

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 41

May 2018

Officers:

Chairman	Peter Almond
Secretary	David Jones
Treasurer	Richard Day



Other Trustees:

Graham Lloyd	Jon Matthews
John Pullen	Barry Sowerby
Stella Watling	Roger Williams

Registered Charity no: 1143917

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Chairman's Report



To begin my second report I would like to thank everyone who made our 10th Birthday celebrations such a success, including the many visitors who came along to support the event. It was another opportunity to show the local community what the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (FoNC) has achieved in the last ten years and many positive comments were made about the chapels and the grounds.

And so to the next ten years; there is still much to do to implement the **Management and Maintenance Plan** (MMP) - and that is FoNC's focus now.

As two examples of what is included in the MMP, in April we had (i) a professional tree survey carried out from which we currently await the results; and (ii) an assessors' visit to determine on our application for 'Green Flag Award' status.

This is a national scheme which recognises the contribution that public green spaces can make to the well-being of the local community (see www.greenflagaward.org). We should hear the outcome of our application in July - and hope to have some good news to convey in the August newsletter (and on the website earlier).

The MMP also expects us to involve more youngsters and, back in March, we had a visit from 46 children from **Lanesend Primary School** who spent an afternoon being guided around the Cemetery by some of the Trustees.

G J Banks (IW) Ltd, the local company which undertook the contract for the renovation of the two chapels, has submitted the project for an **Isle of Wight Conservation Award**. There is an Awards evening on Friday 18th May – we have our fingers crossed!

Jon Matthews has recently made several presentations about the project to local organisations and FoNC will continue to host events in the **Heritage Resource Centre**. The **East Chapel** is being used again by the Council's Bereavement Services Department, led by **Iain Donald**, for funeral services and the first graves in the **Natural Burial Ground** have been sold amid a growing interest nationally in this type of interment.

Some of you will know that I am one of the 'happy band' of conservation volunteers who work in the Cemetery on Wednesday and Saturday mornings - and I am also a regular dog walker. It is therefore very sad to report that there is a small minority of dog walkers who do not keep their dogs on a lead.

The **Isle of Wight Council** is reconsidering its present policy of allowing dogs in all of its 12 cemeteries across the Island and FoNC will be asked to give a view. A sensitively worded statement has been put on the FoNC Notice Board just inside the main entrance and at the entrance from Shamblers Copse in Plot 34.

I am also sad to report that the **Muslim Prayer Board**, sited near the gazebo, has twice been vandalised recently. Both incidents have been reported to the Police who have categorised them as 'race hate' crimes. The Trustees have repaired the board and, as with the entire Cemetery, we will continue to monitor the situation.

Finally, a date for your diary: the **2018 Annual General Meeting** will take place in the **Heritage Resource Centre** on **Tuesday 4th September at 7:00pm**. More details, including the agenda, will be forthcoming in the August 2018 newsletter.

Peter Almond
Chairman

Charlie Taylor's Legacy

Cowes Historian **Charlie Taylor**, and formerly a Life member, died in June 2017 (see the August 2017 Newsletter no: 38, page 2). In his Will he kindly left **£1,500** to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**.

The Board has considered how best this bequest can be used to perpetuate Charlie's memory and it has decided a fitting memorial would be to buy two large stone troughs, one to be placed in front of each Chapel, to be filled with a bed of flowers.



Treasurer's Report

The financial health of any charity is of paramount importance - and it's no different with the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**. But financial management doesn't usually make newsworthy headlines – unless they are the wrong sort!

FoNC's last fiscal year ended on 31st March 2018 and I am very pleased to report that our finances are in good shape.

Comparison with earlier years is difficult because of the construction expenses and the large influx of money from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** (HLF) over the last 3 fiscal years. Suffice to say that all the expenses, and the corresponding HLF reimbursements, have flowed through our bank account (except a 'retention' for any snagging works - due to be paid to the contractors in October 2018) so we now have to focus on what we have in the bank to take FoNC forward.

As at 31st March we had **£46,710** in the bank. Of this £22,537 is set aside to discharge the contractors' retention and there are other known, but smaller, expenses still to come. However, a good part of this healthy sum will be utilised fulfilling FoNC's commitment to the **Management and Maintenance Plan** (a prerequisite stipulated by the HLF in the grant award) – to which the **Isle of Wight Council** also contribute.

The formal **Statement of Accounts** is in the process of being independently produced but I can provide **Management Accounts** to any "Friend" who has the desire to see them. Please contact the Secretary (contact details on the front page) if that's you.

Richard Day

Treasurer

Charity Auction

On the evening of Saturday 24th February we held a very successful and enjoyable fund raising event – an auction hosted for FoNC by the **Cowes Ale House** in Shooter's Hill.

Items (49 in total) were donated by local businesses, including meal vouchers at local restaurants, vouchers for Island attractions (including the **Isle of Wight Steam Railway** at Havenstreet and **Tapnell Farm**), bottles of wine and spirits - and pictures, books, DVDs and antiques. These were then catalogued and went under the hammer raising an impressive **£650** to fund our continued work in the Cemetery.

It was a lively evening which gave **Martin Harding** of the **Cowes Ale House**, our Auctioneer for the evening, quite a challenge – happily a challenge to which he duly rose. Those bidding gave generously and went home with some real bargains.

Stella Watling

Fund Raising Coordinator

Roland Maurice Francois Guy Seymour FAVEROT-DE-KERBRECH

Roland Faverot-de-Kerbrech is buried in Plot 31, Grave 8294; the headstone (pictured opposite) is clearly visible on the right hand side of the main drive as it opens out from the wooded area.

He was a hereditary French Baron, a Baronetcy bestowed upon his Great Grandfather **Francois Jacques Guy Faverot-de-Kerbrech**, who was a General in the French Revolutionary Army of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Roland's Grandfather, **Francois Nicholas Guy Napoleon Faverot-de-Kerbrech** was from the Morbihan region of Brittany and joined the French Army. As a Cavalry Officer, he travelled across to the United States and became a consultant to the US Cavalry. Surviving the Franco-Prussian war, he wrote a book about the conflict.

Marrying into a wealthy Seymour family of London, Francois *Nicholas* was kept in the manner to which he had become accustomed as an Army officer.

Francois Nicholas' son, **Maurice Faverot-de-Kerbrech**, was a Merchant seaman and qualified as a Master Mariner in the French *Marine Marchande* (Merchant Navy) - but at some point in his life travelled to Argentina and set up a cattle ranch.

Roland was the son of **Maurice** and was born in Argentina in 1905. However, the family decided to return to the UK in 1913 to volunteer for WW1 service.

Roland became a member of the **Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club** and, although he was once asked to leave for 'speaking his mind' whilst being inebriated, the trophy that he presented to the club, the *DE KERBRECH CUP* (also known as the FROSTBITE CUP) is still presented annually to the winner during the Boxing Day races. An article in the *Isle of Wight County Press* of 1st January 1966 states:

COWES CORINTHIAN Y C

Eight yachts competed in the club's handicap race around Calshot Spit lightship on Boxing Day in light airs.

As in previous years a feature of this race, for the de Kerbrech Cup, was that competitors had to toss cans of beer aboard the lightship as they sailed past.

It was the last time the event will be held in this form as the light vessel is to be replaced later this year with an automatic buoy marking the entrance to Southampton Water.



Being much travelled, Roland had emigrated to the United States during his early 20's where he became well known as a jazz musician, playing double bass and also saxophone.

Whilst living on the west coast of America he had gained employment as a police motorcycle patrolman with the California Highway Patrol.

He also tried his hand at acting but with limited success - although he did secure a non-speaking part in Raoul Walsh's *The Big Trail* which starred John Wayne (1930). Moving to New York, he took part in the Broadway production of *Fifty Million Frenchmen* (1931).

During the depression he managed to get a job as an insurance investigator, believing that the biggest asset to him in securing a job was "being able to read and write".

Roland returned to Europe in late 1938 on the ill-fated ocean liner, the *SS Normandie*, just as second world war clouds were gathering and he signed up for the French Army.

After the fall of France in June 1940 his brother, **Claude Faverot-de-Kerbrech**, was sent to a forced labour camp to work on munitions but little is known of Roland's whereabouts until after the war had ended in 1945, when he 'surfaced' in the *Mayflower* public house in St Marys Road in Cowes.

He married **Patricia ("Patsy") Turner**, the landlord's daughter, subsequently applying for, and becoming, a naturalised UK citizen. Roland and Patsy settled in Gurnard; Patsy was a colourful character, very popular and well known in Gurnard and Cowes.

Roland had never overplayed the Baron status and, on his death, Patsy offered the title to her sister-in-law - who then passed it on to her son, Roland's nephew.

Roland died at the age of 60 on 12th December 1965 and Patsy was re-united with him in Northwood Cemetery on 17th April 1991.

Barry Sowerby

Historian

Membership Report

It is very pleasing to record that on the first working day of our new fiscal year, 3rd April, **202** 'Friends' had attended to their 2018-2019 subscription. That includes, of course, 59 Life members - but that is still an impressive 'result'. Thank you to all these "Friends".

I know that, for the 100 or so still to settle their subscription, it is only a matter of asking you – so this is me asking!!! Just as a reminder, it is **£10** for a **Single membership** or **£15** for a **Joint membership**.

The mathematicians amongst you will realise that, if you intend to see the next 10 years through, then Life membership at £100 is a cost effective option.

The means of paying are plentiful: you can always send a cheque to the Secretary (address on the front page of this newsletter); or you can pay via **PayPal** (you don't have to have a **PayPal** account to do so); or you can use Internet Banking (Account no: 00041618 at 30-95-99) – or you can use something called "cash"!

I'm delighted to welcome 12 **new** "Friends" since the publication of the last newsletter in February (all PO31 unless otherwise stated): **Roger & Sue Blackwell** (Newport, IW), **Leni Boudewijn**, **Brian Fitzpatrick**, **Rob Harris**, **Neil & Carly Groves**, **Stephen Groves** (Ryde), **Beryl Mildenhall**, **Jean Robson**, **Malcolm Tait** (Totland) and **Carole Walker**. Malcolm joins us as a Life member.

Now, unless we have received **explicit** consent that we may publish 'personal data' ('consent' is now a feature of the new membership form), this will be the last time names and post towns will appear in these newsletters. That's because the new **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) comes into effect on 25th May 2018.

Thereafter it is against the law to publish those details unless the member concerned has given his or her **explicit** consent. Haven't times changed since I was a lad!

Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

Yarmouth Pier

On **Tuesday 8th May 2018** the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** is hosting a talk by **Dr Ruth Waller** on the iconic Yarmouth Pier in the **Heritage Resource Centre**, commencing at 7:30pm. The pier is currently undergoing restoration work thanks to a grant from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and is closed to the public until July.

No booking is required and admission is free to everyone. Light refreshments will be on sale - **so do join us!**

Grounds Preservation Report



Throughout the months of February, March and into April we have once again witnessed a profusion of spring flowering plants such as naturalised crocuses, wild daffodils, primroses and wood anemones. As we move further into the year we will see bluebells and the delicate early flowering trees such as wild cherry, amelanchier and, of course, the ever present rhododendrons.

Over the last few weeks, the volunteers have been working in plots 21 and 22 (to the right 'half way up' the main drive) and, as ever, continue to reveal headstones and kerbs previously hidden beneath years of scrub and leaf litter. Our happy band of conservation volunteers is always looking for additional help, so if you feel you could spare a few hours on a Wednesday and/or Saturday morning, please come along and talk to us.

During March a full tree survey was carried out by a team of Arboriculture Consultants who will report on tree identification and their condition. In addition, the report will provide an action list for the next 12 months and recommendations for less urgent work over the next 5 years. As part of the **Management and Maintenance Plan**, the "Friends" have made a sizeable contribution towards the cost of this survey; however, all remedial work identified will be the responsibility of the **Isle of Wight Council**, the landowners.

Roger Williams
Vice-Chairman

Heritage Resource Centre

The **Heritage Resource Centre** (HRC) is now regularly open for 5 sessions a week - with **Isle of Wight Family History Society** (IWFHS) volunteers on hand on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday and Saturday mornings; on Thursday and Friday mornings volunteers from the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (FoNC) are there. The opening times are:

Tuesday	13.00–16.00	IWFHS volunteers on hand
Wednesday	10.00–13.00	IWFHS volunteers on hand
Thursday	10.00–13.00	FoNC volunteers on hand
Friday	10.00–13.00	FoNC volunteers on hand
Saturday	10.00–13.00	IWFHS volunteers on hand



We now have on-line access to *Ancestry.com* which is enabling volunteers to research into families of those interred in the Cemetery and also to assist visitors in researching their own family histories. *Ancestry.com* is a subscription service available to all visitors.

The **Heritage Resource Centre** is also available for hire for community use and anyone interested can come along during one of the sessions above - or contact our Secretary, **David Jones**, on: 01983 298445 (Email: secretary@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk).

John Pullen
HRC Manager

Jo Mckinnie
Editor

FoNC is a member of the

**National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS**