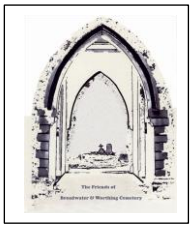
THE FRIENDS OF

BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER **Issue 49, Spring 2025**



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

Message from the Chair

Debra Hillman



(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025! It won't be long before spring is here and the Friends will again be welcoming visitors to our tours of the cemetery.

My focus in this message is on the sustainability of the Friends going forward as well as the events planned for the coming year.

Looking ahead to the tour season, we will soon be finalising the themes, researching the stories and collating the information to create our booklets. Work is already underway, but changes are always possible until we are a little further into the process; sometimes there are just not enough interesting stories that fit those planned themes! There are a couple of important anniversaries this year which have influenced our choice of themes: 80 years since VE Day, and 200 years since the birth of the modern railway. A provisional calendar of tours for 2025 can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Alongside all the work to be done preparing for the tour season, we are, of course, continuing with the year-round task of tidying the cemetery. Achieving a balance between conservation of the green space for wildlife and protecting the site as a cemetery which is full of history, is not an easy task – but it is an important one. We are keen to ensure that the site is accessible for relatives looking for and visiting family graves. The site is very large and it takes a lot of effort just to keep on top of simple tasks like clearing ivy from the headstones.

'Sustainability of the Friends'

The brings me to the subject of sustainability of the Friends. None of this work, whether research or 'gardening', is possible without our army of volunteers.

Sadly, our army is shrinking and we really need to build it up. ▶

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I would like to ask all members reading this to consider if they know someone who might be able to help. There are opportunities in all areas of the group and I know that those who are already active members would be happy to chat to anyone interested in coming on board. It is, of course, not just additional manpower needed for carrying out the various tasks but also people to step forward to help run the group. We already have vacant committee posts and at the end of this year my plan is to step down as Chair. We could be in the position where we will need three or four people to take over committee posts to ensure the viability of the Friends moving forward. We have many months ahead to find solutions and strengthen our position, but we do need to start thinking about this now. I would be happy to speak to anyone who is interested in being more involved in the running of the group.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the cemetery, whether in working parties or at tour days, and hope that the weather continues to be kind to us this year.

Debra

Some photos taken in the cemetery…





(Photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

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Useful Dates 2025	November	AGM

Tour dates and themes for 2025

April	Unusual gravestones
May	Military Memories
June	Nature Matters*
July	Old Worthing Families 2
August	200th Anniversary of the Railway
September	100 Years On
October	A Pub Crawl

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

*The plan for our Nature Matters tour is to hold a slightly longer tour than usual. Visitors are advised to arrive 10 – 15 minutes before the tour's start time.

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!

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

By R E Barry Chidlow



When you read this addition, hopefully you will be feeling a little warmer and the sun is begging to shine again. Whatever the weather, it's always good to take a walk in our enchanting cemetery.

Every time I walk through the grand archway entrance, I begin to wonder what I might find to photograph. Yet, I never fail to find something of interest.

Previously, in part four, I included some of the smaller things in life. This time, I have decided to continue with the Macro photography and capture something that perhaps you would not notice, that is, unless you stopped and really looked hard.

The first thing I spotted was this little snail hiding in a tiny crevice.



When you get up close, the details of this little creature are amazing and colourful.

Not that I have any real knowledge of snails, but you must admit they are beautiful little creatures. That is unless they are eating your garden plants!

That said, the blue colours of this one are lovely.



Continuing along my path, I then came across these two tiny spent acorn shells sitting on a bed of moss.





The large one is less than 10 mm across, but again the details are beautiful.

A few paces away from this scene, I quickly spotted the bright colours of these stunning leaves.







The sun was enhancing their detail and rich damask-like colour.

Talking of plants, I soon came across my next images.

The heads of these flowers were all less than 5 mm across and exquisite when up close.

Finding these sorts of images requires us to slow down. We need to really look before we can begin to fully feel and appreciate our surroundings. I find this process a relaxing, mindful, and enhancing experience.

The following image caught my eye because of its action of breaking open. I am not sure what it is, but I found it fascinating to see the pods opening and catching a moment in time.

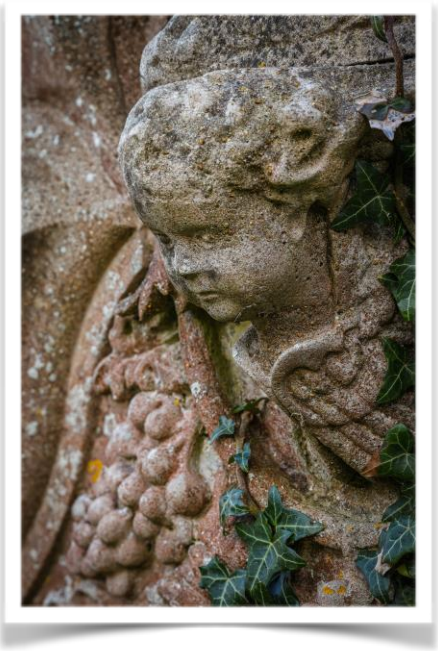


My final images are a little different, but I felt I just had to share them with you.

In the five or more years I have been visiting the cemetery, I think I must have seen pretty much everything at some point or other. How wrong I was, when in all that time I have never seen these three items…







Just goes to show if you look hard enough you will always find something you have not seen before.

Once again, I hope you have enjoyed my brief selection of the secrets of our cemetery. Perhaps next time you visit you will also find something new to look at.

Many thanks.

Barry

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 please get in touch via our Facebook page. Thank you!

THANK YOU, ROSEMARY!

On behalf of all the Friends, we'd like to say a big thank you to Rosemary, one of our researchers, who has stepped down this year following many years of researching for us. Thank you for all the time you've given and the research you've conducted for us, Rosemary. We have very much appreciated all your hard work and dedication. Thank you!

Volunteer news...

Vice Chair Sally Roberts has become a stakeholder for Northbrook College, reporting direct to Ofsted re the work the college is doing for the Friends (see page 8). We now have three classes helping with clearance. All the students have additional needs and are really enjoying their work in the cemetery.

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...

- Supervising students from Northbrook College. Students will help with clearance and litter picking
- Tour planning and research
- Light clearance work
- Supervising Duke of Edinburgh volunteer
- Investigating the Green Flag Award
- Working on a new website
- Supporting habitat management with the help of The Sussex Wildlife Trust and their 'Adur & Worthing Hit Squad'
- Liaising with another small team who wish to improve the wildlife in their own West Sussex churchyard
- Repairing of bird boxes





(Photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

And what work still needs to be done...

- Information maps/boards need to be repaired or replaced, and possibly re-sited
- Ongoing cemetery maintenance
- Website
- Holly hedge on South Farm Road boundary needs to be cut back
- Finalising of 2025 tours

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 shears
- Wooden bird boxes
- Wildflower seeds

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 photos taken in the cemetery...





(Photos courtesy of Alex Vincent)

Paul's corner



By Paul Robards
Wildlife & Clearance Co-Ordinator

I am pleased to report that spring's warmer weather has produced the expected sightings in the cemetery, and with an increase in flowers, the bees, hoverflies and butterflies are seeking the early nectar produced.

A day of warm sunshine increases the opportunity greatly to spot a tumble of Speckled Wood butterflies in the dappled light, or a Large White, Comma, Peacock, or an Orange Tip.



Comma butterfly

Hoverflies, bees and wasps were out quite early this year. They were seen on the bright yellow lesser celandine (*Ranunculus*) flowers, one of the first flowering in the cemetery this year.



Celandine and hoverfly

There was also a lovely show of primroses (*Primula*) and lungwort (*Pulmonaria*). This will shortly increase greatly with many more species being evident.



Primroses

On our first tour of the year at the beginning of April, I requested that visitors give me a shout if they noticed any butterflies en route. They didn't let me down! At one time there were two Sparrowhawks seen flying up high above the cemetery, which caused excitement.

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We still have a steady number of volunteers helping at the regular clearance days held on the last Saturday of the month, but we could always do with more attendees. A lot of successful work has been achieved. The council is having a job to keep up with clearing the bagged waste following these sessions.



Clearance bags following a clearance day

The Friends committee has arranged a Nature Day on 7th June to view some trees and to see what flora and fauna is visible on that day. A brief talk on the lives of Bateman, Jefferies, and Hudson will also be included.



The Richard Jefferies grave

I attended a Seed Swap event recently, where I had a table advertising Broadwater Cemetery as it has been included in The Adur and Worthing Wildflower Trail (for further information of the trail, please see the box below). We are in the Wildflower Trail leaflet produced by Sue Standing.

I have also been contacted by a lady who works in Amberley Churchyard, to arrange a meeting to discuss the nature that they have there and how it can be possibly improved on, based on the success of Broadwater Cemetery. She had seen us in a recent Sussex Wildlife Trust article.

Paul

The Adur and Worthing Wildflower Trail

Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery is to be included in The Adur and Worthing Wildflower Trail.

The wildflower trail is a collection of celebrated sites across Adur and Worthing dedicated to growing wildflowers that encourage pollinators.

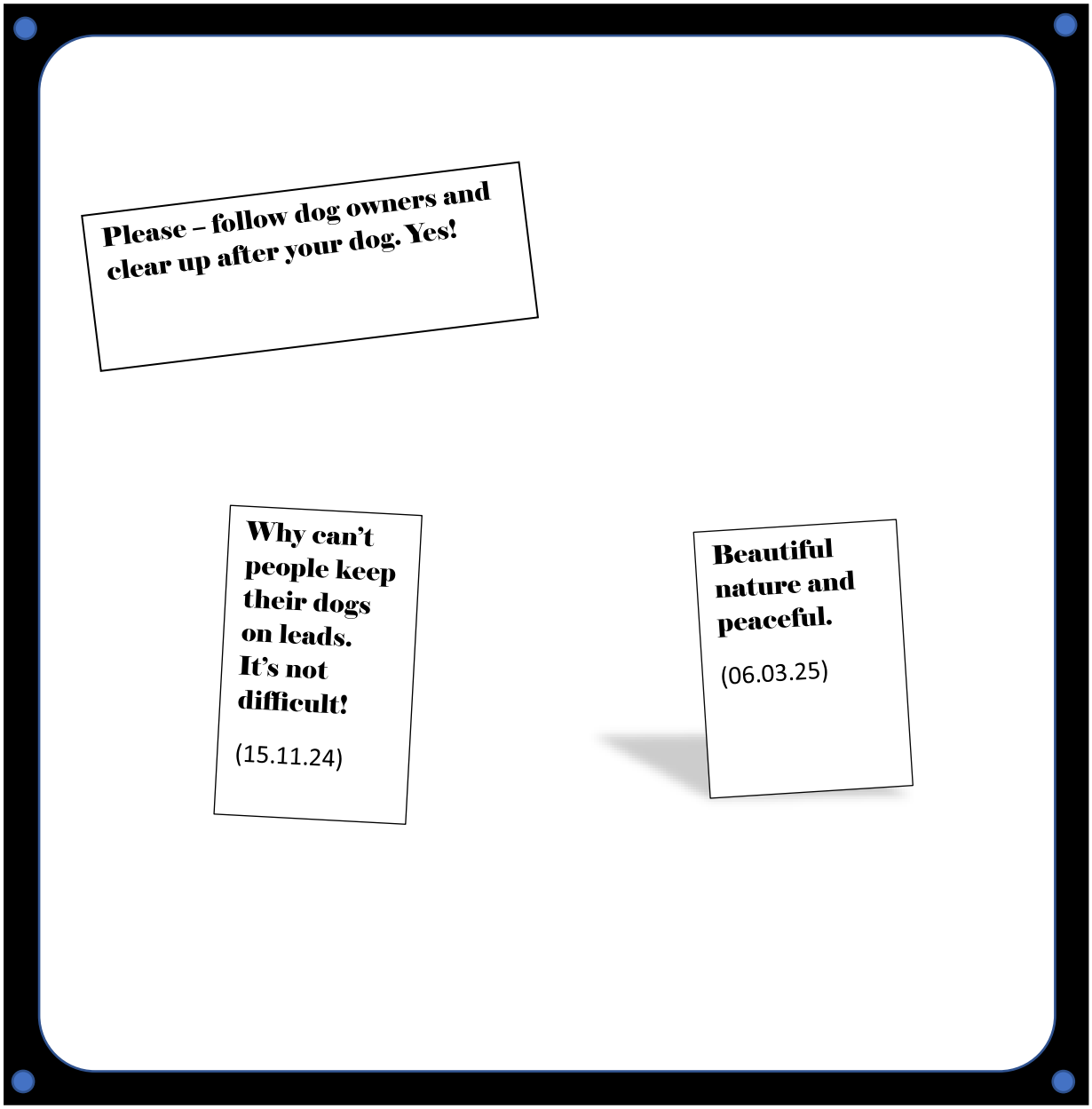
For more information and a map of the wildflower trail please visit https://www.thewildflowertrail.org

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.)



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!