



Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

www.foncc.org.uk



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

Newsletter No. 17, August 2021

Welcome to newsletter number 17 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) - we won't take offence.

Past newsletters can be found on the website at:
https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/newsletters.php



Carisbrooke Cemetery with castle and church

Where are we? (Tony Barton)

While the Covid restrictions have been lifted, the weather hasn't been too kind to us in the last quarter as a number of our monthly 'cemetery clearing sessions' had to be cancelled.

In addition to the usual updates of the website, other additions include a guide to Butterflies in September and the Pigots 1884 directory of Newport and its neighbourhood.

We always welcome your suggestions and help in bringing the Cemeteries etc. to the attention of the community AND ALSO CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS - just e-mail (chair.foncc@gmail.com) with your thoughts.

Newport Cemetery (Rob Cain)

We have been lucky recently with the weather and have managed some sessions at Fairlee Road to clear vegetation and generally improve the appearance of graves and the cemetery. The relaxation of coronavirus restrictions has also helped but we are still mindful as a group of the need to take care and so use the wide open spaces of the cemetery to socially distance! Some new volunteers have also expressed an interest so we are hopeful that our efforts can continue and the results can be appreciated.

You may think that being a senior police officer on the Isle of Wight is a sought after position and might be relatively easy compared to other posting in big cities etc. The chance to enjoy the lovely scenery and the laid-back, slower lifestyle of island life. Old newspaper reports appear to tell a different story however.

In a report in the Buckinghamshire Herald of 2 October 1897 Mr James Duke, the former deputy chief constable of the Isle of Wight Constabulary was sentenced to six weeks hard labour at Newport Court for wilfully damaging trees in Shanklin. Apparently he cut the trees down to spite the chief constable whom he accused of ruining him. Mr Duke was removed from the court struggling violently. Mr Duke died 9 February 1917 aged 71 and is buried in Ryde Cemetery.

A sad story is reported in the Bournemouth Daily Echo on 21 March 1904 when Mr Ernest St George Cecil Gurney, the deputy chief constable of the Isle of Wight appeared at Newport Borough Police Court charged with attempting to commit suicide by plunging a razor into his left arm. Committing suicide or attempting to was a criminal offence at this time. Mr Gurney was found by a fellow officer who stemmed the bleeding, called a doctor who arranged for the officer to be conveyed by ambulance to the Royal County Hospital in Ryde. On the 5 April 1904 Mr Gurney appeared at Hampshire Quarter Sessions where he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Finally, in the Bradford Observer of 30 October 1941, a report says the Mr Albert Edward Harwood, deputy chief constable of the Isle of Wight was found dead in his office at police headquarters in Newport on 29 October with a gunshot wound to his head. He died in the Royal County Hospital in Ryde. Apparently, after some army exercises on the Island Mr Harwood wrote to the chairman of the Joint Standing Committee alleging that the Chief Constable, Mr Roy Bullen Spicer "had shown complete lack of control", was in "an ungovernable temper" and observed that "other officers were horrified and he was surely intoxicated". The chairman decided to show the letter to the chief constable and on hearing this Mr Harwood shot himself. A coroner decided this was a case of suicide while the mind of the victim was temporarily unbalanced. He is buried in Northwood Cemetery.

So much for a quiet life on the island!

Carisbrooke Cemeteries (Tony Barton)

The last two monthly sessions at Carisbrooke Cemetery were cancelled due to the weather forecast. Hopefully, the forecast will be kinder for the next session planned for Carisbrooke on Saturday 4th September, all are welcome; details of planned sessions are shown on the homepage of the website.

A couple of newspaper transcriptions:

Isle of Wight County Press 2 February 1932

NEWPORT

The new Fire Engine - was delivered to the brigade on Thursday. Unfortunately it was found that there is barely room to get it between the pillars of the Town-hall [the Guildhall] into the fire-station. There is not sufficient margin for a quick exit in case of a call, and either the entrance will have to be widened or a garage provided elsewhere. The members of the brigade tried the new engine on Thursday afternoon and were delighted with it.

(the picture in the archived 1932 newspaper is rather poor quality, so here's an internet picture of a similar engine.)



For those interested, the newspaper went on to provide further information:

Newport's new fire-engine was delivered at the local Dennis agent's premises, Messrs. H. Margham and Sons. It was one of the latest types of turbine fire-engines constructed by Dennis Bros., Ltd., of Guildford. It cost about £900 [about £64.5k, in 2021 terms], and was similar to many supplied to the London County Council. Its engine develops from 50 to 55-h.p., and its pumping unit was 'extremely powerful' giving a supply of from 350 to 450 gallons a minute with two delivery pipes. Its body gave safer transport to the fireman than the older types, and its fittings included a 30 feet telescopic ladder.

(By October 1933, Newport Town Council was considering buying a new, 'faster, more up-to-date' engine! IWCP 14 October 1933)

Isle of Wight County Press 16 December 1933

NEWPORT

ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR ST. PAUL'S CHURCH. At a meeting of the PCC at which the Vicar presided on Monday, it was decided to proceed with the proposal for having the church electrically lighted. The installation will be a memorial to the late Rev. Charles Collis, the former vicar of the parish, and a subscription list towards meeting the cost will be opened early in the New Year. About £50 [about £3,700 in 2021] will be required.

Memorial transcriptions:

We are sometimes recording a few inscriptions during our clearing sessions and also transcribing from photographs.

New volunteers are needed, either as part of our clearing sessions or at times of their own choice, to survey and transcribe inscriptions on memorials – just email if you are interested chair.foncc@gmail.com .

The Website:

More pictures, updated grave plot maps, transcriptions etc. have been added to the website - it's an ongoing task 'forever'. We try to pick up where grave markers which have been renovated or cleaned and update the pictures on the website; we don't update images where grave markers have deteriorated since the existing image.

We've added further articles to the series of 'Butterflies, month by month' – they now cover from May to September, which probably covers the months butterflies are likely to be seen in the cemeteries. (https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/nature/nature.php#butterflies).

Having come across a copy of Pigots 1844 Hampshire and Isle of Wight directory, the section for Newport and surrounding areas has been transcribed and added as a searchable database to the 20th century Street Directories already on the website – <https://www.foncc.org.uk/local/directory/directories.php> .

The small, dedicated, team of volunteers are continuing to transcribe newspaper reports of the lives, deaths and funerals of those buried in the cemeteries. These 'research notes' are attached to individual records and also listed alphabetically - see website [BURIALS/Research Notes](#). Smaller reports have been added to the individual records themselves.

Buried here (Tony Barton):

Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke, D.L., J.P., C.C. (No, I haven't spelt his name wrong!)

Edgar Chatfeild Clarke, born 17th February 1863 in Highbury, London, was the son of Thomas Chatfeild Clarke, and his wife Ellen (née Nettlefold from Birmingham, connected with the 'nuts and bolts' firm (later the 'N' in 'GKN') and a cousin of Joseph Chamberlain, later a Liberal Member of Parliament). Thomas Clarke, was born in Newport, the son of Abraham Clarke, and his wife Jane (nee Chatfeild). The 1841 census shows Abraham as a Tanner, in

Carisbrooke; while the 1844 Pigot's Directory for Hampshire shows him as a Coal Merchant and a Tanner in Carisbrooke and Newport High Street.

All of Abraham's children were given 'Chatfeild' as a middle name, and later some of Thomas' children were also given it as a middle name. It wasn't until around 1900 that Edgar and two younger brothers, Stanley and Howard, changed their surname by deed poll to 'Chatfeild-Clarke'.

Edgar Clarke was educated at King's College School and privately in Dresden in the German state of Saxony, as were his brothers.

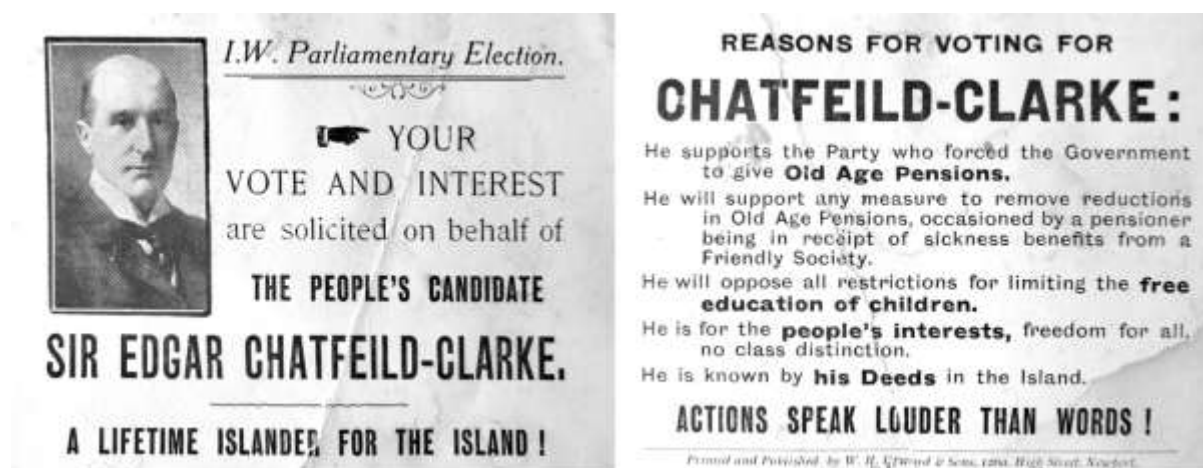
Unlike his brothers, Edgar seems to have been without a profession and was described in the 19th century census as 'of private means', presumably derived from his father's success as an architect, surveyor and estate agent and his father's directorships of companies, investments or shareholdings. The family also owned land in the Island, including the property Oakfield, near the Woodmans Arms at Wootton where Edgar moved around 1900.

After he moved to Wootton, Edgar became involved with local politics and the Unitarian Church in Newport.

Edgar was elected to the Isle of Wight County Council in 1900 for the Arreton Division and remained a member until shortly before his death in 1925. While on the Council, he served as chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the County Education Committee; following the 1902 Education Act, Education Committees were set up to replace School Boards, National, British and other voluntary schools – on the Island, Education Committees were set up by the Boroughs of Ryde and Newport and the County Education Committee covered all other areas. Sir Edgar's membership of the County Education Committee enabled him to help with establishing the elementary school system across a large part of the Island; the advancement of which he was very keen on. He took a particular interest in the elementary schools near his home, including attending prize-givings and distributing new silver coins to pupils in the Wootton, Arreton, and Whippingham schools.

Edgar was made a County magistrate in 1906, and was afterwards appointed a deputy lieutenant. He received his knighthood in 1913 in recognition of his public service.

In the first quarter of the twentieth century, Edgar was a prominent member of the I.W. Liberal Association and for 23 years was president of that association. In the 1906 General Election, his labours were rewarded by the election of Sir Godfrey Baring as Liberal Member of Parliament for the Island. Sir Edgar stood for Parliament himself in November 1922 and he won the seat with a majority of 1582. However, it was a short lived Parliament and another election was called for December 1923, Edgar's health had suffered and on doctor's orders, he decided not to seek re-election; instead Major General John (Jack) Seely stood for the Liberals and retained the seat for them.



1922 election flyer (courtesy IW County Record Office)

In his religious life Edgar followed his family tradition as a consistent and liberal supporter of the Unitarian Christian Church, and he was a regular worshipper at their Newport church. Following his father and older brother, he shared in the work of several Unitarian societies.

Sir Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke died, aged 62, on 16 April 1925 of influenza at his home Oakfield in Wootton.

Owing to the smallness of the Newport Unitarian Church, his family obtained permission of the Minister and Deacons of the Congregational Church, St. James's-street, Newport to hold the funeral service there, but even the Congregational Church could not hold all who wished to attend the funeral service and there were crowds left outside. The list of those attending, as reported by the County Press, show representatives of all shades of political opinion, the different religious denominations, numerous island societies and the Island's 'great and the good' of the day.

Interment followed at Newport Cemetery with quite a distinctive grave marker;



Later the cremated remains of his brother, Lt. Col. Stanley Chatfeild-Clarke were also interred in the plot.

Future events:

Clearing sessions in the cemeteries will continue as possible with the regular volunteers and new volunteers would be welcome to join us – check out the website for details.

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