THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.21
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THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

2014 CEMETERY TOURS PROGRAMME FINALISED

Following a considerable amount of behind the scenes work over the winter months our intrepid organisers have produced a combination of brand new tours and some old favourites. As usual the tours will be held on the **FIRST Saturday of the month** from May until October starting at 11.00 hours. Also the **Sunday tour** experiment of 2013 will become a regular part of our 2014 programme and those tours will start at 14.00 hours on the dates shown below. Furthermore on Saturday 5 April there will also be a **Public Clearance Day** between the hours of 10.00 and 12.00. Cemetery tours are an important part of our *raison d'etre* and your support is vital for the continuing existence of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. So, make a note of the following dates in your diary NOW.

Sat. April 5 – **Public Clearance Day**	Friends and Guests
Sat. May 3 – **Unusual Deaths Tour**	Debra Hillman
Sat. June 7 – **Seafarers Tour**	Sonia Hawke
Sat. July 5 – **Edwardian Worthing Tour**	Pauline Reed
Sun. July 20 – **General Cemetery Tour**	Sally Roberts/Mary McKeown
Sat. August 2 – **Great War Tour**	Paul Holden
Sun. August 10 – **Skeleton/Salvation Army Tour**	Chris Hare
Sat. September 6 – **Nurseryman Tour**	Malcolm Linfield
Sun. September 21 – **General Tour**	Sally Roberts/Mary McKeown
Sat. – October 4 – **Publicans and Hoteliers Tour**	John Vaughan

MAINTENANCE DAYS - DATE CHANGE

Will all Friends **please note** that from the date of this issue of THE BROADSHEET our monthly cemetery maintenance sessions will be held on **the LAST Saturday of every calendar month.** We need you to be there – no excuses!

FBWC WEB-SITE ENHANCEMENTS

Our IT savvy Chairman Debra Hillman, with assistance from a working colleague, has made some significant changes to our web site whereby for the first time all of our many publications have been tabulated. The video and photographs that were once in our 'Open Day' page have now been removed and transferred to the 'Gallery' section. The Open Day link has been replaced with a new page called 'Publications'. It is on this page that all of the FBWC books and booklets have been listed. In the Activity links the format of the diary dates information has been re-formatted. This is typical maintenance and enhancement work that can be under-estimated or even taken for granted, so well done Debra.

The change also provides instant access to our numerous publications so that Friends can check whether or not they have the full set of booklets, or for any other reason.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOLLY



The grave of the 'Dolly the Goring Flower Seller', alias Dorothy Deacon, who died on 12 May 2007, always provides a delightful excess of colour in the cemetery, especially on a dull winter's day. This is what the grave looked like in January 2014. Adjoining graves are also well maintained, definitely not requiring the attention of the Friends.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS MAINTAINED

Our Membership Secretary Mary Pickett has reported that we presently have 89 fully paid-up members, the subscription renewal levels having held up very well indeed.

Out of 89 members we should be able to recruit some back-up or **relief tour guides**, especially to assist when the numbers on single tour become excessive, leading to practical difficulties in moving people from grave to grave and considerably slowing down the tour. Very large numbers also find it more difficult to hear tour guides, even when they are using our portable microphone. Contact Sue Nea or the Editor for contact information or to discuss the role in detail. All enquiries will be welcome. Go on, you deserve to be heard!

FBWC AND HMRC FRIENDS!

Your Treasurer (and Editor) was delighted to announce at the monthly FBWC meeting at the Town Hall on 28 February 2014 that after two months of negotiation and communication with HM Revenue and Customs, which included preparing our first annual accounts to accurately reflect the financial activities of the Friends, forwarding our Constitution and answering some elementary questions, that the Friends have been recognised as an 'Unincorporated Organisation' and as having such a small amount of profit (an excess of income over expenditure) that HMRC do not want to hear from us for at least 5 years.

HMRC has confirmed that the FBWC are not liable for payment of any Corporation Tax up to and including the 20 October 2013 (our end of accounting year date). It was of course never the intention of the Friends to make a profit *per se* and this was where our Constitution played such an important part. Our activities and objectives were exactly fit for purpose for our organisation and the accounts demonstrated the level of income and expenditure for 2012/2013. I could not have prepared these accounts if it had not been for the record keeping of our former treasurer, Alan Rice, so thanks Alan for making the job easier but not easy!

We must in future ensure that our liability to Corporation Tax is £100 or less per annum, which means that we do not want to want to have excesses of over £500 per annum. Any reasonable and responsible expenditure that contributes to the cemetery by way of maintenance, environment, operations or awareness will be favourably considered. Steering the FBWC in this direction, while meeting our legal obligations is a major milestone.

CLOSE-UP OF CAPTAIN SARAH BROADHURST PLAQUE

Part of our wonderful celebrations during 2013 was the commemoration by the Salvation Army of Captain Sarah Broadhurst who was born in 1847 and who died on 6 February 1892. On Sunday 10 August 2014 at 14.00 there is to be a cemetery tour conducted by Chris Hare where the Salvation Army is the primary subject. Below is a close-up of the plate beneath the specially planted Rowan tree.



FRANK FITCH - MR VERSATILITY

Although there are many Friends who directly contribute to the activities of the FBWC our Friend Frank Ffitch is regularly seen in the cemetery performing a wide range of maintenance tasks and he also attends the majority of meetings. He helps with research and in many ways he sets an example to us all. But sometimes there are strange and curious combinations. For example below he is seen (by the Paparazzi hiding in the bushes) with a charming young lady, our super maintainer, Anne Powell.



However in the shot below he has swapped this lovely lady for an old bag, which he is seen dragging along the pathway south of the chapels at the January maintenance day, with the Ralli grave on the left of the picture. Carry on regardless Frank!



EXTRA TOUR

Friend Chris Green is conducting an extra private tour in October for the Ferring History Group. Chris is also going to be heavily involved in The Great War activities this year.

CEMETERY HUMOUR

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality by not dying! - Woody Allen

……

Death is hereditary.

……

Once you're in heaven are you stuck with wearing the clothes you were buried in for ever?

……

There is a terrible disaster and three nuns are tragically killed. They obviously head straight for heaven but each must answer a single question correctly to be admitted to the Kingdom.

St Peter asks the first nun "who built the ark?" The nun answers "Noah" and the pearly gates immediately swing open.

St Peter asks the second nun "who was the son of God?" The nun answers "Jesus" and the pearly gates immediately swing open.

St Peter asks the third nun "what was the first thing that Eve said when God sent her a man?" The nun thought deeply and for some considerable time before muttering to St Peter "that's a really hard one" and the pearly gates immediately swing open!

……

THE TRAGEDY OF WINTER FLOODS IN OUR CEMETERIES

I am sure I speak for all of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery when I extend our heartfelt sympathy to all Friends of cemeteries nationwide, as well as the bereaved and those that are unable to bury loved ones, as a result of the recent widespread winter floods.



The photograph at the foot of the previous page shows the devastating scene at North Petherton churchyard on the Somerset levels. There were similar scenes throughout the UK. All along the Thames Valley cemeteries were submerged particularly in the Tilehurst area. Even in areas such as Romford in Essex the Crow Lane cemetery was under water and there was anger in Cumbuslang near Glasgow when local authorities did little to prevent flooding. At Lenton's Lane Cemetery in Coventry local people were so upset that a 1,700 name petition was handed in.

It was not only existing graves that were swamped, in areas to a depth of several feet, but that the recently deceased could not be buried. In many areas as soon as gravediggers had excavated soil only a foot or two from the surface the graves immediately filled with water because the ground was either waterlogged or the water table was so high. Huge burial backlogs accumulated adding to the distress of families and loved ones. Even if the graves had been dug they would have been unsafe and liable to collapse, so Health and Safety became paramount. It is hoped that such devastating scenes can be eradicated in the very near future. Below is the scene at St Deny's Churchyard at Severn Stoke in Worcestershire.



FRIENDS AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Your Editor has again lodged with the British Library all of the 2013 FBWC publications, including books and booklets (and shortly the combined edition of the first 20 issues of THE BROADSHEET). Individual acknowledgements have been received, with each book and booklet being given a unique reference number. A further tranche of submissions will be forwarded later this year keeping our literary efforts in a national archive for all time.

NEVER IN THE FIELD OF CEMETERY MAINTENANCE HAS SO MUCH BEEN OWED BY SO MANY TO SO FEW

The BROADSHEET is always a 'glass half full' document but on the February 'Maintenance Day' (and the January day for that matter) the turnout of Friends to perform a range of 'upkeep' tasks was **derisory.** On 22 February many Friends were helping at the Hobbies and Leisure exhibition (see next item) but by any standards the turnout was disappointing. Below, Paul Robards and the Allchin family clear foliage to reveal a row of three headstones. In addition to your Editor only three Friends turned up AND it was a beautiful morning!





FBWC AT HOBBIES AND LEISURE

Arrangements were made by our Chairman on behalf of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to attend the Rotary Club of Worthing's Hobbies and Leisure Exhibition 2014, in conjunction with the Worthing Heritage Alliance. The fee for our stand was a modest £25 (£12.50 each).

By all accounts the event was well attended, there was plenty of interest in our stand, membership forms were distributed and names and addresses recorded. Furthermore 16 of our booklets were sold, effectively paying for the pitch rental. Various Friends manned the stand throughout the day and overall it was judged to be a success. Below is a photograph of a distant Debra Hillman representing the FBWC. Photo courtesy of Sue Nea. All other photographs and articles appearing herein that are not credited are by the Editor.



MAKING GOOD IN HARTLEPOOL

It seems strange in the UK that local authorities often make what are perceived to be unpopular and/or illogical decisions and yet often only 30 per cent of the electorate choose to vote. Back in the 1970s the local authorities in Hartlepool in County Durham removed the history of the people who came to the north-east and helped build Hartlepool to what it has become today. The authority moved hundreds of headstones from the 1856 12.6 hectare Hartlepool West Cemetery and demolished the remaining buildings on the site, using some of the headstones as building stones to line a central footpath, following the site being identified as an 'Open Green Space'. The council also removed the war memorial stone replacing it with a substitute in another cemetery. In the Editor's view disturbing the dead and removing headstones should be illegal in all but truly exceptional circumstances.

It was not until 2007 that a Friends group was established in response to growing concerns about the site, which is surrounded by terraced houses. The Friends worked in partnership with what by then was obviously a new Council to create a site that was a balance between a cemetery and an open space. They successfully applied for a £99,000 Lottery 'Community Space Grant'. All four entrance gates were subsequently replaced to keep undesirables out and to create a pleasant environment for the community at large.

They have since received two further grants of approximately £20,000 which will be used for the development and launch of a web-site, research and workshop activities, including the photography of headstones and the publication of a book of interment, history and the biodiversity of the site. Also the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are looking to replace the headstones of some 81 war dead and a memorial stone. The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery wish Hartlepool well in their quest with the message that clearly “it is never too late” to stop and to some extent reverse wanton desecration.

CONGRATULATIONS
CHRIS GREEN and COLIN LUXFORD

The Editor congratulates both Chris Green and Colin Luxford for being the only two, out of an FBWC membership totalling 89, to purchase a copy of the bound Combined Volume of the first 20 issues of THE BROADSHEET (except for the originator and processor Paul Robards and your Editor of course). Five gratuitous copies have been ordered for public institutions, for the sake of posterity, but the total time and effort expended in producing the document makes the entire project extremely marginal. It’s a great book and I am pleased to have it on my shelf, especially at a bargain price for a short run. The order deadline has now passed; but no hope I fear for a combined volume of our many FBWC cemetery booklets.

Of course a large number of Friends will have produced hard copies of their newsletter for their personal retention and others will have saved the product on-line. Furthermore The BROADSHEET has always been available to read on-line via our FBWC web-site and so all of these things potentially impact demand. Nevertheless after the enthusiasm shown around the meeting table at Paul Robards' original suggestion, the results of the opportunity to order a combined volume can only be described as extremely disappointing.

LADYWELL AND BROCKWELL CEMETERIES

It is comforting to know that our attendance statistics at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery cemetery on maintenance days may be poor but they are tiny fraction better than those at Ladywell and Brockwell Cemeteries. We have 89 members and attracted 6 maintainers in January shrinking to 4 in February whereas the above Friends have 94 members and they had 5 turn up on their Sunday 18 August maintenance day. That's **6.74%** for us and **5.32%** for them! What appalling statistics - and I naively thought that we were a nation of gardeners! Here's a thought for Sue Nea and our cemetery tour organisers: on the same day they conducted a tour and the theme was **“Convicts, Conmen and Calamities”!**

SPRING IS 'IN THE AIR'

Our Maintenance Coordinator's report appears later but there was plenty of colour in the cemetery, even in February, following an extremely mild if wet and stormy winter. The crocus blooms were photographed on the morning of Saturday 1 March 2014.



Some colour has been induced by the deliberate planting of Spring flowers by the Friends (well, Paul 'R'). This view shows the scene in February 2014 at our new Typhoid Memorial.



WE'RE IN THE MONEY

Just before a flurry of financial activity the Friends bank account showed on 21 February 2014 a credit balance of £4,627.11 plus Mary Pickett's float of £50. There have since been some financial transactions, which will be reported at the next Town Hall monthly meeting on 28 March 2014. As reported elsewhere it is good news that the Friends accounts have been accepted by HMRC and that we have no liability to Corporation Tax and that we are exempt from CT returns, subject to certain conditions, for at least 5 years. We are in good shape.

MINIMAL CEMETERY STORM DAMAGE

Other than for some fallen branches and large twigs our cemetery escaped any serious damage in the long series of winter storms that we have experienced, during the wettest winter since records began. However there was one boundary wall that collapsed on the eastern side of the cemetery and this has now been repaired. In the scene below bags of stone debris are seen awaiting collection on 22 February 2014.



A LOAD OF OLD BALLS

During one of the gang's recent maintenance sessions we were clearing some undergrowth against the wall that backs onto Broadwater School. The 'jungle' had not been touched for years. A vast number of balls of various sizes were unearthed and many were kicked back over the fence. This amusing view shows the remainder, there being all shapes, sizes and ages. The exercise generated a great deal of very childish but memorable humour.



CLEAR THE CHAPEL PATH HE SAID

In the absence of our Maintenance Coordinator at one of our clearance days your Editor was instructed to clear the leaves from the paths adjacent to the chapels. This was a crafty move because there was an entire autumn and winter's worth of leaves waiting to be cleared. There are no bragging rights in this tome and so merely a 'before' and 'after' shot is reproduced.





GREAT WAR RESEARCH

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, headed by Patron Tom Wye and Military Researcher John Stepney (and others) are assisting with research in respect of the military victims of the First World War mentioned on Worthing's War Memorials. This not only includes service details but also personal information regarding family and place of abode. The years 1914 and 1915 have been completed and 1916 is well under way.

CLEARANCE AND NATURE WATCH

By Paul Robards

There were the usual reliable hardy types that turned up to assist in light clearance work in December, January and February. Fortunately the weather stayed reasonable. Over the three session many thanks to Frank Ffitch, Mike and Mo, Anthony and Angie Allchin, John and Pam Stepney, Anne Powell, Tony Clasby and John Vaughan. I hope I haven't forgotten anybody, so next time please 'sign-in' by the chapel store. We suffered some storm damage, which involved clearing fallen branches and tidying-up.

I have had further contact with Worthing Borough Council's Parks and Gardens regarding the clearance of large piles of green cuttings and rubbish beside the south chapel and as a result this has now been cleared. The workers have also spent nearly two weeks cutting back the hedgerow along the South Farm Road boundary. Although much tidier than hitherto I noticed a large number gaps, which could encourage youngsters and out of hours intruders to wall jump and access the cemetery.

Winter Fog: Photo – Paul Holden



I have noticed snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils making an early appearance and I have purchased some early flowering primroses to add a bit of colour to the cemetery. Also there has been some planting around the Typhoid Memorial (see photo Page 9). Since I prepared this note it has been agreed by a vote at the February monthly meeting that I should spend circa £10 per month on plants and blooms for planting in the cemetery.

I have signed-up for a five month Sussex Wildlife Trust Bird Watching course but should be able to attend all **Last Saturday of the month** Clearance days except March. The change of these days to the end of every month (except for the Public Clearance Day) will enable Friends to participate in our first Saturday in the month tours as well as preparing any particular graves for what will be the following Saturdays tour. I look forward to seeing you – under a pile of pruned brambles and branches hopefully![PR.]



Above, we are so short of helpers with clearance and maintenance that we are now dragging children off the streets! Below, happy helpers stripping ivy from tree trunks and headstones.



There are of course many Friends performing a wide range of other tasks in various other capacities, giving their time willingly and freely and in making these maintenance comments they are not forgotten. Thank you for your time. [Ed.]

MONTHLY 'TOWN HALL' MEETINGS

Two years ago in January 2012 we had 69 fully paid up members and there were 34 attendees at our monthly January meeting. This January (2014), we had 89 fully paid up members and 21 attendees at the meeting. This seems a rather curious statistic – let's blame the weather, although the same figures were also relevant at the February meeting – statisticians explain! **As suggested at a past meeting by our Chairman but never pursued; perhaps we should meet January-March-May-July-September-November; i.e. bi-monthly?** We would certainly save time and resources, including petrol, paper, minutes, agenda and buddies time!

A TYPICAL FBWC RESEARCH MEETING

By Sue Nea

In case some of you may be wondering what actually happens at our research meetings and how we put together the tours that we hold in the cemetery each year from May through to October, I thought I would explain……..

As soon as the last tour of the year has taken place in October we hold a researcher's meeting, usually at The Wave Centre in Dominion Road where Angela Butler kindly arranges a room for us to use; we all make a small donation to the church as a thank you for letting us use the room. At the first meeting, we each bring along ideas for themes of tours for the following year. Each theme is discussed and by the end of the meeting we will have decided which to use. We will also discuss any possible people buried in the cemetery that we could include in these tours but, of course, we have to go away and research, mainly looking through old local newspapers on microfilm in Worthing Library, to identify further inclusions. We like to have about 15 for each tour, which will be included in an accompanying booklet, of which approximately 12 will be selected for inclusion in the actual tour.

We then take our suggested tour themes to the next general meeting of the FBWC to get an agreement that the Friends are content with our choices. Once agreed the researchers will meet again and table their respective ideas for who should be included in the tours and booklets.

We have to bear in mind several points when making a decision. For example, is the story interesting, is there a headstone, or are there potentially sensitive issues (for example a negative fact that if reported may upset a living relative). The existence of a headstone is very important because it is far less interesting to have a group of people standing around an empty grass area. If there is no headstone but the story behind the deceased is very interesting we may mark out the area of the grave, lay some flowers on the spot or ask John Stepney to kindly make a wooden cross for the purpose.

Once we have decided on the tour inclusions we distribute the workload to our researchers. Sadly the number of researchers has declined during the past year or so. At its peak we could have up to 17 researchers who helped with the sometimes onerous task but this has gradually diminished and presently we have about half that number. With the numbers available we each take a couple of graves to research per tour, the distribution being a relaxed affair with members offering to research any deceased person who 'takes their fancy' plus a bit of arm twisting by me if there are some left over.

We will then all go our own way to carry out our research, which is done primarily on our own, using our home PCs to access such websites at 'Ancestry' and 'Find My Past' that we have subscribed to. As mentioned above we also visit the local library to look for further information from a variety of sources. If we are lucky we may find a photograph of the deceased. It is also a good idea to track down anyone who may be descended from the deceased as they may have a picture or two, often resulting in the relative being very keen to attend the tour that their ancestors are included in.

Once our research is complete it needs to be typed, with a maximum length of about 700 words, otherwise Mary Pickett will be shouting at us [Mary 'shout' are you sure Sue – Ed.] in

terms of her booklet design and production. The text is then sent to or e-mailed to me and Mary to start the process of compiling the booklets. We proof read all of the research, to ensure that there are no spelling mistakes or unclear sentences. Mary and I then copy and paste the document into the booklet in Publisher software on her laptop. This is not as easy as it sounds as the item comprising text and photograph(s) must fit into the space allocated. We must also remember to include all necessary acknowledgements, a cemetery plan, an index and the list of researchers.

At the same time Mary will design the cover of the booklet and together we will spend much time either visiting stationers or surfing the net to find a coloured paper that we have not used for a previous booklet. We now seem to have exhausted the range of colours available and so we are looking at designing the covers ourselves with the use of pictures instead. Once Mary is happy with the layout of the booklet, she will print two copies and together we will go through it to check for any errors and to correct any other mistakes. Once we are satisfied that all is well Mary will proceed to reproduction. This involves copying the 40-50 pages of the booklet 100 times because we like to have an initial supply of 100 booklets for each tour. She will also print and laminate 100 covers and then collate each booklet, apply its cover and finally staple the component parts of each booklet together.

Meanwhile the researchers have moved on to identify and research the following tour and so the process is repeated again and again throughout the summer until October when we meet once again to decide on the following year's tours.

ONLY THE GOOD AND GREAT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE CEMETERY

Your Editor took this amusing but very pleasant 'snap' of Father Christopher recording the Remembrance Day event at 'our' cemetery last November. I am delighted to say that I (and "the Pauls") will be able to add this activity to CVs of life on the dreaded Judgement Day!



GREAT GRANDFATHER MAKEOVER!



Even though the grave of the Editor's Great Grandfather William Austin Morley has been maintained over several decades it was time for a complete makeover, which was completed on Saturday 1 March 2014. Deputy Chairman Sally Roberts had kindly cleaned the headstone a couple of years ago, which bearing in mind it is 96 years old was very successful. However nature had played its usual tricks and it was time for action. Single handed the restoration took a mere two and a half hours, which included removing weeds, removing old ballast, replacing the liner with a weed resistant but permeable membrane, severely pruning a nearby Ilex tree and filling-in the surround with six sacks of Wickes pea shingle at £1.89 per bag. The results were well worth the effort and now Great Grandfather should be in good shape for the centenary celebrations in 2018, assuming his Great Grandson is still here to celebrate!!

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Please make diary or calendar notes of all our tour dates AND note the change of Maintenance Day routines. Monthly meetings in the Gordon Room at the Town Hall are held on the LAST FRIDAY of every month at 18.00 and so Buddies need not remind their usual recipients of every meeting. It looks to be another very full year and I hope you all play your part whether it is a leading role or as a member of the supporting cast. Look at the Worthing Journal every month for the Cemetery page and also at the Herald's Parish Pump for further publicity and coverage of our activities. Enjoy the 17 page issue, have a great Spring and Summer and I will be back with all of the scandal and gossip on or about 1 August.

All contributions for THE BROADSHEET should be sent to me at jamv@ntlworld.com .

John Vaughan **Editor**