



Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

www.foncc.org.uk



Volunteers helping to care for the cemeteries and record the lives of those resting there

Newsletter No.7, February 2019

Welcome to the seventh 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) if you don't wish to receive future newsletters.- we won't take offence.

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Past newsletters can be found on the website at:
https://www.foncc.org.uk/the_group/newsletters.php



Spring in St. Paul's Cemetery, Halberry Lane

Where are we?

We've had another few months of clearing vegetation in the cemeteries to good effect - slightly affected by the snow at the beginning of February. More life stories and inquests etc have been transcribed and added to the website - some transcriptions record the lives of the 'great and the good' who helped develop the area while others record the sad, sometimes painful end of some ordinary people.

With the approach of Spring, we would hope to welcome new volunteers willing to join in the clearing sessions or help in other ways - just e-mail with suggestions of how you could help, especially if you would like to expand our activities (organise public meetings, record the wildlife in the cemeteries or other suggestions.)

After the last newsletter, we received a note of appreciation from Cllr Geoff Brodie (a member of the IW Council, and member and chair of the Newport & Carisbrooke Parish Council) for the work we've been carrying out in the cemeteries. Geoff organised the original public meeting which led to the formation of the Friends and also arrange the support of the Parish Council.

Those of you with access to the IW County Press, local newspaper, will hopefully have seen the series of articles by Brian Greening in the Weekender section which records the lives of some of those buried in the cemeteries, it all helps to spread the awareness of the Friends on the Island.

Cemetery clearing sessions:

Newport Cemetery (Rob Cain)

We continue to meet at Newport Fairlee Road cemetery on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We have recently been joined by a new volunteer bringing our regular team up to seven in number which means we can clear quite a lot of vegetation and foliage and that we are limited only by what we can put into bags and containers and get into our cars to take to the recycling centre! The recent session in the cemetery highlighted a situation which we sometimes encounter. Some of the grave markers are obscured by plants and trees which were planted a long time ago and have become very big with thick branches intertwined around the headstone. Sometimes the plant growth has undermined the stability of the headstone and if we were to remove the branches completely the grave marker would be unsafe. Whilst we like to see headstones clearly we are, as a group, very aware of the need to ensure the safety and well-being of our own members and also of any visitors to the cemetery and so sometimes we leave branches in place to support the headstone even if it still obscures the inscription. In extreme cases, it is sometimes necessary to lay the grave marker down on the ground but this is the option which we least prefer. In the coming months we will also have to take into account nesting birds in the trees and bushes and make sure we avoid them too.

The images below illustrate our recent activities at Newport Cemeteries.



Carisbrooke (Mountjoy) Cemetery (Tony Barton)

We had to cancel the first Saturday session in February due to snow - we've had 2 days of snow this winter (so far), and they were the first weekend in February.

We are continuing to expand the area of vegetation clearance we've previously been working on.

St Paul's Cemeteries (Tony Barton)

We haven't said much, if anything, in previous newsletters about the two cemeteries of St. Paul's, this is because the grave markers etc in these cemeteries have not been affected by the same robust ivy/vegetation growth over the years as the other cemeteries. The graves at the north end of the Halberry Lane Cemetery could do with some 'cleaning'; after years of leaf and twig drop from the mature trees overhanging them, some graves are being covered.



The only real issue was on the lych gate into the 'new' Cemetery on Halberry Lane where ivy had grown around the wooden framework and under the tiles on the roof – we've cut this growth below the framework and the ivy has died back; but we haven't/won't try to remove the dead ivy, especially where it goes under the tiles. The Lych Gate was erected in memory of Annie Catherine Beckingsale by her husband Beuclerc Bennett Beckingsale and is dated November 1914. I think this is the only such lych gate at the entrance to a civic cemetery on the Island and could do with some TLC now to ensure it survives to the next century – not something for the Friends to undertake.

The original St Paul's Cemetery was to the north of the church and churchyard on Cross Lane, the first burial in the register was 20 August 1872 and the last burial there (cremated remains into a family plot) was recorded in March 1971. Unfortunately there is no complete burial plan available for the 'old' cemetery, the only partial record is a survey of memorials

in both the churchyard and cemetery around the church carried out in the 1980's under the guidance of the County Archivist.

The original St Paul's Cemetery was becoming full towards the end of the 1890's and without room to expand, a new location for another cemetery had to be found by the Barton Burial Board – the site chosen was off Halberry Lane, alongside the then Ryde/Newport railway (now the cycle track); the Isolation Hospital (now the hospice) had yet to be built as had the houses in the area.

Characters buried here (Brian Greening)

Suicide with 'cremation' - Frederick Daish

It is always sad to read of an individual taking their own life but there can be few stories to match that of the death of Frederick Daish. Mr. Daish lived in Royal Exchange and as a young man was foreman at the lace factory in Staplers. On leaving that job when the factory closed down, he went into market gardening but lived rough in an old outhouse attached to his late fathers' property. He was always considered a little eccentric and one witness recalled that ten years previous he had threatened to take his own life.

Twelve-year-old Emily Hobbs lived in Green Street and earned pocket money after school by doing tasks such as picking fruit for Mr. Daish. On the day in question in July 1907, she was picking blackcurrants and her employer told her to take them home and when she returned, he would pay her. This she did but on returning saw flames coming from the outhouse and then heard a gunshot. She then ran to alert a Mr. Bull who also worked for Daish as a gardener.

At the Inquest, Robert Bull gave evidence that he was an Army pensioner living in Royal Exchange and had worked for Mr. Daish for twenty-eight years. On the fateful day he had been paid and even given three additional shillings which was unusual but his employer told him he was going to visit his sister in Brighton. When the young girl alerted him, he had run to the building but it was well alight and he could not gain entry due to the intense heat. Asked if he had heard the deceased ever threaten to take his own life, he replied he had done so hundreds of times over many years. Around five years previous he was told to follow Mr. Daish down to his outhouse where he was given a cake tin full of silver and was told to put it in his pocket as Daish was going to kill himself. He actually tried to fire the gun whilst witness was there but the gun never went off. Bull kept the money for a week then handed it back and was rewarded with a ten shilling note.

Superintendent Galloway, Deputy Chief Constable, gave evidence that when the fire had subsided enough to gain entry he went in and saw the charred remains of Mr. Daish. His evidence was quite gruesome but it is fair to say it was akin to being cremated. Two doctors gave evidence of removing the remains on a plank of wood and as was the custom in those days the coroners jury had the unenviable task of having to view the remains. Foreman of the jury was local headmaster 'Skipper' William Ouseley. Not surprisingly they returned a verdict of suicide by shooting whilst of an unsound mind.

Frederick Daish was buried in St Paul's, Halberry Lane Cemetery on Wednesday 10th July 1907 - there's no sign that there was ever a grave marker

Memorial transcriptions:

Memorial Inscriptions continue to be transcribed and added to the website; with improving weather, this might be attractive to new volunteers - although the weather this time of year doesn't really suit standing around in cemeteries recording inscriptions.

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'.

The small, dedicated, team of volunteers are continuing to transcribe newspaper reports of the lives, deaths and funerals of those buried in the cemeteries - currently there are over 400 such research notes attached to individual records and listed alphabetically - see website [BURIALS/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.

There have been some changes to the way some information is presented on mobile devices, initial responses have been that these have made the website more user friendly.

Future events:

Clearing sessions in the cemeteries continue to be held, Carisbrooke Cemetery on the first Saturday each month, Newport Cemetery on the third Saturday each month. Full details, and any updates can be found on our website (<https://www.foncc.org.uk>)

Can you step forward ?:

If you would like to help in any way, please email us (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.



One of the residents of Newport Cemetery inspecting our work

