

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, London, SE15

FONC News



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Visitors enjoying a guided tour of the cemetery—photo Maureen Woollacott

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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 managed by 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 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 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's address is: Linden Grove, Nunhead, London, SE15 3LP

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

Contributors: Michèle Louise Burford; Jeff Hart; Jolanta Jagiello; 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 all the views expressed by contributors.*

Jeffrey M Hart OBE

Our sincere congratulations to our founder and co-ordinator, Jeff Hart, on being appointed OBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to transport. He was a civil servant for 38 years, latterly as Head of Dangerous Goods Division, Department of Transport, until his retirement last year.

NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS No 21

by Jeff Hart — FONC Co-ordinator

A quick catch-up

A number of earlier Cemetery News (CN) items can now be updated, mostly with some good news! The restoration of the large John Wilson vault (CN20) on West Hill has now been completed and looks rather splendid.

- Southwark's insurers have now agreed to meet the claim to restore the Hardwidge vault which was smashed during felling of the large beech tree at the top of The Beeches (CN20). An excess of £1,000 is being claimed by the cemeteries team from the tree team but in the meantime Heritage Stone have been invited to tender for the repair work.

- The area behind the Anglican chapel has now been re-turfed (CN20) and with the constant watering it has received over the winter appears to have taken well. Any little bare patches will be seeded in the spring.

- Further examination of the drains on the Main Avenue has revealed the need for some £17,000 worth of repair work (CN19). However, similar work has been identified in both Camberwell New and Old cemeteries, and Southwark have decided to invite tenders for a single contract at work for all three

continued on next page

cemeteries. This is unlikely now to be let until the beginning of the new financial year in April.

- Experimental binding material is now being laid on the muddy West Hill path (*CNI8*) from the Welsh path down to the Dissenters' chapel 'Picnic' area. It is hoped that this will reduce the wear on this popular path and will be seeded in spring in order to maintain the naturalised grass feel of this path.

- There has also been further filming in the cemetery recently. Readers will recall (*CNI8*) that we do not always find out in what entertainment the final product appear. However, diligent readers will have recognised the Anglican chapel crypt in the popular ITV series *Jekyll and Hyde*, and the interior of the chapel was used as a backdrop for a French-led jazz group music video!

Martyrs to wear and tear

Over the last two years the dramatically variable weather conditions have taken their toll on the fabric of the cemetery. In addition to the natural landscape (flooded paths; wind-blown trees; rampant vegetation), a number of significant memorials have been damaged primarily as a result of subsidence. A group of three important memorials near the corner of East Crescent and the Main Walk East (commemorating Reuben Henry Williams, Thomas and Mary Cullen and Thomas Glover Lyon) are now near collapse. The imposing William Fitch monument has been fenced off as the vault has now opened up and is in a very parlous state. Southwark Council have indicated their intention to restore these memorials in the next financial year. However, the Scottish Martyrs memorial near the Linden Grove entrance is perhaps the most obvious candidate for repair. The path surfacing around the memorial, which was re-laid as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund work carried out in 1999/2000, has suffered serious subsidence. The kerbing and flagstones around the base of the memorial have also moved significantly and now pose a serious tripping hazard, particularly as the bench facing the memorial is a popular resting spot for visitors. FONC drew the attention of Southwark to the need for remedial works and in the early part of last year we agreed a plan of action for work to be carried out by the borough engineers. We did point out that this would need the agreement of English Heritage (*as it then was – now known as Historic England*) and that is where the delays began! After looking at a number of options, FONC took the view that we should remove altogether the kerbing and flagstones that were first laid in 1991, re-



*The Williams, Cullen and Lyon monuments
photographed in 2001 by Ron Woollacott*

set the four cornerstones further back from the memorial so that it does not look so cramped, and replace the rather crude (*in my opinion!*) rolled steel bars with something more aesthetically pleasing. The surrounding paths could then be properly reinstated in a way which would allow water running down the paths in wet weather to flow directly into drains and away from the FONC Portakabin. The whole memorial is listed, however, in the configuration as it was at the end of the 1990s, and so English Heritage objected to the removal of the ‘new’ flagstones and kerbing and believed the steel bars to be original (*see illustration in ‘Investors In Death’*)! Concern has also been expressed about the possible flow of water into the grounds of the recently flooded West Lodge. At the time of writing we are now awaiting the outcome of a topographical survey which should help determine what happens next.

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The East Lodge saga continues

In *FONC News* No 127 (Spring issue March—May 2015) we gave a comprehensive report on attempts to put in place an East Lodge restoration project. We reported on a promising new initiative and the formation of a project team to take forward an options appraisal for the future of the East Lodge. So far it has managed to oversee the clearance of vegetation to allow proper access (which unfortunately led to the removal of Mike Elliott's bee hives (CN20), drawn up a specification for the enhancement of the existing scaffolding to make the structure safe to survey and developed a specification for a tender bid to undertake the options appraisal (a suitable bid has been received but an appointment cannot be made yet). However, tenders to deal with the scaffolding needed amendment and the original bidder decided to drop out. Other contractors have proved unwilling to reuse the existing scaffolding (because of liability concerns) and the new scaffolding specification has still not been finalised. The FONC project team members have put a great deal of effort into this project, but with Southwark Council leading we have been unable to push the project along as quickly as we would have wished. Historic England has been kept up to date with (the lack of) progress and seem to be content. The Southwark project lead officer has now changed for the third time in a year and the project team has not met for six months as there was nothing to discuss. FONC is now seeking an urgent meeting to try to revitalise the project. In the meantime, Southwark's ban on FONC unsupervised entry to the East Lodge storage area (CN20) looks as if it may be resolved by putting in a new entrance gate to the grounds and fencing off a new storage area from the potential Lodge works area.

Act of Remembrance

The annual FONC Act of Remembrance was held in the cemetery on the morning of Sunday, 8th November 2015. It was attended by some 30 people and in addition to observing the national two minutes silence, there was the opportunity for silent prayer and contemplation and the Siegfried Sassoon poem 'To the Warmongers' was read.

FONC makes a contribution to the Brockley and Honor Oak branch of the Royal British Legion who provided us with eight wreaths to lay, together with one on their own behalf and a wreath from the grandson of Private Sampson, who is buried at the new First World War memorial site. We also re-laid a wreath from Southwark Council that had appeared earlier in the week. The wreaths are laid at each of the Commonwealth War Graves Com-

mission (CWGC) maintained plots. As the wreaths provided include the crests of various arms and units, we try to place those on the most appropriate site explaining the association as part of the act of remembrance. The wreaths are laid by various FONC Committee members but we also ask other attendees to lay a wreath on FONC's behalf.

This year, for the first time, the final wreath was laid inside the Anglican chapel. This was because FONC Committee member Jolanta Jagiello had been able to put together an excellent exhibition of illustrated boards explaining the association of Nunhead's fallen with the events of the First and Second World Wars currently being commemorated, the stories of some of our individual fallen and the role of CWGC. We received a small grant of £200 towards the exhibition as part of a pilot CWGC Living Memory project. This ran from 10 am to 3 pm so was available to many visitors in addition to the attendees of the Act of Remembrance. We were delighted that the final wreath was laid with military precision by Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers veteran Clare Brown, who looked resplendent with her medals, including those awarded for service in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Francis Chappell & Sons 175th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Some FONC members may recall that the 2015 Open Day was attended by the wonderful Victorian style hearse and black horses used by the funeral directors, Francis Chappell & Sons. As Chappell's and the cemetery share the same founding year—1840—we have established a new relationship with the company, which is now part of the Dignity group, and we look forward to hosting even more of their resplendent horses at the Open Day in 2016.

We were delighted, therefore, to be invited by Regional Training Officer, Emma Sparre-Slater, to attend the service of thanksgiving held at Southwark Cathedral on the 7th November 2015. The service was led by Canon Michael Rawson and enhanced by the wonderful sound of the Southwark Cathedral choir. Among the many notable guests attending were the Mayors of the boroughs of Southwark, Lewisham and Lambeth, where many of Chappell's 25 funeral parlours are located. FONC was represented by Committee members Jolanta Jagiello, Jeremy Partington, and Jane and Jeff Hart. After the service some excellent refreshments were provided in the retrochoir over which the FONC representatives were able to chat to many others to remind them of the work that we do. This included the Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, who told us how much she enjoys our Open Days.

FONC VISIT TO AMERSHAM 4th JULY 2015

report by Carole Tyrrell (part 2)

The late afternoon sun shone down on us as we re-crossed the huge field of barley towards the Amersham Protestant Martyrs monument. We would never have known that it was there except for a knowledgeable member of our party. Butterflies were still fluttering about; a large white and the first meadow brown of the summer flew along the field's borders as we followed the path through the rustling crop.

The Amersham memorial is a tall grey granite obelisk behind a tall hedge which faces out towards the village and church below. It's surrounded by houses and the field. A reminder of past religious differences.

The memorial commemorates the Martyrs who were burned at the stake in 1521. They wanted to read the Bible in English amongst other ambitions and their unpleasant deaths were meant to deter others. The six were burned high above Amersham so that the flames and smoke would be visible to all in the village below as a warning. The daughter of one of the Martyrs and the children of another were forced to light their fires.

The inscription reads: *In the shallow of depression at a spot 100 yards left of this monument seven Protestants, six men and one woman were burned to death at the stake. They died for the principles of religious liberty, for the right to read and interpret the Holy Scriptures and to worship God according to their consciences as revealed through God's Holy Word*

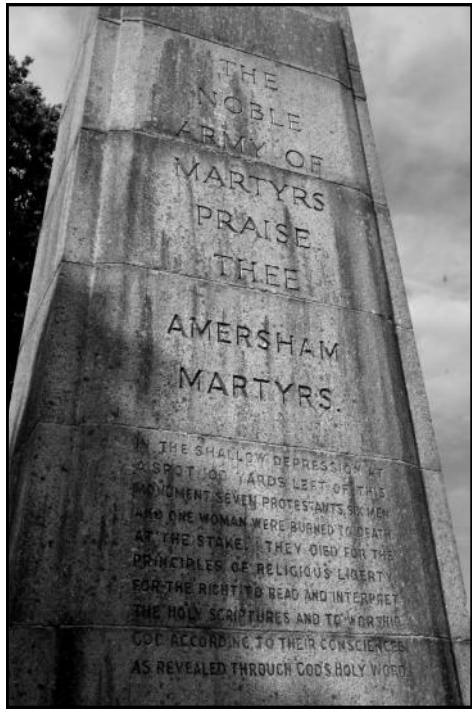


Photo: Carole Tyrrell

God according to their consciences as revealed through God's Holy Word. Their names shall live for ever.

On the left hand side of the memorial are displayed the names of four more Martyrs who were burned, or as in one case, strangled elsewhere. The monument was erected in 1931 by The Protestant Alliance who still exist today. They maintain two other Martyr monuments: Smithfield, erected in 1870, and Norwich which was erected in 1994.

Our thanks to Cathy Mercer for organising another entertaining and informative visit, Simon Mercer for identifying the birds on our way through the field, and finally to our guide Howard Hughes for his expert knowledge and enthusiasm. ■



Letters to the Editor

Mrs Brigitte Bevan of Welwyn Garden City writes:

Having read both parts of your article about Elizabeth Peacock in *FONC News* September-November 2015 and December-February 2016, I thought you might be interested in the Panacea Museum in Bedford. It is all about the strange religious sect of the followers of Joanna Southcott and Elizabeth Peacock who took over, and other members such as Mabel Barltrop, and about the still unopened Joanna Southcott's box.

They believed in the second coming and the healing through water—its panacea to cure all illnesses. I visited the museum in the summer and I think it was free. It makes an unusual interesting outing. It is opposite the Higgins large museum which is free and has a restaurant. Also close-by is the John Bunyan museum. I walked to it from Bedford Station but there are car parks near the museum.. The nearest cemetery is in Bedford and is quite large and interesting near a park.

I enjoy reading *FONC News* and have been a member for many years and also visited Nunhead several times.

Enclosed with Mrs Bevan's letter was a leaflet giving additional information about The Panacea Museum. The Museum and Gardens are open February half-term to October half-term, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Gardens only May—August, Monday—Wednesday from 10am to

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4pm. The museum has a small café which serves tea, coffee, soft drinks and a selection of cakes and snacks. The Panacea Museum can be found at 9 Newnham Road, Bedford, MK40 3NX—Website: www.panaceatrust.org

Susan Raler of Bexleyheath writes:

I am just writing to thank you and Michael Viner for the article in the winter issue of *FONC News* on the film 'Melody'. After reading the article, I added 'Melody' to my Christmas present list and my partner bought a copy via the internet.

We have now seen the film and we both enjoyed it so much. It is a great story with wonderful shots of a much loved London in the seventies, a real 'historical' piece of what seems a different world now. The other great thing about the film, not mentioned in your article, is the wonderful music by the Bee Gees. Thank you so much for sharing this wonderful film with us.

Advance Notice of FONC's AGM Thursday 16th June 2016 at 7.00pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery will take place on Thursday 16th June 2016 starting at 7pm. Nominations for election to the General Committee and officer posts are welcome and may be received up to the elections themselves on the night. Motions, however, should be submitted no later than the 16th May 2016. All nominations and motions should be sent to FONC vice-chairman, Carole Stevenson, c/o fonc@btconnect.com. A reminder and full details, including confirmation of the venue, will be published in the next issue of *FONC News*.

Committee Member's Resignation

Fran Rawcliffe has resigned from the General Committee for personal reasons. She was first elected to the committee at the AGM in 2013. Fran has said she will continue to be involved in FONC activities and will assist as usual at our annual Open Day in May. We thank Fran for her valued past involvement and continued support.

FONC Christmas Social 2015

Over 40 members enjoyed a seasonal spread of good food and convivial company at FONC's Christmas Social at the Old Nun's Head on the 17th December. Linda Martin made and donated two delicious brandy fruit cakes and Jeremy Partington made a large cake, beautifully decorated by Carol Stevenson, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Nunhead Cemetery. The Christmas lecture, 'Remembered—A History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission', a PowerPoint presentation by Jolanta Jagiello, was well received.

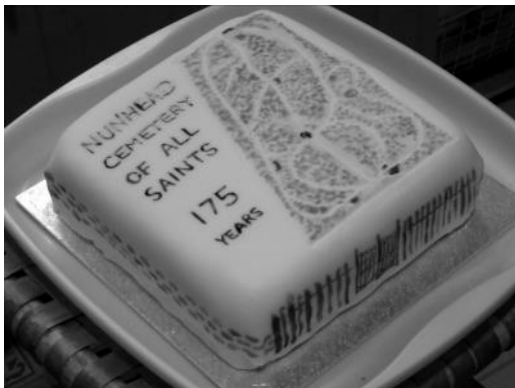


Photo: Carol Stevenson

Illustrated with many examples of monuments etc. Jolanta ran through the reasons for setting up the Imperial War Graves Commission, now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), after the First World War. Our infamous raffle helped to raise some extra funds to offset costs, and the evening was rounded off with a song written and performed by Tim Stevenson about FONC's volunteers sung to the tune of the Lambeth Walk!

Subscription reminder

Please note that all subscriptions are due to be paid by the 1st April 2016. The annual subscription for UK members is only £2 (£10 for overseas members to cover cost of mailing four issues of *FONC News*). Donations are always most welcome and gratefully received to help with our work. If you received a reminder with this issue please send your payment as soon as possible to Simon Mercer, membership secretary, c/o membership@fonc.org.uk. If there is no form this will be because you have already renewed your membership or have sent a standing order. As always we thank you for your continued support.

Helpers wanted for Nunhead Cemetery Open Day Saturday 21st May 2016

We shall require lots of volunteers to help us in setting up trestle tables etc. and to generally assist in the cemetery grounds from 8.30am onwards (the event officially opens to the public at 11am), and to help us clear up and tidy up after the event from 5pm. We also very much welcome lots of donations of homemade cakes etc. to sell on our popular refreshments stall, and lots of plants to sell on our ever popular 'Contrary Mary' plants stall. If you are able to help us in any way please contact a FONC officer or committee member (*see contacts on back page*).

ANIMALS IN SERVICE

Public Art Exhibition curated by Jolanta Jagiello

This public art exhibition, opening in Nunhead Cemetery, commemorates the over 16 million animals that served on all sides in the First World War. The exhibition highlights the role of animals in transport, logistics, cavalry and communications, and considers their motivational function as mascots and as propaganda. 'Animals in War' by Jilly Cooper is an anecdotal survey of the lesser-known roles played by animals in wartime, and considers the contributions of brave dogs, carrier pigeons, horses, pack mules, elephants, and cats. Jilly Cooper also campaigned for an 'Animals in War' memorial which was erected at Brook Gate, Hyde Park (unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal in November 2004, the 90th anniversary of the start of the First World War). The monument is a powerful and moving tribute to all the animals that served, suffered and died alongside the British, Allied, and Commonwealth forces in the wars and conflicts of the 20th century. As part of the Battle of Somme First World War commemorations this year, artists will focus on the invaluable contributions that animals made in propaganda, battle, medical advances, and as mascots. The exhibition in the Stearns' Mausoleum is open on Saturdays and Sundays in May 2016 from 11am to 5pm on the following dates: 7th and 8th, 14th and 15th and 21st and 22nd, 28th and 29th May, including Bank Holiday Monday 30th May 2016, and Nunhead Cemetery Open Day on Saturday 21st May 2016.

Remarkable Women buried in Nunhead Cemetery No 2 *by Ron Woollacott and Michèle Louise Burford*

MISS JENNY HILL—MUSIC-HALL ARTISTE *From ‘The Juvenile Wonder’ to ‘The Vital Spark’*

JENNY HILL was her stage name. Laurence Senelick (*Dictionary of National Biography*) says she was born Elizabeth Jane Thompson in 1848, the daughter of Michael Thompson, a watcher at a cab stand. But our research shows that her birth was registered in 1849 (October-December quarter) at Marylebone as Jane Hill. Furthermore, she gave her name as Jane Hill, and Michael Hill, cab proprietor, as her father, when she married John Wilson Woodley in 1866. Her eldest daughter, the actress Peggy Pryde, speaking to a theatre audience on Sunday, 2nd November 1890, said it was her mother’s birthday that very day, which suggests that Jenny Hill was born on the 2nd November 1849, which matches the entry in the Marylebone register.

THE CHILD PERFORMER

It is not clear when Jenny Hill first became a music-hall entertainer. According to Senelick she first performed at the age of six or seven as the legs of a goose in ‘Mother Goose’ at the Aquarium in Westminster. Richard Anthony Baker (*British Music Hall*, 2014) suggests that her first appearance may have been as the legs of a goose in ‘Goody Goose’ at the Marylebone Theatre in 1858/9, and Stuart and Park (*The Variety Stage*, 1895) claim she made her professional debut at Dr Johnson’s Concert Room, Bolt Court, Fleet Street. Frederic Boase (*Modern English Biography*, volume 5, 1912) agrees with Stuart and Park, and states that Jenny first sang in about 1860 at Dr Johnson’s Tavern, 1 Bolt Court, Fleet Street.

She was just 13-years-old when she appeared in a ‘great display of talent’ for the Christmas holidays at the Oxford and Cambridge Music-Hall, Chalk Farm Gate, in December 1862, billed as ‘Miss Jenny Hill—the Juvenile Wonder’. She also appeared at the Winchester Music Hall, Stockwell, at about the same time. She was not quite 15-years-of-age when she performed at Manchester’s London Music Hall on the 9th October 1864, appearing on the same bill as the great George Leybourne, the popular ‘Lion-Comique’ famous for his song ‘Champagne Charlie’, and a rival of Alfred Glanville Vance, ‘The Great Vance’ (see *Nunhead Notables* 1984 and 2002).

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JENNY'S FIRST LONDON ENGAGEMENT

Jenny's own story, telling how she secured her first London engagement, was 'intensely dramatic'. She says it was in the 1860s, when she was nearly starving with a sick baby, that she waited for Emil Loibl's agent in the office of the old Pavilion. Eventually, when she saw the agent she pleaded with him, 'Can I speak with you, sir?' and he said, 'Oh, call tomorrow'. 'But you really must listen to me. I want to work so badly,' she begged. He scribbled something on a piece of paper, sealed it up, and told her to take it to Emil Loibl at the London Pavilion. Jenny continued, 'I was so shabby that I was afraid to present myself till everybody was gone, then when I heard Mr Loibl was alone, he read the letter, and said, well little woman, you've got a fine introduction. What can you do?' 'Sing and dance sir', she said.

He told Jenny that she might take her chance if an extra turn were needed some night, but as it so happened, that very same evening George Leybourne was late in arriving and Loibl called out: 'Where's that child?' Jenny went on and her little song got such a round of applause, Loibl told her to go on again. Jenny refused because she felt faint from sheer hunger. When George Leybourne arrived he had to take Jenny on stage with him to acknowledge the rapturous applause, before he could perform his own song. Jenny said Loibl then gave her a glass of wine and a long engagement. He also gave her the agent's letter to keep as a memento. It read, 'Dear Loibl,—Take no trouble with this girl, whom I only send to get rid of her.'

Baker gives a similar account to Jenny's reminiscences in his book, but says it was just before Christmas 1871 (not in the 1860s as Jenny claims), and names Ambrose Maynard (see *More Nunhead Notables*) as the agent whom she begged for work.

MARRIAGE, CHILDREN AND CELEBRITY

Jenny Hill married John Wilson Woodley, who described himself as a gymnast, at St Mary's Church, Lambeth, on the 25th May 1866. She was not quite 17 and he was 24. They both gave their address as York Place, Lambeth. Jenny had two daughters by Woodley: Letitia (Letty) Matilda Woodley, born in Lambeth on the 19th July 1867, and Jenny Hill Woodley, born in Lambeth in 1876. The sisters were baptised together at St Mary's Church, Lambeth, on the 14th May 1876. The family's address at the time was 95 Hercules Buildings, Lambeth. Jenny is thought to have had another child that didn't survive—was this the sick child she refers to when she was starving and pleading for work in the 1860s?

The variety agent, Maurice de Frece (1840-1915), is thought to have been Jenny's first agent, see Stuart and Park (*The Variety Stage*, 1895) and H Chance Newton (*Idols of the 'Halls'*, 1928). After 'finding' her at a provincial music-hall she was engaged under his aegis as 'The Vital Spark' and appeared in London at the Oxford, Metropolitan and Forresters. Other writers suggest it was the agent, Hugh Jay Didcott (d.1909), who first labelled her as 'The Vital Spark', see Rex Batten (*Nunhead and the Music Hall*, 2000), while Dan Saunders, a theatre manager, claims that he was the first to use the clever sobriquet when she appeared at Liverpool's Star Music Hall on the 4th February 1872. Whatever the truth, it was as 'The Vital Spark' that little Jenny Hill became one of the most popular comic and serious (serio-comic) singers and performers to have ever appeared on the boards.

Her first appearance at Wilton's Grand Palace of Varieties, Wellclose Square, Whitechapel, was for a season on the 7th April 1873, when she took the audience by storm with her description of a goodbye 'Kiss, Kiss, Kiss' at the door, and she was widely applauded on performing 'Troublesome Nan', and completing her 'turn' with a lively hornpipe.

She took part in Mr Spillane's 'benefit' at the South London Palace, Southwark, on the 15th May 1874, appearing on the same bill as the celebrated Scottish comedian Arthur Lloyd (1839-1904), and performed at the



Miss Jenny Hill (The Vital Spark)

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Oxford Theatre on August Bank Holiday 1876. She was just one of many artistes who took part in Patrick Feeney's 'benefit' at Wilton's on the 28th February 1877. Patrick Feeney was a popular Irish comedian, and by all accounts the hall was packed to the rafters, even the gangways were bursting! Everywhere there was a 'crowd of rowdy, perspiring, and at times, fighting patrons.' The chairman, Russell Grover, tried to keep order, but the noise grew even louder when the artistes appeared on stage. Patrick Feeney himself came on between the 'turns' to beg the audience to stop shouting and fighting, however, when it was Jenny's turn to go on stage to perform her popular number, 'I've been a good woman to you', the noise quietened down and there was 'more decorum' among the audience.

JENNY HILL—PRINCIPAL BOY

In December 1878, at the Gaiety Theatre, Aldwych, London, Jenny played the part of Jack in Henry James Byron's pantomime 'Jack the Giant Killer'. She was now in great demand as a principal boy, but it seems that not everyone appreciated her performances. On the evening of Saturday 6th March 1880, while playing the part of Aladdin at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham, William Mitchell, who had been watching the show, threw a cabbage from the gallery which struck Jenny on the head just above the left eye almost stunning her. The comedian, Mark Kinghorne (1851-1906), who was playing the part of the emperor, caught hold of her as she fell. Happily, Jenny did not sustain a serious injury; nevertheless, Mitchell was later arrested and charged with assault, and duly appeared at Birmingham police court the following Monday. He had no defence to offer and was sent to prison for two months without the option of a fine.

DEATH OF JENNY'S FATHER

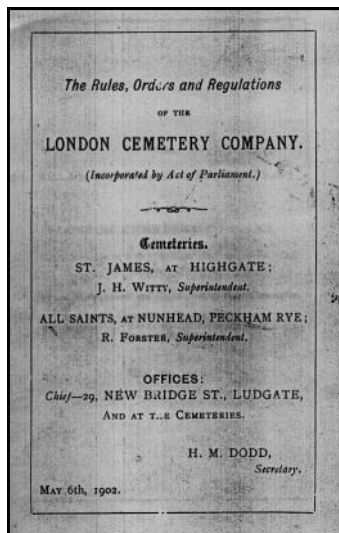
The Era reported the death of Jenny's father on Saturday 5th February 1881: 'Died, January 31st, at Leeds, while on a visit to his only daughter, Michael Hill, the dearly beloved father of Miss Jenny Hill, aged 68 years.'

When the 1881 census was taken Jenny and Woodley were living together at 9 Olney Street, Walworth, along with their two daughters, four-year-old Jenny and Letitia or Letty, aged 13. Jenny's husband, John Wilson Woodley, described as a pantomimist and music-hall acrobat, was professionally known as Jean Pasta. Jenny is said to have been unlucky in her two or three marriages (Chance Newton), when, in fact, she only ever married once.

to be continued

THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE LONDON CEMETERY COMPANY RELATING TO THE NUNHEAD & HIGHGATE CEMETERIES

In May 1902 the London Cemetery Company, founders and original owners of both the Nunhead and Highgate cemeteries, reissued the Rules, Orders and Regulations of the Company, and these remained in force even after the cemeteries came under the control of United Cemeteries Ltd in the 1960s. In some instances the rules and regulations seem unreasonably strict by today's standards, but were no doubt considered necessary in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and similar regulations were applied in most public and private cemeteries. In this and subsequent issues of FONC News, space permitting, I shall publish extracts relating to the general rules and regulations of the London Cemetery Company, and those that once applied to grave owners, monumental masons and the general public. The first extract below relates to the general public and visitors to their cemeteries.



Ron Woollacott

Rules relating to the general public

- 30) Smoking is strictly prohibited within the Cemetery.
- 31) No dog shall be admitted on any consideration.
- 32) Visitors are on no account to pluck the flowers or shrubs, to sit on tombs, railings, or slopes, or to walk across the grass.
- 33) All cycles, perambulators, cameras, baskets, parcels, and bags must be left with the Gatekeeper during the time that the owners thereof remain in the Cemetery.
- 34) No carriage shall be admitted into the Cemetery without special

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permission, unless in attendance upon a Funeral.

35) Subject to the Rules, Orders, and Regulations of the Company, the public will be allowed to visit the Cemetery on every week day from 9am till the ringing of the bell in the evening at the hour to be daily posted at the gates, except when otherwise specially ordered. On Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday the Cemetery will be open only from 1 to 4pm from October to March inclusive, and from 2 to 6pm from April to September inclusive. On Bank Holidays, from 9am to 12 noon only. No business shall be done on those days.

36) No Political or Public Demonstrations of any kind, excepting in connection with a Funeral, shall be permitted to take place in the Cemeteries of the Company, and any Demonstration in connection with a Funeral shall be subject in all things to the control of the Directors.

37) All persons admitted into the Cemetery shall be subject to the orders and control of the Superintendent and the Officers of the Company; and the Superintendent shall have full power to exclude or remove from the Cemetery any Member of the public whom he in his discretion may think fit so to exclude or remove.

The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture **by James Stevens Curl and Susan Wilson**

Professor Curl needs no introduction to members of FONC. Long time members will recall that he was one of the first academics to draw the general public's attention to the plight of the great commercial cemeteries of the 19th century, and he gave a well-received lecture entitled 'Nunhead Cemetery in the Context of the 19th Century Cemetery Movement' to an enthusiastic and packed meeting of Friends on the 22nd June 1982. His many books include *A Celebration of Death*, *Victorian Churches*, *Victorian Architecture*, and *The Art and Architecture of Freemasonry*.

A Dictionary of Architecture was first published in 1999. The third edition of this essential and important work on all aspects of architecture and architectural terms, with contributions on landscape architecture by Susan Wilson, was published last year. It has been extensively revised and expanded, contains more than 6,000 entries, and is beautifully illustrated with over 270 original drawings. For information go to <http://global.oup.com/academic>

~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

WOODLAND TRAIL TOUR OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *Sunday 13th March 2016 at 2.15pm.* Please meet Jeff Hart, your guide for the afternoon, at the flint circle just inside the main entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove.

CEMETERY SYMBOLS TOUR ► *Sunday 10th April 2016 at 2.15pm.* An opportunity to look at the many and varied symbols to be seen on the gravestones in Nunhead Cemetery. Please meet your guide, Carole Tyrrell, at the flint circle just inside the main entrance in Linden Grove.

USES AND FOLKLORE OF PLANTS FOUND IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *Sunday 17th April 2016 at 2.15pm.* Please join the eminent botanist Roy Vickery for this interesting and fascinating tour of the cemetery. Meet at the flint circle just inside the main entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove.

CRYPT AND CHAPEL TOUR ► *Sunday 1st May 2016 at 2.15pm.* The chapel and crypt (chapel catacomb) will be open to visitors.

CEMETERY OPEN DAY ► *Saturday 21st May 2016 from 11am to 5pm.* Volunteers are needed to set up trestles etc. from 8.30am and to tidy up after the event. If you can help in any way please contact a committee member. *See page 12.*

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTION RECORDING ► Transcribing the inscriptions in Nunhead Cemetery is an important and ongoing task. We meet at the FONC Portakabin opposite the Scottish Martyrs' monument, near Linden Grove entrance. For more information and dates and times, please contact Paul Dyer (MI Co-ordinator) c/o fonc@btconnect.com. *Appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear is essential.*

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

GUIDED TOURS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *These take place on the last Sunday in every month starting at 2.15pm.* Please meet at the flint circle just 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 to two hours. The publications and enquiry desk will be open, weather and volunteers permitting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *The December 2016 tour of Nunhead Cemetery has now been rescheduled for Boxing Day Monday 26th December.*

Please note that all tours and events are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Where possible up-to-date information concerning any changes will be published in FONC News and on the notice board in Nunhead Cemetery.

~ CONTACTS ~

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

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

The deadline for the next issue is 20th April 2016

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

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)

Established 1981 – *Registered charity number 296413*



National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

Member of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE).
Recipient of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Birthday Award
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