

# FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY

England & Wales · Charity number 1178763

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-06-13

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 33 Chalsey Road  
London  
SE4 1YN

**Phone** 02086946079

**Email** [FONC@BTCONNECT.COM](mailto:FONC@BTCONNECT.COM)

**Website** [www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE FRIENDS IS TO PROMOTE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE PRESERVATION, CARE AND IMPROVEMENT OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY AS A PLACE OF HISTORIC AND ECOLOGICAL INTEREST AND BEAUTY AND AS A BURIAL GROUND

**Activities:** The object of the Friends is to promote, for the public benefit, the preservation, care and improvement of Nunhead Cemetery as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty and as a burial ground.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Lewisham
- Southwark

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-30	£65,581	£57,663	-	-
2024-03-30	£55,567	£10,791	-	-
2023-03-30	£20,595	£13,013	-	-
2022-03-30	£15,515	£17,896	-	-
2021-03-30	£11,802	£8,252	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JEREMY PARTINGTON	Chair	2018-05-17
ANN COLEY		2018-05-17
CAROL MARGARET STEVENSON		2018-05-17
CHARLES NEWMAN		2023-06-18
GARRY ROY WILES		2020-12-17
JAMIE PHILIP HARRINGTON WARNER		2024-11-25
JANE CHRISTINE HART FICHEME		2018-05-17
JEFFREY HART OBE		2018-05-17
KEITH TURPIN		2018-12-20
Petra Florina Handoca		2025-01-27
RONALD WOOLLACOTT MBE		2018-05-17

**FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178763

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# Accounts

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# Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES 1 JUNE 2024 – 31 MAY 2025

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

FONC membership stood at 838 on 1 May 2025, of whom 606 had renewed their membership. 232 renewals were outstanding. Members who have not renewed and do not have a standing order set up will be removed during August. 187 members joined in 2024/25 and 167 failed to renew their membership or left for other reasons, so the overall change in membership is an increase of 20. Members generously give us donations when they renew our membership (and sometimes when they join too). This year we have received £1,392 in membership and £4,360 in associated donations. This is very welcome and means that we do not have to raise our membership fee.

Only 153 members have signed Gift Aid declarations. We believe that many members did not appreciate the need to sign a new gift aid declaration when we changed our organisation status from the original charitable status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and so many longer-term members are not recorded as Gift Aid donors. Some members will not be UK tax payers, but many others could sign Gift Aid forms allowing us to claim 25% of any money they give us in addition to their £2 membership. We will incorporate a form into a newsletter later this year.

### 2. FONC MEETINGS AND MEMBERS' VISITS

Trustees held twelve virtual regular meetings during the year and the Practical Work Sub-Committee met four times. The 2024 AGM was held for the first time on a Saturday afternoon in the ruined chapel, followed by refreshments and a visit to the crypt. Although the weather was kind, attendance was not greatly improved and we again struggled to meet the quorum for the meeting. We held a crowded members Christmas social in December at El Vermut, who made us very welcome. There was no business element to the event as this was a 'thank-you' to volunteers who do not usually meet each other. Whilst food was provided, drinks were 'buy-your-own'. An enjoyable members' visit to Willesden Old Cemetery in April was organised by Cathy Mercer.

### 3. FONC GOVERNANCE

We continue to monitor our skills audit to identify areas where improvement is needed. We have not made great progress on addressing the issue of succession planning and documenting the processes by which various FONC Trustees and members carry out functions on behalf of FONC. This will need to be a priority for the coming year. We have carried out further six-monthly reviews of our dynamic five-year FONC Strategy Plan to enable us to set targets and review performance in the delivery of all of our stated objectives. The Plan is available on our website. We are fortunate that Vice-Chairman Carol Stevenson has stepped up to fill the Membership Secretary post following the death of Simon Mercer in July 2024. We would also like to thank Oli Lomer who is standing down following a very constructive three-year term particularly improving our communications strategy. We are also fortunate to have appointed three new Trustees this year. These are Jamie Warner, Petra Handoca and Phoebe Shannon-Fagan, all of whom have significant skills in areas we have not been strong in. They have also brought down the age distribution of Trustees considerably!

### 4. FONC'S COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

We have now been able to unify our accounts across Instagram and Facebook. We have successfully recruited a team of social media volunteers, originally led by Oli and now led by Phoebe, who have been able to post more exciting and relevant content, more regularly. We have

also been better able to engage local organisations in the Nunhead area through social media. Our Communications Strategy is being formalised and will help to give us a higher profile in future.

## **5. AFFILIATIONS**

We continue to be affiliated to the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) (€25 p.a.) and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (£20 p.a.). We participate in Community Southwark opportunities and are affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (now costing £130 for two years, as our income has increased). We are also members of the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (free).

## **6. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS (NFCF)**

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends held its annual general meeting at Bedford cemetery in June 2024 with 21 groups represented. Much of the meeting was taken up with discussion about the need to move from being a voluntary Federation to a Community Interest Company, ostensibly to protect committee members from possible personal liability. FONC had concerns about the way this was presented to members and the possible implications for the future direction of the Federation. Although our concerns were shared by some member groups a subsequent EGM approved the change overwhelmingly. We are continuing our membership and will monitor future governance of the Federation. We welcomed visits from representatives of Tower Hamlets, Paddington and West Norwood cemeteries during the year.

## **7. FONC PUBLICATIONS & ENQUIRY DESK**

The volunteers helping on the FONC Publications and Enquiries desk have continued to provide invaluable support to all FONC tours – whether the general cemetery tours run on the last Sunday of the month or a themed tour, held on other Sundays – throughout the past year. Regardless of the weather these hardy volunteers have helped visitors and members alike, selling the copies of numerous FONC publications, postcards depicting views of the cemetery and the ever-popular FONC cotton bags. The most frequently asked questions centre around progress (or not as it appears to visitors) on the East Lodge project, how to go about locating a grave and who ‘famous’ might be buried in the cemetery. The friendly PED welcome is often the first opportunity visitors have to learn more about the cemetery. The PED presence, when cemetery tours take place, enables visitors to both buy publications and to offer a donation as a thank you for their tour. In addition to the PED volunteers covering the desk during tour afternoons, practical work volunteers provide cover during the workdays on the first Sunday of the month which is greatly appreciated.

All volunteers who help on the publication desk find it a rewarding experience as it provides a fantastic opportunity to have a chat with both regular and new visitors to the cemetery but unfortunately there is a real shortage of helpers. So please think about offering to help – it only requires a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon two to three times a year – but is such a valuable part of FONC’s support of the cemetery. In the past year 18 volunteers have provided 619 hours of cover.

## **8. FONC WEB SITE, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

Webmaster Simon Quill continues to manage our website ([www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)) in the hope that we will be able to transfer it in the coming year to a more modern website platform. This will enable us to re-energise the website, and forms part of the digitisation strategy of the East Lodge restoration project. The Trustees are committed to applying appropriate funding to enable this to happen. We have also added an ‘In Memoriam’ page to the website recognising the significant contributions made by a number of deceased FONC members over many years, the most recent being Malcolm Collins – Committee member and grave researcher.

We continue to feature in several publications during the year and Southwark Council and other groups have now picked up on advertising our events in their electronic bulletins. Work is nearing completion on a series of 10 podcasts about aspects of the cemetery which members will be able to access through the website.

## **9. MEMBERS' JOURNAL**

FONC News is your quarterly journal, of which four editions, Nos 165 to 168, were published between September 2024 and the beginning of June 2025, comprising a total of 108 pages. In addition to up-dates by Jane Hart about the restoration of the East Lodge in each issue, the latest news concerning the cemetery was provided by Jeff Hart our co-ordinator. Every issue contained articles contributed by members on a variety of interesting subjects including stories of family graves. More articles about the flora and fauna of Nunhead would be appreciated.

The editor would like to thank everyone involved in the production and distribution of FONC News, including Nicola Dunn and her dedicated team of hand deliverers and Linda Martin our postal co-ordinator. Thanks also to Jeff and Jane for collecting the work from the printers and for taking the items to the post-office. Thanks also to Chris and the staff of Catford Print for their excellent service. Last but not least, thanks to all those members who sent in articles. FONC News is your publication so please keep your articles and letters coming.

## **10. RELIGIOUS AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICES**

Our All-Souls Service again featured the singing of the Nunhead Lighthouse Cathedral choir during the service led by Fr. Dele Ogunyemi of St. Antony with St. Silas church. A lighting of candles ceremony took place and several visitors to the cemetery came into the chapel attracted by the wonderful acoustics of the singing. Our annual Remembrance Service was well attended with several members and non-members laying wreaths at each of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites, the civilian memorial and at the Anglican chapel. We donate to the Royal British Legion for the wreaths and multi-faith crosses that we place in the cemetery. We recognise the importance of these events to our members and the comfort they bring.

## **11. PUBLICATIONS, ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH WORK**

This year we have published both 'Nunhead Notables Five' and 'Nunhead Notables Six' reflecting the huge amount of research carried out by Michele Louise Burford and Ron Woollacott. We continue to receive, and welcome, donations from members and others of their family histories and memorabilia which helps to add to the wealth of stories about our increasing number of 'Notables' and other aspects of the cemetery. We are also working towards improving the database of flora and fauna in the cemetery. We have also responded positively to several student project requests.

## **12. CEMETERY PRESENTATIONS, TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE CEMETERY**

A full programme of cemetery tours took place and new guides, Robert Dunn and Jane Hart, have given a fresh feel to our general cemetery tours and attendance at the Women's Day tour continues to increase. We now offer two bat prowls each year and have plans to introduce a second Bird Walk each year in response to demand. Special interest tours were held for, among others, The London Appreciation Society, Knowle Green U3A and Gates Green WI. Another successful school's visits from Ivydale Primary School took place in March. The Nunhead and Peckham Free Film Festival event in September showed 'The Wicker Man' and was again over-subscribed. Our second, now annual Carol Singing event in the cemetery proved overwhelmingly popular with some 600 people attending! A more sedate knitted Winter Trail produced by Ann Coley was enjoyed by young and old alike.

### **13. MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING AND GRAVESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

The last year has been very positive for Monument Inscription Recording work. We now have a record number of active volunteers. 22 volunteers participated in our workdays, carrying out a record 476 hours 20 minutes of work (374 last year and 264 the previous year). This represents an increase of around 27% over 2023/4 and 80% over 2022/3. We continue to schedule two days every month.

Inscription recording work this year has again been focussed on the large area at the top right-hand side of the main avenue, and very significant progress has been achieved in squares 125 and 126. Use of the inscription recording template is now a routine part of the work our volunteers do, and in full swing, and volunteers (including one keen home worker) have completed around 2400 records, 700 of which were completed in the 2024/5 period. As previously stated, the aim is to get these uploaded to the website so that members of the public can access them more readily, once we have established a new website that can cope with this, and with the assistance of the Digitisation Consultant engaged as part of the funding for the restoration of the East Lodge.

The stream of enquiries from people looking to find the grave of their ancestors buried at Nunhead has not slowed down this year, with more than 60 enquiries being received. Many grateful enquirers have made donations to support the work all volunteers carry out at Nunhead Cemetery.

The estimated three thousand paper records of inscriptions received from the previous Monument Inscriptions co-ordinator will need to be digitised where possible, again with the assistance of the Digitisation Consultant.

### **14. ARTS EVENTS**

FONC helped facilitate a programme of arts events in the chapel between August and October 2024. FONC was pleased to work with the Feminist Lecture Program who hosted a series of art exhibitions. Five emerging artists were picked to take part in a curatorial program with each artist using their unique practices to explore themes of feminism, community, ecology and environmentalism in their individual solo exhibitions. Each utilised the wonderful outdoor space in very different ways, with all responding to the exposed nature of the chapel. The series of exhibitions was completed with the FLP founder Luisa-Maria MacCormack's own exhibition of a standing stone circle.

Supporting the Nunhead Arts trail, Art space Octagon curated 'Sitting in Silence', an exhibition which included public reading sessions and printing workshop where children had the opportunity of block printing bags and T-shirts.

A second Arts Space Octagon exhibition in mid-October brought together a group of artists undertaking live performances, sound and art. The exhibitions in the unique and beautiful setting of the Anglican chapel, attracted a lot of new visitors to the cemetery, people who might not have otherwise discovered this wonderful, tranquil location.

### **15. PRACTICAL WORKDAYS**

Practical work by FONC volunteers is conducted in the Cemetery on the first Sunday of each month and occasional ad-hoc days. Please see the Practical Work Group Annual Report for information on the number of volunteers, hours, and work completed. We also offer corporate workday opportunities. We have also welcomed Scout and school groups either on regular workdays or specifically organized work sessions.

### **16. ANNUAL CEMETERY OPEN DAY AND OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

We participated in the well attended London Open City and Heritage Open Days on 14/15 September which raised nearly £600 for FONC funds but more importantly introduced new visitors to the cemetery. The May 2025 Open Day broke all records again. Blessed with fantastic weather,

the Day was attended by five and a half thousand visitors and raised more than £6,000 for FONC funds! This event could not happen without our increasing number of volunteers preparing for and setting up (and packing up afterwards) the event, running and contributing to our plant stall, refreshments, badge-making, MI enquiries, membership, publications, ceramics, woodland bodging and all the other tasks necessary to make the event enjoyable and safe. It was rewarding to see the obvious enthusiasm and enjoyment of attendees on the day. We are also grateful for Southwark Council's support.

## **17. MANAGEMENT OF THE CEMETERY BY SOUTHWARK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

To our increasing frustration a management group to oversee its implementation of the Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Management Plan has yet to be formed, although a group to discuss delivery of the NLHF Woodland Management Plan has met. The long fought for Public Space Protection Order provisions for Nunhead, and the Borough as a whole, was allowed to lapse. This means that there are now no controls on dogs in the cemetery. FONC has made representations to Council officers and Councillors to address this issue and discussions are on-going. However, there is an increasing awareness on the part of the Council, particularly as a result of the East Lodge NLHF project of the importance of managing the cemetery sympathetically.

## **18. CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS**

The long-awaited repair of the Limesford Road boundary walls began last June and has now been completed. The end result is a stunning improvement both to the appearance and security of the cemetery. The splendid new railings, painted in the original maroon colour, have transformed this previously mundane aspect. A tranche of 30 monument repairs, chosen in consultation with FONC, were completed just before Christmas with FONC contributing £14,400 towards the costs. A further tranche of monuments repairs, again agreed with FONC, began in April 2025. We still await the commissioning of a feasibility study on the possibility of re-roofing the Anglican chapel and cracking in the path in the area of the Scottish Martyrs memorial still awaits a resolution. We are, however, keeping on top of the number of trees coming down in all parts of the cemetery. A very successful cooperative effort with fellow charity, Froglife, produced an on-site reptile identification training session and in November, we worked together on revitalising the cemetery pond. This encouraged us to apply, successfully, for a £43k Southwark Biodiversity grant to further improve the Wetland area by November 2026. Discussions continue on the Edward Costello and Bobby 'the Guv'nor' Abel burial plots

## **19. EAST LODGE RESTORATION: 'FROM RUIN TO REVIVAL'**

After the excitement of the success of the National Lottery Heritage Fund application last year, the past year has proved a frustrating time where it has appeared to many, little progress has "Neal Browne" <nealbrowne@googlemail.com>been made in taking the project forward. However, although not obvious on site a lot of progress has been made. The contract for the replacement FONC cabin was awarded with the building being fabricated offsite. The original plan for the new building to be in place by the first quarter of the year suffered a set-back and, due to the complications around running the Open Day in May, it was decided to delay its installation until summer this year. Unforeseen issues arising in the award of the contract for the shell and core work on the East Lodge has meant that work will not now start until summer this year. However, we were pleased that the Outreach and Development Manager appointment was progressed with Catrin Podgorski starting in that role in February. We anticipate working closely with Catrin supporting her work in delivering the ambitious activity plan put forward as part of the Heritage Fund bid.

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**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery  
Accounts for the period ended**

	<b>31-Mar 2025</b>	<b>31-Mar 2024</b>	<b>31-Mar 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts (unreserved)</b>			
Publication sales	2,776	2,048	1,379
Subscriptions	1,592	1,418	1,520
Donations	9,441	7,237	6,181
Bequests	-	25,295	-
Gift Aid	-	859	930
Event income	8,519	8,100	6,255
Grants	8,049	7,997	4,195
Interest	1,354	613	135
	<u>31,731</u>	<u>53,567</u>	<u>20,595</u>
<b>Receipts (reserved)</b>			
Donations	-	2,000	-
Grants	33,850	-	-
Total receipts	<u>65,581</u>	<u>55,567</u>	<u>20,595</u>
<b>Payments - Administration and running</b>			
Postage	1,196	1,170	1,105
Stationery	171	547	253
Printing - newsletter	1,261	1,235	1,173
Meeting costs	113	349	294
Insurance	157	157	157
Electronic payment fees	157	113	102
Other expenses	443	204	89
	<u>3,498</u>	<u>3,775</u>	<u>3,173</u>
<b>Payments - Events and other</b>			
Purchases	653	1,065	906
Items to sell	998	2,283	90
Tools	-	-	613
Event costs	4,264	3,668	2,471
	<u>5,915</u>	<u>7,016</u>	<u>4,080</u>
<b>Payments - designated funds</b>			
Monument repairs	12,400	-	5,760
<b>Payments - reserved funds</b>			
Monument repairs	2,000	-	-
Equipment (Cultural Celebrations Fund)	3,250	-	-
Toilet hire for open day 24 (Cult Cel Fund)	600	-	-
Grant re East Lodge	30,000	-	-
Total expenditure	<u>57,663</u>	<u>10,791</u>	<u>13,013</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>7,918</u>	<u>44,776</u>	<u>7,582</u>
<b>Balance sheet at 31 March</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Opening balance	178,717	135,941	128,359
Surplus for the year (unreserved funds)	9,918	42,776	7,582
Total unreserved funds	<u>188,635</u>	<u>178,717</u>	<u>135,941</u>
Opening balance (reserved funds)	2,000	-	-
(Deficit)/ surplus for the year (reserved funds)	(2,000)	2,000	-
Total reserved funds	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets	<u>188,635</u>	<u>180,717</u>	<u>135,941</u>
Consisting of:			
Santander Current a/c	16,046	16,609	5,896
Santander Deposit a/c	67,943	67,237	65,984
Co-op Community Direct account	10,998	96,871	64,061
Co-op Instant access deposit account	43,134	-	-
Co-op 95 day access deposit account	50,514	-	-
	<u>188,635</u>	<u>180,717</u>	<u>135,941</u>

**Notes to the accounts**

- 1 FONC tools and other physical assets valued at £5,000
- 2 FONC publications stock valued at £5,500 (resale value estimated £9,000)

## Friends of Nunhead Cemetery reserves policy

### Unreserved funds:

To ensure that FONC can continue to operate at its current level, and to mitigate the risk of a reduction in income streams, FONC holds general reserves of £15,000 to represent one and a half years of operating costs and an additional sum to meet unexpected expenditure on the FONC modular building and/ or storage facilities.

The remaining funds are held as unreserved, Designated, funds for the following purposes

- contribution to the East Lodge Project £35,000
- fit out of the FONC facilities in the East Lodge £25,000
- fit out of the new FONC modular building £10,000
- contribution to the the fabric of the chapel £20,000
- expenditure to support the National Heritage Lottery Fund activity programme £10,000
- Digitisation of FONC records £15,000
- Upgrade of Website £10,000
- balance to support a long term repair programme of monuments in the cemetery

*Ann Coley*

Ann Coley  
Treasurer

Dated

*26 May 2025*

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Name Midge CAMERON

Date 26/5/25

**FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178763

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# Accounts

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# Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES 1 JUNE 2023 – 31 MAY 2024

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

FONC membership fell from 730 to 661 this year, with 186 members still to renew at the end of May. If they do not renew (but we are hopeful that most will), we will have recruited 226 new members and lost 305. We have 5 overseas members. 50% of members have paid their subscription by bank standing order and additional standing order applications have been submitted. During the indisposition of Simon Mercer, our Membership Secretary, we have been most fortunate that Vice-Chairman Carol Stevenson, with the support of Treasurer Ann Coley, has been able to update the membership database and to produce our newsletter distribution rounds and enable the electronic distribution of newsletters and to produce subscription reminders to our many members. The Acting Membership Secretary would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work put in over many years by the Honorary Membership Secretary. It is a big job!

### 2. FONC MEETINGS AND MEMBERS' VISITS

After careful consideration it was agreed to hold all Trustees 'meetings' this year on the fourth Monday of the month on the Zoom 'virtual' platform to enable full participation. Trustees held eleven regular meetings, and the Practical Work Sub-Committee met four times. The 2023 AGM was not well attended despite an update on the East Lodge project. We hope that the 2024 AGM timing and arrangements produce a better result. We held a much more successful members Christmas social in December at the Old Nun's Head pub. There was no business element to the event and it was billed as a 'thank-you' to volunteers who do not usually meet each other. Whilst food was provided, drinks were 'buy-your-own'. A very successful members' visit to Paddington Old Cemetery in September was organised by Cathy Mercer.

### 3. FONC GOVERNANCE

The Trustees discussed the results of their skills audit and have identified areas where improvement is needed. As a result of our Membership Secretary's long-term indisposition this year, we have recognised our vulnerability and have begun to address the issue of succession planning and to document the processes by which various FONC Trustees and members carry out functions on behalf of FONC. This will be a priority for the coming year. We have carried out further six-monthly reviews of our dynamic five-year FONC Strategy Plan to enable us to set targets and review performance in the delivery of all of our stated objectives. The Plan is available on our website. We also regularly receive governance information from the Charity Commission. The Trustees have formally documented the Financial Policies adopted by FONC in one document, which can be found on the FONC website. This has not resulted in any significant changes in the practices adopted by FONC, but enhances transparency for members and other interested parties.

### 4. FONC'S COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

We continue to review FONC's communications strategy, to ensure it meets the needs of our members and users today. Whilst we have not yet been able to unify our accounts across Instagram and Facebook, we have been able to post more exciting and relevant content, more regularly. We have also been better able to engage local organisations in the Nunhead area through social media.

### 5. AFFILIATIONS

We continue to be affiliated to the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) (€25 p.a.) and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (£20 p.a.). We participate in Community Southwark opportunities and are affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (free). We are also members of the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (free).

## **6. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS (NFCF)**

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends held its annual general meeting at London's Brompton cemetery in June 2023 with 23 groups represented. As part of the business of the meeting, FONC reported on the work towards the delivery phase application for National Heritage Lottery Grant aid and shared our consultant's briefs documents with the Federation for the benefit of all 120+ member groups. FONC's Gwyneth Stokes retired as the Secretary of NFCF after over 30 years' service and was immediately appointed as Honorary President of the Federation. We also assisted a Reading Cemetery group with plans for their gate lodge

## **7. FONC PUBLICATIONS & ENQUIRY DESK**

With a small band of regular volunteers, FONC's Publications & Enquiries Desk (PED) has continued to be available at every FONC tour - covering the ever-popular last Sunday of the month and the mid-month themed tours - 34 in total! We also supported the two larger events in the Cemetery - the Annual Open Day and the Open House/Heritage Open Weekend where the PED volunteers spent their time helping cemetery visitors by providing them with information about the cemetery, signing up new members and selling FONC publications and the FONC tote bags. The desk was also available for the Month of the Dead tours in October and for the occasional pre-arranged group tours offered by FONC. Although there is a dedicated band of volunteers helping on the desk, we continue to need new volunteers, especially as we continue to offer an extensive range of tours. It is a great way to meet and chat to the cemetery's many and varied visitors. Our thanks go to the all the volunteers who cover the PED outside, under a gazebo, all year round come rain or shine! In total 18 volunteers provided 537.5 hours of PED cover during the year.

## **8. FONC WEB SITE, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

Webmaster Simon Quill continues to manage our website ([www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)) in the hope that we will be able to transfer it in the coming year to a more modern website platform. This will enable us to re-energise the website, and forms part of the digitisation strategy of the East Lodge restoration project. The Trustees are committed to applying appropriate funding to enable this to happen.

We continue to feature in several publications during the year and Southwark Council have now picked up on advertising our events in their electronic bulletins to Southwark residents. A major filming session took place in the cemetery which generated a donation to FONC although we did nothing to facilitate the work!

## **9. MEMBERS' JOURNAL**

Some members call it a newsletter, others call it a magazine, I refer of course to FONC News, our quarterly journal, of which four editions were published last year comprising a total of 108 pages. In addition to up-to-date news about the cemetery provided by our co-ordinator, Jeff Hart, and information about FONC's past and future events and activities, every issue contained articles contributed by members on a variety of interesting subjects. The editor would like to thank everyone involved in the production and distribution of FONC News, including Nicola Dunn and her team of hand deliverers and Linda Martin our postal co-ordinator. Carol Stevenson stepped in to provide the address labels etc, due to the indisposition of Simon Mercer, so many thanks to her, Thanks also to Jeff and Jane Hart for collecting the work from the printers and for collecting the items for posting and taking them to the post-office. Thanks also to Marina and the staff at Catford Print for their excellent service. Last but not least, thanks to all those members who have sent us

their articles. FONC News is your publication so please keep your articles and letters coming. Please write to Ron Woollacott, editor of FONC News, c/o 185 Gordon Road, London, SE15 3RT or email: editorfonc@hotmail.com

## **10. RELIGIOUS AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICES**

Once again, our All-Souls Service featured the singing of the Nunhead Lighthouse Cathedral choir during the service led by Fr. Dele Ogunyemi of St. Antony with St. Silas church. Our annual Remembrance Service was again well attended with several members and non-members laying wreaths at each of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites, the civilian memorial and at the Anglican chapel. We donate to the Royal British Legion for the wreaths and multi-faith crosses that we place in the cemetery. We recognise the importance to our members of these events and the comfort they bring.

## **11. PUBLICATIONS, ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH WORK**

Another new Nunhead cemetery publication, 'The Entertainers', by Michele Louise Burford and Ron Woollacott was published this year. The 'Short Guide' to the cemetery was reprinted with new photographs included and we have amalgamated and updated the two Walworth Boy Scouts titles by Rex Batten and added new illustrations. We continue to receive, and welcome, donations from members and others of their family histories and memorabilia which helps to add to the wealth of stories about our increasing number of 'Notables' and other aspects of the cemetery. We also responded positively to several student project requests.

## **12. CEMETERY PRESENTATIONS, TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE CEMETERY**

A full programme of cemetery tours took place and a new guide, Robert Dunn, has been recruited. We are now able to offer two bat prowls each year and have introduced a Black History Month tour and a Spring Bird Walk. Special interest tours were held for, among others, a Funeral Director's group and the Historic Buildings and Places charity. Two very successful school's visits from Hollydale School and Ivydale Primary School took place, involving nearly 90 children. The Nunhead and Peckham Free Film Festival event returned to Nunhead in September. More than 450 people turned up for the event restricted to 300 attendees! Our increasing number of arts events have been very well received. In August, Luisa Maria MacCormack presented her work inspired by the cemetery in the chapel and Urte Janus curated an exhibition attracting over 300 visitors as part of the Nunhead Arts Trail in September. Teresa Neary also initiated our very first Carol Singing event in the cemetery which, a little to our surprise, proved overwhelmingly popular and will now become a regular event.

## **13. MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING AND GRAVESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

More volunteers have come forward in the past 12 months for Monument Inscription Recording work. Nineteen volunteers participated in our workdays, carrying out 374 hours 40 minutes of work (264 last year). This is despite the unrelenting rain of the past few months! We continue to schedule two days each month.

Inscription recording work this year has focused almost exclusively on the large area at the top right-hand side of the Main Avenue, and work on recording the inscriptions in squares 109-112 is largely complete. We will be moving into squares 125-127 in the next phase, where once again the Practical Work team have provided valuable assistance in clearing some of this area to allow us better access to the graves.

Use of the inscription recording template is in full swing, and volunteers (including one keen home worker) have completed and sent to me more than 1700 records. The aim is to get these uploaded to the website so that members of the public can access them more readily, but this will require the services of the Digitisation Consultant engaged as part of the funding for the restoration

of the East Lodge. In addition, the previous Monument Inscription Recording Coordinator has recently passed on an estimated three thousand paper records of inscriptions recorded over earlier decades, and the majority of inscriptions of some soon-to-be demolished monuments done by volunteers with North West Kent Family History Society in 1979/80 have been photocopied and are now held safely by the current Coordinator. This will give us a great deal of work in the coming months.

The stream of enquiries from people looking to find the grave of their ancestors buried at Nunhead has continued unabated, and there is now a 4-week backlog of requests. We have continued to receive donations from many of those enquirers. This revenue stream continues to support the work all volunteers carry out at Nunhead Cemetery.

#### **14. PRACTICAL WORKDAYS**

Practical work is conducted in the Cemetery on the first Sunday of each month and occasional ad-hoc days. Please see the Practical Work Group Annual Report for information on the number of volunteers, hours, and work completed. We are also now a regular participant in 'The Big Help Out' event offering taster volunteering sessions in the cemetery. We also hosted a visit from the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery to learn how we organize our workdays.

#### **15. ANNUAL CEMETERY OPEN DAY AND OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

We participated in the well attended London Open City and Heritage Open Days on 9/10 September which raised nearly £600 for FONC funds but more importantly introduced new visitors to the cemetery. The May 2024 Open Day was attended by approximately 5350 people, a new record, and raised more than £6,000 for FONC funds! This was Trustee Teresa Neary's first year as Open Day organiser. Our plant stall volunteers and home bakers came up trumps again this year and we also added new stalls and attractions to the event delighting the large numbers of visitors and to the obvious enthusiasm and enjoyment of the day.

#### **16. MANAGEMENT OF THE CEMETERY BY SOUTHWARK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Management Plan was finally adopted in October 2023 although a management group to oversee its implementation has yet to be formed. Path flooding, particularly on the East Path has become increasingly problematic and will need to be addressed as part of the Plan. Enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order seems to have all but ceased and the legally required review of the PSPO due in March 2024 has yet to happen. An individual not associated with FONC has taken it upon themselves to move common grave markers to line an informal path in the Dissenters Glade area. Moving headstones is illegal and Southwark have informed the police. We were also awarded a Southwark Council Cultural Celebrations Fund grant enabling FONC to purchase a new disabled access ramp for the chapel, a PA system and hire portable toilets for the Open Day.

#### **17. CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS**

Although we hoped that repairs to the Limesford Road boundary walls would begin last summer, difficulty in obtaining approvals for road closures and Thames Water re-direction of pipework meant that this could not happen. However, we have just been told that work is scheduled to start on 10 June 2024 with completion in April 2025. However, Council contractors, Fulker Construction, working under contractors, Conway, completed a further tranche of 25 monument repairs, chosen in consultation with FONC during the year, all to an excellent standard. We had hoped to fund some additional monument repairs as an adjunct to this work but Southwark were unwilling to allow this. The good news is that their concerns have now been overcome and we will be contributing £12,000 towards additional monuments to those planned for the next tranche of 30 monuments starting in October 2024. We still await the commissioning of a feasibility study on the possibility of

re-roofing the Anglican chapel and cracking in the path in the area of the Scottish Martyrs memorial still awaits a resolution. The increasing number of storms during the year has led to a significant number of trees coming down in all parts of the cemetery. However, the missing lime trees on the Main Avenue have now all been replaced by fine new specimens. We are also in discussion with the Napoleonic and Revolutionary War Graves Charity and Surrey County Cricket Club with a view to carrying out work to remember Edward Costello and Bobby ‘the Guv’nor’ Abel respectively. Discussions have also been held with Butterfly Conservation and Froglife with a view to improving habitats in the cemetery.

**18. EAST LODGE RESTORATION: ‘FROM RUIN TO REVIVAL’**

Following last years’ successful FONC and Southwark Council joint application for development phase funding, working with nine different consultants, we continued working on in-depth proposals to enable us to submit an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for the main part of funding for the project – the delivery phase. Due to the deteriorating condition of the East Lodge itself, we had set ourselves the ambitious timetable of submitting the delivery phase application in November 2023, just 14 months after receiving the development phase go-ahead.

Southwark Council has committed the required match funding for the project. In addition to support from FONC, we also raised over £250,000 required additional grants from Historic England, The Garfield Weston Foundation and The Pilgrim Trust. After much hard work by FONC, the application was submitted and we then had to wait patiently until March 2024 for the outcome! In February, we made a presentation of our project proposal to the lead NHLF assessor who said that our presentation clearly demonstrated our great enthusiasm and could not have been any better!

We were thus thrilled to hear from the NHLF in late March that our application for a £3.7million grant had been successful! The project will restore the East Lodge as a new hub for community activity in the cemetery with the visitor experience being enhanced by the provision of new café, FONC office and public toilet facilities. A new modular building, replacing the existing dilapidated FONC cabin, will provide a base for volunteer practical activities. A new salaried role, the Outreach and Development Manager, will also be created to lead and grow the existing cemetery events programme designed to engage residents across all communities. These will include as oral history sessions, practical conservation and habitat development, exhibitions and art events. Work will start on site later this year with, hopefully, the new modular building being available by the end of this year and the East Lodge fully open in 2027.

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**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 March**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Publication sales	2,048	1,379	1,697
Subscriptions	1,418	1,520	1,512
Donations	7,237	6,181	7,170
Donations (reserved)	2,000	-	-
Bequests	25,295	-	-
Gift Aid	859	930	636
Event income	8,100	6,255	4,493
Interest	613	135	6
Grants	7,997	4,195	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>55,567</b>	<b>20,595</b>	<b>15,514</b>
<b>Payments - Administration and running</b>			
Postage	1,170	1,105	1,621
Stationery	547	253	73
Printing - newsletter	1,235	1,173	883
Meeting costs	349	294	57
Insurance	157	157	157
Electronic payment fees	113	102	83
Other expenses	204	89	85
	<b>3,775</b>	<b>3,173</b>	<b>2,959</b>
<b>Payments - Events and other</b>			
Purchases	1,065	906	275
Items to sell	2,283	90	718
Tools	-	613	70
Event costs	3,668	2,471	2,984
	<b>7,016</b>	<b>4,080</b>	<b>4,047</b>
<b>Payments - designated funds</b>			
Monument repairs	-	5,760	10,890
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,791</b>	<b>13,013</b>	<b>17,896</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>44,776</b>	<b>7,582</b>	<b>(2,382)</b>
<b>Balance sheet at 31 March</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Opening balance	135,941	128,359	130,740
Surplus for the year (excluding reserved funds)	42,776	7,582	(2,382)
<b>Total unreserved funds</b>	<b>178,717</b>	<b>135,941</b>	<b>128,359</b>
Reserved funds for Monument repairs	2,000	-	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>180,717</b>	<b>135,941</b>	<b>128,359</b>
<b>Consisting of:</b>			
Santander Current a/c	16,609	5,896	1,694
Santander Deposit a/c	67,237	65,984	63,712
Co-op Deposit account	96,871	64,061	62,953
	<b>180,717</b>	<b>135,941</b>	<b>128,359</b>

**Notes to the accounts**

- 1 FONC tools and other physical assets valued at £5,000
- 2 FONC publications stock valued at £5,500 (resale value estimated £9,000)

**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery reserves policy**

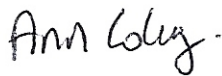
**Reserved funds** - donated specifically for monument repairs £2,000

**Unreserved funds:**

To ensure that FONC can continue to operate at its current level, and to mitigate the risk of a reduction in income streams, FONC holds general reserves of £15,000 to represent one and a half years of operating costs and an additional sum to meet unexpected expenditure on the FONC modular building and/ or storage facilities.

The remaining funds are held as unreserved, Designated, funds for the following purposes:

- contribution to the East Lodge Project £35,000
- fit out of the FONC facilities in the East Lodge £25,000
- fit out of the new FONC modular building £10,000
- contribution to the the fabric of the chapel £20,000
- expenditure to support the National Heritage Lottery Fund activity programme £10,000
- Digitisation of FONC records £15,000
- balance to support a long term repair programme of monuments in the cemetery



**Ann Coley**  
**Treasurer**

**Dated** 9 June 2024

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of Nunhead Cemetery for the period ended 31 March 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name:

GEORGE WILLIAM Youells

Date:

9 June 2024

**FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178763

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# Accounts

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# Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES 1 JUNE 2022 – 31 MAY 2023

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

FONC membership fell from 764 to 730 this year, although a number may have renewed at the May Open Day. We recruited 120 new members but lost 154. We have 5 overseas members. 48% of members pay their subscription by bank standing order and Gift Aid declarations have been signed by 48% of members resulting in repayments from H M Revenue & Customs of £930 over the year. We are fortunate that Simon Mercer, Membership Secretary, continues to keep our membership records and distribution lists up-to-date and has helped facilitate the move this year to electronic distribution of newsletters to many of our members.

### 2. FONC MEETINGS AND MEMBERS' VISITS

All Trustees 'meetings' this year have continued to be held on the Zoom 'virtual' platform. Trustees held ten regular meetings, and the Practical Work Sub-Committee met four times. The 2022 AGM saw a return to a 'face-to-face format' and refreshments provided by FONC Trustees were hugely enjoyed! A presentation was made by a Southwark Borough officer on the draft Conservation Management Plan which was due for 'imminent' consultation which began one year later! We also held a members Christmas social on one of the coldest nights of the year in December. We tried a new venue, El Vermut on Nunhead Green, and those who ventured out particularly enjoyed their hospitality and hot mulled wine.

### 3. FONC GOVERNANCE

The Trustees continue to work on their skills audit to help identify where we can improve on any deficiencies and improve our diversity. Several NCVO and other training sessions have been attended. We have successfully identified and appointed two new Trustees during the year who we are confident bring new skills and perspectives to the Board. We have carried out the first six-monthly review of our dynamic five-year FONC Strategy Plan to enable us to set targets and review performance in the delivery of all of our stated objectives. This document is available to all members on our website. All FONC policy statements have been reviewed and updated and new Vulnerable Adult and Child Protection policies adopted.

### 4. FONC'S COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Communication with our members, and users of the cemetery, has fundamentally changed since FONC's inception in the 1980s. Social media is now ubiquitous, with Pew Center research (2021) showing that 85% of Gen Z use it as their primary means of communication - while only 15% check their emails each day. Within this context, we've recently undertaken a review of FONC's communications strategy, to ensure it meets the needs of our members and users today. With greater reliance on social media, we're aiming to unify our accounts across Instagram and Facebook in summer 2023 – allowing us greater control over content and those that it reaches. We'll also seek to post more exciting and relevant content, more regularly, in order to better engage our current audiences while at the same time broadening them. With the help of new volunteers, we've also been able to better engage local organisations in the Nunhead area through social media, contributing to better awareness and participation in our Open Day. Over the long run, we aim to ensure that *all* digital platforms – from social media, to our website – will continue to provide a satisfactory experience to all users, while also supporting FONC's strategy – such as the

successful delivery of the East Lodge project. In this spirit, we'd welcome your views and feedback on any of our proposals above!

We are also now able to distribute FONC News electronically by MailChimp and are developing our database to enable direct communication with assenting members electronically.

## **5. AFFILIATIONS**

We continue to be affiliated to the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) (€25 p.a.) and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (£20 p.a.). We participate in Community Southwark opportunities and are affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (free). We are also members of the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (free). We maintain contacts with several other local and national groups and have strengthened our relationship with St Silas and St Antony's church. We attend relevant Southwark Council Ward Assemblies. We have also established contacts with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission through their 'Eyes on, Hands On' initiative. We regularly receive information from the Charity Commission and we have contributed to Charity Commission surveys.

## **6. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS (NFCF)**

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends held its annual general meeting at Leicester's Welford Road cemetery, its first face-to-face event since 2019. It was attended by 18 of the member groups. Reports on the work with the Ministry of Justice on burial law, liaison with ecclesiastical bodies and bereavement groups were given. FONC's Gwyneth Stokes announced her retirement as the Secretary of NFCF with effect from June 2023. The date of the NFCF's National Cemeteries Week has been changed again and will now be in June 2023.

## **7. FONC PUBLICATIONS & ENQUIRY DESK**

During the past year FONC's Publications and Enquiries Desk (PED) has been available at every FONC tour – covering both the always popular general tours on the last Sunday of the month and the mid-month themed tours. It has also supported the two larger events run in the cemetery – the Annual FONC Open Day in May 2022 and the Heritage and Open House weekend in September. The PED continues to be popular with visitors, providing information on the East Lodge plans, signing up new members and selling the extensive range of FONC publications as well as the popular FONC cotton bags. The desk was available for the Month of the Dead tours in October and has also been in place to support the occasional pre-arranged group tours led by FONC guides. The desk however continues to need new volunteers. It really does offer a great way to meet and chat with the cemetery's many and varied visitors. The only commitment is to help on the occasional Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours. Our thanks go to the dedicated team of volunteers who cover the PED, outside, under a gazebo, in what can be inclement conditions particularly in the cold winter months. In total 17 volunteers provided 213.5 hours of PED cover during the year.

## **8. FONC WEB SITE, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

Webmaster Simon Quill continues to improve the content of our website ([www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)) but we continue to struggle to give much greater immediacy and relevance of material. This will form part of our review of the communications strategy (see above). Trustees took the decision to remove the 'members only' section of the website, which had proved difficult to access, and to make documents previously restricted to members freely available to improve transparency and accountability.

We have featured in several publications during the years from 'Bird Watching' to management of cemeteries for wildlife podcasts. Several film/arts events have taken place facilitated by FONC

including an anthropology student film and Goldsmiths, University of London movement performance Masters' assessment.

## **9. MEMBERS' JOURNAL**

Our members-only journal, edited by Ron Woollacott, is published quarterly and is delivered at the beginning of March (spring issue), June (summer issue), September (autumn issue), and December (winter issue). The number of pages in each issue varies according to the amount of material received, and usually comprises no fewer than 20 pages per issue. Last year there were three issues published containing 28 pages each and one of 24 pages. One of the main features in *FONC News* is 'Cemetery News', a regular column by our Coordinator Jeff Hart, which keeps members up-to-date with matters directly involving Nunhead Cemetery. Gwyneth Stokes does an excellent job as proof-reader and our thanks to everyone who sends in articles - we can never have too many. Also, thanks to all our hand-deliverers coordinated by Nicola Dunn, and postal coordinator Linda Martin who takes care of the mailings and Jeff and Jane Hart who deliver the items to the Post-Office. Thanks also to all at Catford Print for an excellent service and quality product at a reasonable cost. Finally, if you have not yet written an article for *FONC News* why not have a go! Your articles and letters are always appreciated.

## **10. RELIGIOUS AND REMEMBRANCE SERVICES**

The All-Souls Service, again graced by the Nunhead Lighthouse Cathedral choir, and a service led by Fr. Dele Ogunyemi of St. Antony with St. Silas, was held in heavy rain. However, this did not dampen the spirits of those attending this important event in the *FONC* calendar. The opportunity was taken for practical work-day volunteers and service attendees to mingle over welcome hot tea and cakes. Our annual Remembrance Service was again well attended and it was a great pleasure to be able to end the event inside the Anglican chapel this year. We again made a donation of £270 to the Royal British Legion for the wreaths and multi-faith crosses that we placed at the various memorials in the cemetery.

## **11. PUBLICATIONS, ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH WORK**

A new Nunhead cemetery publication, 'Death in Tragic Circumstances and Crimes of Passion', by Michele Louise Burford and Ron Woollacott has been produced this year. We continue to receive from members and others their family histories and memorabilia which helps to add to the wealth of stories about our increasing number of 'Notables' and other aspects of the cemetery. We are hoping to add to our natural history database with new volunteers, led by Sam Radonich, recording on site. We have also responded positively to several student project requests.

## **12. CEMETERY PRESENTATIONS, TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE CEMETERY**

A full programme of cemetery tours returned for 2022/23. Attendance in some instances has not been as good as we would have liked but our social media presence is leading to an improvement. Special interest tours were held for, among others, the Victorian Society and a local walking group whose generous donations help raise funds for *FONC*. We ran a stall at the Friends of Brockley and Ladywell's Open Day on 10 July and, jointly with the London Wildlife Trust, held a bat prowl on 8 September. The planned Nunhead and Peckham Free Film Festival event at Nunhead on 17 September was postponed as a mark of respect on the death of Queen Elizabeth.

## **13. MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING AND GRAVESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

Volunteer records for Monument Inscription recording have been consolidated this year as several volunteers have failed to keep in touch. Eleven volunteers participated in our workdays, carrying out 264 hours of work (384 last year). The number is down for various reasons, mostly for several

workdays being cancelled due to adverse weather conditions (extreme heat, some prolonged very cold spells and much rain!), as well as the coordinator's illness on a couple of occasions. We continue to schedule two days each month, except for December. Inscription recording work in square 55 was completed in the previously inaccessible area after the Practical Work Team did some excellent clearing work there. We have now moved all our resources to the large area at the top right-hand side of the main avenue, and work on recording the inscriptions in square 109 is complete. Square 110 is almost fully recorded and we have moved into square 111. It is becoming increasingly difficult to capture the inscriptions as we move further into this area. Work will then begin to record the monuments in squares 125-127 below this area. Again, the Practical Work team have been very helpful in making this large area more accessible for us. The inscription recording template is now being used to record the inscriptions and photographs, and many hundreds have been completed this year. We also have two home-based volunteers doing this work for some of the older recordings going back to 2005. The aim is to get these uploaded to the website so that members of the public can access them more readily, but this will require the services of the newly appointed Digitisation Consultant engaged as part of the funding for preparatory work for the restoration of the East Lodge.

The stream of enquiries from people looking to find the grave of their ancestors buried at Nunhead has continued strongly, and there is now a 6-week backlog of requests. More volunteers will be needed for this interesting work as demand remains high, so please consider signing up. Many people receiving replies give a donation, including one generous gift of £100 from a couple from Canada who visited recently to see a family grave that had been tracked down for them. This revenue stream continues to benefit the work all volunteers carry out at Nunhead Cemetery.

#### **14. PRACTICAL WORKDAYS**

Practical work is conducted in the Cemetery on the first Sunday of each month. Please see the Practical Work Group Annual Report for information on the number of volunteers, hours, and work completed. We also hosted DEFRA on our first solo corporate workday with Southwark's permission. It was very successful and we now have a corporate workday section on our website to encourage future bookings.

#### **15. ANNUAL CEMETERY OPEN DAY AND OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

We participated in the London Open City weekend on 4 September 2022, but this was very poorly advertised by the organisers. Fortunately, we linked this day with the new Heritage Open Days which hosted a much better website detailing what was on offer at Nunhead which improved what would otherwise have been a low attendance. Over the weekend, nearly £400 was raised.

The 2023 Open Day was perhaps our most successful yet with a record attendance of over 5000 people and raising nearly £6,000 for FONC funds. The Trustees were concerned that we would be stretched to the limit in running the event this year but we were delighted by the number of additional helpers for setting up and taking down on the day, and the quantity and quality of donated baking and plants. More importantly, we received plaudits from East Lodge project consultants who attended and ran various activities for the range of events, numbers of visitors and the obvious enthusiasm and enjoyment of the day.

#### **16. MANAGEMENT OF THE CEMETERY BY SOUTHWARK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

We have finally received a response to the detailed comments we submitted on the draft Conservation Management Plan for the cemetery. The draft Plan went out to public consultation at our Open Day and Trustees are currently considering how to respond. Enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order to encourage responsible dog walking continues to be problematic. Agreed signage improvement measures have not been put in place. Recent council officer/police presence has sought to improve observance but it is now likely that the PSPO review in Spring 2024 will be

needed to address the issue further. A spate of unauthorised vehicles on site has been resolved by inserting a bollard at the Limesford Road gates.

## **17. CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS**

We successfully joined with others to oppose the reduction of the number 78 bus route which serves the area near the cemetery and are currently considering the Council's proposals to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone covering the whole of the Nunhead and Queens Road ward. Southwark Diocesan Advisory Court approval to facilitate repair to the Limesford Road boundary walls was finally received and is hoped that work will begin this summer with completion by the end of 2023. Repair works to the Anglican chapel have finally been completed, although some vegetation clearance is outstanding. This has enabled a return to holding events inside the chapel. The electrical wiring in the crypt has also been replaced. Outstanding repairs to the Briggs and Foreman vaults and at the top of the west side of the Main Avenue have been completed to a very high standard by new Council contractors, Faulker Construction. In addition repairs have been carried out to two vaults on the East Path following an incident involving a dog falling into the vault. FONC also commissioned seven monument repairs by Priest Stone Restoration along the West Crescent, greatly improving the visual impact on a path along which many fallen monuments can be found. Unfortunately, there has been further cracking in the Scottish Martyrs memorial path surfacing for which a resolution is still awaited. Tree clearance by Southwark's arboricultural team has improved the St. Paul's view from the top of West Hill but unfortunately a lime tree on the Main Avenue was lost during heavy winds and the stump subsequently removed.

## **18. EAST LODGE RESTORATION: 'FROM RUIN TO REVIVAL'**

Following the submission of the joint Southwark Council and FONC application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in May last year, we were really pleased when we were informed in mid-September that our application had been successful. The grant of over £100,000 for the initial development phase enables us to fully work up our delivery phase proposals, setting out the full costs needed, resources required and timeline for the restoration work. As so often with large organisations, bureaucracy resulted in the official 'Permission to Start' notification only being received in December when we hit the 'go' button to send out invitations to tender for the necessary consultants to develop in-depth plans in support of the project. These include consultants for activity, interpretation, business, and fundraising plans as well as a digitisation strategy and a plan of how we would evaluate the success of the project. These consultants will develop proposals designed to engage the local and wider community in the cemetery such as school visits, exhibitions, interpretative displays and arts events.

By mid-February we had contracted all necessary consultants who are now busy working up their proposals for us. A number of consultants took the opportunity of attending the Open Day to seek views from visitors of their hopes and expectations for the restored East Lodge and cemetery as a whole.

In the meantime, the interim structural work, aimed at stabilising the East Lodge, was completed at the end of 2022 and no further work will be undertaken on site until the restoration work commences. Due to the deteriorating state of the East Lodge and the pressing need to start its restoration, Southwark Council and FONC have set ourselves an ambitious timetable to submit the delivery phase funding application in November 2023. This would enable construction work to start in the first half of 2024.

As a pilot activity in support of the East Lodge project to engage a wider range of people in the cemetery, FONC took part in the Big Help Out on 8 May which provided a great opportunity to publicise volunteering in Nunhead cemetery. FONC arranged the taster event – an introduction to volunteering in Nunhead Cemetery – which attracted 11 new volunteers to try their hand at practical work and monument inscription recording in the cemetery.

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## Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
Publications	1,379	1,697	428
Subscriptions	1,520	1,512	1,480
Donations	6,181	7,170	5,788
Gift Aid	930	636	950
Event income	6,255	4,493	1,027
Interest	135	6	129
Grants	4,195	-	2,000
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>20,595</b>	<b>15,514</b>	<b>11,802</b>
<b>Payments - Administration and running</b>			
Postage	1,105	1,621	1,313
Stationery	253	73	55
Printing - newsletter	1,173	883	1,081
Meeting costs	294	57	13
Insurance	157	157	271
Electronic payment fees	102	83	44
Other expenses	89	85	54
	<b>3,173</b>	<b>2,959</b>	<b>2,831</b>
<b>Payments - Events and other</b>			
Purchases	906	275	154
Items to sell	90	718	227
Tools	613	70	1,004
Event costs	2,471	2,984	316
	<b>4,080</b>	<b>4,047</b>	<b>1,701</b>
<b>Payments - designated funds</b>			
Monument repairs	5,760	10,890	3,720
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>13,013</b>	<b>17,896</b>	<b>8,252</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>7,582</b>	<b>(2,382)</b>	<b>3,550</b>
<b>Balance sheet at 31 March</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Opening balance	128,359	130,740	127,190
Surplus for the year	7,582	(2,382)	3,550
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>135,941</b>	<b>128,359</b>	<b>130,740</b>
Consisting of:			
Santander Current a/c	5,896	1,694	9,514
Santander Deposit a/c	65,984	63,712	61,586
Co-op Deposit account	64,061	62,953	59,640
	<b>135,941</b>	<b>128,359</b>	<b>130,740</b>

### Notes to the accounts

- 1 FONC tools and other physical assets valued at £5,000
- 2 FONC publications stock valued at £3,500 (resale value estimated £7,000)

**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery reserves policy**

To ensure that FONC can continue to operate at its current level, and to mitigate the risk of a reduction in income streams, FONC holds general reserves of £15,000 to represent one and a half years of operating costs and an additional sum to meet unexpected expenditure on the FONC modular building and/ or storage facilities.

The remaining funds are held as unreserved, Designated, funds for the following purposes

- contribution to the East Lodge Project £35,000
- fit out of the FONC facilities in the East Lodge £25,000
- fit out of the new FONC modular building £10,000
- contribution to the the fabric of the chapel £20,000
- balance to support a long term repair programme of monuments in the cemetery

*Ann Coley*

**Ann Coley**

**Treasurer**

**Dated**

6 June 2023

**FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178763

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# Accounts

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# Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES 1 JUNE 2021 – 31 MAY 2022

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

Pleasingly FONC membership increased from 706 to 764 this year despite residual Covid restrictions. We recruited 153 new members but lost 95. We have 7 overseas members. Members paying by bank standing order fell slightly to 47% of the membership. Gift Aid declarations have increased to 36% of members resulting in repayments from H M Revenue & Customs of £636 over the year. Our gratitude is due to Simon Mercer, Membership Secretary, who has continued to keep our membership records and distribution lists up-to-date.

### 2. THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The lifting of Covid-19 restrictions on 19 July removed the burden of having to manage tour bookings and allowed our on-site activities to return to virtual 'normality'. Whilst continuing to be cautious, we have found that many new visitors have discovered the cemetery during lock-down periods, perhaps accounting for our increase in membership. We have amply demonstrated a responsible attitude to dealing with the impact of the pandemic which has stood us in good stead with Southwark Council and other statutory bodies.

### 3. FONC MEETINGS AND MEMBERS' VISITS

All 'meetings' this year were held on the Zoom 'virtual' platform, even after the lifting of restrictions. Trustees held eleven regular meetings, a special meeting to discuss the East Lodge project and one special strategy meeting. The Practical Work Sub-Committee met four times. The 2021 AGM was held 'virtually' in June with a brief PowerPoint presentation on the trees of Nunhead cemetery by Tim Stevenson. Unfortunately this was only just quorate despite advertising the Zoom link widely to members. One members' visit in September, to Brompton cemetery, was organised by Cathy Mercer.

### 4. FONC GOVERNANCE

In the context of the joint LBS/FONC National Heritage Lottery Fund bid and as part of the continuing effort to improve FONC's overall performance, Trustees have made a number of improvements this year. A Trustees Code of Conduct has been adopted and signed up to by all Trustees, a skills audit has begun to help identify areas where we can improve on deficiencies and improve our diversity. Formal Declarations of Interest have been reviewed and recorded. Perhaps most importantly, we have adopted a dynamic five-year FONC strategy plan to enable us to set targets and review performance in the delivery of all of our stated objectives. This document is available to all members on request.

### 5. AFFILIATIONS

We continue to be affiliated to the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) (€25 p.a.) and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (£20 p.a.). We participate in Community Southwark opportunities and are affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (free). We maintain contacts with many other local and national groups. We also participate in the Southwark Green Forum and attend (virtually at present) the Southwark Council Ward Assemblies. As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, FONC is required to submit information to

the Charity Commission on an annual basis which is available on line for public review and we have contributed to several Charity Commission surveys.

## **6. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS (NFCF) AND ASSOCIATION OF SIGNIFICANT CEMETERIES IN EUROPE (ASCE)**

For the second year during the pandemic the National Federation of Cemetery Friends did not hold an annual general meeting but distributed the various reports by email. The NFCF's National Cemeteries Week, however, was resumed in May 2022 and FONC took part by introducing a new special cemetery tour associated with World War II graves. The Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) did hold an actual AGM in Budapest in 2021 but the linked two-day conference on "Cemetourism" was hosted on Zoom by the Friends of Highgate Cemetery, and FONC trustee Gwyneth Stokes attended. Similarly, by providing the virtual option for their conference, Caring for God's Acre could widen the audience for their helpful talks on most aspects of their Beautiful Burial Ground project and FONC was represented by vice-chairman Carol Stevenson.

## **7. FONC VOLUNTEERING AND PUBLICATIONS & ENQUIRY DESK**

Following the lockdowns in 2020 and early 2021, leading to restrictions on running tours and the publications and enquiries desk (PED), since April 2021 we have managed to have publication desk cover for every tour. We have also held two Open days - the 2021 event moved to September to coincide with the London Open City weekend and with much relief the 2022 Open Day was held at its usual time in May. The PED at both events proved popular, signing up many new members and selling the extensive range of FONC publications as well as the popular FONC cotton bags. In late Autumn Southwark Council applied for planning permission to restore the East Lodge so over a couple of months the PED provided a great opportunity to set out the proposals and enabled PED volunteers to discuss the plans with visitors and hear their views. After the planning application was granted, and as part of the work for the submission of a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid being prepared jointly by Southwark Council and FONC, an online survey was made available on the facilities and activities visitors would like to see being provided in the proposed restoration of the East Lodge. Again, the PED provided visitors an opportunity to express their views. The PED continues to be an important initial point of contact for visitors to learn about FONC, volunteer to help with our activities, buy FONC publications, and sign up as members. The desk still needs new volunteers and it really does offer a great way to meet and chat with the cemetery's many and varied visitors. The only commitment is to help on the occasional Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours.

## **8. ANNUAL CEMETERY OPEN DAY AND OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

With the lifting of Covid restrictions, the Trustees decided to enhance the usual London Open City weekend to a lower-key Open Day on 4 September 2021. This was welcomed by the local community many of whom expressed their gratitude to FONC for starting up our events again at the earliest opportunity. With sensors on the gates to record the number of visitors (for NHLF purposes) we can now state confidently that 3,200 people attended and helped raise around £3,000 for FONC funds. It was thus quite an undertaking to organize a return to our normal May date for the 2022 Open Day but we were rewarded with a record attendance of nearly 4,500 and raising over £4,700. More importantly, we received numerous plaudits from stall holders, performers and, most importantly, visitors on the organisation and low-cost enjoyment of this firm community favourite event. After some 20 years of leading the organisation of the Open Day, Tim Stevenson is now standing down from this role on a real high and the Trustees wish to thank him for his tremendous efforts and look forward to him continuing to participate with his pole lathe and woodland bodging.

## **9. FONC WEB SITE, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

With webmaster Simon Quill's support we have finally moved the FONC website to an up-to-date platform which will enable us to improve both the visuals and content of our website ([www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)) over the coming year. With several trustees now trained on up-dating techniques, this should lead to much greater immediacy and relevance of material. We are also becoming more active on social media outlets in addition to our Instagram and Facebook presence. We have featured in reporting by Peckham Peculiar and several other on-line reports in regard to the East Lodge restoration project. The BBC Wildlife Unit also spent two days (and nights) filming at Nunhead for a series on urban sites taken over by Nature for BBC Earth. The series is called "After We've Gone" and the episode is "Discovering Wildlife in an Abandoned Cemetery" and is still available on the BBC Earth channel on YouTube. They were particularly excited by the cave spiders resident in the chapel crypt!

## **10. MEMBERS' JOURNAL**

*FONC News* is perhaps the easiest way to keep all members, throughout the UK and abroad, informed about FONC's activities and up-to-date news concerning the cemetery. It also provides a platform and the opportunity for members to comment, criticise, agree or disagree, with the decisions made by the trustees and or by Southwark Council. So please, always send us your views, complimentary or otherwise. *FONC News* is your publication and we appreciate receiving your articles and letters. Why not tell us about your local cemetery or what's your interest concerning Nunhead Cemetery? We would also love to know if you have ancestors interred in the cemetery and their stories – everyone has a story to tell - so please put pen to paper or else contact the editor by e-mail [editorfonc@hotmail.com](mailto:editorfonc@hotmail.com) *FONC News* is published quarterly in November, March, June, and September. We look forward hearing from you.

## **11. PUBLICATIONS, ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH WORK**

No new FONC publications have been produced this year but we contributed to the ACSE publication 'Crossroads of Diversity', and the long awaited free Magnificent Seven Cemeteries leaflet, to which we had previously contributed, was finally distributed. We continue to receive from members and others their family histories and memorabilia which helps to add to the wealth of stories about our increasing number of 'Notables' and other aspects of the cemetery. We also continue to research and add to our natural history database.

## **12. CEMETERY PRESENTATIONS, TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE CEMETERY**

After the much-truncated tour programme caused by Covid restrictions, we have now been able to return to a full programme of cemetery tours. Attendance in some instances has been slow to return to pre-pandemic levels but we are confident that this will improve as our social media presence is enhanced. Special interest tours were held for, among others, the London Appreciation Society and the Society of Genealogists whose generous donations help raise funds for FONC. We were also able to run a stall at the Friends of Brockley and Ladywell's Open Day on 11 July. We welcomed back London Wildlife Trust for a very successful joint bat prowl on 9 September and the Nunhead and Peckham Free Film Festival on 11 September with a well-attended showing of 'Beauty and the Beast'. One of the most enjoyable events of the year was a visit by Year 3 children from Hollydale School who came to learn about the trees of the cemetery.

## **13. MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING AND GRAVESEARCH ENQUIRIES**

This year we continued to see an increased interest in volunteering to work on the task of recording and photographing the inscriptions on all the circa 4,4000 monuments in Nunhead Cemetery, and we now have 21 volunteers signed up. Some are very active, while others make occasional appearances at the workdays. 15 volunteers pitched up at various times, completing 384 hours of work this year. We have regular workdays scheduled for one mid-month Wednesday and the last Sunday of each month (except for December). Inscription recording work has been largely completed in squares 55 (apart from a small, currently inaccessible patch), 82, 83 and 161. We have latterly revived the inscription recording template that some members may have seen on display at Open Days, and three new volunteers who cannot get to the cemetery are busy working on these from home, transcribing the inscriptions completed in previous years. The aim is to get these uploaded to the website so that members of the public can access them more readily.

There has always been a steady stream of enquiries from people looking to find the grave of their ancestors buried at Nunhead, and we carry out this work on request. In the first few months of 2022, demand for this service has risen rapidly, and there is currently a backlog of requests. More volunteers will be required for this interesting work if demand remains high, so please consider signing up. Most of those receiving replies give a donation via the online donations page on the FONC website, which can only benefit the work all volunteers carry out at Nunhead.

#### **14. RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

Our All-Souls Service was again graced by the Nunhead Lighthouse Cathedral choir and a service led by Fr. Dele Ogunyemi of St. Antony with St. Silas. This is an important event in the FONC calendar and gives the opportunity for practical work-day volunteers and service attendees to mingle over tea and cakes. It was wonderful to be able to hold our annual Remembrance Service again this year which was very well attended. We again made an enhanced donation of £300 to the Royal British Legion for the wreaths and crosses that we placed at the various memorials in the cemetery.

#### **15. MANAGEMENT OF THE CEMETERY BY SOUTHWARK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Site meetings with Southwark Bereavement Services were finally resumed in March to discuss various on-site issues on which we can then agree a way forward. We finally received a draft of the proposed Conservation Management Plan for the cemetery on which we made a number of detailed comments. We expect to receive the Council's response shortly and the Plan will go out to public consultation this coming summer. Enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order to encourage responsible dog ownership became difficult as signage was misunderstood by some and even vandalised by others. We have agreed improvement measures but these have yet to be put in place. FONC's comments to the Planning Inspector's review of the LBS Southwark Plan have led to improved recognition of the preservation of the view from West Hill to St. Paul's. We also campaigned successfully for the retention of Southwark's in-house tree management teams. Agreed criteria for closing the cemetery in high winds was shared with us just in time for Storm Eunice. Unfortunately we have recently learned that Sam Rees, the Head of Bereavement Services, has undergone serious heart surgery and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

#### **16. CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS**

The response to the application to the Southwark Diocesan Advisory Court to facilitate repair to the Limesford Road boundary walls was inordinately delayed. However, the planning application for the work has been submitted and should be decided shortly. Southwark have confirmed its commitment to funding and carrying out this week. Proposed repair works to the Anglican chapel have, in FONC's view, been badly mis-managed by the Borough Engineers and not being able to access the chapel has made planning FONC events very difficult. The promised planting of

replacement trees at the Limesford Road entrance and elsewhere took place in November. A third tranche of Southwark funded monument repairs, agreed with FONC, which began in November 2020 has still not been finally completed as two large vaults by the Figgins memorial await reinstatement. The electricity supply to the FONC portacabin failed in January 2021 and took until October to be restored, making it difficult for FONC volunteers using the base and for the holding of FONC events. Five major monument repairs commissioned and paid for by FONC have been completed by Priest Stone Restoration. Two of these were necessitated by the impact of Storm Eunice in February. The storm also caused extensive damage to the Brockley Footpath boundary walls and some 29 mature trees were lost creating a great deal of work for FONC volunteers (see separate report).

## **17. EAST LODGE RESTORATION**

It may appear that progress on the East Lodge restoration has stalled but in fact a great deal has been happening albeit without much evidence on site. Universal Stone were appointed as contractors for the next phase of enabling works but complications with the drainage design requiring a re-think meant that work did not start until January 2022 with completion expected by October 2022. The clearance of vegetation around the site caused some concern to visitors but is absolutely necessary.

The submitted Planning and Listed Building Applications for the Lodge restoration was supported by FONC and many others but some objections were made by the owner of the West Lodge. However, FONC representatives, borough officers and Roger Mears Associates were able to assuage those objections at the Planning Sub-Committee held on 6 December such that the application was unanimously supported. With a proposal much more in line with FONC's original aspirations, a Partnership Agreement between Southwark and FONC to deliver the project has now been signed by both parties.

As estimated costs have spiraled, it became essential for the submitted joint LBS/FONC Expression of Interest (EOI) bid for National Heritage Lottery Funding (NHLF) to be successful. FONC made a major contribution to this and not only was the EOI accepted but the NHLF appointed a no-cost consultant to help us develop the full application for funding. This is not just filling in an application form but involves considerable research leading to developing numerous supporting documents and substantiating how the project will be sustainable and bring real benefits to the wider community. It quickly became apparent that the aim of submitting a good application in November was unrealistic. Part of the necessary process was to undertake a survey, again largely developed by FONC, to determine who uses the cemetery and what they wished to see delivered by the project beyond the simple restoration. It proved to be one of the most widely responded to surveys which clearly demonstrated almost universal support for our proposals.

Borough officers and FONC representatives have worked extremely hard and constructively together to develop a bid, submitted on 24 May, that we think is as good as it can be. The application sets out what will be done during the Development Phase of the project to be followed by the Delivery Phase which will produce not only a restored building but also various on-going activities and initiatives through a new Community Outreach and Development Officer post that FONC will be able to contribute significantly towards managing. We now await the NHLF decision on our bid to be delivered by the end of September. Unfortunately, the timescales for development and delivery mean that the full building restoration is unlikely to start until April 2024 but FONC Trustees are convinced that a much better and comprehensive project will be delivered as a result.

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**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery**

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
Publications	1,697	428	1,276
Subscriptions	1,512	1,480	1,574
Donations	7,171	5,788	5,961
Gift Aid	636	950	-
Event income	4,493	1,027	5,367
Interest	6	129	338
Grants	-	2,000	5,000
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,515</b>	<b>11,802</b>	<b>19,516</b>
<b>Payments - Administration and running</b>			
Postage	1,621	1,313	1,382
Stationery	73	55	73
Printing - newsletter	883	1,081	956
Meeting costs	57	13	359
Insurance	157	271	351
Electronic payment fees	83	44	-
Other expenses	85	54	81
	<b>2,959</b>	<b>2,831</b>	<b>3,202</b>
<b>Payments - Events and other</b>			
Purchases	345	154	671
Items to sell (bags and publications)	718	227	558
Tools	-	1,004	-
Bins and banners	-	-	5,026
Event costs	2,984	316	1,772
	<b>4,047</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>8,027</b>
<b>Payments - designated funds</b>			
Monument repairs	10,890	3,720	6,600
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>17,896</b>	<b>8,252</b>	<b>17,829</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>(2,381)</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>1,687</b>
<b>Balance sheet at 31 March</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Opening balance	130,740	127,190	125,503
Surplus for the year	(2,381)	3,550	1,687
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>128,359</b>	<b>130,740</b>	<b>127,190</b>
Consisting of:			
Santander Current a/c	1,694	9,514	9,986
Santander Deposit a/c	63,712	61,586	58,163
Co-op Deposit account	62,953	59,640	59,041
	<b>128,359</b>	<b>130,740</b>	<b>127,190</b>

**Notes to the accounts**

- 1 FONC tools valued at £2,000
- 2 FONC publications stock valued at £5,000 (resale value £8,000)

**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery reserves policy**

To ensure that FONC can continue to operate at its current level, and to mitigate the risk of a reduction in income streams, FONC holds general reserves of £15,000 to represent one and a half years of operating costs and an additional sum to meet unexpected expenditure on the portacabin and/ or storage facilities.

The remaining funds are held as unreserved, Designated, funds for the following purposes:

- contribution to the East Lodge Project £35,000
- fit out of the FONC facilities in the East Lodge £25,000
- balance to support a long term repair programme of monuments in the cemetery

*Ann Coley*

**Ann Coley**  
**Treasurer**

Date: 1 June 2022

**FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178763

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# Accounts

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# Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES 1 JUNE 2020 – 31 MAY 2021

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

FONC membership fell from 770 to 706 this year perhaps reflecting disruption resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. We recruited 67 new members but lost 131. We have 7 overseas members. Members paying by bank standing order increased to 51% of the membership. Gift Aid declarations have been signed by 30% of members resulting in repayments from H M Revenue & Customs of £950 for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2020.

### 2. CONTINUING IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Covid-19 continued to impact both FONC and the cemetery throughout the year. Many FONC activities on site were cancelled and Trustees' meetings became 'virtual'. It also became very difficult to plan for the future. The cemetery remained open for longer hours for much of the year and became a source of comfort and refuge for a dramatically increased number of visitors. When regulations have permitted, we have immediately reinstated our activities on site. Jane Hart has become our risk assessment expert in providing proposals to Southwark which they have endorsed. We have had to introduce a booking system, which has worked well, for the limited tour places available. We have worked with Southwark Council to mitigate the effects as much as possible. Work on various projects on site was also interrupted (see below).

### 3. FONC MEETINGS AND MEMBERS' VISITS

All 'meetings' this year were held on the Zoom 'virtual' platform. Trustees held eleven regular meetings and the Voluntary Work Sub-Committee met three times. The 2020 AGM was postponed to December and was also held 'virtually' with only minor technical glitches as the Coordinator gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the East Lodge restoration project. It was not possible to run any members' visits during the year. Trustees continue to work on good governance issues and to actively consider how best to encourage greater involvement from the BAME community.

### 4. AFFILIATIONS

We continue to be affiliated to the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) (€25 p.a.) and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (£20 p.a.). We participate in Community Southwark opportunities and are affiliated to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (free). We maintain contacts with many other local and national groups. We also participate in the Southwark Green Forum and attend the Southwark Council Ward Assemblies which permitted the Neighbourhood Fund grant towards the Open Day costs to be rolled over to 2021. As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, FONC is required to submit information to the Charity Commission on an annual basis which is available on line for public review.

### 5. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS (NFCF) AND ASSOCIATION OF SIGNIFICANT CEMETERIES IN EUROPE (ASCE)

Both the national and European organisations had to cancel their annual general meetings last year due to the pandemic but they continued to give support and advice to members through their websites, newsletters and email. Carol Stevenson responded on FONC's behalf to the invitation

from the ASCE for contributions to an online photobook. For the theme 'Crossroads of Diversity' in cemeteries she has chosen a photograph which includes the Vincent Figgins memorial and marks the junction between one path to the grand Victorian monuments and the other to the New Burial Ground. FONC has continued to support the NFCF's on-going promotion and advice work and featured prominently in their newsletters.

## **6. FONC VOLUNTEERING AND PUBLICATIONS & ENQUIRY DESK**

After the easing of the first lockdown, FONC commenced running the publications and enquiry (PED) desk to support socially distanced tours which commenced in July. Risk assessments were developed and submitted to Southwark to enable FONC activities to restart on site. Measures put in place included the use of disinfectant, hand sanitiser, and strict social distancing provisions as well as a booking system (both to ensure contact details for track and trace purposes and to control numbers within government guidelines) for those wishing to attend tours. The number of visitors to the cemetery had increased greatly during the year and many mentioned their appreciation of FONC and its work to the volunteers on PED. However, as winter approached and cases of COVID-19 began rising, further lockdowns meant the PED and FONC activities on site had to cease. It was therefore lovely to be able to offer the PED again in April with the easing of restrictions. The PED had to temporarily relocate to near the Linden Grove gate when the area in front of the portacabin was fenced off due to the resurfacing work but had the advantage that everyone coming into the cemetery from that gate passed the desk! The use of an electronic card payment system, introduced in early 2020, has helped to support sales with less and less people carrying cash with them. The PED continues to be an important initial point of contact for visitors to learn about FONC, volunteer to help with our activities, buy FONC publications, and sign up as members. The desk still continues to need new volunteers and it really does offer a great way to meet and chat with the cemetery's many and varied visitors. The only commitment is to help on the occasional Sunday afternoon for a couple of hours.

## **7. ANNUAL CEMETERY OPEN DAY AND OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

The Trustees reluctantly decided to postpone the annual Open Day planned for May 2021 to September 2021 to coincide with the London Open City weekend. In September 2020, we were able to run an enhanced Open House weekend in the cemetery offering socially distanced crypt and cemetery tours on both days - again with a pre-booking system in place. In addition, the PED was supplemented with both the FONC plant, monument inscription recording and refreshments stalls. This event was greatly appreciated by cemetery visitors and also raised over £1200 for FONC funds.

## **8. FONC WEB SITE, PUBLICITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE**

Whilst Simon Quill, our webmaster, continues to work on updating and improving our website ([www.fonc.org.uk](http://www.fonc.org.uk)) we are able to monitor increasing web-site usage through monthly data received. Our presence on Instagram was greatly enhanced by Fran White and since March has now been taken further forward by Zoe Ellesmore. Pete Trotman runs our Facebook presence. Both are effective means of connecting us to a wider, and younger, audience and produces positive feedback and new volunteers. Whilst unable to attend 'real' events outside the cemetery, we have continued to receive excellent media coverage, including an extensive feature article in a German magazine, *Friedhofs Kultur*.

## **9. MEMBERS' JOURNAL**

In spite of the restrictions imposed by the continuing pandemic and necessary lockdowns, we have continued to produce the quarterly journal and deliver it on time, thanks to Catford Print, Royal Mail and our local hand deliverers. Jeff and Jane Hart collect the work from Catford Print

and deliver it to Linda Martin for enveloping ready for mailing, and to Nicola Dunn for distribution to the hand deliverers. During the last year Jeff and Jane have also collected the journals from Linda and taken them to the Post Office for onward transmission by Royal Mail. The four issues published last year were as follows: No 148, Summer 2020; No 149, Autumn 2020; No 150, Winter 2020/21; and No 151, Spring 2021. Issue No 150 was a special edition featuring a full colour cover both front and back, and No 151, was a bumper issue comprising 28 pages. Our thanks to everyone involved in the production and delivery of the journals and to all our contributors for sending in their articles. If you haven't yet sent an article to the editor, then please think about it or - even better - do it. We really do need more articles from our members. Why not tell us what you think about the cemetery and about FONC. Subjects of interest include local history subjects; your local cemetery; wildlife in cemeteries; and family history relating to Nunhead Cemetery, etc.

## **10. PUBLICATIONS, ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH WORK**

In February we published 'A Guide to the Grave Symbols in Nunhead Cemetery' which built on a free leaflet produced years ago by Ron Woollacott. Although we were unable to launch the book at an event on site, it is already selling well at the modest price of £3. We are delighted that we continue to receive from members and others their family histories and memorabilia which helps to add to the wealth of stories about our increasing number of 'Notables'. We continue to research and add to our natural history database following sweet chestnut and stag beetle surveys.

## **11. CEMETERY PRESENTATIONS, TOURS AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE CEMETERY**

The much-truncated tour programme continued between lockdowns and the restricted numbers required a booking arrangement which worked well enough. Many tours were fully subscribed well beforehand leaving disappointed visitors, many of whom subscribed to later tours. A new World War Two walk was enjoyed by the full complement of attendees. Although physical events have not been possible, we were able to give virtual presentations to the Trust U3A British Cemeteries group and Crowborough U3A. Discussions have also been held with Antique Beat about possible audio tours of the cemetery and with the National Army Museum about future cooperation.

## **12. MONUMENT INSCRIPTION RECORDING AND GRAVESEARCH**

Although the pandemic lockdowns severely curtailed activities on monument inscription recording this year, there are a couple of bright points to report. First, the number of MI recording volunteers has continued to grow, and now stands at 14. Second, with the kind cooperation of Candy Edwards at Southwark Council we have been given access to the full set of maps showing the grave plots for all 167 squares within the cemetery. This will open up the possibility of locating far more graves than we previously would have done, and has already resulted in a few 'finds' following enquiries from relatives and descendants of those interred at Nunhead. Trustees Garry Wiles and Malcolm Collins have also assisted with a number of enquiries regarding finding graves on site and carrying out searches of the cemetery records when possible.

## **13. ART PROJECTS**

We worked with Studio Voltaire, a prestigious London gallery, towards staging an exhibit in the Anglican chapel by internationally known Royal Academician, sculptor Phyllida Barlow. Unfortunately, as repairs to the chapel were delayed, the exhibition had to be moved to another venue. A number of enquiries have been received from others hoping to put on events in the coming year on which we offer advice.

## **14. RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

We were fortunate to be able to hold an All-Souls Service just prior to another lockdown. Trustee Ish Lennox organised a much-enhanced event which included a choir from Nunhead's Lighthouse Cathedral, an address by Ali Angus and led by Fr. Dele Ogunyemi of St. Antony with St. Silas. As a result, attendance was much improved with many by-standers joining in. Children especially enjoyed the symbolic bulb planting. Covid restrictions led to the cancellation of the annual Remembrance Service but FONC Trustees laid wreaths at each of the principal war grave areas and were pleased that many socially distancing by-passers stopped to observe the silence and wreath laying with us. Given the difficulty of public collections, we made an increased donation to the Royal British Legion of £300.

## **15. MANAGEMENT OF THE CEMETERY BY SOUTHWARK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Site meetings with Southwark Bereavement Services to discuss various on-site issues were another Covid-19 casualty and have been much missed. After a further year's delay, the proposed Land Use Consultants conservation management plan for the cemetery has still not even been seen in draft. Enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order to encourage responsible dog ownership was relaxed during lockdowns. Standard opening hours were reintroduced from April. Increased visitor numbers have been maintained and a new counter system introduced in February has recorded an average of about one thousand visitors per day. Some further anti-social incidents have been reported but represent a very small minority of visitors. FONC also contributed to the Planning Inspector's review of the LBS Southwark Plan to preserve the view from West Hill to St. Paul's from tall building encroachment. An increased number of tree falls have been addressed promptly by Southwark's tree team. We have also attended 'virtual' Council ward meetings, some of which addressed cemetery issues, on a regular basis and have benefitted from Southwark grants towards new tool purchases and Open Day costs.

## **16. CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS**

The poor winter weather and lack of urgency on the part of Southwark has impacted considerably on carrying out work on site. Resurfacing work around the Scottish Martyrs memorial finally began in January but was not completed until May. Fencing around the area meant that visitors had to re-route but signage was poor and many simply by-passed the fencing causing significant damage by creating new, muddy footpaths. Application has been made to the Southwark Diocesan Advisory Court to facilitate repair to the Limesford Road boundary walls. Southwark has confirmed its commitment to carry out these works but work has not started on site yet. Although planned works and funding were agreed, repair works to the Anglican chapel were delayed to the 2021-22 financial year. Work has not yet started and not being able to access the chapel has made FONC events planning very difficult. The promised planting of replacement trees at the Limesford Road entrance and elsewhere took place in November. A third tranche of Southwark funded monument repairs, agreed with FONC, also began in November, greatly slowed by the very wet weather. Again, additional unsafe memorials had to be tackled once work had started. Work has not yet been completed but additional monument repairs commissioned and paid for by FONC has been completed by Priest Stone Restoration. In January the electricity supply to the FONC portacabin and, although agreed by Southwark, has still not been restored, making matters difficult for FONC volunteers. See also FONC's Voluntary Work Report

## **17. EAST LODGE RESTORATION**

The much delayed enabling works for the East Lodge restoration began in June 2020 and were 'completed' in January. It has been a very frustrating and difficult year for FONC in trying to move forward plans for the full restoration of the building. However, at last we feel that real progress is being made both in achieving a better understanding of FONC's activities in the cemetery by officers and in the revised designs for the restored East Lodge. Finally, LBS committed to

providing a dedicated office within the East Lodge for FONC (the original Superintendent's office), storage space for FONC's publications and archives and the use of meeting room/space for our events and activities. As space within the building is very limited, FONC's practical onsite work will continue to be based within renewed portacabin facilities at the existing location adjacent to the West Lodge. The portacabin replacement is now regarded as part of the East Lodge project and will be taken forward in parallel with the East Lodge restoration. The revised design for the restored East Lodge is now based on providing more flexible space with only the location of the café kitchen being fixed on the lower ground for ventilation/extraction purposes. This will allow the café and community hall to be located on either floor, depending on the chosen café franchise operator's preference. Ramped paths will be provided to enable access to both floors with the proposal of a 'bridge' at the rear of the building providing a second access to the upper floor from the raised garden area. Double doors in the existing bay window will be the principal entrance to the lower ground floor with appropriate landscaping and terracing around the south and rear of the building aimed at maximising external seating opportunities for the café. LBS is committed to completing the restoration and now intends putting this in the context of the proposed Conservation Management Plan of the cemetery as a whole. However, the delays in progressing the work and the continued deterioration of the building itself has resulted in increased costs for the restoration. Although streamlining options with no compromise on the quality of the design are being pursued, phased delivery of the work is being looked at. This will enable the submission of a joint LBS/FONC application to the Heritage Lottery Fund in August to resolve the funding gap. FONC believes that we now have an acceptable way forward and is committed to work with LBS to bring about the successful completion of the project.

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**Friends of Nunhead Cemetery**  
(CIO 1178763)

	New 2020/21	New 2019/20	New and old 2018/19
	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
Publications	428	1,276	1,074
Subscriptions	1,480	1,574	1,584
Donations	5,788	5,961	5,610
Gift Aid	950	-	2,300
Event income	1,027	5,367	4,544
Interest	129	338	371
Grants	2,000	5,000	1,300
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,802</b>	<b>19,516</b>	<b>16,783</b>
<b>Payments - Administration and running</b>			
Postage	1,313	1,382	1,298
Stationery	55	73	132
Printing - newsletter	1,081	956	919
Printing - publications	227	558	1,807
Meeting costs	13	359	370
Insurance	271	351	351
Electronic payment fees	44	-	-
Other expenses	54	81	345
	<b>3,058</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>5,222</b>
<b>Payments - Events and other</b>			
Purchases	154	671	450
Tools	1,004	-	-
Bins and banners	-	5,026	-
Event costs	316	1,772	2,209
Art Events - costs	-	-	1,341
	<b>1,474</b>	<b>7,469</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Payments - designated funds</b>			
Monument repairs	3,720	6,600	9,240
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>8,252</b>	<b>17,829</b>	<b>9,222</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>7,561</b>
<b>Balance sheet at 31 March</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Opening balance	127,190	125,503	127,182
Surplus for the year	3,550	1,687	(1,679)
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>130,740</b>	<b>127,190</b>	<b>125,503</b>
Consisting of:			
Santander Current a/c	9,514	9,986	12,001
Santander Deposit a/c	61,586	58,163	54,851
Co-op Deposit account	59,640	59,041	58,651
	<b>130,740</b>	<b>127,190</b>	<b>125,503</b>

**Notes to the accounts**

- 1 FONC tools valued at £2,000
- 2 FONC publications stock valued at £5,000 (resale value £8,000)

### **Friends of Nunhead Cemetery reserves policy**

To ensure that FONC can continue to operate at its current level, and to mitigate the risk of a reduction in income streams, FONC holds general reserves of £15,000 to represent one and a half years of operating costs and an additional sum to meet unexpected expenditure on the portacabin and/ or storage facilities.

The remaining funds are held as unreserved, Designated, funds for the following purposes:

- contribution to the East Lodge Project £35,000
- fit out of the FONC facilities in the East Lodge £25,000
- Monument repair fund to fund a long term repair programme of monuments in the cemetery

*Ann Coley*

**Ann Coley**  
**Treasurer**  
2 June 2021