

# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 42

August 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

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## Chairman's Report

Further to the May newsletter I am very pleased to report that the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (FoNC) and **G J Banks (IW) Ltd** have been presented with the top 2018 Conservation Award by the **Isle of Wight Society** and **RIBA** (the Royal Institute of British Architects) for their restoration of the two 1856 Victorian chapels at Northwood Cemetery. As well as the magnificent trophy (right) a commemorative Wall Plaque and Certificate were also presented; these are now on display in the **Heritage Resource Centre**.



Further, the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** and the **Isle of Wight Council** were recently presented with a **Green Flag Award**® - more about this in the **Grounds Report** (see page 3). This is yet another testament to the good work of FoNC's volunteers.

Meanwhile, **Jon Matthews** and other trustees have continued to give talks to local organisations about the Cemetery, including **PROBUS** and the **Stroke Association**. If **you** are a member of another local organisation, please let its Programme Secretary know.



In June the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** was selected by the **Northwood House Charitable Trust** as one of the beneficiaries of its fund raising efforts at the **Big Lunch** held in Northwood Park, Cowes. On a glorious afternoon about 2,000 people attended and FoNC has been donated £350 of the proceeds.

Here **Jon Matthews** and **Marian Lamsley-Jones** are seen in front of one of the display boards erected to showcase the work undertaken at the Cemetery.

FoNC is pleased to be invited to the IW Council's **Bereavement Services department's** Open Day at the Crematorium on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August** (from 10am to 4:00pm) when we will be spreading the good word about what's been happening at Northwood Cemetery.

Finally, I am very pleased to confirm that the Island's High Sheriff, Mrs **Gioia Minghella-Giddens**, has accepted my invitation to be a guest speaker at our AGM on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** (more details on page 6) and I hope to see many of you there.

**Peter Almond**  
Chairman

## Coffee Mornings

A series of coffee mornings will take place at the Cemetery on the first Friday of the month, with each Friday having a theme:

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Children's activities</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>Bring 'n Buy sale</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Book, film and music sale</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Sale of Christmas gifts</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Bulb planting</b>		

Do come along and enjoy a free cuppa – particularly if you have not ventured into the grounds before. There's no obligation other than to have a good time with interesting conversations!

**Stella Watling**  
Fund Raising coordinator

## Grounds Report

Pride of place this quarter must surely go to the international **Green Flag Award**<sup>®</sup> which has been bestowed on Northwood Cemetery.

The **Green Flag Award**<sup>®</sup> scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

The scheme's purpose and aims are:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live;
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve;
- To establish standards of good management;
- To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector;
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

In particular the last aim resonates with the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**; our volunteers have worked tirelessly for 10 years now and this is a fitting reward for all the work they have done - and now continue to do to implement the **Management and Maintenance Plan**. This details what FoNC has agreed, with the **Isle of Wight Council** (and the **Heritage Lottery Fund**), to do over the next 10 years to maintain the **Green Flag** status.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a tree survey was undertaken during April and May by external consultants commissioned by the **Isle of Wight Council**. The terms of reference were to provide a preliminary report, which was duly received in late May, highlighting appropriate work to reduce risks to persons and property and including recommendations for long-term arboreal management.

The recommendations requiring short-term action, too detailed to mention here, are currently underway. Where tree felling is recommended such work is being carried out by local contractors, being beyond the scope of **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** volunteers.

Meanwhile the volunteers continue to clear the undergrowth and they have most recently focussed on Plots 21 & 22 where several requests to clear graves for families had been received.

They have also taken on the maintenance and cutting of the lawns in front of the chapels – but we are in much need of some rain which we haven't seen since mid-May!

**John Pullen**

Grounds Manager

## Barry Simpson Herridge Wadham, DFC (1923–1945)

There are many memorials in Northwood Cemetery dedicated to loved ones who lost their lives in overseas conflicts, their remains being interred elsewhere in the world.

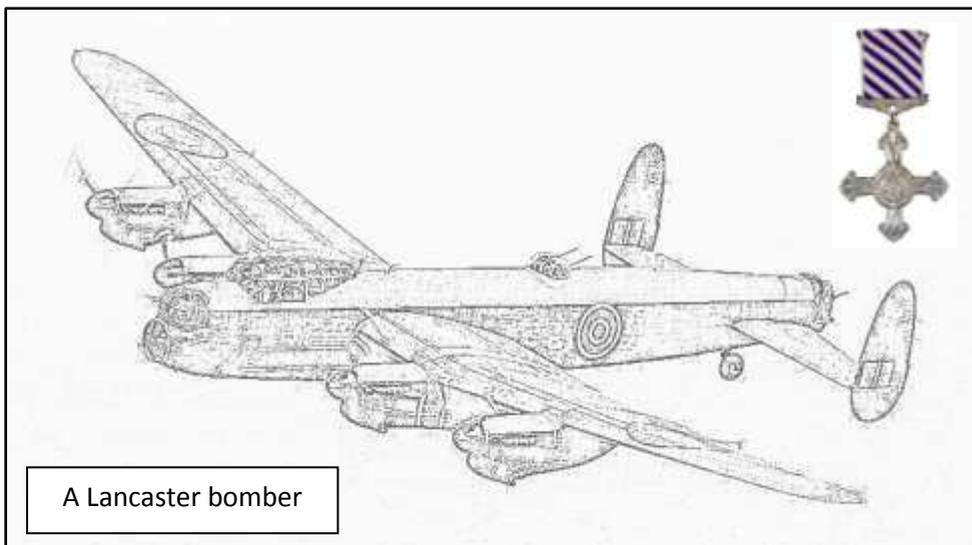


One such memorial is that of **Barry Simpson Herridge Wadham** who had a short but decorated career.

Barry was awarded the **Distinguished Flying Cross** which is a military award given to personnel of the Royal Air Force; it was instituted for "acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy".

Born in Cowes to **Simpson** and **Georgina** (née Batt) **Wadham**, the family lived at 155 Park Road. Simpson was a partner in the successful family-run Estate Agents business in Cowes.

Barry was educated at Crewkerne School in Somerset and enlisted into the military during October 1941 at the age of 18. Training in Canada, he attained a commission in the RAF in July 1944.



A Lancaster bomber

Promoted to Flight Lieutenant he joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Squadron as a Lancaster bomber pilot. On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> April 1945, Lancaster bomber NG229, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Wadham, who was already a veteran of over fifty missions, joined a formation of 327 aircraft, tasked with putting the Rhenania Ossag oil refinery near Hamburg out of action.

This massive facility was responsible for producing gasoline and oil products for the German war effort. During the raid, just four of our aircraft were shot down, including the NG229 with the loss of all six crewmen.

**Flight Lieutenant Wadham** is buried at Becklingen War Cemetery in Germany. A tablet to his memory rests on the grave of his parents in plot 30 in Northwood Cemetery.

**Barry Groves**, the source of this information, is extremely proud to have been named after this true hero of Cowes.

### **Barry Sowerby**

Historian

## **Membership Report**

Thank you to all 310 'Friends' whose subscriptions for the fiscal year (which commenced 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018) were received by 30<sup>th</sup> June. This is a stratospheric number and testament to the impact that the **Heritage Lottery Fund** grant has had on FoNC's appeal in the community. Of these the number of Life members has swelled to **63**.

And the good news is that there's a handful of Friends from last year who have indicated that they wish to continue their support but pressure of other matters has delayed their renewals. Not to mention those persuaded to visit the **Heritage Resource Centre** for the first time! So, I'd be very disappointed if we don't reach **325+** "Friends" in 2018-2019.

In previous editions of this newsletter we have welcomed each new "Friend" by name. Well, you'll have heard of something called the **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) which came into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Whilst over 250 of you have indicated your consent to be mentioned by name in these newsletters, there are some who have, thus far, overlooked doing so (or, heaven forbid, withheld it!).

Accordingly, I have taken the view that if I can't mention *everyone* then I will not mention just those who have given their consent. Suffice to say that, by the end of July, we have welcomed another 15 "Friends" since the May edition of this newsletter.

### **Jon Matthews**

Membership Secretary

## Annual General Meeting

To all subscribed members please accept this as the required notice of the 2018 AGM to take place in the **Heritage Resource Centre**, Northwood Cemetery, Cowes on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** at **7:00pm**.

A significant element of the AGM is for the Board to propose to the meeting that a new Constitution be adopted. This is a necessary pre-requisite for the Board to apply to the Charity Commission to become a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**.

A CIO is a new form of legal entity designed for non-profit organisations such as the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (which is currently an *unincorporated* Registered Charity). The main benefits of a CIO are that it gives the organisation (i) a legal 'personality'; (ii) the ability to conduct business in its own name; and (iii) limited liability so that its Trustees will not have to contribute in the unlikely event of any financial loss.

For those who have an appetite for these matters, the proposed 12 page Constitution will be available after the next Board meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August via a link to it on the website's Home Page at: [www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk). For those without Internet access, please let me know if you would like a copy.

The proposed Constitution also provides for the new posts of a **President** and **Vice President(s)**. Nominations for all posts are open until 21<sup>st</sup> August and the current Board would welcome some new faces; please contact me if **you** are interested.

The agenda is as follows:

- Apologies for Absence
- Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting
- Presentation of the 2018 Chairman's Report
- Presentation of the 2018 Treasurer's Report
- Presentation and adoption of a new Constitution in order for FoNC to become a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation**
- If adopted, creation of the posts and election of a **President** and **Vice President(s)**
- Election of a **Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer** and other Trustees
- Close of the AGM

The AGM will be followed by a talk from the Island's High Sherriff, Mrs **Gioia Minghella-Giddens**, on the theme of '**My Island**'. This is sure to be a fascinating addition to the programme and I do encourage you to attend.

**David Jones**  
Secretary

## Finance Report

The **Statement of Accounts** for the fiscal year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 will be published on FoNC's website after the Board meeting to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> August; it will also be available for scrutiny at the AGM in paper form. This will show the detail of FoNC's finances for the year in much more depth than is possible here.

However, the 'financial health' of an organisation is represented by its **Balance Sheet**, which is a snapshot of its financial status at a given point in time. Accordingly, the **Balance Sheet** as at the fiscal year end, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, is reproduced here:

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	(the Chipper used in the grounds)	<b>£2,000</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors and Accruals	(expenses due from the Isle of Wight Council)	£129
Cash at the bank and in hand	(includes the Contractor's 2.5% retention)	£46,742
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>£46,871</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	(the Contractor's 2.5% retention as above)	<b>(£27,614)</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>£19,257</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>£21,257</b>
Deferred Income	(depreciation on the Chipper)	<b>(£2,000)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>£19,257</b>
<b>CAPITAL &amp; RESERVES</b>		
Available funds	(essentially to deliver the Management and Maintenance Plan)	£12,479
Cowes Town Council grant		£2,000
VAT on Contractor's 2.5% retention		£4,508
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>£19,257</b>

During the year outgoings totalled **£860,482**, most of which was for the restoration work.

Income was **£927,682** of which £909,161 was received in grants from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** (HLF grants were received over three separate fiscal years); **£3,380** was received in membership fees; and FoNC's fund raising efforts contributed **£8,734** - an essential part of what is deemed by the Board to be a very satisfactory state of affairs.

**Richard Day**  
Treasurer

## Red Squirrels Galore!

The last bi-annual survey of Red Squirrels that I conducted in the spring produced its best ever results. During my 3 'structured' walks (undertaken within a two week period) I recorded no less than **8**, **9** and **12** sightings of our favourite friends (despite their speed of foot and furtiveness, I am quite sure that there was no 'double counting'!).

Each walk is the same, taking in a set route through the northern part of the Cemetery (Plots 1 to 23) – but never before have more than 6 squirrels been sighted. This allays the concerns some people had that the building work during the chapels' restoration would have a detrimental impact on our Red Squirrel population. On the contrary, it seems to have boosted the numbers of Red Squirrels - to everyone's delight!

Our Historian, **Barry Sowerby**, took these great photographs; if you have ever tried to photograph these lovely creatures you'll know just how challenging a task it is.



**Alison Parker**  
Red Squirrel Monitor

**Jo Mckinnie**  
Editor

FoNC is a member of the  
National Federation of  
CEMETERY FRIENDS