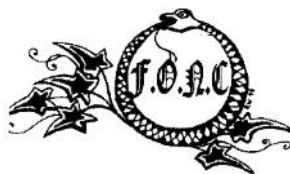


~~~~ Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, London, SE15 ~~~~

# FONC News

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A group of visitors enjoy a tour of historic Nunhead Cemetery.  
The obelisk commemorates Sir George Thomas Livesey (1834-1908), civil engineer and philanthropist. *Photograph: Maureen Woollacott*

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## MEMBERS' INFORMATION

**Membership including your contact preferences:** Membership of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery costs £2 UK (£10 overseas), renewable on the 1st April each year. Donations are always welcome. UK taxpayers are encouraged to sign a Gift Aid declaration. Please advise FONC if you wish to cancel your Gift Aid declaration, or if you change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on income and/or capital gains. Data is held by FONC to enable us to send members their copy of *FONC News* and also for the purpose of reclaiming tax. You can decide not to receive communications or change how we contact you at any time. Please send your request to: FONC Membership email: [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 until 5.00pm in March and October and until 7.00pm from April to September. ***All times are subject to change.*** See notice at cemetery entrances and Southwark Council's website. 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 for sale at FONC's portacabin from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Sundays when tours or workdays take place. If you would like to help on an occasional Sunday contact Jane Hart 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 the vice-chairman c/o [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**

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All other text is by the editor. *The editor and FONC's General Committee do not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by contributors.*

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## SCOTTISH MARTYRS MEMORIAL WORKS COMPLETED

*Text and photographs by Jeff Hart*

After three years of waiting and much argument and controversy, Southwark Council's contractors have now completed works around the Scottish Martyrs memorial near to the Linden Grove gates. The reconfiguration of the flagstones around the memorial, re-instatement of the adjacent bench and landscaping look good. Most importantly, the levelling and re-surfacing of the paths from behind the memorial, in front of the toilet and FONC portacabins and towards the front of the West Lodge looks really impressive! This has been underlain with porous black asphalt and then a top layer of porous epoxy resin bonded gravel to match the existing paths has been put down. This not only looks good but also provides a much better, dust-free area on which to set up the FONC Publications and Enquiries Desk and other activities. Some cemetery visitors were alarmed that other paths were also to be re-surfaced in the same way detracting from the rural feel of the cemetery but this is certainly not what is intended.

The controversial part of the works is the insertion of a new drainage channel running from behind the memorial on Dissenters Road, in front of the portacabins and the West Lodge grounds to just short of the Linden Grove entrance gates. After much criticism by FONC, this channel is now



*Work in progress at base of Scottish-Martyrs memorial*

*continued on next page*

much less obtrusive than it would otherwise be and is likely to mellow over time to be less noticeable than it is at present. We remain of the view that the amount of rainfall likely to run down the new path surfacing does not justify the need for the drainage channel and is, therefore, an unnecessary expenditure.

We were impressed, however, with the lengths to which the works team from contractors Conway went to enable FONC to continue to run our various activities, and including the Peckham and Nunhead Free Film event at the beginning of September, throughout the period of the works. At the time of writing there were some minor snagging issues to resolve but we are confident that these will be addressed.



*The controversial drainage channel*

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## **BIRTH OF THE NEW FONC**

***by FONC Coordinator Jeff Hart***

As notified in the last issue of *FONC News* a Special General Meeting was held on 20th September to take the first steps in winding up the ‘old’ FONC and ushering in the new. Having briefly explained the background to members present, FONC Chairman Jeremy Partington put the motion to dissolve the ‘old’ FONC, transfer its assets to the ‘new’ FONC, and to amend the old Constitution to enable the transfer of the records of the ‘old’ FONC to the ‘new’ FONC, (rather than the Southwark Local Studies Library) to the vote. The motion was carried unanimously. By the time this issue of *FONC News* is circulated it is expected that the decision to dissolve the ‘old’ and transfer assets to the ‘new’ FONC will have been confirmed at the constitutionally necessary second Special General Meeting held on 15th November. All assets will have been formally transferred by 30th November.



*Chairman Jeremy Partington (left) presents Bermondsey art glass to his predecessor Ron Woollacott (Photo: Jeff Hart). Glass art work (Photo: Linda Martin)*

Following the September Special General Meeting the completed Bermondsey glass art work mounted on a base of Nunhead Cemetery beech wood (carved by Tim Stevenson) was formally presented to retired FONC Chairman Ron Woollacott by his successor as Chairman, Jeremy Partington. Its plaque reads

*Presented to Ronald J Woollacott  
In recognition of outstanding continuous service as  
Chairman of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery  
November 1981 – August 2017*



## **RUNNING UP SOME COMMUNITY CREDIT!**

*From an article by Lucy Jeczalik of GoodGym, a voluntary group that combines running with community work.*

Last night (19th September) it was a brand new and spooky trip to see the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery who work hard to promote the conservation and appreciation of the cemetery as a place of remembrance, of historic importance and of natural beauty. They were getting ready for

*continued on next page*

## Running up some community credit! *continued*



*GoodGym runners in Nunhead Cemetery*

visitors as part of Open House London weekend. We ran the 1.5km there, stopping (of course) to do a spot of wall-sitting, this time Helena was in control of how long for. She's a hard task master!

Our jobs were:

- Weeding the chapel floor (lots of scraping involved!)

- Cleaning chairs

- Taking the chairs down into the crypt for storage

As the light dwindled on us, head torches were brought out and we did an amazing job clearing the floor. FONC Coordinator Jeff was absolutely thrilled. We even got a little tour of the crypt which is still full of coffins! Nunhead Cemetery was one of the most expensive and desirable places to be buried in London when it was consecrated in the 1840s. I'm looking forward to a daylight look-around! We headed back at 20.00 and as it's a 1.5km run each way we had some time to spare which meant time for mini circuits - hooray! These involved press-ups, star jumps, burpies and squat jumps. We did one round of each exercises followed by a lovely yogic cool down. Great work team!

*Postscript from FONC runner Jane Hart: 'GoodGym is a great idea. Such an enthusiastic and hard-working group. We would love to have them back again.'*

## **NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS No 32**

***by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator***

### ***Running rings around our cemetery trees***

The tree survey reported on in the last Cemetery News has now been completed and has produced remarkable results. Southwark's project officer, Adolfo Gonzalez, has presented FONC with the electronic mapping of 1891 mature trees and the data concerning their species, trunk size and height. Tree officers have subsequently examined the condition of these trees and unfortunately this means that a number of diseased or dangerous specimens will have to be removed. The first three were examined on site together with FONC and subsequently felled, leaving sections of mature trunks to provide insect habitats away from memorials with smaller branches producing mulch to be used elsewhere in the cemetery. Regrettably, a further 33 trees will also need to be felled between October and March but we are already in discussion with Adolfo about planting replacements in key areas, such as the Southgate Path, to ensure that the integrity of the original landscaping plan is maintained as far as possible.

### ***Flagging fast!***

Readers may have been amused by past reports on the status of the flying (or otherwise) of the sometimes current flag signifying the award of Green Flag status for Nunhead cemetery. This award is for open-air sites with high levels of maintenance and improvement. On 27th September Candy Edwards and Mark Thompson of Southwark Bereavement Services, together with FONC representatives, wrestled with the flag-pole apparatus to successfully raise the 2018/19 flag!

### ***East Lodge enabling works to start before Christmas***

Although not quite as quickly as we would like, progress continues to be made towards the restoration of the East Lodge. Thomas Ford & Associates, together with consultants Fourth Street and IKS Consulting, were awarded the contract to assess the viability and costings associated with the four remaining options for the future of the building. This will include workshops with stakeholders, principally FONC, to discuss possible future options for maintaining and running the building, as Southwark Council has made clear that, once restored, they will not be financing the building in the future. In the meantime, the East Lodge Project Board has assessed and approved the proposed enabling works that must be carried out before the main restoration

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work can begin. This comprises new waste water, and soil drainage pipes, underpinning much of the exterior walls, taking down and stabilising the top of some of the crumbling walls and other minor preparatory works. It is hoped that work on site will commence *before* this coming Christmas.

### ***Whisper it quietly.....***

The biennial survey of the Anglican chapel was carried out earlier this year and FONC received a copy of the report. In short, the report was generally positive about the current condition of the building other than the need to remove vegetation growing from the upper parts of the walls. However, the report did highlight the longer-term prospect of serious deterioration of the structure whilst exposed to the weather. It proposed that the solution was the provision of a roof. FONC immediately asked Southwark, perhaps tongue in cheek, when they proposed to start work! We have not had a formal reply, but a short time ago did we really overhear a borough officer and consultant discussing how such a roof could be provided??

### ***A monumental task ahead***

During August and September, Southwark has been assessing the condition of the larger memorials in Nunhead cemetery along the major path edges. There is, apparently, a budget available for the repair or restoration of memorials in Southwark's three cemeteries which pose a health and safety hazard to the public or present a particularly abandoned facade to the world. FONC understands that several groups of monuments at Nunhead have been identified for such treatment over the next few months and we are anxiously awaiting news of what is proposed to be done.

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## **VOLUNTEER REQUIRED TO HAND DELIVER *FONC News* IN THE EAST DULWICH AREA**

Membership Secretary Simon Mercer, on behalf of the committee, thanks long-term supporter Khevir Jettoo who looked after East Dulwich for many years. This hand delivery round is bounded by East Dulwich Road in the north; Peckham Rye in the east; Barry Road in the south; and Lordship Lane in the west. Hand delivery involves putting a copy of *FONC News* and sometimes a membership subscription reminder through the letter boxes of members on the round. This saves FONC the cost of standard postage and reduces our use of envelopes. *FONC News* is delivered four times a year. If you would like to volunteer to take over from Khevir, please email Nicola Dunn c/o publications@fonc.org.uk



# The Column of the Grande Armée, Boulogne-sur-Mer

by Cathy Mercer

A few years ago we travelled by train from Calais to Amiens for a brief holiday in this delightful city. On the way we changed at Boulogne-sur-Mer, the port of Boulogne, another delightful town. As we drew into Boulogne, we were very taken by a striking white column built on top of the sparkling white chalk cliffs. We rummaged in our guide-books and were astonished to read that this 53-metre high column was put up in 1804 to celebrate Napoleon's invasion of Britain, an invasion of course that never happened, as Napoleon was diverted by the entry of Russia and Austria into the war. It now commemorates the first distribution of the Legion of Honour, France's highest military award and Napoleon's idea.

This column had great ambitions but little luck. It was modelled on Trajan's Column in Rome, built of local marble, and the intention was to decorate it with sculptures. Napoleon's *Grande Armée*, large army, had been assembled in Boulogne, ready to invade Britain. The sculptures and the statue of Napoleon intended to crown the column remained in Paris and by 1811 the column was still only 20-metres high. On the fall of Napoleon, the bronze sculptures were melted down.

Work started again in 1819 and eventually, in 1831, it was climbed by Napoleon's step-daughter, Hortense, daughter of his first wife Josephine, and in 1841 a new statue of Napoleon was placed on top of the column, standing with his back to England, as the magazine *Punch* noted.

The column survived the First World War intact but suffered heavy bombing in 1944. The surrounding park was turned into a naval cemetery by the occupying Nazis. After complete restoration and a new statue of



© Boulogne (département du Pas-de-Calais, France): Colonne de la Grande Armée; Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic license. 14/07/2007, Marc

Ryckaert (MJJR);

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Boulogne\\_Colonne\\_01.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Boulogne_Colonne_01.JPG)

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Napoleon, the column was inaugurated once again in 1962 by President de Gaulle, only to be damaged yet again by lightning in 1999 and 2002. However, the column has once again been restored and can be climbed for magnificent views towards England, and a free museum housing the original statue of Napoleon, now restored and with no view at or to England or France. ■

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## THE STORY BEHIND NUNHEAD'S ONLY MAUSOLEUM

*(part two) by Ron Woollacott*

*(additional research by Michèle Louise Burford)*

Perhaps this article should have been entitled *The story behind Nunhead's only surviving mausoleum* for there were once three mausolea in Nunhead Cemetery. The first, the Bevan mausoleum (grave number 495, square 119) was located on the east side of the cemetery; it was a plain stock brick affair desecrated and demolished by vandals in the early 1970s, consequently nothing of it now remains. (A photograph of the vandalised mausoleum, taken by the author in 1972, may be seen on page 88 of *Investors in Death* published by FONC in 2010). The second mausoleum (grave number 11282, square 108) was built for W J Harris Esq of Gorrington Park House, Mitcham, and covered an area comprising some 22 feet by 13 feet and occupying a prominent position on the eastern side of the main avenue. Sadly, after being repainted and refurbished in 1939, the mausoleum was completely destroyed by a Nazi bomb during the Blitz on Thursday 17th October 1940, which also demolished a large lime tree and badly damaged numerous monuments in the vicinity.

### THE STEARNS MAUSOLEUM

The third and only surviving mausoleum, the Stearns mausoleum (grave number 24322, square 69) was constructed by Doulton of Lambeth and covers an area 13 feet by 11 feet 3 inches. The architect/designer is unknown; it has, however, been suggested that it was built to the designs of Ernest George and Peto, who designed Sir Henry Tate's memorial chapel in West Norwood Cemetery with terracotta work by Doulton.

Professor James Stevens Curl has described the Stearns mausoleum as 'a substantial terracotta mausoleum in the Romanesque style.' It was listed Grade II by English Heritage at the request of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery in 1998. English Heritage describes it as follows: 'Material terracotta. Romanesque arched doorway set below crowstep gable; side walls with arcade of three Romanesque openings below an embattled parapet with

arched openings carried on squat colonnettes, above projecting water spouts. Lower parts of walls are battered outwards.’ Somewhat surprisingly, the unusual Celtic motifs and fantastical animal designs decorating either side of the doorway are not mentioned.



The mausoleum was ‘restored’ during improvements to the historic core of Nunhead Cemetery in 2000/1, and a missing terracotta water spout was replaced. The metal gate is not the original.

*L to R: The Chillingworth monument and vault and the empty Stearns Mausoleum Photo: Ron Woollacott*

*NB.* The slate memorial panels that had come away from the sides on the Chillingworth monument (see photo above) were replaced by FONC volunteers many years ago.

## **THE STEARNS RESIDENCE: RADNOR HOUSE, TWICKENHAM**

Radnor House, a rather splendid mansion comprising 15 rooms in the 1911 census, is reputed to have been built by John Hooker (c.1630-1674). In about 1699, his widow, Elizabeth Hooker, sold the house to Edward Cole of Twickenham. Cole’s nephew, James Cole, inherited the property in 1707. In 1722 the house was leased to John Robartes, 4th Earl of Radnor, who lived there until his death in 1757. Robartes embellished the house in the Gothic Revival style in about 1745. After his death the house was left to his steward Frederick Atherton Hindley. After the death of Hindley in 1781, there followed several disputes concerning ownership of the house, before it was eventually purchased in 1785 by Sir Francis Bassett, later Baron Bassett (1757-1835), who held it until 1793.

Subsequent owners include: Lady Margaret and Anne Murray, daughters of David Murray, 6th Viscount of Stormont, and John Ivatt Briscoe (1791-1870), Liberal MP for West Surrey. It afterwards passed to Charles Marsh FAS, an original life-governor of the British Institution. He left the house to his nephew the Reverend Thomas Vialls, curate of Teddington. It was afterwards acquired by Lord Kilmorey (1787-1889) from whom it was

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*Radnor House. Twickenham  
(redesigned in the Italianate style by Henry Kendall jnr for William Chillingworth).*

purchased in 1842 by Laura Stearns' father William Chillingworth (1806-1867), a wealthy wine merchant, who commissioned the architect Henry Edward Kendall junior (1805-85) to remodel the house in the Italianate style. After Chillingworth's death the house was occupied by Alfred Stearns (c.1842-1886), the husband of Chillingworth's daughter Laura, and she continued to live there after her husband's death. Laura Stearns died in 1901, by which time the house was in a state of disrepair. It was acquired by Twickenham Urban District Council in 1902, and the attractive gardens were opened as a public park in 1903. The house was briefly used as a children's clinic.

Queen Mary described Radnor House as 'a gem of 18th century architecture' and offered to support the restoration of the house. Sadly, it was completely destroyed by a delayed action high explosive bomb during the Blitz on the 16th September 1940.

The gardens of Radnor House featured a number of beautiful trees including a rare Indian bean tree (*Catalpa speciosa*) which has since been cut down, and it is thought that the very first weeping willows were planted in the grounds. A summer house and gazebo date from the mid-18th century and are listed Grade II. The author last visited the gardens in the 1980s ■



*The Midland Hotel, Morecambe.  
Photo: Cathy Mercer*

## The Midland Hotel, Morecambe

*by Cathy Mercer*

There's a famous story about an elderly Italian lady who asked the way to Moricambi and ended up in Morecambe in Lancashire. We're not told what happened next but my guess is that she was so stunned by the gorgeous views over sand, sea, and Cumbrian peaks that she checked into the Midland Hotel and had a wonderful stay there, just as we did over Whitsun.

Morecambe lies on Morecambe Bay, a weird and wonderful expanse of undulating sands and, at high tides, sea.

The Midland is a fairy-tale Art Deco hotel in the Stream-Line Moderne style - all white curves and glass. It's built on a headland that juts out into the bay and is surrounded by lush green grass that's covered in buttercups in late spring. In other words, it's stunning! We had our breakfast in the new glass conservatory, watching sea-gulls swoop and starlings looking for worms, with views over the sea and Lakeland mountains in the distance.

The Midland Hotel, as its name suggests, was built by the Midland Railway in 1932/33, conveniently opposite the station. It was designed by Art-Deco architect Oliver Hill (1887-1964), with sculptures by Eric Gill and murals by Eric Ravilious. The murals have sadly long disappeared but Gill's



*Simon Mercer poses alongside  
Eric Morecambe. Photo: Cathy Mercer*

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wonderful bas-reliefs have survived. The hotel has been beautifully restored and does fantastic food in the bay-side restaurant and drinks on the terrace. All this makes it a great place for a holiday, especially if you like walks, sea-air and trips into the Lakes and Bowland Forest. The Yorkshire Dales are also on the doorstep.

The icing on Morecambe's cake is a third Eric: the great comedian Eric Morecambe, of Morecambe and Wise fame, born Eric Bartholomew, a native of the town. His statue graces the front and of course he's dancing. A lot of visitors are tempted to pose with Eric and the words of 'Bring me Sunshine' are sculpted in the statue's plinth to encourage sing-along.■

[www.englishlakes.co.uk/the-midland](http://www.englishlakes.co.uk/the-midland)

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## **Peckham and Nunhead Free Film Festival**

*by Ann Coley*

If you visited Nunhead Cemetery on Open Day in May, you might have noticed the stall for 'Peckham and Nunhead free film festival' who were running a vote to choose the film to show at their ninth film festival in September. Come the 1st of September it became obvious as the smoke machine churned into life and the mist drifted in front of the chapel that the chosen film was *The Fog*.

FONC were pleased to be able to support the film festival as approximately three hundred people came in to enjoy a warm dry evening (good views down the avenue and across to the London Eye) and experience the cemetery as the sun went down and all went dark. The odd bat fluttered around and the braver of the local foxes passed by to see what was going on, but the filmgoers didn't give them any cause for concern as they watched the film with appropriate appreciation and enjoyed their surroundings.

The organisation was great, the event went really well, and FONC look forward to seeing the film festival again in 2019. If you are interested in their activities please see the Facebook page for 'Nunhead free film festival' or have a look on their website. Like FONC, they are keen to find volunteers to help with their activities.

We can't guarantee they will run a vote again, but it might be worth looking out for them at the 2019 Nunhead Cemetery Open Day to see if you can influence the film choice for next year.■

~~~~~ *LEST WE FORGET* ~~~~~

**Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell's Civilian War Dead  
interred at Nunhead Cemetery 1940 - 1945**

*by Michèle Louise Burford and Ron Woollacott*

**H**undreds of civilians in the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell (covering the districts Camberwell SE5, Dulwich SE21 & SE22 and Nunhead and Peckham SE15) were killed by enemy action during the Second World War, the majority of whom were interred in two local authority cemeteries, Camberwell New and Camberwell Old, or else cremated at the new Honor Oak Crematorium opened in March 1939. Some victims, however, were interred at Nunhead - then a private cemetery - from the commencement of the enemy air attacks on London in 1940 through to March 1945, but this number is by no means conclusive, and does not include the civilians from the other metropolitan boroughs such as Bermondsey, Southwark, Deptford and Lewisham, and even further afield, also buried at Nunhead.

**The beginning of Germany's Blitzkrieg**

The first bombs were dropped on South East London in August 1940, but it wasn't until September 1940 that the first major air-raid of the Blitz took place. It was a warm and sunny late Saturday afternoon on 7th September when over 300 German bombers, Heinkels and Dorniers, escorted by 600 Messerschmitt fighters, darkened the bright late summer sky and pounded London with high explosive bombs. Later that evening a second group of bombers attacked with incendiaries causing hundreds of small fires. In Peckham and Nunhead SE15 twenty-two persons and four in Camberwell SE5 lost their lives, twelve of whom were laid to rest at Nunhead, including five members of the Lucas family of Sandgate Street, Peckham. The air-raid continued throughout the night and into Sunday morning when a further fifteen persons were killed in Peckham and Nunhead, and four in Camberwell, including Mr and Mrs Marshall of the Beer and Wine Homes, Nunhead Green, the only two casualties from that raid buried at Nunhead.

The Borough of Camberwell, however, had escaped fairly lightly compared with other parts of London, for more than 430 unfortunate Londoners had perished and 1,600 were seriously injured during the Luftwaffe's first major and relentless assault on our great city. During the first two days of the Blitz most of those killed in the Borough of Camberwell were from Peckham and Nunhead, whilst elsewhere in the borough the death

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toll was eight.

On Monday 9th September it was the turn of East Dulwich SE22 to suffer the most casualties when the London County Council estate at Dog Kennel Hill was struck by two high-explosive bombs destroying Wheatland House air-raid shelter and killing twenty-nine people, of which just two, Mr and Mrs Bourne, were buried at Nunhead. Elsewhere in the borough eight persons died in Peckham and three in Camberwell.

Peckham took the brunt of the bombing on Tuesday 10th September when four houses were demolished in Meeting House Lane killing eleven residents, including Kate Birdseye and Edward Jackson of No 47 who were later laid to rest at Nunhead. In that raid a further five persons died in Culmore Road, Clifton Crescent and Anstey Road. On Wednesday 11th September Peckham and Nunhead were bombed again, and an air-raid shelter in Lugard Road and houses in Hollydale Road, Surrey Road, Loder Street and Anstey Road were hit killing fourteen, only two of whom, a mother and daughter, Joyce and Gertrude Baynes were interred at Nunhead.

Camberwell was targeted by the Luftwaffe on Thursday 12th September and thirty-three lives were lost, a further seven were killed in Peckham and one in Dulwich SE21, seventeen of whom were laid to rest at Nunhead, including four members of the Townsend family - two young brothers and their wives. The Luftwaffe's incessant Blitz on London, sometimes together with the Italian Air Force and now mostly after dark, continued unabated until Sunday 3rd November, which was the first night since the 7th September that no bombers had attacked London. Thereafter, although the air attacks continued, some nights the bombers stayed away, more often than not due to bad weather conditions. The Luftwaffe left London alone for a few days during the Christmas holiday, but launched a major attack on the night of Sunday 29th December 1940 killing forty-seven persons in the Borough of Camberwell, the majority in North Camberwell plus a few in Peckham and East Dulwich. Only six casualties were buried at Nunhead.

### **The last night of the London Blitz**

The clear moonlit night of 10th May 1941 provided perfect conditions for the Luftwaffe to launch a major attack on London. During an eight-hour raid more than 700 tons of high-explosive bombs and 100,000 incendiaries were dropped by 550 Luftwaffe aircraft. The death toll in the Camberwell Borough alone was a shocking seventy-five persons. On that Saturday night Nazi bombers targeted ten streets in Peckham, including Avondale Rise, Bonar Road, Danby Street, Gloucester Grove, Rye Hill Park, Bournemouth Road, Welland House Peckham Rye East, Sumner Road, Stuart Road, Sternhall Lane and Kirkwood Road, killing forty-six persons, and a further



twenty-two in Camberwell SE5 with the bombing of Cunard Street, New Church Road and Ossory Road, and seven lost their lives in East Dulwich. Of those killed that day only two persons were buried at Nunhead, including Leading Fireman Lionel Gothard of Bonar Road, Peckham, who was killed at Cunard Street. Casualties that night were the largest for any night of the Blitz. Over 1,430 Londoners had perished and 1,792 were seriously injured. This raid also marked the end of an eight month sustained aircraft attack on London as Hitler then became occupied elsewhere. There were a few isolated enemy air attacks between the end of the Blitz in May 1941 and the end of December 1942 - a relatively quiet period of around 18 months known as 'the lull'.

### **The 'nuisance' raids, Little Blitz and Buzz Bombs**

In January 1943 a period known as the 'nuisance' raids began and two persons died in Hanover Park, Peckham, and eleven died at Lytcott Grove and Playfield Crescent, East Dulwich, one of whom, Gertrude Mason, was buried at Nunhead. Six houses were struck in East Surrey Grove, Peckham, on Tuesday 18th May 1943 killing fourteen, including Mr and Mrs Fowler and their 16-year-old daughter Joan, the only casualties interred at Nunhead.

For several months all was quiet until Sunday 20th February 1944, when the bombers returned and East Surrey Grove was struck again along with Commercial Way killing fifteen people. There were twelve deaths in the Borough of Camberwell as a result of enemy action between the 20th May and June 1944, in which month Hitler's first vengeance weapon, the V1 flying bomb, a pilotless plane, also known as the doodlebug or buzz bomb, was launched. It travelled at around 400 mph and when its engine cut out it fell to ground causing untold damage to property and much loss of life. At 8.30am on 18th June a V1 hit Unwin Road, Peckham, killing four including three children.

Workers at W S Thomson and Co, a corset factory at the corner of Nunhead Lane and Peckham Rye, suffered heavy casualties when the building received a direct hit from a V1 on Thursday morning 22nd June 1944, and seventeen people, mostly teenage girls, died inside the factory and a further four persons were killed in Nunhead Lane. Five factory girls, Joyce Groom, Rose Holltum, Joan Huggins, Ena Nash and Emily Robinson, were interred at Nunhead. At around midday on 27th June 1944, a V1 struck Green Hundred Road and Camelot Street School in Peckham killing ten, including three school children, Doris, Ronald and Maureen Huggins, whose teenage sister Joan, had been killed only a few days earlier at the corset factory. The three children were interred together with their sister at Nunhead. Earlier that day a V1 came down at the junction of Willowbrook

*continued on next page*

Road and Sumner Road, Peckham, killing four.

Bentley House, on the Glebe Estate, Camberwell, was struck on 28th June killing thirteen, including mother and daughter Ada and Elsie Rock, both of whom were buried at Nunhead, and on Friday 30th June V1s came down in Kimberley Avenue, Nunhead, killing three, and Underhill Road, East Dulwich, killing four. A V1 struck at the junction of Reynolds Road and Stuart Road, Peckham Rye, on Saturday 1st July 1944 killing fifteen, of whom only Lilian Savage of Reynolds Road was buried at Nunhead. Costa Street and Radnor Road, Peckham, were hit on Sunday 2nd July killing twelve, and when Woodvale, at the junction of Lordship Lane, was struck on Thursday 6th July fourteen people died, including Elsie and Jessie Bayles of White Gables, who were laid to rest at Nunhead.

Shoppers were among fifteen people who lost their lives on 5th August 1944 when a V1 landed on the Co-op store in Lordship Lane, East Dulwich, and a further eight were killed outside the store. On 15th October 1944 a V1 came down at the junction of Athenlay Road and Fernholme Road, Nunhead, killing eight including Gladys Butcher, the only casualty buried at Nunhead.

### **The V2 Rocket attacks**

A new terror weapon known as the V2 rocket, a guided-ballistic missile, travelling at up to 3,500 mph and taking less than five minutes to reach its target, was launched by the Nazis in October 1944, and on 1st November 1944 a V2 came down in Etherow Street, near Friern Road, East Dulwich, leaving twenty-four dead and seventeen seriously injured, and on Sunday 19th November nine people perished and twenty-one were seriously injured when a V2 struck Hardcastle Street, Peckham. On 6th December eighteen people died including three generations of the Weightman family of Varcoe Road, North Camberwell, who were later buried at Nunhead, and on 6th January 1945 a V2 came down in Court Lane, Dulwich, killing eight and injuring sixteen. The last major incident in the Borough of Camberwell occurred on 14th February 1945, when a V2 landed near the junction of Waite Street and Trafalgar Avenue, North Peckham, killing eighteen and injuring seventy-eight people. Mr and Mrs Burgess of 78 Trafalgar Avenue were the only two casualties buried at Nunhead. When the war in Europe ended with the surrender of Germany on 8th May 1945, the number of the Borough of Camberwell's civilian war dead was 1,020 of which 112 were buried at Nunhead.

Michèle is researching and compiling lists of Second World War civilian air-raid victims that lost their lives in the former Metropolitan Boroughs of Bermondsey, Camberwell, Southwark and Deptford, and who were interred at Nunhead.

## LONDON OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

*Report by Jeremy Partington and Ann Coley*

Nunhead Cemetery was once again a venue that participated in the annual London Open House weekend on 22nd and 23rd September. Tours of the Anglican chapel and crypt plus two general cemetery tours and much appreciated home-made refreshments of tea and scones were available during each afternoon. The Anglican chapel featured an art exhibition 'Deeds not Words' by Jolanta Jagiello, marking the centenary of the granting of votes to (some) women and of the suffragette movement. The inclement weather on the Saturday meant that visitor numbers were probably lower than normal. The better weather on the Sunday led to increased numbers participating in each of the tours that day. We are grateful to all the volunteers who assisted over the weekend and hope for better weather next year.■



*Deeds not Words Exhibition  
Jolanta Jagiello and Ann Coley of  
FONC at the exhibition.  
Photo: Carol Stevenson*

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## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING DAY

*by Jeremy Partington and John Grabowski*

On Thursday September 27th, a fine and sunny late summer day, employees from Endeavor - the entertainment, sports, and fashion company - enjoyed a day of service working with Groundwork London and the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery to revitalise some open spaces at the cemetery. Endeavor sent 37 volunteers to the cemetery as part of the company's annual day of service, 'Walk the Walk'. A great day was enjoyed by all. The Endeavor team was able to help deliver some tangible results. One group, the larger of the two, completed the clearing of undergrowth on the hillside of the St Paul's View. It was noted how methodical the group

*continued on next page*



were at clearing saplings, bindweed and bramble to reveal the headstones again along with a self-seeded elm sapling which was a welcome find. A smaller team spent the day working to narrow the Welsh path 'cross-roads' between the wetland area

and the picnic area and leading towards The Beeches. The work consisted of laying and staking logs and surfacing the path. In the medium term it is hoped that guiding walkers onto the narrower paths in this area will enable the grass to recover alongside the new newly laid path edge logs. The new surface of wood chippings should make for a better surface during the winter months too.



It was an outstanding effort made possible by the organisation of the Groundwork London team, idVerde and the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, who were on hand to lead the day and

educated the Endeavor group about the remarkable site - including a visit to the crypt.



The day provides all the participants with an opportunity to make a collective impact. The time at Nunhead

specifically allowed the Endeavor team to come together to support and bring some awareness to a space that is indeed one of London best kept secrets. Pleasingly, several of those volunteering with Endeavor chose to



*All photographs by Andrew Robinson*

become FONC members at the end of a productive day. More information on 'Walk the Walk' can be found on social media at: @endeavorimpact & #WTW18.

We would like to add our thanks to the Endeavor volunteers for their contribution, undertaking the tasks with such enthusiasm and delivering two substantial projects on the day. ■

## **FONC's CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**



**Thursday 20th December 2018 at 7.00pm  
The Function Room, The Pyrotechnist's Arms,  
Nunhead Green, London, SE15**



### **'Nunhead Reflects'**

***a review of four years of commemorating the events of the  
First World War***

Members of the General Committee recall the various events held at the cemetery and elsewhere as we mark the conclusion of this terrible conflict. An assortment of slides will compliment this short presentation before we indulge in seasonal eating and drinking to be followed by the infamous FONC raffle where everyone is a winner – of sorts!

Members, and their family and friends are welcome to join us.  
Donations to offset costs will be much appreciated

## ~ FONC'S TOUR PROGRAMME 2019 ~

**All tours start at 2.15 pm except as indicated below. *Free\****

Sunday 13th January Music Hall Tour - Jeff Hart  
Sunday 27th January General Cemetery Tour - Tim Stevenson  
Sunday 10th February Military Connections - Jeff Hart  
Sunday 24th February General Cemetery Tour - John Turpin  
Sunday 10th March, International Women's Day Tour - Jolanta Jagiello  
Sunday 17th March Crypt/Chapel Tour - Jeremy Partington/Malcolm Collins  
Sunday 24th March Woodland Trail Tour - Jeff Hart  
Sunday 31st March General Cemetery Tour - Keith Turpin  
Sunday 14th April Cemetery Symbols Tour - John Turpin  
Sunday 28th April General Cemetery Tour - Jeff Hart

### ***Saturday 18th May Open Day 11am-5pm (General and Crypt Tours)***

Sunday 26th May Crypt/Chapel Tour - Jeremy Partington/Malcolm Collins  
Sunday 9th June Woodland Trail Tour - Tim Stevenson  
Sunday 16th June Waterloo Anniversary Event - Jeff Hart

### ***Friday 21st June 9.30pm. LWT Bat sighting walk - to be confirmed***

Sunday 30th June General Cemetery Tour - Tim Stevenson  
Sunday 7th July Crypt/Chapel Tour - Jeremy Partington/Malcolm Collins

### ***Friday 12th July 5pm-6.45pm Nunhead Poets Tour - to be confirmed***

Sunday 14th July Military Connections - Jeff Hart  
Sunday 28th July General Cemetery Tour - Keith Turpin  
Sunday 11th August Music Hall Tour - Jeff Hart

Sunday 25th August General Cemetery Tour - Jeff Hart  
Sunday 8th September Woodland Trail Tour - Tim Stevenson

### ***Sat/Sun 21st/22nd September Open House 1-5pm - General/Crypt Tours***

Sunday 29th September General Cemetery Tour - John Turpin  
Sunday 13th October Cemetery Symbols Tour - Keith Turpin  
Sunday 27th October General Cemetery Tour - Tim Stevenson

### ***Sunday 3rd November LWT Fungi tour - to be confirmed***

Sunday 10th November First World War Tour - Jeff Hart/Jeremy Partington  
Sunday 24th November General Cemetery Tour - Keith Turpin  
Sunday 8th December Woodland Trail Tour - Jeff Hart

Sunday 29th December General Cemetery Tour - *guide to be announced*

*\*All tours are free but donations to help with our work are most welcome.*

***Important notice:*** *All tours and events are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Whenever possible we shall endeavour to announce any changes in FONC News, on our Website at [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk) and on notice boards in Nunhead Cemetery.*

## ~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

**WOODLAND TRAIL TOURS ► *Sunday 9th December 2018 at 2.15pm.*** Meet your guide for the afternoon at the flint circle inside the front entrance in Linden Grove.

**FONC'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL ► *Thursday 20th December 2018 at 7.00pm in the function room of the Pyrotechnist's Arms, Nunhead Green. See page 21.***

**MUSIC HALL ARTISTES TOUR ► *Sunday 13th January at 2.15pm.*** Meet Jeff Hart, your guide for the afternoon, at the flint circle inside the front entrance in Linden Grove.

**MILITARY CONNECTIONS TOUR ► *Sunday 10th February at 2.15pm.*** Meet Jeff Hart, your guide for the afternoon, at the flint circle inside the front entrance in Linden Grove.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TOUR ► *Sunday 10th March at 2.15pm.*** Meet Jolanta Jagiello, your guide for the afternoon, at the flint circle just inside the main entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove.

**CRYPT/CHAPEL TOUR ► *Sunday 17th March from 2.15pm -*** Meet your guides Jeremy Partington and Malcolm Collins at the cemetery chapel.

**WOODLAND TRAIL TOUR ► *Sunday 24th March at 2.15pm.*** Meet your guide for the afternoon at the flint circle just inside the main entrance in Linden Grove.

**MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING ►** Transcribing the inscriptions in Nunhead Cemetery is an important and ongoing task. We meet at the FONC portacabin opposite the Scottish Martyrs' memorial near the Linden Grove entrance. For future dates please contact Garry Wiles (MI Co-ordinator) email [volunteering@fonc.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@fonc.org.uk) *Appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear is essential.*

**VOLUNTARY WORKDAYS ► *these take place on the first Sunday in the month from 10am to 4.30pm.*** New volunteers are always welcome. Meet at the FONC portacabin 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 in advance—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.

*Please note all tours and events are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Whenever 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 on notice boards in Nunhead Cemetery.*

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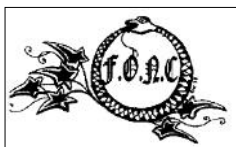
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Volunteering co-ordinator: *volunteering@fonc.org.uk*

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 20th January 2019***  
(Please note copy received after this date may be used in a subsequent issue)

## Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)



***Established 1981 – Registered Charity No 296413***

A member of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE).

A founder member of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF)

FONC is a recipient of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's Birthday Award for Environmental Improvements (National Commendation) 1998.

***www.fonc.org.uk***

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