

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, London, SE15

FONC News



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The Donkin vault and monument at Nunhead (see page 6) *Photo: Ron 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.* See notice at entrance. The cemetery may be closed without notice for safety reasons, for example during very 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 by email: 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; Michael Grimwade; Jeff Hart; Chris Knowles; Cathy Mercer; Simon Mercer; Carol Stevenson; Roy Vickery. 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.*

Notice of FONC's AGM
Thursday 16th June 2016 at 7.00pm
at the Pyrotechnists Arms, Nunhead Green

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery will take place at the above venue 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. All nominations should be sent to FONC vice-chairman, Carol Stevenson, c/o fonc@btconnect.com. Motions, however, should have been submitted by the 16th May 2016.

The business part of the meeting will be followed by:

A presentation by the eminent botanist and writer,
Roy Vickery, on the FORGOTTEN USES OF SOME
CEMETERY PLANTS

Light refreshments provided—donations to offset costs welcome

Subscription reminder

Please note that subscriptions were due to be paid by the 1st April 2016. The annual subscription for UK members is still 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 the last issue please send your payment as soon as possible to Simon Mercer, membership secretary, c/o membership@fonc.org.uk. We thank you for your continued support.

NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS No 22

by Jeff Hart—FONC Co-ordinator

Improving the vista

In the last issue we reported that experimental binding material was being laid on the muddy West Hill path from the Welsh path down to the Dissenters chapel Picnic area in order to reduce the wear on this popular path. In order to complete this work, FONC has agreed to fund additional works to enable the path to extend to the bottom of the hill on Dissenters Road. In addition, FONC's proposals to reconfigure access to the grassed area to reduce unnecessary footfall, to embank the bottom of the area and re-plant with mixed grasses and wild flowers and to remove ash and sycamore saplings to improve light in the area, have been adopted and started to be put in place. This will necessitate temporary fencing and signage to give the area a chance to recover and establish but, once complete, should really enhance the visual impact of this popular part of the cemetery.

The patience of a saint (or martyr!)

During the regular monthly site meetings with the operations team of Southwark's cemetery department, the managers of the cemetery, FONC representatives walk around the site to discuss current issues. Unfortunately, in many instances we have to reiterate the questions and comments made in previous months only to be told 'no further progress at present'. So, no progress on the proposed Scots Martyrs memorial (see Cemetery News 21) as Southwark's initial planning application was rejected (for lack of adequate detail) and has yet to be re-submitted. By contrast, all approvals and tenders are in place to repair the Hardwidge vault, damaged by Southwark's tree team, but no work has started because the appointed contractors have yet to indicate a start date.

More East Lodge delays

As reported in Cemetery News 21, finding a scaffolder to work on the East Lodge is proving to be a real challenge. And as nothing else can be taken forward until the scaffolding is in place we are afraid that there is not much else to report. Oh, except that FONC was given notice to remove the materials and items we store in the East Lodge grounds by the end of April because the whole site must be clear for health and safety reasons when work

begins! Southwark's agreement to a new FONC storage area with a separate gate has now been rescinded. And there is now no prospect of a return of the bee-hives for this season. We had intended to store 30 new trestle tables purchased for use during major events such as Open Day in the freight container adjacent to the East Lodge but now this space will be needed for materials removed from the East Lodge grounds. Southwark have offered to provide us with storage space for the new trestles at the Limesford Road entrance. Any volunteers to help carry them from there to where we use them at the opposite side of the cemetery? At least we have now had one further meeting of the East Lodge project team to discuss progress (!) and we welcome new East Lodge project manager, New Zealander Tara Kelly, to Nunhead.

Water, water everywhere

Well, at the back of the FONC Portakabin actually, in three large water butts recently provided by FONC. These collect water from the Portakabin roof (it only took a week for all three to fill such was the heavy rainfall at the time) and will be used by FONC volunteers and Quadron staff to water areas such as the flint circle and behind the Scots Martyrs memorial where, up to now, water has had to be transported from the other side of the cemetery. One area which will benefit from this natural rain water is the fernery bank adjacent to the burial area behind the Anglican chapel where 15 large new native ferns provided by FONC have been planted by our volunteers and the protective dry-fencing renewed.

Damn Yankees!

Thanks to the research of his descendants, FONC volunteers have identified the common grave of American Civil War veteran John Davis, and the United States Memorial Programs Service have provided a new burial plinth to mark the spot in the cemetery opposite the site of the old Dissenters chapel. This will be set in place by FONC volunteers. Davis served as an Ensign in the US Navy and returned to England after the war to become a noted preacher in the Bermondsey area (*more details in the next issue*). A dedication event is planned for the 23rd July, and will be attended by representatives of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War coming from the US, family members and the US Embassy naval attaché. FONC will also be represented and anyone else wishing to attend (or help with making tea for our visitors!) should contact Jeff Hart for further details of timings etc.

Join FONC for a visit to Bryan Donkin's paper factory: Sunday 4th September 2016

by Chris Knowles

When I lead a tour of Nunhead Cemetery on Open Days, I always stop by the large tombstone slab under the beeches that commemorates Bryan Donkin and his family. I tell the group that Bryan Donkin was a great engineer, who together with the Fourdrinier brothers, invented the world's first fully-mechanised paper making machine.

Imagine my surprise, when walking along the Grand Union canal near Hemel Hempstead, to see a narrow boat called the 'Bryan Donkin'. It was moored next to a ramshackle but picturesque old building, Frogmore Mill, which I discovered was the factory where Donkin's first mechanised paper making machine was installed. The factory is now owned by the local council and run by a charity, the Apsley Paper Trail.



The narrow boat 'Bryan Donkin' on the Grand Union Canal

Photo: Chris Knowles

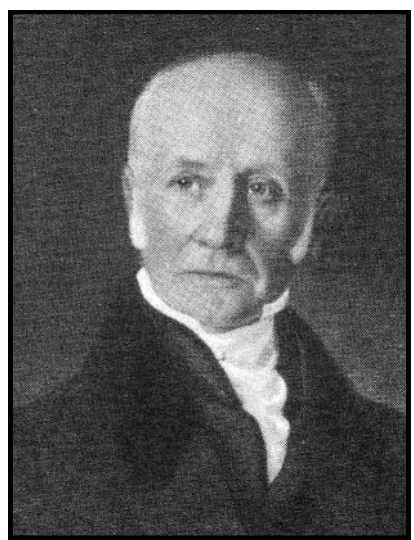
Frogmore Mill is open to the public. If you are lucky, you can see paper being made on one of the old machines preserved there; not Donkin's origi-

nal machine built at his workshop in Bermondsey, unfortunately, but still following the same principles he pioneered in the early 1800s. Dilute soggy pulp goes in one end of the machine and reels of finished paper are wound off at the other end.

We have arranged a special 'Bryan Donkin' tour of the mill for FONC members, which will take place at 1pm on Sunday 4th September. The tour will cost £12.50 per person and includes a short trip on the canal boat, the 'Bryan Donkin'.

For more details and to book a place, please contact Chris Knowles or Mary Anne Bonney email cwmknowles@btinternet.com before Sunday 24th July.

NB. Frogmore Mill is near Hemel Hempstead. The nearest railway station (10-15 minutes walk away) is Apsley (trains from Euston). More details about the paper mill are on the Internet at: <http://frogmoremill.com>



*Bryan Donkin FRS, MICE
(1768-1855)*

Mrs ELSIE MARY HARVEY, aged 103
FONC Member No 3205

Michael Grimwade writes: The death occurred in March of FONC member Mrs Elsie Mary Harvey, aged 103. She was the last surviving daughter of James Clements (1876-1955). James Clements was Secretary to the London Cemetery Company (the original owners of the Nunhead and Highgate cemeteries) from 1919 until shortly before his death in 1955. In total he spent 65 years in the employ of the London Cemetery Company. Further details about James Clements can be found in *Nunhead Notables* by Ron Woollacott and an article by Ann Baker in *FONC News* Issue No 91 (2006).

NB. Mrs Harvey was aunt to Michael Grimwade and Ann Baker. Her funeral took place at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on the 30th April.

The Uses and Folklore of Wild Plants found in Nunhead Cemetery

report by Carol Stevenson

On Sunday afternoon 17th April the botanist Roy Vickery led a fascinating walk round Nunhead Cemetery talking to us about the myths on the subject of common plants and the uses they were put to. The day was cold and sunny but we knew that spring had come because the daisies were growing thick enough that you could cover seven of them with one footprint.

Did you know that if you apply ivy leaves to a corn on your foot for three days it will draw it out? Or that beating nettles against an arthritic joint eases the arthritis? Both these folk remedies have been tried and found to work.

The chewed leaves of ribbed plantain help wounds heal, while a boiled concoction of elder flowers is meant to cure coughs—apparently it is so foul that children stop coughing at the very threat of being given a dose! Elder can be used to cure almost any illness—and even being robbed. An old Irish tradition was to push the pith out of an elder branch and fill it with lead, making a protective cosh. Crawling under an arch of bramble was believed to cure various ills, or even give you good luck at cards (though at the cost of the Devil taking your soul once you died).

Many plants that used to be eaten which are not found in the supermarket include the young leaves of nettles, hawthorn and dandelion (though the latter, also called ‘pis-en-lit’ would make you wet the bed). Dandelion sap cures warts, which you may have got from touching the berries of the snowberry.

Often these common plants have lots of names—for instance cleavers, sticky willy and goose-grass are all the same plant, and as well as curing young turkeys you can also tell whether somebody has a lover by how well it sticks to them. Love and poultry feature in many myths—the fall of a ball of cowslips can tell you where your true love will come from, and should you take a bunch less than 13 primroses into the house, your hen’s eggs will fail to hatch.

One of the best know plant ‘facts’ - that if you are stung by a nettle you should rub a dock leaf on it to stop the itching - turns out to be restricted to Britain and not even accurate. Any suitable leaf will do, or possibly even a damp tissue. But searching for a dock leaf is a good distraction for your stung child, so maybe you do not want to tell them yet! Thank you to Roy for a very interesting afternoon. ■

FOLK FLORA

An appeal for information—Roy Vickery



Houseleek, widely used in folk medicine and believed to protect buildings from fire and lightning

I'm working on a book, provisionally entitled *A Folk Flora*, which will be published by Orion in 2019. The publisher will receive the final manuscript late next year.

All aspects of folklore and uses of plants in Britain and Ireland will be covered with an emphasis on current beliefs and practices.

Therefore I am appealing for contributions concerning:

- local plant names
- traditional beliefs about plants
- herbal remedies
- wild plants gathered for food
- plants used in children's games and pastimes
- traditional times for sowing and harvesting crop plants
- plants used in customs or religious festivals
- and anything else which you think might be relevant.

Any information, no matter how widespread and well-known it might be, will be gratefully received. Although focused on Britain and Ireland comparative material from elsewhere will be gratefully received.

Please send your contributions to:

Roy Vickery, contact roy@plant-lore.com or visit the P-LA website, www.plant-lore.com

Researching sculptor Fred Kormis

by Cathy Mercer

Fred Kormis (1887-1986) was a very gifted sculptor and medallion-maker who has recently hit the headlines. His very moving memorial ‘To the memory of prisoners of war and victims of concentration camps 1914-1945’ in Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill, is one of 41 post-war public sculptures to receive Grade II listing by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.



Kormis sculpture in Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill—Photo: Simon Mercer

Fred’s group of five life-size figures is particularly striking: set within its own garden in the lawns of the park. Full of flowering shrubs and surrounded by hedges, the tortured figures contrast starkly to their verdant setting, on their own harsh stone footing, with a great gaunt white background that weathers wind and rain. The five figures sit and stand in various distorted and very uncomfortable poses, wearing almost nothing. They embody human suffering. It is particularly moving to think that this 1969 sculpture echoes Fred’s own life, as he himself was a prisoner-of-war for five years, 1915-20, serving time first in European Russia and then much further away in Siberia, north of Vladivostok.

Why was the monument erected in Gladstone Park? North West London

has long had a big Jewish population and in the late 60s there was the Liberal Jewish synagogue nearby, so that may be a reason. It's also close to Kormis' studio, making the location convenient, but, crucially, it's in a fabulous setting, with a steep green slope rising up behind the monument and embracing it. Interestingly, when the monument was erected, it was opposite the popular Gladstone Park swimming pool, closed in 1992, so would have easily been passed by and now far more people are able to see it.

The sculpture itself has had a hard time and, shockingly, the figures were decapitated Christmas 2003. Fortunately the heads were found under the surrounding hedges and it was beautifully restored with Heritage Lottery Funding.

Fred himself had more than his share of bad luck. Born Fritz Kormis in Frankfurt-am-Main in Germany, he won a scholarship to art school in 1914



Kormis statues in Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill

Photo: Simon Mercer

but his studies were cut short by the outbreak of war. His father was Austrian, so he served with the Austrian army and as prisoner-of-war. Woodcuts and prints from his prison period are in the British Museum.

His successful career as a portrait sculptor in Germany was cut short by the Nazis, as he was a Socialist and his background was Jewish. In 1934 he moved

to London and here anglicised his name to Fred and re-built his career, producing medal portraits of dignitaries such as Earl Mountbatten, Edward VIII, Charlie Chaplin and the War Cabinet (Churchill, Eden, Cripps, Bevin et al.) His last major commission was a portrait medal of Sir Kenneth Clarke in 1977.

Other Kormis sculptures can be seen in Nuffield College, Oxford, Swansea University and King's College London. However, even life in Lon-

continued on next page

don was not trouble-free and his studio in West Hampstead was bombed in 1940, destroying all his large-scale sculpture.

Surprisingly, despite his success, he has no Wikipedia page, though I'm sure this will soon be remedied. I spotted an article in our local paper about the listing of Prisoners of War sculpture with a striking picture but not only did they get his dates wrong, but they even misnamed him Korbis (well, 'b' is quite close to 'm' on the keyboard), though fortunately this was corrected for the print version. When I googled him, it took a while to find the correct facts but I eventually found excellent accounts of his life on the websites of the Jewish Wiener Library and on Glasgow University's artists of Britain website. However, even here there are minor discrepancies. His name may be correctly spelled but his date of birth is given variously as 1887, 1994 and 1897. This all goes to show how careful one needs to be when researching anything! ■

Perhaps we should have a FONC trip?

References:

<http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk/Search-document-collection?item=221>

http://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/view/person.php?id=msib4_1274354708

<http://www.kilburntimes.co.uk/news/heritage/>

[grade_ii_listing_for_gladstone_park_sculpture_by_former_prisoner_of_war_from_kilburn_1_4390704](http://www.kilburntimes.co.uk/news/heritage/grade_ii_listing_for_gladstone_park_sculpture_by_former_prisoner_of_war_from_kilburn_1_4390704)

**FORTHCOMING WALKS IN
BROOKWOOD CEMETERY, SURREY**
Organised by the Brookwood Cemetery Society

All walks start from the cemetery office entrance off Cemetery Pales. Donations are most welcome. The walks shown below start at 2.00pm.

Sunday 3rd July 2016: Artist Walk led by Jenny Mukerji. Learn about the prominent artists buried in Brookwood Cemetery.

Sunday 7th August 2016: Metropolitan Re-interments Walk led by Barry Devonshire. This walk will visit the large re-interment sites of the London parishes within Brookwood Cemetery.

For further information visit: www.tbcs.org.uk or email: info@tbcs.org

**THE FRIENDS OF BROMPTON CEMETERY
ANNUAL OPEN DAY**

SUNDAY 17th JULY 2016—11.00am to 5.00pm

Catacombs: A rare opportunity to visit the cemetery's historic catacombs on this one day of the year. Guided tours of the catacombs take place every half-hour from **11.30 am until 4.30 pm**. Tickets cost £3.00 and can be purchased from near the chapel. ***(Children under 12 are not admitted)***

The Cemetery: Tours of the cemetery take place every hour from **12 noon to 5 pm** and tickets cost £5.00.

The Chapel will be open for refreshments.

**Family Fun, Birds of Prey, Apiary,
Heatherley School of Fine Art Exhibition
Edwardian Hearse
Stalls**

**Other representatives of London's magnificent seven cemeteries:
Kensal Green, Tower Hamlets, Nunhead**

***The Friends of Brompton Cemetery,
Brompton Cemetery, Fulham Road, London. SW10 9UG
www.brompton-cemetery.org.uk***



~ Rest in peace ~



We have recently been informed of the deaths
of two long time supporters and members of FONC:

(No 61) **Roy William Lynch** of Bromley, Kent, a member since 28th
August 1983, died June 2015 (a member for nearly 32 years)

(No 301) **George West-Robinson** of Lancing, West Sussex,
a member since 17th September 1985, died 24th November 2015
(a member for over 30 years)

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

JENNY HILL—MUSIC-HALL ARTISTE (Part 2) *Popular serio-comic actress known as the ‘The Vital Spark’*

Now in her early thirties and a popular and successful music-hall entertainer, in July 1882 Jenny Hill decided to try her hand at running a pub. She acquired the lease of a public house in Southwark, and in January 1883 she placed the following advertisement in *The Era*: ‘Vital Spark—Jenny Hill, Albert Arms, London Road. Lady and gentlemen artists are informed that they can have their letters addressed to the above (where they will be taken care of until called for.) A new saloon bar will be opened shortly. Johnny (sic) Pasta always at home.’



‘The Vital Spark’

At some point after that announcement Jenny’s relationship with her husband appears to have broken down. She gave up the pub and she and Jean Pasta (John Wilson Woodley) went their separate ways. Later that year Jenny Hill was named as the co-respondent in the divorce case between Edward Musgrave Turnbull and Selina Turnbull. It was alleged that Turnbull had been habitually committing adultery with Jenny Hill since May 1883. Turnbull

was also accused of physically assaulting his wife on a number of occasions. The Turnbells divorced on the 12th December 1883.

JENNY’S ANNUS HORRIBILIS

Eighteen-eighty-four was a disastrous year for Jenny Hill. In June, when she and her maid were being driven home in a brougham in South London, the horse bolted, and both the coachman and a gentleman sitting beside him were thrown into the road. The wheels of the carriage went over the gentleman’s hand ‘severely crushing and lacerating it’. Despite the carriage having overturned with both Jenny and her maid trapped inside, they were rescued

unharmd. A large crowd had gathered, and during the confusion Jenny's jewellery was stolen.

In July that year Jenny purchased the Rainbow Music-Hall in Southampton and, renaming it the Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, placed an advertisement in *The Era* inviting artistes requiring engagement to apply to her agent Hugh Jay Didcott, at 68 Waterloo Road, SE. Edward Turnbull was named as the theatre manager. The Gaiety opened on the 15th September 1884, and was tragically burnt to the ground on the 19th November, thus putting an end to Jenny's ambitious venture into theatre ownership.

Meanwhile, in October 1884, at Wandsworth County Court, Jenny sought compensation from an undertaker, whom she claimed had driven a funeral coach into the buggy in which she and Edward Turnbull were travelling. In cross-examination, she said she could not say whether or not she was driving just before the accident occurred, but emphasised that she could drive horses with any man! Edward Turnbull said it was he who was driving when the accident occurred, but on reaching Rye Lane, Peckham, his wife had taken hold of the reins. The witness for the defence exclaimed, 'Your what?' Turnbull replied, 'Well, at any rate, Miss Hill.' The defence claimed that Jenny Hill was sitting on the wrong side of the buggy whilst driving, and she had attempted to cut through between two vehicles. The verdict was returned for the defendant.

JENNY, A GLASS OF WINE & THE HOTEL MANAGERESS

At Nottingham Town Hall in November 1886, Jenny Hill accused Emily Smead, the manageress of the Flying Horse Hotel in Nottingham, of assaulting her. There was a cross summons charging Jenny with assaulting Emily Smead. Jenny told the magistrate that she and a friend had gone to the buffet of the hotel for a glass of wine, and was told by the barmaid that ladies were not served there, and sent her to the liquor vaults. Jenny and her friend went to the vaults but not liking the place returned to the buffet. Once more they were refused service. Jenny then asked to see the manageress. Miss Smead appeared and after a brief exchange of words she told Jenny to leave the hotel. When Jenny refused, Miss Smead and her barmaids 'forcibly ejected her with a good deal of violence.' Miss Smead said on leaving the hotel Miss Hill became very abusive and struck her with her umbrella. The magistrates dismissed the summons against Jenny Hill and fined Emily Smead £2.

continued on next page

NOT AN ACTRESS?

In 1888, the editor of an unnamed newspaper offered to give a diamond brooch to ‘the smartest actress on the stage’ as voted by his subscribers. The competition was continued over a period of four weeks and each week Jenny Hill was well in the running. Finally, thanks to her many friends and admirers she was the easy winner—but was subsequently disqualified. According to a report in another newspaper the ‘insulting reason’ given by the editor who ran the competition was that she was not an actress, despite the fact that she had played principal boy parts at the Gaiety Theatre.

Jenny was, of course, a most successful and popular serio-comic actress, and always in great demand. Her most popular songs were: ‘Arry’, which she performed as a coster swell, and the ‘Boy in the Gallery’, a song also performed by Nellie Power and which Marie Lloyd later made her own. Jenny’s dramatic pieces such as ‘The Little Stowaway’ and ‘Masks and Faces’ were always well received by her adoring public.

In March 1889 she topped the bill at the Canterbury Theatre of Varieties in Westminster Bridge Road, Lambeth, performing ‘The City Waif—or the Streets of London Town’. On the same bill, among others, were the comic actor Harry Randall (1857–1932), who said Jenny was the ‘most versatile artiste he had ever seen,’ and Bessie Bellwood (1847-1896), famous for her saucy cockney humour.



Jenny Hill as ‘Arry’

JENNY’S INDISPOSITION

Continually playing the halls and rarely resting between performances takes its toll.

On Saturday 1st June 1889 *The Era* reported: ‘Miss Jenny Hill has again been very much indisposed and has not appeared at the Cambridge, Poplar, and the Canterbury since Tuesday last. The Wood family have appeared with success as Miss Hill’s deputies.’ The Woods included Marie Lloyd’s siblings. Jenny was soon back on the boards following her bout of ill-health.

An unrehearsed scene involving her and a rival actress took place at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, in February 1890. There appears to have been friction of sorts between Jenny, who was playing the part of 'Aladdin', and Madeline Shirley, who was playing 'The Princess'. When Miss Shirley was on stage a bouquet was thrown which fell on to the footlights and caught fire. Although it seems to have been an accident, some ladies of the company went to Jenny's room and accused her of inciting the incident. Later that evening, on being encored, Jenny made a passionate speech on the subject saying she had no quarrel with Miss Shirley, and offered a reward for the discovery of the culprit, and Madeline Shirley told the audience that the affair had been misrepresented. The audience roared with laughter and cheered when the rivals shook hands and left the stage. There appears, however, to have been another altercation between the two actresses off stage, as during the closing scene, 'Aladdin' snatched himself from an embrace with 'The Princess', and storming off stage refused to join the finale. The theatre was crowded, and the disappointed audience 'which had previously been very much amused expressed themselves in volleys of groans'.

DEATH OF JENNY'S HUSBAND

Jenny's estranged husband, John Wilson Woodley, the acrobat, otherwise known as Jean Pasta, died on the 8th January 1890, and was buried at West Norwood Cemetery on the 15th January. Jenny's son-in-law, Joe M Allen, alias Joseph Michael Schah, the husband of Letitia Matilda (Peggy Pryde), wrote to the editor of *The Era*: 'Sir, I was very sorry, indeed, to hear of the sudden death of my wife's father, Mr John Wilson Woodley, professionally known as Johnny (sic) Pasta, but I wish to make it known through your columns that my wife, alias Peggy Pryde, always assisted her father before he died. I also wish to say that I have already made arrangements for a tombstone to be erected over his grave as soon as I get to London.'

According to Laurence Senelick (*DNB*), after her husband's death Jenny married the music-hall manager Edward Turnbull, and Stuart and Park (*The Variety Stage*, 1895) say that Turnbull was Jenny's husband. The present writers, however, have found no record of a marriage taking place, but they were most certainly living together as man and wife before 1890, as in 1884 Turnbull had mistakenly said in court that Jenny was his wife, before correcting himself.

to be concluded in the next issue

AN UNWELCOME VIEW OF LONDON TOWN

Sunday the 24th April 2016 was a bitterly cold spring day, so I was surprised and delighted when 40 visitors joined me on a tour of the cemetery. Only one gentleman had visited the cemetery before and everyone, including a lady from an Australian cemetery Friends group, was looking forward to an interesting and entertaining afternoon. I promised they would have a splendid view of London from the summit of Nunhead Hill, similar to that captured by the great artist Joseph Mallord William Turner in 1796, with the sun breaking through stormy clouds, and St Paul's in the distance. So with cameras at the ready our enthusiastic group reached the top of the hill. Unfortunately it was not to be, for although weather conditions were favourable that day, the usually perfect view of the cathedral was obscured by *a huge and ugly crane*.

Ron Woollacott

~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

WOODLAND TRAIL TOUR OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *Sunday 12th June 2016 at 2.15pm.* Please meet Tim Stevenson, your guide for the afternoon, at the flint circle just inside the main entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove.

FONC'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ► *Thursday 16th June 2016 at 7.00pm.* Please note that the venue for this year's AGM will be The Pyrotechnists Arms at Nunhead Green. *Please see page 3.*

WATERLOO ANNIVERSARY EVENT ► *Saturday 18th June 2016 at 2.15pm.* Join Jeff Hart at the flint circle just inside the main entrance to Nunhead Cemetery to visit the graves of the Waterloo campaign heroes who lie buried at Nunhead.

BAT SIGHTING WALK IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *Friday 24th June 2016 at 9.00pm.* An evening walk with Daniel Greenwood of the London Wildlife Trust to look for the cemetery's bat population. Meet outside the main cemetery gates in Linden Grove.

CRYPT AND CHAPEL VISIT ► *Sunday 10th July 2016 at 2.15pm.* The chapel and crypt (chapel catacomb) will be open to visitors. Your guides include Malcolm Collins and Jeremy Partington.

MILITARY CONNECTIONS TOUR ► *Sunday 17th July 2016 at 2.15pm.* Meet at the flint circle just inside the entrance gates in Linden Grove for an interesting tour of the military graves in Nunhead Cemetery led by Jeff Hart.

USES AND FOLKLORE OF PLANTS FOUND IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY ► *Sunday 24th July 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.

MUSIC-HALL ARTISTES TOUR ► *Sunday 14th August 2016 at 2.15pm.* Meet Jolanta Jagiello at the flint circle, just inside the main gates in Linden Grove, for this interesting tour of graves in the cemetery.

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 ► *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 tour of Nunhead Cemetery has been rescheduled for Boxing Day Monday 26th December.*

Please note that all tours and events are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. If 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 July 2016
(Copy received after this date may be used in a future issue)

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)



National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

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