THE BROADSHEET

Issue No. 20
Autumn 2013

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

A RECORD CEMETERY TOUR SEASON

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery are celebrating their most successful tour season **ever**. Through the efforts of the Friends, the quality of the tours and accompanying research, the 'word of mouth' recommendations and increasing goodwill that has been generated in the area and the extensive publicity provided by the local media plus poster placing, the crowds have simply swarmed into the cemetery on tour dates. In fact on one particular tour date waiting times for some 90 tour participants to move from grave to grave and headstone to headstone resulted in tour times being hugely extended!

In total **well over 500** people attended our tours in 2013. These included not only scheduled tours but one extra tour, three tours for private groups and two experimental Sunday tours. As reported in the last issue we also attracted 42 people on our public clearance and maintenance day in addition to our usual band of monthly maintainers. These statistics were not only remarkable but they had knock-on benefits, for example the large crowds resulted in a massive increase in sales of our remarkable value-for-money £1 booklets and over 700 were sold in 2013, a truly remarkable achievement. Our donations bucket also did well overall, although one or two participants needed a shake to find loose change in their pockets!



The 'Unusual Deaths' tour in August 2013 was a real crowd puller. Sonia Hawke does her best to make herself heard to 90 participants. [All photos not credited are by the Editor]

AGM: IDEAS VERSUS VOLUNTEERS

The Annual General Meeting was attended by 30 Friends, including our President, Tim Loughton M.P. There was plenty to discuss, as will be revealed in the Minutes, published separately. Perhaps the most important part of the agenda was the election of officers, especially the posts of Secretary and Treasurer, which had been resigned by Alan Rice. There was a vote of thanks to Alan for all of the work he had undertaken while holding down both posts, jointly and simultaneously, ever since the FBWC was formed, now five years ago. Alan had steered the ship through the formative years and at the time of his standing down had left the Friends with a healthy bank balance in excess of £4,000. On behalf of all the Friends we would like to express our thanks and gratitude, through the BROADSHEET medium.

The election of officers took place and the following were proposed, seconded and elected:

President: Tim Loughton M.P.
Chairman: Debra Hillman
Deputy Chairman: Sally Roberts
Patron: Tom Wye
Secretary: Paul Holden
Treasurer: John Vaughan**
Membership Secretary: Mary Pickett
Civilian Researcher Leader: Sue Nea
Military Researcher leader: John Stepney
Media Officer: Paul Holden**
News/BROADSHEET Editor: John Vaughan
Clearance and Maintenance Coordinator: Paul Robards
To be ratified. **

There were plenty of good ideas proposed at the meeting and much lively discussion but those willing to take up specific posts, rather than helping generally or in one particular area of specialism, were thin on the ground. However subject to the meeting on 29 November 2013 one positive is that a full committee has been elected for another year, supported by all those present, with all Friends (present or not) having been given the opportunity by our Chairman Debra Hillman to nominate or vote prior to the date of the meeting. Debra thanked John Vaughan and Paul Holden for volunteering to hold two committee posts for 2013/14.

TON UP!

No, the Friends have not taken to riding powerful motorcycles. For possibly a very brief period at the beginning of October the number of fully paid up members of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery reached a total of 101, a new record and a magnificent achievement. However subscriptions were due by the end of October and at the time of writing 28 subscriptions had yet to be received. The final total will be published in the next issue. Our Membership Secretary has communicated with all those that have yet to pay and if remittances have not been received by calendar year end it will be assumed that they have resigned. Collection agencies will not be employed or relevant credit ratings downgraded!

NATIONAL FRIENDS (NFCF) NEWS

The NFCF now has 88 members comprising 73 Friends groups and 15 Associates. Last year the NFCF gained 7 members but lost a record 8 Friends groups (4 of which had wound-up). They had £5,504.30 in the Bank, including a £600 surplus gained during the year. A total of 29 Friends groups attended their AGM at York with a total tally of 84 people at the event. The 2014 AGM will be held in Glasgow and the 2015 AGM in Leeds. Attending the events from the Sussex coast will be an expensive proposition and our Treasurer is a tightwad! Finally, the FBWC has voted at its 2013 AGM to renew our subscription to the NFCF at a cost of £20.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN UP BEFORE THE BENCH!



Sally Roberts our Deputy Chairman has been up before the bench, painting this lengthy cemetery resting place with paint/preservative. This important maintenance task could easily have gone unnoticed had your Editor not observed that the 'wet paint' warning sign had been placed on the only 'dry' section of the bench! In this view Sally has completed half of the intricate and time consuming task and will later return to finish the job. Well done Sally! However if visitors did not sit on the part of the bench that says' wet paint' then there must be some members of the public who have a wonderful grid pattern on the seat of their pants!!

ALLCHINS – ALLHEART

This is a 'thank you' note to Antony and Angie Allchin for the donation of many boxes of plants for our cemetery. Their generosity will greatly enhance the aesthetics at Broadwater.



Antony and Angie Allchin performing maintenance duties as one of our tour parties pass by in the background. They seem to be enjoying their work - why not share their enjoyment!



Although our Clearance and Maintenance Coordinator Paul Robards seems to be determined to physically climb into a sack of cuttings your Editor can confirm that he is not rubbish but a very fine chap who cheerfully goes about a demanding task, with many calls upon his time.



More maintenance by the Friends; seen here around the new Typhoid Epidemic Memorial.

This image shows our wonderful and reliable booklet seller, Carole Manning by the Chapels.



DURRINGTON W.I. TOUR by Carole Manning

Following a short talk I gave to my WI group several members expressed an interest in having a tour of the cemetery. I was extremely lucky to have Sonia Hawke as my guide and she went to great trouble to organise a tour that was not too long and kept mainly to the paths to cater for the abilities of the group (photo below).

It was a beautiful warm and sunny day so the cemetery was looking at its best, when about 14 members and friends assembled at the chapels. We started off at the Typhoid Memorial before walking through the arch between the chapels to hear how the Friends came to be formed and then a short history of the cemetery. From there we progressed with a general tour taking in some of the most interesting and well known graves. Several members had never been to the cemetery before and were surprised at the size of it, how beautiful it is and how obviously well cared for. One person had last visited about four years ago and was amazed at the changes and clearance that had been made.

At the end of the tour Sonia was thanked and given a well-earned round of applause. Several people then came back to my house to sit in the garden for tea and cake and to see the display of booklets and cuttings I had put out. All donations and sales were on behalf of the FBWC. Below is a record of the Durrington W.I. tour on 24 September 2013.



As a ‘p.s.’ to the above feature we see here one good reason to join the Durrington W.I.! The picture shows the fine spread put on by Carole Manning at her home for the W.I. cemetery tour participants; tea, cakes and FBWC booklets. {how the other half live – Ed!}
[Photos: Tour page 5 - Norman Manning, Table below - Carole Manning]



EDUCATION CORNER by Mary Mckeown

“Coimetrophobia”

Probably a new word for most of us is ‘Coimetrophobia’. Dictionary definition: “An abnormal fear of cemeteries, also afraid of funerals, looking at tombstones and dead bodies’. The complaint can cause a shortage of breath, dizziness, nausea, sweating, palpitations and anxiety! [Thanks Mary, I wondered what was wrong with me! Ed]

OVER MY DEAD BODY

One of the few positives coming from our political masters was recently reported. Helen Grant, Under Secretary of State responded to a Parliamentary Question about grave re-use and she stated that “the situation was under review but considered existing arrangements were considered adequate at present and did not warrant any change”.

‘Rest in Peace’ should be just that in your Editor’s view and an in depth article will appear in a future issue of the BROADSHEET discussing the ‘pros and cons’ of the situation.

SUNDAY TOUR EXPERIMENT

One innovation during the 2013 season was the experimental introduction of Sunday tours on two mid-summer Sundays, 4 August and 1 September. The tours were conducted by Sally Roberts and Mary McKeown. The tours were described as ‘intimate’ because only a dozen or so attended. However an opportunity to visit for those who have to work on Saturdays was provided and it has since been decided that the experiment will continue in 2014, although the tour dates and details will not be published until the Spring issue of the BROADSHEET.

OUR WONDERFUL 'LATE SUMMER' 2013 CEMETERY TOURS - ILLUSTRATED

There was a tremendous turnout for the 'Unusual Deaths' tour on 3 August conducted by Sonia Hawke. The tour broke the all-time FBWC record for a **single** tour (beaten only by the **two** publican tours in 2012 and the **two** 150th Anniversary tours in May 2013). This photograph shows Sonia informing the huge crowd of another dramatic death. The crowd was so large that at the geographical extremities they were straining to hear the detailed commentary, see the photographic evidence below. Time to get that sound system fired-up!



Below is a portrait of Sonia in action on a momentous day.



It should be mentioned here that the research for all of the summer tours was undertaken by our magnificent band of researchers, coordinated by Sue Nea. Sue and Membership Secretary Mary Pickett worked hard to produce a new series of our famous £1 booklets, one for each main tour. Every book contained the source data for the tour and provided welcome revenue.

On 7 September it was the turn of Friend Pauline Reed to conduct yet another new and popular tour featuring unusual and interesting gravestones and memorials. There was a tremendous crowd and below we see a portrait of Pauline and an illustration of the masses gathered to listen to her well prepared text. Also pictured is a colourful visitor in the crowd.







On 5 October 2013 local author Barrie Keech was welcomed by the Friends to conduct a tour on the Medical Profession. Barrie had written a book on the subject and could rightfully be called an expert. The tour was very successful and needless to say the commentary was detailed and fascinating. Barrie admitted that even he had learned something from the FBWC researchers! Below is a study of Barrie in action and also two vistas of the gathered throngs.







After the event Sue Nea wrote to Barrie thanking him for all his hard work at the tour and the preparation beforehand. Sue confirmed that everyone enjoyed the tour and forwarded comments from the visitor's book. In response Barrie wrote:

"Thank you Sue. Please accept my thanks to everyone involved in researching the medics. I must confess I found the whole thing interesting myself. It is quite incredible the stories that lay behind what might seem 'ordinary' people. Regards Barrie"

CEMETERY HUMOUR

My grandmother died on her 90th Birthday. It was a terrible shame because we were only half way through giving her the bumps at the time!

…….

Every Christmas I go to the cemetery to visit my old Granddad. "We really miss you" I say, followed by "We still think of you" and then I zip up his tent and go home!

…….

I was walking through the cemetery yesterday and I noticed that there was a typo on one of the headstones. I wondered who could have made such a grave mistake!

……..

Old bricklayers never die; they just throw in the trowel!

……

I'll tell you what makes my blood boil. Crematoriums!

……..

A little boy goes up to his Grandad and says "Grandad can you make a noise like a frog please?" "Well I could try says the Grandad" in reply. "Great" replies the boy "because Grandma says we can all go to Disneyland when you croak"!

……..

I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my Grandfather – not screaming and terrified like his passengers!

……..

There's an old story from 19th century Austria. Apparently in 1792 the sexton of Vienna cemetery heard a strange sound coming from Mozart's grave. Mozart had died in 1791. The sexton couldn't make sense of the noise. He called the local priest but he confirmed the sound was unrecognisable, although weirdly musical. They then called the local magistrate and he listened carefully to the unusual music but he had never heard such a sound before.

They then called an Austrian expert who was very familiar with the entire works of Mozart. After listening for some time the expert recognised that it was his eighth symphony being played backwards, then his seventh symphony backwards, then his sixth symphony and so on. He then stood up and proclaimed to the (by then) large crowd that there was nothing to worry about, it was just Mozart decomposing!

PIPERS AND TUPPERS by Paul Robards

During September I received an e-mail from a chap called Ron who lived in Essex and he was a member of the Piper family. He also had an interest in the Lindup family. One Robert Piper had twice been Mayor of Worthing, during the 1893 Typhoid epidemic and again from 1912 to 1914. He wanted to search for family graves in both Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery and in St Mary's Churchyard, Broadwater. Shortly afterwards I met him at St Mary's, where another Robert Piper and his wife Ann are buried; in 1803 and 1789 respectively. I arranged to meet him on the following Saturday at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to undertake further searches, after I had time to consult the burial records.

A couple of days prior to this I was in the cemetery talking to Frank Ffitch when another gentleman called Ed approached me and asked about searching for the resting places of ancestors. Ed was from Canada. He was a member of the Tupper family and he too was looking for family graves. He had already been to St Mary's and he was given my name to contact and it was purely by chance that I was at 'our' cemetery when he turned up. I agreed to meet him at the cemetery on the Saturday, at the same time as Ron from Essex

Prior to the meeting I was able to find some relevant records and on the Saturday I was able to hand them both a page of printed names and grave locations. The meeting was successful and several graves were located much to the delight of our two visitors. Ron told me that it was "like Christmas". In total six Piper graves were found, including Robert in C17-04-02. Ed also found one of his family graves and after running out of time he said he would visit again before returning to Canada on 16 September.

In the meantime Ron showed me an original document that he had purchased on the internet, regarding an exchange of land in the Broadwater area in 1903. This showed that Robert Piper owned a large parcel of land from the east of Broadwater Church to the southern part of Forest Road. He arranged for me to have a copy of the document which was much appreciated. Overall it was a very satisfying experience to be able to offer help on behalf of the Friends and on 27 September I received the following unsolicited e-mail from Ed Tupper in Canada : [Below Ron Piper and Ed Tupper between the chapels – Photo: Paul Robards]



"Hello Paul, Now that we are back in Canada I want to extend my thanks to you for your valuable assistance in tracking down some of my ancestors whose final resting spot is in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. I was very fortunate to encounter you near the entrance to the cemetery and much appreciate the information you were able to get for me concerning the burial locations of the siblings of my Great Grandfather. As it turns out I was successful in locating the burial ground of my Great Great grandparents as well and found that the headstone was still very legible. So I consider my visit a success largely due to your help. I have attached a couple of photos that I hope you will enjoy. Thanks again. Ed Tupper, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada."

A RIGHT ROYAL CONNECTION

by Mary McKeown

With the start of the new Sunday tours imminent I met tour guide Sally Roberts in the cemetery and she showed me her intended route and the graves she wanted to visit. As we walked around the cemetery I took notes just in case I could help in any aspects of research. Sally pointed out the grave of Mary Finch. She had found it interesting because the inscription around the simple pink granite tombstone had a verse where the word RITE had been wrongly inscribed as WRITE. My subsequent research resulted in some **amazing** discoveries about the noble ancestors of Mary Finch.

MARY FINCH

Mary Finch was born on 6 October 1792, the daughter of the Honourable William Clement Finch and his wife Mary. On the 28 November her baptism took place in St Peter and St Paul's Church, which was in the grounds of Albury Park in Surrey. Heneage Finch, the 1st Earl of Aylesford, purchased the estate and it was passed down through the family. In 1782 the 4th Earl of Aylesford sold it to his brother William Clement Finch. The historic country house was used for the coronation banquet of George 111 in 1761.

William had married Mary Brouncker in 1789. He was Rear Admiral of the Blue and he took part in the Battle of the Virginia Capes in 1781, a crucial naval battle in the American War of Independence. William was also a representative in parliament for Surrey. He died in 1794 at the age of 41 leaving Mary with 4 young children, William 1791, Mary 1792, Heneage 1793, and Charlotte 1794. William Clement Finch was one of 12 children of Heneage Finch, the 3rd Earl of Aylesford and his wife Lady Charlotte Seymour. At the time of his parents marriage in 1750, lady Charlotte was reputed to have a fortune of £50,000.

Lady Charlotte Seymour (Grandmother of Mary Finch) was born on 21 September 1730 and she was the daughter of Charles Seymour the 6th Duke of Somerset, sometimes referred to as 'The Proud Duke' and his wife Lady Charlotte Finch, daughter of 7th Earl of Winchelsea.

The Seymour family line continues back through the 2nd and 1st Baron's Seymour of Trowbridge to Edward Seymour, Lord Beauchamp. Edward was born in the Tower of London on 21 September 1561 when his Mother, Lady Catherine Grey had been imprisoned for secretly marrying his Father, Edward Seymour the 1st Earl of Hertford, against the wishes of Queen Elizabeth 1.

Lady Catherine Grey, was the younger sister of Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England for 9 days, who was executed aged 16. They were the daughters of Henry Grey, 1st Duke of Suffolk and his wife, Lady Frances Brandon. Lady Frances was the daughter of Charles Brandon, 1st Duke of Suffolk and Mary Tudor the daughter of Henry V11. Mary Tudor was born in 1496 and was the sister of King Henry V111. Their Mother was Elizabeth Plantagenet, the Daughter of King Edward 1V, and his ancestors included William the Conqueror.

Mary Finch died on 7 December 1870 aged 78 at 4 York Terrace, Worthing, and was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery six days later. Her death and burial records show Mary as being a 'gentlewoman' - a very accurate description considering her noble ancestry.

[Editor's note]. This really has been a remarkable discovery, the result of time consuming and painstaking research. Mary supplied a detailed family tree linking the various generations but it would have been barely legible within the format of these pages. On behalf of all the Friends may I say well done Mary, a memorable item and probably the highest echelons of society that any of us are likely to reach?

THE METHOLD FAMILY OF WORTHING

[Part 1] by Rosemary Pearson



Henry Methold's property, at the western end of Marine Parade. [Photo - Rosemary Pearson]

The birth certificate of my Father, Reginald Cleveland Paine, stated that his parents were Walter Paine and Catherine Methold. However while the Paines were well documented, the Metholds proved more elusive and my initial research soon came to a dead end. The census of 1881 showed only one family of that name in Worthing, residing in Marine Parade. A widow, Jemima Methold was recorded as the head of the household, with several unmarried daughters and granddaughter, all of independent means, and a servant. Of their births, there was no trace, nor could I find the marriage of my grandparents, Walter and Catherine Paine. The only marriage of a Walter Paine took place in London and that was to a Catherine Twine.

It was not until several years later, after joining the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, that I was able to resume my search. At the same time, a previously unknown relative, Kathleen McGurl, who was also researching the Metholds, provided valuable information on the family background. What I discovered was a family secret, with a story

full of red-herrings and deception, and the fact that my great grandfather, Henry Methold, was a wealthy gentleman who had become the 'Black Sheep' of his family.

The Metholds were gentry, some of whom married into aristocratic families. One such was Henry's father, Henry Methold senior, who had married Dorothea Eden, daughter of Sir John Eden of Windlestone, the Edens being one of the great landed families of north-east England. Henry junior was the third of six children and was born at the family home of Beamish Hall, County Durham in 1794. Henry's elder brother, Francis, would have been heir to the estate, but following his untimely death at the age of 19, Henry should have been next in line. However, as a result of Henry's lifestyle, the estate eventually passed to his younger brother.

Henry's aunt had married a landowner of Burpham, near Arundel, whose tenant was a James Clark. Some while later, a painter, John Clark, originally from the Arundel area, arrived in Broadwater with his family. Possibly young Henry had visited his Sussex relatives and while there, he had met John's daughter, Caroline. On 5 May 1829 Henry applied for a marriage licence and the following day he and Caroline were married at Chichester, moving to Henry's property at the western end of Marine Parade. No children were born to the couple, and despite the formal adoption of Caroline's niece, the marriage was doomed to failure. A legal separation ensued in 1834 and with an allowance from Henry, Caroline left Worthing.

On 8 November 1835, the baptism of a Henry Twine took place at Sidlesham south of Chichester. The mother was a single woman, Jemima Twine of Broadwater, the daughter of William Twine, a carpenter, and his wife Anne who had moved there from Sidlesham some years before. In 1836 Caroline returned to Worthing. Accompanied her French maid and a gentleman claiming to be her solicitor, she turned up at the house in Marine Parade where the maid succeeded in forcing her was past Henry's servants and installed her mistress in the first floor sitting room at the front of the house. Meanwhile Henry went to consult his solicitors and on their return accompanied by the headboroughs, managed to forcibly eject the maid. Caroline's solicitor remained in the street below, and when Caroline appeared on the balcony late that evening requesting assistance a ladder was immediately placed up to the window, which he ascended, followed by a dozen or so others. On hearing the commotion, the rightful occupants went upstairs, to be confronted by the intruders, headed by the solicitor brandishing a poker, who succeeded in driving them out.

Some while later, Henry and his party broke open the back door. A violent scuffle then broke out among the hundred or so persons crammed into the small rear yard. The following afternoon, the high constable and headboroughs, now with warrant, broke in and arrested Caroline's solicitor and two others and cast them into the black-hole. Henry, relieved to be shot of Caroline, settled down happily with his 'housekeeper' Jemima Twine, who bore him a further twelve children in addition to their firstborn, Henry! A new search for the children's baptisms at Broadwater revealed them all to be recorded as Jemima Twine, single woman, although all were shown as Methold in the censuses. One of those daughters was my grandmother, Catherine Twine.

Caroline died in 1854. Henry died in November 1855; barely two months after Jemima had given birth to their thirteenth child, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Goring churchyard. The house, with interest from his investments, was left in trust to Jemima and the children. Jemima, now known as Mrs Methold, died in 1896 and was buried, unmarked, in Broadwater cemetery on 30 April in C4-10-7. The burial records show her as Jemima Twine. Part 2 will follow in a later edition of the BROADSHEET.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sally Roberts had a letter published in the Worthing Herald thanking Friend Mary Mckeown for all her hard work in researching and then guiding the Typhoid epidemic tour, which was featured in the last issue of the BROADSHEET. It was at this successful event that the new memorial commemorating the disastrous 1893 event was unveiled. In the letter Sally also gave a plug for the (experimental) Sunday tours.

Talking about the Worthing Herald, thanks to Sue Nea for drafting an entry for that paper's Parish Pump feature every month, during our tour season. Such tasks are quietly and efficiently undertaken by the Friends and must never be overlooked.

John Stepney has made a cross for the family of Rebecca Jane Tapp who died in 1965. The family not only presented John with a donation for the Friends but wrote a charming 'thank you' letter. Over the years John has made many wooden crosses, mostly for unmarked graves.

Following the hugely successful Typhoid tour, Tom Wye gave a general tour for a further seven visitors. It is good to see our Patron in full flow! It has been proposed that the FBWC have a stall on the green at Broadwater Carnival in 2014.

Much work has been undertaken by Friends in preparation for the forthcoming Worthing Heritage Trail tours particularly regarding leaflet/literature content. A substantial précis was required condensing a mountain of information into about 100 words!

There was a mixed reaction to a proposal to hold social gatherings for the Friends, with perhaps guest speakers attending. How many Friends would ***you*** wish to socialise with??

While the BROADSHEET always gives a mention to our many activities our successful tour programme could not have been undertaken without the help of many 'behind the scenes' helpers. Activities include marking out the graves on each tour, setting up information boards, preparing book sales stands, leading the way for tour participants and a whole lot more. In this context thanks go to Sue Nea, John and Pam Stepney, Mary Pickett, Rosemary Pearson, Frank Ffitch, Tom Wye, Diane Babcock, Carole Manning and many more.

The annual membership fee for 2014 is to remain at £3. Although there was some merit to increasing the amount to £5 it was agreed that as we do not desperately need extra income, at least at this time, we should not discourage membership by imposing any increase. However many Friends observed that the fee has now been the same for 5 years.

Finally - if you recognise this chap pinching cemetery bird food please let the Editor know.



THE SISTERS OF SION By Sue Nea

One of the tours run by the Friends on their Open Day of 2011 was entitled 'Religious Figures'. Having previously noticed the two rows of graves with their matching metal crosses and discovering that they belonged to the Sisters of Sion I began my research to include them in our tour.

I found the research quite fascinating, the headstones showed their convent names but the burial register gave me their birth names which enabled me to begin my research. I discovered the history of how the Congregation of the Sisters of Sion was founded by two brothers, Theodore and Alphonse Ratisbonne, and how the Sisters first came to Worthing in 1860. As we only have a limited time to spend at each grave on the tours, I limited my research to Ada Mortlock, Mother Marie Ambrosia de Sion, whom is buried in A3-1-3 and her mother, Susan Mortlock. Susan, although buried with the Sisters in A3-1-1, was not a Sister but we know that she lived at the convent.

On our Open Day this year, at the beginning of August 2013, the headmaster of Sion School in Worthing, Michael Scullion, visited the cemetery and spoke to me about the Sisters graves and my research. He said that a few of the present day Sisters , who no longer live in Worthing but who were visiting here later in the month, were keen to visit the graves and he asked if I would be available to meet them and give them a brief tour. A few telephone calls later and we had arranged to meet by the chapels at 4pm on Thursday 29 August. Below Sue Nea (left) meets the Sisters of Sion for a private cemetery tour. [Photo: Michael Scullion]



I had less than three weeks to research the remaining 30 Sisters who are buried in the cemetery. I was able to find a considerable amount of information but little about others. They came from far and wide; Ireland, Scotland, London, Paris (France) and Germany but only one from Worthing, Florence Shimmell. She was born in Kensington in 1869 but her family had moved to Worthing by 1872. She was the daughter of George and Mary Shimmell who lived in Newland Road.

When my research was complete I placed it in a presentation folder ready to give to the Sisters. We met as arranged and they were truly four lovely, friendly and bubbly ladies with a great sense of humour but, more importantly, a great interest in not only the Sisters buried in

Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery but also others buried there. Michael Scullion joined the party. We talked about each of the Sisters as we stood next to their graves and after a while we reached grave B3-18-7; the grave of Mother Marie Rose de Sion, the birth name of Rose Valentine who I knew had been born in Strasbourg. The inscription on her headstone reads 'Ancient Superior General'; little realising until the excited Sisters told me that she was not just the Superior of the Convent in Worthing but also the Superior of the whole of the worldwide community of Sion.

Now the question; what was she doing in Worthing? Was she visiting the town or living in Worthing? Why is such an important person in the community of the Sisters of Sion buried in Broadwater? Alas we may never know the answer. At the end of the tour, and after visiting several other graves of interest in the cemetery, the Sisters were very appreciative and kindly gave me a thank you card together with a donation for the Friends.





In his monthly reports Paul Robards reports on Maintenance progress and natural observations. These are available to attendees at our monthly Town Hall meetings and are not repeated in detail here but summarised in the following paragraph. Paul always individually thanks participants in the monthly Clearance and Maintenance days, which **from April 2014 will be changing from the first Saturday in the month to the last Saturday of the month.** This change will not impact tour dates or schedules and will allow all Friends to attend both our tours and Maintenance days.**********Working solo your Editor tackled the massive foliage around a group of graves during September and above we see 'before and after' photographs, the common focal point being the light coloured stone bottom right. There will be maintenance sessions on the first Saturday of **every month** between December and April, inclusive, provided severe 'climatics' do not intervene. **We hope to see you all helping!**********

CLEARANCE AND NATURE by Paul Robards

The summer has been a perpetual attempt to balance the maintenance of our cemetery as a burial place while reasonably respecting nature and the natural cycle of fauna, flora and wildlife. The grass and flowers were allowed to grow until a general cut just before the Typhoid epidemic tour in July. A further general cut was executed in mid-October, which will probably see the winter through.

There have been between half a dozen and a dozen Friends undertaking cemetery maintenance on our monthly maintenance and clearance days. Those individuals have been thanked in monthly reports. In addition I would like to thank all Friends who have visited the cemetery to undertake maintenance tasks in their own time, outside of official clear-up days. Your efforts are much appreciated.

However we need a far better attendance to keep our cemetery in good shape and now that the tour season has ended I hope you will find a couple of hours per month to assist. As you know some tools are available for use or you are welcome to bring your own implements.

The green woodpeckers and jays were thin on the ground this year. Most of our usual domestic birds were observed and after a slow start butterflies appeared in increasing numbers including speckled woods, meadow browns, cabbage whites but the population is predicated on the volume of flowers in the cemetery. The cemetery is also a food source for birds, especially the late summer blackberries. We had wonderful examples of budlea, cotoneasters, elderberries, fungi, hawthorns and fuschias, the latter with attendant bees.

Overall the summer maintenance went well but we do need more help with the task.

GREAT WAR TOUR GOES GREAT GUNS



Paul Holden's Great War tour.

Paul Holden our Media Officer and Secretary belatedly added an additional November tour to our 2013 programme. The tour related specifically to the Great War, which will be commemorated next year to mark the centenary of the commencement of hostilities. The tour also coincided with the significant Great War content in the November issue of the Worthing Journal of which Paul is Editor and Proprietor.

The tour was an immense success and in accordance with recent trends there were over 60 participants who all enjoyed Paul's informed commentary. But for a brief shower when the Friends' umbrella stock was offered to visitors the weather yet again behaved, even though Autumn had truly arrived. There was income from book sales and our collection was donated to the British Legion and their annual poppy appeal. On the previous page we see Paul in action with a very attentive crowd.

TRADITIONAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IN THE RAIN

Of necessity this item is somewhat 'Stop Press' but in spite of heavy precipitation there was a very good turnout for the annual Service of Remembrance. Members of the British Legion, the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts and other local organisations attended, as well as members of the public and Friends of the cemetery. The event was **attended by the Mayor** Councillor Robert Smytherman, the Mayoress Councillor Mrs Norah Fisher and her dog Herbie and Worthing's Youth Mayor, Brogan Kirkby-Bott. As the rain fell around the Cross of Sacrifice the autumn colours seemed to be enhanced as Father Christopher conducted the service. A gazebo covered vital equipment and there was a kaleidoscope of colour as umbrellas of all sizes protected the crowds from the, at times, heavy rain. Overall it was a quite moving occasion as those gathered tried to cope with ever wetter hymn sheets. The cemetery pictures below show the Cross of Sacrifice and part of the youthful section of the crowd.





THE MILESTONE OF 20 ISSUES OF THE 'BROADSHEET' IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

Now for a little self-indulgence! I am proud to report that this bumper and probably never to be repeated 20 page newsletter is to celebrate the 20th issue of the BROADSHEET with your present Editor at the helm throughout. In total these issues constitute some 280 pages that have included approximately 80,000 words and an ever increasing number of photographs.

There have been happy stories, sad stories, wonderful research items, reports of numerous cemetery tours, changes in personnel, reports of meetings, special events, milestones, anniversaries, commemorations and a host of other items, including a modicum of humour.

The BROADSHEET itself has seen many changes, from a **6** page first edition to a **20** page **6,600** word **26** picture twentieth edition, the gradual elimination of what was initially a very large typeface, the introduction of photographs, headers, page numbers, the change to a tri-annual production and a whole lot more. We have come a long way since 2008 and I thank you all for your support and contributions. May the next few years be equally successful!

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Well, I have been elected for another year having already filled the post of BROADSHEET Editor for five years and compiled 20 issues. I look forward to the coming year and in reporting news and events in our tri-annual product. **Next issue? Circa 1 April 2014.**

It has been a busy year and at our AGM at the end of October all of our officials were thanked by our Chairman for their efforts. Sally Roberts also proposed a vote of thanks to our Chairman, Debra Hillman, for her sterling efforts in 2013 (applause!).

Please note that the annual Festive/Christmas liquid celebration, to which all friends of the FBWC are invited, will, provisionally, take place on **Tuesday 3 December** from 19.30 (7.30pm for the English!) at the Cricketers public house in Broadwater. (Check first)

The next Friends meetings will be held at the Town Hall, Gordon Room, at 18.00 hours (6pm) on **Friday 29 November** and then at 18.00 hours on **Friday 31 January 2014**. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. **Enjoy the 20th issue** - especially the reported research 'finds' by Mary McKeown (Royalty) and Sue Nea (Sisters)**.**

John Vaughan - Editor

