



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. 28, May 2024

Welcome to newsletter number 28 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.

Past newsletters can be found on the website at:

https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/newsletters.php



Oxeye daisies in Carisbrooke Cemetery

The future of these Newsletters (by Tony Barton)

Rather than repeating in each newsletter that we continue our sessions in the cemeteries, our volunteers continue transcribing memorial inscriptions and obituaries etc. and asking for additional volunteers, we'll take that 'as read'. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our activities, so please contact us with your comments/suggestions chair.foncc@gmail.com

Videos of a churchyard and a cemetery.

A couple of videos which may interest people have recently been added to YouTube:

A walk around Newport Cemetery - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viMxBzImkZ0>
and

A walk around St. Mary's churchyard - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lXNOpGuEos>

A WWII victim recognised:

After we transcribed the newspaper report of the 1943 Chapel Street bombing in 2020, we identified Alfred Rackett as a victim who had not been recognised by the Commonwealth

War Grave Commission (CWGC) or recorded elsewhere. Earlier this year, these oversights were rectified; Alfred now has a CWGC record and the Community Council has had a brick with his name inserted into the memorial in Church Litten. His record on our website has been updated.

Churchyard or Cemetery ?

We recently received a query from someone who had found on ancestry.co.uk a record that a relation had been buried at St. Mary's Church Carisbrooke, while our database showed that they had been buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The answer is just that the churches (St. Mary's, Carisbrooke, St. John's, St. Thomas' and St. Paul's) carried on recording funeral services held in the church in their Burial Registers even if the burial had actually taken place in a cemetery and ancestry.co.uk are using transcriptions of the Burial Registers.

The opening of the cemeteries didn't stop burials in the church graveyards, burials in family plots etc. continued. Unlike the cemeteries, there are no plans showing burials in the church graveyards, only 'suspect' survey plans of memorials when they were removed (as happened at St. John's and Church Litten) or 'better' surveys carried out in 1986/7 of standing memorials at St. Mary's and St. Paul's churchyards.

The Burial Registers of the churches are held at the IW County Record Office, Newport, where entries up to 1900 have been transcribed and held in an alphabetical card index – these burial records are also available online for **members** of the IW Family History Society – (<https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/databases/burials>).

TRANSCRIBING and 'ARCHAEOLOGY' (by Kate MacDonell)

Many memorials become sunken, misplaced, dislodged or partially buried over time. Transcribers often have to be archaeologists as they clear, uncover, excavate, even sometimes dig up memorial bits (not the coffins or bones).



Minnie and Ernest Heal are interred in a grave at Newport Cemetery marked with surrounding kerbstones and corner posts. At the head of the plot what appeared to be part of a stone tablet was partially visible with possibly an inscription. Careful excavation with a trusty trowel revealed a fine stone shield with details of Minnie and Ernest who died in 1956 and 1965).

Nearby, at the head of another plot marked with surrounding kerbstones and amongst the long grass, a stone tablet peeped out. This turned out to be an open book with Frederick Walden and his wife Edith recorded on the left page and behold, on the right page details of their daughter Evelyn were revealed.



Alick Carley was another semi-buried stone tablet which required excavation.



Stone flower holders should always be looked at carefully. Many have no inscription and some record only brief sentiment or just name a relation such as Mum or might give a Christian or pet name. However others record as much vital information on name and death details as some larger memorials. Flower holders vary in size and sometimes they have sunk deep into the ground. They may have inscriptions on more than one side so it's important to dig them up completely and ensure all details have been read. Stone flower holders can easily be misplaced during ground maintenance and may no longer be on their original memorial site. Where possible we try to replace the pot on its correct plot.

Alma CLARKE's little flower holder is a very good example of a worthwhile excavation - it says:

ALMA,
FROM HER
SCHOOLMATES

Records show Alma was buried in October 1944 and was only 10 years old.



Old newspapers:

Isle of Wight County Press 16 October 1943

NEWPORT

Fleeting Rations! – On Wednesday morning a greyhound was seen travelling at rapid pace down South-street, carrying half a shoulder of mutton in his mouth. Passing the appropriately named Shoulder of Mutton public house, he had nearly reached the bottom of the street when he saw some National Fire Service men in uniform. Probably thinking that they were police officers, the intelligent animal changed his course, and was last seen travelling up the street at the rate of some 20 miles an hour. Our reporter could not travel at an equal speed, so the ultimate fate of the greyhound and the mutton is not recorded.

Isle of Wight County Press 31 March 1956

A MILLION MILES WITHOUT ACCIDENT

NEWPORT POSTAL DRIVERS' MAGNIFICENT RECORD

In the sorting room at the head post office, Newport, on Tuesday, Police Superintendent V. E. Stanley presented awards to Post Office drivers in the postal district which recognised over a million miles of accident-free driving.

Buried here: (by Tony Barton):

Steam Engines, Velocipedes, Pubs and Lukely Works

1 Charles Watts

In 1851 census, Charles Watts, born in Dursley, Gloucestershire around 1815, was at the Junior Prison Parkhurst as an Engineer, with his wife Elizabeth, born in Newport, and their daughter born in Tiverton, Devon.

The Official Catalogue of the 1851 Great Exhibition:: Class V.: Charles Watts, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight is identified as the Inventor and Manufacturer. Velocipede, consisting of three wheels.

By 1861 Charles had moved with his family to Portland Place and was described as an Engineer at Parkhurst Prison. A few years later Charles retired and in 1871 was described as an Engineer, Superannuated Civil Service. The entry for Charles remained the same in the following census, 1881, he died in 1883 and was buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery. Elizabeth, his wife, died in 1891 and was buried alongside her husband. Their daughter, Sarah Ann, died in Whitecroft Asylum in 1922 and was buried alongside her parents.

2 Thomas Watts

(Thomas and Charles don't seem to be brothers, but their families appear closely related. I haven't been able to identify the wives.)

The 1851 census finds Thomas Watts, a Steam Engine Maker, living in Bristol with his wife Jane and 2 children. Thomas was born in Dursley, Gloucestershire about 1822, Jane, his wife, was born Newport, Isle of Wight. They were obviously well travelled as their daughter had been born in the United States.

Thomas and family moved to Carisbrooke and in 1861 were living at the Eight Bells; Thomas was described as 'Victualler, Engineer and Mechanic (employing 2 men and his son)',

In 1869 the Hampshire Advertiser carried an announcement of *"a novel velocipede recreation, the invention of Mr. Thomas Watts, of Carisbrooke Road, engineer, which has been set up in the pleasure grounds of Carisbrooke Castle Inn, in the village of Carisbrooke [2023, the Co-Op shop]. On Monday evening the novelty attracted numerous visitors, and all, adults as well as children, who mounted the new hoppy horse were delighted with the recreation. The bicycle is worked round a circular level tramway, and is attached to a shaft which turns on a pivot in the centre post of the circle. Of course the larger the circle, in reason, the better, and the difference in expense of a large circle as set against that of a small one would be represented by the additional length of shaft and tramway. Mere boys and girls can drive it with ease and perfect safety. Doubtless we shall soon hear of its introduction in the Crystal Palace grounds at Sydenham. The Watts' here as engineers are not unknown to fame. One of the three velocipedes at the International Exhibition of 1851 was the handiwork of Mr. Charles Watts, of the Isle of Wight."*

The reference 'of Carisbrooke Road' in the above probably indicates that he had moved from the Eight Bells to the old Tannery and established Lukely Works, certainly the 1871 census had the family at Lukely House, Carisbrooke Road and Thomas was described as an Engine Maker and Machinist - employing 4 men and 1 boy. His son, Walter James Watts, had by this time married Fanny Mary Warne of Shorwell, Walter, still employed by his father, was described as an Engine Maker and Machinist. Walter's sister, Sarah Elizabeth Watts, had married his wife's brother, Johnson Warne.

Between 1861 and 1871 the terrace of houses known subsequently as Tannery or Lukely Terrace (today 144 to 178 Carisbrooke Road) were built – as were 6, long lost properties behind the surviving terrace.

In 1881, both Thomas's and his son's families were living at Lukely Works, Thomas now employing 3 men and 1 boy.

Kelly's Directory 1898 has "Watts Thos. & Sons, engineers, machinists & agricultural implement makers. Lukely machine works, Carisbrooke road."

Thomas' wife, Jane, died in 1895 and was buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Thomas died in 1901 and was buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery, unfortunately there wasn't a space beside his wife's grave, so Thomas was buried one plot away.. Despite his lifetime achievements, Thomas must have spent his last days in Whitcroft Asylum as the entry in the Burial Register simply reads 'Inmate of County Asylum'.

Walter and his family continued to live at Lukely Works, he must have retired early 1901 because Howard Causton acquired the works later that year - Walter's family moved to Castle Road.

Walter met a tragic end in July 1920 aged 73; while cycling along Clatterford Road he was in collision with a schoolboy and fell off the bicycle – the boy denied that he had struck the bicycle with the stick he was holding. At his inquest it was said that Walter had invented the free-wheel device for cycles, but had not patented it as he considered it too dangerous until brakes were introduced.

Walter was buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery, his wife Fanny Mary joined him shortly after in September 1920.

Walter and Fanny had two daughters, Lila Fanny married Percy F. Wadham, and Elizabeth Mary who married William H. Bullock.

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