

Meet the Trustee - Graham Lloyd

Graham is a Gurnard man through and through; he was born and lives in Gurnard; has two daughters and two granddaughters.

In his youth he played football and cricket for local teams and was Treasurer of Northwood St. John's Football Club for 40 years. He is a Churchwarden of All Saints' church in Gurnard - and has been since the early 1980s - and helps with the running of the Gurnard News monthly magazine. He is also a member of the Gurnard Community Projects Committee.



Graham's father founded F. L. Lloyd, Funeral Directors, in Cowes in 1960 and Graham started working there in 1963. When his father died in 1979, Graham continued to run the business before retiring in year 2000.

Over the years, as a Funeral Director, Graham has had a great deal of involvement with the Cemetery and brings his wealth of experience to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** Board of Trustees, acting as a bereavement services industry consultant.

Membership Report

We finished our second year (2009/2010) with exactly **250** members and have been taking new members for the 2010/2011 year since December. The following 31 people have become **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** since the last Newsletter - and unless otherwise stated they all live in the local PO31 Postcode area of Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood:

Sue Bennett, Mark & Dave Budden, Kath Cann (Cambridge), Shirley Clarke, Claire Crawford, Noel Finn, Raymond & Tiffany Foster, Elspeth Giddens, Ben Greenham, Jane Hill, Shirley Hilton, Richard & Fiona Hughes, Chris & Carole Jackson, Colin Jefferies, Colin Morey (Bedford), Gillian Pearson (Chesthunt, Hertfordshire), Martin Rolf, Michael & Barbara Rumsey, Newman & Jill Smith, Thelma & Robert Smith, Carole Thorpe (Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk), Margaret Vickery and John & Stella Watling.

A big "Welcome aboard" to all these new members - and thank you to everyone for *all* of your support; shall we aim for 300 members by the end of third year in March 2011?

Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

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

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EDITORIAL

It's a mixed bag this quarter some very good news but some frustrating news too.

First, the good news: we were successful in getting the nomination for funding from the **Southern Co-op** in the town - and now 1.5% of all spending using their **Community Support card** will flow to us (up to a maximum of **£12,500**). The cards are free on application and, in the first three months, we are already pledged over £1,500 - with momentum gathering. The scheme runs to **30th September 2010** so, if you are local to Cowes, *please* take a simple Application Form from the store and use the card that will be given to you as often as you can!

We are also very pleased to have the voluntary services of **Carole Jackson**, a retired Teacher, who has agreed to produce a '**Schools pack**'. The objective of this is to make it as easy as we can for teachers to take their classes to the Cemetery for nature trails and to instil a sense of respect for the Cemetery and its inhabitants (not always found in today's teenagers) at an earlier stage in their school life.

Progress on removing the Heras fencing around the mortuary chapel, and getting funding for its restoration, is not so good. This Newsletter is later than scheduled as we had hoped to have got past the impasse with the IW Council on their proposals for a 'temporary' fix to the short-term subsidence issue; we would prefer a permanent fix. Alas, that has not yet happened. However, on a grander scale we do have some kind of progress to report: there's an organisation called the **Isle of Wight Building Preservation Trust** (Building Preservation Trusts are a special form of a Registered Charity) and we are in dialogue with them to see whether they will become involved with the *building works* for which we seek funding.

Subscriptions (£10 single, £15 joint) will become due on 1st April but we already have 27 in the kitty (thank you to those Friends!). Now, if you are contemplating Life membership, then you'll want to wait until the AGM on Monday 12th April 2010 at the Kingston Arms - when the cost of this will be determined; otherwise, please don't hold back!!! Our thanks go to Adrian and Jackie, *mine hosts*, for once again offering their hospitality to us. See you there!

Jon Matthews

Editor

Donald Marshall (1848-1919)

Born in Liverpool in 1848, how or why **Donald Marshall** arrived on the Isle of Wight is unknown - but in 1888 he married a local girl named **Mary Jane Pilcher**. He was 40 years old and she was 25.

Donald was a Street Musician and Mary's family must have had some anxieties regarding her wisdom in marrying a wandering minstrel. If children are an indicator of a happy marriage then, Donald and Mary must have been very happy - for they had 10 children of their own.

Donald was no ordinary street musician. He will best be remembered for his long leadership of the **Royal Osborne Minstrels**, who were established in 1879 and for a very long period enjoyed an enviable reputation.

Since the 1840s there had been a growing popularity for 'minstrel groups'. Men, and sometimes women, blackened their faces and hands and performed music associated with the slave population in the southern states of America. Of these clever performers there was no one more popular and accomplished than Donald, for as a whistle player he had few equals.

Donald and his merry minstrels had the honour of appearing before **Queen Victoria**, the **Prince of Wales** (later King Edward VII), the **Queen of Denmark**, the **Duke of Saxe-Coburg** - and many other members of the Royal Family at Osborne House and on the Royal Yacht

Whilst Donald was also no mean performer on the banjo and bagpipes, he taught himself to play almost any instrument. He could also sing and was an exceptional dancer. In spite of advancing years and ill health, Donald busked almost every day in Cowes.

During the evening of Saturday 27th December 1919 he was playing in Birmingham Road when he suddenly collapsed. He was taken home to 7 Mary Street (now St Andrews Street) where he died the following morning.

The old minstrel was laid to rest in Northwood Cemetery on Wednesday 31st December (in Plot 30, Grave 7756).

With grateful thanks to Julia Furby (Great grand-daughter) and Jan Toms (Island Life) for help with research and Beken of Cowes for the use of their photograph.



A resident red squirrel caught in a Yew tree in Plot 6 (behind the Mortuary) by our alert photographer Barry Sowerby

Nature Conservation Report

We've been building up the team of volunteers and now have around 15 people. I am normally in the Cemetery every Saturday morning at 9.30 and we usually get at least five or six other volunteers attending each week. A point to make here is that although **I** work every Saturday, I'm not expecting other volunteers to come as often. Whether you want to come along and join in the camaraderie weekly, fortnightly, monthly - or just occasionally - you are always very welcome.

Plot 1 (to the left of the main entrance) represented a major task for us by far the plot that needed most work in the entire cemetery. We are still working our way through it and expect to have it completed by the end of March. The area in front of the 'Dead House' has been cleared and, until the stumps are removed, will not look great.

We intend that this becomes a garden, seeded with grass and wild flowers. The big Yew on the corner will come down to waist height and be allowed to regenerate.

Currently we have paused our work on this plot to concentrate on the two big hedges either side of the entrance. Iain Donald, who manages all cemeteries on the Island, has encouraged us to reduce these hedges down to 4 foot high. We've already trimmed the one on the left-hand side (as viewed from the main entrance) and expect to finish the one on the right-hand side by the end of February.

We are very conscious that the bird nesting season starts in mid-March so we need to have these bigger jobs completed by then.

During the Spring and Summer months we will focus on putting the finishing touches to Plot 1, developing a detailed plan for Plots 2 and 3 (in front of the Chapel and Mortuary), some miscellaneous tasks on specific graves (such as removing the tree obscuring the grave of James Cribb - the first person buried in the Cemetery) and a general plan for Plots 4 to 8 (immediately behind the Chapel and Mortuary). We will also do some remedial work on the boundary hedges.

Richard Day
Nature Conservation Leader

Northwood Cemetery Fees and Charges

The Isle of Wight Council manage Northwood Cemetery and apply fees and charges for burial services; these are reviewed annually and any changes take effect from 1st April in any year, being the start of the Council's fiscal year. Selected fees and charges for the current year, ending **31st March 2010**, are:

Grave purchase fee (inner grave space within a plot)	£448
Grave purchase fee (border grave space on the edge of a plot)	£930
Interment fee (Isle of Wight adult residents)	£639
Interment fee (non Isle of Wight adult residents)	£760
Burial of Cremated Remains in a purchased grave	£176
Scattering of Cremated Remains	£49
Headstone/Kerb/Flatstone fee (not including the stone)	£223

(note: a Headstone can only be erected on a purchased grave)

These are a just selection from the Tariff issued by the IW Council. For full details, please contact Bereavement Services based at the Crematorium on 01983 882288.

The fee for a cremation starts at £497 but, with a 35 minute service, organist and wooden casket for cremated remains, typically costs £557.

Walk the Wight - Sunday 16th May 2010

The **Walk The Wight Festival** is on again this year and if you have ever wanted to 'Walk The Wight' - but feared the hills would stop you in your tracks - the Flat Walk is for you. This 8 mile sponsored walk is perfect for people of all ages, wheelchair users and parents with prams.

The **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** would like to make up a team of walkers for this Flat Walk. If you are interested, and would like more details, please email **Angela McMurtry** on angelamciow@talktalk.net or ring her on 01983 295729.

You have to register online before 30th April at www.iwhospice.org/WTW and nominate the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** as the team you represent. We intend that all of our walkers will be kitted out with a shirt incorporating the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** logo - so that we promote ourselves!

To be discussed at the AGM on 12th April so please come along to that!

Angela McMurtry
Co-opted Fundraiser

Quiz Night

Our second, and even more successful, Quiz Night took place on Friday 22nd January at the Kingston Arms where 56 people pitted their wits against curly questions posed by Jackie Hunt, our hostess for the evening.



Teams from **Cowes Rotary** (in fact two and a half teams!), the **RNLI**, the **Isle of Wight Family History Society**, **Cowes Heritage**, the **Archaeology Department of the IW Council**, **Cowes Carnival**, the **Isle of Wight Society**, **Northwood Parish Council**, and the **Kingston Arms** attended along with a few more teams made up of individuals,

Reigning supreme on the night was the team from **Cowes Heritage** (pictured) consisting of **David & Win Jones** (left) and **Brian & Christine Broom** (right) (some people were heard to call them professional bandits!).

Congratulations go to them, and to everyone who took part in a fun, enjoyably chaotic, evening.

Over £150 was raised for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**.

Annual General Meeting

Please accept this as the required notice of the AGM to take place in the **Kingston Arms** in Newport Road, Cowes on **Monday 12th April at 7:00pm**.

Apart from up-to-date reports on our activities and progress, we need to elect Trustees for the year and establish a Lifetime Membership fee - as well as discuss our participation in the **Walk the Wight Festival**.

If you have any motion that you, as a **Friend of Northwood Cemetery**, would like tabled to discuss at the AGM, then please contact Jon Matthews on 01983 247498 before 14th March (the Secretary David Jones, fuelled by his success at the Quiz Night, is celebrating on a world tour until then!).

Jon Matthews
Acting Secretary in David Jones' absence

Exclusive Right of Burial

When a grave is “purchased” it is the purchasing of the **Exclusive Right of Burial** in the grave space that is involved - *not* the purchase of the land itself. This means that you do not own the land but have the exclusive right, during the period stated in the **Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial** document, to say who can be buried in the grave.

Also, provided that you do not, during your lifetime, transfer the right to another person and provided that the period stated in the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial has not expired, you can also choose to be buried in the grave yourself. However Bereavement Services at the IW Council will determine the number of burials (this includes Cremated Remains) permitted in the grave space.

The **Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial** will be issued to the grave owner and this should be kept in a safe place - as it will be required should there be a further burial in the grave at some point in the future. If you wish to you can transfer those rights to another person.

In accordance with the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order, all grave rights are sold for a fixed period. The number of years the rights have been granted for is shown on your Grave Grant. At the end of this period you may apply to the Bereavement Services Office to extend those rights.

If you wish to transfer the ownership during your lifetime you must complete a Form of Assignment and submit it to Bereavement Services, together with the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial. A blank Form of Assignment for completion by you is available from the Bereavement Services office at the Crematorium.

The Exclusive Right of Burial gives you the right to:

- be buried in the grave if space is available
- authorise further burials in the grave, where space is available, or the interment or scattering of cremated remains in or over the grave
- place an inscribed memorial on the grave.

If you own the Right of Burial for a grave no one else can be buried in the grave unless you have given your permission. The graves cannot be opened without permission in writing by the registered owner of the burial rights. The only exception to this is where the burial is to be that of the registered owner in which case no written authority is required. The law protects your rights as registered owner of the grave.

If or when all the owners have died, the ownership of the Exclusive Right of Burial in a grave can be transferred from a deceased owner via that owner's estate. This can be very complicated and while there is a set procedure to follow, each case must be looked at individually. Where the owner has previously been buried then, without exception, a new owner must first be registered to re-open a grave for burial or place a memorial or additional inscription upon a memorial.

The Grant of Probate, the Grant of Letters of Administration and the Will (if Probate not obtained) may be required for the transfer of the ownership:

Once the **Exclusive Right of Burial** has been purchased it becomes part of the registered owner's property.

In the following circumstances transfer of the ownership will be required:

- the registered owner decides to assign the grave to someone else
- an application is made for a burial in, or memorial/additional inscription on, the grave but the registered owner is previously deceased.

How to transfer the ownership of the Exclusive Right of Burial

The IW Council must obey the law relating to ownership of graves and burials. Where the registered owner is alive the transfer will be a straightforward process. The registered owner, naming the new owner, will complete a Form of Assignment which can be supplied by Bereavement Services.

Where the registered owner is deceased, the rights form part of the residual estate. It will be necessary to establish who has the legal right to deal with the estate. This will normally be: (i) the Executor(s) if the registered owner died leaving a Will; (ii) the Administrator(s) appointed if Letters of Administration were obtained or (iii) the next of kin if there are no Executors or Administrators.

Iain Donald

Bereavement Services Manager, IW Council

Easy Fundraising

You can now raise funds for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** by shopping online at www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

15% (yes, that's up to **fifteen percent!**) of every purchase you make will go to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**. It's easy - all you have to do is register online at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and type **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** in the window that appears (that's easier than browsing to us in the drop down menu). Once you have registered all you have to do is **shop until you drop!** It's that easy. **You can do nearly all your online shopping from this one site.**

The only consideration is that you must login via www.easyfundraising.org.uk and use the retailer links provided. The retailers will track your transactions and pay the nominated cause every quarter. There are 100s of online stores such as **Amazon, Argos, Boots, HMV, Interflora, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Next, PC World, Staples, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Toys R Us - to name but a few.** Do give it a try!

Angela McMurtry

Co-opted Fundraiser