

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS

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Editor: Ann Wilkinson

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Glasgow City and Necropolis welcome NCF

Before the excitement of the Commonwealth Games, Glasgow put out the welcome mat for the National Federation of Cemetery Friends on 15th June when the Friends of Glasgow Necropolis hosted the AGM.

The event got off to a good start on the Friday evening when the City Council kindly offered a reception with a tour of the Provost's offices in the City Hall.

*Photograph courtesy
of Robert Stephenson*



Next day the meeting was held in St Mungo's Museum. It was attended by 55 including representatives of 20 cemetery friends' groups. The visit included a tour of the Cathedral and the Necropolis and prior to that an illuminating and lively talk by Alexander Stoddart who is the Queen's sculptor in Scotland and has a strong connection with Glasgow Necropolis. Our hosts looked after us very well and made the occasion enjoyable and memorable, and rather unexpectedly, the sun shone for the duration.

Details of the business meeting can be found in the minutes sent to NCFC members. Any members who have not received the minutes please contact the NCFC secretary: gwyneth1@btinternet.com

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

Glasgow Necropolis

Report on the Necropolis courtesy of Colin Fenn

Glasgow Necropolis is built into a hill to the north east of the city centre, and is physically an extension to the Cathedral grounds. The slopes and geology help to define the character of the site from the entrance bridge that spans the burn at the foot of the hill (and the modern roadway) through to the sinuous winding paths that wend their way to the highest parts of the city.

The Ground was established by the merchant guild, and was designed (and priced) to appeal to the commercial fathers of the city. It attracted the grand monuments and mausolea of the wealthy, who could continue to watch over their enterprises in the City below after their death. There is a proliferation of the red and grey sandstones and granite that define the older buildings in the city below. Like them, they are frequently tinted with the soot produced by the industries that once lined the River Clyde.

The Ground is quite challenging, with some of the 'lair' (plots) produced by blasting out the solid rock that lies just below the shallow soil. This produced trenches that were then built up into brick vaults, capped with iron and stone slabs, and then topped with a thin layer of soil and turf. The result is a series of very wide rows of memorials that roll off the crests of the hill. There are few trees.



Glasgow Necropolis

Although it holds some polished granite monuments by Alexander MacDonald of Aberdeen, the most numerous and dramatic monuments are home-grown, particularly the sculptural and stylistic designs of the prolific local firm of Mossman. Founded in the 1830s, Mossman remains a family business, having passed down many generations before control was passed to a foreman, Smith, under

which name it still operates. In addition, there are works by local architects and the Glasgow School of artists, most notably Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) and Charles 'Greek' Thompson (1817-1875). The City and the Necropolis are both enriched by their contributions, and from the sculptors that Mossman trained.

Like many other cemeteries, the Necropolis has suffered over the years from both vandalism and the City's (the current site owner) policies. However, there is now a significant project underway under the council to repair and restore some of the more significant mausolea. This is producing some unusual results, with mauve and powder blue ironwork in evidence after repainting!

The neighbouring Cathedral kirkyard is also worth exploring, not least for its Georgian-era caged iron mortsafes that line the boundary walls - after all, this was the home of Burke and Hare.

NFCF AGM 2015

The next NFCF AGM will be hosted by the Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds on Saturday 13th June 2015.

If any Member would like to host the AGM in 2016 (or beyond) please contact the NFCF secretary.

Warriston Cemetery in Scotland's Best Hundred

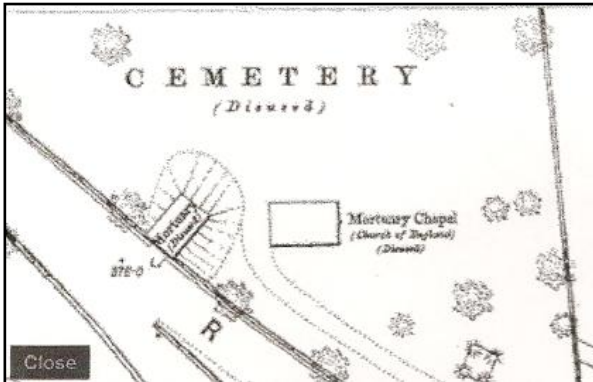
The Friends of Warriston Cemetery of Edinburgh celebrated their first birthday after a very busy year. Not unnoticed it seems by Edinburgh events organiser Peter 'Mr Hogmanay' Irvine who has included it in his book, Scotland the Best 100 Places. According to the Edinburgh Evening News his selection is 'entirely subjective' of 'places that I know are uniquely brilliant' and omits such attractions as the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle. Warriston is singled out for its 'romantic melancholy'.

Friends excavate site of former Mortuary

Jean Robinson, Chairman of the Friends of Raikes Road Burial Ground, Skipton, writes:

In August, the Friends of the Ground organised an archaeological excavation over two days to find out what could be learnt of the remains of the mortuary building on the site.

This cemetery, opened between 1846 and 1876, has no known records about its layout or administration and had remained forgotten and neglected until the Friends' formation in 2012. Maps showed a chapel and mortuary on site, but nothing remained of the former and only a mound for the latter, with some differentiation in the boundary wall, indicating that the Mortuary has been underground.



Left: 1891 Ordnance Survey map (Crown copyright) showing the position of the mortuary mound

Left: 1891 Ordnance Survey map (Crown copyright) showing the position of the mortuary mound

With the help of a Heritage Lottery grant to restore the Ground, the Friends asked archaeologist Janis Heward to excavate part of the mortuary, basically to see if the mound was the roof, if the building had been infilled and, for public access, to see if it was stable. We were able to establish the top of the back wall but with some surprise, we found a brick flue, which had been walled off at some later stage (see image right). There was no burning to the flue, so the only suggestion is that it was used for extraction of odours.



Test trench showing back wall (top) and flue

It is hoped to return to the site for further work in the future but if NFCF members have any thoughts on the flue, we will be pleased to hear them.

Contact: Jean Robinson, jean10alice@aol.com

Anglia in Bloom award

Forwarded by Paul Davies, Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries

The Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries have been awarded the Best Churchyard and Cemetery Award by Anglia in Bloom, an area which covers Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. They were also awarded a Silver-Gilt Certificate.

A new mowing regime was agreed with the local council in which two areas were not cut in the spring flowering season and two other areas in the summer flowering season. Because the particular plants that thrive in the cemeteries need poor soil, when the time is due to cut the designated areas, these were strimmed by the council and the cuttings were raked by the Friends. The raking and removal of the cut grass prevents nutrients entering the soil. This year we have found primroses, bluebells, broom rape, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow saxifrage etc coming back into the cemetery.

Interpretation panels have been erected to explain to the public why the grass is not being cut and what flowers to look out for. All this, and with community and school involvement, helped the Friends to scoop the award at their first attempt.



*Above left to right: Paul Davies, Bob Ollier
(Chairman Anglia in Bloom) and Michael
Pearson*

Photograph courtesy of Paul Davies

The Angel in Willow Grove Restoration Project

Forwarded by Sheila Robins, Friends of Stockport Cemeteries

In August 2013 we received the news that we had been successful with our bid to Heritage Lottery Fund of a grant of £39,800 for an exciting venture, The Angel in Willow Grove Restoration Project, at Willow Grove Cemetery in South Reddish, Stockport.

Willow Grove Cemetery was once a thriving concern; the first interment took place on the 19th November 1877. There are around 35,000 burials within this cemetery. They include a great many families from the immediate district; covering a wide social range. There are also interesting historical and social variations with a good many paupers graves, memorials to some travelling families, a number of local dignitaries and 147 military from both world wars. The cemetery reflects the history of its community through the lives of all the people who are buried there.

This project is about reinstating a monument and transporting everyone back in time, uncovering more about the past and leaving a legacy for future generations.

Work started on the restoration of the monument last December, the plinth and cupola were taken off site. Other components of the monument, the four pillars, columns and the angel were also taken from storage to be cleaned and repaired. New marble was used to repair the angel figure and replace the 4 damaged columns. The angel and cupola were also sent to a stone carver's workshop for additional work which was to complete the elaborate detail on these components. The lead lettering on the monument has been completely restored by a member of the group who is a retired stone mason. The next job to be done on the monument is to place a permanent balustrade or



fencing around the monument which we hope will be in keeping with the original.

Other aspects of the project are also being worked on. So far volunteers have managed to record the inscriptions of over 3.000 monuments and have also collated several burial indexes onto spread sheets.

Those working on this project are learning about the social history of the area, the contrasting living conditions of this period of the working class districts of Reddish, and the area of Willow Grove which was the prosperous section when the cemetery came into being. Also there is an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into class divides which occur not just in life but also in death within this cemetery. We still have a lot to do but are confident that the project will be finished on time.

Have you seen the new NCF website?

The NCF website has a new look. After discussion with members it was agreed that we seek a professional designer and the initial results of this successful search can now be seen. The redesign is a gradual process and some sections still need some updating and revision of text. We hope members will welcome it and contribute and the webmaster gives the following guidance:

Members and Associates are invited to check their contact details are up to date by visiting the website at:

<http://www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk/>

Each member has now been given a unique profile page which can contain a picture, description, contact details and web link. The image size is 960 pixels wide x 280 pixels high. We can crop your photo for you but please make sure it is at least 960 pixels wide. This picture size works best with a panoramic view. See the web site for examples.

To ensure member profile pages stay up to date throughout the year please do not refer to local events in your description. However if you

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have an event of national interest please let us know so that we can add it to our events page. We also have a section for articles. Content for the website can be submitted via email to James, the webmaster, and his contact details are available on the Contact page.

Highgate Cemetery celebrates 175 years

Report by Robert Stephenson

On the 20th May the Friends of Highgate Cemetery marked the opening of their cemetery 175 years ago in great style with an evening event attended by about 200 people from the London cemetery world. A fine roast meal with wine was served al fresco and in between the celebratory speeches there was entertainment provided by a choral group and a brass band.



Above left to right: Ian Kelly (Trustee), Dr Ian Dungavell (Chief Executive) and John Shepperd (Chairman)



Leverton's zero emissions hearse

Attendees also had the chance to examine at close quarters a Victorian horse hearse courtesy of T. Cribb & Sons, and at the other end of the funeral spectrum, the latest Nissan electric eco-hearse supplied by the Crown funeral directors Leverton & Sons.

Tours of the cemetery took place in the gloaming when the capacious interior of the subterranean Otway mausoleum was visited, along with the sad graves of the Pre-Raphaelite model Lizzie Siddal and the Russian murder victim Alexander Litvinenko.

(Photographs courtesy of Robert Stephenson)

Tour of War Graves at Wemdon Road Cemetery, Bridgwater

Bernice Lashbrook, Secretary of the Friends of Wemdon Road Cemetery reports:

During this year of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1, the Friends of Wemdon Road Cemetery arranged a guided tour of some of the graves of those men of Bridgwater who died either in battle or as a result of their wounds in this conflict. The Co-operative Funeral Care in Bridgwater kindly donated poppy seeds which had been planted earlier in the year, and were just beginning to show their buds as the tour started. Prior to the start of the tour, Mr Norman Allen, Chairman of Bridgwater British Legion, placed a poppy cross on the graves as a mark of remembrance.



Photograph courtesy of Bernice Lashbrook

We were blessed with dry weather and around 50 people attended. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Bridgwater, Cllr Steve Austen (our Honorary President for 2014/15) together with the Mayoress, Mrs Stella Austen. The tour commenced at 11.00 a.m. and was led by our Chairman, Miles Peterson who gave brief details of the lives of the men interred and the

circumstances of their death. The poignancy of the stories around the loss of each man's life was deeply felt by all present. We were also asked by Miles to think about how the whole fabric of Bridgwater life was severely damaged by the deaths of so many men; their family members; the impact on trade and commerce and the incredible hardship which had to be endured by society as a whole – Bridgwater's loss was some 308 men.

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The tour which lasted about an hour was ended by a period of silence to remember not only the men from Bridgwater and surrounding area who had made the ultimate sacrifice but the millions of other lives lost all over the world in this tragic period of our history.

At the conclusion of the tour we were pleased to welcome eight new 'Friends' and donations towards our work. And a final footnote to the day was that Mr Allen from the British Legion, with the help of our Work Co-ordinators Rita and Alan Jones, located the grave of a relative and he was a very happy man.

NFCF Security Seminar

Twenty one people attended the 'Security in Cemeteries' seminar on Saturday 30th August 2014 held in the Chapel of Brompton Cemetery.

Colin Fenn, Vice-Chairman of the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery, gave a presentation on the issues we face in our cemeteries relating to graffiti; vandalism, theft (particularly metal), damage to buildings, anti-social behaviour, and even disturbance of human remains. He supported his discussion with case studies and highlighted how certain information is shared on the world wide web including break-in 'tips' and potential hits for urban explorers. Colin discussed the consequences of these activities for our cemeteries and outlined some of the current laws, (criminal, civil, ecclesiastical), local authority byelaws and the Public Health Act under which offenders could be pursued.

John Strutton, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Manager with Transport for London, then gave a talk entitled 'Urban exploration – benign hobby or security threat?' He defined urban exploration (UB) as 'a form of trespass involving gaining access to areas usually prohibited to the general public'. So-called urban explorers are not opportunists, they are equipped for the purpose of entering a site with bolt cutters and bump keys, often leaving behind a marker as evidence they have been in and even releasing images

of themselves taken on location (useful for police intelligence). Some take items as 'mementos' causing damage in the process. Motivation for such exploits can be anything from taking photographs to thrill seeking to self-aggrandisement. However, the exploration of areas not designed for general public use can be hazardous putting themselves and others in danger, and counter-terrorism units consider UB a genuine risk. A coordinated approach, working in partnership between interested agencies is vital to tackling the problem and progress to date has seen the granting of ASBOs in 2012 and the conviction of one individual, a main 'activist' receiving a three year conditional discharge for criminal damage.

In a second presentation, Colin Fenn considered what we can do in safeguarding our cemeteries against the security issues previously outlined. There is the need to be alert to suspicious behaviour and have a more conspicuous presence on site, possibly using police patrols and CCTV. Keeping the site well-maintained and well used, identifying vulnerable areas, and investing in good locks and chains. Keep a record of bronzes and vulnerable metal on memorials and make use of measures such as Smartwater, SelectaMark etching and low-value copies of vulnerable items. Allowing supervised access to the more 'secret' places in the cemetery will deflate the challenge for those seeking less informal access.

Open discussion then followed from which came a suggestion that the NCF could consider pulling together a set of guidance notes for dealing with potential security issues and suspicious activity which members could take on board.

Let us know

Please keep sending the newsletter editor your news stories and events (contact details on the back page). You get publicity for your events, a place to trumpet your successes, and a chance to air your woes. We get the articles to fill and update our pages.

AGM of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) held in Barcelona from the 2nd to 4th October 2014

Report by Emer Seamark

The theme for this year was 'Cultural Heritage Resting in Cemeteries' and the turnout was good with 120 members from 17 countries attending the conference. In her opening speech the president, Lidija Pliberšek spoke of the importance of raising awareness of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage within our cemeteries and urged greater involvement in international activities.

Jordi Valmana who is the general manager of the cemeteries of Barcelona and the host of this event then welcomed the group and echoed these sentiments; he also spoke of the union of European cemeteries being crucial to introduce and normalise funerary culture in Europe.

The AGM then took place, the minutes of which will appear on the ASCE website in due course and will include the annual accounts which after many years are now balanced; the meeting was also informed that the organisation is finally and properly registered as a non-profit organisation in Italy with a new address in Bologna. Other items included a draft proposal on changes to the charter which will be presented in 2015 and a new emphasis on the rights and obligations of significant cemeteries and a clear guide on how to apply for significant cemetery status. The president also emphasised the importance of displaying promotional material and outlined the benefits of belonging to ASCE in terms of tourism and obtaining grants for projects from the EU - membership of ASCE would carry weight in an application; ASCE no longer funds projects. This information and much more is available on the website. In conclusion the meeting was reminded that becoming a member of ASCE does not mean a cemetery has to be classed as significant or be on the cemeteries route and membership for the UK remains at a very reasonable €25 per year. However, for the ASCE to do its work it is crucial that members pay this annual fee promptly. Among the numerous benefits of belonging to the organisation is ready access to photo archives available for download which will enable groups to exhibit photos of significant cemeteries in Europe thus

raising awareness and promoting shared cultural interest. Again details can be found on the website.

Barcelona hosted a successful AGM and treated those who attended to three memorable visits: two cemeteries and a spectacular and recently renovated former hospital which is now open to the public as a working museum. Apart from this we were presented with an array of international speakers all of whom added interest and knowledge to this excellent occasion. The weather was splendid.

The 2015 AGM will be held in Bucharest.

ASCE website: <http://www.significantcemeteries.org/>

Notes from the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group (BCAG) meeting

Geoffrey Seamark attended the June 2014 meeting of BCAG on behalf of the NCF.

It was reported that the reform of death certification in England and Wales is awaiting final parliamentary review with expected revision to be published in July 2014, following which it will go out to consultation for three months with a lead time of fifteen months before national implementation. Regulations regarding cremation of stillbirths and body parts are also being reviewed and the outcome will be presented in line with the Department of Health review of death certification.

The proposed route for the High Speed 2 (HS2) rail link which passes directly through 2 or 3 burial sites is raising concerns. A petition has been initiated by the Church of England asking for relevant Bishops to determine how and where to remove and rebury remains and for the government to sanction and fund this endeavour.

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A survey carried out by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) involving 300 cemeteries has highlighted national concerns regarding the imminent crisis of shortage of space and the issue of grave reuse. The survey indicated that local (parish and town) councils are running out of space and need reuse powers to remain viable. Several consequences following on from this include local councils being reluctant to allow pre-purchase of graves in order to prevent a 'rush to buy' which could result in cemeteries being forced to close and are increasingly banning non-resident burials outright or charging non-residents as much as five times the fee charged to residents. Purchase of land on which to create a cemetery is a legislative nightmare, as having to comply with regulations and compete with developers has made the enterprise prohibitive and fraught with difficulty. Even the move to reuse graves is at best a temporary and inadequate remedy and in conclusion the SLCC has asked that one piece of modern burial legislation for the whole of the UK designed to ensure sustainability and protection of heritage be forthcoming. Simon Hughes, the Justice and Civil Liberties Minister, was 'warm' to meeting with those in the industry about this issue but has yet to set a date.

The Chief Coroner, HHJ Peter Thornton QC was present at the meeting and discussed his office and aspirations for the Coroner Service nationally. His role is defined by leadership and guidance with emphasis on making the service more efficient and cost effective, achieving this by attempting to encourage more cohesive and coherent national guidelines of practice using training and the simplification of systems, and more accountability through good communication and engagement with the public. He placed emphasis on maintaining the close involvement of local authorities which hire and administer the coroner service nationwide, reminding the meeting that coroners' reports can and do alter attitudes and equipment in the public domain, serving to prevent future casualties.

After extensive testing of materials and discussion about an acceptable standard of coffin manufacture within the industry, an agreement is close to completion and proposals should be released to the public by July 2014.

New Members

The Friends of the Penzance Jewish Cemetery

A revival of interest in the finest example of a Georgian Jewish cemetery in England outside London, Penzance Jewish Cemetery, is taking place in Cornwall, not only because of its intrinsic value as an English Heritage site but also due to a drive to raise funds for the restoration of its walls.



Penzance Jewish Cemetery contains within its walls, 250 years of Cornish Jewish history (last burial of a member of the historic Jewish community being in 1911) with its carefully preserved headstones, 50 of which are in almost perfect condition and a partially preserved Bet Tohorah (Cleansing House) a very rare feature to survive in cemeteries of this period, all of which have been carefully documented by Pearce in the upcoming book as well as in a previous book, *The Lost Jews of Cornwall*, edited by Pearce and Helen Fry.

The lives of those Jewish families had a major impact on commercial, religious, and economic life. Its miraculous survival is due to the far-sightedness of the Jewish congregation who in 1844 bought the freehold to the whole of the present site and in 1845 began to completely enclose the cemetery having previously partially enclosed it in stages. The original site began its life as an unenclosed burial ground in the 1740s. It is these walls which now need restoration work to ensure that this now 'closed' burial ground is preserved.

The families who are buried here reveal a remarkable and interesting history, and many descendants of these families, now scattered throughout the UK and abroad, are becoming interested in their Cornish roots.

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So, who were these people buried in this unique cemetery? Records indicate there was a Jewish presence in Penzance from the 1740s onward (possibly earlier), many families coming from the Rhineland in Germany or from Holland. While at the height of its population in town never reached more than 30 families, they contributed actively to economic, social and religious life. Some were merchants, peddlers, rabbis, cantors and shochets; some were store owners



*The Tohorah -
Ritual Cleansing Area*

who distributed wine, spirits, clothing, jewellery, household goods, furniture, watches; others were scholars, pawnbrokers and coppersmiths. Many were poor but most were highly industrious, and they were actively involved in charitable work in the wider community. There were families with the surnames of Woolf, Hart, Oppenheim, Simmons, Levin and Bischofswerder. Other family names buried here include: Levy, Selig, Jacob, Greenberg (Hillman), Ezekiel, Joseph, Moses, Zalman, Teacher, Barnet, Salzmann, and Levine.

Recently a group, The Friends of Penzance Jewish Cemetery, have been formed with the following objectives:

- To better protect, maintain and improve the condition of the Jewish Cemetery in Leskinnick Terrace, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 2HB owned by The Board of Deputies of British Jews.
- To better interpret and explain Jewish faith, burial practice and tradition.
- To encourage more and wider range of people to have an interest in the part Jewish people have played in Cornish history.
- To liaise with the Town Council, Penlee House Gallery and Museum and the owners of the site in the management of the cemetery.
- To organise school visits and projects.
- To organise interfaith educational lectures and visits.

- To liaise with the tourist office.
- To encourage goodwill and involvement of the wider community.
- To foster community spirit and encourage civic pride.

Keith Pearce is custodian of the cemetery and has personally looked after it for the past 17 years. Presently it is locally maintained by the Penzance Town Clerk's Office and also is under the supervision of the Penlee House Museum and Gallery.

Leslie Lipert, Treasurer of Kehillat Kernow, the Jewish Community of Cornwall, has been appointed agent by the Board of Deputies of British Jews who owns the cemetery to raise funds for its restoration through private and civic donations and grants.

Contact: Mandy Pearce, mandymunch22@btinternet.com

The Friends of St Peter's, Great Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

The Friends is a charitable trust that was launched at a very successful public meeting in 2013. It supports the work of maintaining and enhancing St Peter's Church and the churchyards that belong to it.

St Peter's, a medieval building full of historical and architectural interest, lies at the heart of the ancient market town of Berkhamsted. In the eight hundred years of the church's history, we can trace the fortunes of our town.

The Rectory Lane Cemetery (also known as Three Close Lane Cemetery) was opened in 1842 and part was closed in 1976. Its three acres is the only large open space at the east end of the town and with over 1000 memorials has the potential to become an attractive public amenity. The lives of those who are buried in St Peter's and its churchyards are a source of interest to people in Britain and overseas researching their family histories.

Contact: Cathy Imber, cathy.imber@btopenworld.com
See website: www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk

Members News

A selection of news and events from Members newsletters and websites

Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol

Cemetery staff and volunteers welcomed the Duke of Gloucester to formally open the new woodland activity centre, i.e. The Underwood Centre and receive the Social Enterprise Mark. They were also presented with a plaque to commemorate 175 years of the first burial at Arnos Vale.

Brookwood Cemetery

In July, work started on repairs to the cemetery avenues and the driveway into the Glades of Remembrance, and the area around the office was planted with flowers in containers made from trees toppled in the stormy weather.

Earlham Cemetery, Norwich

In July, the Friends won the Group Award of the Community Biodiversity Awards 2014 organised by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership. This was in recognition of the Friends 'work to conserve, enhance and record the biodiversity of the cemetery and to promote its value as a key wildlife site'.

Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax

The Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery were very proud and pleased to have received an award in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category from the Royal Horticultural Society and Yorkshire in Bloom.

Northwood Cemetery, Cowes, Isle of Wight

In July, the Heritage Lottery Fund announced that they have earmarked funding of £1,064,000 to the Friends working in partnership with Isle of Wight Council for a major restoration and development project in the cemetery. The funding includes an initial development grant of £75,300 which will be used to fund detailed professional work in order that fully developed proposals can be submitted next year to secure the full amount of funding.

Nunhead Cemetery, London

The Friends have a new publication entitled 'Buried at Nunhead-Nunhead Notables Volume 3' by Ron Woollacott and Michèle Louise Burford. This 130 page, illustrated paperback features the life stories of 100 individuals. For further information and availability see: <http://www.fonc.org.uk/publication-list/10.html#notables>

Sheffield General Cemetery Trust

After successfully securing funding last year, restoration of the Grade II* listed Nonconformist Chapel commenced in April this year and is expected to be completed by Easter 2015.

The Trust have published a revised edition of Jane Horton's book 'Remote and undisturbed: A brief history of the Sheffield General Cemetery' which has been out of print for several years. The 2014 edition can be purchased through their website: <http://www.gencem.org/publications.php>

Southampton Old Cemetery

In September, fourteen cadets from the Army Cadet Force 5th (Itchen) Group under the supervision of their Detachment Commander joined members of the Friends group in clearing away the massive amount of fallen tree debris caused by last winter's storms.

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, London

The Cemetery Park was one of the winners of the TimeOut Love London Awards in 2014 being named as one of the favourite venues with readers in the Bow, E3 postcode.

York Cemetery

A new Remembrance Garden was opened in July by Alf Cahill, one of the cemetery volunteers and genealogists. The Garden has room for 250 plots for cremated remains. The nearby 'Cross of Sacrifice' with the help of a donation from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was cleaned and restored in time for the World War I commemoration in August.

NFCF contact details

A list of members is available from the Secretary

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