



# Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

[www.foncc.org.uk](http://www.foncc.org.uk)



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

## Newsletter No.11, February 2020

Welcome to the eleventh newsletter of the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries. This is being circulated to all those who have expressed an interest in the Friends and others who we think may be interested. Feel free to circulate this to others who you feel may be interested in the Cemeteries.

Receiving this newsletter does not cost you anything nor commit you to anything, but if you don't wish to receive future copies, feel free to unsubscribe (just email [newsletter@foncc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@foncc.org.uk)) - we won't take offence.

Past newsletters can be found on the website at:  
[https://www.foncc.org.uk/the\\_group/newsletters.php](https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/newsletters.php)



*Spring flowers amongst the graves, St. Paul's Cemetery (Liz Priddle)*

### Where are we? (Tony Barton)

Our activities continue clearing vegetation from graves in the cemeteries (when weather allows), transcribing death newspaper notices etc. and adding information to the website.

Details of a number of the grave markers at St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke have been added to the website – this will be an on-going project.

There's been a complimentary article in the Carisbrooke Parish News; it's always good to get our activities more widely known in the community and also for the work of the teams working in the cemeteries to be recognised. It's also nice when visitors to a cemetery approach us while we are working there and say they've noticed and appreciate our activities in tidying up the graves.

We've received the results of the RSPB Garden BirdWatch undertaken by Richard Smout, and Liz and Steve Priddle at Newport and St. Paul's Cemeteries respectively; these are given later in this Newsletter.

As always, we'd welcome your suggestions and help in bringing the Cemeteries etc. to the attention of the community - just e-mail ([chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com)) with your thoughts.

## **Cemetery clearing sessions:**

### **Newport Cemetery (Rob Cain)**

The recent storms, Ciara and Dennis made their mark in Newport Fairlee Road cemetery as you can see in these photographs. Fortunately, these fallen trees do not appear to have damaged any headstones on this occasion unlike in previous storms. (Although, I understand, the house may have suffered some damage, which was less fortunate.) The bad weather also affected our regular clearing session in February with both the 3rd Saturday and a rearranged day being cancelled because of the conditions.



The session in January did go ahead though and we took the opportunity to work on the grave of the grandparents of one of our regular volunteers, Lynne, who has been with us from the start of FoNCC and goes to the clearing sessions at both Fairlee Road and Mountjoy cemeteries. This was not preferential treatment but it is nice to work on plots with a direct connection to our group or people we know. The grave is of William and Kathleen Harris and full details and a picture of the work so far can be seen on our website. Lynne's family hope to come and visit the cleared grave in the future.

If you or anyone you know has a grave of an ancestor buried in the cemetery you can look it up on the website and if it needs clearing - let us know: we can't guarantee to clear it, but we'll bear it in mind!

### **Carisbrooke (Mount Joy) Cemetery (Tony Barton)**

The team of volunteers have been lucky with the weather at Carisbrooke, neither storm Ciara or Dennis caused any session at Carisbrooke to be cancelled.

We've finished clearing the branches of the large tree above the main roundabout – this uncovered a number of graves including two with the name Frank Cooper, father and son, stonemasons of Newport who produced (together with George, another son, buried elsewhere in the cemetery) many of the memorials in the local cemeteries. Fred Cooper, another son, is also buried here with his parents and brother; he was a naval architect and designed the Miss England II powerboat which achieved world water speed records in the early 1930's.



We would welcome new volunteers at our sessions at Carisbrooke Cemeteries on the first Saturday of each month.

### **St Paul's Cemetery, Halberry Lane. ( Liz and Steve Priddle )**

We've not been able to do much clearing and general tidying up because of illness and the dreadful weather over the past few months. Steve has cut back some brambles that were taking over a few trees and once this bad weather does go we will clear around some gravestones that need attention. Also storm Ciara left its mark with one tree down and another badly damaged.



We have been enjoying the wonderful spring flowers that have been appearing over the last month, the snow drops being the earliest with the first flower just before Christmas. Along with the wild daffodils and crocuses the graveyard is at its most colourful.

Steve and I also did the RSPB bird count with blue tits, starlings and jackdaws being the most common. It was typical that a week later the green woodpecker made an appearance along with a dunnoek and they are regular visitors usually.

### **Wildlife in the Cemeteries - RSPB Bird Count**

For the 2020 RSPB Garden Birdwatch on 27 January, we've received the following returns:

#### **For Newport Cemetery (Richard Smout)**

- 19 Blackbird;
- 10 Blue Tit;
- 6 Wood Pigeon;
- 4 Carrion Crow;
- 4 Redwing;
- 4 Robin;
- 3 Herring Gull;
- 3 Stock Dove;
- 2 each for Song Thrush, Magpie, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch, Jackdaw and Starling.
- 1 each for House-Sparrow, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay and Wren

#### **For St. Paul's Cemetery (Liz and Steve Priddle)**

- 12 Blue Tits,
- 10 Starlings,
- 12 Jackdaws,
- 4 Blackbirds
- 1 Chaffinch
- 2 Coal Tits
- 1 Collared Dove
- 3 Goldfinch
- 2 Great Tit
- 6 House Sparrow
- 2 Magpies
- 1 Robin
- 3 Wood Pigeon
- 1 Jay,
- 3 Crows
- 1 female Great Spotted Wood Pecker.
- Other wildlife added were foxes, badgers and red squirrels.





## Servicemen from WW2

With the approach of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, it's appropriate to remember those Servicemen buried in the cemeteries and also those remembered on family memorials.

Full details can be found at [https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/grave-search/wd\\_list\\_result.php](https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/grave-search/wd_list_result.php)

Location maps for these are available on the website:

Carisbrooke Cemetery:

[https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/maps/carisbrooke\\_cem\\_notables.pdf](https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/maps/carisbrooke_cem_notables.pdf)

Newport Cemetery:

[https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/maps/Newport\\_cem\\_notables.pdf](https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/maps/Newport_cem_notables.pdf)

St. Paul's Cemetery:

[https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/maps/barton\\_cemetery\\_military.pdf](https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/maps/barton_cemetery_military.pdf)

### The following Servicemen are buried in the Newport, Carisbrooke or St. Paul's cemeteries

<b>BEGGS, James</b>	43 years	31-Aug-1942	Newport	530 (8th Bn. The Hampshire Regt.) Coast Regt., Royal Artillery
<i>Husband of Ethel M. Beggs, of Newport</i>				
<b>BERRY, John Leslie</b>	35 years	12-Nov-1944	Carisbrooke	Military Provost Staff Corps
<i>Son of John Leslie and Mary Louise Berry; husband of Jessie Berry, of Newport.</i>				
<b>CHAMBERS, Arthur Thomas</b>	38 years	11-Nov-1946	Newport	2nd Bn., Hampshire Regiment
<i>Youngest son of Mrs. Chambers, 12 Quay-street, Newport; husband of Nancy Chambers, of Edinburgh.</i>				
<b>CHEVERTON, Oliver Frank (Bob)</b>	40 years	18-Feb-1942	Carisbrooke	Royal Air Force
<i>Son of Albert Milton Cheverton and Annie Cheverton of Newport, husband of Roma Dorothy Cheverton. of Newport.</i>				
<b>COX, Leslie Roy</b>	20 years	16-Sep-1941	Carisbrooke	44 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Ernest Edwin and Fanny Elizabeth Cox, of Newport</i>				
<b>ELLIOTT, William Ernest</b>	21 years	30-Oct-1940	Carisbrooke	115 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Ernest Alfred and Annie Elizabeth Elliott, of Newport</i>				
<b>FAIRWEATHER, James Robert Henry</b>	22 years	29-Apr-1942	St Paul's	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Edward John and Mabel Kathleen Fairweather, of Newport.</i>				
<b>FRY, Kenneth</b>	28 years	13-Aug-1940	Carisbrooke	Royal Engineers
<i>Son of Alfred Charles and Gertrude Minnie Fry of Newport; and husband of Lilian Irene Fry</i>				
<b>GIDDENS, Richard George</b>	71 years	9-Mar-1945	Carisbrooke	General List, MBE
<i>Husband of Lilian Gertrude Giddens, of Newport</i>				
<b>GROSVENOR, Terence Alfred</b>	21 years	13-Jun-1941	Carisbrooke	Royal Air Force
<i>Son of James Alfred Grosvenor, and of Constance Florence Grosvenor, of Katihar, Bihar, India.</i>				
<b>JONES, Kenneth Herbert</b>	29 years	15-Jan-1943	Carisbrooke	Royal Engineers
<i>Husband of Josephine Beatrice Jones</i>				
<b>KILLEEN, Beauchamp Valentine</b>	20 years	19-Oct-1941	Newport	20th Hampshire (East Wight) Bn., Home Guard
<i>Son of Charles Beauchamp Killeen and Agnes Rosa Killeen, of Newport.</i>				
<b>LEE, Harold Frank</b>	37 years	16-Aug-1942	Carisbrooke	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee; husband of Agnes Maud Lee, of Newport.</i>				
<b>LILLYWHITE, Ernest William</b>	31 years	23-Apr-1941	St Paul's	Royal Artillery, att'd. H.Q. VII Corps.
<i>Son of Percy B. Lillywhite and Alice M. Lillywhite; husband of Betty Grace Lillywhite, of Newport.</i>				

<b>NEWNHAM</b> , Leslie Aubrey	25 years	26-Nov-1945	Newport	Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Alfred and Fanny Newnham, of Newport.</i>				
<b>NOBBS</b> , Walter John	58 years	7-Feb-1943	St Paul's	Royal Air Force
<i>Son of John and Rose Ellen Nobbs; husband of Ellen Louisa Nobbs, of Newport.</i>				
<b>PERROTT</b> , Harold Frank	26 years	30-Apr-1941	Carisbrooke	245 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Frank James Perrott, and of Beatrice Jane Perrott, of Newport.</i>				
<b>RAY</b> , Frederick Harry	26 years	29-Sep-1943	Carisbrooke	156 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Frederick George and Amelia Kate Ray, of Newport.</i>				
<b>READ</b> , Charles Edward	33 years	6-Jul-1942	Carisbrooke	Royal Corps of Signals
<i>Son of Thomas Abner Read and Fanny Read, of Newport; husband of Olive Christina Read, of Newport.</i>				
<b>SQUIBB</b> , Ernest George	47 years	21-Apr-1946	Carisbrooke	H.M.S. Victory., Royal Navy
<i>Son of Elizabeth Squibb; husband of Evelyn Ivy Squibb, of Newport. Also served in the 1914-1918 War.</i>				
<b>WADHAM</b> , John Victor	21 years	12-Oct-1940	Carisbrooke	145 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Victor Sidney and Lilian Olive Wadham, of Newport.</i>				
<b>WARD</b> , Leonard Douglas	22 years	18-Apr-1941	Carisbrooke	219 Bty., 57 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery
<i>Son of Ernest Frank and Mabel Annie Ward, of Carisbrooke. His brother Percy also died on service.</i>				
<b>WENDES</b> , Robert John	23 years	16-Nov-1944	Carisbrooke	109 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Samson and Blanche Ethel May Wendes, of Newport.</i>				
<b>WOLFE</b> , Arthur Frank	22 years	16-Jun-1941	St Paul's	1/4th Bn., Hampshire Regiment
<i>Son of Arthur Frederick and Rose Florence Wolfe, of Newport.</i>				
<b>The following Servicemen have been found recorded on 'family' grave markers although not buried in these cemeteries</b>				
<b>BURGESS</b> , Herbert Donald	39 years	11-Sep-1939	Carisbrooke	H.M. Submarine Oxley., Royal Navy
<i>Son of Herbert Fisher Burgess and Elizabeth Burgess; husband of Olive Burgess, of Newport, Isle of Wight.</i>				
<b>CURLING</b> , William (MM)	37 years	23-Sep-1942	St Paul's	232 Field Coy., Royal Engineers
<i>Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Curling, of 174 Carisbrooke-road, Newport</i>				
<b>DUTCH</b> , Joseph Henry	35 years	27-May-1940	Carisbrooke	1st Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry
<i>Son of Joseph Edward and Annie Elizabeth Dutch; husband of Ada Leal Dutch, of Newport, Isle of Wight.</i>				
<b>GREENEN</b> , Ralph	23 years	30-Nov-1943	Newport	5th Bn., Hampshire Regiment
<i>Son of George and Elsie Greenen, of Newport, Isle of Wight.</i>				
<b>HAWKINS</b> , Albert James	26 years	3-Apr-1943	Carisbrooke	408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
<i>Son of Florence Jane Hawkins, of Newport, Isle of Wight.</i>				
<b>HOWARD</b> , William Leonard	22 years	22-Jul-1944	St Paul's	2/4th Bn., Hampshire Regiment
<i>Son of Harry D. and Rose B. Howard, of Newport, Isle of Wight.</i>				
<b>MOORE</b> , Dennis	41 years	5-Nov-1940	Carisbrooke	H.M.S. Jervis Bay, Royal Navy
<i>Son of William and Mary Moore; husband of Edith Anne Moore, of Copnor, Portsmouth, Hampshire.</i>				
<b>SIMS</b> , William Arthur	34 years	21-Nov-1942	Newport	48 Lt. A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery
<i>Son of James Bernard and Ellen Esther Sims; husband of Winifred Louisa Sims, of Ryde, Isle of Wight.</i>				
<b>WARD</b> , Percy	24 years	30-Aug-1944	Carisbrooke	5th Bn., Hampshire Regiment
<i>Son of Ernest Frank and Mabel Annie Ward, of Gunville, Isle of Wight. His brother Leonard Douglas also fell.</i>				
<b>WYKES</b> , Ray	28 years	27-Mar-1944	Carisbrooke	12 Bty., 6 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery
<i>Son of Walter Charles and Jessie Wykes, of Beckenham, Kent; Grandson of William and Gertrude Dove of Newport.</i>				

## Characters buried here (Brian Greening)

### *James Harwood of Goodhall's Yard, High Street*

One thing that has improved in Newport, indeed throughout the country, over the past one hundred years is the standard and quality of housing. I can however recall during my lifetime some very poor dwellings that were homes to local families, houses that must have stood for hundreds of years, and were lacking even the most basic of amenities. The row of ten cottages in Medina Avenue known as the Oyster Shell



The Gasworks Cut

cottages is a good example as between them they shared but three outside toilets and I spoke to one ex resident who said his father got up at 4-30 am each morning in order to be "first in the queue." On Coppin's Bridge there was a path that was known as Gasworks Cut that led through the arches of the railway viaduct out on to the town quay. It was here that there were four cottages, one where an old school pal lived and another by a very elderly man called Jackie Cotton, an ex mariner, who lived in one with his housekeeper and around a dozen cats. The back gardens sloped down into the River Medina and at an exceptionally high tide these houses must have been flooded.

Around the town there were a series of "Courts," that were basically a space enclosed with houses. In Orchard Street there was Dyers Court that comprised four houses. In Holyrood Street there was Flux's Court and here there were six houses (where the cars now park opposite Hursts). Certainly in South Street there were at least two more courts, Wells Court that comprised just two houses and Abrahams Court, that was next door to the modern-day fire station, where the 1931 street directory shows there were six houses. These at that time had no gas or electricity and the houses shared an outdoor standpipe for water. Each did however have their own outdoor toilet. Most of these tenants were re-housed in Prospect Road in the early 1930s. It would be a few years before Newport's council house programme got into full flow.

What the reader might ask is all this leading up to? Well, a few months ago I received via FoNCC a report on the death in 1872 of James Harwood. Both James and his wife were described as paupers and James's wife was certified as blind. Life would have been tough for this elderly couple but James had served his country well and many might say deserved better for he served at the Battle of Trafalgar on board HMS Revenge. Here he was wounded and was transferred to a hospital in Gibraltar. He recovered and then served in the Navy until the end of the war when he was discharged without a pension, that then compelled him to join the merchant service.

He must have been well loved by the town residents however for a Mr. Rickard applied for and obtained a small navy pension for him. He had drawn the first sum of it the week that he died and had not spent a penny of it. When he was first taken ill the Mayor of Newport,

brewery owner William Baron Mew, agreed to pay for a nurse to sit with him. James died a few days later at the age of eighty-nine and had lived in a house that was in Goodhall's Yard that was in the Lower High Street. I am assuming that this was yet another of those houses that lacked most basic amenities but for James and his wife would have seemed like a castle. The funeral was paid for jointly by the mayor and the Mr. Goodhall and James was buried in Newport cemetery.

## **WW2 Civilian War Dead – the less well known ones (Tony Barton).**

The Island suffered a number of air-raids during World-War 2 which resulted in civilian fatalities; most of these are well-known, documented and remembered. However, there are a few less well known, and some possibly unrecognised.

The first recorded Civilian War Dead of WW2 in Newport, this is recognised by the CWGC\*, appears to have been Walter Parsons, a baker living at 11 Hearn Street, Newport who died on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1940 when an anti-aircraft shell struck his house.

The report in the IWCP of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1943 of the funeral of Alfred Rackett records him as dying 'as a result of enemy action in April', and he is described as an employee of Messrs. Morey and Sons, Ltd. Alfred has not been recognised (as far as I can find) as a civilian war victim although his death appears to be the result of the April air raid on Newport.

The last recorded Civilian War Dead of WW2 recorded in Newport appears to be George Henry Woodmore who was a victim of a V1 flying bomb (doodlebug) which landed near Carisbrooke Road (roughly where the junction with Wellington Road is now) on the night of Sunday 25th June 1944. Wartime reporting restrictions prevented details of where V1 landed and any casualties from being reported; the newspaper report of George Woodmore's funeral gives no indication of how he died but the date does match, and it is recorded that there was a fatality connected with this V1.

The issue of the IWCP that recorded the funeral of George Woodmore, also reported on the funeral of Mrs. Emily E. Chiverton of 136 Carisbrooke Road. Her death is reported as being on 27th June after she had been taken to hospital the previous day 'suffering from shock.' Considering Mrs. Chiverton's address, the 'shock' she suffered could well have been the V1 landing nearby but her death is not recorded as a 'civilian war dead'.

\*CWGC – Commonwealth War Grave Commission

## **Memorial transcriptions:**

Memorial Inscriptions continue to be transcribed and added to the website; this might be attractive to new volunteers (although possibly in the Spring) either as part of our clearing sessions or at times of their own choice – just email if you are interested [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com) .

The transcriptions continue to reveal new memorials to people not buried in the cemeteries (often, family members lost overseas during the World Wars), these are being added to the database.



As we record grave-markers etc., we are finding a few discrepancies with names, ages and burial locations from the registers. Unfortunately there are no original plot maps available for Carisbrooke Cemetery, which might have helped in some respects but where such anomalies can be resolved with confidence, the website reflects what we consider the 'correct' information.

These discrepancies only come to light when a headstone is being added, or where someone queries a record; so there are bound to be other discrepancies in the 'untouched' records.

## **The Website:**

The website now reflects the IWC Bereavement Services Burial Records for the cemeteries up to 2010, as well as persons found to be recorded on grave markers although not buried there – these include victims of the two world wars, family members who died elsewhere or were cremated at the island's crematorium.

As previously mentioned, we've started to add the records of gravestones at the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke; this is an ongoing project.

More pictures, updated grave plot maps, transcriptions, inscriptions etc. have been added to the website - it's an ongoing task 'forever'.

The small, dedicated, team of volunteers (with a couple of new members after the previous newsletter) are continuing to transcribe newspaper reports of the lives, deaths and funerals of those buried in the cemeteries. We now have over 850 such research notes attached to individual records and listed alphabetically - see website [BURIALS/Research Notes](#).

The contemporary newspaper reports of the major WW2 air-raids on the Newport which resulted in fatalities buried in the cemeteries have now been transcribed and the details originally omitted due to wartime censorship have been added.

## **Future events:**

Clearing sessions in the cemeteries continue to be held, Carisbrooke Cemetery on the first Saturday each month, Newport Cemetery on the third Saturday each month (but not June at Newport if it clashes with the Isle of Wight Festival). Full details, and any updates can be found on our website (<https://www.foncc.org.uk>)

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