



The Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery

Spring issue of FoSOC Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the third newsletter edited by Val Ferguson and Lizzie O'Sullivan, we do hope that you still enjoy reading all the articles. Still waiting to hear from any of the FoSOC members if they would like to take on the Newsletter- only twice a year?

This year's Titanic events will be slightly different to previous times. There will be a 'walk' on the Saturday (12th April) about the 'Survivors' and only an hour long, then the following day Sunday (13th April) in the morning at 11.00am a talk in the Non-Conformist Chapel, and in the afternoon a longer walk. We do hope to see you on at least one of the events. Taking bookings.

Events so far are as follows.

Very early morning Bird walk and Dawn chorus - Sunday 27th April 5:00 am
Getting up with the lark for this one, although being an urban habitat we probably won't hear any actual larks. We will hopefully see and hear the common birds such as robin, dunnoek, tit species, thrushes, blackbirds, wrens, parakeets and maybe great-spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, goldcrest, firecrest, stock dove, and others. Early morning is a good time for mammal activity too, as well as the usual squirrels we could see deer, hedgehogs, of foxes, but no promises. Wrap up warm in case it's a chilly morning.- led by Phil Budd



Lives Lost at Sea - Sunday 4th May 2:00 pm

This walk we will visit the graves of the people who died who were associated with Southampton Docks. Some people died as a result of accidents while they were working at the Docks, others died on board ships and some were Southampton locals. There were those who died far from home at sea and it was a deliberate act. There were even those just visitors to our shores and died far from home. We will hear their story of how they died. Meeting at the Non-Conformist Chapel at 2.00pm where there will be a display. All FoSOC walk are free but donations are very welcome



Learn to Identify the Flowers of The Cemetery -Sunday 29th June 10:30 am

June is the maximum time for flowering species in the cemetery, although the spring bulbs will be well over. We should find an array of flowers from the pea, bellflower, daisy, mint, umbellifer, stonecrop, and many other families. We may also look at some grasses and the few trees, such as lime and Indian bean tree, which may be flower then. If the weather is fine there should be a good number of pollinators and other insects to see too and I certainly hope that 2025 will be a better year for butterflies than was 2024. This will primarily be an opportunity to gain experience more about the flowers, especially those less familiar ones. - led by Phil Budd



Jane Austen – 250th Anniversary of her birth- Friday 18th July 11:00 am
Town, Military and Naval. Old Cemetery Connections with Jane Austen's lifetime. FoSOC are pleased to announce a Jane Austen walk in July as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of her birth in 1775 .Jane Austen was an English novelist known for her six novels, famously for 'Pride & Prejudices' & 'Sense



& Sensibility' which perfectly interpret, and comment upon the English landed gentry at the end of the 18th century. Austen's plots often searches for the dependence of women on marriage for the pursuit of favourable social standing and financial security This walk includes Austen family graves along with other notables from the period, naval, military, businesses and friends.

All walks are to be booked online via FoSOC website fosoc.org.uk, stating the date, number attending and time (this is there are more than one walk on a particular day). The walk might take more than one hour, to 90 minutes. If HOT a bottle of water. Meeting at the Non-Conformist Chapel. All FoSOC walk are free but donations are very welcome

Learn to Identify the Insect life of The Cemetery

Saturday 26th July 10:30 am

The Old Cemetery is a haven for insects due to the sheltered location, the low intensity management, and the great variety of insect host plants. Please join me on this opportunity to study, learn about, and hopefully identify a wide range of species of grasshopper and cricket, Hemiptera bug, ladybirds and other beetles, bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, and two winged flies. We won't be ignoring other invertebrates such as snails and spiders should we come across them. Many of the species will be seen on flowers but I will be bringing netting equipment to aid us as required. If the weather is poor the search would be more challenging but what we do find may be less mobile.– led by Phil Budd



Southampton Football Club (Saints) - Sunday 7th September 2:00 pm

140 years ago, on November 21st the Southampton Football Club was formed. In the early years, the young men who played for Southampton football Club (Saints) had a good life of fame and fortune. But after their career ended what happened to them? Not all of these men went onto to have a happy retirement, and some lost it all and died in tragic and sad circumstances. On this walk we will hear the stories of these once famous men and hear how they died.

Due to it being of a specific topic – i.e. saints' footballers – there will be some areas where there will be a lengthy walk between the graves.

Meet at the Non-Conformist Chapel, where there will be a display. This walk is for 1 hour only.

All FoSOC walk are free but donations are very welcome



We have enough for a team!!! Southampton footballers buried in the SOC.

By Lizzie O'Sullivan

Researching this information and writing this article was a very pleasant "aside" from my usual articles that tell tales of deaths by misadventure or unusual means. While browsing in my local library I came across a book about past Southampton footballers. I had a quick look through and wondered if any of them were buried in the SOC. I am pleased to say I found 21 players and 1 trainer who, after their career ended, remained in this area and when they died were buried in the SOC. I have kept this article brief because these sportsmen are the topic of my summer walk later this year when I will go into more detail about how they died. While doing this research I also found numerous other sports people buried in the SOC, (golfers, athletes, cricketers, rugby, cyclists, bowls, sailors, jockey) that I may present in a future FOSOC newsletter.

From humble beginnings - A very brief history of Southampton football club.

On the 21st November 1885, the Rev Arthur Baron Sole formed the Southampton St Marys Church of England Young Men's Association. The team were soon nicknamed the "Saints" and they won their very first game against Freemantle F C 5 – 1. In 1885 the Saints did not have a home ground so matches were played where they could. One popular place was Southampton common but there were problems with this because people would walk across the pitch mid game or kids would steal the ball. In 1886 the Saints moved into the Antelope Sports Ground in Charlotte Place and they were now known as "Southampton St. Mary's F.C.". The Saints played at the Antelope ground from 1888 to 1896 and played their first ever league match there on 6th October 1894.

In 1896/97 due to the redevelopment of the *Antelope Ground* the Saints moved to the Northlands




Cricket ground in Northlands Road. However, spectator football was growing in popularity and there soon became a need for a large capacity ground. In 1898 George Thomas built just a place in Archers Road that could hold 20 – 25 000 spectators and this became the home of the Saints. The ground

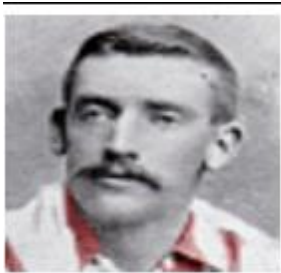
nicknamed "*The Dell*" opened in September 1898, and the first match played there was against Brighton United and was ceremoniously kicked off by *Alderman George J Tilling*. In 1907 the Saints became the Southampton Football Club and they remained at the Dell until 2001 when they moved again. The Saints now occupy the St Marys Stadium in Britannia Road, Northam.

Photograph of the Southampton FC Team who played in the first league match.



The Southampton Players and Trainer who are buried in the Southampton Old Cemetery.

			
Victor Barton	George Carter	Samuel Charles Deacon	Albert Ernest Dyer
			
Alfred Fry	Abraham Hartley	Harry Haynes	Frank Jordan
			
Bert Lee	Alfred Littlehales	George Marshall	George Muir



Thomas Nicol



Joseph Price



John Sibley



Henry John Small



George Smith



Thomas Smith



William Stride



Ernest James Taylor



Walter Triggs



William Dawson
Trainer

Edwina Olive Cooke nee Parcell
24th October 1928 - 18th February 2025

Yesterday 20th March, was a beautiful sunny spring day for the **Celebrating the life of Edwina Olive Cooke known as 'Eddy.'** She passed away peacefully on the 18th February 2025. She was an extraordinary person who shared so many beautiful stories about her life and achievements over the years. This would have been her 97th year and what a life she had.

Edwina was the 783rd Mayor of Southampton. Her ward was Shirley and she worked diligently for the city she loved, she truly thought Southampton was a wonderful city. A person of integrity, character and determination. Edwina had many charities she supported but mostly her love was dogs, she was never without one.

Edwina will be missed in the Old Cemetery, stopping and chatting as she would be walking dog(s) and not necessarily her own since her last dog died, she started to foster dogs.



If you have any stories to tell please do send them onto Val Ferguson either by email or post at 1, Lancaster Rd, Southampton SO16 5DN. We would be so pleased and delighted to hear from you!!!