

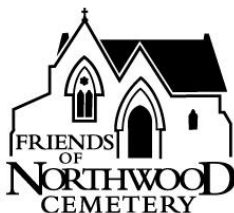
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 27

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NOVEMBER 2014

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EDITORIAL

4 months into the implementation of our **Heritage Lottery Fund** grant and it's go! go! go! Project Managers, Architects, Structural Engineers, Surveyors and Landscape Assessment consultants have been appointed and they are all working hard to put the Project Board in a position to submit a final application to the HLF by the end of February 2015. If we miss that, it'll be a 6 month delay to our schedule (as HLF only have 2 'windows' a year!).

One issue that is focusing the minds is this: funders (including the HLF) do not give 100% of the cost of a project; they require the recipient (ie: us) to provide "match funding". This is usually cash (FoNC have contributed £4,000 thus far from reserves) but it can also be in the form of the notional value of 'volunteer hours'. Thus every hour worked on the project is being recorded so that we keep the cash element of our contribution to a minimum.

But cash is still needed and so **fund raising** is a major attention grabber. Please see the back page for an easy fund raising initiative. Another initiative has been started by **Stella Watling**, a Life Member, who has donated **Loose Change Appeal** collecting boxes for homes, pubs, shops and clubs – in fact *anywhere* that could attract donations. If you know of a place that could offer one of these, please contact the Secretary (see above).

Quiz Night

Another fund raiser arranged is a **Quiz Night** to be held at the **Kingston Arms** on Friday 28th November, starting at 7:30pm. Our hostess **Jackie Gallaher** is sure to see that a lot of fun is had by all - so **please** support the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** by coming along and/or supplying raffle prizes. Every little helps!

'Goings on' in the Cemetery

Some of you may have noticed that the 4 huge Cedars of Lebanon behind the chapels have been 'tidied up'. The IW Council deemed that there were some limbs on these in danger of snapping off so, as a Health and Safety measure, tree surgeons were deployed.

They arrived, rather inconveniently, just as builders were digging inspection pits to determine the extent of the foundations of the chapels – as well as the drainage system throughout the Cemetery. 'Half-term week' turned out to be a hectic week of activity!

Open Day

Sandwiched between a glorious Friday and a glorious Sunday, the Open Day on Saturday 4th October did not enjoy the weather for which we had hoped. However over 50 visitors braved the rain and they were able to see a presentation of the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project** at first-hand; most completed surveys which will be very valuable to us.

School competition and volunteers

At the beginning of November we launched a competition for Key Stage 1 and 2 children, at the primary schools in Cowes, to capture their thoughts (in a picture or a poem) about the Cemetery. In so doing we hope to stimulate interest not just with the children (many of whom have visited the Cemetery with their schools) but also their parents; we really need to identify the next generation of volunteers – and the Trustees believe this may be a good source. Volunteering does not mean hard labour! There are a variety of tasks, many desk-bound (eg: publicity, fund raising, newsletter editor, website administration) that require extra 'hands to the pump'. Do you have skills to match these tasks?

Jon Matthews

Editor

MEMBERSHIP

Joining us since August are: **Linda Brown** (Cowes), **Lynn Buchanan** (Southampton), **Reg & Joan Finch** (Northwood), **Belinda Lathey** (Merstone), **John & Gail Rogers** (Redditch), **Monica Scott** (Southampton – a Life member), **Paul Taylor** (Cowes), **Janet Ticehurst** (Northwood), **Alan Wells** (Cowes) and **Sue Wilson** (Southampton).

Life membership is another contributor to fund raising; any member who has already paid an **annual** subscription can become a **Life Member** for **£90** (if received before 31st December 2015 - since they will have already paid £10). Could that be you? I know the expenses of Christmas are looming - but some contributions of £90 would be very welcome boosts to the funds we need to attract!

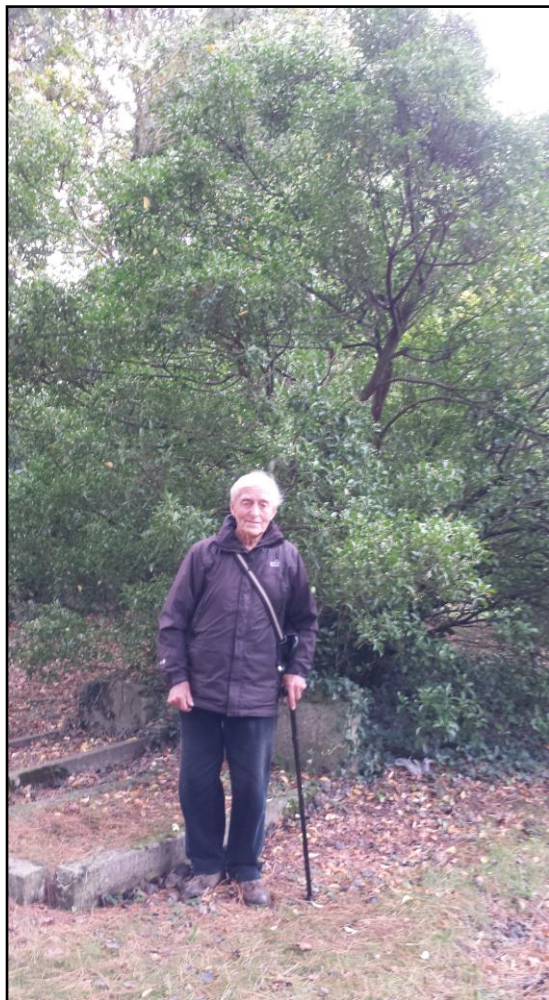
Sheila Caws

Membership Secretary

GROUND PRESERVATION

Currently our volunteers are working on the right hand hedgerow (as viewed from the main entrance to the Cemetery) and clearing nearby Plots of decades of undergrowth – so that we can see the headstones and add them to our Plot mapping project.

Both the ‘garden areas’ to right and left of the entrance are being managed to their best aspects and the left area has recently been strimmed to allow the late winter and spring bulbs to emerge.



Our tree sponsorship programme has yielded 7 sponsors, with 6 trees now planted. Peripheral work (eg: rabbit guards, memorial plaques) will be completed in the spring. There are still some spaces available at a cost of £250. Please contact me on 01983 295927 if you would like to discuss sponsoring a tree (or a bench).

Known on the Island as “Mr Trees”, nonagenarian **Bill Shepard** (pictured here) has pointed out our collection of *Strawberry* trees.

There are only a few specimens to be found on the Island, mainly on heavy clay, but he knows of no group such as those in Northwood Cemetery. On Osborne Golf Course there are two very large specimens and he asks “could this be a clue to the source of the Cemetery trees?”. With a Myrtle also present in the Cemetery, weight is added to this theory; could both have come from Queen Victoria?

Richard Day
Grounds Preservation Manager



Another headstone that required the removal of a large amount of undergrowth in order to “discover” it was that of the **Rankin** family on which is recorded the name of **Charles Ritchie Niven Rankin**. He was a sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve serving on HM Yacht *Iolaire* when he drowned on 1st January 1919. The yacht ran onto rocks and sank in sight of the lights of Stornoway - packed with ex-servicemen who had survived the First World War. 205 men died within twenty yards of the shore.

A Scot by birth Charles Rankin was 31 when he drowned. He had married Gladys Helene Wood in Penzance in 1918 and he was buried in Penzance. His parents were John and Annie Niven (nêe Rankin) Campbell who lived at

Nivenlee, Gordon Road, Cowes. John was a Scottish marine engineer who had moved south, ending his days on the Island. The headstone is in granite and it is in a remarkably good condition.

Finally, **Oscar Westbrook** was found while researching Thomas Westbrook - a former Chairman of Cowes Urban District Council and a well known local builder. He had two sons: Roland - who is buried in the plot next to him; and Oscar who was killed in France on 20th September 1917. Oscar was a Sergeant (no: 26868) with the 15th Battalion Hampshire Regiment having been transferred from the Hampshire Yeomanry.



He is remembered on a family memorial in St Mary’s Church, Cowes; on the Cowes Town Memorial in Northwood Park; the County Memorial in Carisbrooke Castle; and on the Newport County Secondary School Memorial.

I suspect there are other names from World War 1 that have not yet been found, although the parents of most of those killed did not have the funds for a headstone.

David Jones
Secretary

HE SURVIVED THE WAR – BUT IT CHANGED HIS LIFE



A simple plaque on one of the pews in the Forest Church in Guernsey commemorates the life of Surgeon-Major **George Clifford Sullivan Hayes** OBE. He died in Guernsey just before Christmas 1938 - but his life was forever changed, dominated perhaps, by his experiences more than 20 years earlier in the First World War.

But George Hayes, a skilled surgeon, loving father and a respected officer who was well liked by his men, almost certainly suffered from what we now call post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of his time at war.

George Hayes had a golden start in life; he was born in India in 1888, the son of a wealthy landowner who was also a member of the powerful East India Company. His great-grandfather was General Charles Palmer, who had been military adviser to Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of India.

Young George, like all the boys in his family, was sent to boarding school in England and, after leaving Marlborough College, he studied and qualified as a surgeon at Guy's Hospital in London. He served with the Indian Army as a doctor. In 1907 George married Mary Affleck Kissock; she was born in Tasmania where her father was a Member of the Legislative Council and instrumental in the cessation of transportation to Tasmania.

The young couple lived in York Place, Kensington Palace Gardens and they were regular guests at Kensington Palace. They also had lovely summer house just up the road from the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes.

George Hayes showed himself to be an excellent surgeon; his mentor was Sir Alfred Fripp, who was surgeon to the King. He became a friend of Prince George, who was to ascend to the throne as George V in 1910 upon the death of Edward VII. He was also a friend of Lord Hugh Grosvenor whose sons would inherit the Westminster Estate. Grosvenor was killed in action in the first year of World War 1.

George had joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1904 and, in 1911, was appointed Surgeon-Captain to the First Life Guards, Household Cavalry. He worked with the regiment from the outbreak of war and then, in 1915, was sent to France with the 3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance.

Like so many servicemen at the time he never spoke of the things he saw, probably not even to his wife. We do know, though, that he threw himself into his work. He would travel into war zones, often under artillery fire, in the front of the ambulance – he believed that officers should be at the head of their troops - not waiting behind the lines.

It was while on an ambulance in 1915 that George Hayes was injured. He had a head wound from shrapnel and was invalided home suffering from concussion. At the end of 1916 he rejoined the regiment in France, remaining in service until the end of the war. He was awarded the OBE by King George for bravery and service.

For a successful surgeon with an impeccable war record and connections in high places, life after the war should have been near-perfect - but for George Hayes it was anything but. Post-traumatic stress disorder had begun to surface at times during the conflict and once the war ended it became increasingly dominant.

He was appointed surgeon in a Johannesburg hospital and the family moved to South Africa - but his illness, 'shell shock' as it was usually called in those days, was affecting him too much and he had to resign his post.

They returned to England and Mary knew that she had to keep him busy. Unlike many of the ordinary soldiers, who suffered terribly from PTSD, the family had the means to do this. They settled in Cornwall, then back to India, then Exmoor; they also had a spell living at Morningson Hall, Cowes where they socialised with the elite of Cowes.

However, none of this improved George - in fact he got worse. He was unable to go back to his work as a surgeon - his real skill in which he had so much pride. Like many PTSD sufferers he was prone to wild fits of temper and loss of self control. Again, like many sufferers, he sought solace in alcohol.

And so life went on for the next 20 years with Mary and John, their son, trying to make the best of the situation of living with a man who was by now seriously ill as a result of his experiences of war. In the 1930s, they moved to Jersey and then to Guernsey.

His drinking was now affecting his health and on 21st December 1938 he died in a nursing home in Guernsey. He was described as a 'tragic figure' aged only 50 - but looking more like 80. His body was returned to the family vault in Northwood Cemetery; Cowes was the place in the world that he loved the most.

Nick Le Messurier

The Guernsey Press

WE HAVE BEEN MISSING A TRICK – so please read on to remedy this!!!

We are in constant need of funding. Whilst we have one hand on a **grant** from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**, there's something called 'match funding' that we need to contribute to the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project** if we are going to get **two** hands on "over £1m". This will be a perennial cry for the next two or three years - so we just can't ignore it!!!

easyfundraising has been mentioned in these newsletters on several occasions in the past - but we clearly have not done a good job in putting the message across.

Suppliers like Amazon, Argos, Booking.com, Currys, eBay, Expedia, M&S, the Train Line and over 2,000 others subscribe to **easyfundraising**. We have so far received donations of £630 – at no cost to anyone except the profit margins of the suppliers concerned.

For example, I booked a hotel (online) through **easyfundraising** and this resulted in a **£4.85** donation being credited to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**; I bought some stationary and that yielded **£10.57**; and I bought a train ticket and that yielded **97p** - just because I went through the **easyfundraising** website ('portal') for these online purchases rather than directly to the website of these suppliers. **That's all!!!**

easyfundraising .org.uk

So, with Christmas just around the corner, can we take advantage of this very easy fund raising initiative? For those of you accustomed to online purchases, **of course we can!**

All you have to do is **register** (just once) the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** as your 'cause' (charity) of choice at the www.easyfundraising.org.uk website. Then, when you want to make an online purchase, select the supplier (eg: Amazon) from the list of suppliers in the scheme and you'll go to their website (eg: www.amazon.co.uk) - and carry on as usual. **That, ladies and gentlemen, is all there is to it!**

Even better, if you are making purchases on behalf of a business, then these purchases too can generate regular donations to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**. Whilst the demographics of membership suggest many are retired, there are some who still work!

There seems to be no reason why the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** should not be getting donations well in excess of £1,000 every single year from **easyfundraising** – but it just needs **you** to take a small initial one-off step to enter this world of easy fund raising.

John Pullen
Treasurer