

*Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, London, SE15*

# FONC News

No 136 Summer issue (June ~August 2017)

ISSN 1478-0631



*Volunteers admire 'restored' concrete monument - page 8. Photo: John Turpin*

## ***INSIDE:***

### **DOG CONTROLS CONSULTATION**

*See page 14*

**Members' information**  
*p.2*

**Notice of FONC's AGM  
2017 p.3**

**Future visit to Glad-  
stone Park p.4**

**Women in Front - WW1  
Exhibition p.5**

**Nunhead Cemetery  
News No 26 p.6**

**Memorial repairs p.8**

**Butterflies in South  
London p.12**

**Nunhead's  
Horse Chestnuts p.12**

**Obituaries p.14**

**Remarkable Women  
No 4 - Cicely Nott p.16**

**Diary Dates p.18**

**Contacts - back page**

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 Jane Hart by email: [jane.c.hart@btconnect.com](mailto:jane.c.hart@btconnect.com)

**FONC Meetings and Events:** Committee meetings take place on the *3rd Thursday of each month. 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](mailto: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. **Contributors:** Michèle Louise Burford; Jeff Hart; Jolanta Jagiello; Cathy Mercer; Jeremy Partington. All other text unless otherwise credited is by the editor. *The editor and FONC's General Committee do not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by contributors.*

**Proof-reader:** Gwyneth Stokes.

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**SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER:** Please note that all subscriptions were due to be paid by the 1st April 2017. The annual subscription for UK members is only £2 (£10 for overseas members), and donations are most welcome. If you have not already done so, please send your payment (cheques and POs made payable to FONC) to the membership secretary. Contact [membership@fonc.org.uk](mailto:membership@fonc.org.uk). Thank you for your support.

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**\*\* NOTICE OF FONC'S AGM \*\***

**Thursday 15th June 2017 at 7.00pm  
at the Pyrotechnist's Arms, Nunhead Green**

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery will take place in the function room of the Pyrotechnist's Arms, Nunhead Green, SE15, on Thursday 15th June 2017 at 7.00pm. 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 have been submitted no later than the 15th May 2017. All nominations should be sent to Carol Stevenson, FONC vice-chairman, c/o fonc@btconnect.com

*The business part of the meeting will followed by:*

**A presentation by BRIAN PARSONS**

**Author of *The London Way of Death* and joint author  
with Hugh Meller of *London Cemeteries - An Illustrated  
Guide and Gazetteer (4th Edition 2008)***

**Light refreshments will be available  
Donations to offset costs will be very much appreciated**

## **Invitation from Cathy Mercer to visit Gladstone Park and the Dollis Hill Research Station on Saturday 12th August**

Please join us on a trip to Gladstone Park in Dollis Hill, a delightful expanse with amazing views over London reaching as far as the Downs – on a clear day.

Other highlights include:

- a beautiful walled garden
- beautiful tree-lined avenues
- a wild area
- Fred Kormis' moving memorial to victims of prison camps in the two World Wars – recently given Grade II listing
- Dollis Hill House - William Gladstone's holiday retreat
- nearby is the Dollis Hill Post Office Research Station, where much of the WWII code-breaking work was done – viewing from outside only, as it's been converted into flats!
- World War II bunker - emergency Cabinet War Rooms - again, viewing from the outside only
- an excellent café

Gladstone Park received a Lottery Grant about 20 years ago and it will be interesting to see how this has been used and how well the work has lasted.

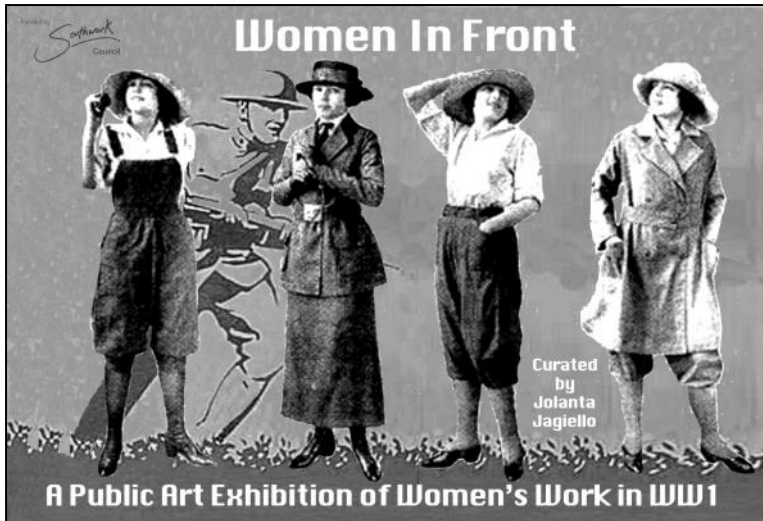
Gladstone Park is in Dollis Hill, five minutes' walk from Dollis Hill Station on the Jubilee Line. Please check [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) for details.

I'll meet people by the ticket barrier for a tour of about 90 minutes, giving lots of time to enjoy tea and cake in the excellent café in the old stable at the top of Gladstone Park.

To book a place and find out the time to meet, please email [cs2000hm@care4free.net](mailto:cs2000hm@care4free.net)

There is no charge for the visit, though a collection will be made for FONC. Please note also that numbers are strictly limited, so book early!

**ART EVENT AT NUNHEAD - EXHIBITION  
CURATED BY JOLANTA JAGIELLO**



*Women In Front* is the latest art exhibition seen in the cemetery's Stearns Mausoleum. It follows other successful displays in the mausoleum commemorating the First World War. These exhibits highlighted the contribution of women to the war effort at home and at the front. As the war progressed with mounting casualties and the introduction of conscription, over one million women were employed for the first time in occupations previously reserved for men. Over 1.6 million women working in domestic service were now given the opportunity to move into better-paid employment.

In March 1917, the Women's War Work Subcommittee was formed to collect materials covering the contribution of women to the war effort for a National War Museum. The subcommittee commissioned photographers Horace Nicholls, George Parnham Lewis, and Olive Edlis (covering France) to record the work undertaken by women; this culminated in an exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1918, attracting 82,000 visitors.

100 years later, *Women In Front*, through the artworks on display, tells the stories of women's lives before the war, their war work, and what happened to them afterwards. Nicky Scott-Francis explores the working lives of munitionettes (female workers in a munitions factory), whilst Jill Rock con-

*continued on next page*

centrates on their achievements in the Women's Football League, with Jolanta Jagiello covering the employment of female police constables to control their rowdy out-of-work behaviour. Sara Scott focuses on postal workers and Monica Wheeler on bus conductors, one of the few professions still open to women after the war, improving the working conditions of women.

Elizabeta Chojak-Mysko and Louse Kosinska tell the stories of women who had to disguise themselves as men to achieve their ambitions, whether as doctors to run a hospital for wounded soldiers, or to take their pastime of flying to turn themselves into combat pilots.

The exhibition, funded by Southwark Council Neighbourhood Fund, was open all weekends in May including FONC Open Day and May Bank Monday. Jolanta reported a good attendance and much interest in women's less well known but important contribution to the war effort. [www.artgoingplaces.com](http://www.artgoingplaces.com)

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## **NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS No 26**

*by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator*

### ***A further East Lodge works update***

There have been further delays before conservation architects Thomas Ford and Associates were able to complete the first draft of their feasibility study on the future of the Lodge, this time caused by difficulties with the necessary soil condition survey. Firstly, the ground was sodden with spring rain (what a surprise!) preventing work and then the contractors could not get their equipment to pump out water from the basement of the building. Southwark Council's valuation team have also visited to assess the monetary worth of their 'asset'. Further meetings of the project team have thus been postponed but, at the time of writing, we are hoping to receive a copy of the draft report sometime in May. This will enable us to have a clearer idea of what the possible future of the Lodge might be and how to proceed from there.

### ***The patience of a saint!***

There is no progress on the proposed works around the Scots Martyrs memorial as Southwark Planning is still awaiting a response from the Borough engineers to questions raised on the second application submitted. The update of the condition survey of the Anglican chapel continues to be overdue and the survey of the boundary walls appears to have been completed but not yet

submitted to the Borough engineers. On the other hand, restoration of the Hope vault has been completed, the noticeboards at each entrance and the Green Flag pole have been re-painted and two large ash trees on the east side of the Main Avenue impinging on views of the chapel and leaning perilously close to memorials have been felled. Accumulated rubbish from the East Lodge grounds has also finally been cleared.

### ***Trench digging on the war memorial front***

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have begun work on addressing the major cracks that have appeared in the new war memorial in Square 89. This has meant that tons of clay soil has been excavated from under the retaining walls to a depth of around ten feet. Partly mechanical but with a fair amount of human muscle power as well, this substantial task was not helped by heavy rain starting to fill the dug pits. However, these have been filled with concrete and we now await a different contractor on site to address the separating blocks of the retaining walls and to replace the flagstones in front of the walls. We are hoping this can be completed before our Open Day in May.

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## **Corporate volunteering day in the cemetery**

***Jeremy Partington writes:*** Just over 20 volunteers from the Department for Transport undertook a corporate volunteering day at Nunhead Cemetery on the 9th March, the day being organised and supervised by FONC members. In glorious sunny weather, the DfT volunteers cleared brambles and other undergrowth from the hillside of St Paul's View both uncovering the headstones of numerous graves in the area and improving the foreground of the view to the City and St Paul's Cathedral. The thanks for an enjoyable day were expressed by participants.

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## **FONC congratulates the Brookwood Cemetery Society on its 25th anniversary**

The society organises guided tours of Brookwood Cemetery on the first Sunday of every month from March to November. Each walk starts at 2.00pm and lasts around 90 minutes. Brookwood Cemetery is near Woking. For more information visit: [www.tbcs.org.uk](http://www.tbcs.org.uk) or email: [info@tbcs.org](mailto:info@tbcs.org)

## MEMORIAL REPAIRS TRANSFORM A NEGLECTED AREA *writes Jeff Hart*

FONC was recently awarded a grant of £8,000 from Southwark Council's 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' funding 2017/18 for the repair of two monuments (Shand and Brooks) at the north-east end of the Main Avenue. This is a focal point as visitors enter the Linden Grove gates, and repairing these collapsed monuments would greatly improve the first impression visitors receive of the cemetery. The Shand memorial marks the first grave to be excavated at Nunhead Cemetery and is the last resting place of sail-maker George Shand's two young daughters and the sail-maker himself among others.

At the time the award was announced (28th January), one of Southwark Council's approved contractors, Priest Stonework & Restoration Ltd, were already on site working on the Hope memorial on the West Hill. Coordinator Jeff Hart seized the opportunity to meet with Priest's Brian Whybrow on the 16th February to obtain a firm quote for the work to be done. With the help of Brian's expert advice and the savings to be made by already having on site all the equipment necessary, it quickly became apparent that we could actually repair more than just the two memorials originally envisaged. In fact, we could also put together the collapsed Edgell obelisk which lay between Shand and Brooks. On hearing the story of the adjacent Mr Brackley's 50 years' service as the gate-keeper at Nunhead, who was rewarded with a plot where he could over-look the gates for eternity, Bryan offered to clean the memorial without charge. Pushing his luck, Jeff showed Bryan the ruin of the Thornborrow monument further up the Main Avenue, reputedly the first use of concrete as a memorial material in London. FONC volunteers had previously tried to assemble some of the jig-saw of pieces but completing the work had proved beyond us. Could this be included within the available £8,000 too? No! The final quote was for £8,100, but with a little pleading, the quote came down to £8,000!! The work would also include the removal of a small Turkey oak in front of the Shand memorial and we said to Bryan that FONC volunteers would tidy up the area after works were completed. We also agreed to provide the use of the FONC Portakabin and its water supply for the duration of the works.

So far, so good. However, the usual procedure for meeting the grant conditions is to obtain three quotes. As this would take time and the chances of anything as competitive as Priest's quote whilst they were still on site,



seemed very remote. At this point, the Southwark grant monitoring officer, Christopher Campbell, was appointed. Would bureaucracy thwart this great opportunity? Fortunately not. Jeff explained the circumstances to Christopher who was quickly able to clear any internal hurdles and gave us permission to accept Priest's quote. And before the end of March the works were completed to a fantastic standard.

At the FONC workday on the 2nd April FONC volunteers were staggered by the difference the completed work made to this part of the cemetery. Indeed, throughout the day many visitors also commented on what an improvement had been made. We made good the area around the works and this is already blending in well with bluebells appearing in profusion. Christopher visited and approved the work on the 5th April so that Priest's could then be paid promptly. Our thanks are due to all involved in this excellent project and to Nunhead Councillor Fiona Coley who supported us throughout. We all agree that it is an excellent example of what can be achieved by the Council and the voluntary sector working closely together.



*The Shand monument before and after restoration (Photos: Priest Stonework)*

*continued on next page*



*The Brooks monument before and after restoration*  
Photos by Priest Stonework & restoration Ltd



*The restored group of memorials. From left to right: Brackley, Edgell, Shand and Brooks. Photo: John Turpin*



*The unusual concrete 'Thornborrow' monument before and after restoration*  
Photos: Priest Stonework & restoration Ltd

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**Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries**  
**(Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries)**  
**10th Anniversary**  
**OPEN DAY**

**Sunday 9th July 2017 - 11am to 4.30pm**

Come and find out more about the wildlife and history of this tranquil local green space! Guided tours of the cemetery, exhibitions, plants, family discovery trails, homemade refreshments, community stalls

*Supported by Lewisham Bereavement Services*

**ADMISSION FREE**

Brockley gate entrance, Brockley Road, London SE4 2QY  
Crofton Park BR, 121/171 bus routes

Ladywell gate entrance, Brockley Grove, London, SE13 7HY Ladywell BR, P4 bus

# Butterflies in South London

by *Simon Saville*

Chairman, Butterfly Conservation - Surrey & SW London Branch

**D**id you know that it's possible to see at least 11 different species of butterflies in March, all within a couple of miles of the River Thames? Well, that's exactly what I have done as I surveyed some of the green spaces in the north of Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark.

Nunhead Cemetery is known as one of the best butterfly sites in the area, as the studies by FONC's own Bugman (Richard Jones) have shown. I have certainly seen plenty of butterflies in my visits this spring. The beautiful and distinctive Comma has been the most abundant and widespread species in the cemetery, though there have been good numbers of Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Brimstone. There is wildlife under our noses, even in Inner London, if we know where to look.

I am from the Surrey & SW London branch of Butterfly Conservation, and we are keen to do more to engage people in London with butterflies and moths. We'd like to set up regular monitoring of butterflies at Nunhead Cemetery, to build on the surveys done by Richard Jones.

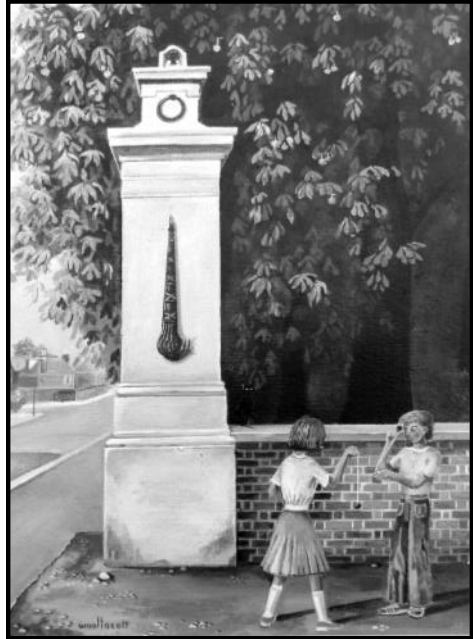
I will write more about this in later editions of *FONC News*, but if you'd like to get involved in any way, please email me at [surreybranch@gmail.com](mailto:surreybranch@gmail.com) - or perhaps you met me at the Open Day on the 20th May. You can find out more about Butterfly Conservation at [www.butterfly-conservation.org/surrey](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/surrey)

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## NUNHEAD'S HORSE CHESTNUTS

**C**ome the spring and Nunhead's magnificent horse chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), so-called because the scar left on twigs after the leaf has dropped resembles a horseshoe with seven nails, will be smothered with fresh green leaves and white candle-like panicles, and in the summer will be at their resplendent best - though not for long - because as the summer wears on the beautiful palmate leaves will turn prematurely brown and start dropping off, and the seeds (conkers) usually at their best in the autumn, will look rather small and be underdeveloped. The damage to our conker trees is being caused by the leaf miner moth (*cameraria ohridella*) which is believed to have arrived in this country from Greece some 15 years

ago. First seen on Wimbledon Common, it has now spread throughout England and into parts of Wales and Scotland. The larva feeds in the leaves inhibiting growth, and the infected leaves are soon covered in small brown patches which spread rapidly across the entire tree. Eventually the leaves will die and drop off before their time. We are told that the moth weakens the tree thus making them susceptible to disease. Some scientists fear that our glorious horse chestnuts might even disappear from the landscape by 2032, and the popular children's game of conkers will be no more. In the meantime we might take comfort in the knowledge that until then blue tits and great tits will continue to enjoy feeding on the larvae. **RW**



Children playing conkers outside  
Nunhead Cemetery

*Acrylic painting by Ron Woollacott 1978*

~~~~ **POETRY IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY** ~~~~

**Thursday 29th June 2017 - 6.30pm to 7.30pm**

**CHRIS McCABE**

*author of* **CENOTAPH SOUTH**

**MAPPING *the* LOST POETS *of* NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

Chris will be talking about his book and giving a few readings followed by a questions and answers session. This is part of the poetry and music festival which will take place in libraries and other venues across Southwark in June. ***THIS IS A FREE EVENT - ALL WELCOME***

## **The late Mr S B J LeBon (FONC Member 3963)**

At the recent funeral service of the late Mr S B J LeBon, who lived in Nunhead and had been a member of FONC since July 2008, a collection was made and it was his wish that the amount collected should be equally divided between five charitable organisations of which FONC was one. Mr Ian LeBon of Bristol has sent us a cheque for £65 for which we are most grateful, and we offer our condolences to him and his family.

## **The late Mrs Cy Dale**

It is with much sadness that we learned of the death of Cy Dale earlier this year. Cy (Cicely) Dale, who had been living in a Brighton care home since 2015, died in hospital on the 3rd January 2017 following a fall at the home on New Year's Eve. A private cremation was held in Brighton and an event in London for friends to celebrate her life was held in February.

Cy was instrumental in supplying plants for and attending the FONC plant stall on Open Days during the early days along with Alice Jackley her neighbour, and of course Mary and Alan Bavin and their daughters Nicola and Rebecca among others. Cy will be much missed by her family and friends. Simon Dale, who was FONC's first membership secretary, has said he wishes to make a donation to FONC of around £100 in memory of his mother, to be used for planting a tree perhaps, or for purchasing a much needed piece of equipment.

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## **DOG CONTROLS NEEDED IN NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

*by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator*

As highlighted in the Spring Journal (*Nunhead Cemetery News 25 'Barking Mad'*) Southwark Council began its consultation on 'how we can reduce dog-related anti-social (ASB) behaviour within Southwark' at the end of April. This highly contentious issue, that directly affects Nunhead cemetery, had a response deadline of 5th June, just a six week consultation period. As the number of responses received would influence the outcome, the FONC general committee circulated details of the consultation (available at: <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/lets-talk-about-dogs>) to all members.

In the last few years the FONC Committee has seen the issue of dogs in the cemetery becoming more and more problematic. FONC was not seeking a ban on dogs in the cemetery but rather that all dogs should be kept on leads at all times and in all parts of the cemetery and that dog-walkers should be limited to no more than four dogs at a time. Whilst there continues to be a majority of responsible dog owners

properly enjoying the cemetery whom we have no wish to restrict unnecessarily, FONC believes that action is now needed to address the growing number of less welcome dogs and their owners/walkers. Our concerns are:

- As dog control orders have been introduced in neighbouring Boroughs, notably Lewisham, dog owners have sought other open spaces to exercise their dogs where no controls exist. This has led to a very great increase in the numbers using Nunhead Cemetery for such purposes;
- Many of these ‘new’ dog walkers show no respect for the cemetery as a rather different area from the usual parks and open spaces. They freely allow their pets to run over graves and defecate without discrimination;
- There are now significant numbers of so-called ‘commercial’ dog walkers using the cemetery as a facility. The more dogs such people have, the more they earn. Many arrive in large vehicles advertising their businesses and bring as many as six to eight dogs at a time. They allow such dogs to run free and, as the dogs are less familiar with the walkers than they are with their owners, they often have very little control over these animals. The tranquillity of the cemetery is constantly disturbed by the fraught calls of the walkers to which the animals pay no attention whatsoever. In addition, they cannot see where every dog is at all times leading to many dog faeces not being cleared up;
- Dogs in such packs present a real threat not only to wildlife but more importantly to people, particularly young children, who perhaps have little experience of dogs or who have a real fear of such animals. There have been several instances lately where young children have been knocked over by dogs. Even dogs kept on leads have been seen to jump up at children, causing considerable distress. Owners are often heard to say ‘Oh, they are quite friendly and won’t bite’ which is of little comfort to the child or parents. Given the muddy state of the cemetery in winter, having muddy paw marks on one’s clothes is equally unwelcome. Lately there have been incidents of dogs attacking and biting visitors with the risk of future serious injury. This is absolutely unacceptable. This is not to mention the occasion where our Coordinator literally had to prise a dog away from the throat of a cat it had virtually killed whilst the dog owner stood by helplessly;
- We are aware that there have been an increasing number of complaints from those visiting recent interments in the cemetery about the incidence of dogs running loose in the vicinity of those interments;
- The increase in numbers is having a notably detrimental effect on the resident and visiting wildlife in the cemetery. The whole site is a designated Nature Reserve but with no informative signage few dog walkers seem to appreciate this. FONC has monitored the variety and numbers of wildlife for many years

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and we are convinced that both have decreased significantly over the last couple of years. This is particularly noticeable for mammals. Disturbance of wildlife and their habitat is marked;

- The excess of dogs seems to have reduced the number of other visitors during week days, particularly parents with young children;
- Increasingly when FONC members have tried to approach owners to point out the need to respect the cemetery, its visitors and its wildlife they have been met with sometimes quite aggressive abuse, particularly from the ‘commercial’ dog walkers.

We recognise that some will feel that responsible owners would be unfairly penalised as a result of introducing such restrictions. Unfortunately this is a case of the minority spoiling it for others. It is likely, too, that FONC may lose members as a result of the position we are taking. However, we firmly believe that responsible dog-owners and other visitors to the cemetery will understand the need for such restrictions.

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**Remarkable Women buried in Nunhead Cemetery No 4**  
*by Ron Woollacott and Michèle Louise Burford*

**MADAME CICELY NOTT (Part 1)**  
*Actress and Prima Donna at Jullien’s Concerts*

Cicely Nott, a favourite prima donna and a popular actress in her day, was the mother of a distinguished dramatic family. Her four daughters followed her on to the stage and her only son went into theatre management. Cicely Nott was born Sarah Ann Harris at Gosport, Hampshire, in about 1832, the second daughter of Elijah Luke Hatch and Jane Harris. In 1841 Sarah Ann and her elder sister Rosina were pupils at the British Free School, North End, Croydon. In the census of 1851 Elijah Luke Hatch gave his surname as Harris, at which time he was employed as a clerk at Lloyd’s Newspaper Office and residing with Jane and their daughter Rosina, a music teacher, at 2 Doddington Place, Newington, and their daughter Sarah Ann was away from home studying at the Royal Academy of Music, having been ‘discovered’ by Monsieur Louis-Antoine Jullien (1812-1860), the French conductor and composer. Monsieur Jullien first heard Sarah Ann sing in private when she was in her teens, and realised immediately that she was possessed of excellent musical abilities. Thinking it a pity her talents should be wasted, and because her father was unable to pay for her musical education,



he offered to make ‘suitable provision’ for her instruction, and duly arranged for Sarah Ann to be placed at the Royal Academy of Music ‘to learn the art in all its branches.’ Monsieur Jullien also secured the eminent vocal professor, Manuel Garcia (1805-1906), tutor of the great Swedish opera singer, Jenny Lind (1820-1887), as her singing master. Sarah Ann was described as a ‘true high soprano’ of the same register as that of Jenny Lind.

### PRIMA DONNA AT JULLIEN’S CONCERTS

Now known professionally as Cicely Nott, Sarah Ann Harris first gained prominence as prima donna at Jullien’s grand promenade concerts in the early 1850s, her name at that time being associated with the song especially composed for her entitled ‘The Echo of Lucerne’. Monsieur Jullien also dedicated a waltz to her called the ‘Prima Donna’. Cicely Nott was described in *The Musical World* as ‘slender and elegant and altogether an exceedingly pre-possessing young lady, and a vocalist already of considerable acquirements, largely endowed by nature, and of transcendent promise.’

A review of Jullien’s concerts published in *The Times* on Monday 6th December 1851, chose to highlight Cicely’s performances at the Drury Lane Theatre as follows: ‘The new singer, Miss Cicely Nott, besides a voice of great compass, pure soprano quality, and remarkably agreeable tone, possesses not only vocal agility, but a large share of that kind of expression to which term “dramatic” may be fairly applied. Miss Nott has much to thank nature for, and possesses undeniable talent.’ The reviewer continued to heap praise upon her: ‘The drawbacks inseparable from youth and inexperience take away but little from the attraction of her singing ..... An enviable career is open before the young artist, who already stands highly in the favour of the audience, and on Saturday night (4th December) was compelled, by universal desire, to repeat a popular aria by Count Marco Marliani.’

After Monsieur Jullien’s series of London concerts had concluded he engaged Cicely for his provincial tours, and in January 1852 he placed her at the top of the bill at the Rotunda in Dublin.

### CICELY NOTT DEBUTS AS A SERIOUS ACTRESS

In 1854 Cicely Nott made her very first appearance as an actress on the stage of the Plymouth Theatre in Devon, after which she travelled to Ireland where she supported the Shakespearean actor Samuel Phelps (1804-1878) playing Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, and other Shakespearean

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parts. Sadly, her father did not live to see his daughter become a serious actress for he died a year earlier on the 12th February 1853, aged 56, and was the first to be interred in the family grave at Nunhead Cemetery. His name is recorded as Elijah Luke Hatch in the burial records.

During the winter of 1856/57 when she was appearing in Edinburgh, Cicely married the Italian composer and vocalist Pio Giovanni Michell Bellini on the 28th March 1857. Bellini was well known in Edinburgh as a teacher of music. In the summer of 1857 Cicely was appearing at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, playing Don Felix in the burlesque *The Prince of Happy Land* in which Fairy Pineapple was played by Mary Seyton, the stage name of Mary Elizabeth Braddon (1835-1915), who later gave up the stage to become a successful Victorian novelist. Sadly, Cicely's marriage to Pio Bellini was tragically short-lived as he died rather suddenly at Brighton from a ruptured blood vessel (other reports say from consumption) on the 5th October 1858, aged only 34. After her husband's death, a grief-stricken Cicely withdrew from the stage for a while and travelled in Germany.



*Cicely Nott as Miscrema in 'Manfred' 1863*

*to be continued*

### ~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

**WATERLOO ANNIVERSARY EVENT ► Sunday 18th June 2017.** Meet at the flint circle just inside the main entrance gates in Linden Grove for an interesting tour led by Jeff Hart looking at the last resting places of soldiers who fought or were present at the Battle of Waterloo 1815.

**BAT SIGHTING WALK** ► *Friday 23rd June 2017 at 9.30pm.* Meet Daniel Greenwood of the London Wildlife Trust outside Nunhead Cemetery gates in Linden Grove for this rare opportunity to enter the cemetery after dark to look out for and listen for bats.

**CHAPEL CRYPT** ► *Sunday 2nd July 2017 at 2.15pm.* Meet your guides outside the Anglican chapel in Nunhead Cemetery to join this interesting visit to the Victorian catacomb in the chapel crypt which is not normally open to the public.

**MILITARY CONNECTIONS TOUR** ► *Sunday 16th July 2017 at 2.15pm.* Meet Jeff Hart near at the flint circle inside the main entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove for an interesting tour of the cemetery looking at the final resting place of some of the military personnel who served their country in times past.

**MUSIC-HALL ARTISTES TOUR** ► *Sunday 13th August at 2.15 pm.* Meet your guide for the afternoon at the flint circle just inside the main entrance gates in Linden Grove for an interesting tour and see the restored headstone on the grave of Jenny Hill, one of the music-hall's greatest serio-comics.

**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 the Linden Grove entrance. For more information and dates and times, please contact Paul Dyer (MI Co-ordinator) [fonc@btconnect.com](mailto:fonc@btconnect.com). *Appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear essential.*

**VOLUNTARY WORKDAYS** ► *take place on the first Sunday in the month from 10am to 4.30pm.* New volunteers are always welcome. 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 and two hours. The publications and enquiry desk will be open, weather and volunteers permitting.

*Please note all tours and events are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. If possible up-to-date information concerning any changes will be announced in FONC News, on the website at [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk) and notice board in Nunhead Cemetery.*

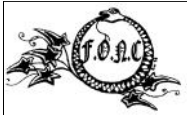
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Please send all letters, news items and feature articles for publication to:  
**The editor, *FONC News*, c/o fonc@btconnect.com**

***The deadline for copy for the next issue is 15th July 2017***  
(Please note copy received after this date may be used in a future issue)

### Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)



National Federation of  
**CEMETERY FRIENDS**

***Established 1981 – Registered charity number 296413***

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)**

Printed by Catford Print Centre, LONDON SE6 2PN  
and published by Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, c/o fonc@btconnect.com

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