



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.9, August 2019

Welcome to the ninth 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



Newport Minster from the Cemetery

Where are we? (Tony Barton)

We've had an eventful three months

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.)

In May, the Isle of Wight Natural History Society carried out a survey of the wild plants found in the Cemetery and have provided us with their results, together with a list of butterflies observed; these lists have been posted on the website at [CONSERVATION/Natural History](#).

We welcomed Liz and Steve Priddle to our group; they've volunteered to help us look after and record the flora and fauna in St. Paul's Cemetery, Halbury Lane. Hopefully their efforts with recording the flora and fauna may encourage others to undertake this at the other cemeteries!

I've asked Bereavement Services for guidance regarding a number of newish plots (ie post 1960) with shrubs etc. which are inappropriate or overwhelming the memorial and/or neighbouring plots. While they were obviously planted with the best of intention, once they are no longer being looked after they can 'run wild', I do feel there's an argument for removing them to reduce the work required by the ground-maintenance contractors in future years.

Cemetery clearing sessions:

Newport Cemetery (Rob Cain)

Work continues on clearing foliage and vegetation from graves and memorials at Fairlee Road. A couple of the scheduled Saturday sessions recently had to be cancelled because of adverse weather forecasts but such is the enthusiasm of our small but dedicated band of volunteers that when alternative dates were suggested the team were keen to carry on and the weather was kind to us.

Part of the fun of clearing memorials is then to follow up on the history of the person or persons buried in the grave. An example of this is that of Alice Mary Manners. Here are photographs of her grave before it was cleared and after.

Unfortunately, the thick ivy previously wrapped around the memorial had broken the cross from the base; with such a small cross, we were able to 'drop' it safely and prop it against the base. On larger memorials, we are always checking their stability as we remove vegetation and where in doubt, we refer the matter to Bereavement Services – the safety of the volunteers and visitors to the cemeteries is one of our prime considerations.



Further research revealed the existence of a death certificate contributed by a visitor to the cemetery for Alice and here is a picture of it:

Superintendent Registrar's District *Isle of Wight*
 Registrar's District *Ballbourne*
 1871 DEATHS in the District of *Ballbourne* in the County of *Souhampton*

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
5	Seventeenth June 1871	Alice Mary Manners	Female	12 Years	Daughter of William Manners a Lieutenant Colonel	Phthisis Pulmonalis Certified	W. T. Manners Esq. present at death The High Street Newport	Twentieth June 1871	G. S. Woodford Registrar

There are many examples of associated documents and information for graves and memorials in all of the Newport cemeteries on the website (www.foncc.org.uk).

During the latest clearing session at Fairlee Road the team uncovered the grave of George Henry Blake. Here are the “before and during” pictures (we still have work to do on it):



We then looked at the inscription on the headstone and could see some words of a verse or quotation but not all of the words were easy to read. One of the team put the key words into the internet on their mobile phone and managed to find a complete verse which, with one or two slight changes was the one on the memorial! The information can be seen on our website.

Carisbrooke (Mount Joy) Cemetery (Tony Barton)

The team of volunteers continue to clear vegetation from graves and memorials at Carisbrooke Cemetery on the first Saturday of each month. We also managed a session on the third Saturday in June when the Isle of Wight Festival prevented a session at Newport Cemetery.

Previously we've concentrated our efforts in the older, western area of the cemetery, we've now extended our attention east, to a large tree with branches extending to the ground hiding a number of memorial. We are making progress 'lifting the canopy', as can be seen in the following pictures.



St Pauls Cemetery, Halberry Lane. (Liz and Steve Priddle)

We have been living in the Lodge in the cemetery for eight and a half years and thought it was about time to share our interest in the local fauna and flora. We are also clearing overgrown graves as well as clearing weed trees and cutting back brambles. We have recently taken part in the Butterfly Count and found that the number of Common Blue has increased from last year. The Jersey Tiger moth has also made an appearance with its distinctive flash of orange in flight.



We are also slowly compiling a list of the flora in the graveyard but it has been a bit of a battle with the regular grass cutting. The recent storm didn't do too much damage apart from one tree which we cleared as it blocked the main path.



Characters buried here (Brian Greening)

RICHARD BIRD CHEVERTON, senior – Coach builder

When Queen Victoria was in residence at Osborne House many local businesses vied to supply her household with their goods or products so that in due course they might be able to display over their premises a prestigious sign that announced the fact.



One local business that did this in a big way was that of Mr. Richard Bird Cheverton, who in the mid 1800s made over twenty horse drawn carriages for Her Majesty.



Similar to 3 built for Queen Victoria

Richard Bird Cheverton had started life as a cabinet maker but at a young age, due to his father's death, was compelled to take over the reins of the family business that was in Lugley Street.

In 1921 when there was an exhibition at Olympia of historic vehicles from the Victorian era, there were three of Bird Cheverton's carriages on display, one of which was a sleigh that he had designed to be drawn by a pair of horses.

His married life was to prove interesting. His first wife, Elizabeth Flux, provided him with thirteen children, namely Mary, Richard jnr, William, Charles, Harriette, Leonard, Frank, Alice, Dora, Thomas, Francis, Eleanor, and Archer. Elizabeth even found time to act as mayoress during Richard's tenure as mayor and the couple were to celebrate twenty-five years of marriage. Following Elizabeth's death in 1901, Richard remarried and enjoyed another twenty-five years of married life with his second wife, Jane Harriet Whittington.

As most of Newport's foremost businessmen at that time, Richard became involved in the running of the town and thus became the town's mayor in 1898. He was to serve on the town council for many years and for twenty-one of these served as the chairman of the prestigious Finance Committee, a most important role if ever there was one. He was also a Freemason, a founder member of the town's Conservative Club and a good friend and supporter of the parish church. Not surprisingly all this involvement in public life had an effect upon his health and he was compelled to resign his council membership in 1919. When recounting his memories of his early years he told of how, when staying in London, he witnessed a public execution by hanging outside Newgate. This must have been before 1868 when this macabre practice ceased.

Richard Bird Cheverton, snr., died in August 1933 aged 88 and was naturally given a civic funeral by the town with the flag at the Guildhall lowered to half mast and the town's maces being draped in black. He was laid to rest next to Elizabeth, his first wife, in Newport

Cemetery; his second wife joined them in 1937. At the time of Richard's death just seven of his children were still alive.

A poem by Albert Midlane on Mount Joy

Volunteer Sally C. found this poem by Albert Midlane in his book "The Vecta Garland." Albert died on 27th February 1909 and is buried in Carisbrooke Cemetery. Over a hundred years after his death, the words he wrote still reflect the view from the Cemetery.

*Enchanting height, commanding
Unrivalled scenery,
On every side expanding,
In wild variety :
I oft have paced thy summit,
When, as a gladsome boy,
I revelled in thy beauties,
Magnificent, Mount Joy !*

*E'en now in fancied leisure,
I tread thy height again ;
And view from thee with pleasure,
The fields of golden grain —
The thickly-mantled forest —
The distant deep blue sea —
The cliffs which guard our Island
From every enemy.*

*There, too, in sunlight gleaming,
Rise yonder Royal Towers,
With England's Standard streaming
O'er Osborne's rural bowers.
Meandering streams, beneath me,
Wind gently to the river,
Which meets the briny Solent,
Lost in its tides for ever.*

*The cot, the mansion, hamlet,
The Island's capital —
The fastnesses of Carisbrooke
Our Island citadel ;
The farmstead, heath, and woodland,
And meads of verdant green,
All here before me lying,
Form one delightful scene.*

*Sweet spot ! but once polluted
With heathen sacrifice ;*

*For here the Roman worshiped
His fabled deities ;
Here Jove, with blood placated,
Was sacredly enthroned,
And, Lord of all created,
Was reverently owned.*

*But " Mount of Jove " no longer,
We hail thee " Mount of Joy.''
Long may thy height of verdure
Our happy hours employ;
And while we view the beauties
Thy long-trod paths unfold,
May thanks arise, we own not
Those heathen rites of old !*

Note: an on-line version of this poem includes a footnote "Mount Joy, is probably a corruption of Mons Jovis, the name given to this eminence by the Romans."

Memorial transcriptions:

Memorial Inscriptions continue to be transcribed and added to the website; this might be attractive to new volunteers either as part of our clearing sessions or at times of their own choice – 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 'forever'.

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 600 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.

As mentioned above, the survey of plants and butterflies by the IW Natural History Society are available on the website at [CONSERVATION/Natural History](#).

Also. three local street directories (1904, 1931 and 1951) have been added to the website which may help people locate addresses recorded of those buried – [HISTORY/Street directories](#).

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; recording fauna and flora etc. - we are open to any suggestion of other help.

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