

FONC News



No 119 - Spring (March - May 2013) - ISSN 1478-0631



New First World War Memorial in Nunhead (see page 10) *Photo: Ron Woollacott*

~ *INSIDE* ~

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The Journal of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, 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 membership@fonc.org.uk

Further 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 first and last Sunday in the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm 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 phone the chairman on 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**.

The cemetery address is: Linden Grove, Nunhead, London, SE15 3LP

Editor: Ron Woollacott.

Subeditor: Gwyneth Stokes.

Contributors to this issue: Michele Louise Burford, Jeff Hart, RGS Hunter, Jolanta Jagiello and Cathy Mercer

The editor, subeditor, and FONC's committee do not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by contributors.

HELPERS WANTED FOR THE ANNUAL NUNHEAD CEMETERY ~ OPEN DAY ~ SATURDAY 18th MAY 2013

We shall require lots of volunteers to assist in setting up trestle tables etc and generally assist in the cemetery from 8.30am onwards, and to help us tidy up when the event finishes at 5.00pm. We also appreciate lots of donations of homemade cakes and plants to sell which are always a great attraction to visitors. If you can help us in any way please contact a committee member or Open Day organisers fonc@btconnect.com.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery will take place on Thursday 20th June 2013 starting at 7.00pm in the Function Room (upstairs), Old Nun's Head PH, Nunhead Green, London, SE15 3QQ. Nominations for election to the General Committee are welcome and may be received up to the elections themselves on the night. Motions, however, should be submitted no later than the 20th May 2013. All nominations and motions should be sent to fonc@btconnect.com

Cathy Mercer invites members and their friends to visit Golders Green Crematorium on Monday 29th April 2013

Golders Green Crematorium is a flagship crematorium. It is one of the oldest in Britain and indeed in the world, dating from 1901. It has fine chapels and columbaria for holding ashes, as well as 12 acres of beautiful gardens with lawns and splendid flower beds and an extensive play area for small children.

There are a great number of famous incumbents, including Marc Bolan, Keith Moon, Sigmund Freud, Leslie Compton, Bud Flanagan, Enid Blyton, Joe Orton, Don Revie and Kathleen Ferrier, who has her own commemorative rose bed.

The Facilities Manager has kindly arranged a special tour for the group, taking us into parts of the crematorium not usually open to the public. However, as he only works weekdays, our visit also has to take place on a weekday. The cemetery is open daily and at weekends for anyone wishing to visit on their own.

This is the first FONC visit to a crematorium and therefore somewhat of a departure for us, although cremation is now the preferred method for most people in the UK. Please note that this is a working crematorium and so all arrangements are subject to short notice change. Golders Green Crematorium is 5-10 minutes walk from Golders Green Station on the Northern Line. The address is Hoop Lane, London NW11 7NL. The facilities are excellent, including a small café for light refreshments.

For details of times and to book a place, please contact me, Cathy Mercer, as soon as possible. There is no charge for the visit but we will make a collection for the crematorium.

As usual places on this tour are limited and it's strictly first come, first served. *Please book a place and for the times: enquiries@fonc.org.uk*

~ Rest in Peace ~

Mr Cyril Wackett of Bishops Stortford, a past supporter of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, has died. He was a member of FONC from 2000 to 2008

Magnificent Seven Heavenly Virtues in the Mausoleum curated by Jolanta Jagiello

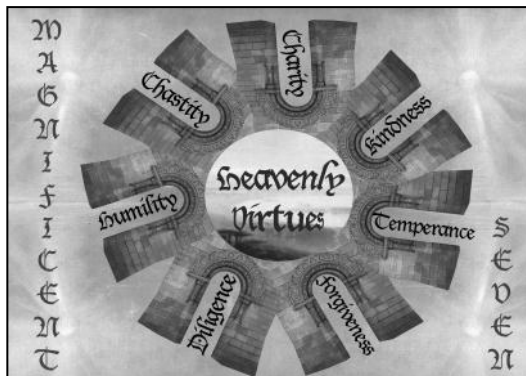
All weekends in May 2013, 11am-5pm Including both Bank Holidays and Nunhead Cemetery Open Day 18th May 2013

Following on from the success of Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins last year, and at the suggestion of one of our visitors to the show, we are concentrating on the lesser known Seven Heavenly Virtues this year.

The seven catholic virtues refer to the combination of two lists of virtues, the four cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, restraint or temperance, and courage or fortitude, and the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and love or charity. They were intensely popular in the Middle Ages and spread the concept of holy virtues throughout Europe. Practising these virtues is considered to protect one against temptation from the seven deadly sins, with each one having its counterpart.

Each of the seven heavenly virtues matches a corresponding deadly sin. Chastity counteracts lust, temperance counteracts gluttony, charity counteracts greed, diligence counteracts sloth, forgiveness counteracts wrath, kindness counteracts envy, and humility counteracts pride.

Each artist will counteract their sin with their virtue, Jolanta Jagiello—temperance, Desiree Ickerodt—forgiveness, Sara Scott—kindness, Elizabeth Chojak-Mysko—humility, and Lorenzo Belenguer will cover diligence while Sally Buchanan will cover chastity. The show is open every weekend in May 2013 (4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th) including the Bank Holidays 6th May and 27th May 2013, and the May Open Day on Saturday 18th May 2013, from 11am-5pm.



FONC TOUR PROGRAMME 2013

***All tours start from the main gate in Linden Grove at 14:15 hours
except Open Day in May & Open House Weekend in September***

MONTH	DATE	TOUR THEME	GUIDE
January	—	<i>Crypt, chapel and tower visit</i>	—
January	—	<i>General tour</i>	—
February	—	<i>Military connections</i>	—
February	—	<i>General tour</i>	—
March	17	Woodland Trail tour	Tim Stevenson
March	31	General tour	John Turpin
April	14	Cemetery symbols tour	Carole Tyrrell
April	28	General tour	Ron Woollacott
May	18 <i>11am to 5pm</i>	Annual Open Day: general tours; crypt and tower visits	Various tour leaders
May	26	General tour	Tim Stevenson
June	16	Woodland Trail tour	Jeff Hart
June	30	General tour	Rex Batten
July	14	Victorian Engineers tour	Ron Woollacott
July	28	General tour	Carole Tyrrell
August	11	Crypt, chapel, and tower visit	Malcolm Collins
August	25	General tour	Jeff Hart
September	15	Woodland Trail tour	John Turpin
September	21/22 <i>1pm to 5pm</i>	Open House weekend: general tours; crypt, chapel and tower visits	Various tour leaders
September	29	General tour	Ron Woollacott
October	13	Musicians, artists, and Entertainers tour	Jolanta Jagiello
October	27	General tour	John Turpin
November	24	General tour	Carole Tyrrell
December	8	Woodland Trail tour	Tim Stevenson
December	29	General tour	<i>TBC</i>

NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS (9)

by *Jeff Hart—FONC Co-ordinator*

Scaling the heights and plumbing the depths

The first of our additional themed conducted tours for 2013 took place on January 13th. Led by Malcolm Collins and Jeremy Partington, a good number of visitors had the opportunity to visit the crypt under the Anglican chapel, the viewing platform at the top of the chapel and the site of the Eastern Catacomb, the only remaining catacomb in the cemetery (near to the ruined East Lodge). With little advance advertising, we were very pleased with the attendance and have learnt valuable lessons for conducting future tours with this theme. The catacomb cannot be entered at present, as it has been desecrated and would need substantial work to make it safe for visitors. We do hope, however, that one day this will be possible.

New works at ‘St Paul’s view’

The Southwark Council team at Nunhead have recently cut back further growth at the top of Nunhead Hill to enhance the view looking across to St Paul’s Cathedral. However, particularly during the very wet weather, by doing so a very muddy, slippery area almost invites visitors to try their luck down a steep slope that leads nowhere! As a result, Southwark placed chestnut palings across the opening ready to create a barrier and FONC volunteers quickly utilised this as the framework for a new woven hedge barrier. We hope that this dissuades visitors from attempting the hill whilst adding a suitable ‘rural’ effect for this popular stopping point just in front of the handily placed bench.

Tidying up around new war memorial

Following the dedication of our new war memorial (*see page 10*), FONC volunteers have moved in to *tidy up the tidying up!* A large number of mature ash and sycamore trees were removed from around the war memorial, together with numerous young saplings and undergrowth. Unfortunately, this was not completed with quite the care we would have liked in some instances. So, during the January FONC work day (14 volunteers shortly after New Years’ Eve!) we cleared many stumps to ground level and removed cut brush covering other graves in the vicinity. Together with the exposed English walnut tree at the path junction, planted by FONC in 1985, this now ensures that the whole area has a cared for - but natural environment. Also evi-

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dent at the path junction will be the new green Woodland Tree Trail marker post (5a) for the English Walnut which now completes the trail (see the last issue of *FONC News*).

Water, water everywhere!

With the wettest summer in England since records began, it should come as no surprise that the FONC—created temporal pond in the Wetlands area of the cemetery is full to overflowing! This clay puddled area is intended to fill and empty with the seasons as water is pushed up the hill during heavy rains on top of the impervious London clay strata on which much of the cemetery lies. The last time the pond was this full, ducks were spotted happily swimming about! Unfortunately, the heavy rains also flow down the Main Avenue and fill the concrete ‘moat’ around the remains of the East Lodge, flooding what is left of the structure. The concrete is needed to help stabilise the structure until full restoration can take place (we are still working on it). In the meantime, we continue to pump out the water when we are on site to reduce the effect it has on the building remains.

NEW POLICY STATEMENT ADOPTED

In order to facilitate future grant applications and because we have a duty to FONC volunteers, the General Committee adopted the following Health and Safety policy statement at its January 2013 meeting:

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The statement of general policy of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery is:

- To provide adequate control of the health and safety risks arising from our practical on-site maintenance/improvement volunteering work, and activities involving members of the public (e.g. walks)
- To consult with the members on matters which may affect their health and safety whilst undertaking activities managed by FONC
- To provide and maintain safe equipment
- To provide information, instruction and supervision for members
- To make reasonable endeavours to ensure all volunteers are competent to do their assigned tasks, and to give them adequate advice and training if required

continued on next page

- To prevent accidents and cases of ill health resulting from the group's voluntary work activities

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

The Committee of FONC has overall responsibility for health and safety matters related to the activities of the group, and will ensure that:

- Volunteers receive adequate and sufficient information, training and supervision on health and safety matters as appropriate
- A risk assessment is undertaken for each aspect of the activities which FONC undertakes e.g. work in the Cemetery, guided walks, off-site stalls etc. taking account of risks to both volunteers and to members of the public
- Minor accidents are investigated and reported to the Committee and, where appropriate, to the appropriate Southwark Council officer

FONC members shall:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety, including the wearing of appropriate footwear and clothing when working in the Cemetery
- Take advice from a FONC supervisor or other responsible person (e.g. Southwark Council officers) when working in the Cemetery
- Report any accident to the nominated FONC supervisor for any activity or, if appropriate to the emergency services, at the earliest opportunity

Adopted by the FONC General Committee: 17th January 2013

The FONC General Committee has in the past adopted the following policy statements:

Access policy statement; Charging/Pricing policy statement; Education policy statement; Equal Opportunities policy statement; Open Day policy statement; Burial policy statement; Filming and Photography policy statement.

Any FONC member may request a copy of any of these statements by contacting the Co-ordinator fonc@btconnect.com quoting your membership number.

FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION SERVICE

Report by Ron Woollacott

On Sunday 4th November 2012 around 300 people attended a rededication service in honour of British servicemen who died during the First World War. The servicemen who lie buried in the grave plot at Nunhead Cemetery came from all parts of the United Kingdom, but many of them died from their injuries in local hospitals having been brought back from France and Belgium.

The large burial plot in squares 74 and 89 on the eastern side of the cemetery contains the remains of 269 servicemen in 37 graves. The original monument, comprising a screen wall and Cross of Sacrifice, was badly vandalised in the 1970s and later demolished. Another monument, inscribed with the names of the servicemen buried in the plot and elsewhere in the cemetery, was erected in the 1980s near the Limesford Road entrance. It has long been FONC's aim to have the neglected burial site made respectable and a replacement monument installed. Happily this has now been achieved thanks mainly through the unwavering efforts of FONC member Eddie Barclay.

Representatives of the regiments of the deceased, Chelsea Pensioners, members of the British Legion, ministers of religion and local politicians attended the rededication service, organised jointly by the Royal British Legion, Southwark Council and the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery.

The Worshipful Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Althea Smith, welcomed everyone to the service from the steps of the chapel. There were several speakers, including Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator, Barry Murphy, Director of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), Councillor Ian Wingfield, Deputy Leader of Southwark Council representing the Right Hon Harriet Harman QC, MP for Camberwell and Peckham, and the Reverend William Dunphy.

The parade to the new memorial for the rededication service and wreath laying ceremony was led by the excellent Army Cadet band of the Haberdashers Askes' College and Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion.

At the new memorial the introductory rites were given by the Deputy Chaplain General the Reverend Dr David Coulter QHC, followed by a Bible reading by the Reverend William Dunphy and memorial blessing by the Deputy Chaplain General. Councillor Althea Smith read 'Two Minutes' a short poem, and the exhortation was recited by Lieutenant-Colonel Conrad

Graham OBE. Following the laying of the many wreaths, including those laid by Dr Peter Frost on behalf of the Peckham Society and Ron Woollacott MBE on behalf of FONC, and another laid by Jeff Hart on behalf of one of the embassies, the Right Hon Simon Hughes MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats, gave a short speech complimenting the combined efforts of all concerned including the Royal British Legion, officials of the CWGC and Southwark Council, and of course the work of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery over many years.



Standard bearers of the Royal British Legion at the rededication service.

After the ceremony welcome refreshments, especially cups of steaming hot tea on such a cold and damp afternoon, were provided by hard-working FONC volunteers. Our thanks to all those FONC members who took part or just came along on the day, and to committee member Jolanta Jagiello for filming the event which was seen by members at the FONC Christmas Social in December.



Chelsea Pensioners at Nunhead. Photo: Paul Dyer.

***CUT THROUGH THE
OLD AND REACH THE NEW!***
Edinburgh's New Calton Burial Ground

by R G S Hunter

When Waterloo Place was engineered in 1815 at the east end of Princes Street in Edinburgh it was necessary to cut through part of the Old Calton Cemetery, and rebury those affected by this change. The name was chosen of course to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Waterloo in that year.

Now continue along Regent Road, pass the Burns monument, and turn right into the New Calton Burial Ground. This cemetery is laid out on a steep slope, and you will enjoy an uninterrupted view across the Firth of Forth as it enters the North Sea. A slight turn of the head and you have also a good view of Holyrood Palace and the Abbey. This fine view probably inspired certain people to choose this cemetery as their resting place. Indeed, it has been referred to as 'the cemetery of the admirals', but so far I have located only three: Rear-Admiral Andrew Smith (d.1831), Vice-Admiral Alexander Fraser (d.1929), and Vice-Admiral Thomas Fraser (d.1870).

A further connection with the sea is found in a walled grave for Robert Stevenson (1772-1850) and his sons Thomas (1818-1887) and Alan (1807-1865), that great dynasty of lighthouse builders. Robert Stevenson, the grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson, studied engineering and worked for the Northern Lighthouse Board for 25 years. He oversaw the construction of some 20 lighthouses, of particular note being the Bell Rock Lighthouse, a seemingly impossible construction project on a dangerous reef in the North Sea. He invented the intermittent flashing light still effectively in use today. His talents were not confined to the sea, and had an influence in reshaping Edinburgh—he engineered Waterloo Place, supervised the construction of London Road, drained the Nor' Loch to make Princes Street Gardens, designed Calton Jail, and planned Granton Harbour (back to the sea again). His son Alan built ten lighthouses, including Skerryvore some 14 miles out in the Atlantic. Son Thomas, father of Robert Louis, was a specialist in lighthouse illumination.

Back on land we find David Bryce (1803-1876), architect of the Royal Infirmary, Fettes College, and the Bank of Scotland headquarters on the Mound, working right up to his death from bronchitis.

Near the bottom of the site is a broken white column marking the resting place of the much honoured immigrant Andreas Gregorowicz, a Polish lawyer, surgeon, soldier and freedom-fighter who fought against the Russians, and escaped to Edinburgh where he began training as a surgeon, but within a year he was dead from the plague contracted while attending the city's poor. He died in 1838, aged only 31.

Next to note is the grave of a farrier William Dick (1793-1866). Born near the coaching stables in White Horse Close, he understood animals and made them his life's study. He developed veterinary science in Edinburgh, founded the Dick Veterinary College, and became a professor at the University of Edinburgh.

Not far away we find another connection with the animal kingdom with William MacGillivray (1796-1852), Professor of Natural History at the University of Aberdeen and the author of *A History of British Birds*. Appropriately his gravestone bears a plaque showing a Golden Eagle eagerly awaiting its prey. By contrast the adjoining grave is of a poor man, Robert Mackerter, who died in 1841, aged 78, after some 50 years service to the Earls of Haddington; self-effacing by nature in such a trade and rightly remembered for his 'Zeal, Fidelity and Attachment.'

As you leave, pause to admire a square pillar decorated with a crudely-carved skull and crossbones to remind us that James Strachan, a poor tanner, sweated diligently at the dye-baths in the Cannonmills.



Memorial to Andreas Gregorowicz
in New Calton Burial Ground

Photo: RGS Hunter

~ *Book Review by Ron Woollacott* ~

PECKHAM & NUNHEAD: *RESIDENTS & VISITORS*

by **John D Beasley**

The blurb on the back cover of this book asserts that *Del Boy* and *Only Fools and Horses* made Peckham famous, but one might argue that it was famous long before the popular BBC television series was aired for the first time. In fact, the compiler of *Peckham & Nunhead—Residents and Visitors*, has worked tirelessly over the last 38 years or so to put Peckham firmly on the historical map. His booklet *The Story of Peckham* was written with children in mind and was his first publication. This was followed in 1985 by his book *Who Was Who in Peckham*—brief biographies of 127 personalities with Peckham and Nunhead connections, and he has published many books since.

This new book features brief details of 500 Peckham and Nunhead residents and visitors, including such famous people as England and Manchester United footballer *Rio Ferdinand*, who was brought up on the Friary Estate in Peckham; the author *Edgar Wallace*, who attended a school in Haymerle Road, the *Rev David Sheppard*, England cricketer and Bishop of Liverpool, who lived for a while in Asylum Road; television personality *Henry Sandon* MBE of Antiques Roadshow fame whose father had a shop in Queen's Road; *John Reagan*, the father of the former US President Ronald Reagan, who was born in Peckham; *Lord Ouseley* who lived in Choumert Road; the Victorian artist *Lewis Foreman Day*, who was born at Peckham Rye; the artist *Tracy Emin* who lived in Peckham; *Charlie Whelan*, former Press Secretary to Chancellor Gordon Brown, whose house was in Andsell Road, Nunhead; and film actor *Jeremy Irons*, who lived in Talfourd Road in 1966 and said: 'I had a great year of my life in Peckham.'

A wide range of famous and not-so-famous, but nonetheless interesting and remarkable people, are included in this unusual book which will be of interest to anyone with Peckham and Nunhead connections. The entries are perhaps rather brief, often consisting of just two or three lines allotted to each personality, nevertheless, there is still a lot of information packed into 96 pages and the large paperback book is illustrated in full colour.

***Peckham and Nunhead: Residents and Visitors*, by John d Beasley** is published by Amberley Publishing of The Hill, Stroud, Gloucestershire, and is available for £14.99. ISBN 978-1-84868-872-8 www.amberleybooks.com

***FONC News*—In Brief**

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Please note that all subscriptions are due to be paid by the 1st April 2013. The annual subscription for UK members is currently £2 (and £10 for overseas), Donations are most welcome. If you received a reminder with this issue of *FONC News* please send your payment as soon as possible—if there is no form this will be because you have already renewed or have sent a standing order. Thank you for your continued support.

ANNUAL ECUMENICAL ALL SOULS SERVICE

The annual All Souls Service was held in the chapel at Nunhead Cemetery on Sunday 4th November 2012 and led by the Reverend Alan Bond and took place on the same day the rededication service of the new war memorial. The annual service is an opportunity to remember all those persons of all religious denominations who now rest in the cemetery. Unfortunately it was again poorly attended, despite being advertised in this journal and on posters in the cemetery. It was however, a particularly cold, damp and miserable afternoon which may be the main reason for the poor attendance.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WREATH LAYING

In contrast to the All Souls Service held a week earlier, the annual Remembrance Day event on Sunday 11th November 2012 was well attended by over 50 people. This year we laid five wreaths, the fifth being placed at the new war memorial in squares 74/89. FONC made a donation to the Brockley branch of the Royal British Legion for providing the wreaths, and they indicated that next year they can provide wreaths with the FONC logo.

FONC'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2012

The Christmas Social is an important event and gives us the opportunity to thank all our members and to socialise. Unfortunately, it was not as well attended as in previous years, no doubt due to the inclement weather. Nevertheless, the 25 plus members and their friends who attended were not disappointed, and were able to enjoy seasonal refreshments and two short films of recent FONC events, i.e. Boy Scouts (Leysdown Tragedy) centenary service, and rededication of the First World War graves. A raffle was held to offset the cost of refreshments, and the highlight of the evening was the recitation by Tim Stevenson of *The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God* (the famous monologue by J Milton Hayes) who kept members entertained during some

unforeseen technical difficulties during the setting up of the projector and computer. How on earth does Tim remember all those verses?

MONUMENTS RESTORED

Two substantial funerary monuments on the east side of the Main Avenue have been made safe and restored to the perpendicular, thanks to the efforts of our Vice-Chairman Carol Stevenson who managed to obtain sufficient funding from Southwark's Cleaner Greener Safer scheme.

JOHN GORSUCH

John Gorsuch, who was secretary of the Nunhead Residents' Association (NRA) for nearly 40 years sadly passed away on the 27th December 2012. He had an operation for cancer earlier in the year, and had missed the NRA AGM in May as a result. He had, however, recovered enough to attend the meetings in July and October. John, who was an indefatigable worker on behalf of the Nunhead community and the local environment, was awarded the Honorary Liberty of the former Borough of Camberwell by the Southwark Civic Association a few years ago, and at the 25th Anniversary Celebration Meeting of the Southwark Police and Community Consultative Group (SPCCG) held at Southwark Town Hall on the 21st September 2010, John, a long serving member and former chairman of the SPCCG, was presented with a well-deserved award and framed certificate for his contributions to police-community consultation since the group was set up in 1985. Long may you rest in peace, John.

FONC VOLUNTEERING DAY

Sunday 7th April 2013

We are hoping that members who live near enough to Nunhead Cemetery, and are interested in the work that FONC volunteers do to improve the cemetery, will come along to the cemetery on Sunday 7th April 2013. We need new volunteers for a variety of tasks, from repairing memorials to cutting back undergrowth to keep paths clear and removing scrub. There are many other jobs that also need doing, so please come along and see what is going on and, if you feel so inclined, why not have a go? We also need volunteers to copy memorial inscriptions, assist on the Sunday publication sales stall, and to train as tour guides. Come along at any time between 10am and 4pm. We look forward to seeing you.

~ Nunhead Cemetery 1880 ~

*Have you ever wondered what Nunhead Cemetery looked like around 130 years ago? Then wonder no more and read on. The following extract is from 'The Sunday at Home—A family magazine for Sunday Reading' published in about 1880, and written by the anonymous author of 'Episodes in an Obscure Life'. This gem of Victorian writing was discovered by FONC member **Michele Louise Burford** and is reproduced here for all to enjoy.*

Many 'parks' in the suburbs of London are now treeless, or planted only, in front 'gardens' with shrub-like trees. A visitor of Nunhead Cemetery, however, unacquainted with its history, must feel inclined to say, 'Here is a picturesquely wooded and undulating Surrey park, in which double rows of houses have not supplanted shady avenues; the turf and trees, over and under which a favoured few once wandered, have been turned into a receptacle and a canopy for thousands of the dead, who, whatever was their station in life, are like the dead slave in the Greek Anthology, *all now equal to Darius.*'

Nevertheless, some forty years ago, the cemetery was simply fifty acres of field and meadow. All the tasteful planting has been done by the cemetery company, and it is rare as well as rich, including shrubs which prove that landscape-gardening here is made a speciality, and that no expense is spared upon it. Within the cemetery, there is an ably-superintended, strongly-manned nursery, which keeps the flower-beds bright, and the graves also, after the old Welsh custom. It is curious to think of little coffin-shaped parterres, bordered with white-washed stones, and planted with old-fashioned flowers, far away in the quiet hollows of the Welsh hills—most of the graves with no other memorial than the piously-tended flowers, when on a summer day we see the blaze of blossom at the foot of gleaming marble and glittering granite in Nunhead. But it is winter at the time of our pleasant wanderings there. Some of the graves are still bright with flowers, but glossy shrubs are their chief adornment. Throughout the place, however, laurustinus blossoms freely, although chrysanthemums hang wilted heads, and rowan trees and holly and rose bushes are red with equally seasonable berries. In spite of gardener's care, and the mildness of the season, there is nevertheless, unmistakable look of winter in the place. Trees and bushes are leafless; dark, dank

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dead leaves lie trodden, or waiting to be trodden, into the fat clay; jungles of leafless sprays bend under sugared-almond-like ovals. Although, since the Bishop of Winchester consecrated the forty-acre All Saints portion of the ground in 1840, some 45,000 persons have been buried in that portion, and the unconsecrated divided from it by no invidious boundary,—there are solitudes still in Nunhead Cemetery; grave-less, or only dotted with single tombstones white, grey, black or green. Moss-grown red paths wind into nooks that seem, so far as either dead or living are concerned, as far from London as if they were in the Fiji Islands, until we hear the rumble and panting of one of the trains that frequently rush around. The roar of London is audible in Nunhead; the drab masonry of South London, redeemed from meanness only by its smokily, mistily, mysterious mass, spreads almost to the gates, but on other sides you see green swelling country, houseless, or only marred by straggling lines of brick and mortar.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*PLEASE GO TO PAGE 6 FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF TOURS
OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY PLANNED FOR 2013*

WOODLAND TRAIL TOURS IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY 2013

► *Sundays 17th March, 16th June, 15th September and 8th December.* Meet at the flint circle just inside the main entrance in Linden Grove at 2.15pm.

FONC VOLUNTEERING DAY

► *Sunday 7th April 2013 from 10am to 4.30pm.* Members are invited to come along to Nunhead Cemetery at any time during the hours stated above. *See page 16 for further information.* We look forward to seeing you there.

GRAVE SYMBOLS TOUR

► *Sunday 14th April 2013 at 2.15pm.* Meet Carole Tyrrell at the Linden Grove entrance, near the round flower bed, and join her on a tour of the cemetery looking at and discovering the meaning behind some of the many interesting symbols on the gravestones and monuments in Nunhead Cemetery.

SPECIAL VISIT TO GOLDERS GREEN CREMATORIUM

► *Monday 29th April 2013.* Cathy Mercer invites you to join her on visit to this famous crematorium. *Please go to page 4 for further information.*

FONC'S ANNUAL CEMETERY OPEN DAY 2013

► ***Saturday 18th May 2013 from 11am to 5pm.*** We shall require volunteers to help set up from 8am onwards. *Please see notice on page 3.*

FONC'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

► ***Thursday 20th June 2013 starting at 7.30pm.*** The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery will take place in the function room of Old Nun's Head pub. The business part of the meeting will be followed by a presentation, to be decided. *For further information please see page 3.*

VICTORIAN ENGINEERS TOUR

► ***Sunday 14th July 2013 at 2.15pm.*** Meet Ron Woollacott at the Linden Grove entrance, near the flint circle, and join him on a tour of the cemetery and the last resting places of some of the great engineers of the Victorian era.

MUSICIANS, ARTISTS & ENTERTAINERS TOUR

► ***Sunday 13th October 2013 at 2.15.*** Meet Jolanta Jagiello at the Linden Grove entrance, near the round flower bed, and join her on a tour of the cemetery to look at the burial places of some great entertainers, musicians and artists of the past.

VOLUNTARY WORKDAYS

► ***Voluntary workdays take place on the first Sunday in the month from 10am to 4.30pm.*** New volunteers are most welcome. Meet at the FONC Portakabin (opposite the Scottish Martyrs' monument) near the main entrance in Linden Grove. Stay just 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 ongoing task. Volunteers meet at the FONC Portakabin near the Linden Grove entrance. The next date is ***Sunday 7th April 2013.*** Please check with Paul Dyer (MI Co-ordinator) for times and details before travelling (evenings only) on fonc@btconnect.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. Just turn up on the day. Tours 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:
The editor, *FONC News*, c/o fonc@btconnect.com

The deadline for the Summer issue is the 20th April 2013
(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) 1998.

www.fonc.org.uk

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