THE BROADSHEET Issue No.3 – Summer 2009

OPEN DAY FOCUS – 1 AUGUST 2009

Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have been busy planning and preparing for the first Open day since the inauguration of the group in October 2008. Nearly every Friend has been busy maintaining the site, arranging for display boards, signs, exhibitions, posters, advertisements, flyers, picture frames, refreshments and tour activities.

The 'word' is being spread and it is hoped that in addition to the general public all Friends, their friends and families will attend and that publicity brings in the crowds. The Friends are realistic in terms of potential public appeal but even if the result turns out to be 'the right crowd but no crowding' the exercise will have been well worth while. Other organisations will be involved ranging from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to the Girl Guides.

All Friends are reminded that there will be a final clean-up the Saturday prior to the Open Day, 25 July. Please attend if you are able. As regards the weather - fingers crossed!

LOTTERY BID LODGED

After months of hard work by our Chairman and the support committee the bid for Lottery Funding has now been lodged. This amounts to £31,300 inclusive of VAT, contingencies and valuations. The total effort expended amounted to hundreds of hours and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Cllr. Tom Wye

and all those supporters who gathered data for inclusion in the very well supported bid.

We are of course all hopeful that the bid will be successful but whatever the outcome it would not have been possible to have produced a more thorough product. There will now be an approximately 10 week time frame while the bid is duly considered. If successful the proceeds will be used to improve the cemetery in a variety of ways and give immense encouragement for further effort by the Friends and hopefully the community at large.

TRIBES TRIBUTE

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery were unanimous in their praise of the long established local firm of Undertakers, Messrs H D Tribe & Co., regarding their generous gesture in sponsoring our web site: www.fbwc.co.uk to the tune of £100 per annum. The web site is going to be critical in our communications with the world at large and to have financial security in not only building and maintaining the site but developing the same in the future is very reassuring. A resounding 'Thank You' to Tribes from all supporters.

Subject to costings Tribes have also agreed to conduct courses on basic cleaning and maintenance of memorials, which could be of future use to Friends and their many helpers.

NATTY NORTHBROOK

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF 'THE BROADSHEET' THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE REMARKABLE NORTHBROOK STUDENTS HAS BEEN DRAMATIC. NOT ONLY HAS DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED BUT MANY AREAS HAVE NOW BEEN POPULATED WITH DATA. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BETWEEN

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TOM WYE, DEBRA HILLMAN AND SALLY ROBERTS. YOUR EDITOR WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE ACCESS TO THE LATEST COPY OF THIS JOURNAL AVAILABLE AT THE TOUCH OF A MENU BUTTON. ONE LOOKS FORWARD TO A FULL-BLOWN INTERACTIVE CAPABILITY BEING ON-LINE SHORTLY, IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ANYBODY ON THIS PLANET WITH A COMPUTER WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THIS INTERNATIONALLY AVAILABLE SITE FOR A WIDE RANGE OF USEFUL INFORMATION. THESE KEEN YOUNG FOLK MUST BE HEARTILY CONGRATULATED ON THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR.

THE KEY INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE WEBSITE IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE:

1. A POTTED HISTORY OF THE CEMETERY
2. OPENING TIMES SUMMER AND WINTER
3. TOURS AND EVENTS
4. WHO ARE THE FBWC AND WHAT DO THEY DO
5. CONTACT DETAILS FOR FBWC
6. APPLICATION FORM TO JOIN FBWC
7. ACCESS TO LATEST NEWSLETTER – 'THE BROADSHEET'
8. INTERESTING PEOPLE/MONUMENTS IN THE CEMETERY
9. GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHS
10. PLAN OF THE CEMETERY
11. LINK TO COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

CEMETERY BENCHMARK

Yet another milestone has been reached since the last Broadsheet went to press. Our Chairman has 'arranged' via Worthing Borough Council for three bench seats to be made available and strategically placed in the cemetery, two adjacent to the Cross of Remembrance and the other in a central location. This is the first seating that has been provided in the cemetery for several decades. Arrangements are being made to permanently attach the benches to the ground to prevent unauthorised removal. If any benches are found to be missing from Marine Gardens we will help the authorities to locate the culprits!

BAD EGGSAMPLE

PAUL HOLDEN, EDITOR 'THE SENTINEL' HAS UNEARTHED ANOTHER GEM, THIS TIME FROM LOCAL SOURCES BACK IN 1908 – OVER A CENTURY AGO. "THERE WERE COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE 'EXTREME ANNOYANCE' CAUSED BY BOYS VISITING BROADWATER CEMETERY TO STEAL BIRDS EGGS FROM NESTS. THE AUTHORITIES SAID THEY WERE DETERMINED TO SUPPRESS THE NUISANCE AND WARNED OF 'DISAGREEABLE CONSEQUENCES' (THE BIRCH) IF THEY WERE CAUGHT.

GRAVE FUTURE

Despite concerns in many parts of the UK about the future of burials and the availability, acquisition or even re-use of land for the purpose Adur Council have shown the way by making 1.44 acres of land available, adjacent to Southwick Cemetery, for a total of 900 additional graves. An official has stated that this should meet burial requirements for the next 50 years! Preparation work will take 12 weeks to complete at a cost £150,000, which will partly be met by an increase in burial charges. Work includes a new road, pathways and soft landscaping. The additional capacity was urgently needed as existing space would have run out later this year. So, hats off to Adur Council who will now be able to secure and guarantee this vital and sensitive service for five decades, without imposing unpalatable alternatives.

HSBC 'GRAVEYARD SHIFT'

It seems that the 'World's Local Bank' will be coming to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on Wednesday 8 July 2009. Local management at their commercial centre in Farncombe Road have arranged a 'Corporate Day' on the above date following a submission from your Editor. They have asked for expressions of interest from staff with the following objective: "To cosmetically restore the grave of Molly Corbett and family and the graves immediately surrounding the centrepiece. Also to create another presentable corner of the cemetery with particular emphasis on the public open day – 1 August 2009".

Obviously the organisation cannot afford to let too many of their staff participate on a single day but there should be up to half a dozen willing volunteers. This event is a welcome 'first' and although it may be a 'one-off' it is a very welcome 'one-off'. HSBC are taking the event seriously and they have informed staff that they will be required to supply their own tools and materials which may include: shears, secateurs, saws, Stanley knives, plastic scrapers, rakes, gardening gloves, brooms, dustpans and brushes, wheelbarrows, black sacks, gravel (Editor to supply), bandages and tweezers! To use other corporate 'buzz-words' - 'every little helps'. Good luck to the gang from HSBC and many thanks for your time.

RENOVATION AND RESTORATION

Following the 'ADOPT A GRAVE' item in the last issue of 'THE BROADSHEET' a large number of Friends have immersed themselves in restoration work in several parts of the Cemetery. Our Chairman was impressed and I was similarly impressed by the amount of activity that was taking place during a recent random weekend visit, when three different areas were being 'groomed' by Friends. It is a future intention to mention the detailed work of every Friend and all efforts are appreciated, but in the lead at the moment is Paul Robards and family who are presently looking after two complete areas of the cemetery.

Our Civilian and Military researchers are discovering

new graves and inscriptions as the cemetery is gradually being cleared of undergrowth. Chris Green, supported by Ann Bryant, is preparing a second book on those service personnel who died during the two World Wars and those who died overseas, and whose names are inscribed on family memorials in the cemetery. A recent find was the first person who died as a Prisoner of War in 1918. Debra Hillman and associates have also been making discoveries as they cut back the ivy. She is updating the cemetery plan to correct certain inaccuracies in the existing documentation. Also since her 'George Paine' article appeared in the Spring edition of 'The Broadsheet' Rosemary Pearson has found many more of the extended Paine family, two graves containing eleven other family names!

To keep broad 'tabs' on who is doing what it has recently been agreed that all Friends involved in any restoration activity whatsoever should notify Moya Hills, who will be maintaining a list of all projects. Send details of work you are undertaking or shortly intend to undertake to Moya at bek94@tiscali.co.uk .

WORTHING'S 1893 TYPHOID OUTBREAK

Between May and November 1893 Worthing was devastated by serious outbreaks of typhoid, normally attributed to infected drinking water. A significant number of victims succumbed to the disease, thought to be around the 200 mark. At the July peak there were 100 funerals conducted at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery during the month. Accordingly rumours started to circulate about mass funerals being hastily arranged and conducted at night! The issue was very sensitive and local dignitaries feared that serious damage would be done to the local economy. Tom Wye looks at the facts.

In an early example of local government 'spin' a statement was issued in June 1893 stating that the epidemic was over and that people should return to their normal business and that visitors should not be deterred from visiting the town. As a result the local population stopped boiling water with disastrous consequences. Apparently the problem originated from a new water main being located too near to an old and dilapidated sewage works.

It is possible to ascertain from official records whether the reports of mass graves and night-time burials were fact or fiction. In accordance with the burial registers there is no evidence of such happenings and the pattern of funerals is compatible with the recorded deaths, which shows that the victims were interred in individual graves with 'Officiating Ministers' conducting the burials. However there was an element of class distinction at work because the victims from the wealthier parts of town were buried normally in purchased graves with headstones but the poor were buried together without headstones, which they could not in any circumstances afford. Most of these 'poor' graves were eventually reused. However where they existed it seems that none of the headstones specifically mentions the word 'typhoid'. Tom Wye who compiled most of these notes has found one grave, that of a 6 year old Percy Lionel Hatcher who lived in Newlands Road, which states that he 'died of fever' and it is hardly a coincidence that three other victims who died within a few days of each other were all residents of Newlands Road.

In explaining what really happened Tom submits that the stories of mass graves have come about because of the advanced preparation that must have been necessary during such a catastrophe. With so many funerals taking place and with the need to bury the bodies as quickly as possible, it would have been expedient to have the graves excavated in advance. This would have undoubtedly looked like a mass grave and given the suspicion and anger of the residents of the time it is understandable that this particular 'myth' was accepted as fact. Comparing the dates of the burials in the registers with the date of death recorded on the headstones or in newspaper reports it can be ascertained that most of the victims were interred within two days of their death making the preparatory work essential.

Was there a cover-up? Certainly an attempt at covering-up the source of the outbreak was made but evidence from samples of water taken at the time proved conclusively the source of the problem and the incompetence of those responsible for the position of the water pipes. There is no doubt that the Council and local businessmen tried to 'play-down' the extent of the outbreak and they issued the premature announcement that the epidemic was over, causing many additional and completely avoidable deaths. The first outbreak resulted in about 30 deaths and in the post-announcement period there were well over 130 further deaths. However, although there were some outrageous goings-on Tom concludes that there were no mass graves and no midnight burials and it will need new information before he indulges in any fresh research.

CROSSES AT CROSS STREET

It seems that there is nothing our resourceful Friends and researchers like more than a complex mystery to solve. There is an old photograph in existence that shows three ancient graves located at a site in Cross Street, south of the railway line but just to the west of the present Worthing Central station. There are no known burial records pertaining to this site, where there was once an adjacent windmill. It seems that in about 1908 a new station was under construction to replace the old 1845 original. For the purpose a plot of land was required and this plot contained three graves in what was, effectively, a long disused cemetery.

Rosemary Pearson started to research the situation to discover the circumstances in which the three persons buried in these graves were transferred to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. In the Council Minutes pertaining to the grand-sounding 'Finance, Legal and Parliamentary Committee' for 9 October 1908 she found reference to a letter from the Solicitors of the London Brighton & South Coast Railway referring to the acquisition of the disused Burial Ground in Cross Street. It was suggested that the company

should serve notice on the owners of the ground in the first instance, after which the Corporation would carry out negotiations regarding the purchase, and carry out the removal of the human remains.

The Solicitors for the owners of the ground proposed that the Council pay the sum of £50 for the ground, the remains of the three (sic) deceased persons interred in the ground to be placed in one coffin and re-interred in Broadwater Cemetery, two grave spaces in unconsecrated ground to be appropriated for that purpose, and three existing headstones re-erected over such spaces, with kerbing, plus an inscription relating to the removal and re-internment to be inserted on the back of one of the stones.

Prior to 25 February 1909 the sum of £110 for the purchase of the land and the 'Old Burial Ground' was paid but there was subsequent delay in removing the remains. It was resolved that the process should be supervised by the Medical Officer for Health. On 20 April 1909 the latter officer reported that the work to remove the remains of the *four* dead persons had been carried out on 17 April under his supervision and to his satisfaction, and that the remains were re-interred the same day at Broadwater Cemetery.

Thanks to Rosemary for the notes and especially for unravelling yet another mystery pertaining to this fascinating cemetery with 24,888 tales to tell. I have not yet asked her about the apparent discrepancy between three and four deceased persons.

THE BROADSHEET

I have been sent several 'before and after' photographs of restored graves in 'our' cemetery. I have also in the past indicated that photographs might

be included as attachments to this journal. However all Friends have already received these pictures via Alan Rice as general circulars. Furthermore it seems that a gallery will be an essential part of our new website. Therefore rather than including such images as a visual attachment to this narrative I take the view that they should be added to the website database/gallery for long term casual viewing, not 'glimpsed and forgotten' here. Incorporating space-hungry photographs also slows down the transmission/distribution of this document. Also, realistically, I could include only a small sample, thereby incurring the wrath of those who have taken the trouble to submit photographs only for them to be filed and not used in 'The Broadsheet'.

It may be possible for those with 'graphics packages' to easily incorporate photographs in a newsletter. The pictures can even be used as a feint background 'screen' with text over-written but it would be easy for this newsletter to become over-sophisticated. The Newsletter of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends is a 16pp A5 product and it contains two monochrome pictures. But that is printed as a hard copy product – not an electronic one. If any Friend who is more technically (IT) competent than I am (that would not be difficult) wants to take over production of 'The Broadsheet' then I would be happy to send them the pre-publication text to 'play' with and subsequently issue but I see little point in duplicating material Friends have already received and which is also available elsewhere. Views or volunteers please.

Finally, let us all hope that the Open Day is a great success and that as a consequence our Membership grows. I hope you enjoy this issue. The next will contain all the latest news, articles on Ann Thwaytes and James Bateman and of course a report on the Open Day.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER.

John Vaughan
Editor