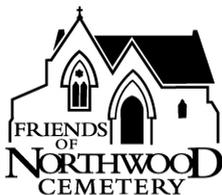


NEWSLETTER NUMBER 43

November 2018



Officers:

Peter Almond	Chairman
David Jones	Secretary
Richard Day	Treasurer

Other Trustees:

Roger Williams	Vice Chairman
Jon Matthews	John Pullen
Barry Sowerby	Stella Watling

Registered Charity no: 1143917

Please address all enquiries to:

The Secretary, Friends of Northwood Cemetery, 194 Newport Road,
Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7PU; **Tel:** (01983) 298445

Email: secretary@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Chairman's Report

The Annual General Meeting on 4th September was very well attended – no doubt the attraction of the Island's High Sherriff, Mrs **Gioia Minghella-Giddens**, who followed the AGM with an excellent illustrated talk entitled "My Island", was a contributing factor.

All the incumbent Officers and Trustees were re-elected and a new Constitution was adopted; this new Constitution provides for a President and Vice-Presidents to be elected by the Board (see page 3). Please make a note that next year's AGM will take place in the **Heritage Resource Centre** on **Monday 9th September 2019**.

In September the HLF's architect for the restoration project, **Jeremy Poll** of the **Radley House Partnership** in Winchester, made a final inspection of the restoration works and identified some minor 'snagging' repairs. These have now been completed and the retention monies due to the contractors, and held for twelve months after the end of the building phase of the project as stipulated in the contract, have now been released.

There was a very interesting Poetry reading afternoon on **Saturday 26th September**, with delicious refreshments, and I am confident that the **Heritage Resource Centre** will host more of these community events. If you have an interest area yourself that would benefit from an informal meeting place, please let any of the Trustees know.

For example **Stella Watling** has organised Coffee mornings on the first Friday of each month. The one in October was themed around the planting of bulbs in front of the chapels; the next two will be on **Friday 2nd November** (a "Bring 'n Buy" sale) and on **Friday 7th December** (a sale of Christmas gifts). It has been a pleasure to receive so many positive comments about these mornings both personally and in the Visitors' Book.

	President:	Jon Matthews	
Vice Presidents:	Geoff Banks	Graham Lloyd	Lora Peacey-Wilcox

At the Board meeting on 16th October, the Trustees accepted a draft 20 year Lease for the use of the West Chapel as presented to us by the **Isle of Wight Council**. This should be formally executed by the time you read this newsletter.

In parallel we are changing the legal status of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** (FoNC) from a **Registered Charity** to a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** as agreed at the AGM. This is a new term introduced by the **Charity Commission** and will soon become the default structure for charities of substance such as FoNC.

A new contract for the maintenance of all the open green spaces owned by the **Isle of Wight Council**, including its 12 cemeteries, is still to be put out to tender. The Trustees are focused on the future quality of grounds maintenance work and meet regularly with IW Council Officers to monitor progress - as grounds maintenance is a major element of our 10 year **Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP)** for the Cemetery.

Following very positive comments from last year **Tree of Remembrance** events we will be erecting another Christmas Tree in the East Chapel on the week-ends of **15th/16th and 22nd/23rd/24th December** so that messages and thoughts can be placed on the tree. Please come and support these events; the East Chapel will be open 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Another success story has been the support in fund raising activities given to FoNC by the **Cowes Ale House** from its regular Quiz Nights, an Auction and Loose Change boxes. Since January 2015 these activities have generated no less than **£5,000**. Pictured here on the right are the regular 'quizzers' who have represented the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**.



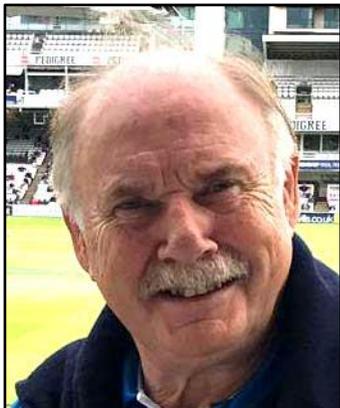
Jon Matthews, Roger Williams; David Jones; Peter Almond

Finally, could I please ask you all to support as many of our events as possible? We also need more volunteers and if you have a few hours a month you can contribute please let the Secretary, or one of the Trustees listed on the front page of this newsletter, know!

Peter Almond
Chairman

President and Vice-Presidents

At the Annual General Meeting held on 4th September a new Constitution was adopted which provided for the appointment of a **President** and **Vice-Presidents**; these posts were subsequently filled at the Board meeting that took place on 18th September.



Elected as the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery's** first President was **Jon Matthews** (left) who was its founder back in 2008 - and a former Chairman.

Jon's appointment, for a two year term, reflects the time and effort that he has expended during the past ten years when he has been energetically involved in most aspects of FoNC's activities; as the Charity's founder he was the natural choice for this prestigious position.

His main role now is to promote FoNC far and wide, leaving the day-to-day management of FoNC's activities to the Board, chaired by **Peter Almond**.

Elected as life-long honorary Vice-Presidents were 3 people who are already well known in and around the Cowes area: **Geoff Banks**, **Graham Lloyd** and **Lora Peacey-Wilcox**.

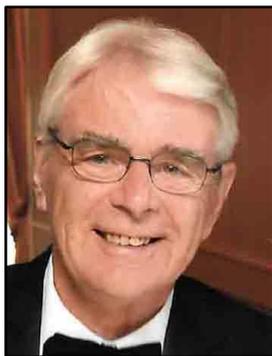
It was in his role as Mayor of Cowes that **Geoff** chaired the inaugural meeting of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** in 2008 - and he has been an avid supporter ever since.

Graham, a Gurnard man through and through, was formerly the owner of, and ran, the business founded by his father - **F L Lloyd (Funeral Directors)**; accordingly Graham brings a wealth of industry knowledge to the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**.

Lora, also a former Mayor of Cowes, was the first Chair of the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** and is the current Chair of the **Isle of Wight Council**. She has a passion for the wellbeing of the Cemetery; as a local girl born and bred she has enjoyed its tranquillity and its place as a local community green space, and nature haven, since her childhood.



Geoff Banks



Graham Lloyd



Lora Peacey-Wilcox

The Colville family buried in Northwood Cemetery



In Plot 24, under the shade of Shamblers Copse, is the last resting place of seven members of the much decorated, and distinguished, **Colville** family.

The elder statesman was the 1st Viscount Colville of Culross, **Charles John Colville** (who resided at Tumblehome, a house built for the family on the corner of Queens Road and Egypt Hill, Cowes). He was attracted to Cowes as he was a keen sailor and a member of the **Royal Yacht Squadron**. He was born exactly 200 years ago this month - on 23rd November 1818 - and was buried in Northwood Cemetery in 1903.

His wife, Lady **Cecile Katherine Mary** (nee **Carrington**) **Colville** is buried in the same grave, alongside their second son, Admiral Sir **Stanley Cecil James Colville** and his wife Lady **Adelaide Jane** (nêe **Meade**) **Colville**. In an adjacent grave lies their youngest son **George Charles Colville** with his wife Lady **Helen Cynthia**, the daughter of **Robert Crewe-Milnes**, the 1st Marquis of Crewe – and their only son, Major **Philip Robert Colville**, who did not marry, is buried alongside in a single grave space.

The 1st Viscount, **Charles John Colville**, a British nobleman, Conservative politician and courtier, was descended from a Scottish family and educated at Harrow and Sandhurst. He rose to the rank of Colonel, serving in India and became the 11th Baron Colville in 1849.

In 1852, Colville was appointed the Whip to the Conservative party in the House of Lords - for which appointment his conciliatory manners, polished demeanour and delicacy of tact eminently fitted him; in 1866 Colville was sworn to the Privy Council. From 1873 to 1901 he was Lord Chamberlain to the Princess of Wales and was appointed in the same capacity to Queen Alexandra from 1901 until his death in 1903.

The 1873 *Vanity Fair* *Spy* caricature (right) captures the epitome of a Victorian aristocrat.



In 1853 he married Lady **Cecile Katherine Mary Carrington** and they had three sons and a daughter; of these only Sir **Stanley Cecil James Colville** and **George Charles Colville** are buried in Northwood Cemetery.



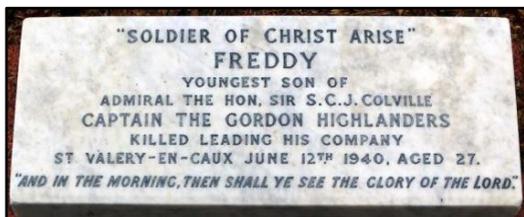
Sir **Stanley Cecil James Colville** (1861-1939) was their second son, born in Eaton Place, London and educated at Marlborough College.

He joined the Royal Navy on the training ship *Britannia*, aged 13 and rose through the ranks to become a Vice-Admiral in 1911 - and the personal aide-de-camp to King George V.

During his distinguished naval career he was assigned to the Royal Yacht *Victoria and Albert*; in 1916 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Portsmouth base.

The watercolour picture (left) shows him on the deck of a Royal Navy warship in 1917.

On the grave shared by his parents and grandparents there is a memorial (right) to Sir Stanley's son, **Frederick James (Freddy) Colville**, who was killed in France in 1940 serving in the 51st Highland brigade which had defended the evacuation at Dunkirk.



Lady **Helen Cynthia**, the wife of the youngest son, **George Charles Colville**, was appointed a *Woman of the Bedchamber* to Mary of Teck, later Queen Mary - the consort of King George V.

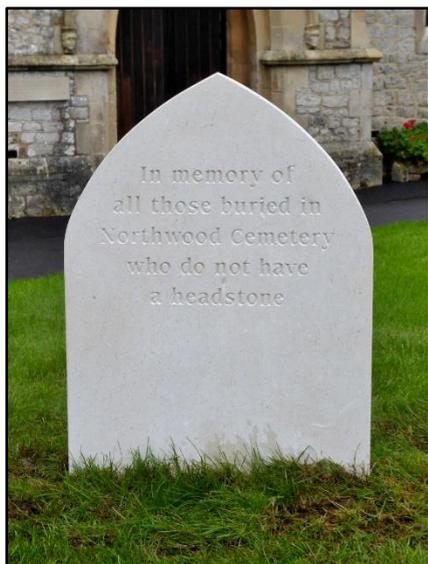
George Charles and Lady **Helen Cynthia Colville's** son, Major **Philip Robert Colville**, is also remembered by a plaque in **Holy Trinity Church**, Cowes. He was a Vice Commodore of the **Royal Yacht Squadron** of which he was a member from 1943 until his death in 1997.



A link to more recent times is provided by the 1st Viscount **Charles John Colville's** great grandson - **Peter Alexander Rupert** (Lord **Carington** (*Ed: one r not two!*), who died in July this year in his 100th year. **Lord Carington** was the last surviving member of **Winston Churchill's** 1951-1955 government and a former Defence Secretary, a former Foreign Secretary and a former Secretary General of NATO. He also became Chairman of the **General Electric Company** (GEC) after the war.

David Jones
Secretary

A Headstone for those without a Headstone



The Trustees had often thought how sad it was that so many people were buried in graves that do not have a headstone by which to remember them. Whilst there are many examples of elaborate headstones in the Cemetery there are far more graves *without* a headstone which, presumably, was because the family could not afford the expense at the time of the interment.

Coincidentally a 'Friend' of Northwood Cemetery raised a similar sentiment and decided, anonymously, to do something about it. With the full approval from the **Isle of Wight Council's Bereavement Services Department**, and working with the Trustees, our donor has designed and funded the headstone (opposite) to remedy this. The inscription reads:

"In memory of all those buried in Northwood Cemetery who do not have a headstone"

This is installed in the 'teardrop' (the grassed area in front of the West Chapel so named because of its original shape) in full view of those entering the Cemetery through its main gates. Neither this area nor the similar area opposite in front of the East Chapel has ever been used as a burial ground.

On behalf of the Board we owe our donor a vote of thanks for this wonderful initiative.

John Pullen

Grounds Manager

Membership Report

For good administrative reasons, annual membership is applied by financial year (1st April to 31st March) rather than for the rolling 12 months starting from the date on which a subscription is received.

It has been tradition that subscriptions from *new* "Friends" joining towards the back end of our financial year are applied to the next year (so giving the new member some 'free' months) and cover the period (in this case in November 2018) to 31st March 2020.

Accordingly, I can say now that the membership for the current year has closed at **326** members, comfortably a record; let's see if we can set another record next year!

Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

Remembering the Fallen of the First World War



On the 100th Anniversary of the ending of hostilities of the Great War in 1918 the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** will be joining the nation on **Sunday 11th November** to commemorate all those who lost their lives in that conflict.

In particular we will remember the 27 brave men who are interred or remembered in Northwood Cemetery and place 27 wooden crosses, decorated with a poppy, in the lawn in front of the west chapel.

The array of crosses and poppies on the lawn will be a visual reminder to all passing by; they will remain there for seven days; it's our way of recognising the courage and the ultimate sacrifice of those local men.

Candles will be lit in the East Chapel and the bell will be rung at 11:00am to observe a 2 minute silence. There will then be a **Guided Walk**, lasting circa one hour, when we will pause at the headstones of the 27 fallen men for reflection; *please do join us*.

Consultation for a Memorial Cairn in Plot 5

Plot 5 is immediately behind the East Chapel and is very conspicuous by its lack of headstones.

In the early hours of Tuesday 27th May 1941 four high explosive bombs were dropped into the southern outskirts of Cowes and one of them landed in Plot 5 causing considerable damage. Headstones were uprooted and smashed, bones exposed, trees, both chapels and the Dead House (now called the Friends' House) were damaged. Many of the broken headstones were used to form a retaining wall in front of the West Chapel; this wall has now been replaced with heritage stonework and the headstone remnants stored away for safe keeping.

It is proposed that a cairn is erected using some of those headstones to be situated in the middle of Plot 5 as a reminder of those who were buried there. Of course, the burial records held by **Bereavement Services** at the Crematorium, which are also accessible on our website, still show the names and locations of those that *were* interred there.

Before we proceed, we would like to know your views on this proposition. Please contact **Barry Sowerby** (our Historian), who proposed this initiative, by e-mail at: historian@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk or contact the Secretary, **David Jones** (whose contact details on the front page of this newsletter) with your thoughts on this.

Roger Williams
Vice-Chairman

West Medina Cement Mill

On Friday 28th September 2018 local archaeologist Dr **Ruth Waller** kept a receptive audience captivated with her account of the history of, and the recent excavations at, the Dodnor cement manufacturing site of *Charles Francis & Sons* on the west bank of the River Medina. The excavation work was undertaken by a team of volunteers with grants from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**, **Vestas Wind Systems** and the 'Gift to Nature' Island charity.

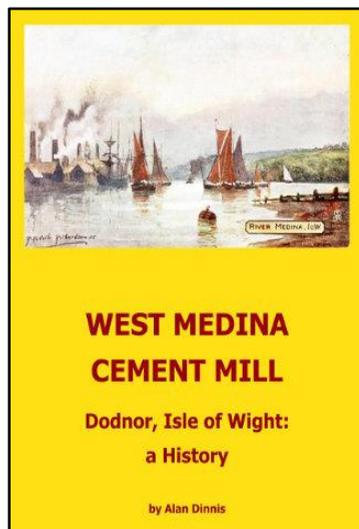


Charles Francis & Sons started operations in the 1840s and the company, at its peak, had a work force of over 100 employees. During the mid 19th Century it was a world leader in the cement industry, dredging septaria stones (also known as Cement-stone) from the Medina riverbed, and the sea off Kimmeridge in Dorset, to make its highly prized and harder setting hydraulic cement (*Ed: 'hydraulic cement' sets in water*). This was named **Medina Cement**.

By 1860 a new and improved cement had been developed and named **Portland Cement** due to its colour likeness to Portland stone. Cement was manufactured right up until 1939, when production ceased and the site became a supply and distribution depot for cement imported from the mainland.

The history of the *West Medina Cement Mill* has been covered in a recently published book by **Alan Dinnis** (a **Friend of Northwood Cemetery** since the group was formed in 2008), a copy of which is available to read in the **Heritage Resource Centre**.

There are 26 workers, and family members, associated with the **West Medina Cement Mill** who are interred at Northwood Cemetery - and further research is likely to reveal more.



Barry Sowerby

Historian

Jo Mckinnie
Editor

FoNC is a member of the

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS