

# COWES HERITAGE

## NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2019.



Cowes Heritage are promoting two events this autumn.



### PEOPLE AND PLACES OF OUR ISLAND'S PAST.

**An Illustrated Talk  
By Island Historian  
BRIAN GREENING**



**7.30 p.m. BIRMINGHAM RD  
METHODIST CHURCH  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH  
FREE ADMISSION - REFRESHMENTS.**

Firstly we are pleased that Brian Greening has agreed to give an illustrated talk on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Brian has a wealth of information and photographs relating to this Island's past. This is sure to be an entertaining and informative evening at Birmingham Rd Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm.



**"MADE IN COWES"**

**REGATTA HOUSE**

**BATH ROAD**

**COWES**

**19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

to

**10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**10 am to 4 pm**

**Open every day**

**Free Admission.**

The second event is our annual exhibition. This year the theme is "Made in Cowes" when we will be exploring Cowes & District's rich manufacturing history, featuring such diverse topics as shipbuilding, rope works and cure all pills & potions. Hobbies are also featured.

We hope you will visit us at these events -for more information Contact David Jones - 01983 298445 or [davwin@talktalk.net](mailto:davwin@talktalk.net)

## MADE IN COWES EXHIBITION.

As well as display boards featuring various firms that made Cowes the centre of manufacturing on the Island, this year our exhibition at Regatta House will feature several new folders. There will be an opportunity to browse through these and our usual folders. These are some of the folders which will be available:

*Bricks & Mortar - Brickworks were once common in Cowes & District.*

*Story of Spartan Aircraft – Built at Somerton, an iconic aircraft.*

*Images from our archives –This is a series of photographs, many new to us.*

*Lesser known facts about Cowes - Some interesting facts about the area.*

*HMY Britannia - King George V's yacht that once graced the Solent*

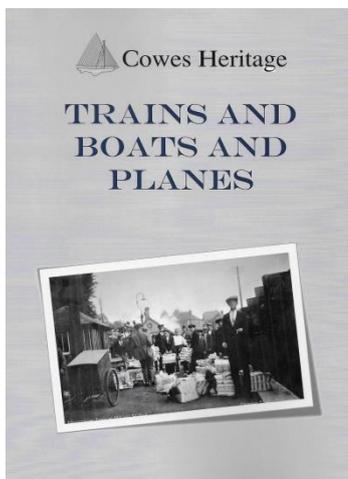
*From Boats to Flight: story of S E Saunders, Saunders Roe, BHC & GKN.*

*Cowes War Memorial –Now in Northwood Park once stood in the High St, also Cowes contribution during wartime- A look at wartime Cowes.*

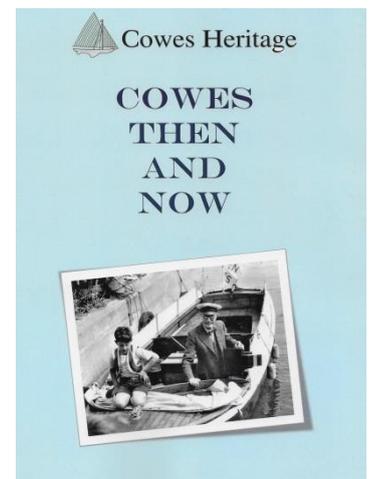
*Enfield Cars –Electric Cars before their time built at Somerton, and Charles Sibbick & Albert Yard - A little known local boat builder.*

We also plan to have artefacts on show relating to “Made in Cowes”.

## TWO NEW BOOKS.



Compiled by Barry & John Groves these books will be on sale shortly and certainly at our forthcoming events.



**Trains and Boats and Planes** the title holds a clue regarding contents, much of it new; great photos and masses of information.

**Cowes Then and Now** uses today's photographic enthusiasts' expertise to compare what exists now with what used to be there.

## A LOOK AT NORTHWOOD CEMETERY.

Opened in 1855 our local cemetery is a wonderful heritage asset and a haven for wildlife. Sadly by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century much of the Victorian splendour (left) had been lost, the grounds were overgrown and the local authority was talking about demolishing the unsafe right-hand, non-conformist chapel.



Enter the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.

Formed in 2008, with the aim of saving and restoring both chapels, the Friends have achieved something arguably beyond their wildest dreams. Thanks to a significant Heritage Lottery Grant and the expertise of local firm G J Banks today both chapels are both wonderfully restored and in regular use. The right-hand chapel is a Heritage Resource Centre open to visitors. Volunteers are on hand on Thursday & Friday mornings should you wish to find a grave or just have a look at what a small group of volunteers can achieve; visit on the first Friday of the month between 10 & 1 for the regular coffee mornings. Besides the chapels there is much else to see; interesting headstones & monuments, red squirrels, many birds and a significant number (over 250) of plant species. A small group of volunteers are conserving this natural haven as well as transcribing and plotting, often difficult to read, headstones. Thanks to volunteers the cemetery has won a second prestigious Green Flag Award.

The Civilian Mass Grave is a poignant reminder of the effect of war on Cowes. Seen here following the laying of wreaths to commemorate the night of May 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 1942 and the part played by the Polish warship ORP Blyskawica.



There is much else of interest such as the Redfern & Fennings monuments. Simpson Benzie and Frank Beken founders of well-known local firms are buried here; they are all featuring in our next exhibition. The Friends' website is well worth a visit either to find information from the burial records, read past newsletters or find forthcoming events.

## PEOPLE & PUBS

It is the landlords, landladies and the customers that give pubs their character. Here are a couple of groups from the past.



Outside the Alexandra Tavern, Medina Rd; landlord J W Atkinson (in shirt sleeves, his wife & daughter & regulars. Closed in the 1920s & later demolished

*A David Cook original. His grandfather Samuel Winslow is standing 1<sup>st</sup> right.*

The Victorious Painter's Ladies Darts Team late 1970s; From left: Mrs Val Spragg; Miss Norny Morgan; landlady Mrs Dot Underwood; Mrs Jean Briggs; Mrs Nell Ireson; Mrs Nora Morgan; Mrs Carol Wray . Seated: team captain Mrs Alice Highgate.



Two of our many pictures in our collection collection also found in the Cowes Heritage publication The Pubs of Cowes, Gurnard & Northwood.

For information about anything relating to the heritage of Cowes & District contact David Jones 01983 298445 [davwin@talktalk.net](mailto:davwin@talktalk.net).

Or visit our website or Facebook page.