

# FONC News



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Monuments over burial vaults in Nunhead Cemetery 2012—*photo: Ron Woollacott*

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*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 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**

**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. *If you would like more Sundays can you spare the occasional one to help.* Contact Gwyneth Stokes on gwyneth1@btinternet.com

**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 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**

## ~ SEASONS GREETINGS TO OUR READERS ~

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

**Contributors to this issue:** Michèle Louise Burford; Jane Hart; Jeff Hart; R G S Hunter. 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.*

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## NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS -16

*by Jeff Hart –FONC Coordinator*

### ***Ivydale Road clearance bounds ahead!***

Following the article in 'Nunhead Cemetery News 15' Southwark Council have cleared a one metre wide path along the northern half of the Ivydale Road cemetery wall that forms the boundary of residents' gardens. FONC was pleased to be consulted about the work before it took place, and our concerns were properly addressed and the resulting work seems to be quite satisfactory both for the residents and for FONC. It is proposed to clear the remainder of the boundary in due course, possibly over the winter months when access is more feasible. After inspection of the cleared boundary wall thus far, Southwark do not consider substantial repairs are necessary. It may be necessary, however, to improve the fencing atop the boundary walls at some point in the future.

The work has, however, revealed further issues to be addressed. A considerable quantity of general rubbish has been found. Perhaps some previous residents could not resist the temptation to dispose things like old washing line posts, greenhouse glass, plastic pots etc. by simply posting them over the boundary wall. FONC volunteers have started to clear this with the assistance of the Quadron staff. More importantly many common grave headstones have been found piled up against the walls and disappearing underneath the soil level. FONC has, with the assistance of corporate volunteers from the Department for Transport Rail Directorate, begun the task of rescuing these headstones, levelling off the soil adjacent to the cemetery walls and erecting them against the wall so that they can be seen and preserved. Many, so far, seem to date from 1916/17 and we will be continuing the task over the coming months.

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### ***West Hill clearances***

Southwark's contractors, Quadron, continue to make improvements to parts of the cemetery as part of their regular work programme. Manager Andy Robinson and his colleague Paul have undertaken training courses in environmental management and are now applying the principles learned in a sympathetic way, in consultation with FONC. Recently, the grass cutting regime has improved the wildflower banks on Windsor Walk ready for a fine display in spring. The natural bays that descend down to the West Hill from the Welsh Path to the site of the Dissenters' chapel have been expanded in line with FONC's plans, and our volunteers will now remove ash and sycamore saplings from around the hawthorn and holly trees and euonymus bushes that have been revealed. This will help to let in more light to enable the slower growing species to prosper and will really enhance one of the rare open areas in the northern half of the cemetery.

### ***Blooming marvellous!***

As part of the ongoing contract let by Southwark Council, the summer bedding plants in the Linden Grove flint circle have now been replaced by a magnificent display of winter pansies. This gives a colourful welcome to our ever increasing number of visitors. The flint circle is where most of FONC's cemetery tours begin and also offers temporary seating for tourists as we make the introductory remarks for the tours.

### ***Remains of the day***

In its heyday, the London Cemetery Company kept its own horses in stables behind the Anglican chapel and grew much of the planting used to beautify the cemetery and to sell to customers in extensive adjacent glasshouses. After the cemetery was abandoned in 1969 these buildings were badly vandalised and what was left were removed by Southwark Council after taking over the site in 1975. This left a large open area between the chapel and the area now used for Muslim burials. Quadron have now defined the area with log boundaries and cleared the encroaching bramble and ivy to leave a grassed area that matches that to the side of the Anglican chapel. This has had the advantage of allowing visitors to ponder on two stone plinths that commemorate the fact that human remains from two other sites in Southwark have been reinterred here. In 1993 when the crypt at St George's Church, Wells Way, Camberwell was cleared in order that the site could be redeveloped, FONC argued that the remains should be reinterred within the Borough and marked with a suitable commemorative stone. Another plot nearby contains human remains removed from the vaults of St George-the-Martyr,

Southwark. This, of course, echoes the precedent set in 1867 when human remains were removed from the crypt of the former church of St Christopher-le-Stocks for an extension to the Bank of England, and deposited in the Eastern Catacomb at Nunhead. In 1933 the former churchyard of St Christopher's was cleared and all the remains were deposited in the Eastern Catacomb.

Now the area behind the chapel looks much more presentable and accessible so that this important aspect of Nunhead's history can be appreciated.

### ***New war memorial needs remedial work***

Despite the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's best efforts, this year extreme weather conditions have created problems for the new First World War memorial in squares 74/89. Extremely wet conditions over last winter and very dry conditions over the summer have meant that there has been much shrinkage and expansion of the London clay that underpins the



*First World War Graves at Nunhead—Memorial erected 2012 by CWGC*

site. This has led to cracking in both of the walls at the indented bay of the memorial wall and in the paving. The foundations underneath consist of tons of concrete so this is really disappointing. The CWGC is now investigating the problem. In contrast, the planting on the site seems to have taken

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well. FONC volunteers have also been working to improve the visual impact of the adjacent triangle formed by the boundary of the new war memorial and the East Path and The Slope. It already boasts a feature English walnut tree but now bramble, ivy and other ‘weeds’ have been cleared, graves repaired where possible or dug out from the encroaching soil and numerous daffodil bulbs have been planted to provide, we hope, a real burst of colour next spring.

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## **ALFRED W JONES—*Mr Bugman Senior***

**We have been informed by Richard Jones that his father, Mr Alfred W Jones, died suddenly on 24th May 2014, aged 84. He was born on 29th September 1929. For many years Mr Jones senior helped Richard run the popular Bug Hunt stall at FONC’s Annual Open Day in Nunhead Cemetery, until he found driving up to London too taxing.**



Alfred W Jones—Mr Bugman Senior at Nunhead Cemetery

*Photo © J Mark Dodds 2007*

# National Federation of Cemetery Friends

## AGM 2014

### *Report by Jane Hart*

**T**he National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF) held this year's AGM on 14th June in my home town of Glasgow at the St Mungo Museum of Religious Art in the grounds of Glasgow Cathedral. Perhaps not everyone's idea of a weekend break, I had looked forward to the event ever since the venue was announced last year. Glasgow is famous (in my view anyway) for the Glasgow Necropolis which is built into the hillside beside the Cathedral and Glasgow Infirmary.

The AGM was preceded by a visit to this cemetery and was a real highlight of the weekend. Approached from an entrance bridge which spans what was a burn (though now a busy road) at the foot of the hill, we wound our way up the hillside where tombs have been blasted out of the rock face. The cemetery, as most early Victorian cemeteries, is laid out as an informal park, lacking the formal grid layouts of later cemeteries. This layout is further enhanced by the complex topography. The cemetery's paths meander uphill towards the summit, where many of the larger monuments stand, clustered around the 62 metre tall statue of John Knox, the prominent Scot who was the leader of the Protestant reformation. Built in 1825, the Doric column was designed by Thomas Hamilton and the statue itself by William Warren. The first burial in the Necropolis, which is laid out on a 37 acre site, was in 1832. The necropolis is very much a Victorian style cemetery, being built when Glasgow was THE second city of the Empire, reflecting the feeling of confidence, wealth and security of that time. Some 50,000 people are now buried in approximately 3,500 tombs.

The Necropolis is a memorial to the merchant patriarchs of the City and contains the remains of almost every eminent Glaswegian of its day. A number of the monuments have been designed by leading Glaswegian architects including Alexander 'Greek' Thomson – famous for his columns and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Their designs have been executed by expert masons and sculptors who contributed ornate and sculptural detail of the finest quality.

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The Glasgow Necropolis has been described by James Stevens Curl as 'literally a city of the dead'. I understand that my fellow Glaswegian (or Weegie as we are known) Billy Connolly has said: 'Glasgow's a bit like Nashville, Tennessee: it doesn't care much for the living, but it really looks after the dead.' The Friends of the Necropolis, set up in 2005, has helped transform the cemetery from somewhere that had suffered from under-investment, natural decay and vandalism to a place where the dead are truly looked after!

Four FONC representatives attended the AGM. A proposal, put forward by the NFCF committee, was to introduce a flat rate annual subscription for member groups. This appeared rather unfair, as it would increase the fees paid by smaller groups (by doubling them) which seemed to me, at least, likely to deter such groups continuing in membership or seeking to join. It appeared that the finances of the Federation were fairly healthy so there was no real justification for such a proposal. An alternative proposal, put forward by FONC representative Jeff Hart, was for a three tier subscription system, where the smallest groups would continue to pay the least (£10), medium sized groups would continue to pay £20 but larger groups such as FONC would pay a bit more (£30) to help support NFCF's work which is focused on helping groups become established. In the end no decision was reached and the issue will be reconsidered by the Committee.

Other issues discussed were feedback on proposals to establish a new NFCF logo and discussion on the current NFCF website. Websites are now often an initial point of contact for people seeking information and it was felt that the current NFCF website needed to be improved and updated. Thankfully a proposal was put forward and a new website will be redeveloped over the next couple of years. It was also announced that the NFCF was to hold a security seminar in London in August. This is exactly the type of event that NFCF should be putting on. Many cemeteries have suffered from metal theft, vandalism and graffiti over the years. So-called 'urban explorers' are also a growing problem by breaking into sites such as crypts and catacombs normally closed to the public. This seminar was attended by Jeff Hart and Carol Stephenson from FONC and a number of issues were discussed and will hopefully lead to the publication of NFCF security guidance for cemetery owners and Friends alike.■

# ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, EDINBURGH

## Part 3-Monuments and Music, by *R G S Hunter*

Let us look at the monument to George Meikle Kemp (1795-1844) who started life as a shepherd and made model mill wheels in his spare time, later training as a carpenter and wheelwright. In his spare time he also studied the construction of the Scottish Border Abbeys and produced a design for the reconstruction of Glasgow Cathedral. Such was the inspiration for the design and building of the Scott Monument in Princes Street Gardens. It was expected that he would be buried under this monument but this proved an impossible idea, still he lies with a view towards his masterpiece. His death was tragic; on the evening of 6th March 1844 he was returning along the side of the Union Canal after visiting a contractor for the Scott Monument at Fountainbridge. Returning via his favourite walk along the canal side on a dark foggy night he lost his bearings and fell into the canal. His body was not found until a week later. Rumours spread - had he been drunk, committed suicide, been attacked by a jealous rival in the Scott Monument competition? - but there was no evidence for any such speculations. His funeral attracted over 1,000 mourners.

As might be expected in a churchyard we have a selection of the clergy, e.g. the Reverend John Jamieson (1759-1838) who established himself in Scottish history by preserving traditions of language in his book *Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language* (1808-09). He was not a minister of the Church of Scotland but a Dissenter like his father; he was the first Seced-er to be awarded the Diploma of Divinity from the College of New Jersey, USA. One of his first charges was minister at Cowal, Argyll, where he often preached in the open air, finding his congregation most attentive despite the weather. Later he was prone to bilious attacks and spent much of his time visiting local spas hoping for a cure. Tragically he was predeceased by his wife and 14 children. One of these rests in the same churchyard, the lawyer Robert Jameson (1784-1834) whose skill and honesty made him a leading figure in the Scottish courts, but his early death meant that his promise was never fulfilled. The Faculty of Advocates paid for a handsome monument as a mark of their respect. His sculptured memorial is by Sir John Steell (1804-1891) and shows a young man protecting a child from a mysterious threatening presence behind.

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Another minister, remembered here with a sandstone obelisk, is the Reverend Robert Smith (1780-1829), composer of the hymn ‘How Beautiful on the Mountains’. He was a former choir-master at Paisley Abbey and musical conductor at St George’s Parish Church, Edinburgh.

This musical connection leads us to a nearby commemoration to Girolamo Stabilini (1761-1815), violinist and music teacher. He was born in Rome and came to Edinburgh in 1793 at the invitation of the Musical Society of Edinburgh which was seeking a suitable new leader for their orchestra. Stabilini brought with him his Guarnerius violin and soon established himself

as undisputed favourite in the Edinburgh concert scene. His violin concerto was played before King George IV in 1822, the King keeping time to the music with his fingers drumming away merrily. Stabilini enjoyed the social life of the city, joining the Freemasons and the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, and as a regular attender at the Leith races. An open and friendly person he was liked as much by the ordinary city residents as by the nobility in whose houses he played. Unfortunately his love of good food and fine wines affected his career and he died of dropsy. His tombstone shows a Roman harp with a Latin inscription that, to the great sorrow of his friends and admirers at his early death, ‘the Stabilini violin now lies silent’.



Monument to Robert Jameson (1784-1834)  
see page 9 Photo © RGS Hunter

*to be continued*

# More successful art exhibitions staged at Nunhead Cemetery

*Review by Jeff Hart*

**F**ONC committee member and artist in residence, Jolanta Jagiello, is never slow to seize an opportunity to utilise the wonderful back-drop of Nunhead Cemetery as an opportunity to display a wide range of artistic endeavour. Throughout May 2014 the very successful ‘Wrenches, Trenches and Stenches’ exhibition commemorating the start of the First World War was enjoyed by over two thousand visitors. Seven artists (Jill Rock; Sara Scott; Nicky Scott-Francis; Elizabeta Chojak-Mysko; Monica Wheeler; Louise Kosinska; and Jolanta herself) received small grants from Southwark Council obtained by Jolanta to help stage works representing their personalised aspects of the impact of the First World War on the lives of ordinary people. Installed in the Stearns mausoleum (whose original occupants were removed to a more conventional adjacent family grave in the 1930s), the exhibition attracted much interest in the general build-up to the August commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War. As a result, Jolanta was asked to stage all or part of the exhibition at several other cemeteries during the summer including Brompton, Kensal Green, West Norwood, and our close neighbours, Brockley and Ladywell.

During September, Jolanta also staged a photographic exhibition in the Anglican chapel based on the presentation that I gave to the 2013 Christmas members’ meeting entitled ‘Around the World in Eighty Cemeteries’. Essentially, these are just the holiday ‘snaps’ that Jane and I take when we are lucky enough to travel abroad and find the time to pop into the local cemetery to compare them to Nunhead! However, Jolanta saw some merit in these and made a selection of some, illustrating cemeteries in Europe, Asia and the Americas which were greatly enlarged, laminated and hung (rather imaginatively using clothes racks!) strategically around the back-drop of the chapel. The exhibition also benefited from being featured in the Nunhead Art Trail weekend and held over the Open House weekend in September which boosted visitor numbers to a very respectable total. I have to say that I was somewhat embarrassed to be introduced as ‘the artist’ on the couple of occasions that I helped curate the exhibition but it was fascinating to listen to the reactions the photographs engendered and numerous interesting conversations

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concerning other cemeteries worth visiting took place too (I now have to make the trek to New York City for example!). The exhibition was also supplemented on a couple of weekends by tapestry work produced by regular FONC volunteer Bob Stagg. Bob also enjoyed chatting to visitors as he demonstrated his skills whilst working on his latest piece.

We are very lucky to enjoy Jolanta's continuing enthusiasm and commitment – particularly when Jolanta managed to break her ankle on a trip to Copenhagen in the lead up to the September exhibition! ■

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## ALL SOULS SERVICE

It is with much regret that due to the infirmity of the Reverend Alan Bond of St Thomas the Apostle Church, Nunhead, we were unable to hold this year's All Souls ecumenical service at Nunhead Cemetery.

Alan and his wife Joan, both long-standing members of FONC, organised the very first All Souls Service held at Nunhead Cemetery on Sunday 7th November 1982 which was attended by over 70 people—when the service was held outside the yet to be 'restored' chapel—and they have continued to hold the services every year since, i.e. for 32 years. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Alan and Joan for their dedication to Nunhead Cemetery and for supporting the work of FONC.

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## Hand Deliver *FONC News*

Thank you to long-term supporter Susan McQuail who has hand-delivered members' journals in Dulwich and Herne Hill for many years.

We are now looking for a volunteer to take over the delivery of this round: bounded by Herne Hill, Grove Lane, Lordship Lane, Dulwich Common and Croxted Road.

Hand delivery involves putting a copy of *FONC News* and sometimes a subscription reminder through the letterboxes of members on the round. This saves FONC the cost of standard postage and reduces our use of envelopes.

*FONC News* is delivered four times a year. If you would like to volunteer to take over this round, please phone Nicola Dunn c/o [fonc@btconnect.com](mailto:fonc@btconnect.com).

## Miss Lillie Reed (1874-1948), sculptor by Michèle Louise Burford

Re x Batten's moving story of the tragic sailing accident in which nine boys were drowned off the Isle of Sheppey is entitled *The Leysdown Tragedy—An Account of the Deaths and Funeral of Eight Walworth Scouts in 1912*. This slim volume, first published by FONC in 1992 and regrettably now out of print, gives a detailed account of the disaster which claimed the lives of eight Boy Scouts and a boy from the training ship 'Arethusa', their funeral and subsequent burial in a single grave at Nunhead.

The tragedy captured the imagination of the nation. Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, gave instructions that their bodies should be brought back to London on board the destroyer HMS *Fervent*.

A fund for a 'fitting memorial' to the boys to be erected at Nunhead was organised by the *Daily Express*, and contributors to the fund included Lord Rosebery (former prime-minister), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (creator of Sherlock Holmes), Gordon Selfridge (proprietor of Selfridges Department Store), and Alfred Vanderbilt and William Waldorf Astor (American millionaires). Other well-known personalities contributed to the fund, but the bulk of the money was donated by Scouts and ordinary folk.

In 1914 an eight-foot tall marble memorial was erected on the boys' grave. Designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott OM (1880-1960), the architect of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral (1903-1960), Battersea Power Station (1929-35), William Booth Memorial College, Camberwell (1929), and the iconic red telephone box (1930), the handsome memorial also included a life-sized bronze figure of a Boy Scout, standing, head bowed and holding a stave, sculpted by Miss Lillie Reed.

Much has been written about the life and work of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, but little if anything is known about Miss Lillie Reed—that task was given to me by my father Ron Woollacott.

Lillie Reed's parents, Edward John and Maria Reed (*née* Sams) were married at St John the Evangelist, Wembley, on 27th September 1873. Lillie was born at St Pancras on 18th June 1874 and baptised at St Thomas's Church, Camden Town on 15th July 1874. Lillie's father and both grandfathers, John Reed and Joseph Sams, were licensed victuallers. Her brother Edward was born in 1875.

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In 1878 the family's address was 35 Woburn Square, Bloomsbury, where Lillie's sister Marion was born followed by Ruby in about 1887.

## **Lillie attends Hastings School of Art**

The family moved to 3 White Rock Gardens, Hastings, some time in the 1890s. Edward was articled to an accountant and Lillie was studying sculpture under Michael Sullivan (d.1913) at Hastings School of Art. In January 1895 a 'capital exhibition of works of art' was held at the Brassey Institute, Hastings, at which, as well as displaying works by 'such prominent artists' as Enoch Ward, George Charles Haite and Charles Keene, included some excellent cast models by Michael Sullivan, and two models 'worthy of special mention' of a laughing faun and the head of a little boy, both modelled, moulded and cast by Lillie Reed.

Lillie's father died at Hastings on 6th January 1900, aged 56, leaving his family well provided for. His effects at death were valued at £26,994, worth about £2.5 million in today's money.

Lillie exhibited a total of five works (figure groups and statuettes) at the Royal Academy between 1904 and 1910. She was also responsible for carving the exterior porch to the Lady Chapel of Liverpool Cathedral.

For a brief period in 1911 Lillie appears to have been unwell as she was being cared for in a private nursing home in Bath.

## **Lillie sculpts Boy Scout statue for Nunhead Cemetery**

In 1913 Lillie was commissioned to model and carry out a bronze figure of a Boy Scout as a memorial to the tragic Boy Scouts' buried at Nunhead Cemetery. Ten Scouts (some sources say 15) were saved from the disaster in which nine boys perished, and it was one of the surviving boys who posed for the statue. Lillie was also responsible for the bronze panel placed at the foot of the grave bearing the names of the nine victims. Speaking to a journalist in 1938, she explained that the pose of the figure was intended for a 'reversed arms' pose, but it was never decided if the staff should be reversed as, in a military instance, a rifle would be.

Lillie is known to have visited the USA at least twice in the 1930s. On the first occasion she sailed from Southampton to New York in May 1931 in the RMS *Mauretania*, returning from New York to London in the RMS *Carmania* in August 1931. Her next trip to the USA was in May 1933 to visit her married sister Marion in Berkeley, California. She stayed about four months before returning in the RMS *Montclare* from Montreal and Quebec to South-

ampton in September 1933, at which time she was still living with her mother at 3 White Rock Gardens, Hastings. Her mother died at Hastings on 27th September 1936 leaving effects valued at £14,169, worth £808,000 in today's money.

In June 1938 Lillie presented a replica of the Boy Scout figure, which she had created for the grave at Nunhead, to the Hastings and St Leonard's Boy Scout Association. The local press reported that the figure would be placed on public exhibition when a suitable place was found. *Where is the replica now we wonder?*

Miss Lillie Reed's last address was Clevedon Court Hotel, Warrior Square, St Leonard's on Sea, where she died on 6th June 1948, aged 73. Her effects at death were valued at £3,435, today worth around £99,000. Probate was granted to her brother, Edward Reed, chartered accountant.



*Boy Scout sculpture in Nunhead Cemetery  
by Miss Lillie Reed*

## Postscript

In 1969 the bronze figure of the Boy Scout was stolen from Nunhead Cemetery by persons unknown, together with the bronze panel bearing the boys' names, and the remains of the vandalised marble monument were removed by Southwark Council workmen in about 1980.

In 1992, thanks to the enthusiasm and determination of Rex Batten and others, a Carrara marble memorial in the shape of an open book was placed on the Scouts' grave. The new memorial was donated by Kellaways and Francis Chappell & Co, and dedicated at a ceremony on 26th April 1992.

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Sadly, the statue of the Boy Scout has never been found, but the bronze panel was later discovered languishing in a scrapyard, and is now in the care of the Scouts Association. Once again, thanks to Rex and the *Daily Express*, enough money was raised for a replica of the bronze panel to be made. The replica was cast by Robert Stephenson and placed in the Anglican chapel at Nunhead Cemetery on Open Day 2003. ■

**Sources:** Marriage records of St John the Evangelist, 1873; Baptism records of St Thomas's, Camden Town, 1874; Census of England and Wales, 1881, 1891, 1911; *Hastings and St Leonards Observer*, Saturday 19th January 1895 and Saturday 18th June 1938; New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957; National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966; Rex Batten, *The Leysdown Tragedy*, 1992; Rex Batten, *The Walworth Scouts—an account of the Leysdown Tragedy of 1912 and souvenir of the dedication of the replica plaque at Nunhead from the Sir Giles Gilbert Scott memorial*, 2003 reprinted 2011.

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## BURIED AT NUNHEAD (20)

### *Mr Uff—the Costers' Bishop*

**The Right Reverend W W Hough DD, MA (1859-1934)**

*by Ron Woollacott*

**T**he Right Revd William Woodcock Hough DD, MA, assistant bishop of Southwark, was born in Cambridge on 19th December 1859, the son of Dr James Hough FRCS, JP, and his wife, Eliza Hayward. He was educated at Perse Grammar School and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (BA 1882, MA 1887), and was master at Wimborne Grammar School from 1882 to 1887, and curate at Hampreston, Dorset, from 1885 to 1887. In 1886 he married Georgiana Elizabeth Druitt, the daughter of Dr Druitt of Wimborne Minster. He was curate-in-charge of Corpus Christi College Mission, Old Kent Road, from 1887 to 1900, and the organising secretary of the South London Church Fund from 1900 to 1905, in which year he became vicar of St Mary's Church, Lewisham, and was rural dean of Lewisham until 1916. He was honorary canon of Southwark Cathedral 1906-1916; archdeacon of Kingston-upon-Thames 1916-1919; bishop suffragan of Woolwich 1918-32; archdeacon of Lewisham 1919-32; sub-dean of Southwark Cathedral 1922-30, and assistant bishop of Southwark Cathedral in 1932.

Dr Hough was the author of *Some Account of the Southwark Diocese* published in 1928. The Bishop of Southwark wrote in the foreword: 'This account has been written by one who has spent the greater part of his ministry

within its borders, and who has had unique opportunities of knowing its history and problems. I am grateful, and I am sure that many others will be, to the Bishop of Woolwich (Dr Hough) for adding this book to the many contributions he has already made to the diocese which he loves and serves so well.'

Dr Hough resided some time at 93 Pepys Road, New Cross. His last address (as shown in the cemetery records) was the College of St Saviour, Carshalton, Surrey. He died on 8th March 1934, aged 74. His wife Georgiana died in 1933. Dozens of costermongers and porters from the Borough Market left their work on the afternoon of Monday 12th March 1934 to pay a last tribute to their 'friend and benefactor'. He was known affectionately as Mr Uff—the Costers' bishop to them and to the poor families of the Borough, Old Kent Road, New Cross and Lewisham. After the Bishop of Southwark had said a requiem, the funeral procession made its way through the stalls of the market and along Borough High Street. A barrowman was heard to say, "E was a great cove, mister—no side abaht 'im and allus cheery." Another coster remarked, "E used to get on a barrer Tuesday after Tuesday at dinner time in the market and talk to the chaps—'eart to 'eart, like."

As the procession moved slowly through the 'murk and traffic' of the Old Kent Road en route to Nunhead Cemetery, men in 'shapeless cloth caps, down-at-heel boots, black ties and chokers' and women in their 'bits of black crepe and worn black gloves' stood silently by the roadside.

*Grave No 22017, square 27.*

NB. In 2007 Miss Elizabeth Gutch of Bexhill, a granddaughter of Dr Hough, wrote to me asking for assistance in finding the grave of her grandfather. She last visited the grave with her late mother in 1964, and she and her brother had come to Nunhead in the early 1970s to find the grave, but were unable to gain access to the cemetery as the gates were locked. In fact, the cemetery had been abandoned by its former owners in 1969, and was not acquired by Southwark Council until 1975. I wrote to Miss Gutch and was sorry to have tell her that that cross on her grandfather's grave was broken. Nevertheless, she was overjoyed to learn of the whereabouts of the grave and arranged for the cross to be repaired.

**Sources:** Burial records; Memorial inscription; Bishop of Woolwich (W W Hough), *Some Account of the Southwark Diocese*, 1928; *Kelly's Handbook*, 1929; *Who's Who*, 1934; *Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette*, Tuesday, 13th March, 1934; *Western Daily Express*, Friday, 25th May 1934; Ron Woollacott, *More Nunhead Notables*, 1995, p.38.

## ~ The Art Of Gothic ~

The first episode of Andrew Graham-Dixon's three part series 'The Art of Gothic—Britain's Midnight Hour' was first shown on BBC4 at 9pm on Monday 20th October. Part one was about the Gothic Revival. Observant members of FONC will have recognised several scenes filmed in Nunhead Cemetery, including of course, Thomas Little's Gothic Anglican chapel of 1844 which featured in the opening scenes and during the programme. Some scenes, including those of the magnificent John Allan tomb, were photographed from above by using drones. *RW*



### MAY ELIZABETH SHAW, WRAF

Of the 585 members of the armed services buried at Nunhead who gave their lives during the First World War there is just one woman commemorated on the First World War memorial. She is May Elizabeth Shaw of the Women's Royal Air Force. When it was decided to merge the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) to form the Royal Air Force (RAF), the need for a separate women's air service led to the formation of the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) on the 1st April 1918. Upper class women were enrolled as officers, but the majority were known as 'members'. Miss Shaw enrolled as Member 5009 on the 23rd May 1918, she was the eldest daughter of Charles and Hannah Shaw of Rotherhithe. Her father was a Thames lighterman. Miss Shaw, who was employed as a dressmaker before joining the WRAF, died on 13th March 1919, aged 29, and was buried in grave No 10953 square 23. *RW*

### **FONC's CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 18th DECEMBER 2014**

**at the Old Nun's Head Pub, Nunhead Green, London, SE15 3QQ  
(upstairs in the function room) - starting at 7.00pm**

### **Building the Lenox—a project**

*A PowerPoint presentation by Richard Endson and Julian Kingston  
about an exciting proposal to build a replica of the 17th century  
warship at Deptford using traditional and modern methods*

**Everyone welcome**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION RECORDING

► ***Saturday 13th December 2014.*** Transcribing the inscriptions in Nunhead Cemetery is an important and ongoing task. For more information and times please contact Paul Dyer (MI Co-ordinator) c/o fonc@btconnect.com. Volunteers meet at the FONC Portakabin near the Linden Grove entrance at 10.00am. ***Appropriate clothing including sturdy footwear is essential.***

### WOODLAND TRAIL TOUR IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY

► ***Sunday 14th December 2014 starting at 2.15pm.*** Meet at the flint circle just inside the main entrance in Linden Grove for a special tour to look at the wide variety of trees in the cemetery.

### FONC'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

► ***Thursday 18th December 2014 at 7pm.*** Upstairs in the function room at the Old Nun's Head pub, Nunhead Green, London, SE15 3QQ. ***BUILDING THE LENOX—A PROJECT.*** A PowerPoint presentation by Richard Endors and Julian Kingston about this exciting project. This is also an opportunity to meet with other Friends and FONC supporters. We look forward to seeing you there.

### NUNHEAD CEMETERY ANNUAL OPEN DAY

► ***Saturday 16th May 2015 from 11.00am to 5.00pm.*** This date will soon come around, so please make a note in your diary.

### VOLUNTARY WORKDAYS

► ***Voluntary workdays take place on the first Sunday in the month from 10am to 4.30pm.*** New volunteers are always most welcome. Meet at the FONC Portakabin (opposite the Scottish Martyrs' monument) near the main entrance in Linden Grove. Stay an hour or two or all day — it's entirely up to you. ***Appropriate clothing including sturdy footwear is essential.***

### 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 inside the main entrance in Linden Grove. There is no need to book— just turn up on the day. Tours take between one and a half and two hours. The publications and enquiry desk will be open, weather and volunteers permitting.

## ~ CONTACTS ~

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Please send all letters, news items and feature articles for publication to:

**The editor, c/o fonc@btconnect.com**

***The deadline for the next issue is 20th January 2015***

**(Copy received after this date may be used in a future issue)**

### **Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)**

**Established 1981– Registered charity number 296413**

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](http://www.fonc.org.uk)**

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