



# 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*

[facebook.com/groups/4318199401618337](https://facebook.com/groups/4318199401618337)

## Newsletter No. 23, February 2023

Welcome to newsletter number 23 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](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)



*First signs of Spring in Newport Cemetery*

### Where are we? (Tony Barton)

We've continued to clear graves in both Newport and Carisbrooke cemeteries as well as transcribing headstone inscriptions, and newspaper cutting etc. with the usual volunteers.

Despite my comments in the last newsletter, I've not received any contributions; I'll try to keep finding 'interesting' items to include in future issues but any contributions would be welcome to keep the newsletters going, just send an email or message through our Facebook Group.

Also welcome would be any ideas on how you can help and contribute to the group. Just email your comments/suggestions [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com)

## **The volunteers:**

We were pleased to welcome a number of new volunteers at Newport Cemetery for a clearing session in February.

## **Grave clearance:**

Grave clearing continues when weather permits; with the coming of bird nesting season, we'll have to be careful not to disturb them.

## **Memorial transcriptions:**

The volunteers transcribing memorial inscriptions at Newport Cemetery continue their work

It's interesting what such transcriptions throw up. Take this memorial to Donald Rossi, aged 16 who died 6 January 1941; the burial register just identified him as 'son of A & A Rossi.' The memorial actually includes an Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) badge; with that and the date, it looked as if he died during war service. In fact, researching the local paper revealed that he was an AFS messenger and actually died after an operation for appendicitis. But he was obviously popular with the fireman across the Island as his coffin was borne on the Fire Brigade tender in procession to the church and then to the Cemetery with nearly 60 brigade and A.F.S. personnel and messengers representing the Brigade from the principal towns.



The memorial stone was erected by the Island Fire Services - <https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/grave-search/burial/10008> .

With the approach of Spring, others may like to consider becoming involved, it is a good excuse to get out in the open air during fine spells of weather. There are plenty of inscriptions at Newport, Carisbrooke and St. Paul's cemeteries which need transcribing; so you have a choice. Just email if you are interested [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto: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 nearly 1800, 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)

### Captain Charles Beauchamp Killeen, and his family

Charles Beauchamp Killeen was born in Newport, son of Mr. James Edward Killeen (died 1936, buried Carisbrooke Cemetery) a publican, who, at various times, kept the Sun Inn, the Antelope, and the Castle and Banner public houses in the district. Charles joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1902 as a boy bugler, and rose to the rank of captain. He served in South Africa and India, and from there his regiment was rushed to France at the outbreak of the First World War. For the greater part of the war he saw active service abroad, although for about the last year, he was stationed at Canterbury, Sheffield, and then as riding master at Hilsea Barracks, Portsmouth.



Capt. Killeen & son's grave  
Mrs. Killeen & daughter, same style  
of marker, behind, left

In 1917 he married Miss Agnes Rosa Osborne, a daughter of Mr. Frank Osborne, a prison officer at Parkhurst; the wedding took place at St. Thomas's Church, Newport; they had two children, a son and a daughter. Mrs. Killeen accompanied her husband at the home stations, and after the war she went with the regiment to Iraq. They went on occasions to a hill station at Karind, Persia, a place which inspired the choice of name for their Newport home in Fairlee Road. They returned from Iraq about 1921, and on leaving the Army Captain Killeen set up a riding school in Shanklin.

Between the wars he formed the Wight Rodeo Riders, at the outset training a troupe of local amateurs. Such was their skill and attraction that they were in demand at agricultural shows and other events in many parts of the British Isles. They gave thrilling displays of Argentine gaucho riding, trick riding, Roman massed riding, and Cossack and Indian cavalry sport exhibitions (including tent pegging and mounted swordsmanship), completing the programme with rope spinning and lassoing. The Rodeos were in Jersey when the Second World War broke out, and Captain Killeen was faced with the difficult task of arranging an immediate return, including shipment of the horses.

Captain Killeen had closed his Shanklin riding school about 1935, and opened another in Fairlee Road, Newport, the family moving into Karind, adjoining the school, in 1938. The outbreak of the war saw the virtual closure of the school and the disbandment of the Rodeos.

Captain Killeen was founder-commander of the Newport Home Guard, whom he trained to a high degree of smartness. He was then called for service as a member of the Army Reserve of Officers and his duties included inspection of guns at Royal Artillery stations.

During the war his son, Beauchamp Valentine Killeen, was killed whilst serving in the Home Guard and was buried in Newport Cemetery with a family memorial now cared for by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission.

After the war Captain Killeen resumed riding instruction on a civilian basis, acting as administrator at a Brambles Holiday Camp riding school and conducting a school at Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp. He taught children all the year and holiday visitors in the summer. He was actively engaged in this pursuit until shortly before his death in August 1960.

He showed a practical interest in the Royal I.W. Agricultural Society shows, being associated with the show for many years, acting as assembly officer - an important job in the light horse classes.

Captain Killeen was buried in the same grave as his son in Newport Cemetery.

Mrs. Killeen worked in Newport head Post Office during the war; when she died in 1965 she was buried near her husband and son. Their daughter, Barbara Marion Rosa Killeen, died in 2014 and was buried in the same grave as her mother.

### Old newspapers:

**Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle, 31 March 1861  
NEWPORT**

*The knockers, bell-pulls, and scrapers of the inhabitants have been subjected to wholesale destruction during the past week, the police have been actively engaged in endeavouring to apprehend the offenders, and we are happy to hear that early on Thursday morning P.C. Stubbs detected two officers of the garrison in the very act of performing this disgraceful operation. They were followed to a house of ill-fame in the neighbourhood of Hearn-street, where no less than thirteen knockers were found in the pockets of one, and nine in the other; and it has become a question for the consideration of the Magistrates whether they shall be indicted for felony or charged with having committed wilful damage and spoil.*

### Help with fuel bills for the Poor (1832 style):



Built into the parapet of the bridge at the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Newport High Street are stones bearing the inscription:

*“NEWPORT REFORM WHARF. The land on which this wharf is erected was given by the CORPORATION of this Borough TO THE CHURCH wardens & Overseers For the benefit of the Poor For the term of 30 Years*

*First Stone laid 1832. R. CAPLEN & S. PRING - Church wardens”*

The Reform Wharf allowed coal to be landed there and sold free of harbour dues. The 1832 newspaper advertisement below is obviously targeted at larger purchasers than individual poor families of the borough.

**REFORM.**  
**NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.**  
**COALS** are now delivering at Pring's Reform Wharf, near Coppin's Bridge, at the following low prices:—Stouber's prime Walls-End, at 26s. per Chaldron, and 9d. per Bushel; very superior Lambton's Primrose, at 29s. per Chaldron, and 10d. per Bushel.

*Advert from Hampshire Telegraph 23 January 1832*

The stones, originally, on the west side of the river, had been obscured for many years until they were uncovered in 1961 during flood prevention work being carried out in the river between Coppins Bridge and Ford Mill (at the bottom of Pyle Street).

The stones would have been obscured when the footpath on the bridge was widened in the mid 1960's so they were moved and built into the new parapet of the bridge.

Robert Caplen (buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery 11 February 1881) was a draper in Newport High Street, while Samuel Pring (buried at Newport Cemetery 29 March 1865) was a coal merchant and ship owner, also of Newport, High Street.

### **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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