at King's College, it is considered to be one of the earliest examples of the Victorian Gothic revival. He also designed the Egyptian revival gates and gatehouse.

He planned the layout of the cemetery to be completely natural, disliking the formal layouts of the other six large cemeteries around London.



Leading members of the **Salvation Army** are buried to the south of the chapel close to the Church St. entrance.

Many members of the anti-slavery movement lived in Stoke Newington, including **William Allen** who gave his name to Allen Rd. I've not seen this grave myself so I'm not sure where it is.



Joanna Vassi, daughter of **Oloudah Equiano** (also known as **Gustavus Vassi**) who was born in Benin, sold into slavery when a boy but managed to gain freedom. He travelled widely as a sailor and later wrote his autobiography. Her grave is in the region of The Isaac Watts memorial.



Memorial to victims of bombing in 1940 many of whom lived in **Coronation Avenue**. Our member **Sylvia Anderson** who died earlier this year told me that a schoolfriend had been killed there. It is south of the chapel.



Make sure you see this wonderful grave of **Frank Bostock** who kept a travelling menagerie. It is also south of the chapel on the wide western path.

Other notable monuments to look out for are



James Braidwood, who improved the fire brigade in 19th century London and died fighting a giant fire in Tooley Street in 1861. Thousands lined the route of his funeral procession.

PC William Tyler who was killed in 1909 chasing bank-robbers in what became known as the Tottenham Outrage. His grave is marked with a monument with a policeman's helmet.



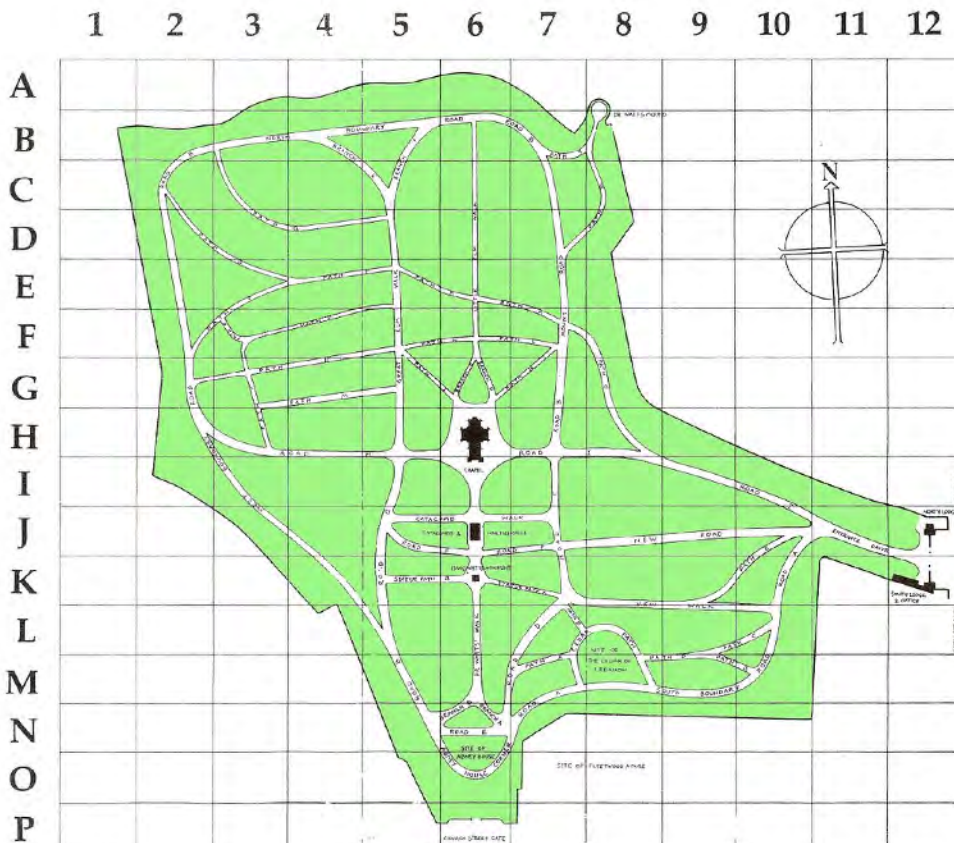


George Leybourne, music hall star known as 'Champagne Charlie', who wrote and performed popular numbers like 'The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze' and who is buried along with his son-in-law **Albert Chevalier**, also a music hall star and composer, whose most famous ditty was 'My Old Dutch'.

Also **Nelly Power**, another music hall star who lived in Southgate



Road and died tragically young. Her most famous number was 'The Boy I love is up in the Gallery', written for her, but 'stolen' and made famous by her erstwhile protege Marie Lloyd.



Church St entrance

Main gate

