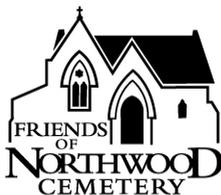


NEWSLETTER NUMBER 45

May 2019



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: 1180926

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

Since the last (February) newsletter we have had yet another busy three months.

In the quarter our first fiscal year 'post project' was completed and I can report that the Income and Expenditure account closed with a small loss of £430. However, this was after incurring some 'one off' costs which included new chairs and storage facilities for the **Heritage Resource Centre**; a portable audio system for use on guided walks; and an online audio-tour guide which is accessible on our website (under the **Guide** tab).

The significant sources of income were: membership subscriptions; **Stella Watling's** fund raising activities; receipts from fortnightly quiz nights at the **Cowes Ale House**; and income from the **Isle of Wight Family History Society** for its regular occupancy of the **Heritage Resource Centre** (now covered by a 'Licence to Occupy' agreement, renewable annually).

A fuller finance report will feature in the August newsletter after the Accounts for the year from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 have been independently scrutinised; this is 'work-in-progress' but the overall financial picture is good. We just need to maintain the effort!

You may recall that in February I briefed members about the issue of dogs in cemeteries and other green spaces across the Island. We've yet to receive any formal decision from the **Isle of Wight Council** but Trustees still believe that it would be an unwelcome change.

The proposal to erect a memorial 'cairn' is still being considered as we wish to ensure that it will add to the ambience of the Cemetery - just as the headstone (on the grassed '**teardrop**' outside the **Heritage Resource Centre**) has done. This has now had its inscription (which reads: "*In memory of all those buried in Northwood Cemetery who do not have a headstone*") etched in black paint.

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

I expect that those of you who have been to the Cemetery recently will have seen the impressive new sign on the main gate pillar. This was designed by some of the Trustees and paid for by the **Isle of Wight Council** - as was the new **Muslim Prayer Board** next to the Gazebo at the opposite end of the Cemetery.



On 27th April we held our second **Phoenix Choir** fund raising event at **Gurnard All Saints** church. It was another memorable evening of music and song with over 120 attendees - and we exceeded the £800 raised in its previous concert in 2016 by raising over **£1,000** this year. Of this the raffle raised **£393** and the retiring collection raised over **£607**.

Finally I would ask you to note the date of the next **Annual General Meeting** which will take place at 7:00pm on **Monday 9th September 2019** in the **Heritage Resource Centre**. We have arranged a well-respected speaker, **Mark Earp**, to follow the usual official business with a talk entitled: ***Queen Victoria on the Isle of Wight***.

Peter Almond
Chairman

FoNC's oldest "Friend" **Mollie Elliot** died on Saturday 13th April aged **101** (and a half). Mollie was an enthusiastic fan of FoNC's achievements and was never shy of telling her stories; her father was landlord of (what was) the **Bell Inn** by the Floating Bridge during the 1940s - so she had very many to tell. In her passing Cowes has lost one of its characters and she will be sorely missed. The Trustees send their deepest condolences to her family.

Sadly we have also lost "Friends" **Jim Street** and **Noelle Peach** (aged 98), both of whom lived in Newport Road, Cowes. Our thoughts are with Jim's widow Pat and Noelle's family.

Rear Admiral William Ffarington (1777-1868)

No, it's not a typo; the family name traditionally begins double "F"! **Ffarington** is an old Anglo-Saxon name and originates from the time when the family lived in the township of Farington, near Penwortham, Lancashire.

The two headstones of different sizes (pictured) in Plot 1 mark the final resting places of **William Ffarington** (1777-1868) on the right and his wife **Frances Anne** (nee **Green**) **Ffarington** (1789-1865) on the left. Their family home at Woodvale House, near the top of Woodvale Road, Gurnard is still standing, albeit now converted into flats. William, who reached the grand age of 91, and Frances married in 1814 and had three sons and a daughter.



William had a remarkable 82 year link with the **Royal Navy**, joining aged just 8 on 13th October 1785 as a Captain's servant and rising to become an Admiral.

His early years were spent mostly in home waters. He served as Signal-Leutenant to the renowned sailor, **Lord Alan Gardner**, who was at the time Commander-in-Chief of the Channel fleet.

In 1811, and by then promoted to Commander, **William Ffarington** became Captain of the *HMS Clio*, a 32 gun brig-sloop which was deployed in a conflict known as "The Gunboat War" during the Napoleonic Wars. This took place principally in the Baltic and North Sea when Britain's adversaries were Norway and Denmark.

A letter dated November 1814, probably written by his father, was recently seen on *eBay*; this suggested that William intended to resign his commission and pressed the case for his promotion with the then Secretary of War **Lord Melville** who, as the letter states, was favourably inclined towards William.

Influence counted as William was promoted to Post-Captain in October 1815. This was too late for more active service after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo but this advancement meant automatic promotion by seniority rather than achievement; hence him becoming in time a Vice-Admiral.

Apart from evidence that he was a **Justice of the Peace** (JP) in 1836, little is known of his final years spent as a gentleman at Woodvale House.

David Jones
Secretary

Flower Walk in Northwood Cemetery



On **Sunday 24th March** beneath a clear blue sky on a warm sunny morning, eleven people met at the Chapels for a guided walk to view the Cemetery's spring flowers.

Most of what the group saw and admired was growing in the **Nature Area** (Plots 14, 15, 19 and 20) and, although the colourful abundance of purple, yellow and white **Crocuses** was all but over, lovely **Wild Daffodils** were plentiful - along with numerous clusters of dainty **Wood Anemones** and masses of delicately fragrant **Primroses**.

Other noteworthy species seen and discussed included the **Common Dog-Violet**, the **Lesser Celandine**, the **Barren Strawberry**, the **Common Field-Speedwell** and the pungent smelling flowers of the **Cherry-Laurel**. Following is the list of all the species observed:

<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Spring Crocus	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Winter Heliotrope
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry-Laurel
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-Speedwell
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-Violet		

Countless **Bluebell** bulbs had pushed up this year's leaves through the soil and we saw just one small flowering stem, a timely preview of another floral spectacle yet to come.

As well as the wild flowers, several species of fauna were noticed, including **Yellow Brimstone** and **Orange Tip** butterflies. Birds that were heard and often seen included the **Robin**, the **Wren**, the **Great Tit**, the **Wood Pigeon** and the **Chiffchaff**.

Whilst a **Common Buzzard** was circling on high above us, our keen-eyed photographer was lucky enough to spot a **Bee-Fly** which, in search of nectar, settled on a primrose flower.

All in all, a most enjoyable walk with plenty to see and discuss, before returning to the **Heritage Resource Centre** for some much appreciated refreshments.

Sue Blackwell

Walk Leader

Dangerous Memorials



Up and down the country **Health & Safety** concerns have been raised concerning the state of memorials in cemeteries - and a government directive has been issued to all Local Authorities to survey memorials and headstones to check that they are safe and secure.

In **Northwood Cemetery** you may have noticed that a few memorials have already been laid down by the IW Council's **Bereavement Services** since they were deemed to be unsafe - with a real possibility of them falling and injuring people.

The Trustees have successfully raised the funds to re-erect **six** memorials (to date) and plans are in place to embark on an ongoing annual program so that other fallen memorials can be re-erected in the future; fund raising for worthy causes is never far from the Board's thoughts.

An example of a memorial recently re-erected by a local stonemason is featured here. It is in memory of

Henrietta (nee **Liddell**) **Brown**, the wife of **Archibald Brown**, who died on 23rd May 1888 in Glasgow aged 48. Their 9-year-old daughter **Isabella Adair Brown**, who died later in the same year, is the only person buried in the grave.

Barry Sowerby

Historian

A new Volunteer's perspective



Hello, I'm **Lu Farnsworth** and a new volunteer.

Both my husband and I have been **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** for a couple of years but only recently have I had time to step up and volunteer. I love being outdoors and hacking through undergrowth - but I don't always have the energy needed.

I was put in touch with **Barry Sowerby**, the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery's** Historian. Bazz told me about the dreadful weathering of headstones and that the monumental inscriptions on these, and the grave surrounds, needed to be transcribed to protect their sentimental messages against deterioration to illegibility. So he asked: "Would I be interested in helping?". I said "yes".

Apparently, there's about half of the 17,000 burials with monumental inscriptions (!).

The weather damage was really sad to see for, as well as preserving the deceased's name and relevant dates, the sentiments to a loved one, intended to remain for all time, were in danger of being lost.

I really liked the idea and didn't need any persuasion other than being assured that I could work at my own pace; do it when I had the time; and that help and support would always be readily available. Happily, all these requests have been more than forthcoming.

What can I say about transcribing? I love being in the Cemetery amongst the beautiful trees, the peace and quiet, the squirrels and the bunnies...it's so tranquil and it is free therapy to escape from the noisy, busy world outside the walls.

I feel like I'm doing something that's useful and quite important. Thankfully, I've quite quickly got to grips with putting the information onto the burial database and the website.

Would you like to join me or just ask some questions about transcribing? You'd be very welcome and have a great time, I promise. So, if you've been thinking about doing something but didn't know what, how about this for an idea?

Of course there are other volunteering opportunities available within the Friends' group so why not come along and just ask, 'what can I do?'; I did and I don't regret it!

Lu Farnsworth

Transcription Coordinator

2019-2020 Subscriptions are Overdue!

If you are “a Friend” and pay your subscription annually, then it was due on 1st April 2019!

Over 210 of you have been kind enough to respond to my gentle plea in the February newsletter (thank you!) but there are still over 100 members from last year still to ‘do the biz’. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact me (details below).

The easiest way to renew is to use **PayPal**; it saves you having to find your cheque book, a pen, an envelope, a stamp and a post box (and you don’t even need a **PayPal** account). It’s £10 (single), £15 (joint) or £100 for a Life membership. All you need to do is go to:

www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/subscriptions-renewals

If you prefer to pay by cheque or cash then that’s fine too; my address is:

Glencoe, 8 Beckford Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7SE; **Telephone:** 01983 299114;
Email: membership.secretary@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Thank you in anticipation!

Jon Matthews

Membership Secretary

Future Events (all start at, or take place in, the **Heritage Resource Centre**)

Friday 3 rd May at 10:30am	Coffee morning (<i>‘Bric-a-Brac’</i> themed)
Sunday 5 th May at 10:30am	Walk through Cowes to commemorate the Blitz
Wednesday 8 th May at 2:00pm	IW Walking Festival) <i>A 90 minute “Walk</i>
Saturday 11 th May at 11:00am	IW Walking Festival) <i>through History from</i>
Tuesday 14 th May at 10:30am	IW Walking Festival) <i>Victorian Times”</i>
Friday 24 th May at 7:30pm	Quiz Night (£1 a head, refreshments, raffle, prizes)
Friday 7 th June at 10:30am	Coffee morning (<i>‘Plants & Gardens’</i> themed)
Sunday 16 th June at 10:30am	Flower Walk (by popular demand – see page 4)
Wednesday 19 th June at 6:30pm	IW Historical Association ‘Cemetery Stroll’
Friday 5 th July at 10:30am	Coffee morning (<i>‘Bits, Bobs & Books’</i> themed)
Saturday 6 th July at 10:30am	Wood turning demonstration by Mike Graves
Friday 2 nd August at 10:30am	Coffee morning (<i>‘Golden Days’</i> themed)
Monday 9 th September at 7:00pm	Annual General Meeting This will followed at a talk by Mark Earp entitled “Queen Victoria on the Isle of Wight”

Burial Fees in Northwood Cemetery

The Trustees are often asked: “How much does it cost to be buried in Northwood Cemetery?”. Alas, there’s not one answer to this question as there are several variables.

First and foremost a burial **space** has to be ‘purchased’; strictly speaking it is a **Grant of Exclusive Rights** (to a grave space) that is purchased rather than the grave space itself - and this grant is for a period of 100 years from the date of purchase.

With effect from **1st April 2019** the cost of purchasing a **Grant of Exclusive Rights** is **£744** (for a grave space *within* a Plot) or **£1,349** (for a grave space around the edge of a Plot). This purchase can be made at any time – so people can choose their spot in readiness for when the time comes. The good news is that all burial fees are exempt of VAT.

When the time does come there are other fees that are levied to cover the cost of the burial and its preparation. Your Funeral Director can take you through these – but as a guide the **Isle of Wight Council**’s fee for a mid-week adult burial is **£1,061**.

In the **Natural Burial Ground** a **Right to Burial** fee of **£744** is levied in lieu of the purchase of Exclusive Rights - as burials are on a sequential basis (ie: it is not possible to purchase a *specific* space within the **Natural Burial Ground**). The cost of a burial here is also **£1,061**.

It is also possible to inter or scatter **Cremated Remains** (**£293** or **£87** respectively).

There are other miscellaneous items in **Bereavement Services’** Fees List for less common activities; perhaps the use of the **East Chapel** for a funeral service (**£72**) is the most relevant at Northwood Cemetery.

If you would like to erect a headstone or place a border there’s a charge for these too - ranging from **£67** (for a vase) to **£312** (for a flat kerb stone surrounding the grave space).

Please note that these are all fees charged by the **Isle of Wight Council** and do not include any charges made by funeral directors nor stonemasons.

If in doubt **Shelley Peach**, the **Isle of Wight Council’s Cemeteries & Burials Officer** (based at the Crematorium at Whippingham) is the person to talk to; her contact details are:
Telephone: 01983 882288; **Email:** shelley.peach@iow.gov.uk.

Jon Matthews
President

Jo Mckinnie
Editor

FoNC is a member of the
National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS