



# 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*

## Newsletter No.6, November 2018

Welcome to the sixth e-newsletter 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 I think may be interested. Feel free to circulate this to others who you feel may be interested in the Cemeteries, or to unsubscribe (just email [newsletter@foncc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@foncc.org.uk)) if you don't wish to receive future newsletters.- we won't take offence.

Receiving this newsletter does not cost you anything nor commit you to anything.

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 - Autumn colour*

### Where are we?

We had another few months of clearing vegetation in the cemeteries to good effect. Volunteers have also been transcribing some 'life stories' etc. It's all good work although it not always obviously appreciated.

We have recently had a new volunteer join us in our clearance efforts and would welcome more people to come along. It is a very sociable and friendly activity and a good way to get some exercise and fresh air. Please do come along and see for yourselves - remember, 1st Saturday at Carisbrooke, 3rd Saturday at Newport Cemetery!

We would also welcome anyone willing to help in other ways than clearing in the cemeteries - just e-mail with suggestions of how you could help.

A big 'thank-you' to all of you who have contributed in any way this year, and to those who haven't managed to do so, perhaps you'll be able to in 2019. I hope everyone has a good Christmas and New Year.

### **Cemetery clearing sessions: Newport (Fairlee Road) Cemetery (Rob Cain)**

We have been very fortunate with the weather as far as Newport Fairlee Road cemetery is concerned with every scheduled 3rd Saturday of the month session going ahead as planned. The team of enthusiastic volunteers continued to clear foliage and vegetation to reveal headstones and other grave markers which in some cases had not been seen for a considerable period of time. We have also cleared some large bushes and shrubs in the hope of finding some markers only to be disappointed and to reveal nothing but grass and weeds! There are graves there but they are unmarked. It is nevertheless a very rewarding activity whatever we do or do not find as the cemetery looks much tidier and we feel that the headstones deserve to be seen as a fitting memorial to those who have died and for any family members or other descendants who might want to see them. They are also of interest to local historians and genealogists.

Some further work has also been continuing in recording inscriptions on the headstones where possible and taking photographs. The data is added to the FoNCC website which is a fantastic source of information and interest and is well worth a visit.

Anyone is welcome to join us on one of our clearing sessions, 3rd Saturday of the month, see the website for more details.

Our work on Mr Wiggins' tomb is progressing slowly as the remaining ivy has to be cut away carefully from the actual bricks, however the photographs below show that the work so far has made a significant improvement.





### **Carisbrooke (Mountjoy) Cemetery (Tony Barton)**

We managed to hold our first Saturday sessions as scheduled, although one had to be curtailed due to the rain becoming fairly heavy. We also held a number of Thursday sessions which enabled us to take advantage of the Parish Council's trailer to remove some bulk cuttings.

The area we've been working on is near the western footpath entrance, at the south of the cemetery. Having opened the area of shrubbery we've revealed about 20 grave markers, including:

- Lt. Col. Feneran (1877) - who had been present at Waterloo,
- Capt. Graves (1872) - of the Royal Bombay Fusiliers,
- Major G. Taylor (1875) - who was killed when he fell off a runaway horse,
- Major G. Smith (1876) - of the 107th Regt.,
- Three of the local Alabone dentists (1917 to 1956),
- Alfred Denham (1881) - Rate Collector for the IW Union,
- plus many other interesting burials.

The pictures below show the area we've been working on before and after our efforts.





Anyone is welcome to join us on one of our clearing sessions, 1st Saturday of the month, see the website for more details.

### **Memorial transcriptions:**

Memorial Inscriptions continue to be transcribed and added to the website; although the weather this time of year doesn't really suit standing around in cemeteries recording inscriptions.

Currently there are about 3600 images of grave markers, of which about 1600 have been transcribed (note that a number of the grave markers include more than one name.)

### **Characters buried here (Brian Greening)**

#### **Three children of Dr Foster, January 1870**

Dr. Foster was a Newport surgeon in 1870 with five children. Over a period of a few days in January 1870 three of these children (Kate, Percy and William), who were suffering from coughs, were taken ill with vomiting and sickness. Sadly they all died within a few days of each other. Naturally this resulted in considerable interest within the town. A great deal of evidence was given at the Inquest that resulted in three adjournments. It was reported that all five of the doctors children ate the same food the exception being the various mixtures that a local dispenser and Dr Foster himself had prescribed to aid the three sick children.



A sample of the ingested food was sent to London to be analysed and although at various times suspects included the doctor's stepson, their cook and nanny and even the doctor himself the medical report back from London could find no evidence of poisoning. The inquest returned "that the deceased children did not die from the effects of poison, but the disease which caused death is not conclusively shown by the evidence."

The three children, in separate coffins, were buried within the same grave in Newport Cemetery.

*The Hampshire Telegraph reports of the children's inquest have been transcribed by Ian Roach and are available on our website at:*

[https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/research/npt\\_foster\\_bc428.pdf](https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/research/npt_foster_bc428.pdf)

### **The Website:**

More pictures, grave plot maps, transcriptions, inscriptions etc. have been added to the website - it's going to be an ongoing task 'for ever'.

There's a small, but dedicated, team of volunteers working internationally transcribing newspaper reports of the lives, deaths and funerals of those buried in the cemeteries - currently there are about 350 such research notes. In addition, where small newspaper snippets about those buried have been found, these have been added to the main record of the individual.

### **Can you step forward ?:**

If you would like to help in any way, please email us ([chair.foncc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.foncc@gmail.com)); as well as clearing vegetation in the cemeteries, transcribing inscriptions, and newspaper reports; we are open to any suggestion of other help.

