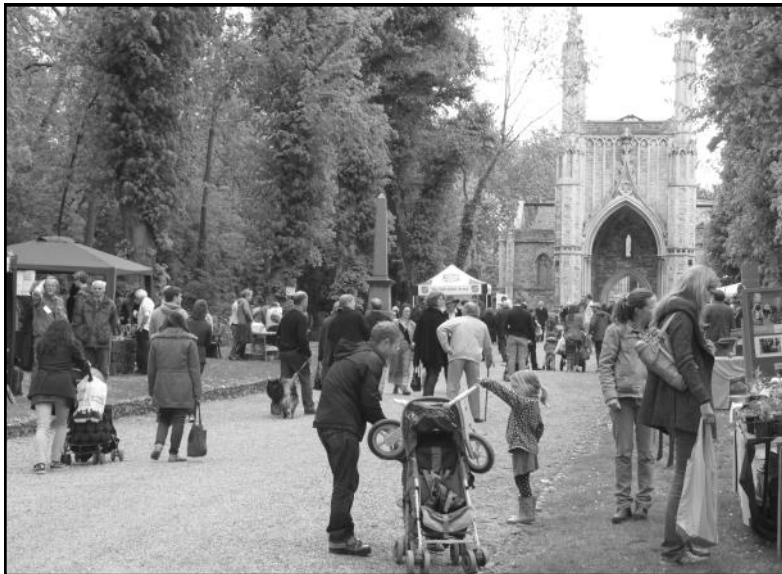


FONC News



No 121 - Autumn issue (September-November 2013) - ISSN 1478-0631



28th Annual Open Day Nunhead Cemetery 2013— Photo: Ron Woollcott

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The Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC), 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 tax-payers 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.

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 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**.

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

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

Contributors to this issue: Jeff Hart; Jolanta Jagiello; Richard Jones; Barbara Thomas; Carole Tyrrell. All other text unless otherwise credited is by the editor.

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

**LONDON OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND
IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY SEPTEMBER 2013
*21st and 22nd September 1.00pm—5.00pm on both days***

This year featuring **VIGNETTED WINDOWS FORETOLD** a display of artwork in the Anglican chapel with accompanying talk, demonstration and workshop curated by Jolanta Jagiello. The crypt, chapel and tower will be open to visitors and there will be general tours of the cemetery. We shall require volunteers to act as stewards and to assist in the sale of publications etc. Although this is a low key event help is always needed. If you can assist on either or both days please contact an officer or committee member. *For contact details please turn to back page.*

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
*(covering the period 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013)***

Last year was probably the fullest and busiest year in the history of FONC. We organised or were involved in more events and activities than ever before. In addition to our regular events and attractions i.e. Open House Weekend in September, our Open Day in May and the All Souls Service and Remembrance Day event, we also hosted the John and Frances West Group's visit to the cemetery; provided stewards at the Film Night event in the cemetery; assisted at the 'Biped Monitor' event; organised a special event to commemorate the centenary of the Walworth Boy Scouts tragedy; held a volunteering day in the cemetery; and took part in the First World War Memorial rededication service in November. Our AGM was also well attended and members enjoyed a slide presentation by Stephen Humphrey featuring Southwark's burial grounds, and our Christmas social featured

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Jolanta Jagiello's films of the Boy Scouts' event and First World War memorial rededication.

Jolanta Jagiello curated several art events in the cemetery including 'Diamond Decades', 'Woodland Wonders' and 'Magnificent Deadly Sins', all of which were well received and appreciated by visitors. Our hardworking treasurer, Cathy Mercer, arranged members' visits to Beckenham Cemetery and Crematorium and Golders Green Crematorium, which were very much enjoyed and appreciated.

As well as all the activities and events listed above, we continue to conduct regular monthly tours of the cemetery, and last year we added woodland and specialist tours to the regular tours on offer. All of these events and activities involves a tremendous amount of work and effort by the organisers and volunteers, and everyone is to be congratulated for making them a success.

Our hardworking team of workday volunteers and Southwark Council's cemetery staff continue to ensure that Nunhead Cemetery is a beautiful place to visit and visitors and residents alike appreciate the many improvements that have been made recently and over the years. Thanks also to Paul Dyer for co-ordinating the on-going task of recording Nunhead's many monumental inscriptions, and the team of enthusiastic volunteers who man and run the information and publications stall in the cemetery.

Our officers and committee members also deserve our appreciation for all their work during the last 12 months, especially Simon Mercer, our membership secretary; Jeff Hart, co-ordinator; Carol Stevenson, vice-chairman; Cathy Mercer, our treasurer, for continuing to take care of our finances, and George Young, for efficiently auditing same. Thanks, also to Carole Tyrrell, minutes secretary, for making sense of our ramblings at meetings, and to all our committee and co-opted members including, Rex Batten, Malcolm Collins, John Collings, Paul Dyer, Jane Hart, Jolanta Jagiello. Jeremy Partington, Tim Stevenson, Gwyneth Stokes, and Maureen Woollacott. Thanks also to our webmaster, Simon Quill.

To all those members who continue to contribute to the success of FONC in many other ways we offer our sincere thanks, in particular Nicola Dunn and her band of *FONC News* distributors, Peter Blount and Pat Manning, *FONC News* postal co-ordinators, and not forgetting all our tour guides including Chris Knowles and John Turpin. Our thanks to everyone who work 'behind the scenes', and last but not least to our many members and friends throughout the UK and abroad for continuing to support us in our work.

Ron Woollacott MBE, FRSA, chairman.

VOLUNTARY WORK GROUP ANNUAL REPORT (covering the period 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013)

by Carol Stevenson, vice-chairman

The past year has been marked by the wettest ever summer and autumn, followed by one of the coldest ever winters and springs, so it is a testament to the hardiness of our volunteers that I have a report to make at all! Not only that, but helped by a couple of special events, we broke all records for numbers of volunteers and hours worked.

Our main tasks, as usual, were controlling the vigorous plant growth in the cemetery. We tackled the ivy which grows up the wall and railing pillars, some of which was so resistant that we had to cut it and go back later to remove it when it was dead. We removed fallen trees, scythed bays, weeded the flowerbeds, cut and grubbed up bramble, and removed scrub such as snowberry, and put a lot of work into removing the growth which would otherwise hide our best monuments. The only thing that grew poorly was the Japanese knotweed, which is good news since it is an invasive weed we are trying to eliminate.

As well as controlling plant-life, we have also been guiding the public. Posts for the tree trail have been put in place and we have done a significant amount of woven ‘dead hedging’ to control access to areas we want to protect. Path edges needed regular cutting back and we have also done some surfacing work. We also found time to do a couple of monument repairs, the most impressive being the raising of the cross on the Charles Norfolk monument (which was reported in *FONC News*).

The Portakabin has had some repairs and tidying up and the freight container was emptied and sorted out—a major task. Improvements were made to the coach porch (chapel) viewing platform, but the new sections would not fit the steps, and had to be hauled up the outside of the chapel. The ‘moat’ around the East Lodge kept filling up and kept having to be pumped out.

As mentioned above, the workday volunteers were closely involved in the World War One memorial rededication ceremony in November, the special Volunteering Day in April, and preparations for the Open Day in May. Sometimes we do a more personal job, and having noticed that our late member John Clough’s plaque by his weeping willow was disappearing, we raised it up and cleaned it. As usual I must thank all our volunteers, old and new, who have turned out whatever the weather and achieved so much. Please keep coming back. *Nunhead Cemetery needs you!* ■

FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

The Annual General Meeting of FONC took place in the function room at the Old Nun's Head on Thursday 20th June. The chairman welcomed everyone present and introduced Carole Tyrrell, who would record the minutes of the meeting, and Jeff Hart who would present the Annual Report on behalf of the General Committee. Following the chairman's opening remarks and receiving apologies for absence, the minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting were read and adopted as a true record of that meeting.

Jeff Hart presented the Annual Report (a copy of which was available to all members present at the meeting) and said the slight decline in our membership over the last four years had been halted and membership now stood at 855 compared to 851 last year, 12 of whom were overseas members.

Affiliations: FONC is affiliated to the recently renamed Trust for Conservation Volunteers, through whom we obtain public liability insurance cover for all our activities, both within the cemetery and other events we attend off-site. We are affiliated to the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends. As a registered charity, FONC is required by law to submit information, including a financial statement, to the Charity Commission on an annual basis which is available for public review.

National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF): Jeff and Jane Hart and Carole Tyrrell represented FONC at the National Federation of Cemetery Friends AGM at Norwich in 2012. FONC members Gwyneth Stokes and Carol Stevenson attended in their respective roles of NFCF secretary and newsletter editor. Topics discussed included improving the website (www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk), education packs for schools, and how email helps groups exchange information.

FONC meetings and members' visits: The General Committee held ten meetings and the Voluntary Work Sub-Committee met quarterly during the year. The committee continues to meet at the Old Nun's Head thanks to the generosity of the pub manager. In addition to the usual administration of the 'Friends', a new Health and Safety policy has been adopted. We also organised a volunteering day to try to recruit new volunteers. The 2012 AGM was graced by Stephen Humphrey's comprehensive review of burial grounds in Southwark. The Christmas social enjoyed the screening of films by Jolanta Jagiello of both the Scouts' memorial anniversary and the War Memorial dedication event. Cathy Mercer organised very successful members' visits to Beckenham Cemetery and Crematorium in June 2012 and Golders Green Crematorium in April 2013.

FONC web-site: Our much-praised website www.fonc.org.uk provides information about the cemetery and FONC and is an essential link with the wider world. It is continually updated under the direction of web-master Simon Quill and *FONC News* is now available electronically through the dedicated members' area.

Sunday publications and enquiry desk: The Sunday publications and enquiries desk (PED) organised by Cathy Mercer is a vital on-site link between FONC and the general public, dealing with general enquiries, advertising forthcoming events and raising funds through publications sales. Cathy Mercer marked 21 years of the PED with a special cake shared at the AGM. Cathy had organised the rota of volunteers from the beginning and, as she is also our treasurer, took a justified retirement from that job. Gwyneth Stokes has taken over and with a dedicated band of volunteers is running the desk for all tour and special tour days with some other summer Sundays, but they are seeking more volunteers to add yet more days. New lightweight tables and chairs for the PED were purchased.

Open House Weekend: London Open House Weekend was held on the 22nd and 23rd September 2012 with some 500 visitors, no doubt also attracted by the Diamond Decades art exhibition in the chapel at the same time, despite the Sunday being a virtual washout as the great British summer continued. So bad has the weather been this year that there was no Nunhead honey, produced from the hives in the East Lodge grounds, on offer.

Annual Open Day: Our 28th Open Day on the third Saturday in May 2013 came close to the records set for the attendance and funds raised last year, helped by mercifully reasonable weather in an otherwise dire summer. Hard work by many, particularly Tim and Carol Stevenson, saw new attractions and a full programme of musical events in the chapel throughout the day, and an art exhibition curated by Jolanta Jagiello in the Stearns mausoleum. We had a record 51 stalls on site with additional attractions for children. Although not intended to be a 'hard sell' to raise funds, the Open Day does account for nearly 25% of our annual income.

Publicity and media coverage: We have tried to improve publicity cover this year, with Carole Tyrrell taking on the role of publicity officer. The new notice board at Nunhead Railway Station has helped in this respect. Whilst we continue to receive intermittent good news stories, there has been some adverse publicity concerning dog owners that we have no control over. By far the greatest publicity coup was associated with the dedication of the new war memorial in square 89 (see below) and also the Scouts Centenary event which attracted the inevitable David Beckham connections. We also received coverage on BBC's e-News Magazine.

FONC News: Our journal is published quarterly and usually reaches members during the first two weeks in March, June, September and December. The number of pages in each issue varies according to the number of articles submitted by our members. We always welcome articles on most subjects, especially about Nunhead and other cemeteries of interest, family history, the flora and fauna and ecology of Nunhead and other cemeteries, and related subjects. Last year we published two issues comprising 20 pages each and two comprising 24 pages each. Thanks to all our contributors, to the editor Ron Woollacott and sub-editor Gwyneth Stokes, our hand delivery co-ordinator Nicola Dunn and her team of distributors, and postal-co-ordinators Pat Manning and Peter Blount. Thanks also to Mark Plummer and his

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staff at Catford Print for providing a quality product and an excellent service at a reasonable cost. If you haven't yet written an article for *FONC News* please think about it—better still start writing something now!

Publications, archives and research work: Having sold out of the first print run, we have now reprinted the popular 'Investors in Death' and are planning a new range of postcards. A calendar for 2014 is also planned. A team of students from Middlesex University have undertaken a review of possible ways forward for developing the East Lodge, including public involvement.

Grave search and monument inscription recording: Grave search enquiries are carried out by Southwark Council's staff, although for many years they were dealt with by FONC. Our service was free of charge, although we usually received donations from grateful enquirers. The Council makes a charge for searching the records. We do, however, continue to receive enquiries and give advice and assistance. The grave search desk at Open Day, manned by Michele Burford and Ron Woollacott, is always popular with visitors wanting to locate a particular grave. Under Paul Dyer's guidance a small band of volunteers continues to transcribe memorial inscriptions and we have now placed a number of MIs on our website.

Cemetery tours and other events: Whilst our monthly general interest conducted tours remain as popular as ever, we have added quarterly tree trail tours and a range of specialist subject tours to the rota this year. Depending on public reaction we hope to make these a regular attraction in future. We also continue to offer tours for special interests groups that have included this year a visit by the John and Frances West Family Group in September. The Free Film Festival event was repeated, also in September, with nearly 400 people enjoying an evening showing of 'Kind Hearts and Coronets'. Perhaps the highlight of the year was the November rededication of the new war memorial in square 89 erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission after consultation with LBS and FONC.

Art and education projects: Another successful year of public art exhibitions curated by Jolanta Jagiello in the Anglican chapel during Open House Weekend and in the Stearns mausoleum was enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the cemetery.

The 'Diamond Decades' exhibition during Open House Weekend was awarded Southwark Council Community Funding and was enjoyed by over 350 visitors despite the British wet weather. The highlights of the exhibition were Sally Buchanan's designs of the Queen's hats over the decades which laced one of the chapel windows to the recreation of the Queen's famous hand wave by Abilene. Above all the public and particularly FONC volunteers enjoyed being 'Queen for a Day' styled by Ara Moradian's hairpieces of the Queen's unique hairdo in the 1950s, 1980s, and as a 'blonde in rollers'. Following on from the success of 'Magnificent Seven Deadly Sins' in the mausoleum in May last year, at the suggestion of a visitor to the show, Jolanta concentrated on the lesser known 'Magnificent Seven Heavenly Virtues' this year. Last year's artists were invited to counteract their sin with their virtue. The exhibition was open all weekends in May including the Bank holidays, attracting over 1,000 visitors.

Religious services: The annual All Souls Service held in the chapel, organised by Joan and the Reverend Alan Bond, was a poignant event with attendance slightly improved by following the War Memorial rededication earlier in the day. This event also seemed to have added to the interest in our Remembrance Sunday service the following week with over 50 people attending. The Royal British Legion benefits from the donation we make for the wreaths now laid at five sites in the cemetery.

Management of the cemetery by Southwark Council: Despite Southwark undertaking extensive public consultation on its review of burial policy in the borough last year there was little direct feedback on the outcome. Whilst land at Camberwell Old Cemetery has now been taken into use we are assured that there would be no impact on Nunhead Cemetery. Perhaps as a result of the new contract for grounds maintenance but more likely the direction of Southwark's managers, Candy and Mark, the cemetery has obtained the prestigious Green Flag Award for 2012. It is hoped that this will lead to continuing financial support for the cemetery in order not to lose the award at each subsequent annual review. Applications for filming in the chapel and crypt continue with resulting funds directed to FONC.

Cemetery improvements: FONC has again been successful in attracting local community funding to enable the repair of two more major memorials on the Main Avenue that are beyond our own abilities. We have completed installation of our Woodland Trail permanent signposts and we have discussed with Southwark possible installation of new path name signposts part funded by FONC. However, new signage planned for the cemetery entrance and Green Chain Walk signage at Nunhead Railway Station, that FONC has contributed to on design, has yet to appear. After the Green Flag Award we negotiated with Southwark on the precise placing of a flagpole to fly the flag in order that it did not spoil the visual impact of the Main Avenue. Southwark carried out extensive tree work to improve the view to St Paul's Cathedral and other essential tree works and have provided a further three heavy duty benches at suitable points in the cemetery. Meetings with the Architectural Heritage Association may lead to our being able to progress to an outline bid for funding for the restoration of the East Lodge over the coming year.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

The audited accounts were presented by Jeff Hart on behalf of our treasurer Cathy Mercer, copies of which were circulated to all members present at the meeting. This year's surplus reflected a healthy balance in FONC's accounts. Our auditor, George Young, had examined the accounts and vouchers and was satisfied that they were a true and fair view of FONC's financial affairs for the year ending 31st March 2013. The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to both Cathy Mercer and George Young. George kindly agreed to continue as auditor for another year.

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

In accordance with our Constitution all officers and committee members retire at the AGM and are eligible to stand for re-election. The following members were pro-

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posed, seconded and duly elected to serve as officers and committee members for the next 12 months: Rex Batten, Malcolm Collins, Jane Hart, Jeff Hart (Coordinator), Jolanta Jagiello, Cathy Mercer (Hon Treasurer), Simon Mercer (Hon Membership Secretary), Jeremy Partington, Fran Rawcliffe, Carol Stevenson, (Vice-Chairman), Tim Stevenson, Gwyneth Stokes, Carole Tyrrell (Minutes Secretary), Maureen Woollacott and Ron Woollacott (Chairman). John Collings and Paul Dyer did not stand for re-election.

The business part of the meeting was followed by a selection of light refreshments and a short film about West Norwood Cemetery. Unfortunately there was a slight delay caused by problems with a laptop computer, but this was soon remedied when the chairman, who lives near the pub, popped home and brought his laptop to the rescue.■

Hand delivery of *FONC News*

Thank you to long-term supporters Joan and Alan Bond who have hand-delivered *FONC News* in Telegraph Hill North, SE London, for many years. This round includes the area bounded by Queens Road, Musgrove Road, Gellatly Road and Lausanne Road. Joan has warned that houses in this round often have very steep steps! Despite this we already have a new volunteer. Thank you to Pete Trotman who has stepped forward in time for this edition.

NEW BOOK BY JAMES STEVENS CURL

Funerary Monuments & Memorials in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

The funerary monuments and memorials in the Anglican Cathedral of St Patrick, Armagh, include fine works by such sculptors as Bacon, Chantrey, Farrell, Marochetti, Nollekens, Rysbrack and others. The book is beautifully illustrated in colour and black and white and will be of interest to everyone who appreciates great church art. Professor Curl provides invaluable information about the monuments and their creators. I was particularly interested in Armagh's Anglican Cathedral because the parents and sister of a former Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Reverend John Allen Fitzgerald Gregg, are buried at Nunhead. Two editions of the book are available: Limited edition individually numbered hardback at £40 and paperback at £20—both including p&p within the UK. To order please print out an order form from Professor Curl's website: www.jamesstevenscurl.com

RW

NUNHEAD CEMETERY OPEN DAY SATURDAY 20th MAY 2013

**Words of Praise: Article by *Rhodri Jones*
from the *Independent's 'I'* newspaper**

Having two small children, a significant chunk of my weekends is often spent finding various outdoor activities to keep young bodies and minds active. Saturdays normally involve nothing more exciting than trailing from park to park, weather permitting, so when we learnt of an open day at a local cemetery (no, that's not a typo!) we were intrigued enough to pay a visit. A cemetery doesn't sound like the most appealing place to have an open day – when most people think of one images of rows of tombstones spring to mind, but, as I discovered, this was more nature reserve than formal burial ground. Doubtless it would make a fantastic location for the next blockbuster horror movie, but even under slightly murky skies it was the perfect setting to showcase local small businesses and charity groups, with stalls dotted among towering lime trees giving added character to the gothic gloom. I hate the word, but the combination of the setting, the atmosphere and the history brought an overwhelming sense of community.

OPEN DAY 2013—THE YEAR OF THE BIG FAT CATERPILLAR

by Richard (Bugman) Jones

The Bug Hunt has been trundling along at Nunhead Cemetery's Open Day for more than 25 years; quite how many more than 25 years, I'm a little hazy on. Needless to say we usually have a pretty good idea what the kids will bring back to the identification stall, and we have a prepared crib sheet with the scientific names ready to be transcribed onto the certificates.

Nevertheless, every year, we get surprises—things that have never turned up before. These may not be dramatic rarities or strange new invaders, but with so many eager hands and keen eyes looking, it is no wonder that different bugs are continually being uncovered.

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A few years ago we saw the first Cardinal Beetle, so called because of their bright red colour; this year we had a veritable conclave. The first Brown Tree Ant appeared in 2002; this is a nationally scarce species usually seen in old woodlands in central and south-west England and its discovery in Nunhead was very exciting. This year they must be living in every log and tree stump in the cemetery.



Open Day Bug Hunt May 2013. Photo: courtesy Richard Jones

For 2013, the ‘new’ bug turned out to be the big fat caterpillar. We had several of them brought in during the day, ranging from pale yellowy green to dull brownish beige. Now some caterpillars are highly distinctive and it is easy to tell what moth (or butterfly) they will turn into, but many are just camouflaged green or brown, flabby, roughly cylindrical leaf-eating machines, which all look more or less the same. So it was with ours.

Despite their various colourways, they were all similarly shaped and marked, and I’m making a guess that they were all the larvae of the Large Yellow Underwing. This a big moth with wingspan of 50mm, mottled brown like tree bark above, but with striking buttercup yellow underwings, which flash like strobes when the insect is flying. It’s very common in parks and gardens throughout the UK, and one of the regulars found attracted to lighted windows and street lampposts during the night. Unfortunately we are unlikely ever to get Yellow Underwing Moths at a bug hunt on an Open Day in May, because they do not transform into adults until June.

But something new will turn up next year. I guarantee it.■

OPEN DAY COMPLAINT!

by Jeff Hart (FONC Co-ordinator)

Every year thousands of visitors attend our annual Open Day held on the third Saturday of May. We believe it is a very popular ‘community’ event that FONC members, stall holders and visitors thoroughly enjoy. We base this view not only on the numbers attending and the financial takings but also on the feedback we ask for on the day and afterwards from all those who have an interest, including Southwark Council, in order that we can seek to improve the following years’ event. No matter how hard we try every year there is always one—and I do mean only one—complaint on the day that I, as Open Day Co-ordinator, receive and try to address. This year the complainant has followed up with a letter to the journal editor and so I think it is worth responding in the journal to the points raised.

The first comment was that the Open Day is not as good as it used to be and that we are ‘driving the event into the ground’. This is based on the complainant having attended the Open Day ‘for many years’. Well, of course, any such assessment is to an extent subjective. I have attended every Open Day we have run since 1986 and, admittedly, I may be rather biased but I and the FONC Committee do like to think that each year we have succeeded in either maintaining or improving the Open Day experience for visitors and stall holders alike. Secondly, it was stated that there were fewer stalls this year. Here I can at least fall back on the records we keep that shows that at 51 stalls this was the highest number we have ever had! It was also suggested that ‘there was less for kids to do which will put off parents’. We try hard to ensure that there is something of interest for children at the Open Day because they will be the future guardians of the cemetery, and are more likely to be active if they have had positive experiences there. So, in addition to the usual free face-painting, badge-making, bug-hunting and birds of prey (also for the adults!) that FONC provides, this year we had new stalls that offered children other face-painters, model making, story-telling and jigsaws. Finally, it was said that we (I) had been overheard telling one stall holder that they should not be selling jumble on their stall. It was suggested that many visitors come for ‘the jumble’ and would be put off if this was forbidden. Well, true to an extent. FONC has always had a policy of not permitting the sale of jumble at the Open Day because we do not want the event to simply become a giant jumble sale as so many others

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do. We notify stall holders of this policy and ask that they do two things on their stalls—raise money by selling good quality items relevant to their aims, be that plants, honey, publications or fluffy toys; provide display or exhibition material that informs visitors of their work. I did indeed politely remind one long-standing stall holder that had included jumble on their stall that whilst not being asked to remove it this year to please not do so again next year.

So, you cannot please all of the people all of the time! If readers have any suggestions they wish to make for future Open Days (bearing in mind that we try to minimise expenditure in order that we can keep as much of the event free of charge as possible) we would be delighted to hear from you in the hope the next Open Day will be even better.■

Nunhead Theatrical Family Graves

Graves numbers 34611, 3546, 10521, 9718, 20239, 11351,
22729, 27116—all in square 27

by Barbara Thomas

Having been told that my great-great grandfather Garstin Parker Wilson [GPW] was buried at Nunhead Cemetery, and armed with plan of square 27 obtained from Camberwell New Cemetery Office, I visited the location in 2009 with my husband. We noticed the board informing of music hall performers and in particular Julio Henry Hughes [JHH], GPW's father-in-law. Eventually we spied the grave of Edward Besley (1826-1901), the brother-in-law of GPW. It took a further visit with a few useful tools, to uncover the grave of Julio Henry Hughes (1809-1872) with his wife Francis Old (1816-1880) and her mother Mary Old (1791-1874), all 'comedians'. In the past, the term comedian was used to describe an actor. Julio started his career as a scenic artist, then worked as an actor in his father Henry's theatres on the Exeter circuit. Later, among other engagements, he became the leading actor at the Surrey Theatre.

The adjacent graves are of Garstin Parker Wilson (1826-1889) and his wife Mary Frances Hughes (1834-1891), daughter of JHH both actors, and two of their children who died young; also of a further daughter Julia Hughes (1835-1913) married to Edward Besley, barrister of 'Rosemount', Sydenham Hill, buried with much of his family, including Thomas Ad-



Theatrical graves at Nunhead Cemetery 2013 — photo: Barbara Thomas

denbrooke (1859-1936) and Leonard Pasmore (1854-1930). Behind these graves is a further one to Allan Leigh Stone (1898-1903) my grandfather's brother, who died age five.

In 2012 Nunhead Cemetery staff Candy Edwards and Mark Thompson were very helpful by organising the creation of a path around these graves enabling them to be preserved. We then revisited the graves to plant daffodils, and unearthed a small cross which had become apparent. This was for Winifred Mary Pounds (1883-1885) the only child, who died aged two and a half years, of a further daughter of GPW Jessie Louise (1862-1953), who married Charles Courtice Pounds (1862-1927). Both these, including other daughters of GPW, were founder members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. GPW took the stage name of Murray as did his two brothers Henry Leigh (1820-1870) and Edward (1829-1878), also involved with the theatre, but buried at Brompton Cemetery.

The head of this theatrical dynasty was Richard Hughes (1741-1814) who having joined Roger Kemble's touring company, first ran the Exeter circuit of theatres and finally managed Sadler's Wells. His oldest daughter, Maria (b.1775) married the famous clown Joseph Grimaldi (b.1779), but died in childbirth. A further daughter Julia (b.1783) married John Bennett (b.1773)

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manager of Exeter Theatre. Another child Henry (b.1784) (q.v.) was the father not only of JHH but of another Richard (b.1807) who was the leader of Covent Garden Orchestra, his son Richard was also a Professor of Music.

Richard Hughes' oldest son Richard (b.1772), married to Elizabeth Bish (b.1786), ultimately purchased Vauxhall Gardens with her father Thomas Bish and Frederick Gye (b.1781). This marriage produced two daughters who married two of Frederick Gye's sons. Frederick Gye junior (b.1810) became manager of the Royal Italian Opera Company, now Covent Garden. He and his father-in-law Richard Hughes (b.1772) are buried in West Norwood Cemetery with other family members. Frederick's son Ernest (b.1838) took over his position at the Opera and married Emma Albani (b.1852 Canada) a renowned opera singer, both buried at Brompton Cemetery.

There is a further connection at Nunhead with the grave of George John Bennett (1800-1879), a Shakespearian actor. John Bennett (q.v.) had an actor brother George (b.1778), the father of George John Bennett. This grave, No 3022 Square 65, is difficult to find and is now mostly illegible.

During these three years it has been exciting to discover these seven graves and find out more of my theatrical ancestors. Interestingly the mother-in-law of GPW had a brother, William Octavius Garstin (1811-1882) who was an upholder (undertaker) in Welbeck Street, Marylebone. Perhaps my interest in cemeteries may in part be derived from this. Fuelled by this interest, I have also joined the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, my nearest cemetery, and regularly help with 'scrub clearance'. I would recommend this work, as it is both fascinating to be in a cemetery surrounded by history and wildlife, and is also a free workout!

While preparing this article I was interested in a programme on BBC Radio 4 during 'Death Awareness Week' (13th -19th May) when I heard Tim Stevenson of FONC appreciating the delights of Nunhead Cemetery. Mention was made of Death Cafes, a recent concept where death, an inevitability, can be seen in the context of life.■

NB: If you would like to learn more about some of Barbara's ancestors mentioned in this article, brief biographies of the following will be found in the following FONC publications: Garstin Parker Wilson (Gaston Murray), *Nunhead Notables* 1984 and enlarged edition 2002; Julio Henry Hughes, *More Nunhead Notables* 1995 ; Edward Thomas Edmonds Besley, *Nunhead Notables* 1984 and 2002; Mary Frances Wilson, *Nunhead Notables* 1984 & 2002; and George John Bennett, *More Nunhead Notables* 1995. Julio Henry Hughes is also mentioned in Rex Batten's excellent book, also published by FONC, *Nunhead and the Music Hall*, 2000.

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE DEAD & FAMOUS

FONC tour of Golders Green Crematorium on 29 April 2013

by Carole Tyrrell

Spring was in the air at last as we gathered in the West Memorial Court to await our guide, Eric Willis. We were in extremely good company surrounded by Marc Bolan, Bernie Winters, Hughie Green, Norman Vaughan, Ronnie Scott and Keith Moon amongst others. Sadly it was only their memorial plaques that were there. But it was like a trip down memory lane as you had to be of a certain vintage to remember some of them.

I had been expecting a drab municipal building but the Crematorium is built in the style of a Northern Italian Lombardic monastery in warm red brick. The impressive cloisters, 240 feet in length, are also filled with the memorials of the great and good. The crematorium opened in 1902 in response to a growing demand for cremations and buildings were added as money became available. The land had been purchased for £6,000 and the architect, Sir Ernest George, also designed Claridge's Hotel in Mayfair. It's still privately run and, to date, has conducted over 328,052 cremations with the ashes of 100,000 people scattered over the dispersal lawn in the grounds. The Crematorium is Grade II listed with three columbaria, three chapels and the Chapel and Hall of Memory. All religions are welcome and we were shown the Jewish shrine and I spotted a small altar to an Indian deity.

The word columbarium comes from the Latin for dovecot or niche for sepulchral urn. The West and East Columbaria are built in the form of towers and had the appearance inside of a reading room with urns deposited on the shelves instead of books. But each one told its own story. Bram Stoker, of Dracula fame, had a plain and simple urn. But the ornate urns to two victims from the Titanic disaster were especially poignant as their grandchildren had recently visited due to the recent centenary. In the East Columbarium, Eric revealed that he places every moth or butterfly that was trapped and died inside the columbarium very neatly under a bust.

Afterwards we visited the West Chapel which can seat 200 people and had a beautiful marble plaque to the Maharajah of Cooch Behar and his family. Eric then led us into the crematorium itself to see the business of reducing the dead to ashes with the staff patiently answering our questions and dispelling various myths about the process.

In the imposing Ernest George Columbarium, Eric showed us to Anna Pavlova's shrine flanked by a ceramic swan and ballet dancer. Sadly

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Anna Pavlova's shrine at Golders Green - Photo: Carole Tyrrell

her shoes which had been on display had been stolen and so security had been tightened. Then Eric took us to Sigmund Freud's stately column surmounted by a Greek urn which was surrounded by flowers etc.

The 12 acres of grounds are beautifully kept and the crocus lawn in spring is renowned. Sadly, we had just missed this splendid sight and, despite an exhaustive and informative tour, we ran out of time to explore them. Instead we admired the ornamental lily pond by the Victoria Cross memorial on which two mallard ducks paddled. We didn't see the Marc Bolan Society's gift of a bench with white swans as armrests or the bronze statue, called 'Into the Silent Land' of a young girl being lifted heavenwards by a mysterious draped figure. Apparently, in its previous site within the grounds it had scared a staff member as it loomed out of the morning mists and so had been moved elsewhere. Eric showed us photos of the statue from his own collection together with some of his own paintings and his affection for the Crematorium was obvious.

Golders Green is well worth a visit as there is so much to see and appreciate. Our thanks to the very knowledgeable Eric Willis of Golders Green Crematorium, and to Cathy Mercer for organising such an enjoyable and entertaining visit, even if we were at times reduced to celebrity spotting as famous names leapt out at us. And if you're still keen there's a Jewish cemetery directly opposite the crematorium which although plain and austere in some respects is still worth a look if only to spot the double stone bearing the names Saatchi and Saatchi. ■

NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS (11)

by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator

A WALL WITHIN A WALL?

The Eastern boundary of the cemetery is bordered by the gardens of the Victorian housing along the length of Ivydale Road. Bomb damage during the Second World War left some infill sites on which 'pre-fab' housing was built in the immediate post-war years. Amazingly, these houses that were designed with a ten year life were still occupied as recently as 2011. Now, however, the site has been cleared and a number of new houses broadly in the style of existing housing are being built. In place of the gardens adjoining the cemetery wall, car parking space is being provided. The developers complained to Southwark Borough Council that the cemetery walls here were 'unstable' and the Borough engineers agreed, allowing the developers to build a new brick wall—not of the same brick finish—immediately in front of the existing cemetery wall. It is not clear, however, whether permission was also granted to completely infill the one foot gap between the two walls with ballast as has been done. There also appears to have been no attempt by the developers to reinstate the admittedly dilapidated wire fencing that sat atop the wall. If this part of the wall was considered 'unstable', it begs the question of what about the rest of the boundary wall that provides the boundary for the many other individual houses in Ivydale Road. Both the financial arrangements and conditions set between the Council and the developers are not clear to FONC since we were not consulted, but it does seem that the conservation officers were 'satisfied'. We will be investigating further to understand the precedent that may have been set.

CUTTING EDGE WAR GRAVES

Following the magnificent restoration of the First World War memorial in square 89, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has prioritised Nunhead Cemetery for further improvement. New planting has taken place in front of headstones on the other First World War plots and now the lettering on the Second World War memorial walls has been re-cut. A, perhaps unnecessary, new sign indicating that the memorials are maintained by CWGC has also appeared by the Limesford Road entrance. We expect further improvements over the remainder of this financial year.

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BACK TO THE THIRTIES

When our Chairman first drew up his own maps of the cemetery in the 1970s and gave the paths names to help him locate memorials being researched, there was a path that ran from west to east between the Lower Cross Path and Lower Path that Ron Woollacott named 'Thirties Road'. For a good number of years now, that path has disappeared under a riot of undergrowth, principally bramble. In June FONC volunteers began the difficult task of trying to locate the path and making a start on trying to open it up for use again. On 17th July, eight members of the Dangerous Goods Division of the Department of Transport arrived at the cemetery to carry on the work as a team building exercise. Supervised by Jeff Hart, and in 30°C heat, they have now cleared about 200 metres of what we are fairly sure is the right path! As an integral part of the design of the cemetery, we feel it is important to maintain this path, which gives access to a more recently buried part of the cemetery—although it is still not clear to us whereabouts on the East Path it emerges!

MANAGERS ON THE MOVE

The Portakabin at the Limesford Road entrance has been the base for Nunhead Cemetery managers Candy Edwards and Mark Thompson since their arrival in their posts. It is also shared with the two Quadron staff that carry out maintenance work on site. However, as part of a Southwark Council rationalisation, Candy and Mark will be relocated in the autumn to accommodation at Camberwell New Cemetery. We are assured that this will make no difference to their and Southwark Council's commitment to Nunhead since they currently travel between Southwark's three cemeteries now. The Quadron staff will continue to be based at Nunhead.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

When FONC was first established over 30 years ago, visitors were relatively rare and those who did venture into the cemetery were often accompanied by their dog. Whilst many cemeteries have a 'no dogs' policy (as did the original London Cemetery Company), at Nunhead an accommodation was reached whereby all interest groups in the cemetery, including dog walkers, could live together. Indeed, with FONC's encouragement, dog walkers have become much more responsible in controlling and clearing up after their pets. More recently, however, attitudes toward dog ownership in London have hardened and more controls are being introduced both by government and local authorities. In part this is due to the fairly recent phenomenon of 'professional' dog-minders who walk six, seven or even eight dogs

at a time. It appears to have resulted in more of the less responsible dog-owners coming to Nunhead to exercise their animals. Their dog ‘packs’, off lead, can be very intimidating to other cemetery visitors (and dog owners) and it is beyond belief the number of owners who bag-up their dog’s mess and then dispose of the bag in the undergrowth or hang it from trees and shrubs rather than take it to the bins provided. FONC understands that after the next Council election in May 2014 (dog owners are voters too!) serious consideration will be given to new dog controls at Nunhead and the other Southwark cemeteries. FONC hopes to contribute to a rational debate on the issue. Watch this space.

VIGNETTED WINDOWS FORETOLD

A public art exhibition in Nunhead Cemetery open all weekends during September 2013—curated by Jolanta Jagiello

An exhibition celebrating the art of stained glass windows with contemporary responses by 11 artists installed in the empty windows of the restored Anglican chapel in Nunhead Cemetery.

Sally Buchanan’s contemporary response is to fill the larger windows with mobile phone apps, whilst Richard Tilbury is bringing out the beauty of the two smaller windows using fused glass. In the alcoves, Anna Whyatt and Jolanta Jagiello are utilising textile patterns to highlight the mosaics nature of stained glass windows.

In the main chapel windows, Ahmed Farooqui and Jill Rock will be focusing on the amazing colours that are reflected in the stained glass designs. Elisabeta Chojak-Mysko will be concentrating on figurative subject matter found in church windows, whilst Debora Mo will emphasise their more symbolic nature. The Reverend Edward Olsworth-Peter and Assistant Curate Sara Scott from St Augustine’s church on nearby One Tree Hill are sharing their unique perspective, whilst Robert Aldous is reminding us that unlike paintings stained glass windows can be viewed both from the inside and outside.

The exhibition is curated by Jolanta Jagiello in association of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery and is part funded by Southwark Council Community Fund for the Workshop. Open all Weekends in September from 11am to 5pm, including Open House Weekend, 21st and 22nd September 2013 when Richard Tilbury will be running a fused glass workshop, and open during the Nunhead Art Trail on 28th and 29th September 2013 until 6pm.

~Nunhead Notable~

John Green Waller FSA (1813-1905)

FONC to mark 200th birthday

Sunday 22nd September 2013—Open House Weekend

FONC is preparing to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of artist John Green Waller on Sunday 22nd September (Open House Weekend) at a public ceremony starting at 2.45 pm.

Representatives from the various organisations he was associated with will pay tributes and lay wreaths on the grave of this artist, antiquary, brass engraver and lithographer who:

- designed a stained glass window to Chaucer in Westminster Abbey;
- was part of the Victorian revival of the medieval art of brass engraving and with his brother exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851;
- founded the British Archaeological Association and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society;
- was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries

An exhibition of photographs of his work will be displayed in the chapel on the Saturday and Sunday. See website for more details: www.fonc.org.uk

National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF)

This year's annual general meeting of the NFCF took place at York Cemetery on 8th June. A full report will be given in the next issue of FONC News.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TREE TRAIL TOURS IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *Sundays 15th September and 8th December 2013.* Meet at the flint circle just inside the main entrance in Linden Grove at 2.15pm.

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND AT NUNHEAD ► *Saturday & Sunday 21st & 22nd September 2013 from 1pm to 5pm on both days.* See page 3.

MUSICIANS, ARTISTS & ENTERTAINERS TOUR ► *Sunday 13th October 2013 at 2.15pm.* Meet Jolanta Jagiello inside the cemetery at the Linden Grove entrance, near the flint circle, and join her on a special tour of

the cemetery to visit the final resting places of some of the great entertainers, musicians and artists.

ANNUAL ALL SOULS SERVICE ► *Sunday 3rd November 2013*. Ecumenical service in the chapel. This is an opportunity to remember all those loved ones, friends and family, buried in Nunhead Cemetery. Meet inside the cemetery's main entrance in Linden Grove at 3.00pm. The service will be led by the Reverend Alan Bond of St Thomas's Church, Nunhead. Please come along. Everyone is most welcome.

FONC REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT ► *Sunday 10th November 2013*. Please meet at the War Memorial by the Limesford Road gates at 10.45am. Wreaths provided by the British Legion will be laid at all the war grave plots in memory of the dead of two World Wars whose last resting place is Nunhead Cemetery.

FONC CHRISTMAS SOCIAL ► *Thursday 19th December 2013 at 7.30pm*. The Old Nun's Head pub, Nunhead Green, London, SE15 3QQ. This is an opportunity to spend a convivial evening with other 'Friends' and supporters. Full details in the December 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 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 and on-going task. Volunteers meet at the FONC Portakabin near the Linden Grove entrance. Please check with Paul Dyer (MI Co-ordinator) for dates and details contact fonc@btconnect.com.

GUIDED TOURS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *General conducted 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 entrance in Linden Grove. 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.

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

The deadline for the next issue is 20th October 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).
Member of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE).
Recipient of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Birthday Award for
Environmental Improvements (National Commendation) 1998.

www.fonc.org.uk

Printed by Catford Print Centre, London, SE6 2PN

Published by the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, c/o fonc@btconnect.com

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