

Magnificent 7 Seminars: 'Diversity in Cemeteries'

11.00-4.30 PM | Small Crematorium Chapel, West Norwood Cemetery

10.30 Registration, teas and coffees

11.00 Welcome and the Future of Magnificent 7 | Greg McErlean, Ruth Holmes , Nigel Thorne | The Royal Parks

Panel 1: Challenges to Diversity in Cemeteries

11.15-11.30 Rules, glorious rules: Challenges in introducing Diversity at Highgate Cemetery | Ian Dungavell

Friends groups are often founded to protect cemeteries. You can protect cemeteries by keeping people out, but also by welcoming them in. There is no consistent set of rules to govern appropriate behaviour in cemeteries, and notions of what is 'respectful' vary enormously. Having too many rules risks alienating visitors and creates problems for those who have to police them. Having no rules invites mayhem.

11.30-11.45 Diversifying Audiences in Abney Park Cemetery | Tom Simpson | Abney Park manager

For those of the Magnificent Seven that no-longer operate as working cemeteries, increasing the diversity of park users and uses is crucial in preserving and protecting these unique sites. However, encouraging people to engage with spaces that are 'full of dead people' can be challenging. This presentation explores how Cemeteries can diversify audiences and the challenges faced when trying to attract new users to a cemetery.

11.45-12.00 Q&A: Challenges to diversity in cemeteries with Ian Dungavell and Tom Simpson. Chaired by Nigel Thorne

Panel 2: Biodiversity in Cemeteries

12.00-12.15 The Green Reaper - bringing life to a Cemetery | Kenneth Greenway - Cemetery Park Manager

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park have been involved in site management since the 1990's. Their role in THCP was formally recognised by Tower Hamlets Council in the form of a Service Level Agreement in 2004. They continue to have the day to day responsibilities of maintenance and litter picking but in their time at THCP they have grown considerably beyond this simple agreement. The Friends have considerable biodiversity management skills and they felt that managing the site for Biodiversity was the way to allow people access to the heritage and create a space that was welcoming, safe and good for wildlife. That doesn't mean that they sit back and let the plants run rampant. They work with almost 3000 volunteers a year to help manage the site and they have taken significant steps towards reducing the dominance of ivy, goosegrass, nettles, bramble, bindweed, cow parsley and hogweed in the Cemetery Park to become the Borough's first Local Nature Reserve. Ken, the Cemetery Park's manager will take you on a journey.

12.15 -12.30 **Holistic Site Management: People and Wildlife | Harriet Carty | Caring for Gods Acre**

Importance of burial grounds for diversity goes hand-in-hand with the importance for built heritage. They are timeless places where we glimpse into the past. Well managed sites both accommodate biodiversity and can also place historic structures into their original setting.

Managing for wildlife is not synonymous with neglect or with loss of access to monuments, you can achieve both and CfGA can advise you how.

Caring for God's Acre has devised a five step plan to help you plan holistic site management for people and wildlife whilst reaching out to and involving your local communities.

12.30-12.45 **Biodiversity in Abney Park Cemetery Russell Miller| Hackney Council**

At Abney Park, years of surveying and detailed research, mostly by local amateur specialists, has provided the site with an in-depth understanding of its biodiversity. The depth of this understanding has not only highlighted the importance of Abney Park but also challenged understanding of the park's 'heritage' and significance.

12.45-13.00 **Q&A Biodiversity in Cemeteries with Ken Greenway, Harriet Carty and Russell Miller, chaired by Ruth Holmes**

13.00-14.00 Lunch & Networking

Panel 3: Engaging diverse audiences, content and creativity

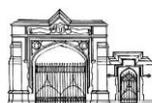
14.00-14.15 **Diversity in Brookwood Cemetery | Burials, Memorialisation and more| John Clarke**

Brookwood has a unique history of diversity in several ways. Firstly, the development of diverse and distinct burial areas within the cemetery, which was possible due to the size of the cemetery and the proactive manner in which the London Necropolis Company forged links with interested groups wishing to open their own burial grounds. Many of these areas were and are unique in the UK. Examples include the Parsee ground (1862+), the original Muslim or "Mahammodan ground" (c1895+), the Roman Catholic area (1859+), the Oddfellows' burial ground (1859), the burial ground of the Swedish Congregation in London (1857+) and the Ancient Order of Foresters burial ground (1863). The consequent diversity of burial practice (including styles of memorialisation or the choice of no memorial), largely connected with the cultural customs of the relevant communities represented at Brookwood also feeds into the diversity of this space.

Finally, there are key developments in the cemetery landscape. Starting with the original Victorian landscape, there is the subsequent introduction of the lawn cemetery (initially in the Military sections from 1917), the creation of a woodland cemetery for the Glades of Remembrance (from 1947), and the more recent areas reserved for woodland and green burials.



Brompton Cemetery
MANAGED BY THE ROYAL PARKS



**Friends of
West Norwood
CEMETERY**



LOTTERY FUNDED

14:15-14:30 Diversifying West Norwood Cemetery: Food for Thought | Colin R Fenn

West Norwood Cemetery has begun its investigation of local demography and the how they are represented, and creative ways of engaging the local community. This is part of the research undertaken by the cemetery in preparation for its HLF bid. One example of engaging the diverse local community have been West Norwood Cemetery's volunteer-led local Feast market.

14.30-14.45 Art Going Places | Nunhead Cemetery | Jolanta Jagiello

Nunhead Cemetery have used Art to engage diverse audiences. In collaboration with ' Art Going Places' the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC) have exhibited in the restored Anglican Chapel and Mausoleum.

ArtGoingPlaces is currently delivering public art exhibitions commemorating the First World War (2014-2018) - Wrenches, Trenches and Stenches (2014), ANZAC In Spirit: Diggers in Gallipoli (2015), and Animals In Service (2016) which has secured funding from Southwark Council. These have successfully toured other Magnificent Seven Cemeteries as a pop-up display on their Open Days including Tower Hamlets Park Cemetery, Kensal Green Cemetery, and Brompton Cemetery. Wrenches, Trenches, and Stenches was displayed in West Norwood Mausoleum in September 2014.

The next two WW1 planned exhibitions are Women In Front (2017) and Messages, Medals and Memorials (2018) and we would be very keen in touring these to all the Magnificent Seven Victorian Cemeteries.

14.45-15.00 Q&A Engaging diverse audience from content to creative engagement with John Clarke, Colin R Fenn and Jolanta Jagiello Chair TBC

15.00-15.30 Magnificent 7 Network: What next? | Nigel Thorne & Halima Khanom

Where next for the Magnificent 7 Cemeteries? Open discussion on taking forward 'Magnificent 7 Cemeteries.' Attendees are encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions for how the Magnificent 7 Cemeteries can work together going forward.

15.30-15.45 Claire Brown: Use of Social Media to engage diverse audiences

This is a practical session on how to use social media to engage diverse audiences and everyone will take part. This will highlight some key examples of innovative uses of what the Magnificent 7 and others are doing already, and ways in which the seven cemeteries can use social media to link with each other. Attendees are encouraged to apply what they take from this session in the tour of West Norwood Cemetery.

15.45-16.30 Brief tour of West Norwood Cemetery

16.30 Thanks and close of seminar