



Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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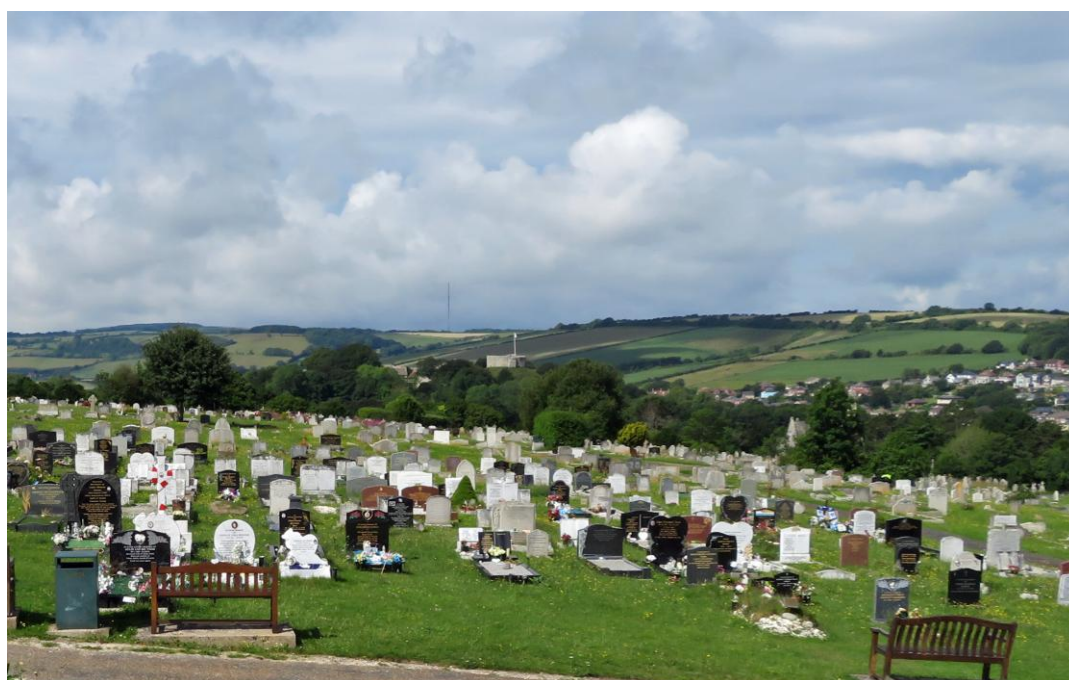
Volunteers helping to care for the cemeteries and record the lives of those resting there

Newsletter No. 18, November 2021

Welcome to newsletter number 18 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 towards the castle

Where are we? (Tony Barton)

Over the last three months, we've managed to get back into the programme of monthly clearing sessions at Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries.

The website continues to be updated with pictures, transcriptions etc. by volunteers.

I must thank everyone for their support over the past year, especially bearing in mind the issues resulting from the lockdowns. May everyone of you have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year – and may the New Year bring all of us a brighter future than the last 18 months.

We sometimes receive ‘tit-bits’ of information about people buried here from their relatives who have found the burial on the website. Usually we add the information and that’s the end of it. However, recently we were sent the names of the parents of Charlotte Eswyn Toutain, ‘retired’, buried at Carisbrooke; this led to me transcribing the headstone inscription which revealed – “Adj. Free French Army”. This led me to look further at Charlotte Toutain, she seems to have had an eventful WW2 and I’ve added a note to her record. The Imperial War Museum website also includes some references to her - <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/reflections-on-victory-memories-of-ve-day>. I did find a couple of mentions to her in the Isle of Wight County Press from the 1980’s benefitting from local help for the ‘aged and disabled.’

Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome, just send an email.

Newport Cemetery (Rob Cain)

The weather recently and the gradual relaxing of the pandemic restrictions has meant that we have been able to have some successful clearing sessions at Fairlee Road Cemetery.

This is a plot that we started to clear in September 2020



Not a lot of progress had been made by October!



By July 2021 some items were beginning to be revealed



In October 2021 definite signs of progress could be seen as a headstone begins to be revealed.



And on the last visit this November.....



Now the names on the headstone have been revealed (Frederick and Anne Hooton), a picture has been added to the website – this will be updated once the grave has been completely cleared.

While I was clearing this grave at the last session I was talking to a man and lady who were walking through the cemetery and commented on my efforts. It turns out they were the caretakers of the cemetery and lived in the house just inside the entrance. They said they often walked through the grounds and had noticed the changes that had been made and said they pointed out to each other new graves that they could now see which had not been visible before. Although we are a small team in terms of numbers, it is rewarding to know that the work is appreciated and noticed and that a difference is being made.

Two of the volunteers have started to transcribe inscriptions from headstones on days other than the monthly clearing sessions, a good example of how others could help in their own time.

Carisbrooke Cemeteries (Tony Barton)

We carried out a number of successful clearing sessions at Carisbrooke Cemeteries tackling a couple of Yew trees which had completely overgrown a number of headstones, in fact, until we began to tackle the job, we couldn't see how many headstones there were.

This produced quite a lot of green waste – normally we remove this ourselves but on this occasion it was too much for us and the Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council helped by arranging for its removal.



Where we encountered holly, and other shrubs with berries, we took special care to leave the berries untouched for the birds to have over winter.

A couple of newspaper transcriptions (animals causing problems):

**Isle of Wight County Press 11 August 1951
NEWPORT**

Did Not Like the Show. – A Starling gate-crashed at the Medina Cinema, on Saturday, but did not like the show. At first the bird found a perch near the concealed lighting in the roof, but when the lights came on, hurriedly left to find somewhere else to perch. The audience paid little attention to the advertisements, but watched the antics of the bird, first trying to perch on an object shown on the screen, and then on the smooth face of the proscenium. When the lights went out again, the bird flew rapidly up and down from the screen to the projector, and then escaped from the cinema through the operator's observation window.

**Isle of Wight County Press 17 October 1953
NEWPORT**

No Assault Charge ! – When on early morning duty this week-end in St. James's Square P.C. G. Parslow saw a runaway steer going through the town. He caught it in Quay Street with the aid of a passer-by. As he grasped its horns the animal trod on the constable's foot and then kicked out and caught him on the ankle. The beast was returned to Nine Acres, from which it had escaped, and P.C. Parslow found walking his beat somewhat painful for a few days.

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

It has been very quiet here apart from the birds who have taken advantage of all the berries on the trees as well as the food we put out. The Jays and magpies are more adventurous and have been feeding nearer to our house and the green woodpecker has been around more too.

There are also lots of signs about from the badgers looking for bugs and worms.

There are a number of Commonwealth War Grave Commission graves in the cemetery remembering those who died in the two World Wars; this year we remembered them for Remembrance Day by putting a poppy on each grave.

The windy weather recently has brought down a couple of big branches and over the Christmas period we will clearing quite a few brambles that have taken over a few graves.

Memorial transcriptions:

As well as adding inscriptions from photographs, two of the clearing volunteers have now started transcribing inscriptions at Newport Cemetery in their own time – on sunny winter days it's a satisfying way to get out into the open air.

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.

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 due to 19th century Health and Safety at work: (Tony Barton)

In the 21st century we expect that people work in safe environments with appropriate equipment etc., but standards were not so strict over 100 years ago and deaths at work were not uncommon, here are just two.

William Langley

In 1894, William Langley, a father of 14 children, was living with his wife and younger children in Elm Grove. He was an engineer and millwright working at Messrs. Whittome's, Vectis Iron Works in Orchard Street/Upper St. James's Street, Newport (located between the Board School and St. Thomas' burial ground (today, Church Litten park)).

On this particular day he was involved with moving a lathe in the machine shop where overhead shafts were used to power the machines. William raised a ladder so he could fix a sling change over a beam. The next thing the other workers knew was William's clothes became entangled with a rotating shaft, pulling him off the ladder and up to the ceiling, which stopped the shaft.

When his workmates cut him down he was conscious and a doctor was called who ordered him taken home where he survived for a few days. The doctor told the inquest that William had suffered injuries to his spinal column which had paralysed the lower part of his body.

Although the HM Factory Inspectorate were represented at the inquest, there was no reported criticism of the working practices in the Works.

The family seems to have managed William's death, at the following census his wife was still living at Elm Grove, now just with her parents and one of her sons.

William was buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery, interestingly the inscription on his headstone includes "passed peacefully away" - his wife died in 1925 and was buried in the same grave.

Henry James

The following year (1895), Henry James, a mariner was living in Sea Street, Newport with his young wife and six children; his story not only reflects the sorry state of 'health and safety', but also the generosity of the community to the surviving wife and family before the welfare state.

One dark and foggy Monday morning in November Henry and a companion took a lighter along the river to Cowes. When they arrived around 2 o'clock in the morning, Henry took a rope ashore to moor it but appears to have fallen overboard – his companion just heard him fall and couldn't see him in the dark. The river was dragged in the area without success. It was nearly four weeks later that his body was found washed up on the beach at East Cowes. The inquest returned a verdict of 'accidental death' and Henry was buried in Newport Cemetery

At the time the first reports were published, his wife and children were described as being in 'almost destitute circumstances.' Having obviously lost her husband's income, the most likely help would have come from the Guardians of The Poor; which could well have meant having to go into the Workhouse. However a subscription list was started on the family's behalf by Mr. William Ledicott, a Newport shopkeeper. The Newport mayor contributed a guinea, and the Island MP a sovereign - by the end of November the fund totalled about £25 which was placed in the hands of the borough treasurer who intended to allowed 10s a week to the family for as long as the fund allowed. The fund closed in December (the final sum collected isn't known). A further list was opened by William Ledicott to buy toys for the six children Christmas.

Just over two years later, Henry's widow, Amelia Ann, married Henry Odell (20 years her senior) at St. Thomas's Church. So Amelia appears to have managed to keep her family out of the Workhouse and found a new life for them all.

[[Note: the main details in the above come from newspaper reports which have been transcribed and added to the websites – just two of many.

<https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/grave-search/research-list.php>]]

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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