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Editorial



How about playing "Spot the Difference"?

This is the first stage of our restoration of the East Chapel; in the centre pages you'll see the restored windows in the chapel itself; all these have had their original protective guards re-painted and re-installed and so progress is clear to see. The cracks in the internal walls have been repaired and, as we go to press, we are starting to paint those walls.

We have three tradesmen in particular to thank: **Dennis Bradbury**, a local antique glass restorer; **Jamie Viney**, a stonemason from Newport who repointed the wall pictured above; and **Tony Hayman**, a general builder from a well-known Cowes family who has repaired the walls, replaced broken tiles on the roof, hung the new door and installed new guttering.

You'll also see on the centre pages that the window work has been very generously sponsored by five families with close association with the Northwood Cemetery - each dedicated to departed loved ones. A very big 'thank you' goes to these five families.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting

The benefits of being a Registered Charity are now very compelling and are summarised overleaf.

However, our Constitution requires that a change in Legal Status must be made at a General Meeting. Accordingly, please accept this is the required 21 days notice that an EGM will take place in the **East Chapel** on **Monday 19th September** at **7:00pm** for the purpose of putting to the membership a resolution that the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** becomes a Registered Charity - and reflecting this new status in the Constitution. **Please support this meeting to discuss this very important decision** - and see first-hand the work that has now been done in the Chapel.

Our objective is to have the chapel available for funeral services *next year* and we do believe we are on track (by the way, all this work is being projected managed by the Trustees).

As you'll see from **Richard Day's** Nature Conservation report, we have also been busy amongst the trees as well, continuing to cut down and dispose of lorry loads of unwanted branches, brash and general undergrowth. So, I hope you feel we have a good story to tell.

And so to the question of whether we should become a Registered Charity. Interest has been expressed in donating significant sums of money to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** - in one case spurred on by the pleasure of seeing the restored wall as you pass between the two chapels! Now, giving sums of money has its perils if the organisation is not a Registered Charity - as there are very real tax implications.

If the donor does not survive seven years after the donation is made, then the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** would be liable for Death Duties on the sum donated. However, this can be avoided by becoming a Registered Charity - so that is what the Board is recommending to the membership for consideration at the EGM on 19th September at 7.00pm in the East Chapel.

Further, as a charity, we can take advantage of **Gift Aid**; in short the taxman considers that when you make a contribution to a charity, whether it is paying your subscription or making a donation, it will have come out of your income *after* tax has been deducted.

Her Majesty's Government has kindly put in place a scheme whereby we, as a Registered Charity, can claim that tax back and deposit it into our bank account. Sorry, they only allow such monies to come to us - it is not refundable to you! And if that wasn't good news for us, they'll even let you back date the claim to 2005 (we were established in 2008 so that's all subscriptions and donations from UK taxpayers will fall into this category).

As Treasurer I estimate that the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** could benefit to the tune of over £5,000 by becoming a Registered Charity. Is that compelling enough for you?

Now, it may seem premature - because the EGM has not taken place yet - but with this newsletter distribution there is a Gift Aid form for our UK residents to sign and return - and then the rest is down to us. You lose nothing by doing this (alas you don't gain either!). And, for those of you who do not live in PO31 postcode area, there's a stamped addressed envelope to facilitate your response!

We already have quotations for a variety of jobs around the East Chapel; for example, the main doors are in need of restoration (they have been ill treated in the past and don't shut properly) and, for less than half of the "Gift Aid windfall", we could remedy that! After all, we'll need them to open and close properly when we re-open the chapel for services!

And if you are wondering what we may use to provide music, **Dennis Bradbury** has most generously donated a harmonium!

Jon Matthews
Editor

Nature Conservation Report

Our group of volunteers (usually there's about half-a-dozen of us - **Nick** and **Tina Boyland**, **Brian Buckett**, **Sarah Salero** and **Rob Smith**, are regulars) have been very lucky with dry weather most Saturdays this summer - although we did have one 'wet' bonfire on a Saturday in July!

Most of our current work is concentrating on the removal of small shaded trees in Plots 2, 3, 7 and 8 (to the right as you go through the main entrance); in so doing we have exposed a lovely Lawson's Cypress (and some headstones) and we've recently discovered another different member of the Cypress family which had been completely surrounded by other trees.

We do try to keep the public areas (footpaths) clear but, from time to time when conditions are not conducive to disposal (eg: weather and the availability of transport), you will find large piles of brash stacked ready for disposal.

Please be aware that this is a 'work-in-progress' area and must not be disturbed: also please note we leave out logs for the public to remove for their indoor fires - however, we do not have insurance cover for the use of chain saws in the Cemetery.

We have on occasion been asked why we don't either chip the brash or have it transported to the dump. Well chipping is very expensive - professional help doesn't come cheap; also the chipping could be toxic as most parts of Yews are poisonous. As for removal to the dump, this also would have to be handled professionally and would be very expensive.

Our task for the rest of the Summer and early Autumn is "more of the same" - together with a survey to determine future work. We have found from experience that surveying on the spot, as we go along, is a much better way as priorities change when we expose more areas. By the way, we do always check for nesting birds.

The area in front of the Friends' House has not turned out as we had hoped. In fact, we are very disappointed with it. Whilst there are many wild flowers to be seen, to the uninitiated these do appear to be rather too much like weeds!!!

We still have 6,000 bulbs planted there (which made a brief flowering appearance in the Spring) but there is clearly a lot more work to be done to make this area much more attractive all the year round. We are consulting with experts and expect to convey any decisions we make in the November newsletter.

Finally, if you fancy volunteering for some light work on a Saturday morning please either ring me on 01983 295927 for details - or just turn up from 9:30am onwards. Actually we do enjoy a lot of camaraderie, never experience any 'heavy' work and always have a laugh often at my expense!

Richard Day

Nature Conservation Leader

East Chapel windows

We are very grateful to the families of the following people for sponsoring the restoration of the windows in the East Chapel.

The ornate stained glass window facing east is dedicated to the lives of **John Watling** (1946-2010) and his son **Jonathan Watling** (1977-2009), who sadly died within 3 months of each other.



John was born just across the Solent in Portsmouth where he grew up, went to school, married and qualified as an architect.

His first son, Jonathan, was born in a small house in Old Portsmouth. John's work took the family first to Poole and then to Hertfordshire when he became a partner in a London firm of architects. John won several awards for his designs and was respected and admired by many. When he retired he moved with his wife Stella and two sons to live near the sea once more. He spent several happy years living in Cowes before his death last year.

Jonathan inherited from John his warm, caring nature and his artistic talent. He studied graphic design but chose to start his own business selling antiques and collectables in East Cowes. He too loved living on the island although he retained his support of "Pompey" (Portsmouth Football Club) wherever he lived.

The four smaller windows in the chapel are dedicated to:

John William (1894-1970) and Dorothy Nellie (née Gibbens) (1895-1981) Bromley

John Bromley was born in Chatham, Kent and was educated there. He joined the Army in the First World War and was stationed in Constantinople (Istanbul). Returning to civilian life, he qualified as a Sanitary Inspector. He married Dorothy Gibbens at St John's Church, Chatham, and they settled in Margate.

In 1936 he took up an appointment as Sanitary Inspector with the Cowes Urban District Council, then situated in Northwood House, and later the position of Port Health Officer was added to his duties. He retired in 1954. His interest (from his youth) was Church Music and he became Organist at All Saints, Gurnard, shortly after his arrival on the Island and, in 1940, he then became Organist at St Mary's, Cowes. Due to ill health he gave up the organ in 1963.

Bruce Alexander (1902-1965) and Florence (née Ward) (1903-1994) Baldwin

Bruce left school at 14 years of age and joined Atkey's Garage, subsequently Fountain Garage, where he stayed for his entire working life. He was very well-known in the local community taking an active interest in many organisations including Cowes Medina Amateur Boxing Club, of which he was President for two years, and Cowes Football Club's Supporters Club of which he was a Vice-President. He was also a Founder Member of the IW Motor Coach Owners Association serving as Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer at various times.



His wife Florence was born in Park Road, Cowes and her father, William Henry Ward, was well-known as a Marine Engineer on steam yachts travelling the world in the employ of several famous families, including the Guinness family. She joined the Post Office as a Telephone Operator serving mainly at Cowes but also at Ventnor and Poole. She was a very keen tennis player being a member of several Island clubs.

Percy Ambrose (1878-1968) and Ada Mary (née Floyd) (1876-1962) Jackman

Percy and Ada Mary Jackman were both born in Cowes where they lived all their lives, residing for many years in Bellevue Road. Percy was a master bricklayer and worked for James Ball & Sons from the age of 14 till he retired at the age of 70. Ada was a dressmaker and embroiderer who did work for Osborne House.

They were both members of the Methodist Church, Percy helping to build the church in Birmingham Road; they were the 3rd couple to marry there on the 14th June 1902. They had 2 children: Harry Leslie Jackman (1903-1907) and Percy Stanley Jackman (1908-1983). Percy Amrose and Ada Mary were members of the church choir and attended services there until Ada's death in September 1962. Percy then resided with his surviving son Percy Stanley till his death in February 1968. They are both buried in Northwood Cemetery with their son Harry Leslie.

Frederick Luckhurst Lloyd (1911-1979)

Fred was born in Adelaide Grove, East Cowes and was educated at Grange Road School. He worked for the long established firm of builders and undertakers W G Thomas of Union Road, Cowes, until they were taken over in 1960. He then founded F L Lloyd, Funeral Directors in Bridge Road, Cowes and managed the business until his death.

He married his wife Joan (née Willis) at St. Mary's Church Cowes in 1939 and moved into the bungalow he and his brothers built in Worsley Road, Gurnard. They had 2 sons, Graham (a Trustee of the Friends of Northwood Cemetery) and Stephen. Fred was a very keen sportsman, particularly enjoying cricket and football; he played football for Cowes Football Club and was a supporter and member of Portsmouth FC and Hampshire County Cricket Club. His widow, Joan, moved to a residential home on the Island in 2009.

The Woodyear Memorials



The memorial headstones in Plot 1 (just past the Friends' House) have recently been refitted to the vault of the well-known Cowes family of **Woodyear**.

The stones were removed for restoration after the death of Eve Woodyear in October 2008 and the addition of a memorial for Eve, the only daughter of Mr and Mrs Barton Woodyear.

The headstones, picked out here by the evening light, were produced by Wight Stonemasonry, who have carved Eve's headstone to match those of her relatives.

Eve was well known in Cowes, where she had lived all her life, becoming the proprietor of Woodyear & Sons, the drapery business in the High Street founded by her grandfather Barton George Woodyear in 1814.

A keen yachtswoman, Eve was the first female Commodore of the Island Sailing Club, a position of which she was immensely proud, the club becoming her extended family.

She had served two years in the WRENs before joining her father in the running of the business, taking full responsibility after his death in 1951 until her retirement in the 1970s.

Eve had many interests besides sailing, including dressmaking, gardening and photography and was a great lover and collector of maritime art.

Eve is remembered by her friends as being very distinctive in personality, dress and vocabulary, strong and independent - although on occasions she could appear to be a somewhat shy person.

Barry Sowerby
Archivist



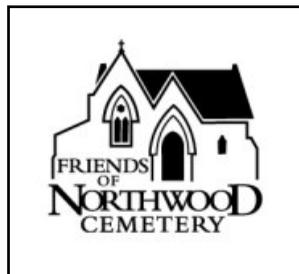
Schools' Pack

For three years now we have sought someone who can take on the mantle of liaising with the local schools to develop 'a package' that teachers can call on when a day in the Cemetery for their class beckons.

We want to make it as easy as we can for teachers to come to the Cemetery with their classes, preparing all the material for them that would be needed.

The schools' reorganisation project on the Isle of Wight hasn't helped us with this endeavour as, not unnaturally, the schools' attention has been much 'closer to home'.

You don't have to be a teacher to fulfil this role - though having access to the elements of Key Stages 1 and 2 of the National Curriculum, perhaps through a partner, son/daughter or a good friend, would be helpful.



Northwood Cemetery is a superb location for cross curricular studies being an obvious starting point for historical studies. But as well as History there are also opportunities for English; Maths; Science; Information Communication Technology; Geography; Art and Design; Religious Education; Physical Education; Personal, Social and Health Education; Design Technology; Citizenship - and Global Awareness and Environmental Studies. The list of subject areas is a long list!

So, is there someone out there to whom this opportunity appeals? If there is can that person please e-mail me at lora@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk (or call me on 01983 247177) to express an interest in filling this vital role.

Lora Peacey-Wilcox
Chairperson



A scene from yesteryear?
No. How a final journey was made on 16th August 2011.

The Silver Birch Tree

Its generic name is Birch, its Latin name is *Betula Pendula*. It is a broadleaf, deciduous tree with an average height of 18 to 25 metres.

It has triangular shaped leaves, with double teeth (teeth have teeth) and they range from Pale Green in summer to Golden Yellow in autumn, with catkins later in the year. Flowering is in April and May and fruit bearing is during September and October.

The bark is a whitish colour and papery with black cracks or fissures. It is easily confused with Downy birch which has slightly hairy stems and leaf stalks.

The Silver Birch is a native to Britain and Ireland and it prefers sandy or acidic soils - although it can survive in most soils.

The timber is traditionally used in Scotland in houses, furniture, carts, ploughs, gates and fences, while other parts of the UK tended to make use of them only for broomsticks. Today the Birch family is used for racecourse jumps.

The sap was always thought to be beneficial for the treatment of kidney stones and can also be brewed into wine or beer. The birch cane is also used in punishments hence the term “to give a birching”

Birch is thought of both as a protection against evil spirits and a symbol of love and fertility. According to our tree listings we only have one in Northwood Cemetery - in Plot 16 (that's on the right of the main carriageway just past the first roundabout as you enter the thicket).

Richard Day

Nature Conservation Leader

Membership Report

We have welcomed another five “Friends” to our ranks **Terry and Kathleen Eaststaff** from Brighstone; **Andrew Glaysher** in Cowes; **Lesley Pittman** from Shorwell; and **Patricia Self** from Farnborough, Kent.

Two overseas “Friends” have become Life members; they are: **Cecilia Lange** from Denver, Colorado and **Judy Obst** from Mount Barker, South Australia.

Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

