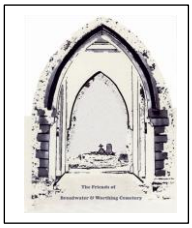
THE FRIENDS OF

BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER **Issue 46, Autumn 2023**



The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, http://www.fbwc.co.uk/

2023 and the Friends

By Debra Hillman, FBWC Chair

As I look back over the past year to write this summary, I am proud to see what the Friends have achieved. It is also a great feeling to know that the reason I am writing this is because 2023 saw the return of a newsletter for the group. It is true to say that not everything has gone to plan but we have, nevertheless, continued to have a positive impact on the cemetery and its visitors. While we continue to struggle with the council to find the best maintenance plan to keep on top of the grass cutting, positive steps have been taken and I look forward to seeing how this pans out in 2024.

I will not attempt to cover everything that has happened this year in this summary as it would turn into a novel! If I have not mentioned you specifically, please do not think that I haven't appreciated your contribution. Every person's input is equally valuable to the group and what we deliver.

I will start by thanking the committee, without whom the group could not run. Both established and new members have been amazing and I am very grateful to you all. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mary Pickett who has, for many years now, compiled and printed our tour booklets. Mary has decided that the time has come to step down from this role so I would like to say a big thank you to her for all her hard work. We will, of course, now be looking for a volunteer (or volunteers!) to fill her shoes for 2024.



Mary Pickett with 1 copy of each of the 65 tour booklets she's compiled and printed for us

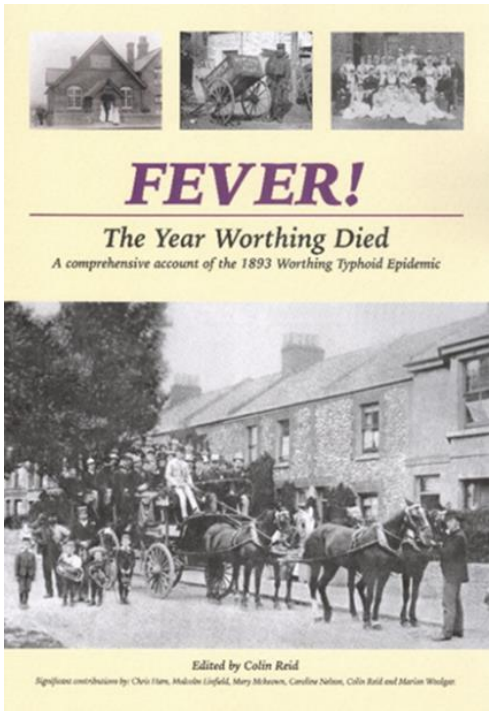
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'The work done makes a significant difference'

The small but enthusiastic working party that turns up every month on a Saturday morning to clear bramble and ivy and uncover headstones buried beneath, have done an amazing job. It is a mammoth, never-ending task, not helped by grass over a metre high, but there is no doubt that the work done makes a significant difference. More volunteers are always needed!

Congratulations go to all those involved in the production of the book on the typhoid epidemic, *Fever! The Year Worthing Died* (see image below). The culmination of many years of research, it is so good to finally see this in print.



As usual, the research team did a wonderful job bringing together the stories for inclusion in the 2023 tours and all tours were well attended, even the one we had to postpone to the afternoon due to adverse weather conditions! So many people (and cake) are involved in making these tours a success. We had two tour day 'firsts' this year. Chris Hare was involved in our June tour; his rendition of Victorian mourning songs at various points throughout the tour went down well with our 126 visitors.



Chris Hare (centre right, wearing a blue top) singing Victorian mourning songs – a first for one of our tours
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Then in October we finished the season with our first nature-based Saturday tour, a Tree Tour. Attracting visitors who have an interest in the natural environment spreads our message a little wider, and we will be looking to include a different tour based around the cemetery green space in 2024. Work towards the tour season for next year has already begun. ►



Paul Robards (on the right) conducted our first Tree Tour in October, and was supported on the day by Barbara Shaw
(Photo courtesy of Debra Hillman)

I have had the pleasure of meeting a number of people at the cemetery this year to help them find the graves of their relatives – and I know other members have done the same. I'm sure I speak for us all when I say that it is a very rewarding experience: people are so grateful for the help we can provide.



Mr Butcher (pictured here with his wife) from Northern Ireland was given help locating the war grave of his ancestor, James Butcher.
(Photo courtesy of Debra Hillman)

We are all aware that it is important to try to attract younger individuals to this type of volunteer work. It is lovely to watch parents walking their small children around the cemetery, watching their excitement at seeing butterflies, grasshoppers and spiders, as well as birds and squirrels.

We have been lucky to have two helpers this year who are working for their Duke of Edinburgh awards, and we have also welcomed a group of Brownies for a private tour of the cemetery. The 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts also held their Remembrance Service at the Cross of Sacrifice at the cemetery on Saturday 11th November.

Finally, looking forward to next year, there is a mountain of undergrowth to clear and tidy, hours of research to undertake and many other tasks to take on, but I am confident that, as always, our members will step up and take it in their stride. I wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024!

Debra

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Useful Dates 2023		
	Nov 24th	AGM
	Nov 25th	Light clearance

Tour themes for 2024

We are currently finalising our tour themes for 2024. Please check our website or Facebook page for details nearer the time.

Tours are conducted on the first Saturday of each month (April through to October) unless stated otherwise.

Tour refreshments 2024

From 2024, we will be unable to provide our refreshments in polystyrene cups. If you could bring your own cup with you when ordering a tea or coffee from our refreshment stand, that would be very helpful. Thank you for your support.

Ideas welcome for future tours

We'd love to hear any ideas you may have for a future tour. Please get in touch with us via our Facebook page. All ideas welcome!

Interested in cemetery tours?

You may be interested to learn that cemetery tours are also conducted across the UK by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. For more information, please visit https://www.cwgc.org.

The hidden details of Broadwater Cemetery: my photographic journey (part two)

By R E Barry Chidlow

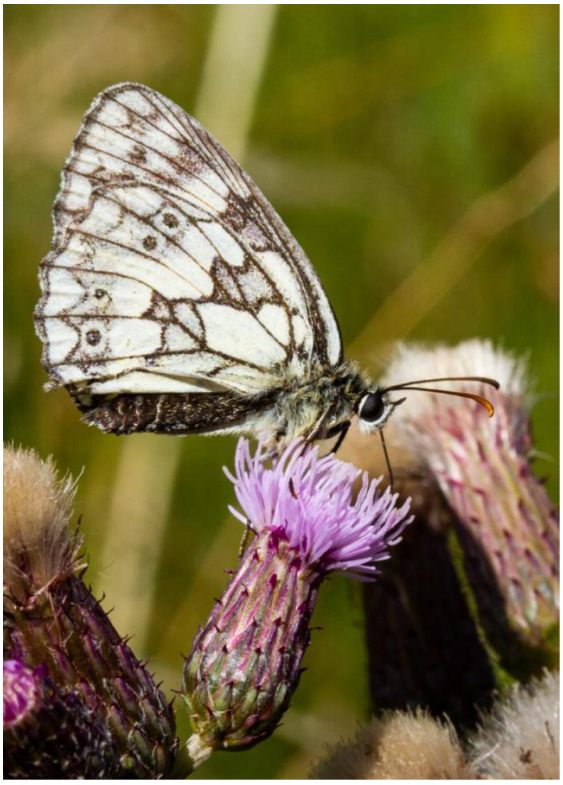
When you read this, it will no doubt be that time of the year when it is colder, darker, and much less colourful. So, hopefully, this part of my journey will remind you of all those days when the cemetery was warm, light, and full of life and colour – as May, June, and July were some of my favourite months to take photographs.



Wild, beautiful, and peaceful.



Flowers in abundance.



New life.



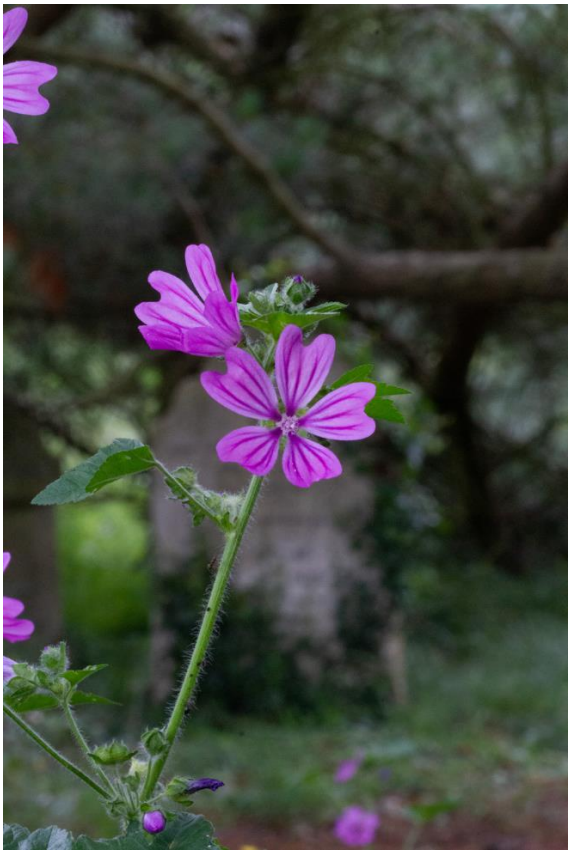
That majestic row of graves towering above the waving grasses.



Those meandering pathways of discovery.



A jewel here.



A diamond there.



A crown to behold.



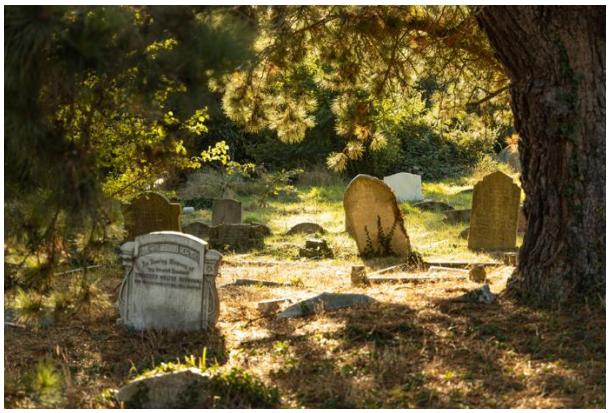
Fragrances as you pass by.



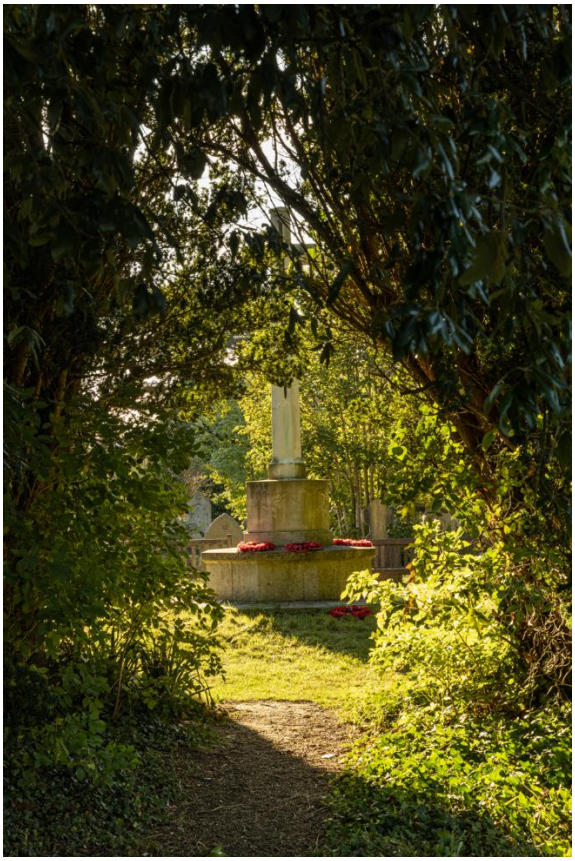
A carpet beneath your feet.

Then comes the golden hour.









No sooner has she arrived…



…she begins to leave, and the shadows lower. ▶

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I hope that you have enjoyed this part of my journey, looking at the hidden details as well as the not so hidden details of our wonderful cemetery.

There is no doubt that the cemetery has become a popular place to walk, ponder, and sometimes just sit and listen to the peace.

I think you will gleam from my photographs that I particularly like the cemetery's wild side. However, I realise that its upkeep and maintenance is a controversial subject and have some sympathy to that opinion, it is after all a sacred place to many and it should always be respected.

Great thanks, though, should always go to all those FBWC volunteers who spend many hours cleaning, weeding, cutting, and tidying to keep it as best they can.

Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery is a place of beauty, nature, peace and tranquillity that can be enjoyed by many. I feel privileged to live on its doorstep and be able to enjoy what it has to offer.

I look forward, if asked, to share more of my photographic journey in the future.

Many thanks.

Barry

Meet two of our volunteers…

Duke of Edinburgh students Jake and Lillie



Lillie and Jake, our D of E volunteers
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

By Sally Roberts, FBWC Vice Chair

During this year, two Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) volunteers joined us at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

Jake's mum approached me first to take on Jake to help him achieve his bronze award. Jake is a busy young person so can't always join us for every tour or clearance, but he comes when he's not refereeing and works on his own or with his mum. He cleans the map boards, collects litter, and waters new plants after the Sussex Wildlife Trust has done a mass planting. Jake has become a useful member of our team and he has nearly achieved the required hours to complete his bronze award.

Lillie joined us later, again after a request from her mum, for me to assess her using my A1 qualification. (An A1 qualification is a professional assessing qualification that allows me to assess in an area that I'm competent in.) Lillie wants to gain her silver award and she has joined us for every tour selling booklets, and for clearance she has cleared bramble and ivy, without reminder, and is a valuable asset to the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Paul Robards assesses when I am not on clearance. (Thank you, Paul, for always letting me know what they have done.)

Part of D of E is to encourage young people to be independent, encourage resilience and aid self-development. With this in mind, I set up a WhatsApp page for each of them to record their volunteering hours and achievements and this becomes part of their evidence to gain their awards. Assessing takes a while and this is why we only take on two D of E volunteers at a time, but they really enhance our group and never leave without having a piece of Carole and Karen's homemade cake.

Well done, Lillie and Jake!

Sally

(If you would like to volunteer, please see our Facebook page for ways to contact us. Please also see page 10 of this newsletter for specialist volunteering roles.)

Join us!
Become a volunteer

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer with us. There are plenty of ways you can help, plus we also have some specialised volunteering roles that we're eager to fill:

'Adopt a grave' volunteers

We're after volunteers who would like to 'adopt a grave' from our list of graves that need some tender loving care. This role involves general grave maintenance.

Volunteer for wildlife areas

We're looking for help managing our wildlife areas. This involves preparing and strimming certain areas, plus sowing plants ready for next spring.

Volunteer photographer

We're looking for a photographer to take photos of our tour days and then upload the photos onto our Facebook page.

Volunteer researchers

We're seeking researchers to come and join our team who are interested in exploring family and local history, and who have access to online sources.

Volunteer tour-booklet producer(s)

We're looking for help with the production – both compiling and printing – of our tour booklets.

If you're interested in any of these roles – or would like to help us in some other way – please get in touch via our Facebook page.

Thank you!





Some of our Saturday clearance volunteers at work
(Above photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

Corporate volunteering days

We appreciate all offers of help, and corporate volunteering days are a great way to help us achieve a lot in a very short space of time.

If your business would like to help us, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with us via our Facebook page.

Work that we've done over the last few months...

- Butterfly tour for Worthing Buddys/Mencap
- Tour for Worthing Brownies
- Guides/Rangers did litter pick
- Producing displays to promote corporate volunteering days
- Tour planning and research
- Monthly grave clearances
- Light clearance work
- Replacing signage boards
- Liaising with council re grass cutting and safety inspection of graves
- Publishing of typhoid book
- Supervising two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers
- Planting wildflower plugs with Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Guards installed to protect Slow-worms
- Working on new website



One of our Saturday clearance volunteers with a newly uncovered headstone (Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

And what work still needs to be done...

- Ongoing cemetery maintenance, plus a 2024 plan
- Research and planning for 2024 tours
- Website
- Keep interest/enthusiasm going in the cemetery: the news, the tours, the clearance
- Working with the council re grass cutting, paths and walkways etc.
- Introducing new members – as none of us are getting any younger!
- Keeping up the good work

CAN YOU HELP?

We need various items to carry out our work at the cemetery. If you can donate any of the following, please get in touch via our Facebook page. Thank you!

- Garden secateurs
- Garden shears
- Tree loppers
- Wooden bird boxes

5th Durrington Brownies visit to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery

By Jane Winter, Brownie leader



(Photo supplied by Jane Winter)

On Monday 11th September, 5th Durrington Brownies met at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to find out some history of Worthing. This was part of our Local History Badge. We were met by Debra Hillman and Sally Roberts and the tour began.

Debra had chosen to tell us about several people in Worthing who she thought would be of interest to the Brownies. And she was right – so many of the people she told us about linked into places we have visited as a pack over the last year or so.

We found out about the first mayor of Worthing and his generosity to Worthing and beyond. We learnt about the amazing story behind the first female mayor of Worthing. We were shown pictures of both these mayors wearing the mayoral robes, which each Brownie had been allowed to try on at our last visit to the town hall. We also found out that the first female mayor of Worthing lived in a house where the fire station now is – we visited that only last year.



Brownies looking at Worthing Mayor Ellen Chapman
(Photo supplied by Jane Winter)

We heard about the man who collected the tolls on the pier – where we go to eat chips each year. ▶

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Sally Roberts showing the Brownies a photo of Worthing Pier Master Henry Hayden
(Photo supplied by Jane Winter)

We found out about the daughter of a gentleman who was behind the building of the library in Worthing – we will be going past this building when we do our walk just before Remembrance Sunday. There were so many more things we found out – it was an amazing evening and we learnt such a lot.



(Photo supplied by Jane Winter)

A big thank you to Debra and Sally for their time and knowledge – we are very grateful. Thank you also for presenting our badges to the Brownies at the end of the evening.



Sally Roberts and Debra Hillman presenting the Brownies with their badges
(Photo supplied by Jane Winter)

Mencap visit Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery

A butterfly tour was organised for members of Worthing Mencap on the 5th July, with our volunteer Paul Robards (Wildlife and Clearance Co-Ordinator) conducting the tour.



Paul Robards (far left) with members of Worthing Mencap
(Photo courtesy of Linda Ansell)



(Photo courtesy of Linda Ansell)

The attendees were keen to ask questions and take photos. The weather was glorious and the butterflies were there on display, in numbers, for all to see and appreciate.



Marbled White butterflies and Cinnabar moth caterpillars on the cemetery's ragwort
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Paul also presented a nature slideshow in October at Mencap's Buddys, which, like the tour, was very well received.

(We love promoting our cemetery. If your group would like a tour, please get in touch with us via our Facebook page.)

Please give us your feedback

We would love to hear your feedback and any ideas you have for improving the cemetery or this newsletter. Please get in touch with us via our Facebook page to offer your thoughts on what we do.

Join us!

Become a Friend

As a Friend

You will receive a twice-yearly newsletter, and you can have a say in how we manage the cemetery by attending and voting at our AGM in November.

Membership

Membership costs just £5 per year (and runs from January to December).

Membership fees can be paid via a bank transfer or a Standing Order (Lloyds, Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, sort code 30-99-50, account number 65378260).

Please reference your surname with your payment if you are paying by bank transfer or Standing Order.

Cheques to the value of £5 – made payable to 'Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery' – are also welcome.

Membership forms

Membership forms are available from our tables on tour days.

Some more photos...



Some of our Saturday clearance volunteers with Debra Hillman (far right)
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Our first Tree Tour, conducted by Paul Robards
(Photo supplied by Paul Robards)

Paul's corner



By Paul Robards
Wildlife & Clearance Co-Ordinator

It has been a good year for wildlife and nature in the cemetery, with lots of butterflies and grasshoppers being seen (see photos below).



A Five-spot Burnet moth on marjoram flowers



A Marbled White butterfly





This has been helped by the council, which is now cutting the cemetery in mosaic squares giving the wildlife somewhere to always go to. There is also more diversity of wildflowers this year.

Good progress has been made preparing and planting further wildflower areas – I've just got to do my utmost to prevent the grass cutters from strimming them! I have recently emailed the council requesting that these 'managed areas' are not touched, as I personally manage them.

Clearance work in the cemetery is going well too, with regular, keen volunteers (see pages 10, 11 and 15 for photos).

Paul

Friends' publication now available!

FEVER! The Year Worthing Died

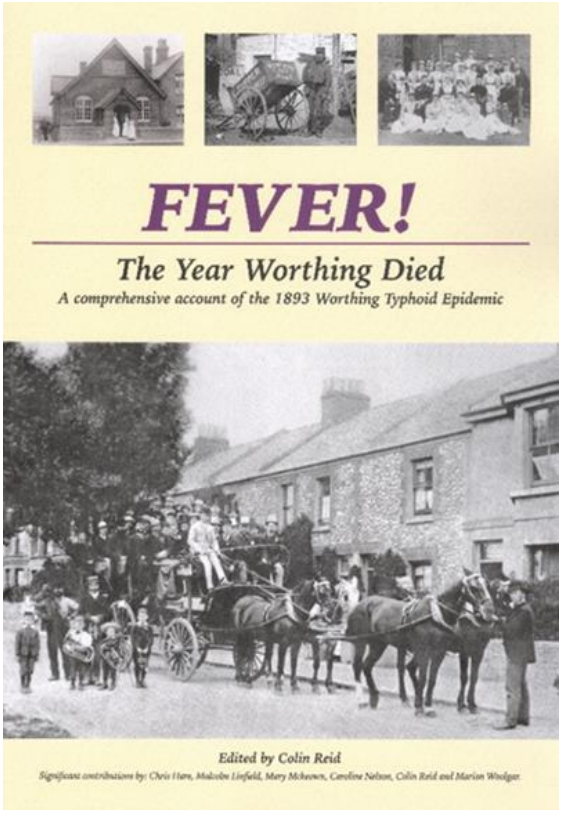
In 1893, Worthing was hit by a typhoid epidemic. It killed 194 people of all ages, from four-month-old Winifred Duncan to 76-year-old Helena Bishop. One hundred and sixty-four of those victims are buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have now published a book about this epidemic titled, *FEVER! The Year Worthing Died* (see image opposite).

'An invaluable historical record of a town'

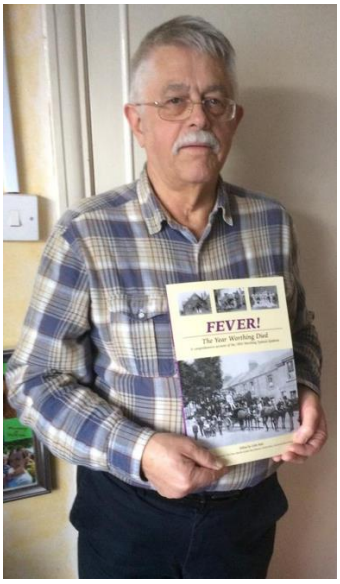
FEVER! The Year Worthing Died has been meticulously researched by six local authors – Chris Hare, Malcolm Linfield, Mary Mckeown, Caroline Nelson, Colin Reid, and Marion Woolgar – who provide an invaluable historical record of a town and how it reacted/responded to the epidemic. Drawing on a large variety of resources and photographic evidence, the authors offer an interesting, vivid, and extremely detailed insight and analysis of the town's tragedy. A list of all 194 victims is included, this for the very first time, together with a respectful closer look at some of those who died – immortalising the epidemic's victims in the process.

This book is a lasting tribute to everyone who was caught up in the 1893 Worthing typhoid epidemic.



For your copy of *FEVER! The Year Worthing Died*, please contact worthingtyphoid@gmail.com.

The book is priced at £14.99.



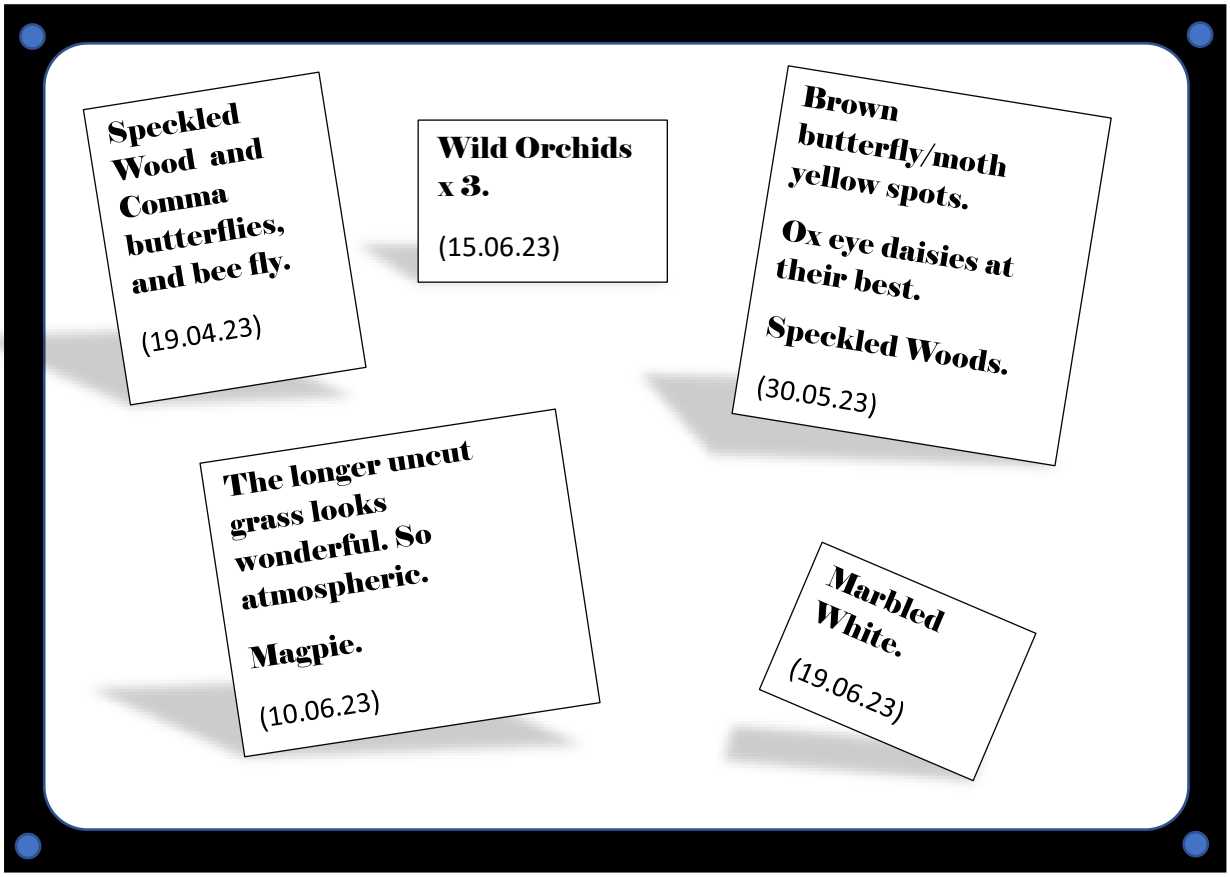
Editor, co-author, and FBWC Friend Colin Reid pictured with the book on the day it came back from the printers

Blackboard observations

Our blackboard is located through the main entrance gates, and on the inside of the archway on the left.

We welcome anyone spending time in the cemetery to note down their observations and comments. We share a few of them here.

(Observations recorded by Paul Robards and Anita Hobbs.)



Please do keep making observations and comments about what you're seeing in the cemetery.

We really value your support, so please feel free to keep in touch with us via our Facebook page.

Thank you!