

FOWP SHOW PETER NOYES THE STATUE OF HIS GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER SIR SYDNEY WATERLOW AND GUIDE HIM ROUND WATERLOW PARK.

Peter Noyes, a retired surgeon from San Francisco and Oregon, wishing to find out more about his English forbears, recently contacted the Friends of Waterlow Park via our website as follows:

While travelling in America, Sir Sydney Waterlow met Margaret Hamilton in my home town of San Francisco. They married in Paris in 1882. Many years later, returning to San Francisco, his daughter Hilda was introduced to Alfred Ford whom she married soon afterwards. They had three sons, Bernard, Jeffrey and Sydney (named after his grandfather). Sydney Ford, my grandfather, married Mary Margaret Belden and they had three daughters, Francis Hilda, Peggy and Dorothy (my mother) as well as a son Sydney Ford- keeping the family name going.

My grandmother Mary had always told me about a park in London with a statue in it, named after her grandfather Sir Sydney Waterlow, who was Lord Mayor of London in the 19th century. She has now passed on, but insisted that I visit this park if I ever travelled to London. I am now the oldest living male of that lineage and have a great interest in learning about my English heritage.

"I am excited to see this wonderful park and the fine work you are doing in preserving this heritage."

On the afternoon of Thursday 9 September 2010, blessed with fine weather, two members of the Friends' committee, Patricia Walby and Catharine Wells met with Peter Noyes, his wife Phoebe and friends Mr and Mrs Lanny Doolittle, outside the café of Lauderdale House.

They had already walked down to the Lodge on Swain's Lane and remarked how well sited the park was, being next to Highgate Cemetery and having great views to St Paul's. After giving them a potted history of the Park and a little background to Sir Sydney Water low's generous gift to the people of London, we took them to see his statue, said to be the only one in London showing a man holding an umbrella and of course the key to the park.

Here we introduced them to Pam Cooper, former chair of the FoWP and author of '*Waterlow Park: A Garden for the Gardenless*'. Pam dedicated a copy of her book to Peter and gave it to him in front of the statue of his great great grandfather, while pointing out that his great grandmother Hilda had been born on the other side of the wall, in Fairseat House, now Channing School.

Journalists and a photographer from the CNJ and the H&H were present to photograph the presentation. They interviewed Peter Noyes who spoke of his admiration for the park, its upkeep and the strong need to preserve it for posterity as a place of rest and recreation. He was introduced to the head gardener and one of is team and congratulated them both.

Pam Cooper spoke to the press about her book, her involvement in the restoration project, undertaken by Camden with Heritage Lottery Fund support and the importance of maintaining and improving the park.

The two FoWP committee members spoke about the work of the group and its current and future plans as well as concerns over the possible knock on effect of future funding cuts and the financial

difficulties facing Connaught PLC who are contracted to maintain all of Camden's parks and open spaces. We also publicised the forthcoming memories event on 29 September.

Pam Cooper then told Peter Noyes more about the geology of the park- especially the Bagshott sand, the consolidation of the different properties into the current 29 acres, the use of Lauderdale House as a convalescent home for St Bartholomews'Hospital, his part in setting up St Pancras Hospital and association with Florence Nightingale, and the need for substantial kitchen gardens to feed family and servants.

We took Peter and his companions to visit the kitchen gardens, passing in front of the park centre, showed them the playgrounds, the ponds with decking and the parterres, all of which were much admired.

To round off a successful visit, Katherine Ives was kind enough to show them round the inside of Lauderdale House, including Tudor brickwork and beams, the long gallery and the cellars.

Catharine Wells 10/09/2010