THE BROADSHEET Issue No.16
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THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

OUR GRATITUDE FOR A JOB WELL DONE

FBWC CHAIRMAN TOM WYE TO STAND DOWN AFTER FOUR YEARS AT THE HELM

Having established the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in October 2008 and having negotiated the Heritage Lottery Fund grant Major Tom Wye has announced that he is to stand down as FBWC Chairman at the Annual General Meeting on 19 October 2012. He will continue to be a Friend of the cemetery and to assist with many of our various projects. Tom authored a three page article in Issue No.13 of the BROADSHEET detailing the many achievements of the Friends and all of the objectives that had been met under his leadership. These were also contained in the recent 'Evaluation of Heritage Lottery Funded Project' (Saving Worthing's Heritage) report submitted to the HLF. A collective **'Thank You'** Tom from all the Friends for your time and hard work over four years and we look forward to your continuing efforts as general helper and tour guide!



[Photo John Vaughan]

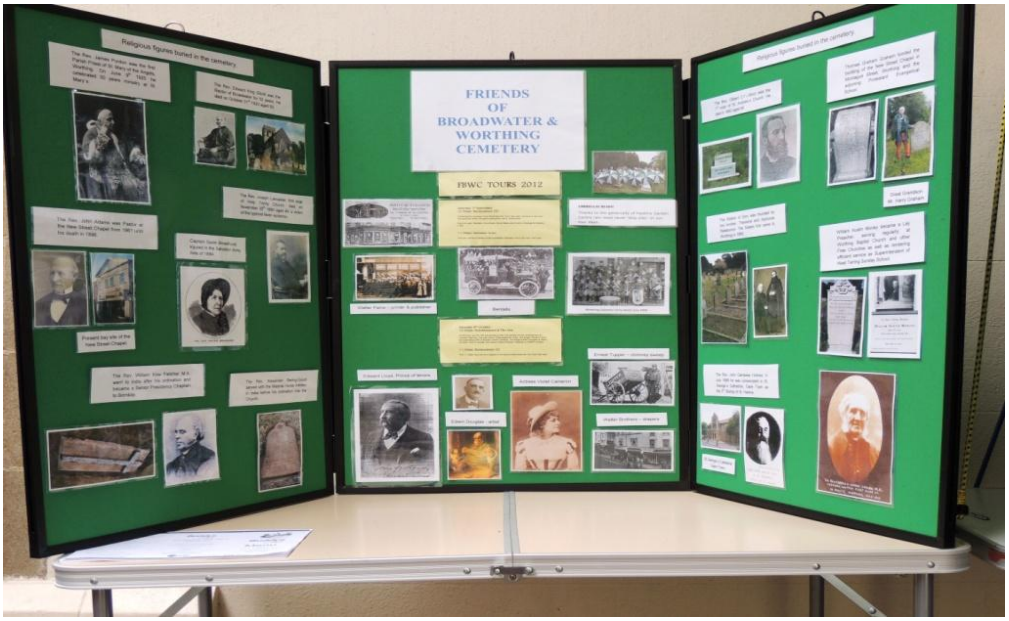
ANOTHER 'OPEN DAY' SUCCESS

The substantial input in terms of planning and organisation by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to hold the annual 'Open Day' on Saturday 4 August 2012 was rewarded by a successful event. The weather held fine, which was just as well as the day was based on three major themed cemetery tours and one minor tour, the subjects being Seafarers, Military Figures, a General Tour and local Millers who are buried in the cemetery. There were all the usual offerings such as informative notice boards, a refreshment stall, book sales outlet, a war graves exhibition, a find-a-grave service supported by the Sussex Family History group, and a table manned by the Worthing Pubs group with their remarkable photographic collection, all attracting much interest. The Worthing Journal was represented, Alex Vincent was selling his new 'Windmills of Worthing' booklet and there were opportunities to join the Friends, a Cemetery Trail challenge, a Nature table directed at youngsters, a visitors book and for the first time a cash 'donations bucket'.

[Photo John Vaughan]



The main chapel entrance was decorated with patriotic bunting, gazebos were erected, umbrellas were available (but thankfully not needed) and folding chairs were strategically positioned for those requiring a rest. The cemetery had been 'strimmed' to present it in the best possible light, the primary season for wild flowers having all but finished. There was a jolly atmosphere and it was a golden opportunity for the Friends to gather and socialise. There was a small group performing clearance duties admirably demonstrating one of the Friends' main activities. The vital statistics of the day were impressive with 70 tour participants in total, 90 booklets were sold, £27 in cash donations were received plus a special donation of £20 from an appreciative visitor. The Friends even gained 4 new members, rounding off an excellent day.



The above illustration shows one of the informative notice boards populated by the Friends, providing an immense amount of data about the tours being conducted on the 'Open Day'. Below our stalwart Carol Manning running our book stall and doing very nicely thank you, whilst in the foreground is our new cash donations bucket where over £27 in loose change found its way into the container.
[Photos: Editor and Sue Nea]



The only downside to our 'Open day' (and this is objective reporting) was that having advertised the event as one where children were being encouraged to visit the cemetery, there were very few children to be seen. With so much effort being made to provide entertainment for young people this was undoubtedly a disappointment. However below we see two youngsters catching grasshoppers under the supervision of Paul Robards.



[Photo - with parents permission: Paul Robards]

Although successful, Open Day visitor numbers were down this year, possibly attributable to an important day in the 2012 Olympics programme. Nevertheless here we see below Sue Nea and Mary Mckeown helping visitors locate the graves of deceased relatives.



In the two photographs below we see John and Sonia conducting their well attended tours on Military Figures and the General Cemetery, a morning tour on religious Figures having been equally well attended. An absolute 'first' for a cemetery tour was the attendance on the Military tour of a dog (visible far right), the normal rules having been waived.



[
Photos: Editor]



The next tour date is **Saturday 6 October at circa 10.15** - Entertainment and The Arts tour starts at 10.30, and Businessmen and Shopkeepers 2 at 11.30. Help us end the tour season with a 'bang' and support the Friends. Please be there and swell the numbers, and make all the hard work undertaken by the Friends worthwhile!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Our membership has now grown to 79 EXCEEDING by 263% our original target. This statistic is a remarkable achievement. Get your £3 'sub' ready for 2013 – the 150th Anniversary Year of the cemetery.

The Friends have unfortunately had no choice but to put anti-pigeon spikes on certain walls in and about the two chapels at the main entrance to avoid staining and deposits of you know what!

A number of tools have been procured to help with general cemetery clearance work. Our coordinator has negotiated 'deals' (discounts) with many local suppliers. The tools will be kept in our new store.

Discussions continue with the local Salvation Army to plant a commemorative tree within the walls of the cemetery. The proposal has been agreed by the Friends and details delegated to responsible officers. The type of tree and its position within the cemetery are paramount in their deliberations.

Two innovations at our Open Day were a cash donations bucket and a visitors book, which over 70 people signed on 4 August, with comments. Sue Nea procured the bucket and the book idea was by Angie Allchin. The bucket has already repaid its cost nearly five times over; cost £6, collected on first outing £27.

Mary Mckeown has conveyed thanks from the recent Worthing Village Heritage Project day to the Friends – 25 booklets were sold!

A CUCKOO IN A BOTTLE 87 YEARS AGO !

By Anne Powell

Our Friend Anne Powell discovered the following fascinating item in 'The Cornishman' newspaper of 27 May 1925.

“Mr Walter J Butcher, of Worthing, writing in the 'Daily Mail', says: Some years ago, in the Worthing cemetery, the son of the sexton, a young man named Stoner, called my attention to a glass pickle bottle. In it was a robin's nest containing a young cuckoo, which had grown too big to get out and was being fed by the robins, the cuckoo pushing his head out of the bottle to be fed. The cuckoo's egg must have been laid on the ground and placed in the nest with the beak.”

RICHARD OLIVER LAUNCELOT JEFFERIES

By Mike Parrott

Mike has sent a report of a ceremony held at St John's Churchyard, Eltham on 16 March 2012. The Jefferies Society have donated a seat to 'our' cemetery, which is located in the Memorial Garden, see photograph below [Photo Editor].



The Eltham Society spent three years negotiating with the ecclesiastical authorities in order to place a memorial stone to Richard Jefferies youngest son, who died at the age of one year eight months on 16 March 1885. It was a common grave marked by only a wooden cross, the elder sibling Harold recalled:-

“It was whilst we lived at Eltham that my little brother Oliver Launcelot died from meningitis or something of that nature which was an epidemic. This was a terrible blow to father. His suffering, which was far greater than that of the child, prevented him from attending the funeral, and mother and I were, I believe, alone on the coach to Eltham church. The agonised expression on my father's face as he stood at the open door watching the little cortège move away, haunted my mind for many years.”

Andrew Rossabi (President) and John Price (Chairman) represented the Richard Jefferies Society at the graveside cemetery on 16 March 2012, which was 127 years to the day since the death of the child. The only memorial until now was on the Broadwater grave of his father. The Eltham memorial stone reads:-

Here lies
RICHARD OLIVER
LAUNCELOT JEFFERIES
18 July 1883 – 16 March 1885
Beloved son of
The author Richard Jefferies
and his wife Jessie

Andrew Rossabi gave a beautiful, moving talk at the unveiling ceremony, with many relevant quotes from the writings of Richard Jefferies.

HENRY JOHN KINNAIRD FOLLOW-UP

By Pam Stepney

Included in a previous BROADSHEET was an item I penned on Henry John Kinnaird the water colour artist buried in the cemetery. In it I mentioned that at one time he lived at a property called 'Elm Croft' in the village of Burpham. Following this Vice-Chair Debra Hillman had an e-mail from a member of the Camden Society who was interested in this property and wanted to know if it still existed. The e-mail was passed to me and I went to Burpham to have a look around. I made extensive enquiries but nobody had heard of 'Elm Croft' or the artist Kinnaird. I was curious as to why the writer was interested in this property and we exchanged several e-mails and a 'phone call, and an interesting story emerged.

Although not directly related to Kinnaird but certainly linked to the property, apparently a book has been written about a case of fraud in 1856/7 which gripped the nation. It was a complicated case but briefly, the Registrar of the Great Northern Railway Company defrauded his employers and the shareholders on a huge scale. Over a period of 8 years he netted over a quarter of a million pounds while on a salary of £250 a year. It was a strange case, as although he and his wife lived a life of luxury, he also gave money to many good causes and became known for his generosity. Eventually he was caught, tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced for transportation. His wife changed her name and fled to the village of Burpham where she lived (of all places) at 'Elm Croft' for the rest of her life. I found and photographed her grave and also visited the West Sussex Records Office at Chichester where I found the sale particulars of 'Elm Croft' when it came on the market a few years after her death. This was passed to the authors of the book .

The book is about to be published and I have been told that the Friends are going to get an acknowledgement. [Well done Pam for your research efforts and the 'free' publicity being afforded to the Friends, notwithstanding your time and petrol. Also let us not forget all the pre-cemetery tour work that Pam and her husband John undertake in planning routes, marking the graves of those featured on the tours and leading the way for the tour guides and participants, not to mention a wide range of other tasks ranging from research to maintenance tasks and even the manufacture of wooden memorials for certain unmarked graves].

MAINTENANCE STALWARTS

There are a considerable number of Friends who have helped with miscellaneous maintenance and clearance duties over the past four years. We will gradually feature these folks in future issues of THE BROADSHEET. In this scene Mike and Pat Parrott were interrupted by the Editor with camera from their non-glamorous task. Why not join them and indulge in anything from ivy removal to tree branch felling? It's fun and very good exercise.



SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES

By John Stepney

Our Military experts Chris Green, author of the Friends 'Military Burials and Inscriptions of the 20th Century World Wars' (available at a bargain £5 per copy) and our Military Researcher John Stepney had taken a stall on 'The Steyne' at Worthing on Armed Forces Day, 30 June 2012. Half the stall was used for selling books and booklets published by the Friends and the other half to sell military items donated by the attendees. Several books were sold and a £35 donation to the 'Help for Hero's' charity was made from the sale of military items. In promoting our group one new member was signed-up. Several Friends turned up during the day enabling the attendees to enjoy 'comfort breaks'.

Just to set the scene the day started at 10.00 the two of us having struggled manfully to erect our gazebo. There were about 30 stalls on the site selling a range of goods, from military items to cheese, olives, candy floss, ice cream and a NAAFI was in operation. You could buy books, tickets to Shoreham air show or join the Army. I did buy a book but did not join the army! A stage had been erected with the sounds of modern nostalgia, which made me feel young again. It was an enjoyable day that finally ended about 5pm, the weather having been windy, mostly cloudy but dry for the duration until the moment we left when the sun came out! [Well done John and Chris for 'flying the flag' – Ed.]

CEMETERY INSPIRATION

By Sue Nea

A lady who I knew many years ago came on one of our tours on 2 June 2012. Her children had gone to the same school as my offspring. When she was pregnant with her second child some 30 years ago she would often walk around Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery with her toddler and his tricycle. One day when looking at some of the headstones, with the expected birth just a few days away, she saw a memorial with the name 'Leigh' on it and decided then and there to name (what would be) her new baby son 'Leigh'. Time permitting we must look for this headstone, even though something of a 'needle in the haystack'.

RARE PYRAMID ORCHID IN CEMETERY

Our Clearance and Wildlife Coordinator, Paul Robards has cordoned-off six areas in the cemetery where the rare Pyramid Orchid has been found (see JV photograph below), to prevent the plants being 'strimmed' during the general maintenance round.



RESEARCHERS CORNER

CHARELS GERSHOM GOURLAY C13/3/69/70

By John Stepney

While recording monumental inscriptions in section C13 I came across a well-preserved headstone with an unusual and beautiful thistle motif. This suggested the occupant had a Scottish connection and a little research revealed an interesting story.

Charles Gershom Gourlay was born in 1860 at Dundee, Forfarshire, into a well known family of shipbuilders and marine engineers. In 1853 brothers Alexander, William, Gershom (father of Charles, the deceased) and Henry Gourlay took over a company known as Gourlay and Mudie that built steam engines but which turned to ship building. They leased land for a slipway and began building ships for the coastal trade progressing to building ships for the Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company eventually becoming the largest ship building company in Dundee, employing some 300 men. In 1867 they built the 1,295 ton 'Dundee', at the time the largest ship built on the River Tay. The business prospered and the company leased more land to enable them to build even larger ships. Five ships over 1,000 tons each were launched in 1871 but the 1880s saw a decline in the ship building industry. Circumstances recovered in the 1890s with orders coming in from as far away as Russia and South America. Meanwhile Charles had married Fanny Gordon on 23 June 1891 at St Mary's church Monifieth. Fanny was the daughter of a wealthy jute merchant of Ferry House, Monifieth.

By now the four original partners had retired and the sons of Gershom Gourlay, namely Charles and his brother Henry, had become Directors of the company. Another slump occurred and the company had to rely on repairing and refitting shipping for employment. Things picked up when they started to build paddle steamers, many of which were for various railway companies. However long strikes by workers almost closed the yard. About this time the company became a private joint stock company with Charles holding the majority of shares. In 1905 the company underwent complete modernisation which resulted in 1906 being the company's most productive year. This was not to last. The modernisation had put the company into serious debt. This combined with a lack of orders caused the company to be wound-up on 8 June 1908. The following year the equipment of the yard and foundry was sold at auction and the company formally dissolved.

Charles and his wife Fanny retired to the south of England and the 1911 census shows them living in some comfort with a cook and parlour maid in Sutton, Surrey. Later they moved to Warwick Gardens in Worthing. Charles died aged 62 on 12 April 1923 at Caer Gwent Nursing Home in Wykeham Road. Fanny moved to nearby Shakespeare Road and died aged 87 on 28 January 1950 in a nursing home in Wordsworth Road. She is buried with her husband and in widowhood her subsequent long term companion Emily Shirley.

IMPORTANT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

With our Chairman stepping down at this years AGM the election of key officers of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery is particularly important. It is your opportunity to democratically influence the policy and direction of the group through the power of the vote. We normally see up to 30 members attending the monthly meetings but we have a membership of nearly 80 and so if you are one of the 50 supportive but passive members this is your chance to be proactive. You can propose the election of an official, second a proposal or vote according to your views. There will also be a number of important issues on the agenda and your opinions and preferences will be of interest. There will also be reports on precisely what is happening and what is planned in various areas of activity. So, get yourself down to the Town Hall at 18.00 (6pm) on **Friday 19 October 2012** and have your say. You will be welcome.

BURIAL FEES ROW IN THE DUCHY OF CORNWALL

When a unitary authority was formed in 2009 Cornwall Council inherited four different sets of rates and regulations for burials within the county. There was a disparity of 56% between the lowest and the highest charging rates in various geographical areas. The council contacted all 112 funeral directors and stonemasons in the county asking for their views on fees. It had been proposed that the average cost for a burial and plot should rise from £483 to £750 but such plans were met with outrage. After wider consultation new fees that were a fair reflection of the true cost of the service were set at a rate of £500 and this was to be applied throughout the County of Cornwall, wherever a person lived and wherever they were buried. The exclusive period of use has also been increased from 30 to 50 years (significantly less than in the Worthing area). This amount is of course only part of the total funeral cost for a burial.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS

The NFCF reported at their AGM in June that their fully paid-up membership now amounted to a grand total of 89 cemetery 'Friends' organisations nationwide, including (of course) the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

CEMETERY HUMOUR

There was a genealogist whose ancestors were buried in a remote coastal cemetery in south west Wales. He cleaned the headstone during each visit but every time he returned he found that the sea birds had left their calling card. The problem was so bad that he eventually paid local schoolchildren to drive the birds off the gravestone with their catapults.

The moral of the story? A good genealogist leaves no tern unstoned! (groan now)

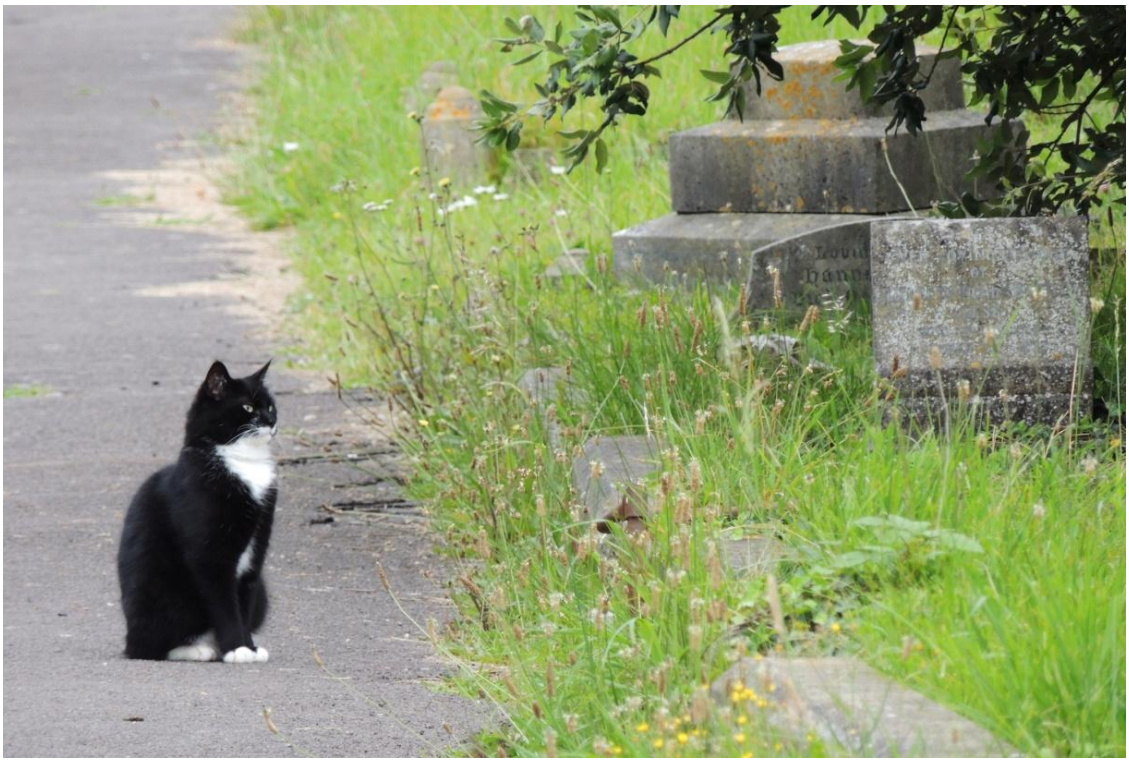
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Hardly humour but of remarkable interest and a sign of the times is that in Atlanta, Georgia, USA a special and dedicated LGBT cemetery is being established. It will be called the 'Dignity Memorial Cemetery'. What is LGBT you ask? Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender is the answer. Now that would be an interesting thematic tour (any offers Sue?)!!

NATURE WATCH

By Paul Robards

[Cemetery Cat – Editor]



Although this has been a fairly poor summer weather-wise on the whole the 'climatics' have been very kind to us on planned maintenance days.
A special effort was made to ensure the cemetery was well presented for our August Open Day, which included the removal of branches that were overhanging footpaths. The removal of ivy from headstones focussed particularly on areas C19, C20 and C22. In September our efforts were directed to area A10 where the removal of dense foliage and shrubbery enabled our memorial recorders to gain access to long lost headstones. In addition and with the help of John Vaughan we turned over some heavy headstones that had been buried face down below the surface for many years, revealing lengthy and well preserved inscriptions.

I fitted a slightly raised plywood floor to part of our new store to keep our presentation boards off the concrete floor and hopefully dry. As mentioned elsewhere a number of maintenance tools were procured for our general use, most at a discount price! A wildlife table was set-up for the Open Day and entertainment for visiting children provided. Those that did turn up enjoyed themselves but we need more ideas to encourage the young. In fact the visit by a school party scheduled for 2 July 2012 was cancelled.

During the summer, over a two week period, and in association with the Butterfly Conservation Group's 'Butterfly Count' I carried out two lunch break surveys of butterflies within the cemetery. After a slow start this year leaving the grass longer has paid dividends and Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Gate Keepers, Skippers and assorted moths were noted. At the time of recording Tortoiseshell and Red Admirals were ominous by their absence. In flora terms of special note and mentioned elsewhere in this issue were six groups of pyramid orchids, which I attempted to preserve by shielding them from the grasscutters. As almost an aside there has been a wonderful crop of blackberries in the cemetery, although by the time you read this they will either be in somebody else's pie, a birds tummy or have rotted on the bramble.

Finally we will be running a full maintenance schedule throughout the autumn and winter months, on the first Saturday of every month from 10.00am, meeting at the South Farm Road entrance. Come and join the fun unless the weather is truly diabolical!

QUEEN ELIZABETH STAMP

By Mary McKeown

No this is not an article on philately but one which is particularly relevant in this special Diamond Jubilee year.

One of the most unusual names I have found in the Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery burial records is that of Queen Elizabeth Stamp. Even though considerably pre-dating our present monarch she must have enjoyed the surprise reaction from all the people she met during her lifetime. Queen was buried on 30 October 1920 aged 31, giving her an estimated birth date of 1889. Records show that there were several babies named 'Queen' or 'Queenie'' Elizabeth at about that time.

The burial records showed that Queen's husband was Walter James Stamp and the marriage index confirmed their year of marriage as 1913, her maiden name being Bennett. Armed with this information I was confident of finding her precise birth date but despite a search of the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census records this was still elusive. The only other action that I could then take was to obtain a copy of the marriage certificate, which arrived a week later.

The marriage certificate showed her full name was Queen Elizabeth Maud Bennett, a spinster aged 24, with a father called George, who was a journeyman butcher. I searched the local area and found a George Bennett living in Worthing in the 1901 census, with an occupation of butcher. He was living with his wife Maria at 3 Church Cottages with his children George (19), Alice (13), Richard (11) and Maud (9). Further searches revealed that all the children had been born in Worthing and that Maud was in fact registered in 1890 as 'Elizabeth Maud'. I could only assume that at some time after her birth she was known as 'Queen' , perhaps as a nickname.

To confirm that 'Elizabeth', 'Maud' and 'Queen' were one of the same I undertook further research regarding her life after marriage. On 4 August 1913 she married a local man Walter James Stamp at St George's Church, Worthing. He was a local man, born in 1877 to Arthur James and Martha Stamp. Their life together was short with Walter serving in World War 1, where he was involved in road construction in France. He survived the war and returned to continue in the building trade, although he suffered from bouts of dizziness caused by the effects of the war. The couple lived variously at 62 Park Road, 31 Market Street and 2 Elliotts Cottages, North Street.

It was not until I found an article about an inquest held at the time of Walter's death that I could finally confirm my research. A witness at the inquest was the wife of one of Queen Elizabeth Maud's brothers. Queen was buried in an un-purchased grave at A7-5-16, whilst Walter was buried with his mother in A7-21-7. He died suddenly, aged 45, on 12 March 1922, about 18 months after his wife.

FURTHER TOUR SUCCESSES

For reasons of space not every cemetery tour can be featured within but on 1 September 2012 two further successful tours took place; Businessmen and Shopkeepers 3 and the Salvation Army. Below is a photograph of Sonia conducting the latter tour [Editor].



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

We are way over our space specification in this issue, which is attributable to the inclusion of photographs and the immense variety of newsworthy events that have occurred during the busy summer months. I apologise to all Friends who are buddies for the cost of printer ink incurred. We will have to buy computers for all those not on-line or subsidise those cartridges! I promise a 'thinner' issue next time. Finally, many thanks to Debra for creating this pdf.

Please attend the meetings on 28 September and the AGM on 19 October 2012.

John Vaughan Editor