



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.8, May 2019

Welcome to the eighth 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 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 if you don't wish to receive future copies, 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



Spring in Newport Cemetery

Where are we?

No 8 newsletter means we've been going for two years and over that period we've uncovered some interesting memorials and our team has grown; both the clearing teams and those transcribing historical research of the departed.

We did say at the beginning that we would see how things went before deciding whether to form into a formal 'society' – I think everyone involved at the moment is quite happy with the informal arrangement we are operating under, so we'll carry on under the same informal arrangement.

We would always welcome new volunteers willing to join in the clearing sessions or help in other ways - just e-mail (chair.foncc@gmail.com) with suggestions of how you could help, especially if you would like to expand our activities (organise public events, record the wildlife in the cemeteries or other suggestions.)

After the last newsletter, we received a note of appreciation from Bob Nelson (a member of the Bereavement Services) for the newsletter and the work we've been carrying out in the cemeteries. Bob's 'in and out' of the cemeteries every week and has seen the difference we've been making so his comments are especially appreciated..

We had a display, for the second year, at the Isle of Wight Family History One Day Conference at the beginning of May, more details below.

Cemetery clearing sessions:

Newport Cemetery (Rob Cain)

Work continues in Newport Fairlee Road Cemetery by the regular team of volunteers who attend every 3rd Saturday of the month, weather permitting, to clear away foliage and vegetation from memorials which, in some cases, have not been seen for some considerable time. It is sometimes hard work but also very rewarding and from a personal point of view I find it quite exciting to reveal previously hidden inscriptions and to see island history unfolding before you. Some inscriptions are difficult to read because of weathering, erosion and the growth of lichen and moss etc. Others are tricky because of the elaborate way they are carved and the dated language which is used but it does become easier with practice and it can also be quite competitive between the volunteers to see who can decipher the most difficult inscription first!

The images below illustrate our recent activities at Newport Cemeteries.



We won't be holding our next scheduled session at Newport, 15th June, as it clashes with the IW Festival – check our website to see if we rearrange a further session in June.

Carisbrooke (Mount Joy) Cemetery (Tony Barton)

The team of volunteers continue to clear vegetation from grave and memorials at Carisbrooke Cemetery on the first Saturday of each month. We continue to reveal memorials which have been hidden for years by the growth of shrubs and ivy etc.

As at Newport, reading inscriptions can sometimes be difficult due to weathering, style of lettering etc. It can also be affected by the weather and position of the sun – a sunny day with the sun striking across the face is often better than an overcast day or with the sun behind or directly on the inscription face.

A number of inscriptions have highlighted variations in the name spellings against those recorded in the registers. It's more surprising where headstones have a year of death which conflicts with the burial date and other records – unlike name spellings, the year of death can be easily established.

It's been noted that a number of headstones have succumbed to the effects of gravity; possibly not helped by the dry summer last year, there's nothing we can do about that. On the other hand, a number of grave markers have been fully restored and others just cleaned by others – where we identify these we update the image on the website.



A group of headstones of the Eldridge family, including 5 young children (the small crosses)

Display at the IWFHS ODC (Rob Cain)

On Saturday 4 May, the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries had a display table at the one day conference of the Isle of Wight Family History Society held in Newport. We were able to display old maps of the various cemeteries, photographs of memorials that had been cleared and various other documents, leaflets etc to publicise our existence and the work we do. It was gratifying that some people I spoke to had noticed the difference in the cemeteries and were kind enough to say that our efforts were appreciated. Well done all you volunteers! The opportunity was also taken to direct people to our website for further information.



This is the second year that we have attended this event and hopefully it will generate more interest in our activities and we intend to participate again if we are invited! If anyone can suggest other events where our attendance might attract interest, please let us know – chair.foncc@gmail.com.

Characters buried here (Brian Greening/Tony Barton)

The Nurserymen of Cave's Nursery, East Street

At the bottom of Pyle Street, on the opposite side of the river from Newport and to the rear of what once was Ford mill was a nursery then in the parish of Whippingham. From a late 19th century advertisement, the nursery appears to have been established by the end of the 18th century and was considered the first nursery on the Island. Today the site is covered by the Coppins Bridge car park and St Georges Way.

In 1851 William Wilkins was the Nursery Man employing 3 men living "Near Newport Ford Cottage" in the parish of Whippingham, unmarried and living with two of his sisters, Sarah and Jane – all were recorded as being born in Newport.



1898 OS map

The IW Observer, reporting on the creation of the Newport Cemetery in November 1858, records that “the planting of the grounds is entrusted to Mr. William Wilkins, nurseryman, of this town”.

William died aged 73 in April 1865, Sarah in 1866 aged 68, both were buried in Newport Cemetery without grave markers (what happened to Jane after the 1851 census hasn't been established).

Following the death of William Wilkins, the nursery was taken over by Mr. Edward Cave.

From the newspaper report of Edward Cave's death at the age of eighty-three in 1905 we learn something about this man whose family name stayed with the nursery until it closed. Mr. Cave was said in life to be a well-known and a universally respected citizen. He was apparently born at Carisbrooke and joined the employ of Mr. Wilkins as a young man (the 1851 & 61 census show him as a gardener living at 8 Pyle Street). He had in his time apparently undertaken the supplying of trees and shrubs and the landscaping for Queen Victoria at Osborne House and as did his predecessor, he helped further landscape Newport cemetery.

When the railway was extended from Pan to Newport Station in 1879, the railway line cut through the nursery, splitting it into two.

A further interesting story is of the Island Cycling Club, following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, sought the expertise of Mr. Cave to provide a wreath to be sent to Osborne House, and he designed one in the shape of a bicycle wheel with the rim shown as white flowers whilst the spokes were represented by violets, that visually would have been impressive.

It was rather poignant that he was laid to rest in 1905 next to the Fairlee Road entrance in the cemetery that he helped to beautify; his widow, Ellen, was laid to rest alongside him in 1912.



Edward and Ellen Cave's side-by-side plots

Edward's eldest son, Albert Edward, married Charlotte Newnham and they had four children, Nelly, Charles Edward

Newnham, Harriett Katherine and Albert Stuart. Tragedy hit the family when in 1877 they were living in a cottage at the 'Newport Nursery Grounds' and their two-year old son Albert Stuart Cave was found drowned in the mill stream which ran close by the nursery grounds – he was buried at Newport Cemetery.

Albert Edward Cave took over the nursery on the death of Edward, his father, in 1905.

On Albert Edward's death in 1925, he was buried in Newport Cemetery; and the nursery was taken over by his surviving son, Charles Edward Newnham Cave; the 1939 registration records record him as living with his mother, Charlotte, at Ford Nurseries. Charlotte died in 1940 at the ripe age of 92 – she was buried alongside her husband in Newport Cemetery.

Charles appears not to have married, nor did his sisters, Nelly, and Harriett; they died in 1950, 1928, 1939 respectively – they were all buried in Newport Cemetery.

The nursery was sold in 1943 upon the retirement of Charles and closed circa 1958. By the mid 1960's the complete nursery and railway line, which had closed in 1956, was covered by the upper and lower Coppins Bridge car parks. Subsequent developments of the Coppins Bridge roundabout, the road out to Shide, and the Coppins Bridge Retail and Leisure Park now cover much of the lower part and the adjacent area of the 19th century foundry.

Other members of the Cave family are also buried in Newport or Carisbrooke cemeteries.

The thoughts of: Sandy-

My name is Sandy and when I saw an article in Carisbrooke parish magazine by FoNCC I must admit it was not on my bucket list to be cleaning graves in my retirement.

However I turned up at Fairlee Road about 18 months ago and I loved it.

The third Saturday in the month we descend upon Fairlee Road with our secateurs and loppers and have cleared a vast amount of foliage and cleared gravestones.

First Saturday in the month it is Mountjoy Cemetery for more of the same. There is a beautiful view across Newport and Carisbrooke.

We have uncovered graves that have not been seen for decades like:

Colonel Sadleir, who fought in the Crimea.

Frederick Henry, a solicitor who was only 27 when he died. From a newspaper of the time, his coffin was followed by a number of Freemason brethren.

And those of local families such as Eldridge, Wadham and many more.

This is the really interesting part finding out about the people who are buried there.

We are a small group but have made a great impact at both cemeteries. We get plenty of fresh air and are a friendly bunch.

Why not come and join us? – first Saturday at Carisbrooke, third Saturday at Newport Cemetery.

Memorial transcriptions:

Memorial Inscriptions continue to be transcribed and added to the website; with improving weather, this might be attractive to new volunteers – just email if you are interested

chair.foncc@gmail.com .

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

500 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.

Quite a number of compliments about the website have been received.

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 (but not June at Newport). 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 visitors to Carisbrooke Cemetery keeping an eye on things

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