



Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

www.foncc.org.uk



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

facebook.com/groups/4318199401618337

Newsletter No. 21, August 2022

Welcome to newsletter number 21 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 we are always looking for volunteers– see further down this newsletter how you could help us and others interested in the local cemeteries. If you don't wish to receive future newsletters, 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



Newport Cemetery – with green grass, so before the drought

Where are we? (Tony Barton)

The last three months have been rather strange regarding clearing sessions in the cemeteries – we've managed a few but had to cancel some due to poor weather and some due to high temperatures.

Those with connections to burials at Carisbrooke Cemetery, may like to note that the contractors have cut the grass in the old parts of the cemetery, so access to the graves is easier in these sections.

We've continued to transcribe headstone inscriptions, and newspaper cuttings etc. with the usual volunteers; new volunteers always welcome.

Also welcome would be any ideas on how we can extend our activities or improve things. Just email your comments/suggestions chair.foncc@gmail.com

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 welcome.

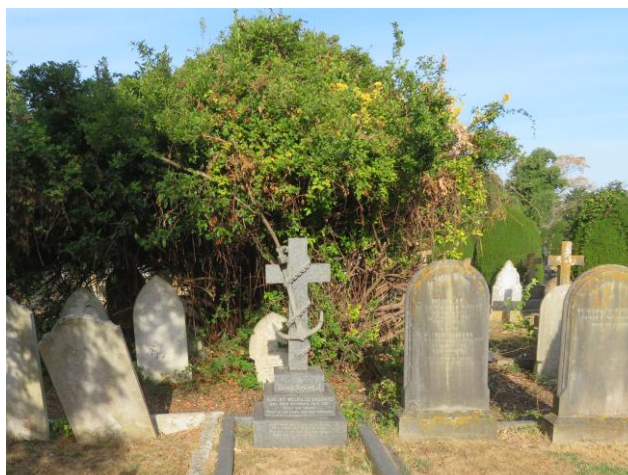
YOU CAN HELP by volunteering at one of our clearing sessions or help transcribe memorial inscriptions or transcribing newspaper cuttings (we'll find them, and send them to you) or by writing a piece about someone buried here either for the website or newsletter or provide help in any other way you can think of.

Newport Cemetery (Tony Barton)

We had some clearing sessions at Newport Cemetery, and managed to cut back some vegetation near the entrance from Fairlee Road. Shown here are part of group of grave markers for the Shepard family which were beginning to be overwhelmed by vegetation from behind. Our activities produced quite a mass of green waste which the Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council kindly arranged to have removed.



The Shepard markers before and after



Carisbrooke Cemetery (Tony Barton)

We continued our monthly meetings at Carisbrooke Cemetery clearing vegetation of overgrown graves.

In one session, we revealed the two memorials we were seeking inside a shrub:

Jane, widow of Robert Cooper, died 1890

and

Ernest Albert Westmore, aged 5, died 1890, son of Walter & K. Westmore

there was also a memorial to another child of the Westmore family behind the markers shown, Francis Edgar Westmore, 11 months, died 1895. Sadly, it not uncommon to find a number of graves for children from the same family in this period.



As you'll see, a couple of volunteers also transcribed the inscriptions on the grave markers revealed (now added to the website together with pictures.)



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

St Paul's Cemetery is full of wildlife, having taken part in the July butterfly count, quite a variety were recorded this year:

1 large white	2 comma
2 small white	6 common blue
1 small copper	5 holly blue
8 gatekeeper	9 six-spotted burnet
3 ringlet	1 jersey tiger
5 speckled wood	

Steve has also seen a quite large hedgehog wandering down the cemetery one evening which we are happy about as we've not seen one for a few years. Over the last few weeks, once dark, we have also been looking for glow worms. We have seen up to five dotted around the cemetery - they appear from the end of July to mid August. They are amazing to see.

Memorial transcriptions:

The volunteers transcribing memorial inscriptions at Newport Cemetery should be congratulated on having completed Section C, Consecrated. This now means that all memorials in this section have been photographed and images added to the website together with the inscriptions.

The volunteers are now preparing to tackle another section – it is slow progress and other volunteers would be welcome – think of it as a good excuse to get out in the Summer/Autumn sunshine. Just email if you are interested chair.foncc@gmail.com.

The Website:

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', now numbering some 1600, are attached to individual records and also listed alphabetically - see website [BURIALS/Research Notes](#). Smaller reports have been added to the individual records themselves.

Previously we've just transcribed cuttings relating to those buried in the cemeteries, however we've begun to transcribe the obituaries/funerals for some of the local 'great and the good' who were not. Two such are *Owen Day* and *Alexander Sharp*; both businessmen whose names were well known in Newport in the not too distance past.

Buried here: (Tony Barton)

Two impressive Military Funerals – one from the Barracks, one from the Town.

Two of the early burials at Carisbrooke Cemetery after it opened in 1858 were the military funerals of Quartermaster Thomas Morton Moore from Parkhurst Barracks in March 1860, and Rifleman Private William Cripps Young of the No. 2, Company of Rifle Volunteers from Newport in March 1861.

From the Barracks - Quartermaster Thomas Morton Moore.¹

Quartermaster Thomas Morton Moore was just 44 years old when he died at Parkhurst Barracks. Despite his age he had had an eventful career in the army; his memorial records his service in India, the Afghan and Sutleji campaigns, as well as being wounded while serving in the Crimean war. In total he had been present at 36 engagements and received 4 medals and six clasps, as well as being awarded the Turkish Order of the Medjidi – (with the sun at the right angle across the memorial, the inscription is still readable.)



The cortege for Quartermaster Moore's funeral left Parkhurst Barracks in the early afternoon of Wednesday 28th March 1860 and by half past two the muffled drums and the subdued strains of the "Dead March," could be heard by those thronging the streets of Newport. A company of the 22nd. Regiment with arms reversed led the way down Hunnyhill. After them came the band of the Devon Militia Artillery accompanied by the fife and drums of the regiment. Next came the coffin of Quartermaster Moore, covered over with a well-worn Union Jack, placed upon the gun itself on a gun carriage. Upon the coffin were his sword, hat, medals and decorations. The gun carriage was drawn by about twenty of the Devon Artillery. Then followed the Staff Officers of the battalion and hundreds of other ranks from the different depots stationed at Parkhurst, *"in fact, all who were not on necessary duty."* On reaching the bottom of Hunnyhill the doleful "Dead March," gave way to the time honoured "Portugal," played by the fifes and drums as they proceeded along Lower St. James Street, upon reaching the Star Hotel (the corner of Lugley Street/St. James street) the Newport Freemasons left their Lodge and fell in at the rear, the deceased being *"a free and accepted Mason."*

By three o'clock the procession had reached Carisbrooke Cemetery and an impressive service was conducted inside the chapel by the Military Chaplain of the garrison. Then the coffin was carried by six non-commissioned officers wearing black sashes to the graveside. After the burial service, three volleys were fired over the grave and the procession reformed and marched back to the Barracks with bayonets fixed and more merry tunes being played.

A contemporary newspaper recorded that 'never before did such numbers throng the Cemetery' and that 'the effect of so much tramping upon the turf and flower borders will be sadly visible for many a month to come.'

¹ IW Observer, 31 March 1860

From the Town - Rifleman Private William Cripps Young.²

Nearly a year to the day later in March 1861, the local No. 2, Company of Rifle Volunteers did their proud duty at the funeral of Rifleman Private William Cripps Young, aged just 20 years. He was the first rifleman to be buried following the raising of the Volunteer Corps. The Volunteer Corps being roughly similar to the modern local Territorial Army Regiment.

William had previously been employed at Mr. Mew's brewery and the Burial Register records his occupation as 'Writing Clerk', there being no mention of the military connection. William had died from consumption; both his parents having previously succumbed to the same complaint and had been buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Carisbrooke where the headstone for Louisa, his mother, still stands. At the time of his death William was living, together with a couple of his siblings, as 'orphan boarders' in Chapel Street.

At half past 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the funeral³, the No. 2, Company of Rifle Volunteers commanded by their Captain, A. H. Estcourt, esq., mustered – between 80 and 90 strong – in full parade dress, with plumes at the armoury in Quay-street, Newport. With the band playing "The Dead March", they slowly followed the bier, which was borne by the assistants at Mr. Mew's brewery, along the High Street and St James Street, to the house of mourning in Chapel street, the way being thronged by a large gathering of locals.

Then on to Carisbrooke Cemetery, by the time they had reached New Village (Castle Road) the crowd had increased, and continued swelling till the procession reached the Cemetery, where many hundreds had assembled and taken their stand. The number assembled being about 3,000. Here the officiating clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Bull, Curate of Carisbrooke, commenced the funeral service. The coffin being placed in its grave and the service ended, three volleys were fired over the grave.

The Company then formed-up four deep and returned to Newport, headed by the band, with drums divested of their funeral trappings, playing "Thou art gone from our gaze," and then "Those evening bells."

As after the funeral of Quatermaster Moore, the newspapers reported that much damaged had been done to the grass and planting in the ground by the numbers attending the funeral.

William's grave is unmarked, the headstone next to his plot is that of Rebecca Cripps, his landlady in Chapel Street.

² Hampshire Advertiser, Isle of Wight Observer, and Hampshire Telegraph – all 16 March 1861

³ The Burial Register records the burial as 15 March 1861, which was a Friday; the various newspaper reports refer to the burial taking place on 'Thursday afternoon', which would have been the 14 March.

Many more military funerals took place over the years at each of the cemeteries, often for ex-servicemen whose descriptions in the burial registers didn't indicate any military connection. These military funerals are often only known about because they were reported in the columns of the local newspapers. While troops were stationed at Parkhurst, they would often supply a firing party and bugler for such funerals.

The V-1 Flying-Bombs - 25/26 June 1944 – Carisbrooke Road & North Fairlee (previously appeared on the Facebook Group, but this newsletter has a different audience)

The night of 25/26 June marked the anniversary of the night in 1944 when two V-1 flying-bombs (aka doodle-bugs) dropped to earth and exploded in the Newport area. They had probably been intended for Southampton but had run out of fuel over the Island.

One flying-bomb exploded in North Fairlee with little damage, and no casualties. The minutes of the General Purposes Committee of Newport Borough 29 August 1944 refer to a barn needing to be rebuilt at North Fairlee Farm due to war damage; this could have been as a result of the flying-bomb.

The other flying-bomb dropped and exploded near, what is now, the junction of Wellington Road and Carisbrooke Road. From a WVS report⁴ of the time, this caused "vast amount of damage to the houses and ... miraculously few casualties: only one death through blast and 14 persons" needing First Aid attention.

The WVS report also recorded that "Mrs. Dufton's house [**141 Carisbrooke Road**] being badly damaged in the raid and Mrs. Perry [wife of Rev. W. E. Perry, **72 Carisbrooke Road**] very ill — she died the following day. 27 families were eventually billeted...." The property at 72 Carisbrooke Road seems possibly too far away to have received any significant damage.

Unlike previous air raids, the incident wasn't reported in the local press as the national policy at the time was a total news blackout of V1 'hits', damage and casualties.

The death was of a pedestrian, George Henry Woodmore, manager of 'John Sheath', corn merchants of Upper St James's Street, Newport (now the site of McDonalds) who died on Carisbrooke Road.

Buried on the same day as George Woodmore was Emily Chiverton, housekeeper to Percy and George Long of **136 Carisbrooke Road**, she died in St Mary's Hospital, having been

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/86/a2885286.shtml>

taken there “..suffering from shock...”; no doubt a flying-bomb damaging one’s house would cause ‘shock’. However, Emily was not recorded as a Civilian War death.

A few more details of the events on that night were given when Percy Long died in Brighstone in August 1944; his obituary in the IW County Press included “..He had gone to stay at Brighstone since his residence at **136 Carisbrooke-road** was recently damaged by enemy action...”

May 1946 saw another piece of ‘the story’ emerge when Ada Maria Pittis died and her obituary recorded “...When a flying bomb fell near her home [**145 Carisbrooke Road**] at the end of June, 1944, badly damaging it, Miss Pittis had a miraculous escape.”

A few months later in August 1946, Alfred Percy Knight, of **139 Carisbrooke Road** died and his obituary included “...Mr. Knight had been in poor health since his home was wrecked by a flying bomb just over two years ago...”

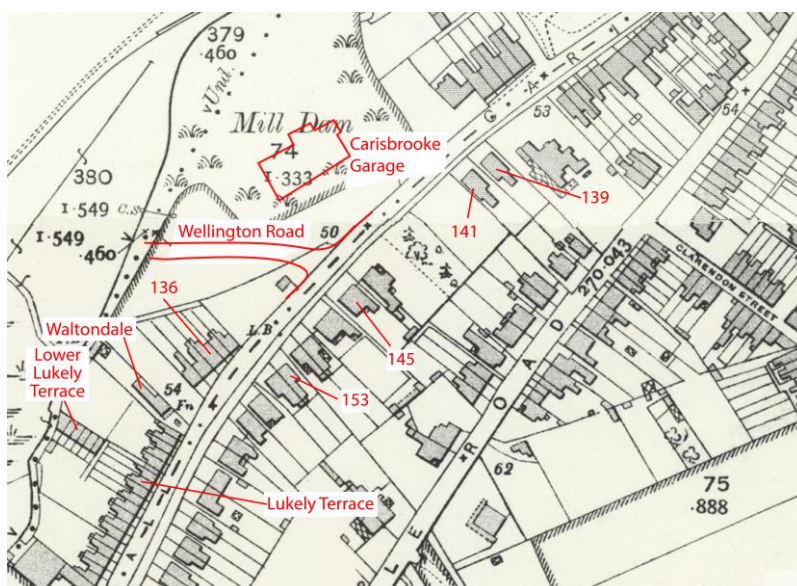
George Robert Barrett (an ‘esteemed’ member of the IWCP staff) was living at **153 Carisbrooke Road** with his widowed sister during the war, and when he died in 1948 his obituary recorded that “...heavy burdens fell on his shoulders, particularly when the “County Press” premises and his own house suffered damage by enemy action.”

When posted on our Facebook group, the following comment was received:

Barbara Wilkins:

“I was living at 152 Carisbrooke road at that time, in the Lukely Terrace above Waltondale, our ceilings came down and windows blew out, I was about 11 years old, wooden houses behind ours got blown to forty degree angle, weird to see workmen just came pushed/pulled them up straight again, and people just carried on with life.”

The marked-up 1906 map below shows the properties recorded as being damaged (and also the locations of modern-day Wellington Road and Carisbrooke Garage), it’s inconceivable that other properties weren’t damaged.



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 or our Facebook group for details.

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FoNCC, c/o 138 Worsley Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5JB United Kingdom

