



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. 24, May 2023

Welcome to newsletter number 24 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



Carisbrooke Cemetery

Where are we? (Tony Barton)

Currently the entrance to Newport cemetery from Fairlee Road is closed due to the state of the entrance arch, so we have had to suspend clearing sessions there and are conducting two clearing sessions per month at Carisbrooke cemetery (1st and 3rd Saturdays). Pedestrian access to Newport Cemetery is via steps from Newport Quay.

We received some help from the Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council earlier this year when they arranged clearance of some cuttings we had accumulated at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Apart from the change in clearing sessions, the other volunteers have continued transcribing headstone inscriptions, and newspaper cutting etc.

This April was the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Newport in 1943, the Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council have organised a Service of Remembrance for those killed to be held at St. John's Church, Newport at 11am on 9th June.

Any contributions or suggestions for future newsletter would be welcome, also any ideas on how you can help and contribute to the group. Just email your comments/suggestions chair.foncc@gmail.com

Grave clearance:

Grave clearing continues at Carisbrooke Cemetery when weather permits. Depending on the number of people who turn up at future sessions, we could begin transcribing memorial inscriptions at the same time.



Memorial transcriptions:

The volunteers transcribing memorial inscriptions at Newport Cemetery have completed another couple of sections and the website updated. They are now continuing their efforts in other sections.

With the fine weather, 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 .

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 over 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)

Sir Frederick William Black, K.C.B.

In part of Carisbrooke Cemetery is a group of graves for one family, the Black's, where Charles Black, a carpenter, and his wife, Kezia (who died 1862 and 1871 respectively) are within a few yards of their descendants who died up to the 1980's.

One of those descendants was Sir Frederick William Black, K.C.B.

Sir Frederick William Black, born 1863, was the second son of Frederick William Black senior (a solicitor's clerk) and Martha (nee James), of Westminster House¹, Newport.

Frederick William jun. was educated at the Newport Grammar School from the age of nine years, and on more than one occasion he won the prize given by the Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany. Later in his life he endowed the school with the Watts Memorial prize in memory of his headmaster. He afterwards graduated as Bachelor of Arts at London University, with honours in the English language and literature. He passed the examination in open competition for the Civil Service; initially



Grave of Sir Frederick William Black, K.C.B.
(with parent's grave to the right)

¹ Westminster House, Old Westminster Lane, grade 2 listed, C18 mill-house.

working in the Colonial Office, and then, following a further examination, working at the Admiralty.

He served at the Admiralty at various stations abroad, and progressed to the post of Director of Naval Stores, and further promotion took him to the position of Director of Naval Contracts. His service was recognised when he was knighted by George V in 1913, his name appearing with that of his fellow islander Edgar Chatfeild-Clarke (buried in Newport Cemetery) in the King's Birthday Honours list of Knight Bachelor.

During his Admiralty service he went on a tour of inspection practically around the world, the stations visited including Hong Kong, China, and the Canadian yard, and he went to Peking (today, Beijing) with special official letters just before the siege of the Legations during the Boxer rising (1899 to 1901). After the outbreak of WW1 Sir Frederick was involved with the organization of the supply of munitions, and in August, 1915, his services were lent to the Ministry of Munitions as Director-General of Munitions Supply.

Early in 1917 he was sent to India to assist the Government there in the supply of munitions, and in July, 1917, he went to America on a similar errand. He was attached to the British War Mission to the United States and was placed in charge of the Oil Committee entrusted with arranging the purchase and shipment of oil from the United States for the three fighting UK Services and the Board of Trade.

Sir Frederick Black remained in the United States as acting chairman of the Mission until February, 1918. His services with the War Mission were recognized in 1917 by the honour of the K.C.B., awarded by the King. He was also honoured by foreign countries, being Commander of the French Legion of Honour, 1918, Commander of the Belgian Order of the Crown, 1918, and the Russian Order of St. Anne (1st Class), 1917.

He resigned from the Admiralty Service in 1919 and afterwards held responsible positions in leading oil companies, being managing director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company from 1919 to 1923. He was afterwards a director of the Steaua Rowana Oil Companies (British and Romanian) and of other companies. He was also president of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists in 1919.

Keenly interested in the advancement of the education of working people, Sir Frederick Black was chairman for eight years of the governing body of the Morley College, Waterloo Road, London, founded in memory of another Islander, the late Prof. H. Morley, of Carisbrooke (buried Carisbrooke Cemetery). He had been connected with the college for nearly 30 years and was a vice-president at the time of his death in 1930.

He devoted some of his leisure, particularly in later years, to literary work of local historical and general interest, and frequently articles by him appeared in the IW County Press. Shortly before he died, he completed "A Parliamentary History of the Isle of Wight."

Frederick Black married Sarah Isabella, daughter of James Davisson, of Folkestone in 1890, and they had one son and three daughters.

Sir Frederick William Black died at his home in Surrey, Pinewood View 7 June 1930 and his body was returned to the island where a service was held in St. Mary's Church, Carisbrooke before committal in a plot next to his parents at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Publications by Sir Frederick Black held in IWC libraries:

- *A prologue to a history of the Isle of Wight*, 1921. (CRO, Lord Louis & Sandown & Ventnor)
- *The Lady Isabella: A thirteenth century tale of Carisbrooke Castle and the Isle of Wight*, 1924. (Local Studies & Lord Louis)
- *An outline sketch of the parliamentary history of the Isle of Wight: with lists of MPs and several portraits*, 1929. (Local Studies & Lord Louis)

Old newspapers:

Hampshire Advertiser, 3 May 1873

FIRING A HAYRICK. – On Wednesday last a hayrick in the field known as “Nine Acres,” adjoining the old cricket ground was discovered to be on fire. An alarm was raised, and the Newport fire-engine and brigade were soon on the spot, but in spite of their vigorous efforts the greater portion of the rick was destroyed. The rick was the property of Messrs. Ash, and was insured, we believe, for £86 in the Norwich Union Office. The fire is stated to have been caused by a couple of children playing with Lucifer-matches, and the borough police have the case in hand, as will be seen by a paragraph elsewhere.

BOROUGH POLICE. – On Thursday, before F. Vulliamy, Esq., and J. E. Beckingsale, Esq. – Henry Hunt and William Urry, the former eight and the latter seven years old, were charged with wilfully setting fire to a hayrick, the property of Messrs. Ash. Remanded to Monday.

Hampshire Advertiser, 7 May 1873
IW Petty Sessions – Borough Court, Monday

SETTING FIRE TO A HAY STACK. – Henry Hunt and William Urry, boys under 9 years of age, were charged with setting fire to a cut rick of hay, in a field called Nine Acres. – No prosecutor appeared, and the police reported that the witness, who had said that he saw the act committed, had left the Island. The accused were discharged, the Chairman expressing a hope that the parents would discharge their duty by giving the boys a sound whipping.

Isle of Wight Friend-in-Need Society

In Victorian newspapers reports of funerals the deceased were often mentioned as being a member of a Friendly Society; one such being the Friend-in-Need society. The first secretary of this society, William Heal, was buried at Carisbrooke cemetery and his grave is marked by a memorial erected by members of that society.

I couldn't find any records of the society, only references to it in local newspapers.

The Isle of Wight Friend-in-Need Society was a 'Death Benefit' club; a man joining the society would nominate his wife, (or if no wife, another female) to receive £20 on his death. The wife, or other female, had also to be a member of the society, and on her death the relatives become entitled to her death benefit of £10².

Other Friendly Societies gave funds when members were sick, or out of work etc.

However, 'Death Benefit' clubs didn't provide any of these other benefits and this led to them sometimes being seen as providing a sufficient motive for bringing about premature deaths – but there seems to have been no such claims about the Friend-in-Need society.

The Friend-in-Need society was established in 1842 and was based at the King's Head Inn, Newport (40 Pyle Street, today Newport Conservative Club). From a later record³ the entrance fee ranged from 6d to 10s (2 ½p to 50p) according to age, there was then an annual subscription of 9d and a capitation levy of 6d or 1s according to the number of deaths.

The 1849 annual report shows 893 males, and 972 female members; in 1857⁴ there were 1498 males, 1805 females and in 1864⁵ 2088 males, 2453 females.

The detailed annual report for 1868 records that the society had 4,837 members with 12 collectors/agents across the Island and another one for the Southampton District. That year there had been 45 male and 40 female deaths and was the most expensive year since the formation of the Society owing to the number of deaths from Cholera. The accounts shows contributions of £1,306 and benefits paid plus expenses of £1,437.



William Heal grave memorial

² IW Observer – 23 September 1882

³ Hampshire Chronicle - 17 February 1849

⁴ IW Mercury – 18 July 1857

⁵ IW Observer – 20 February 1864

The Hampshire Independent newspaper of 24 September 1884 carried a notice from the Acting Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, Winchester, dissolving the Friend-in-Need Society. No reason was specified for closing the Society, however a report⁶ of the annual meeting of another local Friendly society (the Hand-in-Hand) refers to the failure being due to the Friend-in-Need Society not having enough capital.

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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⁶ Hampshire Independent – 12 March 1884