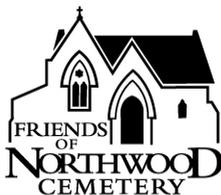


# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 44

February 2019



## Officers:

<b>Peter Almond</b>	Chairman
<b>David Jones</b>	Secretary
<b>Richard Day</b>	Treasurer

## Other Trustees:

<b>Roger Williams</b>	Vice Chairman
<b>Jon Matthews</b>	<b>John Pullen</b>
<b>Barry Sowerby</b>	<b>Stella Watling</b>

Registered Charity no: 1180926

Please address all enquiries to:

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Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7PU; **Tel:** (01983) 298445

**Email:** [secretary@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk)

## Chairman's Report

As this is the first newsletter of 2019 I would like to wish all members a belated happy and rewarding New Year. In 2018 we celebrated the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery's** 10<sup>th</sup> birthday followed by the receipt of two prestigious awards. We became a *Charitable Incorporated Organisation* on 30<sup>th</sup> November and most recently our leasehold of the **Heritage Resource Centre** (West Chapel) was finalised with the **Isle of Wight Council**.

Following a successful AGM the Board appointed a President (**Jon Matthews**) and three Vice-Presidents: **Geoff Banks**, **Graham Lloyd** and **Lora Peacey-Wilcox**. On behalf of the Board I would like to congratulate Geoff on his award of a **British Empire Medal** in the 2019 New Year's Honours list for his service to the Cowes community, including 11 years as Mayor (during which time he presided over the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery's** inaugural meeting in 2008).

Vice-Chairman **Roger Williams** is heading up this year's bid for a second **Green Flag** award. Meanwhile, following consultation, the proposal to erect a memorial 'cairn' in Plot 5 is being developed and an update will be published in the next (May) newsletter.

By the time you read this there should be a new **Northwood Cemetery** sign outside the main gate and a replacement **Muslim Prayer Board** near the gazebo.

The Trustees have been working on a formal written legal agreement with the **Isle of Wight Family History Society** (IWFHS) to cover its use of the **Heritage Resource Centre** (formerly the West Chapel). In legal jargon this will be a '*License to Occupy*' document.

Trustees continue to work with the **Bereavement Services Department** of the **Isle of Wight Council** on the 10-year **Management and Maintenance Plan** which was agreed with the **Heritage Lottery Fund** in 2017.

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	President:	<b>Jon Matthews</b>	
Vice Presidents:	<b>Geoff Banks, BEM</b>	<b>Graham Lloyd</b>	<b>Lora Peacey-Wilcox</b>

In support of this the conservation volunteers (more needed!) continue to work on the grounds and you may have noticed how lovely the front of the Cemetery now looks. We have had more visitors, many of whom have complimented the volunteers for their work.

However, there is still a problem; a very small minority of dog walkers continue to exercise their dogs 'off the lead'. In December the Trustees were consulted by the **Isle of Wight Council** about making the Cemetery a *Public Space Protection Area* - which would mean that dogs would be **banned**. The Trustees unanimously agree that they would like to keep the *status quo* (ie: that dogs are allowed but they **must** be kept on a lead and their owners **must** dispose of 'dog mess' in the 6 bins provided). To police this the Trustees would like to see more Dog Warden patrols. The **Isle of Wight Council** is expected to conduct a formal Island-wide public consultation on this subject soon.

The **Heritage Resource Centre** continues to receive more visitors and I would like to thank the volunteers from both FoNC and the IWFHS who look after them.

**Stella Watling** and her team have continued to raise funds and the coffee mornings are growing in popularity. Once again I would like to encourage you to visit the Cemetery and to support our events which are publicised on our noticeboard near the main gates

## **Peter Almond**

Chairman



## **John Redfern's Dresses**

One of our better known 'residents' is **John Redfern** (see the February 2013 Newsletter no: 20) who died in 1895 having established a distinguished fashion house in Cowes; this was patronised by **Queen Victoria** and many 19<sup>th</sup> Century 'high society' ladies.

We are, therefore, delighted to accept a donation of an original montage of sketches of some of his designs from **Sandy Norris**, a **Friend of Northwood Cemetery** living in Park Road, Cowes.

This is now on display in the **Heritage Resource Centre** and our thanks go to Sandy and her husband David for this wonderful artefact which is treasured.

## **John Pullen**

Heritage Resource Centre Manager

The Trustees were saddened to learn of the death of **Henry Slater**, who was a "Friend" and a conservation volunteer until 2016. Our sincere condolences go to Henry's family.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War I Armistice Day



By Armistice Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 29 fallen soldiers had been identified who have memorials in **Northwood Cemetery** and wooden crosses, each adorned with a poppy, had been made to commemorate each one.

Soldier silhouette's together with these 29 crosses were displayed on the 'teardrop' lawn in front of the West Chapel (above).

The day itself was damp and drizzly but a small group of enthusiastic visitors attended this special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

The group assembled at 11am when the East Chapel bell was tolled and, in line with services up and down the country, a two minute silence was observed to remember the fallen. The group then went on a one hour guided tour, pausing for reflection at each of the WWI memorials.

Since that day another 9 fallen soldiers have been 'identified' - and further research is taking place to establish whether the Cemetery holds yet more WW1 casualties.

A book listing details of the fallen will be available in the **Heritage Resource Centre** to include not only the 29 soldiers remembered but all the fallen soldiers now known to have memorials in the Cemetery.

**Barry Sowerby and Roger Williams**  
History & Records

## Phillip Perceval (1814- 1897)

**Phillip Perceval** is buried in Plot 24, Grave 3834 (right) with his wife **Ernestine Wellington (nee Sidney) Perceval** beside him.

**Phillip Perceval** was first and foremost a sailor - despite gaining a commission in the prestigious *Royal Horse Guards*. He lacked the ambition of both his father **Colonel Alexander Perceval**, an MP and Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Lords and his more distant relative, **Spencer Perceval**, the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated (on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1812).

Clearly he was a much respected member of the **Royal Yacht Squadron**; the plaque in Phillip's honour is one of the most impressive in **Holy Trinity Church, Cowes**; it bears the dedication:



*In memory of Phillip Perceval, Esq. formerly of the Royal Horse Guards  
who died at Cowes 28<sup>th</sup> March 1897.*

*This tablet was erected by numerous friends, members of the Royal Yacht Squadron, to  
record their affectionate remembrance of one universally and greatly esteemed and  
respected during a membership of nearly forty years.*

In 1873 **Phillip Perceval** and his family (including his son **Phillip Hunloke** who featured in the August 2008 Newsletter no: 2) lived in what is now the New Holmwood Hotel on Cowes seafront while waiting for his new home, **Villa Rothsay** in Baring Road to be built (the younger Phillip changed his surname following receipt of a family inheritance).

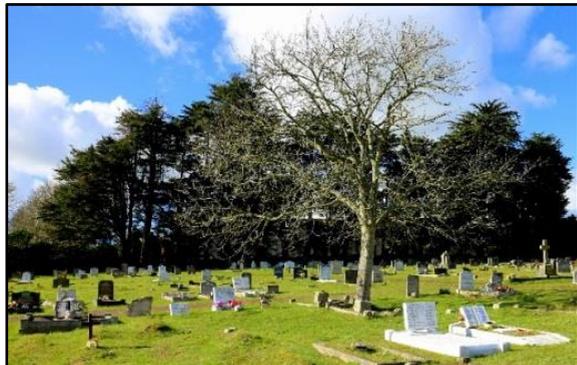
The **Prince of Wales** (the future **King Edward VII**) was known to be a frequent visitor to the Perceval home and he allowed his name to be given to the new property through one of his titles, the **Duke of Rothsay**. The "e" was dropped from the name and today **Villa Rothsay** is a small iconic hotel full of Victoriana.

**Phillip Perceval** was well known about the town with his sailor's cap and snowy white beard, latterly in a bath chair. He seems to have been universally liked and respected by both the rich and the poor.

**David Jones**  
Secretary

## Monumental Inscriptions

Since the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** was formed in 2008 we have had a focus on getting the **Burial records** and individual **Plot maps** accessible to our website visitors.



Transcribing the Burial records was a mammoth 'desk-bound' task, undertaken in the period 2008 to 2010 by **Barry Sowerby**, and consumed much 'midnight oil'.

These records have been 'current' now for over 8 years – with regular updates every three months or so, as the Cemetery is used for its intended purpose.

Last month we completed the field work needed for a map of Plot 38 (to the west of the roundabout at the south end) and subsequently uploaded it. Now 38 Plot maps can be accessed at: [www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/records/plot-maps](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/records/plot-maps).

Plots 40 and Plot 41 form the **Natural Burial Ground** with its first burial now undertaken. The **Muslim Burial Ground** (Plot 42) has just eight burials to date - we anticipate the completion of the fieldwork of the last large Plot (Plot 39) this coming Spring.

Over the years the main contributors to this terrific effort have been **Sheila Caws** and **Sharon Beddard** and our thanks go to them both for the time they have devoted to this task.

Now, we have been able to focus on the transcription of **Memorial Inscriptions** by trials in Plot 3 - thanks to the help from new volunteers.



### HEADSTONE TRANSCRIPTION

Also the  
**Rev. George Sparks**  
Beloved husband of the above  
Founder and for 42 years pastor of  
Victoria Road Baptist Church  
An earnest preacher, a zealous evangelist  
wise and active townsman and a  
firm upholder of what he believed  
to be true and good.  
He entered into rest Dec.11th 1911  
aged 86 years

The Trustees recognise that standards must be developed so that all records are presented on the website in a consistent format; accordingly, we have established a sub group of three Trustees to develop a set of standard procedures designed to maintain quality.

**Barry Sowerby** and **Roger Williams**  
History and Records

## Honouring the Lives of Two Cowes Men

A versatile new mobile Altar Table, commemorating the lives of “**Charlie**” and **Bernard Taylor** who were both **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**, was dedicated at **St Mary’s Church**, Cowes on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**Charlie Taylor** passed away in 2017, aged 80, and **Bernard Taylor** in the previous year, aged 81. They were bachelors but not related and both will be remembered for their contributions to the community of Cowes. Charlie Taylor was a great researcher and recorder of Cowes’ history. He amassed a huge collection of local photographs and

information which he donated to the *Cowes Heritage* organisation on his death.

Bernard became a very highly skilled goldsmith, whose work for *Benzies* included silver models of two of the **Duke of Edinburgh’s** yachts. Away from work he was a magician and member of the Magic Circle.



*Rev Andrew Poppe, Luke Ratsey and Assistant Priest the Rev Elizabeth Moxley*

Last year, the then chairman of *Cowes Heritage*, **John Groves** (another **Friend of Northwood Cemetery**) suggested to me that the lives of the Taylors, being both active members of St Mary’s Church, should be jointly commemorated in some way.

It was decided that such would be marked by a mobile versatile nave altar table to bring the service nearer to the congregation. Contributions came from *Cowes Heritage*, the *Isle of Wight Historical Society*, *Cowes Town Council*, the *Parochial Church Council*, the *Friends of St Mary’s Church*, and friends of these two well respected men.

Local builders *G J Banks (IW) Ltd.* donated the English oak and brass plaque. The table, designed by Geoff Banks, which can be partly folded down was made by **Luke Ratsey**, a local bespoke furniture maker. The table cover was made by **Bill Giacomelle** of Cowes.

The Vicar of St Mary’s Church, the **Rev Andrew Poppe**, who used the table to give the morning service’s communion on 25<sup>th</sup> November, welcomed the fact that the new addition, unlike the old table, can be easily moved.

### **Geoff Banks**

Vice-President

## Phoenix Choir Concert

In May 2016 the **Phoenix Choir** entertained a 'full house' at All Saints Church, Gurnard with a fabulous evening of music and song. During the evening over **£800** was raised for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery**.

By popular demand the choir will be performing again for us this year, at the same venue, on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019**. Entrance for a 7:30pm start is **free** and there will be a retiring collection and a raffle.

**Please come along** (no tickets are necessary) and support this most enjoyable fund raising event; **all will be welcome** whether they be relatives, friends, neighbours or colleagues. And if you have a raffle prize to donate, please let me know on 01983 281597 - or send me an email to: [stella@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](mailto:stella@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk).

### **Stella Watling**

Fund Raising Coordinator

## Isle of Wight Walking Festival

From 4<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the very popular **Isle of Wight Walking Festival** (sponsored this year by **Warner Leisure Hotels**) will take place - when local and visiting walkers of all ages and abilities set off on trails across the Island's picturesque landscape.

This year the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** has agreed to provide guided walks, within the framework of the festival, of approximately 1½ hours duration on 3 dates, being:

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am

The walk is entitled "**A Walk Through History from Victorian Times**" and will enable participants to see inside the restored twin Victorian Chapels before taking a walk through history from Victorian symbolism, prominent people of the town, to graves from two World Wars, all within beautiful grounds rich in flora and fauna and with the chance of spotting some of our red squirrels.

As there are limited numbers, would those interested please contact me by email at: [roger@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](mailto:roger@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk) or phone: 07812 850858 to secure your place.

### **Roger Williams**

Vice-Chairman

## Coffee Mornings

In the spring of 2018 we started holding “First-Friday-in-the-Month” coffee mornings in the **Heritage Resource Centre**. We offer free hot or cold drinks, biscuits and some light-hearted and lively conversation! After a slow start the word is spreading and attendance is increasing monthly. January’s coffee morning was the best attended yet!

The coffee mornings are themed so that an appropriate sales table or activity gives the opportunity for a little fund raising. Along the way we have attracted new “Friends” and volunteers, so if you are in the area, please drop in; ***everyone is welcome!***

### Stella Watling

Fund Raising Coordinator

## Membership Report

The start of a new year is also the time when subscriptions start to roll in – so this is a gentle reminder that if you are not a Life member, or you already have a Banker’s Standing Order in place, then some action on your part is required to continue your support for the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** - which is so valued by the Trustees.

Subscriptions haven’t increased since the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** was formed 11 years ago - in 2008; now there’s a first!

Cash or a cheque for £10 (Single) or £15 (Joint) would be most appreciated; my address for postal submissions is: Glencoe, 8 Beckford Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7SE.

However more and more of you are using **PayPal** as the means of transferring funds so, if you are comfortable with online payment systems, then a trip to:

[www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/subscriptions-renewals](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/subscriptions-renewals)

will do the trick (you don’t have to have a **PayPal** account to use this facility).

You can also pay for a Life membership (£100) this way if that is your wish.

Subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> April but why not deal with this now whilst it is fresh in your mind; you know it makes sense (and it also spreads the admin load for the Membership Secretary – for which many thanks in anticipation!).

### Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

**Jo Mckinnie**  
Editor

FoNC is a member of the  
**National Federation of**  
**CEMETERY FRIENDS**