

The Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries.

The cemeteries around Newport and Carisbrooke have been established for 100 to 150 plus years, and while each cemetery has some nature conservation areas left to encourage wildlife, other areas do need attention to 'tame' the growth overwhelming graves and memorials.

Where once memorials erected by loved-ones were well cared for and lovingly maintained, these are now often overgrown by ivy, brambles or complete shrubs.

The aim of the **Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries** volunteer group is to help care for the cemeteries by clearing years of vegetation from the memorials, transcribing the inscriptions and researching the lives of those buried in the Newport (Fairlee), St Paul's (Halberry Lane) and Carisbrooke (Mountjoy) cemeteries.

Scheduled clearing sessions (subject to weather) are the first Saturday each month at Carisbrooke Cemetery (meet at the Chapel) and the third Saturday at Newport Cemetery (meet by the central round-about) – each session starts about 10.30 and lasts about 2 hours.

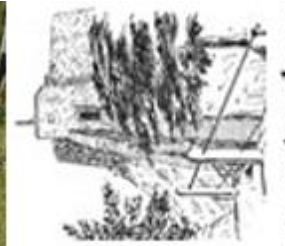
Please contact the Friends with offers of other types of volunteering or see the website.

The Cemeteries.

Since the middle of the 19th century, the three cemeteries of Newport, Barton and Carisbrooke (often referred to as Fairlee, St Paul's and Mountjoy) have been the final resting place of the citizens of the towns and surrounding areas.

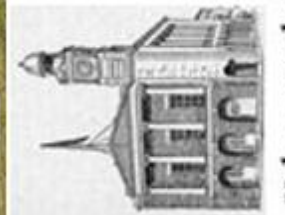
Newspaper reports of the late 19th century record grand funeral processions from St Thomas' church, down the High Street, with shops shuttered and flags at half mast, to Newport Cemeteries for the great and the good of the time (such as Sir Francis Pittis, William Baron Mew etc) where they were laid to rest nearby ordinary residents of the area.

The Cemeteries include burials from outside the modern day parish boundaries. Carisbrooke Cemetery includes burials of the deceased from Chillerton and other outlying areas, as well as members of military families stationed at Parkhurst Barracks, members of the families of staff and inmates of Parkhurst Prison and people who died at the Workhouse (House of Industry).



**Friends of Newport
& Carisbrooke Cemeteries**

www.foncc.org.uk



Volunteers helping to care for the cemeteries and record the lives of those resting there

The Friends online resource

The Friends website (<https://www.foncc.org.uk>) includes a record of all burials up until 2000, some monumental pictures, inscriptions and life stories. With the help of volunteers, details of more memorials and details of the lives of those buried will be added.

Below is a typical website record, in this case for William Thomas Odell, one of five Newport men who lost their lives when their ship was lost off Beachy Head and a link to a transcription of details of the incident.

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area displays the name 'William Thomas ODELL' and 'Newport Cemetery'. It lists personal details such as 'Mariner', 'Date of birth: 1835 (approx., calculated)', and 'Date of death: 23 Apr 1885'. A photograph of a gravestone is included. Below the photo is the inscription: 'IN LOVING MEMORY OF WILLIAM THOMAS ODELL AGED 50 YEARS AND WILLIAM PENN ODELL AGED 24 YEARS (FATHER AND SON WHO WERE DROWNED AT SEA THROUGH A COLLISION OFF BEACHY HEAD) ON THURSDAY APRIL 23RD 1885. THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO DROWNED HENRY WOODFORD AGED 17 YEARS JOHN EDMUND HEARLEY AGED 38 YEARS ERNEST HENRY ADAMS AGED 17(7) YEARS A SUDDEN CHANGE AT GOD'S COMMAND THEY DIED, THEY HAD NOT TIME TO BID THEIR FRIENDS FAREWELL, DEATH CAME WITHOUT A WARNING GIVEN, AND SO THEY MEET THEIR GOD IN HEAVEN.' The transcription is attributed to Toby Barton.

The difference Volunteers can make

After only a few hours work each week in the cemeteries, the years of rampant growth of ivy, brambles etc around a memorial can be tamed.

The upper picture below shows a group of shrubs/ivy in Carisbrooke Cemetery covering about 18 grave markers, the lower picture shows the exposed headstones after a number of weeks work by volunteers.



Once the memorials were revealed, they could be identified/photographed, the inscriptions recorded, the lives researched and additions made to the website

So much more than just 'gardening' in the cemeteries.

We are looking for volunteers to:

- Plot the position of memorials and unmarked graves;
- Clear vegetation from memorials;
- Photograph memorials;
- Transcribe memorial inscriptions;
- Research and record the history of the people buried in the cemeteries;
- Research and record the flora and fauna found in the cemeteries;

For more information, have a look at our website which includes an ever expanding database of those buried at the cemeteries.

Express your interest (no commitment, no cost) online at www.foncc.org.uk or to: FoNCC, c/o 138 Worsley Road, Newport, PO30 5JB

Name

Address

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e-mail

I/We are interested in Helping Clear Memorials /Transcribing Records /Researching people's lives / or just Supporting (so we'll keep you informed)

(please delete as appropriate)