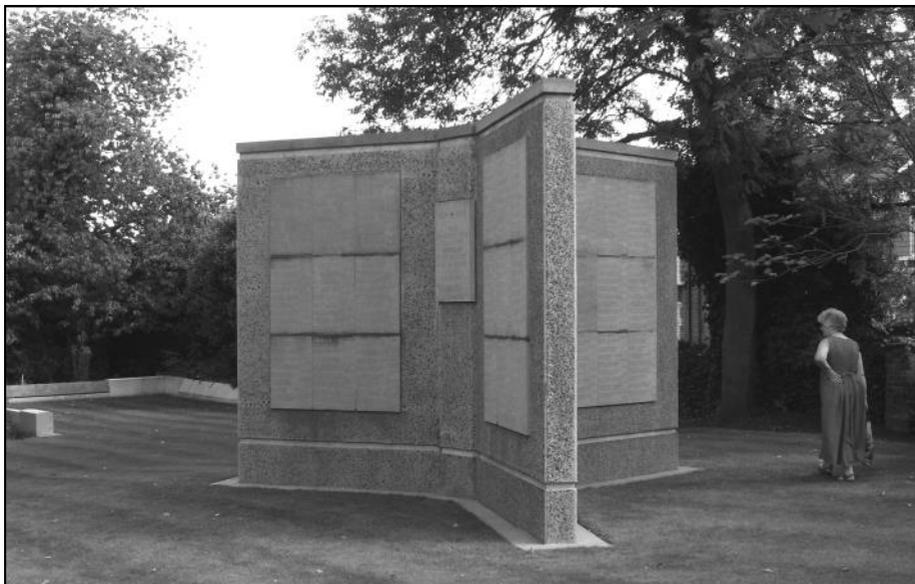


FONC News

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No 149 ~ Autumn issue ~ Sept/November 2020

Journal of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery



Names added to First World War Memorial in Nunhead Cemetery. *See page 7*
Photograph: Ron Woollacott

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~ INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS ~

Membership including your contact preferences: Membership of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC) 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

Further information about FONC and Nunhead Cemetery can be found on our excellent website managed by Simon Quill at www.fonc.org.uk

Cemetery Opening Times: At the time of going to press the cemetery is open every day. Times are subject to change. Please check for opening and closing times on the cemetery gates.

Publications and Enquiry Desk: The Publications and Enquiry Desk (PED) is open when FONC volunteers are in attendance. 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 please contact Jane Hart by email: jane.c.hart@btconnect.com.

FONC Meetings and Events: Please note all tours previously notified are cancelled for the time being. Please check the website for updates. As trustees meetings take place 'virtually' at present, please email the Co-ordinator if you wish to raise any issues: fonc@btconnect.com

Nunhead Cemetery Staff: The cemetery staff can be contacted by phoning [020 7732 9535](tel:02077329535). If unavailable please leave a message or call the main cemetery office at **Camberwell New Cemetery** on [020 7525 5600](tel:02075255600).

The cemetery's address is:

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Welcome to the autumn issue of FONC News. As well as up-to-date news about the cemetery during the past three months of lockdown, this issue contains several feature articles including the fascinating life history of Captain Wieburg, who served in Belgium during the French Revolutionary Wars and West Indies during the Napoleonic Wars, and the second part of the poet Marian Richardson's life story. Botanist Roy Vickery explains the difference between green alkanet and borage, and during the coronavirus lockdown Cathy and Simon Mercer took the opportunity to look at front doors in their neighbourhood, and Eddie Barclay names the ten servicemen added to the First World War memorial. Please keep your stories and articles coming. The next issue out in December will be the 150th!



Ron Woollacott

FAST MOVING COVID-19 PROVISIONS IMPACT BOTH FONC AND THE CEMETERY

Update by Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator

As I write, the impact of Covid-19, whilst still horrendous for so many people, does seem to be easing in the UK. However, vigilance and strictly following the current safety guidelines is, of course, absolutely necessary to avoid a future spike and that is obviously the case at Nunhead Cemetery too.

FONC trustees have continued to meet through the facility of Zoom to discuss the day-to-day running of the charity and what has been happening on site. The general administration and dealing with enquiries has continued unabated. We have been considering how best to mitigate the impact of the current re-

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restrictions whilst minimising any untoward affects on the cemetery. We have tried to push forward work on the East Lodge, the Anglican chapel and other issues with Southwark Council. As restrictions have eased we made the case to Southwark to allow a resumption of some of our activities on site. Understandably cautious, we responded to Council officer's requests for risk assessments in support of our proposals and after some swift and constructive discussion we were given approval to begin our practical workdays, monument inscription recording and publications and enquiries desk. As a result we tried out each of the activities in early July to test out the requirements of the risk assessments. Use of disinfectant, hand-sanitiser, gloves, face-masks and paper rather than material towels became the order of the day and strict social distancing provisions worked very well. We are now confident that these activities can be properly supervised and we would thus welcome the return of all FONC members wishing to participate, although unfortunately we cannot involve those who are considered 'extremely vulnerable'. Please bring your own gloves and refreshments. We are also not permitted to open the toilets to members of the public. We are now also considering whether it may be practicable to reinstate our tour programme by restricting the numbers attending, socially distancing and pre-booking places. We proposed to Southwark Council that on-site discussions between FONC and Bereavement Services to discuss ongoing on-site issues should recommence. Despite these being just three people in the open air we were told that there is still a Council 'restriction' on such meetings!

The number of visitors to the cemetery during lockdown has increased dramatically as people have been discovering what a wonderfully soothing place the cemetery is during difficult times and, with the extended opening hours, provides an ideal place to exercise. The over-whelming majority of visitors have observed social distancing and have behaved responsibly during their visits for which we are most grateful. However, FONC has also received a number of reports and complaints about the anti-social behaviour of a very small minority. We have taken these issues very seriously and have worked to bring these to the attention of the Council and, where possible, to mitigate the effects. Remarkably, unlike many other open spaces, litter has not increased greatly although this may be because the Idverde staff on site have continued to deal with this. More seriously, some visitors have begun to treat the cemetery more as an adventure playground or beach. Unsafe dens have been created, 'art works'

screwed to trees, a BMX bike obstacle course created using earth mounds and pieces of broken stone and memorials treated as obstacle courses for children. The worst incident involved a female local resident who, when challenging a female jogger at the Linden Grove gates about social distancing, was punched in the face and her glasses broken. A large-bladed kitchen knife was also found near a path edge. Unfortunately we have not received any feed-back about how these incidents have been followed up although FONC volunteers have dealt themselves with a number on site.■

GREEN ALKANET

By Roy Vickery (roy@plant-lore.com)

In the most recent *FONC News* (No 148, Summer 2020) Ron Woollacott provides an interesting account of the plants and wildlife in his garden, part of which ‘has been colonised by borage’. As the accompanying photograph shows, he has made the common mistake of misidentifying the coloniser as borage (*Borago officinalis*), whereas it is, in fact green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*).

This mistake seems to be due to the fact that the latter was almost ignored in many older wildflower books.

Both borage and green alkanet belong to the same plant family, Boraginaceae, which also contains forget-me-nots (*Myosotis* spp.) and comfrees (*Symphytum* spp.). They also both have clear blue flowers and harsh bristles on their leaves. Neither are native to Britain.

Borage, an annual with star-shaped flowers, is native to the Mediterranean region, and has been cultivated in British gardens since at least 1200, and first recorded in the wild in 1777, but it rarely occurs in natural situations, being usually found in cultivated, or recently disturbed, ground. It is currently cultivated as a nectar-source for bees, and for the production of starflower oil, said to have many health benefits, from its seeds.

Green alkanet, a perennial with deep persistent roots, was formerly considered to be native to southwest England, particularly the Torbay area, but it is now thought to have been introduced from southwest Europe sometime

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before 1700, and first recorded in the wild in 1724. In the last 80 years or so it has spread a lot and become firmly established, though it usually occurs near human habitations or where garden waste has been dumped. People initially welcome it in their gardens, and later find that it can become invasive and hard to eradicate.

According to some authorities green alkanet was originally introduced to Britain for the production of a red dye from its roots. The name alkanet is said to have derived from the Arabic *al-kanna*, a name for *Lawsonia inermis*, source of the red dye, henna.

Why, people ask, is a plant with conspicuous blue flowers and used to produce a red dye given the name green alkanet? An early English name for it was evergreen alkanet (a translation from the Latin *sempervirens*): in time this became contracted, lost the ‘ever’ and received its current name. ■

FINALLY, EAST LODGE RESTORATION WORKS BEGIN ON SITE! *Update by Jeff Hart*

Much to our frustration the tardy progress towards restoration of the East Lodge has continued. East Lodge Project Board meetings have been held in abeyance during the Covid-19 restrictions, severely hampering our ability to influence events. We were due to have a meeting on 30th March 2020 with the newly appointed design architects about further developing potential internal layouts but this was, of course, cancelled. However, we have still not been informed of who the architects are and possible video conference discussions have not even been considered.

Standage, the contractors for the preliminary works of drainage, foundations and dismantling the unsafe portico and front wall of the Lodge, had to continually revise their risk assessments and method statements as the condition of the building deteriorated. Then, like everyone else, they were held back from starting on site by the Covid-19 restrictions. After further risk assessments, we are delighted to report that we were suddenly informed by Southwark Council that work would start on site on 15th June!

A contractor’s compound has been established at the Linden Grove entrance bay and power lines erected from the Lodge area to this. Vegetation around the

Lodge has been sympathetically cleared and the Council's arboriculturalist consulted. Most importantly, scaffolding has been reinforced and additional bracing put in place to enable the safe dismantling of the entrance portico. When dismantled, the materials will be stored temporarily in the rather dilapidated and ugly freight container adjacent to the site. This has been used by FONC for many years to store trestle tables, display boards and other materials. It also contains materials salvaged from the stabilising works undertaken in the 1990s and so is pretty full. It has been agreed, however, that the contractors will provide a new metal storage facility in the East Lodge grounds which should be of a sufficient size for us to move our belongings into. The programme of works is scheduled to be completed in the first week of December 2020. We do hope that by this time decisions on the future use and design layout of the building will have been agreed such that full restoration can then begin immediately.■

Names added to First World War Memorial

Text and photo by Eddie Barclay

Re: Remembered for Evermore in *FONC News* No 148, page 8, I would like to answer the question as to why the [servicemen's] names were overlooked. In 2012, I received an enquiry asking why the uncle of Lynda Kiss was not listed on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) memorial at Nunhead. He was buried at Nunhead in 1921. I contacted the CWGC who wanted proof that he was buried in the cemetery. This was done and I was told that his name was on the war memorial at Brookwood Cemetery, as they were unaware of his burial details. I was told that this would be corrected. I also found a grave in Barnes Cemetery with no headstone or markings. This was of a soldier who died at home after being discharged from the army. It was something that happened when injured men died at home and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) was unaware of their death. We did manage to find a few unmarked graves in



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Nunhead which have now been entered as War Dead. This is the reason for some being missed, they were not overlooked, the MOD was unaware of their deaths. Some were also buried in cemeteries without a record of the burial being passed to the CWGC. I hope this answers the question as why they were missed. The following names have now been added to the memorial at Nunhead:

1st Clerk J Brown, Royal Air Force - 22nd January 1916
Guardsman T J Middlemiss, Grenadier Guards - 4th December 1915
Leading Seaman W H Bright, Royal Navy - 9th May 1921
Lance Corporal H C Jarvis, South Lancashire Regiment - 19th May 1921
Corporal J T Nightingale, Royal West Kent Regiment - 17th December 1919
Corporal T O Chaplin, 2nd Regt South African Infantry - 21st October 1916
Private H W Sheldrake, Royal Marine Light Infantry - 26th January 1916
Sapper H Mount, Royal Engineers - 5th August 1917
Private W H L Hammant, Royal Marine Light Infantry - 2nd October 1917
Private H N Kerrison, Labour Corps - 30th January 1921

NUNHEAD CEMETERY NEWS No 39

By Jeff Hart, FONC Co-ordinator

What is happening with the Anglican chapel?

After a brief interruption due to Covid-19 restrictions, work removing friable plaster from the chapel interior walls, vegetation from the walls and floor and flaking and damaged stonework from the exterior of the chapel was completed in April. Barriers around the building were removed and we have assumed, therefore, that the building is now 'safe'. However, further survey work was also undertaken and we have been seeking sight of the report ever since. We have just learnt informally, as the report has not yet been made available to us, that further work on brickwork above at least some windows has been advised. We have no idea what Southwark Council propose to do now or when, or if, rectification work will take place. With a prestigious art installation being planned for the chapel later this year, which may now be jeopardised, FONC is seeking clarification as a matter of urgency.

More problems rising to the surface

We have reported previously on problems that have arisen with cracking in the new path surfacing around the Scots Martyrs memorial and FONC portacabin. Reports have been commissioned on what the cause of the problem is but,

again, FONC has not been granted access to these reports. In the meantime, visitors cannot fail to have noticed that with the extremes of weather this year, the cracks have now buckled and raised, leading to the break-up of a nine metre long area. This has become a tripping hazard and barriers have been placed around partly, to prevent children jumping up and down on the cracks! Again, we are pushing for a resolution to the problem but this is likely to be a long job as arguments continue about responsibility for the surface failure.

A busy socially distanced workday!

The hedging planted during our February and March workdays in the cemetery, had been pretty much left to their own devices during the Covid-19 restrictions. Fortunately, when volunteers cleared around the saplings on our July workday most seem to have survived well enough. We have also tidied several sites where trees had come down during the recent high winds and the mound of top-soil left by contractors on the Main Avenue has been removed and the soil spread ready for seeding.

Swiss rolls on!

One side effect of the Covid-19 situation is that our insurers, Zurich Insurance, have granted all charities a three-month free extension to existing policies. This is very helpful for those, like FONC, that must have adequate public liability insurance to enable us to carry out activities both on and off site. We also have cover for personal accident and our tools and equipment.

Please note FONC's ANNUAL REPORT June 2019 - 31 May 2020 may be viewed in the Members Area of our website - www.fonc.org.uk

Mrs Curtis-Whittaker writes from Crofton Park: For some years I have helped on the Mary Quite Contrary plant stall on Open Day. When the May event was cancelled I started selling my plants at the front of my house and I am pleased to be able to send you a cheque for £50. *The editor and trustees would like thank Mrs Curtis-Whittaker for her thoughtfulness and generosity and hope to see her at the next Open Day.*



Captain John Andrew Nicholas Wieburg (1781-1847)

By Christine Fyfe

Captain John Andrew Nicholas Wieburg, my 3x great-grandfather, was buried in a common grave at Nunhead Cemetery on 27th August 1847. His family paid an optional additional fee to have his name inscribed on the cemetery company's common monument. Captain Wieburg had a long career as an officer in the British army, serving in Europe, the West Indies and Canada before finally retiring to Peckham.

John Andrew Nicholas Wieburg was born in Zellerfeld, Hanover, Germany on 15th April 1781. He was balloted to the Hanoverian army in 1794 at the age of thirteen and subsequently taken into British service with the York Rangers at the Hildesheim Depot.

In the following year Wieburg, described in army records as a bugler or trumpeter, saw service in the Netherlands in the Flanders campaign during the first years of the French Revolutionary Wars. On 21st May 1795 he was wounded in the right hand and below the right ankle at Nimeguen. Soon after, on 6th February 1796, he was taken prisoner by the French while at sea and was incarcerated in the fortress at Arras in France. His imprisonment came to an end in 1799 when he was released in a prisoner exchange.

Wieburg spent the next six years engaged in what he described as 'home service' in various locations, first with the 17th Light Dragoons with the rank of Corporal and, from 1805, with the 60th Regiment of Foot, 3rd Battalion. While stationed at the Fort George garrison at St Peter Port in Guernsey, Wieburg married Frances Kember at the town church on 18th June 1806.

Six months later he embarked with the 60th Regiment for the West Indies where he was to spend the next three years participating in a series of military contests which spanned the Napoleonic Wars. The West Indies were viewed by the British as posing a major threat to trade in the Caribbean, providing a sheltered base for the French from which trade routes could be disrupted. In December 1807 Wieburg served at the taking of the Danish West India islands St Thomas and St Croix, a response to the perceived threat that Denmark-Norway would form an alliance with Napoleon. The Danes surrendered and there were no reported casualties. This was unfortunately not the case at the taking of Martinique in early 1809 when, in fierce

fighting, Wieburg was one of 334 British soldiers wounded, suffering injuries to both legs. Despite this, he was included in the force which invaded Guadeloupe in January-February 1810, the final remaining French colony to be taken. Wieburg was stationed in the West Indies garrisons for a further six years. Conditions were arduous with many dying from disease and the consequences of poor living conditions. Appointments to Ensign and Adjutant followed in December 1812 and promotion to Lieutenant in April 1814. All Wieburg's promotions were made without purchase.

Wieburg's first son, George, was born in the West Indies on 11th July 1812, the birth being followed six weeks later by the death of his wife Frances. Wieburg was married for the second time at Martinique on 6th February 1814 to Jane Stephens, a 19-year-old widow. Their first child, Eliza Ann, was born on St Lucia on 17th March 1815 while the second daughter of the marriage, Ann Augusta, was born at sea on 7th June 1816 as the family sailed from the West Indies to Wieburg's next posting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The final twenty six years of Wieburg's military career were spent in Canada where two sons were born - William Charles on 19th May 1818 and John Andrew on 16th November 1820. In 1823 Wieburg, now serving in the Veteran Companies of Newfoundland, was transferred from Halifax to the garrison at St John's, Newfoundland. While physical conditions were demanding, the Canadian garrisons provided recreational and cultural opportunities which helped to lessen the tedium of military routine. Officers made an important contribution to the community. They engaged in charitable giving and participated in local groups such as the Agricultural Society as well as in sport, theatricals and band concerts. Wieburg is listed as a subscriber to the Halifax Garrison Library (still thriving to this day as the Cambridge Military Library) which served both the military and wider public. In 1831 he was made a grant of land at Quidi Vidi, St John's, in recognition of his long and meritorious service. He was promoted to Captain on half-pay in 1837 and the following year was appointed Fort-Major at St John's.

By 1842, at the age of 61, Wieburg's health was beginning to fail so that he could no longer perform his duties as Fort-Major. On 7th September, most likely accompanied by Jane and their two daughters, he left St John's for re-

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tirement in London. His army career came to an end formally on 31st December 1843 after a total of 49 years 192 days service, when he is recorded as living at 13 Marlborough Road, Old Kent Road.

Wieburg died at the age of 66 on 23rd August 1847 at 9 St James Road, Old Kent Road. The authorities were informed of the death by William Robinson, an army officer who was to marry Wieburg's elder daughter Eliza Ann the following year. His London doctor, Robert Smith of 3 Marlborough Road, Old Kent Road wrote on 1st September 1847:

I hereby certify that I have been in constant attendance professionally on the late Captain J A N Wieburg from the time of his arrival in England (about five years since), till his death which took place on the 23rd of August last. His constitution was entirely broken, consequent, in my opinion, on long continued military service in the West Indies and other trying climates, and several gunshot wounds which he had received in action.

Wieburg's daughters, both of whom married British army officers, continued to live in Peckham at least until 1851 when the census records them living at 2 Park Villas, Peckham, Camberwell. Their families, along with Wieburg's widow subsequently settled in Devon and Cornwall.■

Grave No 836, Square 89. Unmarked common grave.

My thanks to Ron Woollacott for information about the common monument.

SCORES ON THE DOORS

Text and photographs by Cathy Mercer

Lockdown has meant that walks and trips have to be local and, like most people, we've been enjoying our local parks and neighbourhood walks in Dollis Hill but it can get restrictive having to stick to local. A friend told me that she was focussing on local architecture in her daily strolls. I expressed surprise, because Dollis Hill is not known as the Athens of west London. However, she explained that she liked to look at architectural features like porches, windows and roof finials.

As our friend said, the observation possibilities are endless, and so we started looking at front doors on our daily stroll. Every house of course has

one and they're large enough to be able to see easily - focussing on smaller architectural accessories like letter boxes and door knockers might encourage comments on snooping!

So for a while, the game to play on our lockdown walks was 'spot the original front door' to get a score on the door, after first of all identifying the door pattern for the particular street or a number of streets from window shapes, panelling etc. Some of the longer streets even had varieties on their front doors, with a mixture of different shapes for the window on the front door. The original stained glass pattern could be identified by the side windows by the front door, which often remains, even when the door has lost its original glass or been completely replaced. We doubled our score if the door still had the original glass.

Most of Dollis Hill is post-First World War 'homes for heroes' and 1930s semis. It's not the stuff that's fashionable yet and people don't seem to be restoring their 1930s home, though I'm sure the day will come.

Nearer the local stations houses are older and there is more gentrification, as the older Victorian and Edwardian homes are generally more valued. This means that people are putting back their sash windows and of course their original front doors. On our own road, the houses are Edwardian. However, unfortunately most of the original Edwardian stained glass in the front doors was knocked out by



*Old and battered door on the right and
new door on the left*

Second World War rockets, or so the story goes. Recently a local builder got

continued on next page



Original door but moved forward in arched porch

hold of the original design for the stained glass and has gone round making the front doors glow like peacocks. On our own house, we had the original front door and then had our door's stained glass restored for our 20th wedding anniversary. In fact, nearly every house on our road now has the 'original' front door with

'original' glass. Our next-door neighbours have replaced their 60s plate-glass front door with an 'original' wooden door with 'original' glass just last year.

Once we started looking hard at front doors, a pattern emerged. Many of the post-First World War terraces and semis had new plastic doors or doors with large plate-glass windows and, on many roads, the original timber front doors have almost completely disappeared. On several roads we only discovered a couple of the original timber doors with the original stained glass, and then on houses that were run down - in need of a lick of paint, overgrown gardens, etc.

However, some of the larger houses, especially on 'more desirable' roads that were near to the park, still seemed to have original doors with original stained glass and were in good condition, exactly as you'd expect. These doors looked original rather than replacements and they seemed to reflect good maintenance over the



Old door on the right, new door on the left



Three of the four doors are original

years rather than recent gentrification but it can be hard to know without snooping! It seems that 1930s semis are not yet fashionable enough for gentrification. Picture the ads: ‘original 1930s semi features, including four-colour Arts and Crafts style stained glass.....’

A lot of our local streets look like terraces of houses but are in fact rows of very pleasant maisonettes, with front - and back - gardens. They often have front doors side-by-side for the downstairs and upstairs flats or a ‘front’ door tucked away at the side behind an arch to the upstairs flat. Here of course we gave ourselves brownie

points when we spotted a pair of original doors.

It was also interesting to see how the patterns on doors would change as a new stage of development came to the street. So the houses would look identical but they had new styles of front doors or new stained glass, perhaps because the catalogue or local builders’ yard had updated their range or run out of the originals. One road even had four different styles of original front doors, with a mix of round, oval, square and leaded windows distributed around the houses in pairs.

So now that we’ve investigated front doors, perhaps we’ll start to research roof finials. More fun for the lockdown exercise!■



Bingo! Original door and original glass in door and side windows

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Remarkable Women buried in Nunhead Cemetery No 6 (Part 2)
By Ron Woollacott and Michèle Louise Burford

MRS MARIAN RICHARDSON (1830-1872)

Poet, Friend and Supporter of Garibaldi the Italian Patriot

Several poems written by Marian were published in newspapers and periodicals before they appeared in book form. Her poem ‘Lines on the Death of the Duchess of Kent’ was first published in the *Wells Journal* on 6th April 1861, and her poem ‘Address to our Beloved Queen on the Marriage of the Prince of Wales’ appeared in the *Lancaster Gazette* on 21st March 1863 with the following note: ‘The authoress of these very pretty



verses is the wife of a native of Lancaster, who served his time in the town, and is now a member of the Common Council of the City of London.’

Many of Marian’s poems reflect the political interest of the family. She and her husband were ardent supporters of the Radical and Liberal statesman, Richard Cobden, who together with John Bright (1811-1889), founded the Anti-Corn League, whose objective was to abolish the unpopular Corn Laws that were protecting landowners’ interests by levying taxes on imported wheat and keeping the price of bread artificially high. As a Member of Parliament, Richard Cobden fought against opposition from the Peel ministry and the abolition of the Corn Laws was finally achieved in 1846.

Another of Marian’s poems, ‘Cobden’s Return’, records his visit to France and the Cobden-Chevalier Treaty of 1860 promoting closer interdependence between Britain and France. When Richard Cobden died in April 1865 Marian wrote a moving poem as a tribute to him. Some three years after Cobden’s death, the Richardsons received a letter from his widow giving them consent to name their eighth and last child, Horace Cobden, as requested, and remarked on the couple’s devotion to so many good causes.

Marian’s father, Samuel Straker, was a nonconformist, possibly Methodist, and Marian and her husband were nonconformist in background and practice, and to that end, perhaps anti-papal too, consequently becoming

deeply involved in the cause of Italian liberation and unification. In a letter to Marian's husband, Cobden wrote a word of warning about Garibaldi's innocence of the ways of politics and calling him a hero. No doubt there is an element of hero-worship expressed in Marian's poems - seven in the collection relate to General Giuseppe Garibaldi, and the first poem in Marian's published collection is entitled 'Heroes'.

In addition to running a successful wholesale drugs and fancy soap factory in the City of London, John Richardson was also active in City of London affairs as an elected member of the Common Council, and was instrumental in organising General Garibaldi's visit to London in April 1864. The enthusiasm given to Garibaldi's reception gave annoyance in some quarters, and the General's projected tour through Britain was curtailed at the insistence of Prime Minister Gladstone. While in London, Garibaldi travelled to Peckham Rye to thank the Richardsons for their valued support, but was unable to enter the house because their eldest son Joseph Hall had the measles.

to be continued

BLACK LIVES MATTER

By Jeff Hart on behalf of FONC trustees

Recent events have again brought to the fore the Black Lives Matter campaign and this has led FONC trustees to further consider how we can more proactively engage with BAME groups and individuals. We have tried in the past, unsuccessfully, to encourage greater involvement in participating in and running our charity. We have also not been successful in building relationships with BAME groups to encourage more such visitors to the cemetery. This may be as a result of differing cultural attitudes towards places of burial in Caribbean, African, Muslim and South-East Asian communities, all of whom are represented by graves at Nunhead. There may be other unconscious barriers to involvement that we simply do not recognise. This is not to say that we never see such visitors to the cemetery - we do. However, there is a very stark under-representation given the ethnic make-up of the community around the cemetery.

We shall be giving this further consideration as we come closer to Black

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History month in October. In the meantime we would welcome input from the membership with ideas and potential contacts so that we can make better progress than we have in the past. The whole community has a wonderful resource in Nunhead Cemetery and we want to see all members of the community have a say in the future of the cemetery and FONC's part in it.■

Dr HAROLD MOODY

A short walk from Nunhead Green is Dr Harold Moody Park; it was called Consort Park when opened in the 1970s and given its present name in 1999. Harold Arundel Moody was born in Jamaica in 1882 and came to Britain in 1904 to study medicine at King's College Hospital. In 1913 he set up in practice as a doctor in King's Road (now Grove), Peckham, later removing to 164 Queen's Road, Peckham. Dr Moody was concerned about the discrimination experienced by black people in Britain and founded the League of Coloured Peoples of which Paul Robeson and Jomo Kenyatta were members. Dr Moody was our family doctor when I was boy, and I had the privilege of appearing in a documentary about him along with Baroness Castle and Dr John Sentanu, who was then Bishop of Stepney. The film was broadcast on the short-lived station BBC Knowledge in 2000. Dr Moody, who died in 1947, is not buried at Nunhead, he was cremated nearby at the Honor Oak Crematorium.■ *RW*

A GARDEN IN NUNHEAD DURING LOCKDOWN

By Ron Woollacott (photos by Linda Martin)

Oh dear, how silly of me mistaking green alkanet for borage, but then I'm no horticulturist and most certainly not a botanist. My thanks to Roy Vickery for explaining the difference and how to identify them (*see page 5*). My daughter Simone also identified the plant as green alkanet but we had already gone to press.

The Victorians loved their ferns and we love ferns and because our garden is shady in parts, they grow in abundance. Edward Newman (1801-1876), the Quaker naturalist, whose grave I discovered in Nunhead Cemetery over 40

years ago, wrote in his introduction to *A History of British Ferns* published in 1840: ‘The cultivation of ferns is becoming a fashionable pursuit. It is no longer confined to the botanist and horticulturalist; almost everyone possessing good taste has made, more or less successfully, an attempt to raise this tribe of plants.’ I will not attempt to name the ferns in our garden, apart from hart’s-tongue (*asplenium scolopendrium*) and bracken (*pteridium aquilinum*). We planted just one hart’s-tongue fern many years ago, and there are now several dotted around the garden. We did not plant the bracken, the rhizomes travelled underground from an adjoining garden. Although it’s an attractive fern, it grows to an height of around 1.5 metres or more and can be a nuisance, but this year we succeeded in controlling it before it took over too much garden. Of course, bracken is a common sight in the British countryside on moorland, heathland and in woodlands, but I believe is less common in urban gardens.

It was unusually hot and dry for several days in June, a bit too hot for comfort, but then the weather changed and it became very windy, wet and rather chilly. Nevertheless, we spent as much time as possible enjoying the garden and making the most of it.



A scavenging fox is disturbed under the bird feeder on the morning of 23rd July

The cheeky robin followed us around almost every day, often coming within a few feet. This year we had a good crop of cherries which the wood pigeons and blackbirds tucked into before the noisy parakeets scoffed the rest. Maureen continues to feed the starlings with meal worms, and foxes ate those scattered on the ground by the squabbling birds.

Fewer butterflies have been seen this year, apart from the small and large white and holly blue, although on the warmer days in July numerous commas and several red admirals were seen plus three colourful Jersey tiger moths.

continued on next page



Dragonfly nymph 23rd June and dragonfly with only three wings 27th June

We have had a wildlife pond in the garden for many years, but it was only during the last two weeks in June this year that we were lucky enough to witness the emergence of hawker dragonflies from the nymph stage as they clung to the underside of lily pads. Sad to say the weather was cold, wet and windy. The first dragonfly had only three wings, and the second dragonfly's wings appeared to be fused together; both fell into the pond and became food for the newts. On the 10th July another hawker dragonfly was seen clinging to a lily pad, moulting and emerging from the nymph stage; happily that one succeeded in flying away as did another the following day. On 5th August a dragonfly was seen darting and hovering over the pond and another on the 9th. ■

EXPANDED SEPTEMBER OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND GOES AHEAD *writes Jeff Hart*

FONC will be participating in the Open House City events to be held on 19th and 20th September between 1.00pm and 5.00pm on both days. We will be running the popular crypt visits but may not be able to conduct the general tours. The Publications and Enquiries Desk (PED) will run on both afternoons together with a monument inscription/grave search stall and, most importantly, our ever popular Open Day plant stall will be available *but only on Saturday 19th September!* We may also be able to provide limited refreshments. We will require

additional volunteers on both afternoons to help run the event, so if you have nothing else in your diary please pencil this in!

Why I am a Friend of Nunhead Cemetery

By Stella Pedersen of Wales

It was 2003 and we were in London for the Open House weekend. First call was the former Grand Midland Hotel at St Pancras, now restored, but then a scene of faded Victorian splendour. With its extravagance of colour, swirling grand staircase and eerily deserted rooms and corridors, it did not disappoint. Later on we caught a train into, for us, the unknown territory of South London.

Until I discovered that my ancestor, James Fray, was buried there in 1866, I had never heard of Nunhead. I was familiar with Ryecroft Cemetery at Walsall, Staffordshire, where several of my family are buried. Many older graves here have fallen into disrepair but vegetation has not been allowed to party! There are areas of mown grass, a number of trees and the odd clumps of bushes. The cemetery has a very open feel to it and I pictured myself walking through a similar at Nunhead, browsing among old gravestones, looking for the name Fray. So as we turned into Linden Grove I had something of a shock; I was confronted by the backdrop for a Gothic horror film, an outdoor complement to the dusty spookiness of the hotel at St Pancras.

Behind the cemetery railings there was an anarchy of trees, shrubs and creepers, all fixed together by impenetrable undergrowth. The odd forlorn memorial was peeping out, sometimes jostling for space with a sapling that had seeded itself in a totally unsuitable place. Talk about the triumph of nature over man! In the cemetery we joined a guided walk along a narrow path, the tree canopy shutting out the sun and taking us into a world far away from London's millions. Species of trees were pointed out to us by a knowledgeable guide. I was enchanted and joined FONC straightaway.

I discovered that my ancestor was in a common grave with no memorial but with the help of a cemetery map I was able to find the square where, somewhere, his remains lie.

Since then I have followed the work of FONC through *FONC News* and greatly admire the stalwarts who organise and carry out the cemetery work,

continued on next page

and their patience and persistence in dealing with the relevant bureaucracy.

Years later we made a return visit to Nunhead for a Sunday conducted tour with Ron Woollacott, taking in the tombs of some of Nunhead's notables. It was from Ron, too, via a phone call, that I learned more about the burial of the poor such as my own farrier ancestor.

Amazingly, it is seventeen years since I joined FONC and through the regular journal (another aspect of FONC that merits 10 out of 10) I am often, in my mind, back in magical Nunhead.■

~ In Memory of Alice Frances Beadle ~

George Marshall wrote from Devon in May 2020 that he was able to make a donation in memory of Alice Frances Beadle who was cremated in May 1963. George later wrote that he had read about the history of the cemetery and the Friends and is pleased to have been able to assist the work of FONC. He had referred to his mother's maiden name and is using that for further research. He sends his very best wishes to all involved in maintaining the cemetery as a place of peace in these troubled times.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(In view of the continuing coronavirus situation please check our website)

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND ► *19th and 20th September 2020*. See page 20.

MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING ► Transcribing the inscriptions in Nunhead Cemetery is an important and ongoing task. We meet at the FONC portacabin near the Linden Grove entrance. For further information and timings and how to volunteer please contact Garry Wiles at [fonicinscriptions@gmail.com](mailto:foncinscriptions@gmail.com) *Appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear is essential.*

PRACTICAL 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.*

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL & AGM ► *17th December*. This date is provisional. Full details will be given in the winter issue of *FONC News*. Please check our website nearer the time.

ALL SOULS SERVICE ► *Sunday 2nd November at 2.00pm*. Ecumenical service. Meet inside the main cemetery entrance in Linden Grove.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ► *Sunday 9th November at 10.45am*. Meet at the war memorial next to the Limesford Road gates.

GIFT AID REMINDER

From Simon Mercer, Hon Membership Secretary

Thank you for your renewal of the FONC subscription for 2020. Thank you too for the many generous donations to help FONC with our work at Nunhead Cemetery. With the change in FONC's status we have received recognition as a charity for tax purposes. This allows FONC to claim Gift Aid repayments from HM Revenue & Customs.

As this is a new registration, we have asked supporters to make new Gift Aid declarations. Thank you to the new or renewing members who included their new Gift Aid declaration.

If you missed this please consider using the following form which invites UK taxpayers to sign a new Gift Aid declaration.

Support the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC)

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Help FONC to take advantage of the Government's Gift Aid Scheme. This allows us to reclaim the tax on gifts from UK taxpayers.

Tick and complete the form to make a declaration.

YES. I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Last name

Please tell us if at any point you want to cancel this 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 help us to send members their copy of FONC News and also for the purpose of reclaiming tax. **Please return this completed form, or a copy of it to: FONC Membership email** membership@fonc.org.uk.*

~ 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**

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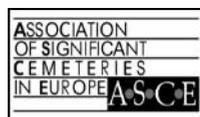
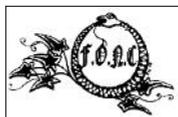
Please send all letters, news items and feature articles for publication to:

The editor, FONC News, email: editorfonc@hotmail.com

The deadline for letters and articles for the next issue is 17th October 2020

(Please note 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.

FONC's website address is: www.fonc.org.uk

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