

**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery
Practical Work Group Annual Report
1/4/2021 to 31/3/2022**

Hours worked

This section of the report covers all Friends of Nunhead Cemetery activities in the Cemetery recorded in the Volunteering book.

This report covers a full 12 months (although a tour and a Monument Inscription Recording day were cancelled due to Storm Eunice)

Total hours worked (monument inscriptions recording): 368 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours

Total number of volunteers (monument inscriptions recording): 14 volunteers

Total hours worked (practical work): 611.7 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours (Last year: 307 hours over 6 months)

Total number of volunteers (practical work): 43 volunteers (Last year: 19)

Total hours worked (publications desk): 212 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours

Total number of volunteers (publications desk): 16 volunteers

Total hours worked (special events): 238.75 hours

Total number of volunteers (special events): 15 volunteers

Practical workday report

We continue to spend some time on maintaining our tools and repairing the Portacabin – we are hoping to get a new Portacabin eventually but need to look after the one we have in the meantime! For several months we had no electricity and for a while we have virtually no access to the Portacabin but it takes worse than that to put off intrepid FONC volunteers!

Fallen trees have kept our volunteers busy this year, starting with the April workday when we arrived to find the last of our big Beech trees had fallen (in the night, fortunately) and was blocking a major path and ending with the clear up from Storm Eunice. London Borough of Southwark contractors had cut up the biggest trees but there was still plenty left to do!

We have started using fallen branches to help restore the lines of a number of paths which have spread during the Covid-19 pandemic, reducing our ground flora and potentially harming some of our older trees, whose roots can be damaged by trampling and ground compaction. We continue to work to keep paths open too – clearing fallen timber and cutting back invasive brambles. Major draining works are beyond our abilities, but while repairing the hurdles that give the 'Muslim Burial Ground' to the south of the Anglican chapel some privacy, we used all the shorter pieces of wood to construct a walkway across one particularly muddy stretch of path.

The view of St Paul's was becoming increasingly obscured by tree and bramble growth so we devoted two workdays to removing trees and brambles (some arching taller than head height, and concealing a wasp's nest!) from the path of the view. Unfortunately there are a couple of large branches growing in from the sides that are too high up in mature trees for us to safely tackle; we have asked that Southwark's specialist Tree Team cut them back.

Another project this year involved clearing plant growth from monuments which had almost disappeared, principally on the East Path and either side of the Anglican Chapel. It is very rewarding to discover beautifully carved headstones under what had appeared to be just brambles and ivy.

We have been caring for the hedges we planted in early 2020 and adding more plants where there have been casualties, trimming the planted Dissenters' Triangle (though it was then badly crushed by three falling oak trees in Storm Eunice), topping up hedges where we want to maintain wildlife areas, weeding areas such as the World War 1 war memorial in Square 89 and controlling trees trying to grow

through the railings. We have to litter pick along the boundaries too as sadly people think it is OK to push everything from champagne bottles and bits of scaffolding to babies' nappies (revolting!) through the railings.

When it was dry enough, we weeded around the pond and assessed the fence for repairs. We also repaired the steps we have put in at the Beeches area (we still use the name though there are no beeches) and by the Catacombs.

This year we have been joined by a number of new volunteers, in particular a group of young people who have made a great contribution to the monument clearing and St Paul's view tasks. They are very welcome, although their enthusiasm and energy reminds some of us that we are definitely getting older!

New volunteers are always welcome, you only have to do as much as suits you. We provide tools, on-the task training, hot drinks and do have gloves if you do not have your own. Meet us at the Portacabin on the first Sunday of every month, from 10am onwards. (Ring Tim and Carol Stevenson on 020 7732 8396 for more details, or e-mail Nunhead.stevensons@gmail.com).

Statistics are given overleaf.

Separate reports will be presented covering the work of the Monument Inscriptions Recording volunteers and the Publications Desk volunteers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Stevenson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carol Stevenson April 2022

Average hours / month

April 1 st 1998 to March 31 st 1999	709 ¼ hours	42 volunteers	59 hours 6 minutes
April 1 st 1999 to March 31 st 2000	633 ½ hours	39 volunteers	52 hours 47 minutes
April 1 st 2000 to March 31 st 2001	744 ¾ hours	38 volunteers	62 hours 4 minutes
April 1 st 2001 to March 31 st 2002	613 ½ hours	34 volunteers	51 hours 7 minutes
April 1 st 2002 to March 31 st 2003	572 ½ hours	31 volunteers	47 hours 42 minutes
April 1 st 2003 to May 31 st 2004	667 ½ hours	31 volunteers	47 hours 40 minutes
June 1 st 2004 to May 31 st 2005	601 ¾ hours	31 volunteers	50 hours 9 minutes
June 1 st 2005 to May 31 st 2006	530 ½ hours	29 volunteers	44 hours 12 minutes
June 1 st 2006 to May 31 st 2007	633 ¼ hours	39 volunteers	52 hours 46 minutes
June 1 st 2007 to May 31 st 2008	652 hours	37 volunteers	53 hours 20 minutes
June 1 st 2008 to May 31 st 2009	681 ¼ hours	34 volunteers	56 hours 50 minutes
June 1 st 2009 to May 31 st 2010	711 hours	34 volunteers	59 hours 25 minutes
June 1 st 2010 to May 31 st 2011	695 ½ hours	37 volunteers	57 hours 58 minutes
June 1 st 2011 to May 31 st 2012	589 ¾ hours	32 volunteers	49 hours 9 minutes
June 1 st 2012 to May 31 st 2013	781 ¾ hours	45 volunteers	65 hours 9 minutes
June 1 st 2013 to May 31 st 2014	630 ¼ hours	28 volunteers	55 hours 31 minutes
June 1 st 2014 to May 31 st 2015	604 ¼ hours	29 volunteers	50 hours 33 minutes
June 1 st 2015 to May 31 st 2016	590 ½ hours	24 volunteers	49 hours 12 minutes
June 1 st 2016 to March 31 st 2017	526 ¼ hours	22 volunteers	52 hours 38 minutes
April 1 st 2017 to March 31 st 2018	626 ½ hours	22 volunteers	52 hours 12 minutes
April 1 st 2018 to March 31 st 2019	632 ¼ hours	26 volunteers	52 hours 42 minutes
April 1 st 2019 to March 31 st 2020	645 hours	26 volunteers	53 hours 45 minutes
April 1 st 2020 to March 31 st 2021	307 ¼ hours	19 volunteers	51 hours 13 minutes
* Worked July to December 2020 only			
April 1 st 2021 to March 31 st 2022	611 ¾ hours	43 volunteers	50 hours 59 minutes

