THE BROADSHEET Issue No.2 – Spring 2009

'UNIVERSAL SUPPORT'

A large number of well established local organisations have offered formal written support for the lottery funding application presently being prepared by a sub-committee of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The non-exhaustive list of supporters includes The Worthing Society, South Broadwater Residents Association, The Richard Jefferies Society, The Royal Sussex (Living History) Group, Ferring History Group, H D Tribe Ltd. (Funeral Directors), both Worthing High and Davison's Schools, David Broughton of Northbrook College, Chris Hare and others. This all adds strength to our application and credibility to our objectives.

Contact with schools has been particularly promising resulting in requests from Head Teachers for pupils to become involved in various aspects of cemetery research, thereby increasing general awareness amongst young people of the existence and importance of the cemetery.

FRIENDS TO GO 'WORLD WIDE'

Debra Hillman has been making progress in bringing the Friends into the 21st century by taking the important initial steps in establishing a web-site. By way of contribution to our group she has purchased from *Namecheap* the domain name www.fbwc.co.uk for a period of two years at a cost of $17.76 – something over £12. She is now looking at the web-site hosting issue and has found one supplier that charges only £2.50 per month. She is continuing her research but in the meantime Friends are invited to visit the site to view the construction page, which contains a handful of photos. These actions will sow the seeds for the future in terms of providing a window for the world to look at. The content of the site presents dozens of possibilities and a menu driven system will give Friends and visitors an opportunity to view information on any relevant subject that interests them.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Christopher Green has produced an ever-growing document that is nothing short of remarkable. His 'Book of Remembrance' contains a wealth of information relating to the various war graves in Broadwater and Worthing cemetery, including name, service, rank, regiment, date and place of death, circumstances where known and a wealth of other salient facts and figures. The entry for each military person has been printed out and filed into individual plastic folders, which 'reside' in a large ring binder.

Not only is the product a proverbial work of art but it will become a wealth of information for the local population, researchers and future generations. Even in its present form it is the definitive 'bible' for all who are interested in war graves or local individuals who fought and died for their Country. All that is needed is the time to read and study this definitive tome. Well done Chris. Much remains to be done and Chris has not only been searching old newspapers but has recently enlisted a helper in Anna Bryant to record inscriptions on old graves.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS

In the latest 'Spring 2009' Newsletter from the NFCF there is a concise half page history of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery penned by our Chairman. The note provides information, key dates, a wealth of statistics, famous graves, all of which helps put us on the National map.

GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES OVER-REACTION TO CEMETERY HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Bridget Prentice, Minister at The Ministry of Justice, has stated that too many burial ground operators have over-reacted to the risks associated with allegedly unsafe gravestones and memorials. Many operators have been laying down headstones, staking others and using inappropriate testing methods. The Ministry has suggested that simple visual checks with hand testing should be sufficient to determine condition, without the need for special tools or equipment, such as the objectionable 'topple testers'. Guidance now states that a simple approach should be adopted to ensure that cemeteries are safe without distressing bereaved families, who should be kept informed of any actions involving the graves of their loved ones.

Previous unacceptable procedures arose from a fear of litigation should any cemetery visitor be injured by a toppling memorial. Other guidelines apply where memorials are clearly dangerous but even in such circumstances it is suggested that in the first place a specialist structural engineer or memorial mason should be consulted before any radical actions are taken. It seems that common sense may have prevailed, for once!

ADOPT A GRAVE

As a result of Mary McKeown asking the question and our Chairman and others nodding furiously in approval, it was agreed back in January that, especially with the weather now improving and with a series of tours and an Open Day planned, wherever possible Friends should adopt a grave (or three) if physically possible. This should ensure that little 'pockets' of well presented graves appear throughout the cemetery giving the correct impression that somebody still cares about the departed. Your editor is adopting the graves either side of his Great Grandfather and this will inevitably result in me finding out a little more about those incarcerated therein. Such activities may even lead to additions to our Civilian research efforts. As mentioned in the last issue of '*THE BROADSHEET*' a number of graves have already been adopted by special interest groups and other Friends, including the graves of our first Mayor and Lady Mayor by WBC.

TOURS AND OPEN DAYS

Although agreed at previous meetings and shown in our Secretary's excellent minutes - just a reminder that further cemetery tours are to be arranged on the first Saturday of every month between April and October inclusive. A special Open Day will be held on 1 August, during the school holidays.

There will be a special clean-up before the Open Day and a splendid touch will be the assistance provided by Sally Roberts and her Brownie team. Other details are in the planning stage but with hopefully most members attending it should be successful provided we can achieve a worthwhile attendance figure. Several ideas have been mooted and more information will be available in the next issue.

MEMBERSHIP AND MONEY

The ever-increasing membership figure has broken through the '30' barrier but we still need more members who are genuinely interested in Worthing's past, our local history and heritage, the community in which we all live and everything that the Friends are doing or intend to do. As a result of new membership and subsidised expenditure we will soon be in danger of having over £100 in the Bank (until we win the lottery).

GEORGE PAINE

Rosemary Pearson has prepared an interesting piece on George Paine, the 'Paine' in the well known local company of Paine, Manwaring & Lephard. Paine Manwaring continues to trade from their premises adjacent to Broadwater Green.

The origins of the firm date back to the early 19th century, according to 'Georgian and Victorian Broadwater' by Ronald Kerridge and Michael

Standing, trading having commenced about 1725. William Paine was the local village Blacksmith and the business that emerged was family owned until 1863, when another William Paine died. George Paine, the youngest son, born in 1844, continued to run the business but in 1874 he took on his nephew, Frank Manwaring, son of his eldest sister Eliza and her husband William Manwaring, both of whom are buried in Broadwater Cemetery (Grave B1 R10 G3). The firm prospered by keeping up with modern developments, and George became more interested in the engineering side. In 1883 he patented his 'Counter Balance Continuous Ventilator Stays' for opening greenhouse vents. These were particularly useful in an area like Worthing and thousands were sold to the many greenhouse operators in the area. Later he joined with Edwin Lephard in a small threshing and haulage firm, later known as 'Lephard & Paine'.

George appears to have been a colourful character. In his younger days he was a member of Broadwater Cricket Club and in John Marshall's book 'Sussex Cricket' *he was described as a 'flamboyant, massive blacksmith and hefty hitter'. Apparently he wore a top hat when playing the game! He was a respected and well-liked member of the community, eventually becoming an Alderman. When he became ill sand was spread on the road outside of his home to deaden the sound of the traffic.*

George Paine died in June 1903, after which the various enterprises were combined to form a limited company 'Paine, Manwaring & Lephard Ltd.', Frank Manwaring being the first Managing Director. George is buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, grave No. C12 R13 G3.

THE CORBETT FAMILY

There have been a number of contributors promoting interest in the fascinating Corbett Family. A note from Tom Wye set out the background and family research continues to be undertaken by Debra Hillman with mixed results – so far. Paul Holden has given the matter publicity in *'The Sentinel'* newspaper, having recently published a letter from Debra and a photograph of the impressive grave.

Molly Corbett was born on 11 May 1912 and died on 5 January 1928. Curiously the inscription on the tomb states she was 16 years of age but based on the above dates this

was obviously not the case. Burial records indicate that Molly died in Switzerland but was not buried in the magnificent vault until 13 May 1929, a full 16 months after her death! Her father, Maxwell Campbell Corbett, was born on 5 December 1888 and died on 23 January 1944. He was a mining engineer and he died in far off Mexico City but (again) he was not interred in the family's Worthing vault with Molly until 30 June 1947, some 30 months after his death.

Molly's Mother Eileen Kathleen Veronica Corbett died in Brisbane, Australia on 29 May 1985, aged 93, and she joined Molly and Maxwell in the family vault on 25 June 1985, just four weeks after her death. The Corbett family were obviously well-off but to date it has not been possible to establish the family's link with Worthing, other than the tomb. This utterly fascinating scenario is presently under investigation by our 'Civilian Researcher', an activity that may well not have occurred had it not been for the existence of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. What *has* been recently established is that Eileen's maiden name was Reid.

CRICKET AND SALVATION

Paul Holden continues to unearth interesting snippets pertaining to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Two characters involved in the Worthing Salvation Army riots of 1884 are both buried in the cemetery. One George Head was a pro-Salvationist businessman whose property was attacked by a rampaging mob, causing him to open fire with a revolver (and we are worried about knife crime!). Giacarna Semadeni was a 25 year old pastry chef who was cracked over the head near the Old Town hall during the riots. He died two years later, although it is not clear whether the injuries he

sustained had any bearing on his demise. His death was not reported in the local press. Both individuals were interred at 'Broadwater and Worthing'. Tom Wye has traced their graves. Head's is unmarked but Semadeni's memorial remains in situ.

Broadwater Manor was a fine residence during the Victorian era and it was occupied by Mr and Mrs Horwood. He was an avid cricket fan and he even had a wicket prepared in a meadow then adjoining the Manor. He played for the Gentlemen of Sussex against the Australian Aboriginals, the first Aussie side to tour England. Mr Horwood died in 1870 but his widow went on to enjoy her 100th birthday in 1933. It is alleged that his grave was the first in the then (fairly) new burial ground to be adorned by a cross but there is now no sign of it.

THE BROADSHEET

This Spring 2009 issue should appear as an attachment to the covering e-mail but the Editor is aware that for some recipients with incompatible software they may not be able to open 'THE BROADSHEET' attachment – hence the advantage of incorporating it within the body of the e-mail. If readers have any problems please let me know and another technique will be adopted. Also I have decided to label the issues 'Winter, Spring, Summer and Winter' rather than January, April, July and October.

In addition to news items, the next issue will feature an article by Tom Wye on the great typhoid outbreak in Worthing during 1893 and Rosemary Pearson has a closer look at the old Cross Street cemetery, recently highlighted by Paul Holden and the (part) headstone discovery from the old site. Keep your news items, stories or discoveries coming in for us all to share – all contributions are welcome.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Easter.

John Vaughan
Editor