# THE BROADSHEET Issue No.6 Spring 2010

THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY


# TALK - PLANS - ACTION

As a group we have now been in existence for 18 months and as described previously in this publication an enormous amount has been achieved in a very short period of time. However the catalyst for stepping-up a gear (to pinch the headline from the last issue) was the award of Heritage Lottery funding. This enabling event was extremely satisfying for the Friends and especially those who had been involved in the bid. However, notwithstanding ongoing work, none of the objectives contained in the bid was going to 'just happen' by itself. There needed to be a major shift from 'talking' about projects to 'planning' them, followed by 'action' towards implementation. Post-grant activities have included allocating the funds, producing the publications, arranging the courses, designing and ordering signs and interpretation boards, organising heritage training seminars, implementing a series of headstone restoration courses and plenty of other associated work.

Planning does not happen as a result of some sort of magical remote hands-off approach. It means individuals volunteering their time and effort by undertaking specific tasks, hopefully supported by like minded colleagues. Every aspect of the Friends activities requires some degree of planning and in this issue of *The Broadsheet* certain key players have been asked to describe for the Friends, and the wider readership, how they set about their tasks, ordered their work, set priorities, recorded data, monitored progress and how they are intending to handle their tasks through to completion. Three items follow from Debra Hillman, Chris Green and Paul Robards.

# PLANNING 1 =
# MONUMENTAL RESEARCH

BY DEBRA HILLMAN

The announcement that our Lottery bid had been successful was the catalyst to get serious about planning the civilian research side of the cemetery project. I wouldn't describe my reaction as panic when the time scales became very real, but the words 'headless chicken' come to mind!

I decided that my first step was to identify those members who were interested in undertaking research or recording the Monumental Inscriptions (MI). Realising that we would need to know where all of our members' interests lay, I devised a form for distribution to all members (including new members when they signed up). This information could then be recorded on a spreadsheet and made available to anyone who had a use for it.

Armed with this it was time to tackle step two. Planning how to keep track of the MI recording was relatively straightforward and very much in my comfort zone. First we needed a form to use in the field so that the data could be entered in a standard format. It would then be easy to enter this into a database and once in electronic format, it could ultimately be added to the website with a search facility. Then we needed to ensure that we did not duplicate effort. This was a key consideration given the large number of memorials involved.

Luckily for me, the cemetery is conveniently split into sections

so it made sense to utilise this fact to manage the work. The plan was to encourage people to work in small groups of two or three people and to allocate each group a section to record. Once a section had been completed, a new one would be allocated, until all sections had been covered. Alongside the recording work, I planned to design and set up the database. The entry system would be web-based to make it readily available to any member who had the time (and inclination) to input the results of the fieldwork.

Step three was the research itself. How do you begin to plan research with over 24,800 potential subjects and a group of enthusiastic volunteers? There was an option of having no plan by allowing people to identify their own subject matter and wait to see what was forthcoming. Research generated out of a genuine interest and enthusiasm for the subject is likely to produce a quality end product.

It was clear, however, that a little more effort than this fairly simplistic approach was going to be involved. Duplication of effort was again a concern but it was essential that people were able to share information with the rest of the group and work together as a team. The time had come for step four – regular meetings. Meetings of the research group were planned to provide a forum for discussion, requests for assistance and a means to monitor activity. The idea was to hold them regularly but to be guided by the group on frequency.

Overall, the plan was to provide guidance and structure without being prescriptive and underlying it, was an ambition to involve as many people in the process as possible. Only time will tell if it works!

# PLANNING 2 =
# MILITARY MEMORIALS

BY CHRIS GREEN

From an early age, my Mother referred to her brother, Harry, who shared the same birthday as myself (although 44 years earlier), who was a casualty in the First World War. At the age of 14 he had joined the Merchant Navy, sailed around the world on three occasions, and settled in Australia in 1914. After the Gallipoli Campaign, which cost the lives of countless Australians, he joined the Australian Army, and came to Europe to fight on the Somme. He was killed in action in 1917, still a teenager.

In 1999, the Australian Service Records became available on the internet. A document completed by Harry's mother to claim a small pension, which she referred to as 'blood money', gave a brief factual summary of her son's life. This led to a visit to France to look at the battlefields, museums, memorials and cemeteries and to find Harry's grave. I realised that a generation had been lost – these men were not merely names – like Harry, they were someone's son, maybe father, and in my case an unknown uncle who was prepared to lay down his life for my freedom, that I am able to enjoy today. The research into Harry's brief life has been an interesting experience which took me to many places including Australia.

From here, I began researching the 150 names on the two war memorials in West Tarring Church with a view to publishing a 'Roll of Honour'. Strangely, some of my research surprised living relatives of the fallen – either they had been forgotten or facts came to light, which their parents were not aware of.

Like so many, I was incensed when war graves were vandalised in Broadwater Cemetery. Some of these men's names are on the Tarring

memorial. When the Broadwater Friends was set up, I began to take an interest in all the war graves and realised that there were numerous inscriptions on family graves relating to those who fell overseas – in many cases they did not have a grave in a foreign land.

I started to compile information on all these men from records on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web-site, Soldiers who died in the Great War, as well as spending hours looking through local newspapers, census returns and the limited number of service records available on Ancestry. All of these notes have been systematically recorded on my computer together with a brief summary. From this information, a Military Guide for Broadwater Cemetery will be published.

I trust that this Guide will encourage others to further their research, as most families were affected by the losses in the World Wars. I propose in the summer of 2011, to run an evening course within the cemetery relating to a brief history of the World Wars based on memorials therein. Participants will be guided with a range of ideas, so that they should be able to research history around a family war hero.

Looking to the future, I will continue to take an interest in the World War memorials and add notes and comments, but my efforts will be concentrated on the many other military personnel, who are buried here. No doubt, this will be the subject of a second Military Guide. I would like to hear from any friends who discover military MIs or references from graves they uncover during clearance work.

# PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS!

Based on a paper by PAUL ROBARDS

Paul is a 'man with a mission' in that long before the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery was established he had a passionate interest in churches and with his camera captured local West Sussex churches, their architecture and memorials. In May 2006 he created a web-site called 'RANDOM CROSS' with pictorial views of over 20 churches. There are many hundreds of images on the site. They can be watched as a slide show with suitable background music. Paul specialised in

photographing memorials and statues featuring Angels and he has recorded a disc titled 'Paul's Angels', with images from these local churches.

In visiting churches Paul included St Mary's Parish Church at Broadwater and he was saddened to find a neglected looking church yard. After approaching the Rector and speaking with a church volunteer in 2007 he was told that prayers for help with 'the garden' had been answered by Paul's offer to tidy-up the grounds. Before doing so he studied the history of the church. He was surprised to find that there had been a Saxon church on the site at the time of the Doomsday Book (called 'Bradewatre'), but that the present building was started in the 12th century.

The earliest inscription he could find dated back to 1698 and members of the local community continued to be buried there until about 1895, a few decades after 'Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery' was opened for local burials. The most overgrown area was at the south east end, which was covered in grass, brambles and ivy. He started clearing work at this location. He used a grid system to count the headstones, the final tally being about 180. He and his family numbered the backs of the stones. Further stones were located over the next six months as clearing continued into the summer of 2008.

By this time Broadwater churchyard was looking much clearer and complimentary comments were received from the public. Local wildlife seemed to be attracted by the new carefully managed area and a variety of butterflies and birds were soon found in abundance. Paul's passion for wildlife, fauna and flora found him introducing Slow Worms and wild flower seeds. On the downside Paul had to contend with used syringes and needles, carefully removing them to the police station 'sharps' box. With the area cleared these sad 'druggies' should be discouraged from using what had previously been a hideaway.

Included in the gravestones was a remarkable survivor belonging to Lucy Noelle. Born in 1884 she married Norman-Evelyn Leslie, the 19th Earl of Rothes and Noelle became the Countess of Rothes in 1907. She was to become a 'plucky survivor' of the *RMS Titanic* disaster in 1912. She had sailed from Southampton with her parents and her maid. After the disaster it had been reported by witnesses that Noelle had shown great bravery in helping others to survive. She died in her sleep during a visit to Hove in September 1956, having suffered from heart disease for some time.

Paul undertook further research relating to other interesting graves and he continued to maintain Broadwater churchyard. He brought a couple of grab bags from home and his essential pruning equipment. He found the clearing work very satisfying, especially unveiling gravestones that had not seen the light of day for many years, and recording the inscriptions thereon. Since 2007 Paul has been maintaining the graveyard by picking up rubbish, sweeping the paths and keeping the area tidy and in order. His most interesting finds have been a live bullet and an old badge, with a Latin inscription on it, that belonged to the Mosley family, the fascist Oswald Mosley

having visited Worthing several times in the 1930s.

In view of his work at Broadwater Church there was no hesitation by Paul in joining the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery and he attended the inaugural meeting in October 2008, where he met many like-minded people. He applauded the objectives of the Friends to revive and preserve the graves of Broadwater Cemetery. In his notes he states that “This once beautiful place of rest has fallen into disrepair and ruin over the past few decades, the aim of the many volunteers and sponsors is to restore this cemetery back to its former glory, as a peaceful and idyllic place of rest”. Since 2008 Paul has split his time between Broadwater Church and Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

Paul is also interested in recording wildlife that can be found in the cemetery and he has recorded the birds that have been observed and is meeting up with a local group to record the flowers that can be found there. His major current task is to write a full history of the cemetery for early publication with Heritage Lottery funding. While the project is progressing well there has been a shortage of contributions from other Friends, which he would welcome. The Broadwater Cemetery community now benefits from Paul's 'previous convictions' about cemetery maintenance.

# MOVE OVER J K ROWLINS

The Friends of the cemetery may not quite achieve worldwide sales of 400 million copies of their publications but by the time the summer issue of *The Broadsheet* appears 'in print' we should be well established in the local publishing business. With the assistance of the Heritage Lottery grant a number of publications will, hopefully, have appeared in print, all showing the Heritage Lottery logo. The free folded A4 full colour information sheet 'flyer', which includes views of the cemetery and a plan of the site, will be ready by the time you read this. Not far behind will be Part 1 of an A-Z of notables buried in the cemetery (£4 retail), authored by our Chairman Tom Wye and our Media Officer Paul Holden, and others (with part 2 to follow in due course). These publications will be followed by a full history of the cemetery authored/edited by Paul Robards and also Chris Green's detailed book 'A Military Guide to Broadwater Cemetery', describing the heroes of two World

Wars who are buried in the cemetery (scheduled for August). The plan of the cemetery being published is the best presently available and it is hoped that historical inaccuracies will be resolved in the fullness of time. If problems in the C10 and C12 areas cannot be resolved caveats will have to be included. In publishing terms it looks to be an exciting year, ensuring that our fact finding is preserved in print for future generations to savour and for posterity generally.

# MUG SHOTS

Although mooted by our Chairman at a Friends general meeting on 29 January 2010, there was an urgent call by e-mail for all members to attend Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on Saturday 13 March for a group 'mug shot', to be recorded by a photographer from the Heritage Lottery organisation. Friends were asked to wear their Heritage 'T' shirts. All assumed that this request did not mean ***only*** the logo bedecked garment, especially at this time of year!Whether vanity showed its hand is anybody's guess but nevertheless, despite a bitterly cold day, a total of 16 Friends turned up for the shoot, thereby being recorded for posterity – a moment in history. Having tended great grandfather's grave your Editor's gardening tools and wheelbarrow were hijacked for photographic 'props'.

# HIGH SCHOOL HIGH

On Monday 15 March a large group of pupils from Worthing High School attended the cemetery. On a fine but cold day there was a great turnout of about 37 youngsters, aged between 13 and 16 years, who were supervised by teachers and a small group of Friends. Friends helping included Debra, Rosemary (1+2), Mary, Angela, Sue (1+2), John, Tom and Ted. The pupils rotated their activities, which included clearance work, recording memorial inscriptions in Section C19 and participating in tours. They did not miss their mainstream school work as the whole school was involved in a team building and/or enrichment

day. Activities were based on the 'communities' (new word for 'houses') they belonged to at school, quaintly called Broadwater, Salvington, Tarring and Heene.

The youngsters were on a 'high' and all seemed enthusiastic about their task, with genuine interest being shown, although the outdoor activity was no doubt a better proposition than being incarcerated in a classroom, even in March! All of the data gathered is being collated by Debra Hillman on what will eventually be a detailed database that will be available for interrogation by researchers worldwide. The Friends offer their sincere thanks to the Head teacher, staff and pupils for their efforts. It is so encouraging to find such positive young people in a world that is dominated by negative media commentary about a minority of the younger generation. Thank you Worthing High for your sterling efforts. You will all be welcome again at any time.

# WHAT A DUMP

In a most unfortunate incident at Everton, near Liverpool, cemetery workers dumped mounds of earth onto a new grave of a young footballer who had collapsed while playing football after his heart failed. The grave had yet to have a headstone applied and the workers had not realised that this was the youngsters final resting place. Needless to say the parents were devastated.

# DID YOU 'CD' VANDALS?

Woodbury Park Cemetery at Tunbridge Wells has, sadly, suffered a bout of vandalism. Four headstones and a section of wall were senselessly smashed, two of them being beyond practical repair. Restoration of the least damaged pair will cost at least £2,000. The friends of the cemetery said that the pointless destruction underlined the importance of their CD containing a photographic record of ***every memorial*** in the cemetery. A future project for the Friends of Broadwater Cemetery perhaps?

# NO RESPECT – OR MONEY

A grieving father has accused Reading Council of having no respect for the dead. His biker son had been killed in a traffic accident but the father has

refused to place a memorial in the cemetery because it is 'completely unkempt', with grass uncut, and dying plants and litter strewn everywhere. The cemetery was in a state of 'total disarray'. A person seen clearing-up the litter turned out to be a relative of one of the deceased. The council have admitted that they are struggling to maintain the cemetery and that there was a need for financial investment. They were producing 'a paper' on the problem (for discussion).

## TRAFFIC WARDENS AFTER DEATH?

Okemah, Oklahoma, USA. In her lifetime a now deceased local inhabitant was noted for her remarkable sense of humour. When she died she left instructions for a parking meter to be set in concrete beside her headstone. Behind the glass at the top of the old style sliver meter was the yellow 'TIME EXPIRED' notice! At least they don't have NCP in the US, or parking wardens in cemeteries.

# QUEST FOR THE OLDEST CEMETERY 'RESIDENT'

by SUE NEA

Following on from our Chairman's request for us to help with research for the forthcoming A–Z publication, I was given the letter 'I' to research. After my initial reaction of horror wondering how I would find anyone of interest with a surname beginning with 'I', I was determined not to be beaten and set about searching Broadwater's burial records.

I looked at the records from 1887 until 1939 and, surprisingly, identified 75 burials featuring individuals with surnames beginning with 'I'. However were any of them famous or infamous? After dismissing a number of burials I came across Thomas

Innocent who was buried on 24th May 1915 (C20–2–16). He was a gentleman of independent means who lived at 'Meadowleigh', South Farm Road. He was a tea dealer for Twining's Tea and for many years lived at 216 Strand, London, where the Twining's shop and museum stand today. However there was little else of interest.

Next on the list was one Henry Irvine and he turned out to be quite a gem, but more about his life and times at a later date. The main point emerging was that when he died he was 101 years of age and I wondered if he was the oldest person buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. I searched all burials up to 1886 but also put the question out to other Friends. This opened a can of worms.

Pam and John Stepney advised that Elizabeth Mary Byrne, a spinster of Reigate Road was buried on 29th May 1958 in an unmarked grave (A13–4–19), aged 103. The very next day Mary McKeown e–mailed to say that she was aware of Emmeline Jane Cassandra Draper who was buried on 24th February 1920 (C21–3–1), aged 104!

It was again Mary who had discovered a burial for Emma Louisa Rooke on 13th May 1953 (A16–5–15) aged, wait for it, 107 years. I believe that there is every chance that Emma Louisa Rooke will be the eldest, because in newspaper cuttings from 1953 issues of 'The Times' and the 'Worthing Herald' it was confirmed that at the time of her death Emma was the oldest woman in England. However Henry Irvine at 101 years seems to be the oldest male buried in the cemetery, unless readers know better. The search continues.....

# EDWIN DOUGLAS

by MARY McKEOWN

On finding the Commonwealth War Grave of my great aunt's husband Charles George Compton, it has led to my cousin Jan Flowers, discovering that Charles' sister, Emily Compton was living at the home of animal painter Edwin Douglas. Emily was employed as a nurse and was 18 years old. On searching Broadwater Cemetery I have found the grave of Edwin Douglas.

Edwin was born in Edinburgh on 14 July 1848 to Margaret and James Douglas. Edwin's father was a portrait painter. A serious accident at the age of 16 prevented Edwin from becoming a solicitor. During his long recovery period, his determination to become an artist grew. Edwin exhibited his first work to the Royal Scottish Academy at the early age of 17.

Edwin painted Jersey cattle, horses, dogs and sheep in the style of Edwin Lanseer. In 1872 Edwin moved to Surrey. Edwin married Christiana Maria Feake-Martin in 1874. Christiana's father, Philip, was a direct descendant of Sir Richard Martin, Master of the Mint, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth 1.

In 1886 the Douglas family moved to Worthing because of Christiana's poor health. In the census for 1891 the family were living at 'Canonbury' in Crescent Road, Worthing. Edwin then purchased some land to the north of Cissbury, where the family home was built in 1892. The new home was called 'Fox Down'.

Edwin and Christiana had 9 children but on 26 October 1901 Christiana died and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. The inscription states that she was born on Christmas Day 1847. Edwin continued living at 'Fox Down' until his death on 22 October 1914, aged 66. Edwin's funeral took place at St John the Baptist Church in Findon and he was buried in Broadwater Cemetery with Christiana.

Edwin exhibited a total of 43 paintings at The Royal Academy from 1869 to 1900. Queen Victoria purchased a painting of setters for a birthday present for King Edward V11. Edwin's painting, Alderneys (Mother and Daughter), hangs in the Tate Gallery. Other paintings by Edwin are in the collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. Edwin was elected a honorary life member of the English Jersey Cattle Society for his services. Edwin sometimes added a heart symbol together with his initials on his paintings. A shape of a heart can be seen on the fallen cross of his grave.

# HARE COURSING

## OF THE PLEASANT KIND

Chris Hare has been busy preparing his Heritage Lottery funded series of 8 'Heritage Learning Sessions' and 3 'Guided Town Walks' to be held between 17 April (14.00 hours) and 11 December 2010.

Details of the wide ranging subject matter incorporated in the sessions were included in the last issue of 'The Broadsheet' and sent to Friends via e-mail and so will not be repeated here. Since then all Friends have received Enrolment forms for completion and by the time this issue is in the hands of the Friends the 'kick-off' will be only a couple of weeks away. We all wish the venture every success and a full report of progress and feedback will appear in the next issue of your newsletter. Good luck Chris and we all hope your hard work is rewarded by a good attendance. For the record Tribes stonemason courses will now start in May 2010.

# DROP-IN DAY 3 APRIL

This is a final reminder to all Friends that Saturday 3 April 2010 is both the first DROP-IN day of the season and also the first day of

Cemetery Tours. Weather permitting please arrive from 10.00 onwards, bring your tools of trade and let us all show our usual pro-activity by attending for a couple of hours or so. Alan Rice reports we now have **50** members - see you there?

Also please 'spread the word' about the cemetery tours because after all of the effort involved in training further guides and in expanding our tours programme it would be a shame if nobody turned up to avail themselves of this wonderful free facility. Tours will be at 11.00 and 12.00 (noon). Next drop-in days **for the diary**: 3 April – 1 May - 5 June – 3 July.

# NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of 'The Broadsheet' will include a report on Chris Hare's Heritage courses, an item on the Hosier Brothers by Paul Holden, a 'Did You Know' special, a spicy item by Sue Nea on Henry Irvine, detailed reports on our forthcoming publications, as well as all the cemetery news both locally and nationally. Finally many thanks to Friend Judith Akhurst for her suggestion about 'The Broadsheet's' header. This has been incorporated and is a considerable improvement in what went before. Enjoy this bumper issue – one day 'The Broadsheet' will be smaller than the previous issue, I think!

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND COLOURFUL SPRING AFTER WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A VERY LONG WINTER.

**John Vaughan**
**Editor**