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FONC News



Summer issue (June - August 2012) - 60p - Free to Members



Nolloth vault in Nunhead Cemetery c.1976. Photo: Ron Woollacott

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*The Quarterly Journal of the
Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, Nunhead, London, SE15*

MEMBERS' INFORMATION

Subscription and supporter information: Membership of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery costs £2 pa (overseas members pay £10 to cover the cost of sending four copies of *FONC News* abroad each year) renewable on the 1st April each year. We ask members to pay their subscription on this date to avoid sending out individual reminders throughout the year. Donations are always welcome. *New members receive an initial membership card.* **UK taxpayers are encouraged to sign a Gift Aid declaration.** Please advise FONC if you change your address or, for Gift Aid, you no longer pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax FONC reclaims on your donations. Data is held by FONC to help us to send members their copy of *FONC News* and also for the purpose of reclaiming tax. Please contact the **Membership Secretary, c/o membership@fonc.org.uk**

Information about FONC and Nunhead Cemetery can be found on our excellent website produced and managed by webmaster Simon Quill at: **www.fonc.org.uk**

Cemetery Opening Times: 8.30am to 4.00pm daily. The cemetery stays open later during the spring and summer months. ***All times are subject to change.*** The cemetery may be closed without notice for safety reasons, for example the danger of injury to visitors during windy and stormy weather.

Publications and Enquiry Desk: A wide range of books and leaflets about Nunhead Cemetery are available and on sale at FONC's Portakabin every Sunday from 2.00pm to 4.00pm (except during the months of December to March when we only attend for the guided tours) weather and volunteers permitting.

FONC Meetings and Events: Committee meetings take place on the *3rd Thursday of each month (except August when there is no meeting).* *Committee meetings are open to ordinary members who may attend in a non-voting capacity.* If you would like to attend a meeting please contact fonc@btconnect.com for details. Occasional talks, walks, presentations, and all forthcoming events are announced in *FONC News*.

Nunhead Cemetery Staff: The cemetery staff can be contacted by phoning **020 7732 9535**. If unavailable please leave a message or call the main cemetery office at **Camberwell New Cemetery on 020 7525 5600.**

Editor: Ron Woollacott **Subeditor:** Gwyneth Stokes

Contributors to this issue: Eddie Barclay, Paul Dyer, Jeff Hart, R G S Hunter; Cathy Mercer. All other text is by the editor. *The editor, subeditor, and FONC's committee do not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by contributors.*

NOTICE OF FONC's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 21st June at 7.00pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery will take place on Thursday 21st June 2012 starting at 7.00pm in the Function Room (upstairs), Old Nun's Head pub, Nunhead Green, London SE15 3QQ. Nominations for election to the General Committee may be received up to the elections themselves on the night. Motions, however, should have been submitted no later than 31st May 2012 as announced in the last issue of *FONC News*. All nominations should be sent to FONC's Vice-Chairman, Carol Stevenson, 30 Kirkwood Road, Nunhead, London, SE15 3XX

The business part of the meeting will be followed by a presentation by STEPHEN HUMPHREY, former archivist of Southwark Council, on the BURIAL GROUNDS IN SOUTHWARK. Light refreshments will be available and donations will be appreciated to offset costs.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SUNDAY AFTERNOON PUBLICATIONS DESK says *Cathy Mercer*

The Sunday publications desk was set up in 1991 and so has been going for 21 years - come rain or shine. It's a very simple idea: a bookstall in the cemetery on Sunday afternoons for people to access information, ask questions, meet members of FONC, and buy books and postcards. To celebrate we're going to have a special anniversary cake at our AGM in June. Please join us for a slice!

We run every Sunday afternoon from 2pm to 4.30pm (early finish in winter) April to October and the last Sunday of the month in winter. We have

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tea making facilities to keep us going when it's cold.

We could not manage without our team of volunteers, many of whom are very long standing. Gwyneth and John especially deserve gold medals because they have been working on the Sunday publications desk ever since it started. Many thanks to Carole, Paul, Malcolm, Fran and Ann who have been active members for many years, to Fay who helped for many years, and to Debs, who has recently joined the team. We should also remember another Malcolm, John B and John Cottle, who were very active in the early days of the pubs desk.

Thanks also to the voluntary workday team who always put out the publications display on the first Sunday of the month.

We are always looking for new volunteers who are teamed up with old hands to show them the ropes. Please contact us if you are interested in helping on the Sunday publications desk and also finding out more about Nunhead Cemetery. Who knows we might even be able to expand into Saturdays? Cathy Mercer at treasurer@fonc.org.uk

~ Forthcoming FONC Event ~

**VISIT TO BECKENHAM CEMETERY &
CREMATORIUM 30th JUNE 2012
(visit organised by Cathy Mercer)**

This Victorian cemetery was opened in 1880. Its 12 leafy hectares are the last resting place of several eminent Victorians, including Thomas Crapper, reputedly inventor of the flushing toilet, and WG Grace, famous Victorian cricketer and captain of the MCC team with which Nunhead's own Bobby Abel scored so many centuries. There are also 256 graves from both world wars. For further details please see www.beckenhamcrematorium.co.uk

Beckenham Cemetery is also known as Crystal Palace Cemetery and Elmers End Cemetery. It is owned and managed by the Beckenham Crematorium and Cemetery Company. We are delighted to invite FONC members and their friends and families on a specially arranged visit to this historic cemetery on Saturday 30th June 2012.

Our tour will last about 90 minutes and our guide will be John Hickman, who regularly runs tours of this cemetery. There will be a collection for local charities, as the cemetery does not have a Friends organisation.

Tour numbers are limited, so please make sure you book your place as soon as possible, by phone or email, with names and phone numbers.

The cemetery lies on Elmers End Road, Beckenham BR3 4TD. The nearest stations are Elmers End on the Charing Cross-Hayes line or Birkbeck on the Croydon tram and on Beckenham Junction trains from London Bridge. There is some parking within the cemetery where there are also limited public facilities. We meet by the main gates.

To book a place please contact Cathy email treasurer@fonc.org.uk

MIs Online: IT Skills Required

An appeal from PAUL DYER

Monumental Inscription Co-ordinator

We are now at the stage, after many years recording the monumental inscriptions in Nunhead Cemetery, to wanting of put the inscriptions transcribed so far - along with many photographs of the graves - on the internet. Unfortunately, I do not have the skills to design a website that is suitable for this important task. If anyone can design a simple website that can be easily added to as we acquire more inscriptions and photographs, I should be pleased to hear from them. Please contact me, Paul Dyer (or any other committee member) email pauldyer58@yahoo.com

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

in NUNHEAD CEMETERY

Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd September 2012
1.00pm to 5pm on both days

A special feature this year will be 'Diamond Decades' a public art exhibition in the Anglican chapel in the year of Queen Elizabeth the Second's 'Diamond Jubilee - artworks inspired by the decades of her reign curated by Jolanta Jagiello. The crypt and tower will also be open to visitors. *We shall require volunteers to act as stewards and assist with the sale of publications etc.* Unlike the Open Day, Open House is usually a fairly low key event. If you can assist us on either or both days please contact an officer or committee member. Contact details may be found on the back page.

DR PICKSTOCK AND 'THE BABY FARMER'

or the true and dreadful tale of Margaret Waters (Part 2)

by Ron Woollacott

Margaret Waters, a former patient of Dr Pickstock of Peckham, and her sister, Sarah Ellis, have both been charged with the 'wilful murder' of John Walter Cowen, an infant, and were tried at the Old Bailey on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd September 1870 before Lord Justice Baron Sir Fitzroy Kelly. Serjeant William Ballantine conducted the prosecution and Mr Ribton the defence.

The deceased baby's grandfather, Robert Tassie Cowen, a bandsman in a volunteer regiment, was called to give evidence for the prosecution. He told the court that his daughter, Jeanette Tassie Cowen, who was just 16 at the time and 'in the family way', had gone to No 164 Camberwell Road, the home of Mrs Castle, the midwife, to have the child. He said that sometime before his daughter's confinement he had decided to have the baby adopted as soon as it was born and answered an advertisement from Waters which had been placed in *Lloyd's Weekly News* offering to adopt a child and bring it up as her own.

Cowen told the court that he had arranged to meet Waters, with Mrs Guerra his landlady, at Walworth Road Railway Station, and handed the baby over to her. He didn't see his grandchild again until several days later when Sergeant Relf of the Metropolitan Police came knocking at his door and took him to Waters' house, which was about seven minutes along the road or two or three minutes walk across the fields from his house. He said that when he arrived at Waters' house she was holding his grandson in her arms, and when he saw the dreadful state the child was in he accused her of starving it to death - an accusation she refuted insisting that the child was ill and suffering from diarrhoea. Cowen added that he then turned to Dr George Puckle, the Medical Officer of Health for Lambeth, who had been called to the house by Sergeant Relf, and asked him what could be done to save the child. A wet nurse was sent for straight away but the child never recovered and died a fortnight later. Cross-examined by Mr Ribton for the defence, Cowen said it did not cross his mind to ask Waters if she had any other children, although she did tell him that her sister had a family.

Mrs Maria Castle, the midwife, tells her story to the court

Mrs Castle said she was a midwife and had delivered Miss Cowen of a male child on Saturday 14th May 1870. She said it was a very fine baby and fed with milk and water and loaf sugar until it was taken away by Mrs Guerra (Cowen's landlady) on 17th May 1870. Cross-examined by the defence Mrs Castle said she had been a midwife for five years during which time had delivered many children. She said she usually had two or three ladies in her house all at the same time, but didn't know what became of the babies after they left her house.

Mrs Ann Rowland, Baby Cowen's wet-nurse, gives evidence

Mrs Rowland of No 14 Alma Terrace, Camberwell, gave evidence for the prosecution. She told the court that she had wet-nursed Baby Cowen at the request of Robert Tassie Cowen, the baby's grandfather. When she took the baby it was very thin and in a filthy state. In fact, the baby was so dirty she was unable to get it completely clean right up to the day of its death. It was her opinion that the baby had never been washed. The child improved for a day or two, she said, and took the breast very eagerly, but it suddenly stopped feeding and went into a state of stupor. She told the court that Dr Puckle had attended the baby every day and gave her 'some stuff' to stop the diarrhoea, but it didn't help much, and the baby died on the 24th June 1870.

Dr George Puckle, Medical Officer for Health of Lambeth is called by the prosecution

Dr Puckle told the court that Police Sergeant Relf called him to Waters' house to examine the children in her care. He saw five babies in the downstairs front room, one of whom was Baby Cowen. He was extremely wasted, the bones were almost coming through the skin, and his eyes were closed. He appeared to be in a very profound stupor, he said, and thought the child had been given laudanum 'which would have been a very improper thing to give to a child'. It was his opinion, he said, that Baby Cowen had died of atrophy, or extreme wasting, with congestion of the brain, caused from want of suitable food, and the improper administration of laudanum. He believed that the four children removed from Waters' house had all died of congestion of the brain for want of proper care and attention.

Mr Ribton, for the defence, objected to the last comment, but the Lord Justice Baron was of the opinion that the evidence was permissible. Cross-examined by Mr Ribton, Dr Puckle said a small amount of laudanum given

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to a child might have a tendency to stop diarrhoea, but if given in excess it would produce stupor. Serjeant Ballantine asked Dr Puckle to state exactly what took place on the subject of Baby Cowen having had diarrhoea. Dr Puckle said that Waters had told him the baby had diarrhoea and thrush and had been under the care of Dr Harris of Denmark Hill. She insisted that she had not given the baby anything except what Dr Harris had ordered.

Dr Henry Harris of Denmark Hill appears for the prosecution

Dr Harris told the court that he was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and a general practitioner at No 2 Northampton Terrace, Denmark Hill, which was about three quarters of a mile from the prisoners' house. He said he knew both women and first saw them on 9th May 1870. He knew Waters by the name Mrs Blackburn, he said, and had attended several children at her house. He went on to say that he had no means of knowing whether the baby he saw at the time was Baby Cowen, other than it was a male child of about three weeks old. He said that he had prescribed a preparation of black oxide of mercury, in the form of powder, mixed with water. He added that he knew nothing of the number of children in the house, and couldn't say positively that he saw Cowen's child after 1st June 1870.

Cross-examined by Mr Ribton for the defence, Dr Harris claimed that children brought up by hand are very subject to diarrhoea, and the medicine he prescribed was the only medicine he ordered. He said he had prescribed a second time, without seeing the baby, podophyllum, a new American medicine. He went on to say that he thought he had only seen Baby Cowen twice, but couldn't swear to it, and may have seen him when he attended other poorly children in Waters' care.

Dr Henry St John Bullen, Medical Officer of Health of Lambeth Workhouse is called to give evidence for the prosecution

Dr Bullen was the next to give evidence. He said that on the 13th June 1870 nine children were brought to him at the workhouse and because they were not named he numbered them from 1 to 9. Numbers 1, 2, and 3 were later claimed and taken from the workhouse - they were in 'very fair health'. Numbers 4 and 5 were not in good health, far from it, he added, but they fully recovered. Numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9 were in a 'state of great emaciation' and died between 23rd June and 11th July 1870. It was his opinion they had been sick for about a fortnight before being admitted to the workhouse.

to be continued

In the next issue of *FONC News* Dr George Newport Pickstock of Peckham is called to give evidence in defence of Margaret Waters.

GLIMPSES OF GALLOWAY GRAVES **(part four) by R G S Hunter**

Bob Hunter concludes his tour of the Dumfries and Galloway region of southwest Scotland with a visit to another two interesting graveyards.

BALMAGHIE KIRK

Covenanters again drew me here. Two martyrs bearing the same name, David Halliday, were shot in 1685, in February and July of that year. Another martyr shot that year was George Short. All three were the victims of the hated Grier of Lag (Sir Robert Grierson of Lagg). Among others in this churchyard is S R Crockett (1859-1914), a popular writer in his day, mostly adventure stories based on Galloway history and set in the local landscape including *The Raiders* (1894); *The Men of the Moss Hags* (1895); *The Grey Man* (1896); and *The Dark o' The Moon* (1912) being among his best novels. He published more than 70 books and, although a bestseller in his lifetime, he later became looked down on as another 'kailyard' author and his popularity suffered.

DUNSCORE

You may be wondering what happened to the more infamous persecutors of the Covenanters, such as Sir Robert Grierson of Lagg whose family lived in this area. He was the government agent responsible for the drowning of Margaret Wilson and Margaret MacLauchlan at Wigtown in May 1685, ignoring the stay of execution issued in April 1685, and for the hangings at Irongray and the cold-blooded shootings at Anworth, Kirkconnel Moor, plus other misdeeds. He appears to have relished his lack of mercy, expressing his opinions in coarse language which almost resulted in him being run through by the sword of Viscount Kenmure, the father-in-law of one of his victims.

Grierson is said to have been the prototype for Scott's Sir Robert Redgauntlet, for just like the fictional character he lived in reduced but respected circumstances, in spite of being described as 'a smuggler, debtor, alleged debaser of the coin, a litigant put to the horn'. Not even being guilty of adultery and of 'impenitent obstinacy' prevented him remaining a Justice of the Peace. He lived until 1736 and is buried in an old graveyard which is the remnant of the earlier parish church of Dunscore. His grave has been neglected for some time, and even some of the present day locals gave a little shudder when I asked the way to his grave. The ruins of the family tower at Lagg are not far from the site. ■

~~ *BURIED AT NUNHEAD, No 18* ~~
ADMIRAL MATTHEW NOLLOTH
by Ron Woollacott

When I began searching for the graves of interesting persons buried at Nunhead in the early 1970s, the Nolloth's family grave was virtually hidden amongst the undergrowth. I set about clearing the years of moss and leaf mould, about three inches thick, from the canted ledger stone and uncovered the lengthy inscription. I was delighted to find the name of Matthew Stainton Nolloth. He was buried in the vault with his parents and brothers all of whom, except his eldest brother, Colonel Peter Brames Nolloth of the Royal Marines, were commissioned officers in the Royal Navy.

Matthew Stainton Nolloth was born in Chatham in 1810 the son of John Nolloth, one time Assistant Secretary to the Royal Navy Board, and Hannah the daughter of Peter Brames, market gardener. He joined the Navy in 1824 at the age of 14, and obtained his first commission at the age of 28. In 1843, as Senior Lieutenant on board HMS *Childers*, he distinguished himself in operations in the Yang-Tse-Tang, China. He was promoted to the rank of Commander in 1846, and was given command of HMS *Frolic* at Cape



The Donkin and Nolloth vaults in Nunhead Cemetery photographed in 2011. The Nolloth vault is the one with the canted ledger stone.

Town. As Commander Nolloth he surveyed the west coast of South Africa in 1854 and gave his name to Port Nolloth. In 1856 he carried the great explorer, Dr David Livingstone, from Quilimane to Mauritius and was promoted Captain. On returning to England in 1857 he published *Notes during a Cruise in the Mozambique* and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He was also the author of *On the Submergence of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable* published in 1858. He was a member of the Society of Arts, now the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Marine Society. He served on the Committee for the Protection of Ships from Fire and Loss from Sinking, and retired from the Navy 1870. He was given the rank of Rear Admiral Retired in 1874, and Vice Admiral Retired in 1879. He lived at Union Row, Peckham, before removing to Camberwell, where he died on 11th May 1882, aged 72, leaving a personal estate of £26,936.

In the adjoining vault (*see photograph opposite*) lies his uncle Bryan Donkin FRS (1768-1855), an eminent engineer and inventor, and his cousins John Donkin (1802-1854) and Bryan Donkin (1809-1893), both of whom were successful civil engineers.

Wishing to know more about Admiral Nolloth's connection with South Africa for a forthcoming book about notable people buried at Nunhead, in 1981 I sent a letter to the Town Clerk of Port Nolloth and received an interesting reply. He was aware that his town was named after Commander Nolloth but knew nothing about the life of his town's founder and was delighted with the information I provided and which he translated and circulated to the mainly Afrikaans speaking population of Port Nolloth.

In April 1982 I received a letter from the Mayor of Port Nolloth the text of which is reproduced below:

I was delighted when the Town Clerk of Port Nolloth presented me with a letter he had received from you during the end of last year. The information imparted in your letter, relating to your research into the history of the Nolloth family, is most useful and interesting. I would, by means of this letter, like to extend my thanks to you for your interest in our town.

As Port Nolloth cannot neglect its duty towards the memory of Admiral Nolloth, I thought of asking a favour of you. I would be very pleased if you would be so kind as to read my accompanying memorial at the grave of Admiral Nolloth on the 11th May 1982. If it will be at all possible for you to do this, I would be grateful.

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I wish you well in your research. Please accept my regards to you and your family. Yours faithfully, Mayor of Port Nolloth.

As FONC was in its infancy and as no one else was available on the day, on the 11th May 1982, the centenary of Admiral Nolloth's death, I read the Mayor of Port Nolloth's memorial to the Admiral unaccompanied in front of the Nolloth vault. In those days Nunhead Cemetery was desolate, overgrown and wild and could appear uninviting to the uninitiated and casual visitor passing by the main gates. And so on that chilly grey day in May 1982 I saw not a single person, which was just as well, as I felt rather self-conscious standing alone and appearing to be talking to myself. But I felt it had to be done, after all the admirable Admiral had lain virtually forgotten in his tomb for one hundred years.

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL M S NOLLOTH

The people of Port Nolloth, South Africa, today, commemorate the death of Admiral Matthew Stainton Nolloth, who died a hundred years ago. Admiral Nolloth distinguished himself in the service of his country and served in the Royal Navy in different parts of the world. He was on station in Cape Town from 1854 to 1856 and surveyed the West Coast of South Africa in 1854. He was also commissioned to survey the harbour of Port Nolloth. His report to the effect that the harbour was an excellent anchorage for vessels of light draught led to a major revival in the economy of the town. From 1856 copper ore was conveyed by rail from the Okiep copper mines to the harbour of Port Nolloth where it was unloaded on to boats and transported to England.

The harbour is not now used for the shipment of copper ore, but is used mainly by fishing boats and boats mining for diamonds on the seabed. The town was named after Admiral Nolloth and Port Nolloth was declared a local authority in 1857.

Since that time Port Nolloth developed from a small village to a progressive town. Where Admiral Nolloth once stood alone on the beach of Port Nolloth, gazing over the Atlantic Ocean, hundreds of holiday makers frolic on the golden sands. Our town, today, boasts with magnificent buildings and flourishing businesses. All these things were made possible by a man called Matthew Stainton Nolloth who had the foresight of a prosperous town in the desert.

The inhabitants of Port Nolloth, today, bow their heads as a tribute to a great former resident of Peckham, who also meant a lot to this town and who was interred in the Nolloth vault here in Nunhead Cemetery. May the ties between Peckham and Port Nolloth remain intact for the the years to come.

Signed: N P Katze,
Mayor of Port Nolloth, South Africa
May 1982



Arms of Port Nolloth

OBITUARY

PETER DAVID WHITTAKER

2nd June 1931 - 8th March 2012

Peter was a quiet unassuming 'behind-the-scenes' man whose task at the Open Day for the last 20 years has always been to help with the loading of plants into cars for the Mary Mary Quite Contrary Plant Stall. He also provided liquid refreshment at lunch time for the helpers and favourite customers! He was dearly loved and is sorely missed by many. Peter is the late husband of long time FONC member Mrs Margaret Curtis-Whittaker.

MICHAEL STOKES OF BIDDENDEN, KENT

Affiliated member since 1989 - died March 2011

Mrs Prue Stokes writes: My husband and family had much help long ago - in the 1980s - finding the grave of my husband's family, Thomas Stokes from Rotherhithe. My husband, Michael Stokes, former Chairman of BACSA (British Association of Cemeteries in South Asia), died in March last year - very suddenly. The weekend before we had an enjoyable visit and walk round Nunhead and he appreciated the chat with whoever was on duty that day - Sunday 6th March.

NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS 6

by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator

Anyone seen a paint tin? Yes!

In the last journal we reported that FONC volunteers were hunting for a couple of opened cans of paint used for the cemetery gates and railings then stashed away for future reference. We couldn't remember where we had put them but fortunately they were found. This enabled Southwark Council to purchase new supplies so that the peeling and flaking main gates could be brought back up to the smart appearance they had when last painted in 2000. We are happy to report that the gates have now been repainted.

Nunhead Cemetery traffic jam

Road works around the mini-roundabouts at the junction of Linden Grove, Ivydale Road, and Oakdale Road have seen traffic controlled by a three-way temporary traffic signals system over a number of weeks. Unfortunately, drivers are finding it difficult to contain their impatience at the length of time taken for the lights to change, resulting in on-coming vehicles blocking the single width carriageway until someone is willing or able to reverse. This is all making access to the Linden Grove entrance to the cemetery rather problematic if approaching from the east. The area is best avoided by going through Nunhead village and approaching from the west. Hopefully the works will be completed by our Open Day!

Tree pruning

Regular visitors to the cemetery will have noticed that the imposing lime trees that flank the Main Avenue from the Linden Grove gates to the Anglican chapel have been pruned back hard. The trees are part of the original planting plan for the cemetery and have been in place since the early 1840s. But like everything in life, trees have a limited life span and need regular attention if they are to be seen at their best, including judicious and timely pruning. The work was carried out at the end of March/beginning of April, which is just about the latest time possible if disturbance to nesting birds is not to be caused. Certainly the newly resident parakeets were not too pleased about some of their favourite hiding holes in the boles of some of the limes disappearing.

To paint or not to paint?

Cemetery News 4 reported on the placing of the blue plaque awarded to Nunhead Cemetery on the electricity cabinet in the grounds of the East Lodge. We said then that the rather ugly red-brick cabinet would be screeded to improve the visual amenity of the plaque. Unfortunately, each time volunteers geared up to carry out the work, the weather conditions prevented this being done. However, the work was completed during the April workday and the effect has been all that we hoped for. We have also moved a very old and large privet bush to improve the visibility of the plaque, with the privet being replanted to fill the gap in the privet hedge just west of the Linden Grove end of the Main Avenue. But now we have a problem - should the screed be left as it is or should it be painted? At present there is a good contrast between the natural colour of the screed and the blue plaque but would it look smarter painted another colour - and, if so, what colour? Why not send your views to fonc@btconnect.com to help the Committee decide?

WELSH GRAVE INSCRIPTIONS

In *FONC News* No 114 we invited readers to translate some of the Welsh inscriptions found in Nunhead Cemetery, and translations were provided by Deborah Jones in the last issue. Member Eddie Barclay asked a Welsh priest to translate the inscriptions who said they were 'Chapel Welsh', and his interpretations, which are more or less the same, are shown here:

In memory of Thomas Williams who died August 20, 1904 age 49; Thomas Henry Williams who died April 21, 1889, age 7 months; Jane Williams, who died March 17, 1889, age 2.

In loving memory of my dear husband John Davies, late of Erwyd Cottage, Ponterwyd near Aberystwyth, who entered into rest January 16, 1902, age 68. Peace was his end.

In memory of Letitia, daughter of John and Jane Davies of Fort Road (Bermondsey), died September 4, 1892 age 14. Therefore be you ready. The Son of Man comes in the hour you least suspect.

In dear memory of Jones Jones (dairyman), of 3 Old Kent Road, London, who died December 2, 1932, at 58 years old.

In loving memory of John Davies, Lower Park Road, Peckham. Born September 23, 1833, died March 12, 1904.

LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Saturday 17th November 2012

**Weston Theatre, Museum of London 10am - 5pm
London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**

A CAPITAL WAY TO GO: *DEATH IN LONDON THROUGH THE AGES*

St Brides's, Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Thief
Jelena Bekvalac, Curator Human Osteology, Museum of London

I will have a stone to lye a pone me:

Memory and Commemoration in Mediaeval London
**Christian Steer, Royal Holloway, University of London and
Monumental Brass Society**

Mortality in London 1550-1800
Peter Razzell, Historical Demographer

The Gruesome History of Body Snatching
**Robert Stephenson, Guide in the City of London and
at Kensal Green Cemetery**

From here to Eternity:
Victorian developments in the disposal of the dead
**John Clarke, Head of Library Services at Great Ormond Street
Hospital and Consultant Historian to Brookwood Cemetery**

Obituaries

Brent Elliott, Royal Horticultural Society

Tickets will be on sale from 1st September 2012
The cost is £10 for an Earlybird ticket (before 31st October)
or £15 afterwards

Payment can be made by cheque or Paypal

Please see the LAMAS (London and Middlesex
Archaeological Society) website

www.lamas.org.uk

~ **HISTORIC CEMETERIES' EVENTS 2012** ~

THE FRIENDS OF WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

WEST NORWOOD CEMETERY

Introductory tours will be held on the first Sunday of each month (1st July, 5th August, 2nd September) starting at the cemetery main gate off Norwood Road, London, SE27 at 2.30pm, and lasting about 2 hours. There is no formal charge, but donations towards conservation projects are welcome.

THE FRIENDS OF BROMPTON CEMETERY

BROMPTON CEMETERY OPEN DAY

Sunday 1st July 11am to 5pm (Free)

Brompton Cemetery lies between Old Brompton Road and Fulham Road,
London, SW10 9UG

Tours of the cemetery and catacomb, display of funereal artefacts, birds of prey, children's events, stalls and refreshments.

THE BROOKWOOD CEMETERY SOCIETY

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY, WOKING

ARTISTS WALK, led by Jenny Mukerji, Sunday 1st July at 2pm

During this walk the graves of prominent artists will be visited, including a brief history of their achievements. Walks start from the Cemetery Office entrance off Cemetery Pales. We ask for a minimum donation of £3 to cover costs.

THE FRIENDS OF KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY

KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY

Harrow Road, London, London, NW10

OPEN DAY - Saturday 7th July, 11am to 5pm (Free)

SOUTH LONDON CREMATORIUM

Rowan Road, Streatham SW16 5JG

OPEN DAY - Saturday 14th July

THE FRIENDS OF BROCKLEY & LADYWELL CEMETERY

BROCKLEY & LADYWELL CEMETERY

Brockley Road, London, SE4

5th anniversary event - Sunday 22nd July 11am to 4.30pm

Guided walks - exhibitions in restored chapel - light refreshments.

email: geoffrey@fobl.org.uk

BARRY MASON of ROTHERHITHE
FONC Member No 3907, died in 2011

THE LATE MR & MRS VEARONELLY

The cremated remains of Sybil and Arthur Vearonelly (Maureen Woollacott and her sister Linda Martin's mother and stepfather) were laid to rest in Nunhead Cemetery on Monday 26th March 2012. The weather was fine and the short committal service was conducted by the Reverend Bill Dunphy of Nunhead and Crofton Park, and attended by a few surviving members of the family, including Ron and Maureen Woollacott, Linda Martin, and Alistair and Maggie Vearonelly. Alistair (Arthur's only surviving nephew), who had never visited Nunhead before, was so impressed with our beautiful cemetery and the work carried out by the Friends, that he very kindly donated £500 to FONC. Arthur and Sybil would have been delighted, as they were both keen supporters of FONC.



The
Old Nun's Head
15 Nunhead Green
LONDON, SE15 3QQ

Real ales and great food

~ DIARY DATES ~

► ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

21st June 2012 starting at 7.00pm. In the Function room (upstairs) Old Nun's Head pub, 15 Nunhead Green, SE15. The business part of the meeting will be followed by a presentation by **STEPHEN HUMPHREY**, former archivist of Southwark Council, on **Burial Grounds in Southwark**. *Light refreshments will be available. Donations will be appreciated to offset costs. Full details on page 3.*

► **VISIT TO BECKENHAM CEMETERY**

Saturday 30th June 2012. Tour numbers are limited, so please make sure you book your place as soon as possible, by phone or email, with names and phone numbers. *Full details on page 4.* To book a place contact Cathy email treasurer@fonc.org.uk

► **TREE TOURS IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

Trees tours will take place in the cemetery on the following **Sundays** starting at 2.15pm from the flint circle inside the main entrance: **10th June 2012; 9th September 2012; 9th December 2012.**

► **'LEYSDOWN TRAGEDY' - SCOUTS' CENTENARY EVENT**

Saturday 4th August 2012. Details not yet finalised. For the latest information please see our website www.fonc.org.uk

► **OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd September 2012 from 1.00pm to 5pm on both days. If you can help in any way please contact a committee member. See page 5 for details.

► **SPECIAL TOUR: MILITARY GRAVES**

Join Jeff Hart on a tour of the cemetery looking at some of the graves of soldiers who fought in the wars of the past. Meet at the flint circle near the main gates at **2.15pm on Sunday 14th October 2012.** Please note the correct date as the wrong date was shown in the last issue of *FONC News*.

► **VOLUNTARY WORKDAYS**

Voluntary workdays take place on the first Sunday in the month from 10am to 4.30pm. New volunteers are always welcome. Meet at the FONC Portakabin, to the right of the Linden Grove entrance. Stay an hour or two or all day - it's entirely up to you. *Appropriate clothing, including sturdy footwear, is essential.*

► **MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION RECORDING**

Transcribing the inscriptions in Nunhead Cemetery is an important and ongoing task. Volunteers meet at the FONC Portakabin near the Linden Grove entrance. *Contact Paul Dyer for details email pauldyer58@yahoo.com.*

► **GUIDED TOURS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

General guided tours of the cemetery take place on the last Sunday in every month at 2.15pm. Meet at the flint circle just inside the main gates. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day. Tours usually take between 90 minutes and two hours. Information desk and publications on sale, weather and volunteers permitting.

~ CONTACTS ~

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Please send all letters, news items and feature articles for publication to:
fonc@btconnect.com

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: 19th July 2012
(Copy received after this date may be used in a future issue)

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)

Established 1981– *Registered charity number 296413*

A founder member of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF); a member of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE); and recipient of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Birthday Award for Environmental Improvements (National Commendation) in 1998.

www.fonc.org.uk

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