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Editorial

The AGM took place on 18th April 2011 most uneventfully (as these things should!). Our Chair, **Lora Peacey-Wilcox**, thanked all the supporters and Trustees for their contributions - and the 2010-2011 Accounts were presented (these are included on the centre pages in this Newsletter). All the current Trustees were re-elected.

As mentioned in the February 2011 Newsletter, our focus (as well as maintaining the momentum with nature conservation matters, covered on page 3) is to bring the *East Chapel* back into use. Although a formal 'lease arrangement' with the IW Council has yet to be signed, we are pressing ahead with repairs funded by the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (sadly the IW Council does not have a budget for this purpose in these austere times).

So, this month we are starting work on implementing the recommendations made in the Structural Surveyor's report on the condition of the East Chapel that we commissioned last year. The building will be made watertight by replacing missing or broken roof tiles and all guttering and downpipes will be cleared from years of debris. Gullies will be constructed to take rainwater away from the building - 'at the back' of the building.



This is how the west elevation of the East Chapel looks at the moment; it is not a very pretty sight!

However, a further piece of work planned (starting at the end of May), will be the re-pointing of the west wall of this lean-to building - which was used as an office by **Bernie Coleman**, the groundsman.

As well as the replacement of *cement* mortar on this elevation (whoever approved this???) by the far more 'forgiving' *lime* mortar (as a trial - we hope to replace the cement mortar throughout the building in the fullness of time), the stone work forming the door and window frames will be re-set. This will enable us to install suitable glazing to replace the boarded up window and a new external door.

The contractor selected, **Wight Heritage Preservation**, has also kindly agreed to supervise (whilst they are on-site) **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** volunteers to 'tidy up' the wall of the West Chapel that faces the East Chapel and giving it a lime wash finish. The volunteers are also going to de-rust, clean and paint the guttering and down-pipes seen overleaf in an attempt to make this elevation a much prettier picture.

We hope to present a rather more attractive picture in the August Newsletter!

In addition we have appointed **Tony Hayman**, a local builder with Northwood Cemetery connections, to repair the numerous cracks in the internal plasterwork within the chapel itself; this is somewhat problematical as we don't know yet the extent of the work required until we have opened up these cracks and exposed the sub strata behind them. But all this should be known, and remedial actions put in place, before the end of June.

So we hope that these initiatives will, in the first instance, make the journey through the chapels down into the heart of the Cemetery more appealing than it is at the moment. Just so long as you look left and not right!

Of course there is other work to do on the East Chapel; there is the ornate window (below left) on the east elevation to restore - for which sponsorship by the **Watling** family has been kindly committed.



There are four smaller windows (above right) - each of which requires some restoration - and the cost of restoring the glazing in each window is £150. So if any "Friend" would like to 'sponsor a window', and have a plaque erected to commemorate their generosity, please do let me know! We are very grateful to our first such sponsor, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Finally, the Treasurer has asked that a reminder be published that subscriptions are now being collected for the year from 1st April; so, if you haven't already done so (over 160 "Friends" have already!), please can you bring this matter up your 'to-do' list?

Jon Matthews
Editor

Nature Conservation report



This last quarter we have planted thousands of bulbs and wildflower seeds in the area in front of the Friends' House - and more bulbs are planned to be planted (of autumn flowering types) during the summer.

We have also:

- burnt brash from Yew tree pruning, removal and reshaping (though logs will be left for general public to remove and use);
- removed dead branches from many trees; and
- carefully removed selected whole trees (mainly Yews) to open up plot areas - allowing for re-growth into smaller, more manageable 'bush-like' trees.

We are very fortunate to have the enthusiasm of **Nick** and **Tina Boyland** as regular volunteers most Saturday mornings - and a new volunteer, **Brian Buckett**, is cutting back bramble around the Cemetery; we are very grateful for these contributions.

Our future tasks include:

- tree surveys to agree on-going work;
- examination of both perimeter and internal hedges;
- any specific pruning that is requested by relatives of interred people;
- levelling and weed removal from the west side of the cemetery; and
- discussions on plans for that area.

We will plant some mature trees at the bottom of the Cemetery along the perimeters of the unused Plots. These trees will come from trees obtained under a free offer and will include Oak, Ash, Rowan, Silver Birch and Cherry trees. This offer arrived too late for us to plant these in early 2011 - so it is scheduled for October onwards.

Our Saturday morning volunteer attendance average this quarter is running at 6 people; there is scope for more!

Richard Day

Nature Conservation Leader

Treasurer's Report

I am very pleased to report that, at 31st March 2011 - the end of our third fiscal year - we had funds amounting to **£16,482.24** in the bank. £12,500 was raised through our selection by the Southern Co-op as beneficiaries of their Community Support scheme, to whom we are very grateful. £10,000 is being set aside to provide 'match funding' which is always required by grant giving agencies if they are to help with 'major' works.

Of the remaining funds, **£870** has been 'ring-fenced' from donations made by the **Watling** family and friends for the restoration of the east window in the East Chapel. We also have a pledge from the family to underwrite the *removal* of the lights (windows) for off-site restoration. This pledge has yet to be 'called in' - but we expect the work to be done this summer. A further **£150** received from another "Friend" (who wishes to remain anonymous) has been ring-fenced for work on restoring the smaller windows in this chapel - but we are looking for more funds to restore three other windows and two doors.



We received credits totalling **£116.37** in our first few months of participating in *Easy Fund Raising*. This really is **easy fund raising** and there is no reason why we should not be attracting £1,000 or more by this method *every year*.

If you purchase anything on-line, then the chances are you can earn a donation for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** in the process. Most on-line retailers will donate a percentage of the purchase price of your goods to a charity of your choice so all you need to do is (i) register the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** as your chosen charity and then (ii) launch to your selected retailer's web-site from www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Did I say easy? You bet it is - so please give this some very serious consideration!

Membership Report

Last year we introduced a Life Member category and I am pleased to say that, thus far, we have **11** Life Members; unless otherwise stated, all "Friends" mentioned below are from Cowes, Gurnard or Northwood (ie: the PO31 postcode): **Sue Brown** (Huntingdon), **Den and Hilda Collinson**, **Jon Matthews**, **Angela McMurtry**, **Carmen Millwood**, **Nicola Murgatroyd** (Buckinghamshire), **Barry Sowerby**, **Lora Peacey-Wilcox**, **Charlie Taylor** - and one "Friend" who wishes to remain anonymous.

Another 20 people have become **Friends** for the first time:

Fran Bracken, **Claire Budden** (Southsea, Hampshire), **Geoff & Margaret Cobb** (Ipswich, Suffolk), **Vera Denham**, **Jacky Dunford**, **Colin French**, **Janis Gardner**, **Jane Goff**, **Robin & Joan Goodredge** (Whippingham), **Diane Hall**, **Glenn Lane** (Oakland, California), **Phil & Hazel Manners** (Tooting Bec, London SW17), **Joanne Noack** (Woodlands, Texas), **Sylvia Pain**, **Joe Paterson**, **Tony Reeve** and **Jim Young** (Havenstreet).

Jon Matthews

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Income & Expenditure Report 31st March 2011	2010/2011 (Uncertified)	2009/2010 (Certified)	2008/2009 (Certified)
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Income

Subscriptions			£2,200.00
Current year Subscriptions	£1,775.00	£1,410.00	
Life Member Subscriptions	£1,100.00		
Advance Subscriptions	£625.00	£625.00	
Donations	£407.61	£915.95	£694.70
Sponsorships (Windows and Doors)	£965.00		
Sales of Merchandise		£127.50	-£12.39
Advertising Revenue	£25.00	£75.00	£25.00
Fund Raising - Sponsored Walk		£516.00	£258.00
Fund Raising - Grassroots grant	£3,839.00		
Fund Raising - Co-op sponsorship	£12,500.00		
Fund Raising - Quiz Night	£179.00	£146.00	£179.00
Fund Raising - easyfundraising	£116.37		

Total Income	£21,531.98	£3,815.45	£3,344.31
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Expenditure

Commission to Parish Chest	£5.75	£7.83	£10.00
Administration expenses	£325.33	£672.07	£1,075.41
Nature Conservation expenses	£1,041.29	£527.00	£59.59
Professional services expenses	£800.85	£143.00	
Subscription to NCFE	£40.00	£20.00	£20.00
Subscription to BTCV	£35.00	£35.00	£35.00
Insurance (BTCV)	£155.63	£155.63	£159.79
Friends' House repairs	£100.00	£1,572.38	
Friends' House water installation	£539.73		
Friends' House electricity installation	£3,432.37		
Computer equipment (grant-funded)	£483.11		
Donation to Northwood Church (walk)		£181.00	
Cost of Faculty	£61.90		
Electricity consumption	£15.00		

Total Expenditure	£7,035.96	£3,313.91	£1,359.79
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Excess Income over Expenditure	£14,496.02	£501.54	£1,984.52
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Current Account	£6,476.37
Deposit Account (capital)	£10,000.00
Deposit Account (interest)	£5.87

Inspected & found correct
Approved
 13-4-2011

Total of Accounts as at 31st March	£16,482.24	£2,374.66	£1,692.12
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Archivist's Report

Since the inauguration of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**, three years ago, I have received about three research enquiries a week - some by email and a few by phone - but many are by just meeting people in the Cemetery searching for their ancestors.



Visiting the grave of James Cribb

This local shoemaker was the very first person to be buried in Northwood Cemetery.

Some of the most poignant enquiries I receive are from mothers seeking the grave of their stillborn baby from long ago. Often they have never known where their baby was interred and, in some cases unfortunately, never will as until the mid 1950s not all stillborn births were even documented.

Recently I had an enquiry from a gentleman whose mother had given birth to a stillborn baby son some 55 years ago and who never knew where he had been buried - or if his interment had even been recorded. "Mrs D" told me that after the birth a nurse took the baby away saying "Don't make a fuss, we don't want all the other expectant mums upset, do we?".

Recently another visitor, who had been researching their family history, stumbled on his brother's name in the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** online burial register. I received an email from him subsequently and I was able to locate the grave for him and re-unite his mother with her child.

These are not isolated cases - there have been several similar over the past three years and enquiries like this make being a Trustee of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** all the more worthwhile.

Barry Sowerby
Archivist

Some enquiries are from family historians padding out their family tree information - but many are from people that are very keen to know the resting place of their long lost loved ones.

I had an interesting enquiry a few weeks ago from a lady who lives on the mainland but was about to visit the Island.

We arranged to meet in the Cemetery so that I could show her the grave of her ancestor. To my delight her relative was none other than **James Cribb**, who was buried on 8th November 1856.

Cemetery Maps

In 2009 four very large framed maps of the Cemetery were discovered in the East Chapel. The maps, which are approximately 5ft x 3ft and date from circa 1900, were drawn on canvas backed paper, with a varnish protective coat, but had deteriorated into a very dilapidated state.

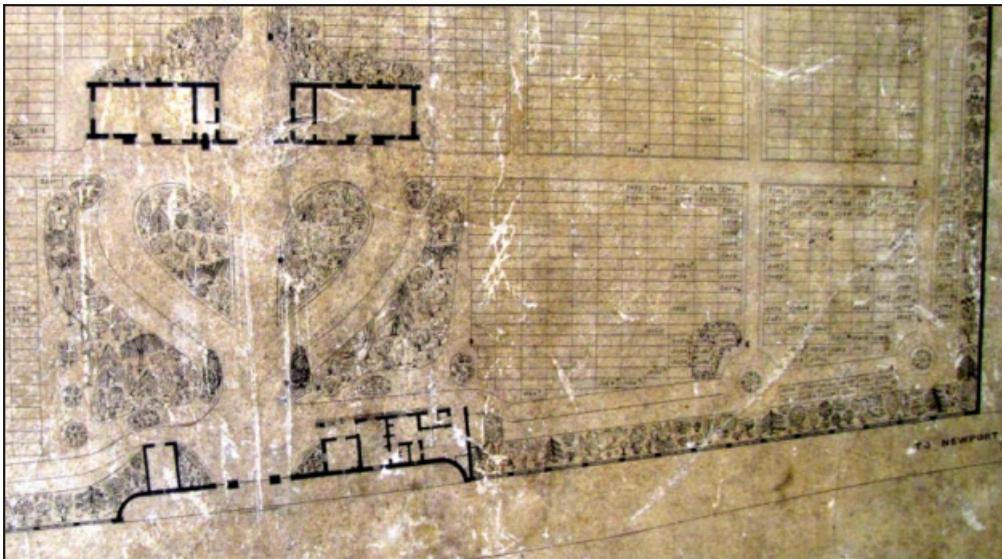
Richard Smout, the Isle of Wight County Heritage Services Manager, was informed of their existence and was invited over to the Cemetery to inspect them.

Such was their 'heritage value' that he arranged for their removal to an environmentally friendly depository managed by the IW Council and for them to be restored by Heritage Services.

To date two are near completion whilst the others are still very much 'work-in-progress'.

At the turn of the 19th century the Cemetery comprised just 21 'Plots' - less than half its current size of 45 Plots. Everything of the period is detailed on these maps, including the two Chapels, the Main Gates with the Sexton's Lodge (which was demolished circa 1938/9) - and even the layout of the trees and shrubs is shown.

It is not anticipated that the boards will return to the Cemetery *permanently* as they do need to be stored in a more stable environment than can be offered on-site - but we do hope to display them on special occasions such as Cemetery Open Days.



Barry Sowerby
Archivist

Lawson's Cypress



In recent weeks we have been trying to clear around a **Lawson's Cypress** tree in Plot 7 which was above the general tree-line level in that part of the Cemetery - when viewed from the Main Gates. It was totally surrounded by large overgrown and untidy looking Yews - which were overcrowding this lovely tree.

Lawson's Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) is an impressive looking fir tree which normally grows from 20m to 35m - but sometimes up to 50m.

It is normally conical in shape, with trunks up to 4 to 6 feet in diameter and the stem quite frequently forks. The cones ripen from green to dark brown, are spherical and are roughly 7mm to 14mm in size. The foliage is quite dense, somewhat droopy and spreads apart in old age.

The most surprising thing about this tree is that it is not native to this country, rather originating from Oregon and California, although we have several in the Cemetery.

Richard Day

Nature Conservation Leader

Schools involvement

We were recently fortunate to have had a visit to Northwood Cemetery by **Kate Macdonnell** - the driving force in creating a 'schools pack' for the Ryde Cemetery group. The extremely varied, creative and imaginative projects that can be utilised in a cemetery environment are wide ranging and a credit to Kate and her team. The 'pack' encompasses many parts of the National Curriculum - including, art, computer studies, maths, poetry, nature study and local history.

We have been kindly offered a copy of all the creative material produced by the Ryde Cemetery group - an example of the 'resource pooling' we enjoy with them - and have appointed our own **Karen Graves** as our Schools Liaison officer.

Karen has already had a warm welcome from the Head teacher of one of the local schools and we look forward to running a 'schools day' in the coming year.

Barry Sowerby