



# 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. 19, February 2022

Welcome to newsletter number 19 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)



*St Paul's 'old' Cemetery, north of St Paul's church, Staplers Road*

### Where are we? (Tony Barton)

With the relaxation of the Covid restrictions, we now seem to be restricted just by the number of volunteers and the weather.

With the coming of Spring, why not join us at one of our clearing sessions, or help us by transcribing memorial inscriptions (this is something you can do at your convenience, best to work in pairs), or join our team transcribing obituaries from newspaper cuttings we would supply; just email if you are interested [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com).

We've recently established a public Facebook Group which allows anyone to view but only members to post - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4318199401618337> . So, sign up and post pictures you've taken in the cemetery or tell up about your family buried in them.

As an aside, a Friends group has also been started for the Ventnor Cemetery, and their Facebook group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/452391526149287/> which might be of interest to anyone with family members buried there.

Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome, just send an email or message through our Facebook Group. You'll notice that we don't strictly just adhere to cemetery topics, so anything related to Newport or Carisbrooke would be considered.

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

We have been quite fortunate recently with most of the clearing sessions at Newport Cemetery (Fairlee Road) able to go ahead and our small team of dedicated volunteers have worked hard to make what we hope is a noticeable difference to the cemetery.

This year is of course, the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, marking her remarkable 70 years on the throne, a unique event in our history. A previous celebration, that of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 was quite an event on the island and for Newport in particular. Her Majesty paid a visit to the town on 22 July and huge crowds turned out to see her.



The Town Clerk, the Town Sergeant and the Mayor were of course all present. To mark the occasion a knighthood was conferred on the Mayor, Sir Francis Pittis. He died in November 1889 and is buried in Fairlee Road Cemetery.



Sir Francis Pittis memorial in Newport Cemetery

Another event in the town to celebrate Victoria's Jubilee took place on 28 June 1887 when the foundation stone was laid for the clock tower at the Guildhall.



I don't think we can expect such extravagant and spectacular scenes this year!



## Carisbrooke Cemetery (Tony Barton)

In the last three months, we managed to hold two sessions at Carisbrooke Cemetery; during both of those sessions, the efforts of the volunteers achieved significant progress in the areas addressed.

During the period, the Council Contractors cut down the long grass at the west end of the cemetery which is considered a 'managed conservation area', being chalk downland largely untouched for probably over a hundred years. This has allowed the graves in the area to be more easily accessed and should allow the wild flowers to grow back over the coming months to be enjoyed by visitors and provide habitat for butterflies etc.

During the December session we began to tidy up around the graves of the Countess of Clare and associated burials. We had addressed the area sometime ago but it was beginning to look a bit scruffy, and being a large memorial visible from the footpath across the top of Mount Joy, it deserves to be kept fairly tidy.

The January session was on a rather windy Saturday, so we left the Countess for another day. We moved our efforts down the slope, more out of the wind, and attacked a new area and managed to reveal some completely hidden memorials overwhelmed by a Yew tree and ivy. Here are some of the before/after pictures.



Before and after, the corner & memorial cross on the grave of Thomas Denyer



Before and after – the memorial cross of Benjamin & Ann Midlane

Regretfully, the February session had to be cancelled due to a poor weather forecast.

At the next session we'll have a choice, we could finish off around the Countess's grave or carry on around the Yew tree.

### From the IW County Press newspaper of old:

Looking through the IW County Press archive for obituaries etc, one often comes across other interesting information. One such report from 18 March 1939 was a list, with prices, of properties sold by Mr. A. D. Dockrill, auctioneer of Messrs. Francis Pittis and Son.

Note: house numbers may have changed since 1939.

£100 in 1939 equates to roughly £7,000 in 2022.

84 Pyle street - £380	Bella Vista, Cowes road - £550
85 Pyle street - £380	3, 5, 7, 9, & 11 Cross lanes - £130
5, 7, & 9 New street - £700	5 & 6 Victoria road - £295
48 & 50 New street - £470	1, 2, 3, & 4 Clifton cottages, Carisbrooke - £425
14 New street - £230	5 & 6 Clifton cottages, Carisbrooke - £250
16 & 18 New street - £435	18, 19, & 20 Field place - £475
30 Orchard street - £100	1 Hearn street - £205
5 Castle View, Worsley road - £250	6 & 7 Westminster place - £195
72 & 74 Hunnyhill - £450	

#### From the days when Newport was a farming market town:

Isle of Wight County Press 13 January 1917

#### NEWPORT

**BULL IN CHINA SHOP** - On Monday a bullock intruded into the entrance of Messrs. Wadham's furniture and china establishment in High-street, and in turning round in the somewhat confined space for an animal of its size, the intruder backed against the large plate-glass window on the lower side with the result that the glass was broken and some valuable china smashed.

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

There are signs of spring bulbs beginning to appear in the cemetery which should present the usual colourful display in a few weeks.

Storm Eunice brought down one tree alongside the cycle track which runs along the west side of the cemetery. Luckily the tree came to rest on another tree in the cemetery which stopped it from hitting the ground and possibly damaging any graves..



Fallen tree, St Paul's Cemetery

### **Memorial transcriptions:**

As well as adding inscriptions from photographs, two of the clearing volunteers are making good progress transcribing inscriptions at Newport Cemetery in their own time – they seem to be getting much satisfaction from deciphering inscriptions on memorials well over one hundred years old.

New volunteers would be welcome, either as part of our clearing sessions or at times of their own choice, to survey and transcribe inscriptions on memorials – don't think of it as a drudge, think of it as a good excuse to get out in the Spring weather - just email if you are interested [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto: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 - Alderman George Snow, B.E.M., J.P. : (Tony Barton)**

It's often useful when writing about the life of somebody to start off with a sentence or two summarising their life and achievements; however with the life of George Snow I found that rather hard. So I'll begin by looking at his family life, then cover his religious work, followed by his work for the ordinary worker and round off with his Council activities.

## Family life:

George was born in 1873<sup>1</sup> at Wootton, the first of six children of Charles and Ellen Snow. The 1881 and 1891 censuses show the family living at Chawton Cottages, near St John's Church Northwood – with Charles as a Farm Labourer/Servant. The funeral report for George mentions that at the age of ten he was working 80 hours a week in a brickyard for six shillings – living at Chawton Cottages, the brickyard could possibly have been the Werrar Brick Works on the bank of the River Medina.

George married Fanny Louisa Horsford at Christ Church, Sandown on 9 July 1895.

The 1901 census finds George as a Gardener, Domestic, with his wife Fanny and their first three children at Lushington. George's details probably don't tell the full story as according to his obituary, he was an agricultural worker on the Royal Osborne and Barton Estates and was amongst the employees allowed to view Queen Victoria's lying-in-state in 1901.

The 1911 census finds the family at Alverstone Lodge on the Barton Estate with George as a Farm Labourer.

After the First World War, George left the Osborne/Barton Estates and took the position of Curator at the Barton St Paul's Cemetery and the family moved into the lodge there. He would also have been responsible for the old cemetery to the north of St Paul's Barton churchyard. From his obituary "his floricultural skills were always in evidence in the care with which he kept the graves and grounds" (those were the days!)

Fanny, his wife, died after a long illness, at the Cemetery Lodge in October 1944 and, following a service in the Lodge, was buried in the Cemetery. George resigned as Cemetery Curator the following month.

When George stood for election to the County Council in 1946, his address was given as Rawalpindi, Fairlee Road (near Mews Lane). In his retirement he maintained a small-holding at Halberry where he also kept pigs and poultry.

In the 1955 New Year's honours list, George was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to agriculture.

His nomination for Borough Councillor in 1950 gives his address as 17 Coppins Bridge where he lived with his son, Arthur Frank, and daughter-in-law until he died 22 September 1960.

George was buried next to his wife in Barton St Paul's Cemetery following a funeral in Quay Street, Methodist Church attended by representatives of the wide range of organisations he was connected with during his long, and useful life.

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<sup>1</sup> In the 1939 Register, George's date of birth is given 26 May 1874, however I'm confident that he was born in 1873. This 'error' might be explained by the fact the marriage of his parents was recorded in the first quarter (January to March) of 1873.

The plots of his and his wife's graves have a kerb surrounding with a headstone – sadly the grave is overgrown and the headstone has fallen down and so is unreadable.



George & Fanny Snow's grave, St Paul's Cemetery

### **Religious worker:**

George had followed the family tradition of Methodist and became a lay preacher, being added to the Methodist List in 1903 and remaining on it until he died; his obituary records that he would walk from Whippingham to Chale and back to preach at the Chale Chapel.

In the 1930's he was President of the Newport Congregational PSA Brotherhood<sup>2</sup>.

### **Workers' Champion:**

As well as caring about the spiritual side of his fellow men, George took an interest in their physical conditions; for 30 years he was Island branch secretary or chairman of the National Union of Agricultural Workers and served as the worker's representative on the Local Agricultural Wages Committee from 1917 to the early 1950's. From 1939 to 1950 he held the position as a workers' representative on the I.W. War Agricultural Executive Committee.

In the 1920's, George was a founder member of the IW Divisional Labour Party and from the late 1920's to the early 1930's was its president. At various times he was chairman of the Island Labour Party and held the presidency of the Cowes and Newport Co-Operative Society.

### **Civic worker:**

George first appears to have served his community on the Whippingham Parish Council on which he served for 20 years.

George was appointed a Justice of the Peace in the 1920's.

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<sup>2</sup> The Pleasant Sunday Afternoon (PSA) Brotherhood was a non-Conformist Church national organisation whose basic aim was to win over working-class men to Nonconformist churches. PSA meetings were generally held on Sunday afternoons, and revolved around bible study and prayers. Meetings were meant to be relatively brief (up to 45 minutes), interesting, not over-educational nor boring and friendly - the three B's - Brief, Bright and Brotherly.



In 1928, then living at the Cemetery Lodge, George was elected as County Councillor for the North-East Newport division; subsequently he represented the Pan area on the County Council until he was defeated in 1946 by J. W. Coare, a representative supported by the Newport Ratepayers' Association. However, George continued to serve his community as Councillor for the Fairlee Ward on Newport Borough Council until 1950.

Having lost the services of George as an elected County Councillor, George was elected a County Alderman so he could continue to serve the County.

While serving on the County Council, George served on all the main committees at various times and was especially prominent in the work of the Roads and Small Holding Committee.

At the time of his death, George was the "Father" of the County Council (i.e. the longest serving member.)

He had also served on the old Board of Guardians, and when the County Council took over the authority in 1930, he became a leading member of the supervisory committee.

George had been a member of the old IW Hospital Visiting Committee and after the introduction of the NHS, he joined the house committees of St. Mary's and Whitecroft hospitals and continued as a member of the later until his death.

**NOTE:**

*The above details of George Snow's life and achievement is largely based on the obituary and funeral reports in the Isle of Wight County Press, however checking other sources provided clarifications. I haven't been able to check everything, so the above may contain some errors, but I'm sure the overall impression of George won't be adversely affected. Thanks to Richard Smout for his input.*

**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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