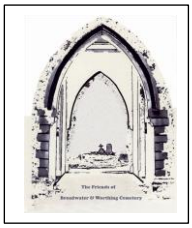
THE FRIENDS OF

BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER **Issue 47, Spring 2024**



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

Looking forward to 2024

By Debra Hillman, FBWC Chair

Welcome to your spring newsletter! We are already well into 2024 and a great deal of work has been done over the winter by our members.

Much time and effort has been spent, in sometimes inclement weather, tidying the cemetery. Mountains of bramble, ivy and other vegetation has been removed and headstones exposed. Needless to say, there is still much more to do, so if you have some time to spare…

The council's parks team has also been working in the cemetery recently and has made a real impact on several areas, cutting back trees and reinstating one of the grass paths. The plan is for this dedicated week of their time to become a regular winter event. They have also suggested that we may like to consider working for a Green Flag Award for the site. This is something I am keen to follow up, and so will be investigating the criteria needed for us to qualify. We will, of course, also need support from the council to achieve this.

Our research team has been putting in the hours to deliver another great tour season, making sure that we are ready for that first tour in April. (Hopefully the weather will be kind to us on tour days!) We will have a Nature Tour again this year and, in June, as part of the Worthing Festival, we are planning a completely different type of tour: a "Dramatic Tour", with actors playing some of the roles. This is still very much in the early stages of creation, but we are working with Chris Hare on this. More details will follow over the next couple of months so look out for updates.

I'm looking forward to another positive year for the Friends and hope to see many of you at our various events throughout 2024.

Debra



(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Inside this issue

My photographic journey of Broadwater Cemetery (part three)	P3–4
Meet one of our volunteers	P5
Become a volunteer	P6
Corporate volunteering	P6
What work we've done	P7
Can you help?	P7
Become a Friend	P8
Paul's Corner	P9
Friends' publication update	P10
Blackboard observations	P11

Useful Dates 2024	November	AGM

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!

Tour dates* and themes for 2024

April	RNLI, 200th Anniversary
May	Alter Egos
June 8th	1884, What A Riot! (Featuring Chris Hare as our tour guide)
July	Nature Tour
August	More Untold Stories
August 18th (Sunday)	Details to follow nearer the time
September	Church Terrace
October	Bouquet of Flowers

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

Tour refreshments 2024

Just a reminder that from 2024 we will be unable to provide our refreshments in polystyrene cups. Please bring your own cup with you when ordering a tea or coffee from our refreshment stand. Thank you for your support.

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

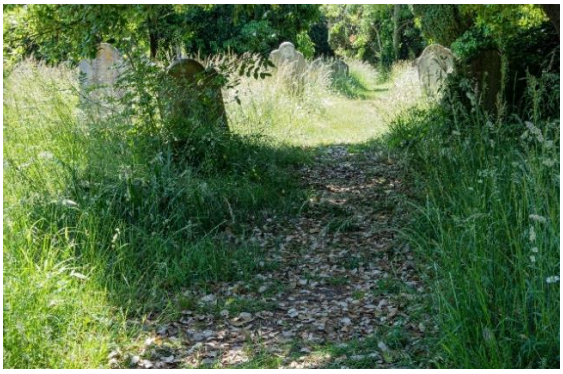
By R E Barry Chidlow

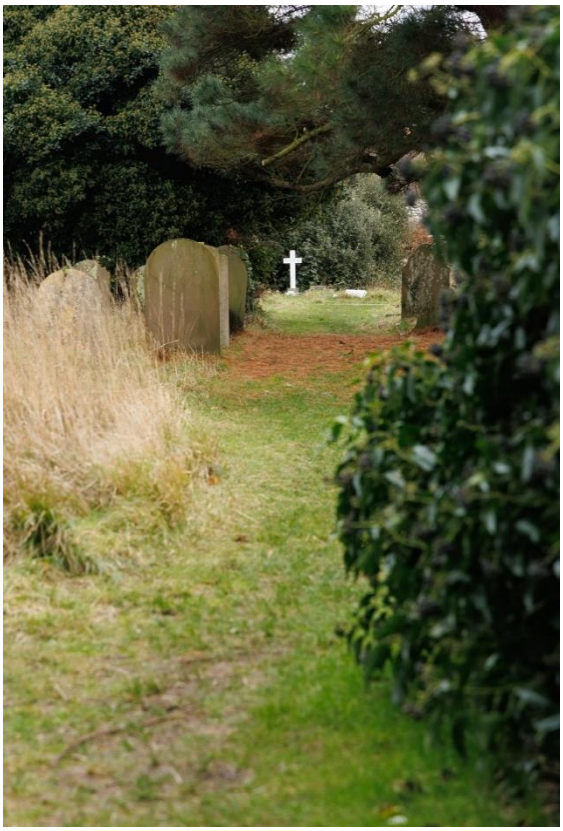


When you read this hopefully it will have stopped raining, so you may feel inclined to take a walk. And what better place than the lovely cemetery on our doorstep.

Once you have walked through the magnificent archway, your choices are many and your journey of discovery begins. Who would have thought there were so many pathways to discover in this peaceful place…





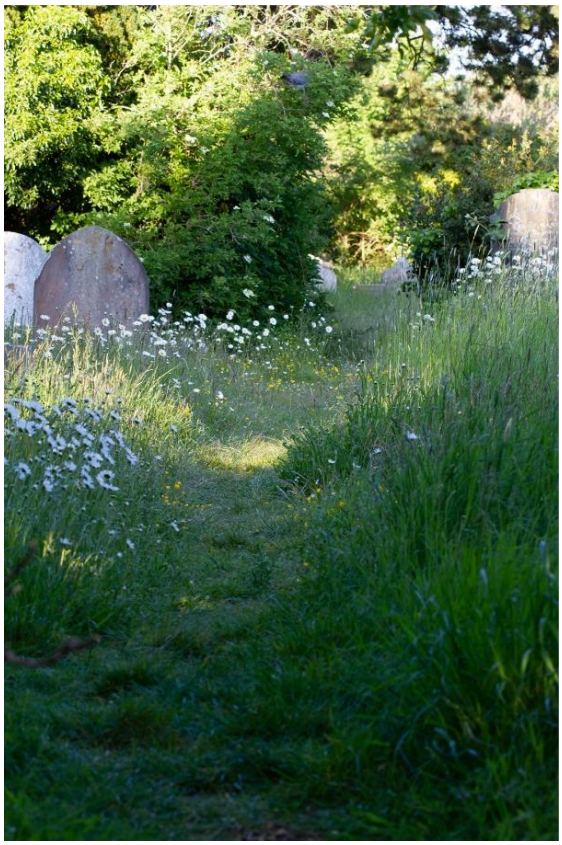




◄

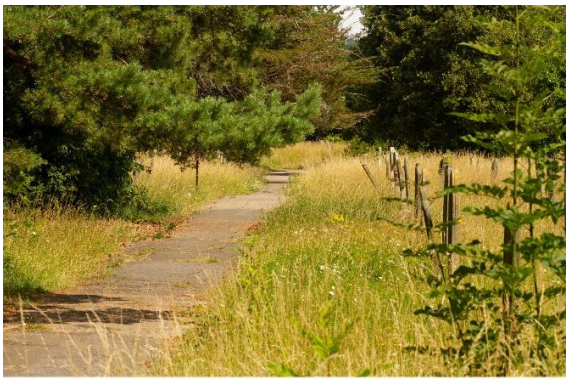
There are some wonderful pathways in our cemetery, but I must admit my favourites are the ones I call "the secret pathways".





I have many images of the more formal pathways, which I am sure many of you walk regularly.





However, perhaps you may be encouraged to step off the tarmac and discover the lesser-known paths – as these too can be interesting.

As always, great thanks should always go to all those FBWC volunteers who continue to keep these lovely walks open and available to us, allowing us to discover the beauty and peacefulness of this place. No matter how many times I visit the cemetery, I continually find something different to observe and photograph.

I hope that you have enjoyed this part of my journey. Until next time.

Many thanks.

Barry

Meet one of our volunteers…

Karen Foster



(Photo supplied by Karen Foster)

By Karen Foster

Hi. My name is Karen Foster and I have been volunteering with the Friends for about seven years.

I joined in the beginning by helping Sue Nea do some research for upcoming tours – as I enjoy researching family history – and afterwards decided that I wanted to do more. I have researched quite a few people in the cemetery, but I particularly like the murder and crime ones! I also used to help with clearance on a Saturday morning, which was very satisfying.

Quite a lot of my ancestors are buried in the cemetery, so funnily enough I think of it as my happy place.

I also help Carole Manning with the refreshments. I have been told that I make a mean lemon drizzle, and Carole complements that with her gorgeous gingerbread and fruit cakes. It may be time to change the lemon drizzle cake though, after baking it for six years!

Karen

(If you would like to volunteer, please see our Facebook page for ways to contact us. Please also see page 6 of this newsletter for specialist volunteering roles.)

Volunteer news…

Jake, one of our Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) volunteers, has now completed his bronze D of E award. Congratulations, Jake!

Lillie continues with us, working towards her silver award.

And a new D of E volunteer started with us in January.

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!



The Richard Jefferies' grave in Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery
(Photo 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...

- Planting of trees, bulbs, and lavender
- Tour planning and research
- Light clearance work
- Council completed a full cut of the cemetery's grass
- Council team in for a week cutting back cemetery's overgrown trees and shrubs
- Council signs asking that dogs be kept on leads placed at each entrance
- Publicising of typhoid book
- Supervising our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers
- Planting wildflower plugs with Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Working on a new website





Before and after images of Paul Robards creating a designated area to attract wildlife (Photo supplied by Paul Robards)

And what work still needs to be done...

- Ongoing cemetery maintenance
- Planning of June tour (marking the 140th anniversary of the Worthing riots)
- Website

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

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.

THANK YOU!

Greg Harper – who produced a song about Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery called The Old Bone Yard – very kindly gave a concert in aid of the Friends at the Alan Fletcher Hall in January.

We would like to thank Greg and his musicians for a thoroughly enjoyable evening and for their very generous donation. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Some more photos taken in the cemetery...





(Photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

Paul's corner



By Paul Robards
Wildlife & Clearance Co-Ordinator

Clearance days at the cemetery went well last year, with lots of satisfying and productive work being undertaken by our regular volunteers. I thank them all for their continued interest and time.

Facebook is a useful resource for the cemetery. When we put photos of the cleared graves onto Facebook it generates 'likes', which keeps interest in the cemetery going – and, we hope, encourages new visitors to the cemetery.

To help support the cemetery's other visitors – its wildlife – some designated areas have been created. These areas, which were prepared by removing some rough couch grass to form a natural border, have been planted up with lavender and wildflowers to encourage the bees.



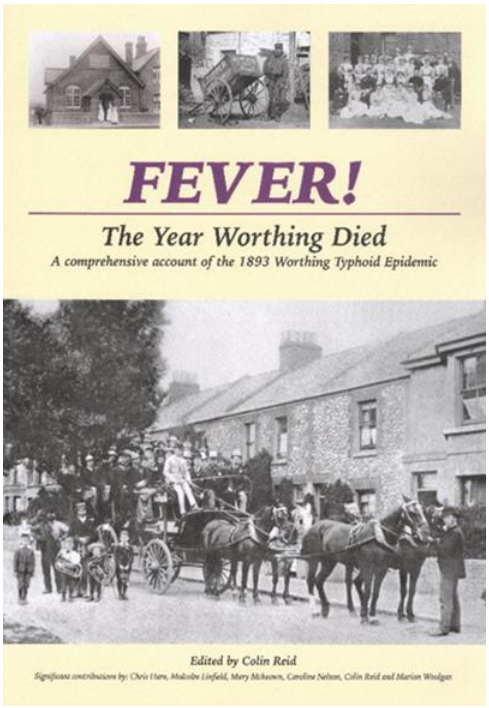
Paul Robards planting lavender in one of the designated areas for wildlife
(Photo supplied by Paul Robards)

I have also collected and frozen some hawthorn berries, with a view to planting them during February/March. These areas will be maintained and should provide good winter food for the cemetery's birds (such as Thrushes).

Sussex Wildlife Trust have very kindly offered to come back to the cemetery in April for another Task Day. They will carry out some planting or light clearance work for us, which, as always, we very much appreciate.

Paul

Friends' publication update



The authors of *FEVER! The Year Worthing Died* have been taking every opportunity to promote this comprehensive account of the 1893 Worthing typhoid epidemic that resulted in the unnecessary deaths of at least 194 people of all ages and backgrounds. Before the book was published, Malcolm Linfield and Colin Reid made a Powerpoint presentation to a local history group (Surfleet) that meets in East Worthing Community Centre monthly and Mary Mckeown was on hand to take future book orders. Then, in January, the same dynamic duo made a similar presentation to the Worthing meeting of the Sussex Family History Group that meets in Field Place. On Thursday 14th March, Chris Hare, Malcolm Linfield and Colin Reid (with an introduction by Debra Hillman) made a presentation to an audience of more than 80 at Offington Park Methodist Church. There was a Question & Answers session hosted by five of the authors including Caroline Nelson. Paul Robards assisted with checking tickets whilst Mary Mckeown and Gill Heasman sold a further 23 copies of the book that has been very well-received.

For the future, Colin has agreed to make a Web Talk for the Sussex Family History Group on Thursday 25th April and there are possible openings with the West Sussex Writers' group in October and the Billingshurst Literary Festival.

Advertising in the *Inside* group of newspapers, *Worthing Herald* and *The Worthing Journal* have also contributed to book sales.

Currently, there are only 48 copies available for sale so – if you don't want to miss out – please contact Mary or Colin on worthingtyphoid@gmail.com to purchase your own copy at just £14.99.

Please give us your feedback

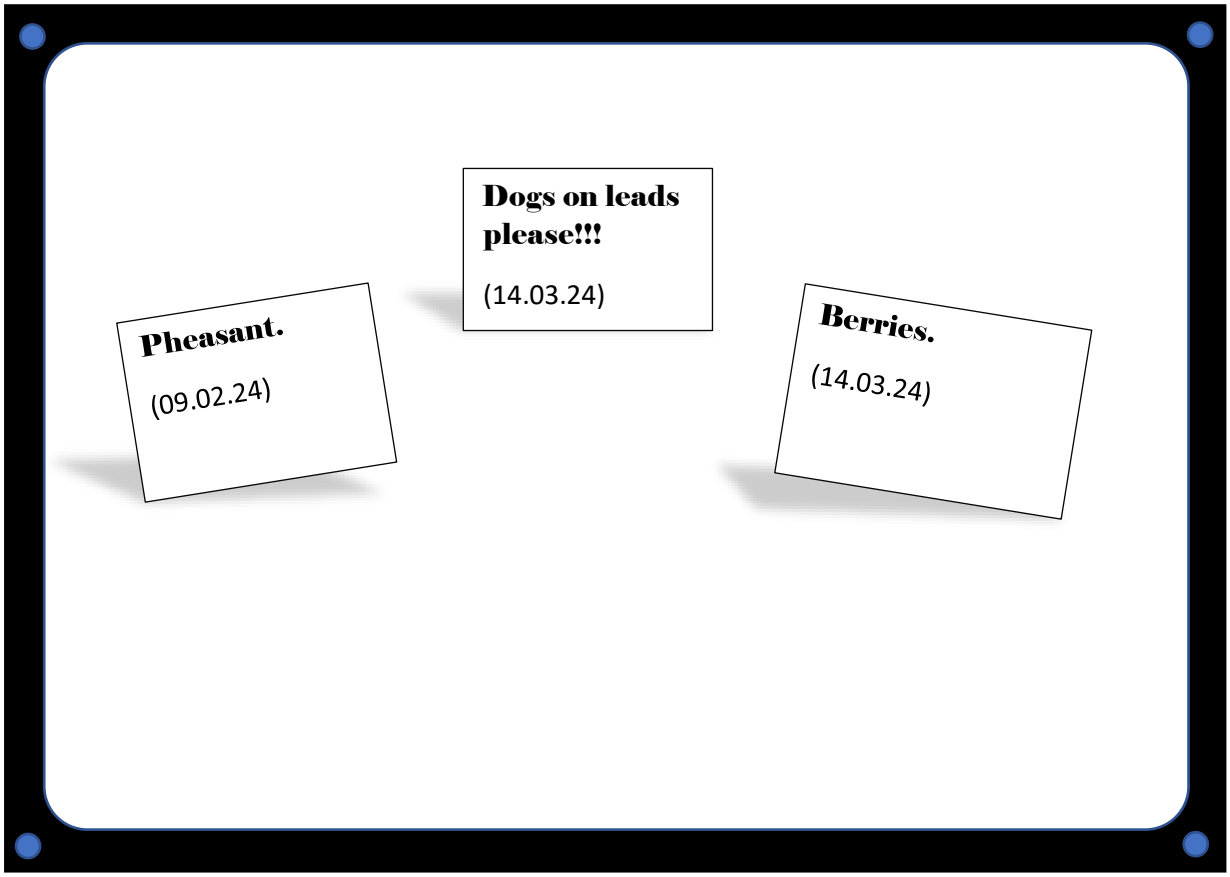
We would love to hear your feedback and any ideas you have for improving the cemetery or this newsletter. Please get in touch with us via our Facebook page to offer your thoughts on what we do.

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 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!