



Chairman Lora Peacey-Wilcox Barry Sowerby Tim Gladdis
Secretary David Jones Paul Fuller Richard Day
Treasurer Jon Matthews Graham Lloyd John Pullen

Please address all enquiries to
The Secretary, The Friends of Northwood Cemetery
194 Newport Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7PU
Tel: (01983) 298445
Email: dave@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk
Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

EDITORIAL

Activity this quarter has focused on preparing the ground, and then planting, the Wild Flower garden (see back page) just inside the main gates - and undertaking a structural survey on the east Chapel (to ascertain what needs to be done to avoid it suffering the same fate as its 'twin'). The report on this is due by the end of November but the survey has uncovered that some underpinning has already been done probably sometime in the 1950s/1960s; records on work done in **Medina Borough Council** days (ie: up to 1992) have not been found. It was not unusual for a consecrated building (as this is) to receive more attention than a non-consecrated building that seems to have been the case here.

We have been visited by two more conservation experts from the mainland and have established a good relationship with a group of specialists who assist "Friends' groups" restore Victorian cemeteries. Their first pre-requisite, however, is for us to determine an overall long-term (20 years?) **Cemetery Management Plan** which will provide the framework within which we proceed. Any volunteers out there willing to help on this?

We received some very good news from the **Southern Co-op**; with a very late charge to the finishing line we succeeded in reaching the ceiling of their year-long sponsorship of us with just 4 days to spare and, as a result, we have **£12,500** in the bank!

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Now, an announcement: **Christmas is coming!**
How many of you will buy presents on-line this year? Surely that could be as many as half of "the **Friends**" of Northwood Cemetery?

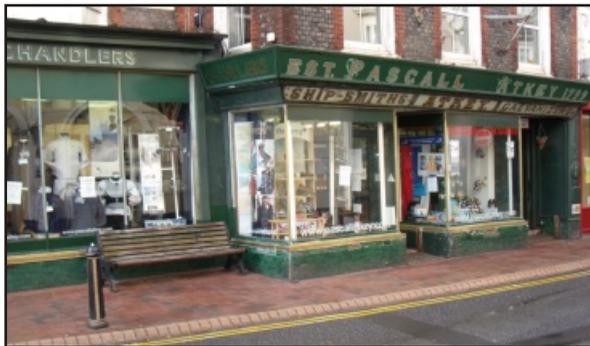
If so, have you registered at **easyfundraising.org.uk**? It really is simple! Once you are registered (and in so doing you indicate that all your subsequent purchases will benefit the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**) just link to your chosen retailer (over 500 of them!) via **www.easyfundraising.org.uk** (which will be bookmarked, won't it!) When you are ready to make a purchase. A donation (typically from 1% - 3% of your spend - depending on retailer) will flow our way and **it costs you nothing!** Why not just have a go!!!

We have a new Trustee; following the resignation of **Angela McMurtry** to pursue other interests, we are delighted to welcome **John Pullen** to the ranks; John is Chairman of **Northwood Parish Council** and brings a wealth of experience to the Board of Trustees.

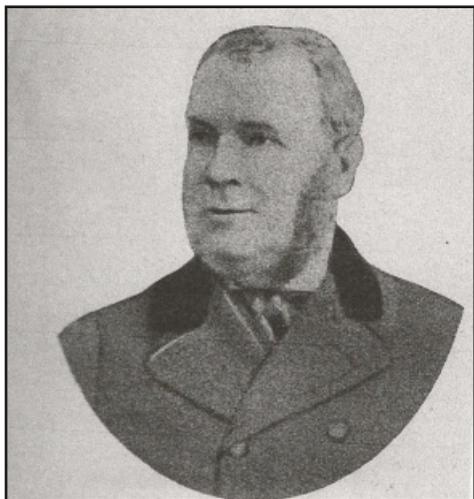
Jon Matthews
Editor

Pascall Atkey

Situated today at 30 Cowes High Street are the very distinctive premises of *Pascall Atkey & Son Ltd*, arguably the oldest yacht chandlers in the UK. Although the business was sold in the 1960s, and no longer has any connection to the Atkey family, the art deco shop frontage survives and is a delightful reminder years gone by.



An ironmongery business was established in Cowes by Pascall Atkey's father **Joseph Atkey** (1771-1813). **Joseph Atkey** married **Christian Larkins Pascall** who came from a very influential family of Dover - hence the origin of **Pascall's** name.



Pascall Atkey (1808-1882) was just five when his father died but his mother kept the business going.

Then in 1840 Christian 'retired' and **Pascall Atkey**, at the age of 32, took over sole control of the business: *Pascall Atkey & Son, Est 1799*.

That same year Pascall married **Helen Ratsey** who was the daughter of **George Rogers Ratsey**, the founder of the internationally famous sail making firm of *Ratsey & Laphorne* of Cowes

Pascall Atkey (1808-1882)

In 1844, on the other side of the Medina, **Queen Victoria** purchased *Osborne House* and the Isle of Wight became well and truly 'on the map'. Cowes prospered and became the social yachting centre of the world; so too did **Pascall Atkey** and, at one time, he employed over 50 people. As an employer he was much respected by his workmen and, when there was a good cause in need of funding, he was one of the first to put his hand in his pocket (*Ed: we could do with him now!!!*).

Pascall was still living at 30 High Street when he died in 1882; his obituary in the *Hampshire Advertiser* comments that he was the first to see the how the galvanizing process could be of benefit to ironwork exposed to the sea.

On **Pascall Atkey's** death his son **Joseph Henry Atkey** inherited his very profitable business, now a chandlery, which had greatly expanded during **Pascall's** lifetime - to the extent that when he died the family had a large number of properties in Cowes and many business interests.

Joseph Henry Atkey was then living in grand style in Cambridge House, a large house in Queens Road, Cowes (the Vicarage of Holy Trinity before his occupation and Solent School after - now demolished), together with his wife, **Mary Elizabeth** (née **Dashwood**) **Atkey**, his three sons, his five daughters and numerous domestic servants.

One of his daughters, **Olive Mary Atkey**, married a Frenchman, **Raymond Charvet**, and they had two sons, **Guy Charvet** and **Patrice Charvet**. It is Guy's three children, **Patricia Cocks**, **John Charvet** and **Anne Charvet** who have so kindly commissioned the cleaning of the Vault and Obelisk.



The Obelisk names **Pascall** and his wife **Helen Atkey**, who died in 1853 (before the Cemetery was opened for burials). The Memorial is also to two of their three sons, **George Rogers Atkey** (who died in infancy) and **Pascall Ratsey Atkey** (who died of typhoid fever, aged 20). **Guy Charvet** is commemorated on the grave, as is his aunt **Ellenda** (née **Atkey**) **Ratsey**.

Patricia and Anne visited the Cemetery in June when **Bernie Coleman**, the groundsman, gave them details of stonemasons on the Island; they invited the Trustees to take the weeds out of the 'roof' of the Vault and do some gardening around the adjacent areas; we were delighted to accept their invitation!

Given its proximity to the *Friends' House* and the new bulb plantings, its position for restoration could not have been more perfect - so this corner of the Cemetery (known as *Plot 1*) really is being given a good facelift!

Fred Atkey

“Celebration of Life” Open Day Sunday 12th September 2010

The inspiration for this event came almost 18 months ago. We had to first decide on the time of year; previous experience of outdoor events told me that we were best to hold it either in May or September. The Trustees decided on September - and we were rewarded with a magnificent day of bright sunshine!

The original concept was to ‘make everyone feel comfortable’ in and around the Cemetery, enabling local families the chance to meet up and have a chat, lay flowers, remember their loved ones, find out more about family history, be informed of the conservation projects in hand, visit our newly ‘done up’ *Friends’ House* - and also to be able to have a hot drink and some scrumptious home made cakes (our thanks go to local ladies - in particular **Chris Cox** and her girls).

The planning began and a large part of that was down to **Angela McMurtry** who designed posters, created and printed off personal invitations and handed them out; she also began collecting cups, tea, coffee, biscuits, napkins, tablecloths, and arranged for a number of cakes to be made. Without her drive the event would not have taken place. She also ‘manned’ the stand where you were able to join and sign our Visitor’s book. And the working party played their part in the big clean up on the Saturday before the event.

We had invited a number of people on the day to ‘display’ their organisations; and were delighted that amongst those, **Cruise bereavement**, the **IW Council Bereavement Services** and “the Bat” and “the Squirrel” people” were able to come out.



Andrew Turner, the Island’s MP, with co-organisers **Angela McMurtry** (left) and **Lora Peacey-Wilcox** (right)

We were very pleased indeed that **Andrew Turner**, the Island’s MP, found the time to visit us during his hectic schedule - as well as the Mayor of East Cowes, **Peter Lloyd** and the Chairman of the IW Council, **Ian Stephens**.

Also present was **Iain Donald**, IW Council’s Bereavement Services Manager and his deputy **Sue Campion**.

Barry Sowerby, our Archivist, was on hand to answer your enquiries and indeed he was kept very busy.

Jon Matthews was kept very busy with his well received tour of the cemetery; I was disappointed that I did not have a chance to go on it!

Gary Peacey helped out by concreting up a big hole in the toilet block, and removing a lot of old plants. Also present was **Rob Smith**, our regular 'youngster' of whom I can only say, "what a star!". He initially said he would come and help set up; but stayed the entire day. He really was priceless to me - and doing any task asked of him.



**Iain Donald and Sue
Campion** in discussion with
one of our visitors

Richard Day, who is our Nature Conservation leader, sat in the glorious sunshine and answered enquiries about what we are doing. Richard is our regular 'worker' on Saturday mornings.

Pete McMurtry was roped in by Angela to act as security guard for the day - and he also cleaned the chapel and cleared its gutters out on the Saturday.

Me? I gained my 'stripes' in ordering everyone around, ensuring that everything was completed on the Saturday, trying to upgrade and 'improve' the toilet block - not to mention trying to give it a very good clean (not quite head down the toilet - but almost) and stood making tea and coffee all day for our wonderful visitors.



93-year-old Mollie Elliot
– our oldest “Friend” and
a fervent supporter of the
**Friends of
Northwood Cemetery**

I do hope those of you that attended enjoyed the day. I apologise if I have missed anyone from my list, it really was a 'group' effort.

Lora Peacey-Wilcox
Chair

QUIZ NIGHT

By popular demand, our next Quiz Night at the Kingston Arms will take place on **Friday 25th February 2011** from 7:00pm. If the last two evenings are anything to go by, it will be an evening of chaotic fun. Please make a note in your the 2011 diary!

Archivist's Report - from Southend by Coach

Pure serendipity prevailed in the life of one lucky lady on Saturday 23rd October 2010.

Sue Glassock, from Southend, decided to take a coach trip to the Isle of Wight, staying at a hotel in Shanklin. Having had ancestors living on the Island, she thought it was an ideal time to research some of her Island family history.

On arrival she excused herself from the inevitable 'Round the Island' coach trip the next day and instead proceeded by bus to Cowes where, on enquiring at the Tourist Information Bureau, she was given directions to Northwood Cemetery.

Sue had no idea if any of her ancestors had been interred in our Cemetery but thought that a 'wander round' would be convivial. However, her good fortune was that her visit coincided with a **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** working party planting bulbs.

Scratching around with a rake, and with no real purpose, I was overjoyed when I heard a lady say "*Excuse me, is there anyone here that knows anything about graves in this Cemetery?*". "Yes!", I replied, grasping this opportunity to 'down tools'!

I was now in my element and Sue, having never stepped foot in the Cemetery before, could not believe her luck! The name that she was researching was **Sothcott** and after checking the burial register on my laptop (which is always with me), I soon located two of her relatives. Her great grandfather and his sister were both buried in the Cemetery and were alongside each other on Plot 17 - "half-way" up the hill on the right..

As she eagerly walked towards the plot, I became apprehensive as I knew that the graves were going to be in a totally overgrown area (ie: one that had not yet received **Richard Day's** attention!). Whilst trying to work out the true locations by 'pitching off' from other readable headstones and referring to my plot maps, I was amazed to discover Sue looking out at me from inside the shrubbery! She had manipulated her way through tree, bush and bramble to discover that both graves were topped by inscribed headstones! Sue had found the grave of her great grandfather **Henry Sothcott**, who died in 1894, aged 61 - and also the grave of her great aunt **Lydia Sothcott** who had been interred in 1903, aged 73. Henry had been a Master Mariner; Captain Sothcott, no less, had resided in Newport Road, opposite the old Mill Hill Station, in a house named Belfort Villa. Lydia, his sister was a spinster.

After clearing some of the shrubbery away and taking photographs and rubbings of the inscriptions, we returned to the *Friends' House*, where Sue met **Jon Matthews**, the founder of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**. Jon is also Chairman of the **Isle of Wight Family History Society** so it was inevitable that he and Sue would swap notes.

Imagine her delight when Jon told her she was a distant cousin of his - and they were both related to **Richard Matthews**, a notorious Island smuggler who had been ambushed and shot dead during a chase in Orchard Bay at the back of the Island in December 1816!

Jon was able to furnish Sue with much information relating to 'their' family including a copy of the page of "the Family Bible" showing the dates of birth of her **Sothcott** family in the 17th and 18th Centuries! She returned to her hotel a very happy lady.

There is never a charge for any of our services in helping people discover the graves of their ancestors, so we were most grateful when Sue decided to become a **'Friend of Northwood Cemetery'** and make a donation to our funds for the help she received.

Armed with some Kelly's Directories, I took Sue down to locate Belfort Villa in Newport Road, but we could not find it. Possibly, it was demolished to make way for a new house - or houses - but I would be most grateful if anyone can shed any light on this.

Barry Sowerby

Archivist

Membership Report

Firstly, we are very saddened to report the deaths of two "Friends" of Northwood Cemetery: **Kathleen Barnard**, (**Dan Lyons'** sister-in-law), passed away in May and **Margaret Scott** died suddenly on 24th October whilst on holiday in Cornwall with her daughter. Our sympathies go to their families.

The following 27 new "Friends" have joined the ranks of supporters of Northwood Cemetery since the last list was published. They are from Cowes, Gurnard or Northwood (ie: the PO31 postcode) unless otherwise stated:

Brian Balshaw (Freshwater), **Nick & Tina Boyland**, **Brian & Noreen Buckett**, **Theresa Clarke** (Freshwater), **Christine Cox**, **Lisa Cumming** (Chale Green), **John & Jenny Fuller**, **Sue Glassock** (Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex), **Noeleen Gleeson** (Co. Dublin, Ireland), **Sue Graczer** (Bay of Islands, New Zealand), **Veronica McCarthy** (Dublin, Ireland), **Angela Mulcahy** (Co. Dublin, Ireland), **David & Sandra Norris**, **Sandra Paterson**, **Blake & Reanna Rosenvall** (Utah, USA), **John & Freda Sowerby**, **Jim & Doreen Stott** (Brockenhurst, Hampshire), **Charlie Taylor**, **Hilary Thorpe** and **Colin & June Withers** (Shanklin).

These bring the number of subscriptions received this year to **260** - surpassing last year's total of 250! A very big 'thank you' goes not only to these new "Friends" but also to all those "Friends" who have renewed their subscription to 31st March 2011 - and some beyond!

We also have our first four **Life** members: **Lora Peacey-Wilcox**, **Angela McMurtry**, **Carmen Millwood** and **Charlie Taylor** (all living in Cowes). Life membership was voted in at the last AGM and can be taken out for £100. How many more takers do we have?

Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

Nature Conservation

The mid-summer to early autumn period has seen a fairly low turnout of volunteers and consequently less nature conservation has been done. We are in the midst of the nesting season and so we have not been disruptive, noisy nor undertaken any disturbing jobs. It is a time for tidying, cleaning and maintaining - and that is what we have done.

We had a big burn up, and completed the filling up of the damp proofing trench adjacent to the *Friends' House*. Special thanks go to **Rob Smith** who did most of the digging out and filling up of stones. Elsewhere we have been gradually removing stones and roots from behind the hedges each side of the entrance together with some trimming back of dead and overhanging branches round Plot 1.

The 'soon-to-be' Wild Flower Garden, in front of the *Friends' House* (which was a very overgrown area, with numerous out of control Laurels, two very tall Hollies surrounded by a 10ft high Bay hedge) has been cleared and landscaped.

In the process we discovered that the roots of the Holly trees were entangled with all the Laurel roots - so we took the decision to remove the two Hollies (which weren't prize specimens anyway). We also got a couple of lorry loads of top soil delivered and spread.

At the top corner near the main gates was a very 'scrubby' Yew. We have cut this Yew down to about 4 foot high and it has already started to re-grow. When it gets 6 to 8 feet high we will shape it and keep it that height.

We have now planted two replacement Holly trees, a couple of Hawthorns to extend the hedge up to the Yew and a couple of Buddleias.

During the last Saturday of October we planted around 3,000 bulbs of various varieties - Lobularis (wild daffodil), Crocuses, Fritillaria, Bluebells and Dwarf Daffodils. Roll on Spring!

Next year we will be sowing a mix of wild flower seeds over the whole area, including some wild grasses and, in mid-summer, it is hoped to plant some autumnal Crocuses.

Later in the year we will, if necessary, fill in any gaps introduced by bulb planting with other bulbs, including snowdrops which have to be planted while starting to grow.

The eventual plan is to have as much colourful planting in this area for as much of the year as is possible.

This is the extent of our nature conservation activities - except surveying in Plots 2 and 3 (behind the Bus Stop) in preparation for more clearance and trimming back work. In fact, as we go to press, a start has been made on this clearance work.

Richard Day

Nature Conservation Leader