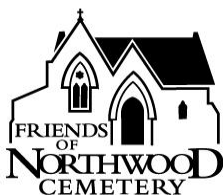


NEWSLETTER NUMBER 34

Officers:

Chairman	Jon Matthews
Secretary	David Jones
Treasurer	Richard Day



Other Trustees:

Peter Almond	Graham Lloyd
John Pullen	Barry Sowerby
Stella Watling	

Please address all enquiries to:
The Secretary, The Friends of Northwood Cemetery,
194 Newport Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7PU
Tel: (01983) 298445

Email: david@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Website: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk

Registered Charity no: 1143917

Chairman's Report



Work-in-Progress; it looks like a building site - and it is! The Contractors have been proceeding very well indeed preparing for the underpinning. 70 piles (35 pairs) are now inserted inside and outside the chapels; some of these are 15 metres long (ie: deep!). These will support beams on which the chapel structures will sit – planned by year-end.

At the far end of the Cemetery the **Muslim Burial Ground** has now been enhanced by the planting of date palms and olive trees, in keeping with the traditions of the Muslim faith. There are only eight graves in this plot and hitherto they had looked rather isolated within the Cemetery; we hope this lonely vista has now been satisfactorily addressed.

The adjacent **Natural Burial Ground** is settling down after harrowing but it will be the better part of two years before the soil will be able to take burials.

Elsewhere the volunteer working parties on Saturday and Wednesday mornings are fighting the dense foliage that has engulfed Plot 17 over many decades. A couple of dozen or more headstones have been freed of brambles and are now visible for families to see. This activity has created much 'brash' and our newly acquired diesel driven chipper has been put to good use producing wood chippings. These have been used to cover some of the pathways where winter conditions had made them unusable.

Whereas most volunteers are already in, or about to enter, their 70s, **Jason Flewin** is a good deal younger and his physical fitness, work ethic and stamina reflects his age; he has done a terrific job in cutting edges for the pathways and digging out the 'gunge' to reveal firmer ground. During the week he works for Island Roads so this is a case of his Saturday mornings being a "Busman's holiday"! Likewise it is so refreshing to see the enthusiasm that comparatively new volunteers, such as **Marian Lamsley-Jones** and **Roger Williams**, bring to the party. The volunteers do have a lot of fun!

We are still seeking to bolster our volunteer numbers; there is so much to do. It's not just the physical work in the Cemetery – there are also desk-bound jobs (such as Publicity and Press Relations) that remain unfilled. Is there anyone out there who might be interested in such a role? If so, it goes without saying that we'd love to hear from you!

Half a dozen of the volunteers have reported that they have seen not one, not two, not even three but **four** red squirrels frolicking around behind the chapels together. In the past one or two in a sighting was quite commonplace but this is the first year anyone can recall seeing **four** at the same time (and the observers are all convinced there was no double counting!).

I'm very pleased to report that interest in the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project** has swelled our membership and it now stands at 282 (in previous years we have hovered around 250). **Steve Callar**, our Membership Secretary, clearly has this under control.

The 2016 **Annual General Meeting** took place on Monday 13th June and the Minutes can be seen at: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/assets/2016-AGM-Minutes.pdf. In short, all the Trustees were re-elected with **Richard Day** taking on the Treasurer's role from John Pullen. **Peter Almond** was appointed Vice Chairman at the subsequent Board meeting on 5th July and **John Pullen** agreed to take on Grounds maintenance duties from Richard whose reduced mobility after a stroke has, sadly, prevented him from continuing in that role. John takes over the management of the regular volunteer working parties.

A change in the Constitution was adopted whereby the Chairman's term is now limited to 3 consecutive years (extendable *only* if there are no other candidates for the role).

Jon Matthews
Chairman

Training Opportunities

As part of our commitment to the **Heritage Lottery Fund** to secure its funding, the Trustees have undertaken to offer a series of two hour training sessions for the community at large.

Whilst we expect the many of attendees to already be “Friends” of Northwood Cemetery, these are ‘open’ events offered to everybody - so if you know anyone who would be interested please let them know of these **free** sessions.

The programme already announced is:

Saturday 13 th August	10:30am	Grave mapping
Saturday 20 th August	10:30am	Memorial transcribing
Tuesday 30 th August	10:00am	Exploring the History of your House
Saturday 17 th September	10:30am	Research & Education
Tuesday 20 th September	1:00pm	Exploring the History of your House
Saturday 1 st October	10:30am	Website & Archives
Saturday 15 th October	10:30am	Conservation
Tuesday 18 th October	10:00am	Cemeteries and burials in Cowes and Northwood
Saturday 22 nd October	10:30am	Sustainability
Tuesday 25 th October	10:00am	Exploring the History of your House
Tuesday 8 th November	10:00am	Women buried in Northwood Cemetery
Tuesday 22 nd November	10:00am	Women buried in Northwood Cemetery

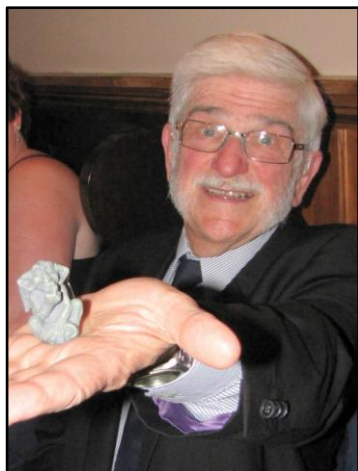
Further details are available on the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** website at: www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk/training.

The Tuesday events will be held at **Northwood House**, Cowes and will be facilitated by **Richard Smout**, the Isle of Wight Council’s Heritage Services Manager, and the Saturday events will take place at **Ryde Cemetery** (reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed) and will be facilitated by members of the **Ryde Social Heritage Group**.

If you, or family and friends, would like to take advantage of these offerings then please contact me at peter@friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk - or on 01983 299091.

Peter Almond
Vice-Chairman

Bernard Godfrey Taylor (1935–2016)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a true Gentleman of Cowes, **Bernard Taylor**.

Bernard was born in Terminus Road, Cowes in 1935 - the home of his maternal Grandparents. The youngest of four boys, he grew up in and around Cowes Railway Station which was on the opposite side of the road. In 1949 he was in the first batch of pupils to attend the 'new School' in Ward Avenue but like many, looked forward to leaving.

On reaching school leaving age and desperate to enter the world of work, he had discovered that there was a vacancy for a young lad to work at Benzie, the Jeweller at 61 High Street, Cowes.

This business had been founded in 1862 by Simpson Benzie, a watchmaker from Maidstone. It was well established and held many Royal Warrants, including the Duke of Edinburgh. Bernard's brother Michael, was a steward at the nearby Royal Yacht Squadron and a representative from Benzie called regularly to wind up the Squadron clock. Bernard had asked his brother to 'sound the man out' regarding the possibility of him gaining employment.

This Michael did and Bernard managed to secure his future in the business. Initially he had to do some daily mundane jobs, including scrubbing the tiled entrance, cleaning the windows and polishing the extensive brass fittings that once adorned the frontage of the shop. Mentored by craftsman Stewart Sibbick, Bernard became a highly skilled goldsmith in his own right, making all manner of quality items, including jewellery and decorative commissions and was involved in the making of the Cowes Mayoral Chain (*Ed: currently worn by our very own Secretary, David Jones*).

The Benzie business had caught onto the idea of designing and making jewellery and decorative items for the yachting fraternity. Included in Bernard's 'portfolio' were models made in silver of the Duke of Edinburgh's two yachts, *Bluebottle* and *Cowslip* and an item he was particularly proud of was a tie pin he made for the Duke, depicting his racing yacht burgee.

Many townsfolk will remember seeing him, dressed in blazer and grey flannels, walking with measured stride making his way home for lunch every day of his fifty years of service with the company.

Bernard's real passion in life was magic and he was in fact a member of the Magic Circle. He scoured publications on the subject for new ideas and had in recent years made use of the Internet, often calling on friends to enhance his PC skills.

In 1978 Bernard, along with his magician friends, performed for Lord Louis Mountbatten at their magic club. Lord Louis had an interest in magic and they had invited him along to become their President. Bernard always had a couple of tricks 'up his sleeve' and latterly, some local residents were occasionally lucky enough to witness an impromptu example of his close up magic skills in the *Cowes Ale House*, where he also enjoyed the odd pint of Guinness.

A prominent member of the Cowes Heritage society, Bernard would engage in meticulous and detailed research into historical events that took place in and around the town, making regular visits to Cowes Library and the Records Office in Newport, being well known at both locations.

This Gentleman of the Town, will be sorely missed by many. To conclude with a phrase he often used himself: "They don't make 'em like they used to".

Bernard's funeral took place on 3rd August, when he was interred in a grave beside his beloved brother Michael, in Plot 34 of Northwood Cemetery.

Barry Sowerby

Historian

Green Woodpecker (Picus Viridis)



The Green Woodpecker is the largest of British woodpeckers and unmistakable with its bright green and yellow plumage, topped by a red cap. They are often to be seen at the southern 'open grassland' area of Northwood Cemetery.

More often than not they will be observed hopping clumsily in their search for food, exploring the galleries of an ants nest with their long tongue, extracting ants and pupae. If disturbed, they will dart off with alternating short wing bursts and undulating glides.

They will be flashing a yellow rump as they disappear to cover, letting out a noisy 'laugh like' alarm call from which they get their nickname of '**yaffle**'. If close enough, a male can be identified by his red striped moustache.

An Anchor Inn Landlord and his family



An unmarked grave (3722) in Plot 3, close to Cowes Medical Centre, is the final resting place of **Ernest Eugene Nugent Stallard** and his wife Catherine Jane.

His sister Agnes Beatrice died in 1893 aged 29 and is buried in the same grave (plot 12 grave 1038) as her mother Eliza who died in 1899.

His father William is buried close by (in plot 12, grave 1040); this is the only family grave with a headstone.

Ernest became landlord of the *Anchor Inn* in 1897 remaining there until his death in December 1905, aged just 43. He left a widow and a young son, **Joseph Walter Ernest** aged 9. Catherine took over the licence and was landlady until 1910 when she and her son moved to 3 Upper Cross Street.

Aged 18 when war was declared Joseph, like so many other local lads, joined the *Isle of Wight Rifles*. He was a rifleman attached to the 1st/8th Battalion Hampshire Regiment when they set sail in *HMTS Aquitania* on 30th July 1915, arriving off the Gallipoli Peninsula on 8th August.

The dreadful conditions of that ill fated expedition are well documented; suffice to say that Joseph Stallard was wounded and taken prisoner, dying of his wounds on 25th August 1915.

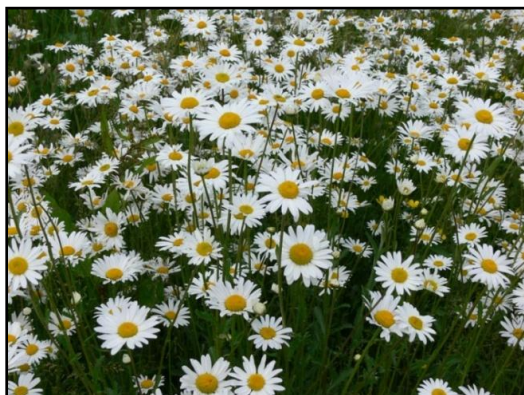
He had been an apprentice boat builder prior to joining up and is buried in Haidar Pasha Military Cemetery in a suburb of Istanbul. He is remembered on the Cowes War Memorial and the Foresters' Memorial in St Mary's Church.

The burial records add a sad postscript to the story of this small family: Catherine is listed as having died in the *Isle of Wight Workhouse Infirmary* aged 61 in December 1922 and was buried 17 years to the day, 9th December, after her husband.

David Jones
Secretary

Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society (IWNHAS)

Report on the Field Trip to Northwood Cemetery on 28th May 2016



Northwood Cemetery is a large site just off Newport Road Cowes, adjacent to Shamblers Copse. To achieve maximum recording coverage the group split into twos and threes to record in specific areas identified from a map supplied by the Friends of Northwood Cemetery. The Cemetery is on Bembridge marls and the soils range from slightly acidic through to neutral.

The Cemetery has a number of fine specimen trees at the northern end but as these have been documented previously, our efforts were directed principally at recording the ground flora. There is an area (marked on the map as Plots 14/15 19/20) which is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as a 'Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site' - an area which is recorded as wooded on the oldest known maps although at some time in its history the trees have been cleared and replanted. Such sites retain their woodland soil characteristics and tend to have plants associated with ancient woodland sites. 12 ancient woodland indicator plants were recorded including **wood anemone** (*Anemone nemorosa*), **bluebell** (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), **barren strawberry** (*Potentilla sterilis*) and **pignut** (*Conopodium majus*).

The grassland areas to the south of this are generally strimmed during the growing season which meant that a lot of the identification had to be done from leaves. However, several interesting species were found including one plant of **lousewort** (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) which had not been recorded here since 1994. Other plants, looked for but not found included **Green-winged orchid** (*Anacamptis morio*) last recorded 2015; **Betony** (*Betonica officinalis*) last recorded 1994; **Spring sedge** (*Carex caryophyllea*) last recorded 2001 - but these species may still be present.

At the south west end of the site, we were delighted to find an unmown area of lowland meadow, **a habitat which is nationally important and increasingly rare**. Characteristic species are **red fescue** (*Festuca rubra*), **crested dog's-tail** (*Cynosurus cristatus*), **black knapweed** (*Centaurea nigra*), **common bird's-foot trefoil** (*Lotus corniculatus*), **ribwort plantain** (*Plantago lanceolata*) and **sweet vernal grass** (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). There was a magnificent display (pictured above) of **ox-eye daisies** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) interspersed with **meadow buttercup** (*Ranunculus acris*), **common sorrel** (*Rumex acetosa*) and **corky-fruited water-dropwort** (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*).

Keith and Anne Marston
IWNHAS

Fund Raising

In return for making £1.68m available to the **Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project**, a joint initiative between the **Friends of Northwood Cemetery** and the **Isle of Wight Council**, the partnership pledged to the **Heritage Lottery Fund** that we would contribute **£10,350** through our own fund raising efforts. We are pleased to say that, as the Project reaches its half-way point, we are on target with over £5,000 raised so far.

However we cannot afford to take our foot off the pedal so fund raising continues to be an important element of our day-to-day activities.

A major event during the last quarter was the visit of the Phoenix Choir to All Saints' Church, Gurnard on Saturday 21st May where there was a capacity audience. Thank you to everyone (particularly **Jo McKinnie**, **Hazel Pullen** and **Suzanne Wolfe**, the organisers) who attended this splendid evening of music and song; the concert generated over **£820** from a retiring collection and raffle.

We are grateful to the following who donated prizes for the raffle:

Co-op Funeral Services, East Cowes	Mess Canteen
Corries Cabin	Nectar
Cowes Combined Services Club	Plaza Ice Cream Parlour
Cowes Conservative Club	Pier View Hotel
Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club	Red Duster
Duke of York Hotel	Red Funnel Ferries
IOW Mobile DJ Services	Rosalies of Cowes
Jolliffes	Watch House Barn

as well as several donations from "Friends".

On 18th June **Stella Watling**, ably supported by **Val Bennett** and **David Jones**, held the second of her **Yard Sales** at her home and raised over **£500** in the process. There'll be one more before the autumn kicks in – on **Saturday 24th September** and it would be great to see all the hard work she puts in for these events rewarded with your attendance; better still if you have 'collectables' to donate! Please call her on 01983 281597 for more information.

A third notable contributor to our fund raising efforts comes from the unlikely source of the **Cowes Ale House** in Shooter's Hill. Through its fortnightly quiz nights and collecting box on the bar, we have benefited from its support by more than **£1,100** so far in 2016. A big thank you goes to the staff and the patrons there.

Jon Matthews
Chairman