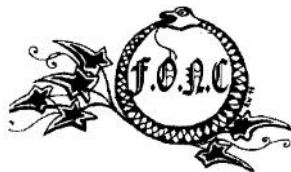


~~~~ Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, London, SE15 ~~~~

# FONC News

No 145 ~ Autumn issue ~ Sept/Nov 2019

ISSN 1478-0631



Morris Dancers at Nunhead Cemetery Open Day 2019 (page 13) *Photo: Pete Trotman*

## ***INSIDE:***

**Information  
for Members *p.2***

**More Memorial Repairs  
to Come *p.3***

**East Lodge Saga Grinds  
Slowly Onward *p.3***

**FONC's AGM 2019  
Report *p.4***

**Memorial Inscription  
Recording update *p.6***

**Nunhead Cemetery  
News No 35 *p.8***

**Glasnevin: Dublin's  
Cemetery *p.10***

**Limesford Road  
Boundary Walls *p.12***

**Open Day Report *p.13***

**Improved Water Point  
*p.15***

**Civilian War Dead:  
Deptford and Lewisham  
*p.16***

**Letter from America  
*p.19***

**Diary Dates *p.23***

**Trustees *back page***

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

**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:** Meetings of the trustees take place on the *3rd Thursday of each month*. *Trustee meetings are open to ordinary members who may attend in a non-voting capacity.* If you would like to attend a meeting please phone the vice-chairman email [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:** Connie Beighton; Michèle Louise Burford; Jane Hart; Jeff Hart; Jeremy Partington; Carol Stevenson; Pete Trotman; Garry Wiles. **Proof Reader:** Gwyneth Stokes.  
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.*

---

## **MORE MEMORIAL REPAIRS TO COME**

*Report by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator*

Following the report in the last edition of *FONC News* of major monument restoration works on the Main Avenue, which were completed on the day before our Open Day, work has now begun on the second batch of memorials. This is not quite as extensive as we had hoped as the unexpected costs of additional work for the first batch has eaten into the budget. Nevertheless, several very desperately needed repairs to some major open vaults will take place along West Hill together with the group of three memorials currently fenced off on the East Crescent that includes that of Reuben Henry Williams who was 'thrown from his dog-cart and killed' as the inscription records!

We had promised a full report on the first completed works in this issue but we now plan to hold this over until both the second and third batches are completed. The second batch of repairs was due to start at the end of July and we are hopeful that they will make as big an impact as the first batch. In the meantime FONC volunteers have begun further vegetation clearance along the Main Avenue to reveal other memorials in good condition and to undertake the inevitable tidying up after the contractors. We also put together a fine display of 'before and after' photographs for the Open Day to highlight to visitors the excellent work done, which is already naturalising to look as if it was always this way.■

---

## **EAST LODGE SAGA GRINDS SLOWLY ONWARD**

*An update by Jeff Hart*

We had hoped to report decisions on the proposed future use of the East Lodge by now but although the Project Board met on 23rd May and again on 15th July we are only able to say that further investigations into potential uses are due to take place with a view to being able to make decisions by the end of this year. This is incredibly frustrating but the council officers must demonstrate due diligence before we come to what FONC believes will be the conclusions that we have been espousing all along. We have also heard from the

*continued on next page*

experience of West Norwood Cemetery in determining how the programme of works for which the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has recently granted £6.7 million had been developed.

In the meantime, contractors have at last been appointed to carry out the preliminary stabilising, under-pinning and drainage work that is necessary as the first stage in full restoration. Standage and Company, the contractors, were expected to be on site by the end of July. FONC representatives have been continually pressing the need for urgency before the remains of the building collapse and our worst fears were close to coming to realisation when Standage reported that the Lodge portico was so close to collapse that their first job would be to take this down immediately and store until full restoration can take place. Despite this complication, the preliminary works are expected to be completed by this Christmas, although, depressingly, completion of the full project is now unlikely before mid-2021. Whilst preliminary work takes place the Linden Grove east pedestrian gate will be closed but the good news is that the west pedestrian gate has now been made openable and will be used instead.

---

## FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY'S AGM 2019

The Annual General Meeting of FONC was held in the function room of the Pyrotechnist's Arms, Nunhead Green, on the evening of Thursday 20th June 2019. The Chairman Jeremy Partington opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone to the meeting and gave a short report highlighting some of the main issues that had arisen and events that had taken place during the past year. After the Chairman's report and the apologies for absence, the minutes of the 2018 AGM were read and adopted.

**The Annual Report of the General Committee/Trustees.** The annual report was presented by FONC Co-ordinator Jeff Hart who highlighted and discussed some of the following items contained in the report: Charitable Status and Good Governance; FONC Meetings and Members' Visits; National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF); FONC Volunteering and Publications and Enquiry Desk; Open Day and Open House Weekend; FONC's Website; Publicity and Media Coverage; *FONC News*; Publications, Archives and Research Work; Cemetery Presentations, Tours and other events in the cemetery; Monument Inscription Recording and Grave Search; Art Projects; Religious Services; Management of the Cemetery by Southwark Council; Cemetery Improvements; East Lodge project. Up-to-date information covering all the above items is published during the course of the year in the members' journal *FONC News*.

**Voluntary Work Sub-Committee Report** covering the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 was presented by Vice-Chairman Carol Stevenson as follows: FONC volunteers contributed to the significant monument repairs which have been carried out along the Main Avenue. We cleared all the growth from around all the monuments, both saving the cost of contractors to do it, and making sure the work was done both thoroughly and sensitively. It was a big task and we put in an extra workday in February to get it finished. We also moved the logs from the trees which a specialist tree team had felled (a number of the trees would have been too big for us to fell safely).

The increase in storms and high winds noted in last year's report has continued, so the removal of fallen trees and branches continues to be a significant part of our work. We are seeing, too, that very hot weather can cause trees to shed limbs.

While we have continued our policy of stacking fallen material back from the paths to create habitat piles, there has been enough wood down this year for some of it to go to local bodgers (people who work with freshly felled wood) and logs have also been used to help define path edges.

Weeding and clearing monuments continues to be a regular task. We are very pleased with how the brambles are decreasing in the area above the pond, making space for more lower, softer growth which will benefit butterflies and other insects. Squirrels and foxes are becoming much commoner, apparently as a response to the reduced number of dogs running wild in the cemetery. A big thank you to all those people who are respecting the dogs on leads regulations.

Our portacabin and tools continue to require maintenance as did the steps onto the catacombs and from Beeches to the Angels path to the pond. The pond itself needed some repairs to the fence and a thorough weeding both in and out of the water.

As usual, I must thank all our volunteers, old and new, who have turned out whatever the weather and have achieved so much. It is good to see our numbers have started to increase again. Please keep coming back, Nunhead Cemetery needs you! Please come and join us – we have fun and get that warm feeling of doing something for our bit of the planet too. Thank you too to the corporate volunteers and GoodGym who have come to the cemetery (clearing undergrowth, path work, litter-picking), the id-Verde staff who work in the cemetery and Candy and Mark from Southwark Council.

New volunteers are always welcome, you only have to do as much as suits you. Meet us at the FONC portacabin on the first Sunday of every month from 10.00am onwards. (Contact Tim and Carol Stevenson e-mail: [nunhead.stevensons@gmail.com](mailto:nunhead.stevensons@gmail.com)).

*continued on next page*

**The Hon Treasurer's Reports.** Ann Coley presented two reports, one was for the old FONC (Registered Charity No 296413) 1st April to end November 2018, and the second for the new FONC (Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1178763) for the period 1st December 2018 to 31st March 2019. The accounts were examined and certified as being in order by the **Independent Examiner** George Young. Printed copies of the reports were available at the meeting.

**Elections.** Our new Constitution provides for up to fifteen trustees with trustees acting as named officers. The following trustees stood down and having sought re-appointment in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution were duly elected for another term: Jeff Hart (Co-ordinator); Cathy Mercer; Simon Mercer (Membership Secretary); Maureen Woollacott and Ron Woollacott. The following trustees automatically continue their term of appointment: Ann Coley (Treasurer); Malcolm Collins; Jane Hart (Minutes Secretary); Ish Lennox; Jeremy Partington (Chairman); Carol Stevenson (Vice-chairman); Gwyneth Stokes; Alan Till and Keith Turpin. One vacant position remains. *The full reports should be found in the members' area on our website at: [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)*

**Motions.** No motions were proposed and there was no other business. At the conclusion of the business part of the meeting members enjoyed a plentiful selection of light refreshments. Unfortunately the advertised presentation by London Wildlife Trust about the Great North Wood was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances at the last minute. However, Jeff Hart came to the rescue and gave an interesting *PowerPoint* presentation about our favourite subject Nunhead Cemetery to an appreciative audience some of whom were seeing it for the very first time.

---

## **Monument Inscription Recording News Update** *by Garry Wiles, Monument Inscription Recording Co-ordinator*

Our work on monument inscription (MI) recording in Nunhead Cemetery is progressing well, and we now have around 10 volunteers carrying out this work. A 'before and after' example of the work we have done recently to uncover a grave that was almost completely obscured by trees, bushes, ivy and weeds, can be seen in the two photographs opposite.

During the course of recent work on MI recording, we have found the site of burial of three service personnel, including: a small monument within a common burial area that was half-submerged under a bush in Square 152

close to the cemetery perimeter. This one commemorated Henry James Peters, 1st Class PO (Petty Officer?), killed in action on 19th November 1917 aged 38; a monument to 1386162 Sgt FCW Palmer, RAF Air Bomber, died on 29th January 1943 aged 19; and another to 6918558 Trooper FA Williams, 5th Regiment Reconnaissance Corps, who died on 8th May 1944.

We seem to be getting a greater volume of enquiries from people trying to locate the final resting place of family members, including four in the last few weeks from places across the UK, Canada and USA. Although we have not



A grave before and after clearance *Photos: Garry Wiles*

yet succeeded in finding any of the monuments enquired about, our work has encouraged more donations to help fund the work done by FONC volunteers.

A rather more unusual request was received from someone interested in tracking down the locations used in filming scenes in Nunhead Cemetery for the 1971 film 'Melody', in particular the shots of a gravestone that one of the actors read out in the film. If you haven't yet seen the film, it is available on DVD, and can also be seen occasionally on Talking Pictures TV, Channel 81 on Freeview.

Although we have recently completed work on a further three squares (43, 54 and 68), there is still so much to be done before we have captured information on every possible monument. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [foncinscriptions@gmail.com](mailto:foncinscriptions@gmail.com) if you want to know more about volunteering with our MI Recording team.

Dates for the MI Recording work days for the remainder of 2019 are as follows:

*Tuesdays:* 10th September; 5th October; 24th November.

*Sundays:* 24th September; 27th October; 12th November.

## NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS No 35

by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator

### ***Because you're worth it!***

FONC volunteers Malcolm Collins, Keith Turpin and Jeff Hart facilitated another corporate workday in the cemetery on 7th July. Organised by Volunteering UK in co-operation with Southwark Council cemetery contractors Idverde, about 40 staff from L'Oreal arrived at 9:30am to carry out a number of tasks that FONC had identified. FONC facilitators were just a little anxious that three-quarters of the volunteers were young women seemingly sporting designer trainers and expensive looking manicures but this proved absolutely no impediment to some really enthusiastic hard work throughout the day! Divided into four work teams, tasks completed were: repair, re-fixing and extending path edging at the pond area and Welsh Path; repairing and extending dead hedging around the wetlands meadow; clearing vegetation around the major memorials on the west side of the chapel and clearing gravel from the cobbled drainage channel; and cleaning, sanding, wood treating and painting six benches along the Main Avenue. The last task was particularly arduous but by the end of the day we virtually had to drag workers away so determined were they to finish the job! We are extremely grateful to all of the volunteers who really made an impression on the cemetery.

### ***New and not so new publications***

Camberwell College of Arts students prepared a poetry walk leaflet, based on monument inscriptions recorded in the cemetery, in time for our annual Open Day. The leaflet, entitled *Periphrasis*, features a new poem written by using a line taken from 60 different memorials in the cemetery. A photograph of each memorial is included, cross-referenced to the line taken from it for the new poem. There is also a map giving a circular route to follow showing where each memorial is located. The students hope to build on this imaginative work in the future but in the meantime have donated copies for us to sell at a modest price for FONC funds.

FONC has also reprinted Ron Woollacott's *A Guide to the Graves of Nunhead Notables* and this, too, is available for just £2. First published in 1986, it shows the location of all of the Nunhead Notables recorded in the first volume of the series together with their very brief biographies. It is also beautifully illustrated with Ron's pen and ink drawings.

Finally, the Camberwell Cemeteries Working Group has now produced a 16 page 'Walk Number One' around Camberwell Old Cemetery which highlights both the history and ecology of this fascinating fellow Southwark site. Information on how to obtain a copy of the booklet can be found on their



website [ccwgroup.weebly.com](http://ccwgroup.weebly.com) but it is also available, as are all publications, on FONC's publications and enquiries desk (PED) at Nunhead cemetery.

### ***Going bats for Nunhead Cemetery!***

Over 70 people attended the free cemetery bat walk led by London Wildlife Trust (LWT) on the evening of 21st June. The visitors' assembled inside the Linden Grove gates to hear about the life cycle of bats from LWT's Edwin Malins as a spectacular sunset gilded the Main Avenue's lime trees. Split into two groups and using ultrasonic bat detectors the groups then headed off to the open bank areas of the cemetery where pipistrelles, lesser pipistrelles and noctules could be spotted swooping down to feed on flying insects. FONC stewards remained at the portacabin to await visitors return and so good were conditions for bats that they, too, were treated to amazing acrobatics without having to do the walking! Our happy and generous visitors also donated nearly £90 to FONC funds as they left at around 10.30pm.



Visitors to Nunhead Cemetery assemble at the start of the bat walk as the sun goes down *Photo: Jane Hart*

### ***Bin it and banner it!***

By the time you read this we are hopeful that FONC volunteers will have put in place ten new waste bins that have been purchased with grant funds awarded to FONC under Southwark Council's Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme. These smart, robust bins will greatly improve the facilities for visitors to dispose of unwanted rubbish on site and should also be fox proof.

*continued on next page*

With the balance of the grant award, we have also purchased four new printed banners to grace our Publications and Enquiries desk and to exhort new volunteers to join FONC. They sport the FONC logo and are printed in our traditional black, with some highlighted blue, lettering. One banner is now placed permanently at the FONC portacabin and provides information to visitors on how to contact us when we are not on site.

### ***Nunhead Women's Institute (WI) learns about the cemetery***

Jeff Hart gave a PowerPoint presentation about the cemetery to an enthusiastic group of Nunhead Women's Institute members at the Old Nun's Head pub on 17th June and this was followed by a site tour on Sunday 23rd June. Reinforcing our relationship with the group, who are already planning their Remembrance tribute for the cemetery in November, we were also presented with a generous donation.

### ***Stop Press 1***

Unfortunately, some stone has recently fallen from the wall above a window in the ruined Anglican chapel. Whilst this is investigated by Southwark Council and a solution to the problem found, the chapel is temporarily closed to visitors. FONC is being kept informed and we are pressing for an early resolution.

### ***Stop Press 2***

The Peckham and Nunhead Free Film Festival are planning to return to Nunhead Cemetery for a showing on Saturday 7th September. Details have yet to be finalised and we do not know which film will be shown. Further details will be available at their website in due course.

<https://www.freefilmfestivals.org/filmfestival/peckham-nunhead/>

---

## **GLASNEVIN: DUBLIN'S CEMETERY**

***by Connie Beighton***

First go to the bus information centre on O'Connell Street to buy your day travel pass, and then locate the bus stop for numbers 40 or 140 heading north from O'Connell Street. On the bus, sit tight for a journey through Dublin's Northern suburbs. The outward journey seems to last forever, but as with all buses, the return journey is faster. Watch the electronic bus stop notifier, or better yet, look out for the long cemetery wall and towering above it what seems to be – improbably – a minaret, but is in fact the Daniel O'Connell tower, of which more later.

Until the founding of Glasnevin Cemetery, Irish Catholics could not be buried according to Catholic funeral rites. Propelled by the rise of the Civil Rights movement in Ireland in the 18th and 19th centuries, Daniel O'Donnell (1775–1847), known as 'The Liberator', campaigned for a burial ground in which both Irish Catholics and Protestants could be buried. Accordingly, the Act of Easement of Burial was passed in 1824, leading to the purchase of the site that is now Glasnevin. The land was consecrated by a Catholic, Monsignor Yore, in 1831, and in 1832 the first interment was that of 11-year-old Michael Carey. Subsequently, seven imposing watchtowers were built around the cemetery walls to deter body-snatchers. The towers act as reference points for a grid system marking Glasnevin into sections with lettering and numbering enabling accurate location and identification of each grave.

The 120 acre cemetery is now almost 200 years old. Ireland's notables are buried here from the worlds of politics, the military, the arts, and religious orders, as well as ordinary Dublin folk. In total over 1.5 million people have their final resting places here. Headstones neatly line up following the grid pattern and are mainly Celtic and Gothic in style. Irish history and the struggle for Irish independence are writ large, with the graves of those who are now termed 'revolutionaries' such as Roger Casement, Michael Collins and Countess Markievicz. James Joyce is there, as is Brendan Behan. In short, anyone who was anyone in Dublin history and society rests at Glasnevin. As for the Daniel O'Connell Tower, in its crypt are the remains of 'The Liberator' himself.

Glasnevin Cemetery is beautifully maintained by a Trust <https://www.glasnevintrust.ie/> and has a visitor centre complete with museum, café, and toilets <https://www.glasnevinmuseum.ie/>. It also has the facility to cater for sit-down post-funeral meals. There are daily guided tours and also a self-guided map. Adjacent to Glasnevin and reached through gates is Dublin's small botanical garden <http://botanicgardens.ie/> also worth seeing. Returning to Dublin, bus number 40 takes you to Kilmanham Jail where so many Irish men and women were executed over so many years, including during the civil war of 1922-24. A visit to both Glasnevin and Kilmanham bring a heightened understanding of the history of Ireland and its struggles for Irish independence.

It is impossible to compare Nunhead in any way with Glasnevin, though it is tempting. There were moments during our visit when I missed the comfortable feel of Nunhead's overgrown graves, wild areas and near-Romantic atmosphere. In contrast, Glasnevin is rightly and proudly known as Ireland's Necropolis, its national cemetery, where those who shaped Ireland lie in pride and dignity within an ordered system of pathways. ■

## IT WAS BOUND(ARY) TO BE ANOTHER LONG RUN

*Jane and Jeff Hart report to members on progress to restore the Limesford Road boundary walls*

Before drafting this article I was rather taken aback when reviewing what we had reported in previous FONC Journals that the Limesford Road boundary wall pillars were first taken down in October 2017 (*see FONC News No 138*). Since then, we were informed, through a Freedom of Information request, that *'it is planned, subject to no delays, that we [Southwark Council] will be starting construction in the summer of 2018'*. Since that time we have been able to report that there have been some discussions on site and the Council has allocated in its budget some £650,000 for reinstatement of the walls.

However, it had gone rather quiet since then. We have not chased the council officers too hard because we have been aware of the work done to survey trees along the inside of the boundary walls, to ascertain the precise location of burials and to consult with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It was rather a bolt from the blue, therefore, to receive an invitation on 5th July of this year to a meeting and site visit to be held on 16th July to hear about progress thus far and options being considered for repair. In addition to FONC representatives, local ward councillors and all residents of Limesford Road were invited to attend. At this meeting officers explained that, although originally built as a boundary wall, as the result of burials and tree growth occurring right up to the wall, it was now acting as a retaining wall affecting its stability, with the surface inside the cemetery being around a metre higher than the outside pavement level. Taking the likely costs and difficulty of relocating thousands of graves along the boundary wall length, in addition to trying to minimise disturbance to the mature trees which are protected by tree preservation orders, London Borough of Southwark officers have concluded that the construction of a new wall in front of the existing wall, which will effectively mirror the existing wall and pillars by cladding with matching bricks, will be the most effective way of providing a boundary that will last for at least another hundred years. A number of options on ways to achieve this were put forward, together with consideration of likely impacts and constraints. The favoured option will only reduce the Limesford Road footpath by around 40cm but will minimise disruption to services below the pavement and to the boundary wall trees during construction. We now await costings of the options to be developed and a recommendation on which option to follow, hopefully in the near future. ■

## OPEN DAY CONTINUES TO SURPRISE AFTER 33 YEARS

Our very first Open Day took place on Saturday 16th August 1986. We had no idea how successful it would be as it was the very first Open Day of its kind to be held at any cemetery anywhere in the UK. Attractions included a general tour and a ‘Nunhead Notables’ tour; tree and monument trails; exhibitions of wildlife and history of the cemetery; publication sales stall; family tree and genealogy enquiry desk; practical conservation work; a sponsored ‘build a bird box’ event, and refreshments were also available. Much to our surprise on that day hundreds of visitors descended on the cemetery and it was estimated that the final attendance was well over a thousand. Thereafter it was decided to make the Open Day an annual event and it continues to be just as popular today. Other Cemetery Friends groups now organise Open Days in their cemeteries based on our original concept.

This year’s Open Day on Saturday 18th May also attracted hundreds of visitors. Over 40 groups took part in the event; their stalls lining both sides of the main avenue, along the Dissenters’ Road and near the chapel. Jeff Hart, who keeps everyone on their toes and informed on the day, said: ‘This year’s Open Day, if the record receipts of takings by our plants, refreshments and publications stalls, and other donations received, are anything to go by, was perhaps our best ever. Unfortunately the cost of putting on the event continue to increase, but Tim Stevenson works hard throughout the year to plan the event as cost effectively as possible. The very popular parade by Francis Chappell’s Victorian style hearse with white and black horses was supple-



*Photo: Pete Trotman*



*Photo: Jeremy Partington*

*continued on next page*

mented this year by James Shackleton's world's first motorised hearse dating from 1906. A full programme of choirs, poets and musicians kept the chapel full of visitors and we were entertained by the colourful Black Swan Border Morris dancers. Tours were full to brimming and we are hugely grateful to every one of our plant donators and home bakers and all the volunteers who work so hard on the day. Fortunately we had more volunteer support on the day, including from Good Gym runners and the choirs, to help set up and clear up afterwards which makes the Open Day a little less stressful!

Other attractions included a demonstration of letter carving and woodland boggers at work. Children were kept amused by badge making and face painting and Richard (Mr Bugman) Jones's famous bug hunt. Home made cakes donated by our generous home bakers were plentiful, and our hard-



James Shackleton's motorised hearse *Photo: Jeremy Partington*

working catering team were kept busier than ever. Contrary Mary's plant stall run by the late Mary Bavin's daughters Rebecca and Nicola and their helpers, sold an enormous amount of plants, many of which were donated by members and friends, and our publications sales stall and grave search enquiry desk were kept busy as usual. Our thanks to all our volunteers and organisations and community groups that took part and made it such a great day. Shall we do it all again next year? I suppose so! ■ *RW*

## IMPROVED WATER POINT AT LIMESFORD ROAD ENTRANCE *by Jeff Hart*

Last year we had a donation of several watering cans from a FONC member for use in the cemetery, and it was decided that we could provide a more elegant water point at the Limesford Road entrance for those visiting family graves. A generous donation from long time member and former committee member Simon Dale in memory of his mother Cy Dale has paid for the materials we needed to carry out the work. We have included a notice to indicate that this is in memory of Cy. I hope that she would have appreciated the effort to aid visitors in caring for planting on family graves. We shall ensure that the notice is kept in good condition and, should anyone walk off with a watering can we have a good stock with which to replace them. We have received several appreciative comments from users of the water point and I hope that it will continue to provide good service for many years to come. ■



New water point: *Photos: Jane Hart*



Cy Dale's granddaughter Phoebe met with Mary Bavin's daughters, Rebecca, left, and Nicola, at Contrary Mary's plant stall at this year's Open Day on 18th May. The late Mary Bavin and Cy Dale were keen plantswomen and ran the plants sales stall at many past Open Days.

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

**Metropolitan Boroughs of Deptford and Lewisham's Civilian War Dead
interred at Nunhead Cemetery 1940 - 1945**

by Michèle Louise Burford and Ron Woollacott

Deptford, which was one of the smaller metropolitan boroughs, owned two cemeteries, the first opened at Brockley in 1858, and the second opened outside the borough at Grove Park in June 1935. Since the amalgamation of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Deptford and Lewisham in 1965 however, both cemeteries are now owned by the London Borough of Lewisham.

New Cross and Brockley (part) were districts within the Borough of Deptford. Deptford civilians killed by enemy action during the Second World War were generally interred at Grove Park, Brockley and Nunhead cemeteries. Here we are concerned with those bombing incidents in Deptford in which the victims were buried at Nunhead. A selective list of which appears below.

The Blitz

The first two Deptford casualties to be buried at Nunhead were Rosina (39) and Amy (37) Tarling, who were killed at No 23 Reaston Street, New Cross, on the first night of the Blitz, Saturday 7th September 1940. During an air-raid which lasted from 8.00pm until midnight on 27th December 1940, a high explosive bomb destroyed much of New Cross Tram depot and killed 18 persons, including George Richards (45), a tram conductor, the only casualty buried at Nunhead.

Soon after midnight on 17th April 1941, a parachute mine landed in Brockley, killing 12 people, four of whom were buried at Nunhead, they were Martha Cook (68), who died at No 105 Malpas Road and three members of the Warren family who were killed at No 111 Malpas Road, Florence (46), Dorothy (21) and Stanley (16).

Three people, William (65) and Henrietta (58) Birdseye, and Louisa Thrower (27), lost their lives, when a high explosive bomb struck No 196 Ilderton Road, New Cross, on the night of 10th/11th May 1941, and all three were later buried at Nunhead. Two persons died during the same air-raid at Key Glass Works, Cold Blow Lane, New Cross, just one of whom, David Milledge (33), a glassblower, who was on fire watching duty, was buried at Nunhead.

The 'Nuisance Raids'

From the end of May 1941 to the beginning of 1943 Londoners enjoyed a long awaited respite from the constant bombing, but on Sunday 17th January

1943, the Luftwaffe's bombers returned and 13 persons lost their lives when a heavy bomb landed in Howson Road, Brockley. Just three days later, at lunchtime on Wednesday 20th January, a dozen or so Focke-Wulf 190 fighter bombers armed with machine guns and a single high explosive bomb each attacked South East London. The Chichester Arms, No 89 Evelyn Street, Deptford, received a direct hit killing nine persons including the landlord and an air-raid warden. Two of the victims, Walter Lambert (58) and Jenny Purdy (35) were buried at Nunhead. On the same day a low flying lone Focke-Wulf 190 roared up Sandhurst Road, Catford, machine-gunning pedestrians as they fled and dropping a 1,100 pound high explosive bomb on Sandhurst Road School killing 38 children and six teachers.

The 'Baby Blitz' began in January 1944 and the last manned bomber raid on South East London took place on the 22nd March 1944. The citizens of London were to enjoy three relatively peaceful months before the Nazis began to launch their secret vengeance weapons on an already devastated capital city.

V1 flying bomb attacks in the Borough of Deptford

On the 23rd June 1944 the first V1 flying bomb to come down in the London SE14 postal district, badly damaged 20 houses in Drakefell Road and caused further damage to property in the surrounding streets, but there were no deaths. However, less than two weeks later on the 4th July 1944, four members of the Clark family lost their lives when a V1 flying bomb came down on No 30 Drakefell Road causing extensive damage to property over a wide area. All four adults killed, George (67), Cecilia (56), Lilian (33), and Jessie (32), were buried at Nunhead.

Horrific V2 rocket strike in New Cross Road

The worst V2 rocket incident to occur anywhere in the UK took place in New Cross Road (about a mile from Nunhead) at 12.26 pm on Saturday afternoon 25th November 1944, when a rocket struck the busy Woolworth's store. Rescue workers laboured for two days and two nights searching the rubble for bodies, and the final death toll was 168 of whom 24 were never identified. Most of those who died were inside the store doing their Christmas shopping, while others were walking along the street having just left New Cross Station. Between the 1st and 7th December 1944 just nine victims were interred at Nunhead they were: Florence Branscombe (37); Henry Cole (42); Kenneth Gibbs (age 3); Alma Heading (42); Florence Madden (60); Amy McCall (48); Pamela Phillips (age 2); Winifred Valentine (28); and Clara Weeding (55).

At 8.22 am on 2nd February 1945 a V2 rocket came down in gardens be-

continued on next page

tween Finland Road and Revelon Road, Brockley, demolishing 20 houses and killing 24 people, just four of whom were buried at Nunhead: Dorothy Turner (40) and her daughter Dorothy (16) of No 59 Finland Road, and Dorothy Woods (35), and Henry Woods (33) of No 63 Finland Road.

At 3.20am on 7th March 1945 a V2 rocket fell between two blocks of flats at Folkestone Gardens, Trundley's Road, New Cross, killing 53 persons, including Horace (55) and Louisa Glover (51) of No 196 Folkestone Gardens who were the only casualties from that incident to be buried at Nunhead.

Between the 16th June 1944 and 23rd March 1945, 46 V1 flying bombs and 13 V2 rockets landed in the Metropolitan Borough of Deptford killing a total of 461 persons. All told a total of 684 persons lost their lives in Deptford as a result of enemy action during the Second World War, and of those 56 were interred at Nunhead between 13th September 1940 and 13th March 1945.

Metropolitan Borough of Lewisham's Civilian War Dead

The Metropolitan Borough of Lewisham's cemeteries were located at Ladywell opened in 1858, and Hither Green opened in 1935. According to the Roll of Honour, Civilian War Dead, the number of civilians who lost their lives in Lewisham during the Second World War was around 1,040, and of these just 18 persons were buried at Nunhead as follows: William Harlow (32) and Sidney Hall (8), just two of 36 persons killed at Albion Way SE13, when a bomb scored a direct hit on a brick street shelter on 11th September 1940; Leonard Thornton (46) of Longton Grove, Sydenham, killed on 14th September 1940; three members of the Merrett family, John (5), Donald (9) and Cyril (40) killed when a high explosive bomb hit No 81 Overdown Road, Bellingham, on the night of 17th September 1940; Sarah Schanche (82) of No 17 Adelaide Avenue, who died on 17th October 1940; Minnie Lake (55) of No 54 Bousfield Road, New Cross, died at Lewisham Hospital on 17th April 1941; Mary Dixon (64) of No 10 Algernon Road, SE13 and Annie Potter (57) of No 50 Dalmain Road, SE23, both killed on the last night of the Blitz, 11th May 1941; Celia Capon (35) of No 270 Sangley Road, Catford, killed on 20th January 1943; Arthur Bailey (62) who was killed at the junction of Southend Lane and Bromley Road, Catford, on 13th July 1944, and Henry Parsley (31) of No 64 Newlands Park, Sydenham, who was killed on 22nd July 1944; four members of the Shinn family, Grace (32), William (64), Beatrice (35) and Louisa (67) lost their lives when a V2 rocket demolished several houses in Adelaide Avenue, Brockley, on 17th September 1944; and William Kent (68) of No 25 Whitburn Road, SE13 died in an incident on 16th February 1945.

That brings the total number of Second World War civilian war dead so far discovered to date and interred at Nunhead to 632.

LIZ LEIFESTE WRITES FROM HOUSTON, TEXAS

The following letter was sent to Simon Mercer, Hon Membership Secretary FONC:

I am really interested in all the work the dedicated members do to keep this lovely cemetery a viable and inviting green space as well as a reverent resting place for past generations. Will you tell the trustees I read each edition of *FONC News* and am learning a great deal of local history as well as seeing the time and effort members expend on dealing with the local government! We in Houston, and Texas, go through the same bureaucratic experiences.

Would you be so kind as to give Mr Collins (Malcolm Collins, trustee) the enclosed envelope at the next meeting of the board of trustees. Enclosed are pictures of him taken in '14 and '17 when he was considerate enough to take me on tours of Nunhead Cemetery. The cemetery is so large and full of monuments and stones that I could not take it all in with one visit.

The cemetery is beautifully kept and a joy to walk through. But for a foreigner the piece de resistance is walking up the hill and seeing St Paul's Cathedral through the trees!

Forthcoming attraction: Brookwood Cemetery Open Day, Saturday 14th September 2019, Glades House, Cemetery Pales from 11am to 3pm

As part of the Heritage Days Weekend, Brookwood Cemetery is opening its gates. Guided walks, visits to a number of mausolea (including the Columbarium), the St Edward Brotherhood's church and exhibition will all form major parts of the day. Historic burial registers will also be available for viewing for genealogists. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission, American Battle Monuments Commission (American Cemetery), the Trench Experience, Natural Home Funerals, and Stonemasons Funeral Directors will be represented and there will be UK Owl and Raptor displays. Refreshments will be available.

Brookwood Cemetery is served by South West Trains' services out of Waterloo Station. The journey takes about 45 minutes to Brookwood Station. There is an exit at the station which leads directly to the cemetery grounds. www.tbcs.org.uk

STOP PRESS: East Lodge Restoration. *Please see article on pages 3 - 4*

The start of enabling work has been delayed until early September due to complications in dismantling the portico.

Open House Weekend in Nunhead Cemetery
Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd September 2019
From 1.00pm to 5.00pm on both days

Tours of the crypt will take place in the afternoon on both days, and there will be general guided tours of the cemetery. We shall require volunteers to act as stewards and assist with enquiries and to sell publications etc. Unlike the annual Open Day this is a fairly low-key event over two days, but is nonetheless most enjoyable. If you can help in any way please contact Ish Lennox, Volunteering Co-ordinator by e-mail: volunteering@fonc.org.uk

All Souls Service
Sunday 3rd November 2019 at 2.00pm

Meet at the flint circle inside the cemetery entrance in Linden Grove at 2.00pm. Unfortunately some stonework has fallen from a wall within the chapel and until the council has found a solution to the problem the chapel will remain closed. If the chapel is still out of bounds on the day of All Souls Service the service will take place outside in front of the chapel.

National Federation of Cemetery Friends (NFCF) AGM 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the NFCF took place at the Inspire Centre, Calderdale College, Halifax, on Saturday 8th June 2019 and was hosted by the Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery. 32 delegates were in attendance including Jane Hart, Jeff Hart, Carol Stevenson and Jeremy Partington representing FONC, and Gwyneth Stokes, FONC trustee, who attended in her capacity as Secretary of the Federation. Among the items on the agenda were 'Electronic plotting of graves on interactive maps' presented by Geoffrey Thurley, Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, and a report by John Moffat on the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE). A new edition of the NFCF book *Saving Cemeteries* was available at the meeting. ■

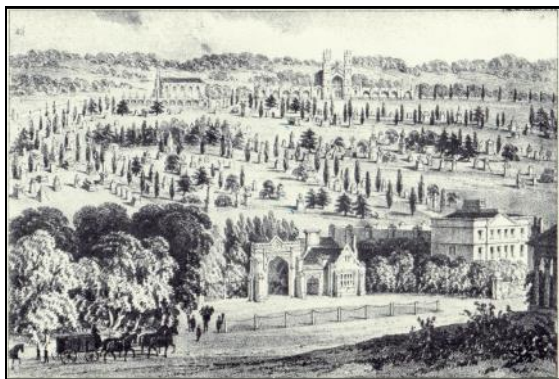
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Special Pre-publication Subscription Offer
*On the Laying Out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries and on the
Improvement of Churchyards by J C Loudon*

If you received a coloured flyer with your copy of *FONC News* please note the last date to subscribe has been extended to ***30th September 2019***.

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

*On the Laying Out, Planting,
and Managing of Cemeteries;
and on the Improvement of Churchyards.
With Sixty Engravings*



by J.C. Loudon
with a new Foreword by James Stevens Curl

Professor James Stevens Curl is proposing to bring out a limited, numbered, finely bound, hardback, enlarged facsimile edition of Loudon's seminal work on cemeteries, originally published in London in 1843 on very poor-quality paper and with an extremely small font. The new edition will be on good paper, with an enlarged font, and will include a new annotated Introductory Essay on Loudon's involvement with cemeteries by Professor Curl, with Bibliography, a colour portrait of Loudon, a facsimile of Loudon's Obituary of 1844, a List of Subscribers, and an Index compiled by Auriol Griffith-Jones.

left: The South Metropolitan Cemetery, Norwood, Surrey, 'Planted in the Cemetery Style'. This shows what was essentially the panoramic view of the cemetery produced for promotional purposes, as amended by Loudon to show what he regarded as more appropriate planting for the layout. From Loudon (1843) opposite 69 (Collection JSC).

right: Portrait in oils, 76.2 x 63.5 cms, of John Claudius Loudon, painted 1840-41, by John Linnell (1792-1882), who lived at 38 Porchester Terrace, Bayswater, so was a near-neighbour of the Loudons, who lived at 3 Porchester Terrace. The portrait was exhibited at The Royal Academy in 1883, No. 25 (By kind permission of The Linnean Society of London, Standard No. C29975. Copy no. P1950)

continued on next page

John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843), Scots agriculturist, encyclopædist, landscape gardener, horticulturist, architect, influential critic, and polymath, 'conducted' *The Gardener's Magazine* from 1826, in which he published numerous articles on cemeteries, and these he collected and brought out in his 1843 book, the most exhaustive tome ever written on the subject, and a mine of information, which includes detailed ideas for landscaping cemeteries that were widely followed. Loudon's concept of the cemetery as a landscape-garden/arboretum, with all plants clearly labelled, was part of his belief in mass-education and improvement of tone in society, and he argued that once cemeteries were full they should become places of contemplation and quietness, with the monuments conserved rather than swept away. He produced designs for three cemeteries: Histon Road, Cambridge, Bath Abbey, and Old Southampton (all 1842-3), as well as influencing the planting of many more.

James Stevens Curl has studied funerary architecture and landscapes for some 63 years: among his published works are *The Victorian Celebration of Death* (1972 and 2004), *A Celebration of Death* (1980), *Funerary Monuments & Memorials in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh* (2013), and studies of funerary monuments by Sir Francis Chantrey and others. He contributed to, and edited, the major study of the General Cemetery of All Souls, Kensal Green, London (2001).

Subscriptions are invited, to be received no later than **30 September 2019**. The cost per copy is £40.00 to include postage and packing within the United Kingdom only. £45.00 (Europe) £50 (Rest of the World). For postage to Europe please add £5.00, and for postage outside Europe please add £10.00. Copies will be sent out to subscribers as soon as the book is available, estimated as December 2019. After 30 September 2019 the price per copy will be £55.00, so subscribers will get a fine copy at less than cost.

To subscribe please return the flyer/order form that you may have received with this copy of *FONC News*. If you did not receive a flyer/order form and you wish to subscribe please contact Professor J S Curl as soon as possible by E-mail: jscurl@btinternet.com.

~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~

WOODLAND TRAIL TOUR ► *Sunday 8th September at 2.15pm.* Meet Tim Stevenson your guide for the afternoon at the flint circle inside the front entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove.

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND ► *Saturday and Sunday 21st/22nd September 2019 from 1 to 5pm.* For details see the announcement on page 20.

CEMETERY SYMBOLS TOUR ► *Sunday 13th October at 2.15pm.* Meet Keith Turpin your guide for the afternoon at the flint circle inside the front entrance in Linden Grove.

ALL SOULS SERVICE ► *Sunday 3rd November at 2.00pm.* Ecumenical service. Meet inside the main entrance to the cemetery in Linden Grove. Please see notice on page 20.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ► *Sunday 10th November at 10.45 am.* Meet at the War Memorial near the Limesford Road entrance to the cemetery. Wreaths provided by the Royal British Legion will be laid at War Graves sites in the cemetery. This will be followed by **FIRST WORLD WAR TOUR at 2.15pm.** Your guides will be FONC Co-ordinator Jeff Hart and FONC Chairman Jeremy Partington.

FONC'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL ► *Thursday 19th December at 7.00pm in the Function Room of the Pyrotechnist's Arms, Nunhead Green, London, SE15.* Full details in the next (winter) issue of *FONC News*.

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 further information and timings and how to volunteer please contact Garry Wiles at: foncinscriptions@gmail.com *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.*

GENERAL 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 and on notice boards in Nunhead Cemetery.

~ FONC TRUSTEES ~

Chairman: **Jeremy Partington**

Vice-chairman: **Carol Stevenson**

FONC Co-ordinator: **Jeff Hart OBE**-email: fonc@btconnect.com

Minutes secretary: **Jane Hart**

Hon treasurer: **Ann Coley**

Hon membership secretary: **Simon Mercer**-email membership@fonc.org.uk

FONC News editor: **Ron Woollacott MBE, FRSA**

Other trustees: **Malcolm Collins, Ish Lennox, Cathy Mercer, Gwyneth Stokes, Alan Till, Keith Turpin, Maureen Woollacott**

Voluntary practical work co-ordinator:

Tim Stevenson-email Nunhead.stevensons@gmail.com

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

Monument inscription recording co-ordinator:

Garry Wiles-email foncinscriptions@gmail.com

FONC News Hand-delivery co-ordinator: **Nicola Dunn**

FONC News Postal co-ordinator: **Linda Martin**

Webmaster: **Simon Quill**

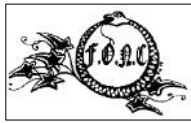
Please send all letters, news items and feature articles for publication to:

The editor, FONC News-email fonc@btconnect.com

The deadline for copy for the next issue is 16th October 2019

(Please note that copy received after this date may be used in a subsequent issue)

Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)



Friends of Nunhead Cemetery - Established 1981

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1178763

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

Printed by Catford Print Centre, LONDON SE6 2PN

and published by Friends of Nunhead Cemetery-email fonc@btconnect.com

Copyright © FONC and Contributors 2019