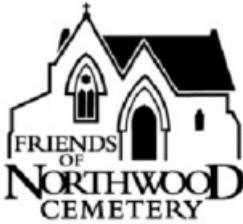


# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 20

FEBRUARY 2013



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## Editorial

On Easter Sunday the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** will celebrate its **5<sup>th</sup> birthday!!!** Much has been achieved in the last 5 years including: the restoration of the East Chapel into 'working order'; the clearance of over 100 years of undergrowth in the Plots around the Chapels; the trimming back of many untidy Yew trees (to enable them to re-grow and be kept 'under control'); the publishing of burial records on a newly created website; attaining Registered Charity status; the list goes on and on - oh, and a *lot of fun* and *camaraderie* has been enjoyed by the volunteers who have made all this, and much more, happen!

Our celebrations on **Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March** will be focussed on an **OPEN DAY** - from 10am to 4pm - at the Cemetery. If it is at all practical for you to do so, *please* come along. Further details are on the back page of this newsletter. On the same page, our next **AGM** is also announced - at **7:00pm** in the **East Chapel** on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**.

As if to highlight the rich variety of natural history in the Cemetery, this edition of the newsletter reports on two events that have recently taken place; one focussed on Moths; the other on Fungi. These may not be everyone's cup of tea - but the reports (written by external experts) do make fascinating reading and I commend them to you.

My plea for someone to take on the role of Membership Secretary in the November 2012 newsletter bore fruit and we are delighted to welcome **Kate BURHOUSE** to the position. Kate lives in Exmouth, Devon and brings a wealth of experience to the admin side of things; there's a piece about her overleaf. Like all roles the Membership Secretary is a voluntary job so *please* make her life as straightforward as possible by responding to the request for your 2013-2014 subscription **before 1<sup>st</sup> April** (the start of our fiscal year). It is such a chore (and so often an embarrassment!) to have to continually chase people - so the ball is quite firmly in *your* court (Life members, you are excused!).

We mentioned the creation of a "School's Pack" last quarter. Now re-branded as the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery "Learning Guide"**, I have personally delivered it to the Head Teachers of three local Primary Schools - and it has been received with much acclaim!

Progress on producing Plot maps has been hindered by the atrocious weather - but we have high hopes of getting cracking on these after Easter; but **we need more volunteers** to do the site surveying (a pencil job) - volunteering to 'do' just one plot would be a terrific help; so, dare I ask for another 'result'??? I've got my fingers and legs crossed!

**Jon Matthews**  
Editor

## Moth Event

Despite a very disappointing summer last year, a 'Moth event' was held in the Cemetery during the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> August. A variety of species were observed - two of which, the **Black Arches** (*Meganola albula*) and a micro-moth (*Synaphe punctalis*), are classified by British Nature conservation groups as "nationally scarce". They can be found in a number of locations here on the Isle of Wight - but only in small numbers.

The most visually striking moths seen were the pink-coloured **Rosy Footman** (*Miltochrista miniata*), the black and white patterned **Black Arches** (*Lymantria monacha*) and the beautiful Yellow Shell (*Camptogramma bilineata*).



Footman Black Arches



Yellow Shell



Rosy Footman

A micro-moth (micro-moths generally have wingspans of under 20 millimetres), *Carcina quercana*, also caught our attention with its pinkish hue.

As well as the aforementioned species, the following were also recorded:

- **Common Footman** (*Eilema lurideola*)
- **Dun-bar** (*Cosmia trapezina*)
- **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** (*Noctua janthe*)
- **Riband Wave** (*Idaea aversata*)
- **Small Fan-footed Wave** (*Idaea biselata*)
- **Willow Beauty** (*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*)

The majority of these moths will have made their homes in the trees in the Cemetery - emphasising the importance of trees as a vital wildlife habitat. Interestingly a greater number of *tree* species in an area results in a greater number of *moth* species.

I really hope that the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** will plant a variety of different tree species - thereby benefiting the needs of the wonderful wildlife in the Cemetery.

**Rob Wilson**

Lepidoptera Consultant



## New Membership Secretary

“Could that be you?” was the question asked by Jon Matthews in the November newsletter. Well yes, I had been thinking how I could help. As I live in Devon, with a full time job, turning up at the Cemetery to help with the physical work hasn't been practical.

My link with the Island is through my maiden name of RANN - there are a few in Northwood although they are all cousins rather than direct ancestors.

My grandfather was the last RANN of our line to live on the Island, being born at Parkhurst in 1889.

I now work at Exeter Cathedral, as a fundraiser with responsibility for managing their database. It's a really spectacular place to work as I'm very passionate about local history - and you can't help but be in awe of the building.

My other interests include maps, of which I have an excessive number; my two cats; and practically anything to do with computers and gadgets.

My first 'new recruit' was **Ken Matthews** who has become a Life Member. Ken is another Matthews who is not related to 'you-know-who' - but is well known as the Treasurer of the Isle of Wight Branch of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale). Welcome aboard, Ken!

My next task is to gather in all the renewals that become due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. We have 24 Life Members (so no hassle there) and 52 “Friends” who have paid by Standing Order in the past. The remaining 174 will require to take some action to retain their membership and the easiest way to do this, if you have an Internet connection, is to visit “the Parish Chest”:

[www.parihchest.com/FONC\\_Membership\\_Donations\\_LID8065](http://www.parihchest.com/FONC_Membership_Donations_LID8065)

No cheques, no envelopes, no stamps - and no having to find a post box! Simple.

To those who do not have the Internet, the subscription is £10 (single) or £15 (joint).

Please send cheques to the Treasurer, Jon Matthews, Dove Cottage, 23 St Andrews Street, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7DF.

**Kate Burhouse**  
Membership Secretary

## When Cowes was the Centre of World Fashion

Shaded by the Eastern boundary hedge, this tall imposing Celtic Cross marks the Redfern Vault, the final resting place of John Redfern, his wife Harriette, three of their sons, their daughter, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

John Redfern set up his tailoring business in Cowes High Street following his marriage in 1846 to Harriet Beazley, who was the daughter of a Ryde baker; she became Harriette during their move up the social ladder. Between 1847 and 1856 they had four sons and a daughter.

Their premises (41-42 High Street and 1-3 Sun Hill) developed into what might, perhaps unfairly, be described as a “Sweat Shop”; *seventy three* (mostly single) woman lived, slept and worked on the premises (source: 1891 census) producing high class *haute couture* for wealthy patrons.

Maybe the working conditions were acceptable at the time and they were certainly respectable girls, known for reasons unknown as “Bunny Girls” - nothing like the image the name conjures up today.



A visit to the **Isle of Wight Family History Society’s Births, Marriages and Deaths Index** ([www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/bmd/startbmd.htm](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/bmd/startbmd.htm)) indicates that some “Bunny Girls” married local men. Possibly someone reading this has an ancestor who worked for Redfern’s?

An early commission (in 1869) was to design the Bride’s and Bridesmaids’ dresses for Eliza the daughter of Dr (later Sir) **William Carter Hoffmeister**; their family vault is just opposite, across the path (see the November 2012 newsletter).

When John Redfern & Sons became a Limited Company in November 1892 they had branches in London (Redfern Gallery in Old Bond Street is a legacy of their success), Paris, Nice, Cannes, Aix-les-Bains (south-eastern France), New York, Chicago, Newport (Rhode Island), Edinburgh, Manchester and, of course, Cowes.

In their heyday Redfern was arguably the best known fashion house in the world with a clientele that included **Queen Victoria** (and her daughters), **Lily Langtry**, the **Empresses** of Germany and Russia - and the wealthy socialites of Europe and America.

Three of John’s sons (his eldest son, John, died in Nice aged 37 in 1887) became Directors.

In the Paris branch, probably the most important and innovative branch, one **Charles Poynter** became Principal Designer and a Director. His adoption of the Redfern name has led to much confusion as to his relationship to the family. Some sources say that this was John Redfern's real name, others that he was John Redfern's son - but I'm confident that he just added Redfern to his name, as did **Frederick Mims**, a Managing Director in London who also became known as Redfern.

Life becomes even more confusing for researchers as the Redfern sons adopted the surname **Russell**, keeping Redfern as a given name.

The influential *Institut Français de la Mode* places John Redfern firmly in the forefront of fashion: "The legacy of **John Redfern** may actually define clothing in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The intellectual lineage of Redfern is monumental and exemplary of the entire history of 20<sup>th</sup> century clothing. John Redfern mentored **Charles Poynter Redfern** who, in turn, mentored **Robert Piguet**, who mentored **Christian Dior** - who lead (*sic*) the line to **Yves Saint Laurent**".

The first person listed as being interred in the triple plot 19-21 in Plot 1 was **Harriette Maud Scott**, the daughter of **Annie Pike Scott** and granddaughter of John & Harriette Redfern. She was just 6 days old when she died in 1879. Harriette died in 1883 and John, the founder of the dynasty, followed in 1895. Stanley, one of the sons, now calling himself Russell, had married **Emma (Nem) Cooper**, a dressmaker working at the Cowes premises in 1885.

They were both listed as 37. Tragically Nem died a year later during childbirth and she is buried in the family vault where this touching tribute is inscribed "In tender reverent memory of Nem Russell of Comforts (*Ed: Comforts Farm is in Pallance Road, Northwood*). A wife of unfailing love and happy sweet content who, after a year of perfect wedded happiness, died on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1886 loving and trusting God, truly loved and honoured by her husband".



Stanley, listed as Redfern in burial records but Russell on the vault, died in 1905. His brother **Frank Redfern Russell** had died in 1897. The other family members buried here are:

- (i) **Franklyn Redfern Scott** (Annie and George Scott's son who was a brewer); he died in London in 1909;
- (ii) his mother, **Annie Pike Scott**, died aged 72 at 1 Harley Street London in 1927; and
- (iii) the youngest son **Ernest Arthur Redfern Russell** died in the bitter winter of 1947 aged 91 and is the last to be buried in the Vault.

Cowes as the Centre of *World Fashion*? A tantalising thought in the year 2013!!!

**David Jones**  
Secretary

## Fungi event

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012, eleven members of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society held a “Fungi foray” in the Cemetery. It was a bright but frosty morning and we were to find that many of the fungi had been spoiled by frost, making them more difficult to identify.

Nevertheless, we had a very successful and enjoyable meeting, finding nine sorts of the brightly coloured 'Waxcap' fungi and six sorts of 'Club' fungi, both groups of fungi being old grassland specialists and very much a feature of Northwood Cemetery. Altogether, we identified 42 species of fungi.



Shortly after we set off, Dr David Biggs showed us a group of large white fungi which puzzled us.

We couldn't name them on site but afterwards we realised that these were the white variety of the Meadow Waxcap (*Hygrocybe pratensis* var. *pallida*) which we have recorded from here in the past - alongside the more conventional form of orange-brown capped Meadow Waxcap.

This was just one of many Waxcaps for which Northwood Cemetery is well known amongst fungal enthusiasts (*mycologists*). They come in a range of bright colours and are a strong indicator that the grassland in which they grow is old grassland which has not been adversely affected by chemical treatment. They had been really spectacular this year, sprinkled over the grassland like brightly coloured sweets but, by the time we arrived the frosts had damaged many of them, turning them into an unpleasant mush. Nevertheless, we were still able to find good specimens in more sheltered areas of the Cemetery.

The splendid and rather chunky Crimson Waxcap (*Hygrocybe punicea*) is a particularly strong indicator of old grasslands and is rather scarce and local (pictured right).

Smaller, but brighter red, is the Scarlet Waxcap (*Hygrocybe coccinea*) which is quite abundant at Northwood Cemetery. So too are the Yellow Waxcaps.

There are several species of Waxcaps of which the commonest with us is the Golden Waxcap (*Hygrocybe chlorophana*).





It is always exciting to find the **Pink Waxcap** (*Hygrocybe calyptiformis*) - sometimes also called '**The Ballerina**'. This one *was* believed to be nationally rare and, because it is so distinctive, a special survey was commissioned to discover where it still survived.

Raising the profile of this species resulted in many more records being made and it is no longer considered to be rare. It is both local and uncommon; we often find it at Northwood but it is much rarer than the other Waxcaps.

In addition to the Waxcaps, a whole variety of **Earth Tongues** and **Club Fungi** were found and these are also old grassland specialists.

One of the commonest of these, but also one of the prettiest, is known as **Golden Spindles** (*Clavulinopsis fusiformis*) (pictured right).

However, it is the little black **Earth Tongues** that are really special. We found three sorts of these including the rarest of them all - indeed a national rarity!



This is the **Olive Earth Tongue** (*Microglossum olivaceum*) (pictured opposite) which is not black but has a brownish fruiting body on a greenish stalk. We have found it here before in its only known Island site - but we were impressed by the considerable quantities that we found in the vicinity of the two Chapels - although in a different area to where we have found them previously.



Other interesting finds included a group of **Earth stars** (*Gastrum pectinatum*), rather

dried up and past their best; a large specimen of the **Mosaic Puffball** (*Lycoperdon utriforme*), a species which has done well this season; and several specimens of the late fruiting toadstool known as '**The Goblet**' (*Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis*).

## Colin Pope

Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society  
(also Ecology Officer, IW Council)

# OPEN DAY

## Easter Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

An Open Day will be held at the Cemetery from 10:00am to 4:00pm in celebration of our **5<sup>th</sup> birthday**; visitors will have the opportunity to see some of the achievements of the past five years - and there will be opportunities to talk to the Trustees. Other related organisations (including IW Council's Bereavement Services) will also be there. In addition there will be:

- (i) Demonstrations of wood carving - by **Marcus Matthews** of **Redhill Farm Designs**;
- (ii) Demonstrations of stone masonry - by **Robert Alder** of **G J Banks (IW) Ltd**;
- (iii) Professional advice on writing Wills to include Legacies - from **Paul Wheeler** (a leading Newport-based Solicitor); and
- (iv) Advice on how best to maintain graves and headstones - from **Nikki Lovett-Taylor** and **Wendy Simpson** of **Grave Concerns**.

There will be guided tours around the Cemetery visiting graves of historical interest. Searches for individual Graves can also be undertaken.

At 2:00pm there will be an Organ Recital by **Andrew Pellow**, a Life Member, and at 3:00pm **Chris Ely** and **Christopher Parsonson**, performing as *Duo Sospiro*, will continue the musical theme - both performances taking place in the East Chapel.

Entrance is free and ample parking is available in the adjacent Cowes Medical Centre.

Please accept this as the required notice to members of the 2013  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
to be held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** in the **East Chapel** at **7:00pm**.

The **Agenda** will be available  
on the Home Page of our website at:  
[www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk).

I sincerely hope to see you at both events!

**Lora Peacey-Wilcox**  
Chairman