

Nunhead cemetery re-opening with extended hours.

The Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC) has received today (24 April) the following information from Southwark Borough Council:

"In light of updated guidance from national government in recent days, our cemeteries are to be re opened to the public, with some restrictions in opening hours when funerals are taking place.

For Nunhead Cemetery this means that we will be re opening to the public from tomorrow, 25th April, all week except for when the council needs to close in order to enable a funeral to take place. If the funeral is in the morning the grounds will be opened in the afternoon, if the funeral is in the afternoon the grounds will be closed all day.

During the emergency period the opening times will be slightly amended and instead of closing at 7pm the gates will be opening and closing at the following times.

- 8.30am to 8.30pm in April
- 8.30am to 9pm in May

The decision has been taken to slightly extend the opening times to give local residents the opportunity to visit the cemetery safely whilst maintaining social distancing as we know before the closure took place the cemetery was very busy.

I would like to thank you (FONC) for your support on putting up the signage ahead of the closure and hope you can support us in the decision to follow the government guidance in re opening.

We will monitor the usage of the site in the coming days and we are circulating lots of communications to encourage people to social distance themselves during their visit whilst remaining respectful of the surroundings. We are also currently mobilising a group of stewards to circulate around the cemeteries during busy times to educate and remind visitors about social

distancing. We hope to have them in place in the coming days."

FONC Trustees
24 April 2020

Further information copied from Southwark Council's web site.

"Guidance for visitors

In line with government guidance, we are opening cemeteries in Southwark to allow those who have lost loved ones the opportunity to pay their respects. Please respect our cemeteries as places of reflection by following this guidance:

- *stay on the paths and not on lawns unless attending to a grave*
- *do not enter wooded areas*
- *cemeteries should only be used for exercise in line with national guidance (one form of exercise per day, no group gatherings)*
 - *please keep all dogs on leads to assist with social distancing. Commercial dog walking is not allowed in cemeteries at this time*
 - *staff are focusing on maintaining a safe, quiet and respectful environment for grieving families during these difficult times. Abuse of our staff will not be tolerated*

The Bereavements Services offices located in Camberwell New Cemetery remain open for current funeral enquires only via the kiosk service, all other enquiries are via email: cemeteries@southwark.gov.uk or telephone 020 7525 5600.

"