

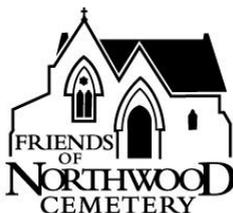
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 26

Officers:

Chairman Jon Matthews

Secretary David Jones

Treasurer John Pullen



AUGUST 2014

Other Trustees:

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Paul Fuller Graham Lloyd

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Registered Charity no: 1143917

EDITORIAL



On 7th July the **Heritage Lottery Fund** (HLF) announced that they had awarded the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**, in partnership with the **Isle of Wight Council** (the landowners), a grant to (i) restore the twin chapels; (ii) develop a Heritage Trail; and (iii) create a Woodland Burial ground at the south end of the Cemetery. There's more besides these major initiatives - such as: repairing the main driveway and perimeter fencing; restoring the bell; re-pointing the front wall with lime mortar; and converting the existing toilet block to become DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant.

By way of background, the HLF grant funding in their *Parks for People* programme in two stages; the first stage (known as the "Development stage") advances cash to fund the detailed professional work that is needed before contractors can be deployed.

The partnership has been awarded **£75,300** for this Development stage - based on a breakdown of expected costs in our application submitted to the HLF last February.

Our estimate for the second stage (the “Delivery stage”), submitted in that application, is **£1,064,000**. Over the coming months we will be firming up on this estimate to produce a final quotation which will be presented to the HLF for their consideration next year.

The HLF have accepted that this amount represents good value for money in their *Parks for People* programme and they have already set aside this amount for us - but a great deal of work still needs to be done to secure this funding.

A **Project Board** has been established (consisting of 4 FoNC Trustees and 2 IW Council Officers) and Island-based project management consultants have been appointed with experience gained from working on many other grant-funded initiatives - including the project which was funded by the HLF and completed in 2010 to restore **Ryde Cemetery**.

Over the coming months they'll instruct professionals (such as surveyors, architects, structural engineers and conservationists) to carry out necessary fact finding in the Cemetery so that they can produce specifications and full documentation for all the tasks that lie ahead. Our objective (which the HLF already say is very ambitious!) is to have chapter and verse to present to the HLF by the end of February 2015.

The Project Board is creating a **Stakeholder Advisory Group** to act as “the eyes and the ears” of the local community to ensure that all views are considered. This group will meet twice during the Development stage – at the end of September and again in early December. If you feel you would like to participate in this group, please contact me on 07802 401365 or email me at jon@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk.

We are also holding an **Open Day in the Cemetery** on **Saturday 4th October** when we hope to answer any questions that arise about the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project**; there are sure to be some. **Please make a note in your diary now!**

The Trustees were very pleased that the **Cowes Art Group** accepted our invitation to come along and do some painting in the Cemetery. On the evening of Monday 7th July, they duly arrived and set their easels up at various locations within the grounds.

No less than 9 members attended and it was fascinating to observe the variety of ideas that they had between them. It was reported back to us that they had all enjoyed the evening and we sincerely hope that they will make a return visit. Space precludes showing any of the paintings produced in this Newsletter – but they will feature in the November Newsletter.

Jon Matthews
Editor

MEMBERSHIP

This quarter we have collected 25 more subscriptions, 5 of them new this year. So, we welcome **David and Catherine Morgan** (Levare, France), **Marianne Palmer-Smith** (Guernsey) and **Chris and Hannah Simpson** (Cowes). **Catherine Morgan** has joined as a Life member.

This brings the year's total to 226 "Friends" – on track for another 250+ year!

Sheila Caws

Membership Secretary

GROUND PRESERVATION



A visitor to the Cemetery, entering from the Cowes Medical Centre car park, brought to our attention that there was nothing to indicate who was doing what and why in the grounds. So we remedied that situation with a sign (above) that gives some background.

Over the past quarter we have devoted our volunteer effort to clearing the area (Plot 13 to those who know) just inside that entrance of a huge, but rotten, rhododendron and several spindly yew trees. We are also trying to clear the footpath running alongside the car park so that it is not such a nonnegotiable quagmire in the winter months.

Richard Day

Grounds Preservation Manager

BIRDS OF NORTHWOOD CEMETERY

Following the first Bird Survey carried out in 2008 (see Newsletter 2, August 2008), a second survey was conducted from April to June 2014.

As mentioned previously, the Cemetery has a fine mixture of mature trees and shrubs - with the added advantage of bordering woodland in the form of Shamblers Copse to the east and Bottom Copse to the south.

The variety of habitat within the confines of the Cemetery suit a good range of species - with the open area to the south ideal for birds of prey including **kestrel**, **buzzard** and **barn owl**, whilst areas of partial scrub and trees encourage **sparrowhawk** and **little owl**. Thicker growth is better suited to the **thrush**, **tit** and **crow** families.

The Cemetery provides a dual purpose in the spring: as a food source, not only for breeding birds, whether nesting in or outside of the area; and also for migrants which may stop off to feed up before continuing on their journey northwards.

It was interesting to record three species of **warbler** holding territory in the tangled scrub area of the extreme south-east corner (Plots 40 and 41).

Species conservation status (in the UK and Europe) is categorised as either **Green** (Low Concern); **Amber** (Medium Concern); or **Red** (High Concern). Of the 35 species observed, 2 were **Red**, 9 were **Amber** and 24 were **Green**.

Species observed in the period April to June 2014:

Sparrowhawk (noted in April hunting on the east side and with prey entering Shamblers Copse in June, indicating young being fed); **Buzzard** (two circling low over the southern end in May and one observed entering Bottom Copse with food in June); **Kestrel** (seen hunting over the open areas of the southern half in April, May and June); **Stock Dove** (in June a pair was observed feeding in open grassland to the south before heading into Bottom Copse with a full crop); **Woodpigeon** (the Cemetery held at least five breeding pairs, with three nests containing sitting birds, two of which had young); **Collared Dove** (although a pair was observed near the main road in May and June, breeding was not confirmed); **Little Owl** (only one sighting of an adult near the east boundary in May); **Barn Owl** (one hunting low over the southern end in daylight during late June, indicating young in the near vicinity); **Green Woodpecker** (noted on each visit with both adults feeding at least two fledged young in June); **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (one on the eastern boundary in May and young were heard calling from Shamblers Copse in June); **Wren** (at least four territories held with a family of fledged young recorded in June); **Duncock** (at least three territories held with two families of fledged young recorded in June); **Robin** (a minimum of five territories with three families of fledged young in May and June); **Blackbird** (the commonest species with eight pairs recorded, an early nest with young on 5th April was followed by two fledged families in May and three in June).



Songthrush (a singing male heard throughout April and May, with a pair observed feeding young in early June in the centre of the Cemetery); **Mistlethrush** (two adults were feeding on cherry fruit at the end of June); **Blackcap** (a singing male in the south-east corner from mid April until the end of June); **Common Whitethroat** (bred successfully in the south-east corner with an adult noted with food in early June); **Chiffchaff** (one singing male in the south-east corner throughout the survey); **Willow Warbler** (one singing near the eastern boundary in April, was not heard subsequently indicating it is a migrating bird); **Goldcrest** (a pair frequented the large firs in the west side where they were heard singing and calling during April and May).



Starling (adults were seen searching for food in May and small groups, including juveniles, were noted from various locations in June); **Long-tailed Tit** (heard frequently calling from mid April, with a fledged family group feeding in the larger oaks during June); **Blue Tit** (a minimum of four pairs in territory with two family groups seen in June); **Great Tit** (observed frequently with two family groups noted throughout June); **Coal Tit** (a pair appeared to be searching for a suitable nest site in April on the eastern boundary with a single bird **there** in May – but there was no evidence of successful breeding recorded).

Treecreeper (adults heard calling in April with a fledged family feeding group seen towards the end of June); **Jay** (a very vocal pair recorded on most visits culminating in fledged young being fed by parents during the greater part of June); **Magpie** (another vocal species ; noted on each visit with fledged young first recorded towards the end of May). **Jackdaw** (although in May and June, over 30 birds were regularly seen in a loose feeding group adjacent to Bottom Copse, there was no evidence of breeding within the Cemetery); **Rook** (with the rookery sited nearby in Bottom Copse, the open grass area held a steady flow of feeding birds, especially after damp periods); **Carrion Crow** (two pairs raised young in large fir trees, one on the north side, the other on the west); **Chaffinch** (a minimum of three territories were located with males singing regularly from each; fledged young appeared in May and June); **Greenfinch** (at least two territories held in May with adults seen feeding fledged young in June). **Goldfinch** (one pair raised four young which fledged in early June; three young were noted with the adults in a subsequent visit later in June).

Dave Hunnybun

Chairman

Isle of Wight Ornithological Group

DONATION BOX



Thanks to the carpentry skills of our Historian, **Barry Sowerby**, we now have an elegant **Donation Box**. When you see it, please don't be shy in using it!

ALFRED FENNINGS (1816-1900)

Alfred Fennings was a chemist who established **Fennings Pharmaceuticals** in 1840 when he opened a pharmacy in Hammersmith Broadway, London.

Highly adept at advertising and marketing, he went on to create a very successful business producing a range of products which became popular 'over the counter' medicines bought by generations of shoppers. Several Fennings' products are still sold today.

In 1850 the general management of the business, including advertising, book-keeping, manufacturing and publishing moved to Cowes.

In 1948, nearly 50 years after his death and after nearly a century in Cowes, the main office moved to Horsham in West Sussex. The company ceased trading in 1996.

Fennings Pharmaceuticals sold medicines for the treatment of typhoid and cholera as well as for more minor ailments such as coughs and colds. One wineglassful of the clear *Fennings' Fever Mixture* was recommended to be drunk by adults to help ease fevers; a bottle originally cost one shilling and sixpence (but the tax from the label opposite is one shilling and thrupence!). Fennings' indigestion tablets were taken to ease hiccoughs, excessive gases in the gut and intestines, heartburn and nausea.

Alfred Fennings was a great philanthropist and the *Isle of Wight County Press* records that one charity, the *National Refugees for Homeless and Destitute Children* benefited by over £86,000 from his 19th Century generosity.



After his death in 1900 **Fennings Pharmaceuticals** became a Trust, with all profits going to *Shaftesbury Homes*, a children's charity (now known as *Shaftesbury Young People*).

Alfred Fennings also compiled a publication entitled "*Every Mother's Book*" (also known as "*The Child's Best Doctor*"). This was a fascinating mid-Victorian booklet, measuring approximately 14cm by 21cm containing 20 pages and filled with advice upon the treatment of various children's ailments. A page of testimonials in praise of Fennings' Cooling Powders and Lung Healers is included, nearly all dating from 1857; it is thus likely that the booklet dates from around this period. Copies are still available to purchase on *eBay*.

His elaborate memorial is in plot 8, close to the entrance from the Cowes Medical Centre, and is included in the proposed Heritage Trail.



OPEN DAY AT THE CEMETERY

Saturday 4th October 2014

11:00am to 4:00pm

Trustees, Stakeholders, Project Managers, Architects and Conservationists will be there to answer questions about the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project**.