

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS

NEWSLETTER No. 30

Autumn 2012

Editor: Carol Stevenson

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THE ROSARY HOST AGM



Friends of The Rosary, Norwich, were our hosts for our 2012 AGM.

Opened in 1821, the Rosary was the first non-denominational cemetery in England and contains many beautiful monuments.

The Friends' publications state that they are NCF members, and all members are reminded that this helps makes us known.

Also at the AGM was a call for members to let the NCF webmaster have a list of their publications and contact details. This should increase your sales, since people visiting the NCF website are probably interested already!

Thank you to Friends of the Rosary for their hospitality and an excellent day.

John Barker, Circus owner

Copies of the papers are available to members from the secretary (contact details on back page)

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the NCF. All material by the editor unless otherwise attributed.

HERITAGE CRIME AND CEMETERIES

As part of NCF's intention to focus on prevention of crime in cemeteries, a seminar on the topic is planned in London for next spring when it is hoped John Strutton of TfL and Mark Harrison, the English Heritage ARCH representative, will contribute. The following two items provide background and useful contacts

Cemetery trespasser served with three year ASBO

Thomas Akerman, a self-styled 'urban explorer', who seeks to trespass into normally unseen or off-limit areas, has been served with a three year ASBO after some exemplary partnership work involving the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Team at Transport for London (TfL), The Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, the British Transport Police, the Metropolitan Police and the specialist London Underground Network Security Team.

Akerman is a member of a hard-core group of trespassers who have targeted TfL property repeatedly over several years. In the course of the police investigation which followed Akerman's arrest in the Tube. Network, evidence came to light of his involvement in an incursion into West Norwood Crypt when a sealed casket was opened sparking a real concern over the release of the smallpox virus.

Colin Fenn, Vice Chairman of the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery liaised closely with Steve Hatfield from the team at TfL, and was instrumental in the evidence preparation for the ASBO hearings, which took place at Tower Bridge Magistrates' Court. Despite the best efforts of the barrister appointed by Akerman to defend him, Deputy District Judge Grieves granted TfL the ASBO which covers the whole of Greater London. John Strutton, TfL's Community Safety & Crime Prevention Manager, who presented the case in court said: 'Effective partnership working and intelligence sharing helped us to secure this successful outcome'.

John added 'If your organisation has any concerns over unlawful incursions into cemetery sites, and particularly crypts or similar structures, please feel free to contact myself or Steve Hatfield for an informal discussion. Regardless of your national location we may be able to provide you with some advice arising from our experience of dealing with these individuals.'

The TfL team's contact details are as follows:

John.strutton@tfl.gov.uk tel: 0203 054 2912

Steve.hatfield@tfl.gov.uk tel: 0203 054 2251

Heritage Crime Initiative

Ann Wilkinson of Lister Lane Cemetery Friends reports

In February 2011, English Heritage (EH) in partnership with the Police through the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) launched a new initiative to deal with the issue of heritage crime. Heritage crime is described as any offence which causes damage to or interferes with the enjoyment of England's heritage assets and includes metal and architectural theft, arson, illegal metal detecting, unlawful alterations to listed buildings, damage to monuments, graffiti and other anti-social behaviour.

In support of the Heritage Crime Initiative, a new voluntary national network has been established, the Alliance to Reduce Crime Against Heritage (ARCH) which will be used to push forward proposals for tackling heritage crime and to encourage action at local level. By March 2012, ARCH had acquired over 100 member organisations which include local authorities, police forces, professional groups and amenity societies. Membership is free and is open to all who are interested in preventing and enforcing heritage crime.

You can find out more about the Heritage Crime Initiative and ARCH at [http://www.english-](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/news/643873/)

[heritage.org.uk/about/news/643873/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/news/643873/)
[http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-crime/)
[topic/heritage-crime/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-crime/)

and [http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-crime/arch/)
[by-topic/heritage-crime/arch/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-crime/arch/)

New editor for NFCF Newsletter

Ann Wilkinson has kindly agreed to take over editorship of this newsletter. Her contact details are on the back page.

HLF pledges to work to build a resilient heritage economy

In July Dame Jenny Abramsky set out the Heritage Lottery Fund's Strategy for the next 5 years. Here are some extracts:

- Supporting the development of skills, including running a further round of the Skills for the Future programme; offering development funding and professional mentoring to develop robust projects and introducing start-up grants and transition funding for organisations needing to cope with new challenges;
- Kick-start philanthropy through providing endowments and smaller grants for capacity building and support for fundraising training;
- New Heritage Enterprise scheme designed to fund partnerships – including social and private enterprises – to develop sustainable new uses for the most challenging historic sites;
- Require carbon foot-printing as part of the application process for projects over £2m;
- Ask HLF-supported projects to make their digital content widely available at no charge. HLF will also fund stand-alone digital projects;
- Extend HLF support for heritage in private ownership for physical works to heritage provided they achieve a step-change in terms of public access and engagement;
- Sharing Heritage – a new very simple grant programme for smaller projects needing £3,000-£10,000;
- Create online communities to showcase good practice and encourage the exchange of ideas and innovations;
- Increase the maximum grants for the Landscape Partnerships Programme from £2m to £3m and expand the geographical area it will support.
- Support urgent repairs plus additional facilities which open up of places of worship for greater community use;
- A further Collecting Cultures initiative in late 2013 to encourage a strategic approach to collection development and acquisition in museums, archives and libraries.

The full strategic frame work can be viewed at:

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/Pages/StrategicFramework2013to2018.aspx#>

Fire destroys Masbrough Chapel

Eileen Hyland, secretary of the Friends of Masbrough Chapel and Walker Mausoleum, Rotherham, writes:

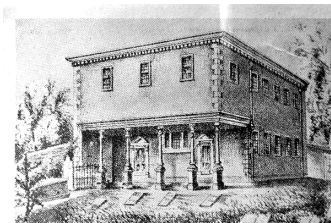
Our 18th century Masbrough Chapel was almost destroyed by arson in March this year. The site was in a very neglected state, full of furniture and rubbish, and the devastating fire burned for 2 days. The attached buildings (which are not listed) are now totally derelict but the chapel walls are still standing.

Over the last ten years the Friends of the Masbrough Chapel have been fighting for the restoration of the chapel, mausoleum and burial ground and have been faced with bureaucratic stonewalling from the council and absolutely no interest or responsibility from the owner to this Grade II listed building. We now face the question - where do we go from here? The only good news was that the Mausoleum in the burial ground escaped untouched and has recently had the stolen lead roof replaced and the drainage improved.

There is nothing more demoralising watching helplessly whilst “our” site deteriorates before our eyes. The Georgian Society suggested we apply for a small grant to remove the memorials left on the walls of the ruin and ensure they are kept safely, which we have now done although we do not yet know where the memorials can be stored.

At the moment the council have refused the demolition of the buildings as the owner has not proved that this is the only answer, and as the chapel is a listed building all avenues have to be explored. The Georgian Society, English Heritage and several other individuals and groups have also opposed the demolition.

If the demolition goes ahead our plan would be for the footprint of the chapel to be left, the burial ground to be cleared of rubbish, the site walls repaired and the Mausoleum open to the public at least three times a year. We would oppose anything built on the chapel site but recognise that the attached buildings will probably have a new use, possibly as housing. The neighbours deserve a better outlook than the one they've had for the past 15 years.



Masbrough Chapel
– in its heyday
and now



Metal Recycling Scheme

Tim Morris of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM).

It would be up to local cemetery groups to lobby their local crematoria and/or councils.

The ICCM scheme for the recycling of metals following cremation has grown since its launch in 2005 with almost half of UK crematoria in membership. The scheme is made possible by the bereaved giving their consent to recycle residual metal, that is orthopaedic implants. Metal is collected from member crematoria, documented on site and removed for recycling. Two collections are undertaken annually by our recycling partner, Orthometals, who also work with the Royal Dutch Cremation Society on the European scheme. Following each collection the metal is sorted, smelted and sold. Every six months the Institute receives the surplus produced from the previous collection, following which it writes to all member crematoria seeking nominations for local charities. On the last collection a surplus of £204,000 was recorded with this being distributed in equal amounts to fifty one registered charities. Further information on the recycling scheme can be found at <http://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/?pagename=recyclingmetal>

Without the bereaved giving their consent and the work undertaken by the member crematoria, who should be given the greatest thanks, the scheme would not be possible. The Institute is pleased to be working with these groups to 'make a difference'!

Leysdown Tragedy Centenary

On Saturday 4th August the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery, accompanied by local scouts and relatives of the nine victims, commemorated the anniversary of the drowning of a group of Boy Scouts on 4th August 1912. A plaque was also unveiled to Bert Barnes, who did much to help uncover and preserve the memory of these boys.

This event was picked up by several newspapers, although they concentrated on the David Beckham angle (his great-grandfather being one of the survivors of the accident).

The story is told on the opposite page.

The story of the Leysdown Tragedy

From 'The Walworth Scouts' by Rex Batten, Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

The Scouting movement, founded in 1907, promoted fresh air and outdoor activities. On Saturday 3rd August 1912 five adults and 24 Scouts of the 2nd Walworth Scout Troop, south London, sailed from Waterloo Bridge down to Leysdown on the Isle of Sheppey on their cutter. They arrived at Erith at 9pm, slept overnight on the boat and set off at 4am and were in sight of the camp when, two miles off the coast, a sudden gale caught them and the boat capsized.

The local lifeboat was launched but had a long row to get to the disaster. A number of acts of heroism (especially by Scoutmaster Sydney Marsh) helped save many lives but nine boys drowned.

The boys who were lost were eight Scouts: William Beckham, 12; Albert Dack, 11; Noel Filmer, 14; Thompson Filmer, 12; Harry Gwynn, 13; Percy Huxford, 12; James Skipsey, 12 and Edward Smith, 11; plus Frank Masters, 14, from the training ship Arethusa.

The tragic loss of such young lives struck a chord with the nation and Winston Churchill MP, First Lord of the Admiralty, arranged for a destroyer to transport the bodies back to Rotherhithe. The coffins were then taken to St John's Larcom Street, off the Walworth Road, to which the troop was attached.

100,000 people were said to have attended the lying-in-state of the boys and paid their respects. The terrible events had really touched peoples' hearts and the mass funeral almost resembled a state event. It took place on 10th August 1912 and contemporary film and photos show the streets lined with crowds of people and Scouts. There were commemorative issues of national newspapers and a million people watched as the coffins, draped in Union Jacks and Scouts' staves entwined with flowers, passed by on their way to Nunhead Cemetery. It took an hour for them to arrive and there they were buried. Percy Huxford's body was not found until 13th August and he joined his fellow Scouts on 15th August.

A bronze life-size Scout was erected in 1914. It was paid for by public donations and designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, but sadly it was stolen in 1969. In 1992, thanks to the generosity of Kellaways and Francis Chappell, a replacement memorial of a fine Carrara marble stone carved in the shape of a book was put in its place. There is also a memorial at Leysdown. The Scouts have never been forgotten.

2013 AGM – York Cemetery

Next year's NCF AGM will be on Saturday June 8th 2013.

Clive Dawson, chairman of hosts, Friends of York Cemetery, writes:

York Cemetery was opened in 1837 and went into voluntary liquidation in 1966. After this the cemetery became a derelict wilderness and its buildings decayed - the collapse of the roof of the Grade II* listed neo-classical chapel in August 1984 being the final act in the drama. At this point a group of concerned citizens decided to act and formed [The Friends of York Cemetery](#) and then [York Cemetery Trust](#).

York Cemetery is now a working burial ground. It also provides opportunities for conservation, education, and informal recreation within a protected environment. It receives no maintenance grants and relies for the bulk of its income on the cemetery business.

The Friends of York Cemetery was established in 1988 to help York Cemetery Trust and the cemetery staff to manage the site, and to 'provide for the public benefit the preservation, care and improvement of York Cemetery as a burial ground and as a place of historic, educational and ecological interest and beauty.'

They raise money through their membership, public programme of walks and other events, genealogy, private tours and donations. Recently they have purchased tools and equipment for the cemetery business and for volunteers, plants, piano and an ornate cupborad. A £8000 donation has gone towards the new floor in the chapel.

The site is managed under an ecological land management plan, implemented by our staff, Friends and volunteers, which allows for some areas to remain undisturbed to encourage and protect the habitat of much of the wildlife sustained by the 24-acre site.

York Cemetery is proud of its Grade II* listed chapel. The chapel has always been a focal point within the cemetery. It was designed by the architect James Piggot Pritchett as a part of the original cemetery landscape. He based his design on the temple of Erectheus in Athens. Completed in 1838, the chapel is an excellent example of the late neo-classical style and is considered to be one of Pritchett's most successful commissions.

Cultural events at West Norwood Cemetery

A series of innovative events has already drawn more than 5000 visitors to West Norwood Cemetery in 2012.

June saw the launch of the cemetery's first art trail – Curious – which attracted over 4,000 visitors to explore 25 intriguing artworks created for specific sites around the grounds. Curious was curated by Jane Millar and funded by the Mayor of London for two years - so there should be more chances to visit next year. It was complemented by an evening event of musical performances around the grounds.

In July, FOWNC hosted a dramatised reading of Euripides' Greek tragedy Medea, produced by Janet Haney of Speech Acts. Using a modern interpretation by Stevie Hughes, it held the audience spellbound in the atmospheric surroundings of the Greek Chapel.

Throughout the Olympic and Paralympic period, the Streetscape Carousel (described as a 'modern day magic lantern') set up in the Greek Chapel projected a shadowy panorama featuring monuments from the Magnificent Seven London cemeteries around the walls. Volunteer stewards from FOWNC and West Norwood FEAST allowed it to open to visitors three days a week.

Funding problems at LOCOG meant that Olympic themed projects at some of the other Magnificent Seven did not come to fruition.

The Friends have also published a new monumental architecture guide and secured funding for some monument restoration.

Passion Play at Houghton Hillside Cemetery

On Good Friday Houghton-le-Spring's traditional Passion Play, usually presented only to the congregation in the church, was enacted for the first time in the cemetery. It was the inspiration of Rector Sue Pinnington who, with the transformation of Hillside Cemetery into a beautiful, tranquil site, saw an opportunity to take the play into a public arena in a 21st century context. Over 170 people joined the actors and musicians to walk Christ's journey in a dramatic and moving performance.

Do you have any Unglazed Terracotta Grave Markers?

NFCF have received the following enquiry from Hilary Calvert that you may be able to help with.

Winged angels, cherubs, elaborated Celtic crosses and inscribed kerbs were made in Compton, Surrey, by the Potters' Arts Guild under the direction of Mrs G. F. Watts, wife of the Victorian painter. Production was from the 1890s until about 1950 and prices included delivery to the nearest railway station, so they may be found anywhere. Designs were individual but Celtic tracery and Arts and Crafts lettering cut into the clay before firing are typical.

Hilary is compiling a catalogue of Compton pottery designs. If you know the location of any terracotta graves (red or grey) please email her at: hilary@georgeclews.co.uk



Caring for God's Acre

Caring for God's Acre have been awarded over £400,000 for a four year national project across England and Wales encouraging people to care for churchyards and burial sites. They will be organising workshops, providing training in traditional skills, and providing advice and information. Check www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk for more information.

Kensal Green Cemetery

The Friends celebrated the completion of restoration work to monuments to two significant 'notables' in July with ceremonies attended by diplomats and descendants. First on 18th July was to the Russian Orthodox priest Revd James Smirnov, born Iakov Ivanovich Linitsky in Ukraine in 1754. As chaplain to the Russian Embassy in London his duties extended to assisting with the diplomatic work in several directions. The restoration was at the initiative of the Russian Embassy with additional contributions from Embassy staff and the Russian community.

The grey granite monument, now complete with obelisk, to Scottish explorer John McDouall Stuart was rededicated on 25th July, the 150th anniversary of his expedition's arrival on the southern coast of the Indian Ocean in the first known crossing of Australia from south to north. The restoration was part funded by a Commemorating Eminent Australian grant.

Adopt a war grave

From the NCF secretary:

There is some confusion over the item 12b in the AGM minutes regarding the Adopt- a -war -grave scheme. Geoffrey Thurley of the Friends of Brockley & Ladywell Cemeteries points out they have not tried it but he was asking for any further experiences, having seen a piece in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission magazine.

This featured our member the Friends of Darwen Cemetery who are successfully running the scheme, with over 100 war graves adopted by the community, mainly children. It involves regular visits to tend a bed or grave. Flowers can be planted or floral tributes placed. The headstones are the responsibility of the CWGC to clean and repair.

For more details see Darwen's excellent website:

www.darwencemetery.org.uk or contact the organiser at dianedavies@darwencemetery.org.uk

New Members

Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground, Skipton, North Yorkshire

This Ground was an overflow from the graveyard of Holy Trinity Church and was open from 1846 to about 1876. About 2,000 people are buried in its one-acre site and about 200 memorials remaining. The Ground is not open to the public, is neglected and overgrown but has developed into something of a wildlife haven. Following extensive research into the cemetery's history, local resident Jean Robinson campaigned for its restoration. Now with the support of the Church, who still own it, and Skipton Town Council who maintain it, she has set up a Friends group. A visit to the Friends of Houghton Hillside gave them some ideas for the future and NCF members responded to her request for advice on faculties and tree work.

Jean comments: 'I feel that we have already had more than our money's worth from the members' fee.' Contact: jean/Oalice@aol.com

Friends of St Marys Cemetery, Warrington

Friends of St Mary's Cemetery are local people who are seeking to restore respect to the four acre, closed cemetery which has served the parishes of Penketh and Sankey since the 1800s.

The Friends group was formally constituted last September, *writes Jean Morris*. We are a small band of eight who would like to grow. We don't have any special skills just plenty of enthusiasm a little spare time, and a wish to get involved with other people who are prepared to do something for nothing. We hold action mornings on the first and third Saturdays every month, at the cemetery in St Mary's Road, Penketh. We are working with our local High School to build a web site but until that is in place can be contacted via Bereavement Services on 01925 267731.

Friends of Park Cemetery, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

This group is the second one joining the NCF from Ilkeston and maintained by Erewash Borough Council, but unlike Stanton Road is still a working cemetery. Opened in 1892 the cemetery has a Grade II listed chapel built in 1910. The cemetery is attractively set in an undulating landscape offering a rich haven for wildlife. Many of the mature trees have bird boxes. You can see photos on www.friendsofparkcemetery.org.uk.

Contact: friendsofparkcemetery@gmail.com

Members News

(not reported elsewhere)

Abney Park Cemetery, London

The Henry Campbell memorial has been restored by the Trust and the Music Hall Society.

An event was held on April 1st to celebrate the bicentenary of Welsh congregational minister, campaigner against militarism and MP Henry Richards.

Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol

The Friends celebrated their 25th anniversary on 7th October with special tours and events. An anniversary cake was cut and a cheque from the Friends was presented to the Trust for their Catalyst Fund.

Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds

Railings have been erected alongside Shakespeare Street, considerably increasing the security cemetery.

The Friends are working with Leeds City Council's Education Officer to produce an Education Pack which is aimed at encouraging Primary school teachers to use the cemetery in the 6-8 year old curriculum.

Belgrave Cemetery, Leicester

A Robinia frisia tree was planted to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Friends' have updated their website which is now www.friendsofbelgravecemetery.org.uk

Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham

The flooded Superintendent's Lodge has been refurbished and the hope is that it can become a Visitors' Centre and the garden will become a community project. Initial work has started on the Grade II listed Mortuary Chapels.

Broadwater and Worthing Cemeteries

The Diamond Jubilee and Publicans and Hoteliers Tour brought a record breaking turnout. The Friends have had a donation of golf umbrellas for use on rainy tour days.

Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, London

The Friends held a successful 5th anniversary event in July (on almost the first hot day of summer!). In September they hosted a dedication ceremony for Gunner Arthur Howard, a defender at Rorke's Drift in 1879, and the following week an international seminar of the David Jones Society. The poet is buried in the cemetery.

Darwen Cemetery, Lancashire

Potholes in the new part of the Western Cemetery have been filled. Several families have restored their monuments, including that of stonemason James Brown and that of Rev Philip Graham. The Nature Garden was opened on April 28th with over 60 people in attendance. Over the Jubilee weekend a huge beech tree came down, destroying the old cemetery gates and temporarily blocking the bridle path.

Deane Road Cemetery, Liverpool

The Heritage Lottery Funded restoration project has been completed.

Highgate Cemetery, London

Dr Ian Dungavell has been appointed chief executive officer. Graves have been cleared on the west side of the cemetery including those of the Dickens family, and a visit from English Heritage has led to the listing of another 16 monuments and the removal of one from the At Risk Register.

Key Hill and Warstone Lane Cemeteries, Birmingham

Conservation work in the General Cemetery Key Hill to the entrance gates and railings and walls in Key Hill Drive and Cemetery Lane is now complete, and the recast gates are open for visitors. The Friends were so happy with the quality of the works and the extra effort that the company Midland Conservations went to, that they have commissioned them to restore the exceedingly large box memorial to Siviter Smith in Key Hill Cemetery and a large obelisk in Warstone Lane Cemetery.

Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax

The clearing of undergrowth and trees has revealed many graves which had previously been inaccessible.

Newtown Road Cemetery, Newbury

Electric lighting has now been installed in the chapel.

New Zealand Historic Cemeteries

Good news from Auckland where \$1.64 million over 10 years will be spent repairing and securing Symonds Street Cemetery. Opened in 1842, it is the oldest cemetery in Auckland and is the resting place of many of New Zealand's European founders, including the first Governor, Captain William Hobson.

Northwood Cemetery, Isle of Wight

The front elevation of the East Chapel has been repointed, and the stonework around the main window will be restored, as will the lobby area inside the chapel.

The trustees have agreed to raise a plaque to recently deceased member David Baldwin, the man whose idea it was that the Friends should become a registered charity.

Southampton Old Cemetery

A bench commemorating the 1500 souls lost in the Titanic disaster, and also the survivors who now lie in the cemetery, was unveiled on 5th April by Southampton Councillor Terry Matthews.

Stockport Cemeteries

An interpretation board has been unveiled in Park Road Cemetery and Willow Grove Cemetery has a new notice board. More monuments have been reinstated in Willow Grove Cemetery

NFCF contact details

A list of members is available from the Secretary

Website

<http://cemeteryfriends.org.uk>

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