



# 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. 30, June 2025

Welcome to newsletter number 30 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](https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/newsletters.php)



*Newport Cemetery*

## Review of the past six months (by Tony Barton)

Our volunteers continue working in the cemeteries, transcribing memorial inscriptions and obituaries etc. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our activities, whether you can transcribe at your home computer obituaries etc. which we'll send you, transcribing headstone inscriptions or joining us in our sessions in the cemeteries (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month at Carisbrooke Cemetery, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at Newport Cemetery – always subject to weather – more details on our website), please contact us with your offers of help, comments/suggestions [chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com)

Any help or suggestions gratefully received, any contributions for a newsletter would be appreciated – that would make it easier to produce future newsletters.

### **Memorial clearing at Newport Cemetery**

At Newport Cemetery the volunteers have been working on one of the last large bramble patches which takes time:



The bramble patch in January 2025

After, a number of monthly sessions we have uncovered five memorials and have it down to this; from past experience, having removed the brambles, the grass will grow back and keep the brambles away.



The area, June 2025

## Memorial clearing at Carisbrooke Cemetery

The sessions at Carisbrooke Cemeteries tended to deal with smaller areas of overgrown graves, this is just one example.



To reveal the broken cross of Osmund J. Fossey, aged just 24 years (nothing known about his death at such a young age), and the headstone of Mary Jolliffe, aged 91 years.



## Website

The website (<https://www.foncc.org.uk>) continues to be updated with new pictures and research notes (obituaries etc.). The most recent additions can be found at <https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/grave-search/recent-additions.php>

## Old newspapers:

***Isle of Wight County Press – 21 August 1897***

**NEWPORT**

**RUNAWAY MAIL-CART HORSES.** - Early on Sunday morning last the mail driver (Mr. Sweet) was leaving the Post-office after discharging the mails he had brought from Ryde on his pair-horse van, when one of the horses was startled and the pair bolted up the High-street. In their futile endeavours to turn the sharp corner into Mill-street the runaways got into dangerous proximity to Mr. Whittington's shop [90 High Street] and then proceeded up the street at a rattling pace, after the driver had been pitched out at the corner. P.C. Stretch and others attempted to stop the horses further up the street, but the pace was too furious and the runaways continued their headlong course up Carisbrooke-road, Castle-road, and Cemetery-hill, until reaching the Convent, where they turned into the lane leading to Watergate. They were pursued and, after considerable searching, were found. No really serious injury appears to have resulted.

***Isle of Wight County Press – 13 April 1946***

**NEWPORT**

**Toby, the Railway Crossing Keeper.** - Toby, a remarkable dog, is a mongrel owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. Everett, keepers of the Pan Mill railway crossing. Toby displays wonderful intelligence. When the bell sounds warning of approaching trains Toby is first to go into action. He leaves whatever he happens to be doing, even if it is tooting a bone, and runs up and down the road on each side of the line barking warning to pedestrians. He has been known on several occasions, shortly after the bell has rung, to stop cyclists by a warning tug at a trouser leg. Tony allows chickens to wander along the line in the intervals between train arrivals, but once the bell sounds he sends them packing with a flurry of barks. He is always on time in the morning to catch a newspaper thrown from the train, and collects any other small packets or letters dropped from the train for his mistress. Mrs. Everett says : "In the ten years we have been here Toby has absorbed all the routine of the crossing, and he knows and answers the greetings of railwaymen wherever he meets them."



## Short obits:

Some stories of those buried here are 'interesting' but without enough details for a really long write-up, so here are just four short stories:

**Theodore Mailler KENDALL**, died 10 January 1930, not from a local family, but his obituary recorded that he had a military funeral in Newport Cemetery, including his coffin being borne on a gun carriage; that suggested a bit more research was needed. That found an Australian newspaper report of his death which revealed that Dr. Kendall had come from there and had been in charge of the hospital ship St. Andrew, which carried wounded soldiers from France to England during WW1.

**Amelia WARNE**, died December 1933, aged 100 years and buried in St. Paul's Cemetery. The IW County Press had sent a reporter to see her on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and published a record of it (I doubt they would do that these days!). Her obituary a few months later recorded that she left 133 descendents, four daughters, two sons, 41 grandchildren, 77 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great-grandchildren. Not quite as many as recorded on **Hannah SHEPARD's** headstone in Newport Cemetery of 163 descendents, 12 children, 77 grandchildren and 74 great-grandchildren - but still a large family.

**Arthur Harry BAKER**, died 21 November 1956, buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery. Employed by W. Dibben and Sons before joining a Royal Engineers' bomb disposal unit in 1940. In 1941 he was gravely injured while dealing with a bomb which exploded, his companion was killed. Due to his injuries he lost both legs; post war he developed a small one-man leather industry carried on in a workshop in his house in St. George's Lane to such a standard that it even satisfied the standards of a London buyer.

## Buried here: (by Kate MacDonell):

### George French, Railway worker from Dorset:

At the time of the 1871 Census, George French was living in Parkstone, Dorset with his mother Ann who was head of the household and aged 62. Ann was employed as a laundress and her daughter Clara still lived at home, aged 22 and was an assistant laundress. George, at 20 years old, like his sister Clara had been born in Parkstone and he worked as a pottery labourer. The family had three lodgers, one man was also a pottery labourer aged 30 and there were two farm labourers aged 15 and 25.

By September 1875, George, aged 25, was employed as a labourer on the Ryde Newport railway line and had been working there since around February of the previous year. On the morning of the 27th of September, George suffered a serious accident alongside the line at Round House Bank, near Newport. George was a horse driver to the wagons and had been driving one horse and wagon, which was full of earth, when his foot slipped and he fell. The wagon went over his left thigh and arm, crushing both limbs, at his request, he was taken to the County Hospital at Ryde rather than the Workhouse Infirmary. Despite medical

attention, the injuries were so severe that George died following emergency surgery later that evening.



Railway line near the Round House on the Newport East Cowes/Wootton road (1898 map)

At an inquest held at the Falcon Inn, Ryde, on the 29th of September, detailed evidence was given by witnesses, fellow workers who were also friends of George, as well as the medical and surgical teams at Ryde Infirmary.

As fellow workers rushed to his aid, George was obviously very distressed and it was reported that he was saying, "Kill me out of the way; I shan't be here any more," and "Write home to my poor old mother." A later witness informed the jury that George said to him, "It is a done job, Jim, isn't it?" and all his cries were to write to his poor old mother. It was recorded that this witness, James Eastman (Jim) 'seemed much affected' and he and George had worked together as horse drivers on the line for the last 18 months. They had also shared lodgings at Newport.

It was suggested that George may have slipped because "there was clay between the rails and as it had had been raining it was slippery." The team were heading for Newport Hospital but George, who was fully conscious, expressed his desire to be taken to Ryde Infirmary, 'Take me to Ryde.' he said.

By the time George was examined at the Infirmary 'he had lost an immense amount of blood' and after consultation the doctors decided that it was necessary to remove the arm and the leg. George was conscious when the operation was explained to him and said, "Take off the arm, but save the leg if you can." George died immediately after the operation. "He died from shock to the system and exhaustion."

The Coroner, as part of his summing up said that the only mistake was in bringing George to Ryde instead of Newport, the distance to Newport being only about 2 miles and five or six

to Ryde. "But against that they had evidence that the deceased desired to be brought here, and they thought that he was sufficiently capable of deciding. There was no blame to be attached to the men for bringing him here." A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

At the time of the accident, someone telegraphed George's mother, sister and brother to come. George was buried in the old St. Paul's Cemetery (to the north of St. Paul's Church), Barton, Newport, on 1st October 1875, his grave is unmarked.

Either surprisingly, disappointedly or sadly, there doesn't seem to be any memorial to those who died working on the Isle of Wight Railways, George was just one of who knows how many.

*Copyright © 2025 Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries, All rights reserved.*

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

