

NORTHWOOD CEMETERY

PEOPLE



GUIDE MAP



PEOPLE

Northwood Cemetery is the final resting place of some of the most important, influential and memorable people of Cowes. Some were pioneers in their fields, ranging from photography, sailing and fashion design and made their fortunes in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, but included in the walk are other Cowes residents who made their mark on the town.

1 PASCALL ATKEY (1808-1882)

The Cowes firm Pascall Atkey, founded in 1799, is possibly the oldest yacht chandler in the country. Pascall is buried with five other family members under the impressive obelisk, erected in memory of his son Pascall Ratsey Atkey who died, aged 20, of typhoid fever in 1862 “on the verge of manhood”.



Atkey



Woodyear

2 EVE DORCAS JULIA WOODYEAR (1926-2008)

The last of a long line of drapers trading in Cowes, Eve was well known especially among the sailing fraternity and became the first female Commodore of the Island Sailing Club. On her death in 2008 she joined five other Woodyears in the family vault and now there are six similar round topped headstones in place.

3 SIR WILLIAM C. HOFFMEISTER KT, MD, LRCP, FRCS. (1817-1890)

Sir William is buried with 15 others in the family plot. He was appointed apothecary to Queen Victoria in 1845, aged just 28. He attended to Prince Leopold, a haemophiliac, and was present at the birth of several of Queen Victoria’s grandchildren, including Princess Alexandra of Hesse, the ill-fated Czarina of Russia.

Sir William’s sons, Bernard, John and William (Willie) were also in service to the Royal family.



Hoffmeister



Redfern

4 JOHN REDFERN (1820-1895)

Founder of a world famous fashion house John Redfern & Sons, had branches in London, Paris, Nice, Cannes, Aix-les-Bains, New York, Chicago, Newport (Rhode Island), Edinburgh, Manchester and, of course, Cowes. Its clientele included Queen Victoria and her daughters, Empresses of Germany and Russia, Lily Langtry, and the wealthy socialites of Europe and America.

5 JAMES BINFIELD BIRD (1831 -1892)

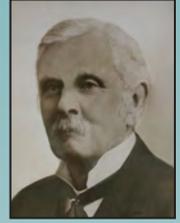
The estate manager for the Ward family in 1860 responsible for 20,000 acres across the Island. He resigned in 1875 to pursue his own business interests. The splendour of the family tomb shouts money. It is a mystery why burial records show the grave as being 30 yards west of the obelisk.



Bird

6 **SIMPSON BENZIE (1835-1915)**

Founder of the world famous Cowes jewellers in 1862. He installed the famous ‘Benzie Ball’ on top of the building. It was dropped on the stroke of 1200hrs GMT, keeping time for the Royal Navy in the Solent. The ball was destroyed during WWII. Benzie’s jewellers has served the cream of society for more than 130 years and has held eight Royal Warrants.



Benzie

7 **LT. GEN. CHARLES BARING (1829-1890)**

Serving in the Crimean War with the Coldstream Guards, Charles Baring lost his left arm during the Battle of Alma in 1854. Despite the amputation he returned to active duty and was one of the first Englishmen to enter Sevastopol with the breaking of the siege in 1855. He was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron and a vice-president of the Yacht Racing Association.



Baring

8 **THE COLVILLE GRAVES**

Adjacent to Shamblers Copse is the last resting place of members of a very interesting family, the Colvilles. The most prominent being: Charles John Colville, 1st Viscount Colville of Culross.



Charles Colville

9 **MAJOR SIR PHILIP HUNLOKE G.C.V.O.**

In 1914 he was made Groom-in-Waiting to George V and by 1920 became his Sailing Master. He had a close association with the Royal Yacht, *Britannia*, a racing yacht that graced the Solent between the world wars. He was Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron from 1943 to 1947 and one of the founders of the Fastnet yacht race.



Sir Phillip Hunloke

10 **FRANK BEKEN (1880-1970)**

Son of a pharmacist on Birmingham Rd. A pioneer of marine photography, he designed a forerunner to the later twin-lens reflex cameras. Frank, alone in an open boat, operated the camera by holding it in both hands and firing the shutter with a rubber bulb ‘air’ release in his mouth. He was one of the finest photographers of all time and his lasting legacy is the Beken Marine Photography Archive.



Frank Beken

11 **CHARLES SIBBICK (1849-1912)**

Charles Sibbick was based at the Albert Yard in Thetis Road, Cowes. Designing and constructing yachts for a living, he built around 300 boats until the company went out of business in early 1903. Many of these were small racing yachts, termed Raters, but he also built a number of cruisers. His customers included princes, wealthy businessmen and Americans. His boats were exported around the world and about 20 of his yachts still exist today.



Charles Sibbick



Donald Marshall

12 DONALD MARSHALL (1847-1919)

Liverpool-born street musician and colourful character Donald, could play the penny whistle, banjo and bagpipes and was also an exceptional dancer, appearing before Queen Victoria. His group became the Royal Osborne Minstrels. Donald could be seen busking almost every day in Cowes.

13 SIR GODFREY BARING (1871-1957)

A remarkable record of public service; as well as being the Island's MP his other roles included chairman of the Isle of Wight County Council for 51 years; (from 1898 to 1949) and chairman of the RNLI for 35 years.



Baring



Harry Spencer

14 HARRISON ROWLAND (HARRY) SPENCER MBE (1925-2009)

Founder of Spencer Rigging, Spencer Thetis Wharf and Thetis Engineering, he started as an apprentice pattern maker at J. S. White's. Spencer Rigging was formed in 1957 providing items for White's, Fairey Marine, Groves & Gutteridge and Saunders Roe. In the evenings Harry carved test-tank models for Saunders Roe. Later years saw him rigging historic replica ships such as the *Golden Hind* and the *Bounty*.



William Kirk

15 WILLIAM UMPLEBY KIRK (1844-1928)

An accomplished Victorian pioneer of yachting photography. He took one of the first photographs of a vessel in motion ever taken in Britain: Queen Victoria's yacht *Alberta* steaming into Cowes at a speed of 10 knots. Kirk built up a thriving business in Cowes and enjoyed royal patronage.



Fenning

16 ALFRED FENNINGS (1816-1900)

A chemist who established Fennings Pharmaceuticals in 1840 in London, producing popular 'over the counter' medicines. In 1850 the business moved to Cowes. The company ceased trading in 1996 but the name lives on. Several Fennings products, including *Fennings Little Healers* and *Fennings Children's Cooling Powders* are still sold today.

Pictures: Frank Beken and Donald Marshall: Beken of Cowes © Friends of Northwood Cemetery 2017

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