THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.14
SPRING 2012

THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

A SHED LOAD OF GOOD NEWS

The long playing saga of the Friends attempting to secure all of the necessary official permissions, planning approvals and authorities to proceed with its plans to build a secure store to the west side of the north chapel entrance has at last been obtained. Preliminary work will now continue apace in accordance with agreed specification by those local builder Friends Messrs Stepney, Robards and Ffitch. It has yet to be confirmed whether they are registered with 'Checkatrade'! Our Chairman Major Tom Wye has received the backing of the Chief Executive of the Council and the yellow light has flicked to green.

Considerable thought has gone into the design of the 'shed', although existing wall configuration means that we will need to build only one wall (incorporating an access door) and so 'store' is perhaps the appropriate word. The wall will be a wooden tongued and grooved outer skin supported by stout timbers resting on a low brick base. It will be shaped on ecclesiastical lines with rustic hinges and fitments. The design is totally commensurate and sympathetic with the architectural design of the two chapels. The floor has already been screeded and the base for the wall constructed. Agreements have still to be signed regarding what may or may not be kept in the store and where responsibilities, for example Health and Safety, begin and end. The new structure will be invaluable to Friends on maintenance days, tour dates and of course our annual open day.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES



Photo Tom Wye

In addition to the good news regarding the proposed store our efforts to design, order, construct, install and populate a large three section two sided information board at the main South Farm Road entrance to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have now come to fruition. The large blue notice board has four supporting metal posts that were concreted into the ground on St Valentine's Day, 14 February. Heritage Lottery Funding is prominently displayed and there is a very clear and much needed map of the cemetery included, as well as information about the Friends organisation and its objectives. Also on the board is a clear and bold section by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and a most useful poster detailing dates, times and the very diverse subject matter of all our cemetery tours for 2012. A section given over to individuals of note who are buried in the cemetery will gradually be populated over the coming months.

As if all this was not enough section/grave/plot number information is now available on new markers signs that have just been installed at strategic points in the cemetery. These give broad general directions, thereby assisting the many members of the public who visit the cemetery to find the often long lost graves of their past family members and loved ones. There are 'you are here' points on the signs to give viewers a sense of direction. This should hopefully eliminate the 'I am lost' look on the faces of visitors and Friends! Unfortunately only four such signs have been installed as a first stage but it is hoped that more might be added at a later date, funds permitting.

MILITARY GUIDE ROLLS OFF THE PRESS

Following some problems with publishing software compatibility Chris Green's much anticipated 'A Guide to the Military Burials and Inscriptions of the 20th Century World Wars in Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery' has now been printed and bound and its formal publication will be one of the publishing highlights of 2012. Printed on glossy art paper and retailing for the bargain basement price of £5 the book will be launched on Saturday **21 April 2012** at the main cemetery entrance. One thousand copies have been printed and it is hoped that they will sell like proverbial 'hot cakes'.

Chris Green will be conducting two cemetery tours on that date, the first at 11am featuring burials and memorials in the western and southern sections of the cemetery and at 12 noon in respect of the northern and eastern sections. The author will be conducting the tours and he will be available to sign copies of the book. All Friends should attend and tell their pals about the book, the launch and the tours. Please note that the first 2012 tour date for our new **Nurseryman and Growers** tour will take place on Saturday **14 April at 10.30am.** Please note these dates in your diary or on the 'white board' NOW. It is important that we maintain and if possible increase the number of tour participants and maintain momentum in all that we do.

In addition to all of the above Chris Green has decided to give informative talks on the content of his Military Guide at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on six consecutive Mondays from **11 June until 16 July** at 19.30 hours (7.30pm for the British); meet by the chapels inside the main entrance. The talks are free but donations to the Friends will be appreciated. Although by then it will be high summer Chris has asked that attendees bring folding chairs if the weather should be inclement, in which case the talks will be held under cover between the chapels. He estimates the talks will last about one hour. The full details are as follows:

11 June: Researching a family Great War Hero and writing their story

18 June: 1914 – WW1 Historical Background and Commencement

25 June: 1915 – Early Casualties, battles of Gallipoli, Loos and 1st Ypres

2 July: 1916 – Conscription, battles of Jutland, Boar's Head and Somme

9 July: 1917 – Hindenburg Line, Arras, Vimy Ridge, Passchendale, Palestine

16 July: 1918 – Germany's Final Offensive, Last 100 Days, Armistice, POWs

Much effort has gone into planning these sessions so please support them – in person. The book is a remarkable and unique production, well done Chris!

OTHER PUBLISHING NEWS

Our wonderful thematic 40-50 plus page A5 booklets have proved to be enormously popular. Every one of these booklets is an excellent read and is well worth the 'give-away' price of a measly one pound coin, the bargain of the century. For a number of reasons these barely above cost price publications will shortly have laminated covers for the first time but the price will have to be increased to £1.50, the price of half a pint a beer or five cigarettes and cheaper than a cup of coffee, and I know which I would rather have!

A longer term objective, recently approved by the Friends, is to eventually produce a high quality 'Combined Volume' of the booklets, some time after the last of the series of booklets is published. This project will be funded by the sale of other publications, including the 2009 'The A-Z of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery', available at a modest £4, and the Military Guide at £5. FBWC now has a rich choice of books available for visitors to choose from.

COME AND PLUCK THE IVY

Your Editor was extremely disappointed by his Friend colleagues on Saturday 3 March. At the well publicised Cemetery Maintenance Day, after help had been ***specifically*** requested, only our Maintenance Coordinator and your Editor were in attendance to actually do some work, although Mike Parrott thoughtfully tended the Jefferies grave. That's just two Friends out of 69, from a local population of at least 100,000! Many Friends work **very** hard in their particular sphere of interest and much effort is expended behind the scenes on an immense variety of tasks, and their efforts must be applauded. However one of the best opportunities of getting together as a **team** is on the first Saturday in the month when from 10.00am various maintenance tasks are undertaken. Just an hour or two of light pruning activity would be appreciated.

It is only the heavy gang that lifts gravestones or cuts off offending tree branches and there are scores of other lighter tasks, such as cutting back brambles and removing ivy from memorials. These tasks are never ending and it is only through our efforts, supported by periodic Council contractor visits to do the widespread strimming, that will keep our remarkable progress on track. So give up that gym subscription, abandon tedious group therapy sessions, avoid the grandchildren and come down to the cemetery. If the weather is grim then there is little point in attending, indeed on 3 March the writer was one hour late, waiting for the rain to abate but we really do need you on such occasions. Some work will hopefully be done by Worthing High School during their imminent visit, for which Friend Christina Taylor is working on a 'Treasure Hunt' exercise to maintain interest.

A PICTURE OF AN OLD RAKE



.....and your Editor.

Photo Paul Robards

VITAL STATISTICS!

As at 1 March 2012 we have 69 fully paid up members, although this includes a relative or two and some Friends who are interested in the cemetery but who live many miles away. The average attendance at our monthly Friends meetings at the Town Hall on the last Friday in the month at 6pm exceeds 30, which is excellent. A remarkable total of 75 per cent of memorial inscriptions have been recorded during the past 3.5 years and our IT whiz and Vice Chairperson Debra Hillman has confirmed that our IT system is now capable of accepting data input; a formidable task but one that the Friends are determined to complete for the sake of posterity. We now have 7 tour dates planned for the 2012 season with a total of 14 diverse tours plus extras.

TOUR DATES FOR 2012

Our 2012 tour dates are now available and it looks to be a remarkable season. Tell all of your friends and acquaintances and any organisation you feel might be interested. **Please put all of these dates in your diary. Note Sue Nea has avoided a clash with Easter Saturday 7 April, otherwise it's the first Saturday in the month.**

Date	First Tour at 10.30am	Second tour at 11.30am
14 April	Nurserymen & Growers	General
5 May	Notable Woman	Businessmen 1
2 June	Pubs & Hotels 1	Pubs & Hotels 2
7 July	Seafarers	Majors
4 August	Religious Figures	Military
1 September	Businessmen 3	Salvation Army
6 October	Entertainment & The Arts	Businessmen 2

THANKS BUDDY

Just a short note of thanks to all Buddies for copying cemetery related material, including 'THE BROADSHEET', and delivering it to our Friends who either do not have computers or who are infirm. The cost of time, motoring including petrol, the cost of printing ink, especially in the case of our newsletter, is increasing and the amounts spent are tantamount to a donation to the Friends cause. We could not do without you!

NATURE WATCH

By Paul Robards



Photo Paul Robards

This time of year most of the flora and fauna is in quiet repose, slumbering through our unpredictable winters. All of our usual wildlife residents have been seen, the snowdrops are in bloom, the daffodils, primula and crocuses are winning their seasonal fight and providing colour, and early buds are appearing on trees and shrubs. Here we see a reminder of one of our resident foxes enjoying a game of football last summer. There is recent evidence that the family is still active and in residence. I am working-up an activity concerning animals and plants to entertain our younger visitors this year and I hope you will all see the new information board that contains a wonderful display of what to see and find in terms of fauna, flora and wildlife within our cemetery.

GEORGE FREEMAN b.1848

By Neil Freeman

The story started 3 years ago when I went for a mini break to Guernsey. I have always known that my Grandfather Ira Freeman was born in Guernsey. Whilst we were there I collected his birth certificate and much to my surprise he was the son of a lighthouse keeper and his wife, George and Mary Ann Freeman. This started me off on a three year adventure around the country discovering all of the lighthouses George served on. He was born in 1848 at Milford

Haven in Pembrokeshire, the son of a sea captain John Freeman of Trinity House. He entered lighthouse service in 1866. In 1871 his first lighthouse was Souters Point on the east coast. In 1881 he was on the Les Hanois in Tortival, Guernsey.

From May 1891 to October 1891 he was on Wolf Rock off Cornwall followed by 8 years on Eddystone lighthouse, until 1899 when he was transferred to Flamborough Head in Yorkshire. From 1905 until 1910 he was based at North Foreland in Kent. As you can see our travels tracing his various lighthouse stations took us far and wide.



George Freeman just before the turn of the twentieth century.

As much as I researched I could not find what happened to him after 1910 and assumed he died in Kent. I searched all the local records as to where he might have been buried but to no avail. So you can imagine my surprise when I walked into Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery and I saw a man pushing a wheel barrow (I later found out that his name was John Stepney, a Friend of the cemetery). He was working in the cemetery with his wife Pam. Speaking to him I asked if Ira Freeman was buried in the cemetery. I told him the story about George and he said that he would make some enquiries and if I returned the next day he would tell me what he had found out. To my surprise the next day he told me that George and Mary were buried in the cemetery and he took me to the grave.

This has closed a big circle for me finding where George and Mary were buried. I have been restoring their grave and I have recently completed the task by cleaning the headstone and surround and by in-filling, finishing off in some Cornish stone. I would like to thank John for his help. I also have a photograph of George in his uniform taken between 1880 and 1900 (above).

From George's Great Grandson, Neil Freeman. [Thanks for the great story Neil – your refurbished grave and headstone are a great credit to you – they look terrific - Ed.]

SHE WAS A FLOWER PLUCKER

by Anne Powell

I found this remarkable story while researching in the 'Hastings and St Leonards Observer', Saturday 2 August 1879 issue. It relates to a 'crime' committed in 'our' cemetery.

"It was a respectable married woman who was fined one day this week ten shillings and costs for plucking a flower from a graveyard in **Worthing Cemetery.** In the name of conscience, what can possess these grave despoilers to act as they do? Is it a sort of kleptomania with some people, this plucking flowers from graves? Imagine the widow taking from her garden the sweetest flower to plant upon her lamented husband's new made grave, or the poor invalid, who has watched the growth of a flower almost daily in her window-pot, and had set it at last as a token of love in the earth of the tomb of the beloved relative – imagine the feelings of these on finding their graves profaned and robbed by the rude hand of a stranger! I think if I were a magistrate of a town or district in which these despoilings were of not uncommon occurrence, I should find a means to stop them. My penalties though would take some more effective shape than that of ten shillings and costs".

[which reminds your Editor of a notice in a cemetery that is reported to have stated "Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own grave." !!]

'NO EMBELLISHMENT' OUTRAGE

The local Council is in trouble again, this time over their new ban on the placement of toys, candles, ornaments, wind chimes and tea lights and all forms of embellishment on all adult graves. Council Cabinet member Clive Roberts and his Adur counterpart Keith Dollemore have been targeted for criticism for agreeing to the ban proposal. Such objects can however continue to be placed on children's graves at Durrington cemetery. It is reported that bereaved families expressed their 'disgust' at the ban. Your Editor has noticed a growing tendency for such clutter to be placed on graves at Durrington but one persons clutter is another persons loving memorial.

The problem is of course cheap and cheerful cemetery maintenance where anything that is likely to interfere with insensitive mechanisation becomes a hindrance and a nuisance. Our ancestors never had to put up with the splattering from strimmers or ride-on mowers! On the other hand there does have to be some rules and regulations to prevent silly excesses.

CEMETERY HUMOUR

A man who was terminally ill decided to take all his money with him into the afterlife. He had life savings of £90,000. Shortly before his death he gave three of his friends, a Clergyman, a Doctor and a Lawyer, £30,000 each to put into his coffin. All three turned up at the funeral and after the burial service they got together to pay their respects to the deceased. Riddled with guilt the Clergyman admitted to the other two that he had spent £20,000 on church repairs and had put only £10,000 into the coffin. The Doctor also felt guilty as he admitted that he had spent £20,000 on a new x-ray machine and he too had only put £10,000 in the coffin. The Lawyer said "shame on you both, I put a cheque for the full amount in the coffin"!

.....

A funeral service was being held for a married woman at the local church. At the end of the service the coffin was being carried out of the church when the pall bearers wobbled and the coffin bumped into a pillar. They heard a faint moan and frantically opened the coffin. To the astonishment of everybody the woman was still alive. She lived for another 10 years and the subsequent service took place at the same local church. After the service the coffin was being carried out of the church when the peace was shattered by the husband who shouted loudly "mind that pillar"!

CEMETERY BRANCH LINE?

Is there going to be a railway branch line from Worthing to the cemetery in South Farm Road or is Worthing (ex-Central) going to be re-named 'Worthing Junction, for Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery'? Why? Because Paul Robards our Clearance and Wildlife Coordinator has contacted the Southern Railway Company (a subsidiary of Govia, which in turn is owned under a joint venture by the Go-Ahead Group and Keolis) in the form of their rail partnership representative Pene Mather and she has confirmed that she would be willing to advertise our cemetery tours on their website and at local Worthing railway stations, hopefully Lancing, East Worthing, Worthing, West Worthing, Durrington on Sea and Goring by Sea. No 'dead centre of town' or 'end of the line' jokes, please! This publicity could help swell the numbers attending our cemetery tours and increase awareness of the work of the Friends.

Branching out further, arrangements are being made for a listing and possibly a brief description of all of our publications on our website. Also we are branching out in terms of procuring some Open Day furniture in the shape of folding tables and notice boards. These acquisitions will probably be stored in our new 'shed', see Page 1.

ON THE TRAIL WITH WORTHING HIGH

By Christina Taylor

On 8 March 2012 students from Worthing High School were the first to try a newly created 'Treasure Trail' activity during one of their 'Enrichment Days'. I had devised the activity with the valuable help of John Stepney, to replace perhaps less interesting memorial inscription work. This included collating much information, writing clues and poems. The trail had been tested by Carol Barber, a retired High School teacher and by Lauren, a bright twelve year old, which resulted in a number of enhancements.

On the above date the trail was tried for the first time by WHS student groups who were unfamiliar with the cemetery. The students worked in small teams armed with question and answer sheets, a puzzle grid and picture clues. There was plenty of reading and a little writing involved. Although the trail proved to be slightly too long the groups managed well, with one group coming within two clues of the finish. The level of appreciation and satisfaction expressed by both students and teachers was very satisfying and made the many hours spent in preparation really worthwhile. They suggested that if the activity was repeated it could benefit from including a greater area of the cemetery, which with 34 acres to work with should produce few problems. The students also undertook clearance work and joined a Tom Wye tour.

[*Christina Taylor is a Friend of the cemetery and a former Infant and Junior School teacher. The trail exercise was a great success and will be used again. Very well done Christina (and John) and on behalf of us all may I say a huge 'Thank You' – Ed.]*

CHRISTINA AND STUDENTS PHOTO SUE NEA



RESEARCH CORNER

Major General Oliver Henry Atkins Nicolls C11/2/3

By John Stepney

Oliver was born at Bersted near Bognor Regis in July 1834, he was baptised later the same year in St Bartholomew's Church, Chichester. His parents were George and Henrietta who are shown in the 1841 census living with their five children and three servants at Emma Place, Devonport. When Oliver was 16 he started his military career with the Royal Artillery at the Cadet Barracks in Woolwich. In 1853 he gained his first promotion, a year later he was made a Lieutenant rising through the ranks. In 1860 he was Captain, 1872 Major, 1876 Lt-Colonel and in 1881 Colonel.

He married Harriet Maria Crawley in 1875 at Newent, Gloucestershire and they had a son, Oliver Charles Crawley, born 1878. Sadly Harriet died in 1881 while the family were in the West Indies. Their son Oliver Charles Crawley also joined the Royal Artillery. Oliver senior married a second time in 1885 to Mary Lee at Castleward, Northumberland. Unfortunately Mary died in 1891 while the family were living at Woolwich. They had two children, Edward born in 1886 and Geoffrey in 1890. Edward joined the Army and attended the United Services College from 1903-1905. He was commissioned into the East Surrey Regiment in 1907 and fought in World War 1 at Flanders. He was mentioned in despatches four times, awarded the Military Cross in 1917 and the Distinguished Service Order in 1918. He rose to the rank of Lt-Colonel and died in 1959. Their other son Geoffrey was a Clergyman.

Oliver senior first saw active service in the Crimean campaign in 1854 including the siege and fall of Sebastopool. He was awarded The Crimean medal and clasp as well as the Turkish medal. Later he went overseas again and commanded the Royal Artillery throughout the operations in Perak, including the capture of Kinta in 1875.

He returned to England and was made staff paymaster in the Army Pay Department. He retired from the Army in 1896. He lived at 29 Woolwich Common with two servants for several years before moving back to Bersted, his birthplace. The 1911 census shows him living at Camden Crescent in Bath with the son from his first marriage plus two servants. He died at Chichester on 15 August 1920 aged 86. The service was held at Chichester Cathedral. Colonel C E G Norton represented HM King George V. The journey from Chichester to Worthing was made by road and on the outskirts of Worthing the coffin was placed on a gun carriage drawn by six horses, preceded by a firing party. Six officers of the Royal Field Artillery and the Royal

Garrison Artillery carried the coffin to the grave where the committal prayers were said by the Rev G E Nicolls (a cousin of the deceased) and the Rev A V Houseman. Oliver is buried in the same grave as Mary, his second wife (d.1891), her Mother Elizabeth (d.1922), Oliver and Mary's son (d.1968) and Geoffrey's wife Ivy (d.1991).

MAJOR GENERAL F W B PARRY C20/1/20

By John Stepney



Frederick William Best Parry was born in Cheltenham in 1842, the second son of Major F S Parry who served in the 17th Lancers. The 1851 census shows the family living at 21 The Steyne, Worthing. Later the family moved to 5 Marine Terrace. He joined the Cheshire Regiment in 1858 where he served for almost 30 years. At the young age of 16 he was commissioned Ensign in the 1st Battalion. His series of promotions were rapid and his achievements were many as his rise through the ranks demonstrates; 1861 Lieutenant, 1869 Captain, 1878 Major, 1883 Lt-Colonel, 1887 Colonel. He subsequently retired as a Major-General.

He married Georgina Mary Pilkington on the Isle of Wight in 1868. She was born at Chilgrove, near Chichester, in 1844. The couple had six children and all were born where Frederick happened to be serving. The first child was Amy and the second was Claude Frederick Pilkington, the six children being born in New Brunswick (Canada), Cork, Guernsey, Aldershot, Chester and Brooklands, Lancashire. The second child fought in the Boer War and he was eventually killed in France in 1918.

In 1867 Frederick was Private Secretary to the Governor of New Brunswick, a position he held for seven years. From 1874 to 1878 he was Adjutant of the Cheshire Rifle Volunteers. In 1882 he was sent to the Himalayas to organise and command a camp for married soldiers in the Peshawar Division. He was also Paymaster to the 2nd Battalion and in 1885 he was appointed to the command at Pachmari in India. Two years later he commanded the 1st Battalion but shortly afterwards he retired.

The family went to live in Hampstead and they later moved to 67 North Street, Chichester. They then moved to 'Southfield', Liverpool Gardens, Worthing in 1904. One of the couples unmarried 36 year old daughters was still living at home and there were three servants. Frederick died on 7 January 1913 aged 71. He suffered heart failure following chronic bronchitis. The funeral service was held at St Paul's Church conducted by Rev E J Cunningham. In addition to his widow he left three sons and three daughters. The eldest son was by then a Major in the Royal Field Artillery. The other two sons were farming in the Transvaal.



The coffin was covered in a Union Jack on which was placed the deceased's sword. Major Bogerand the Regimental bugler from the Cheshire Regiment attended the service and he sounded the 'last post'. Several high ranking military officers attended the funeral, as well as friends, relatives and the maids from 'Southfield'. The pictured gravestone contains the badge of the Cheshire Regiment, including oak leaf and acorn. The unusual grave has a beautiful sundial on a pedestal with poignant words, altogether eye-catching.

FRIENDS IN THE NEWS EVERY MONTH

Hopefully most of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery are subscribers to the Worthing Journal but the Editor, who just happens to be our Media Officer, is including nearly a page of news items pertaining to the cemetery every month. Sometimes it is related directly to our activities, such as new tours and publications, or the text and pictures relate to one of our 25,000 former residents buried in the cemetery. In the near future Chris Green's new Military book will be featured and this will hopefully result in awareness and sales. Thanks to Paul Holden for all he is doing to enhance the Friends organisation. Paul is also one of our trained tour guides and he does a grand job, even if he does wear an Everton football shirt on occasions!

FRIENDS MAGIC - AS GOOD AS NEW

The unsung work of so many Friends sometimes fails to be recognised but the effort expended by Sally Roberts in restoring the headstone of the Editor's Great Grandfather, William Austin Morley (alias 'Papa'), must be highly commended. His full and interesting story will be saved for a future BROADSHEET and/or a forthcoming booklet on 'Religious' characters by Sue Nea and her team. Below we see the grave in 1921 and below that 90 years later in 2011. The headstone looks truly magnificent and I think the correct expression is 'better than new'. Well done Sally and good luck on your forthcoming Inca Trail venture. The efforts of other headstone restorers is also hereby recognised and I hope to feature other dramatic headstone changes in future editions, well done all.

1921





2011

Innovation continues and this issue of the BROADSHEET is the first packaged as a pdf; many thanks to the stirling efforts of Debra Hillman. Please make sure you attend all of our events and tours, dates within. I wish all readers a pleasant Spring and an enjoyable read.

John 'Austin Morley' Vaughan (see headstone above) **Editor**