THE BROADSHEET

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THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

RECORD BREAKING YEAR

The year 2014 will go down as a record breaking season. In just about every aspect of the wide ranging activities of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery performance excelled and the organisation became firmly established as the result of six years of hard graft and team building. There were many highlights ranging from record tour attendances by members of the public, a record number of tours, even more professional refreshment arrangements, a record breaking income on the financial side generally, record breaking donations received from members of the public, a record breaking amount invested by the Friends into the infrastructure of the cemetery and maintenance equipment, a FBWC commemorative bench was procured and installed, record breaking book sales and progress on new publications continued and we ended the year with a record breaking fully paid up membership of 101 individuals. At 24 pages this BROADSHEET is also record breaking!

500 attendees at FBWC thematic 2014 cemetery tours
100 attendees at a single 2014 FBWC tour
150 school children tour the cemetery
10 'formal' and scheduled tours in 2014
100 fully paid up FBWC members by September 2014
100% increase in donations from the public in 2014
40% increase in 2014 gross income
27% increase in 2014 gross book sales



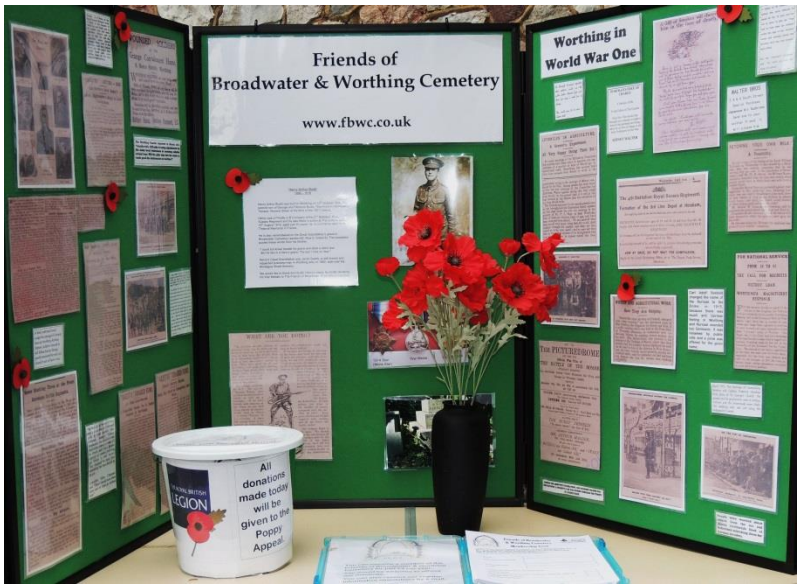
Above: Paul Holden's record breaking World War tour on 1 August 2014. [Photo: Editor]

AGM: ALL OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

A total of 28 Friends (that's over 1 in 4) attended the 2014 Annual General Meeting held at the Gordon Room of the Town Hall on Friday 31 October 2014. Voting for officers took place and all existing postholders were voted back into post unanimously for the next 12 months, although due to a change in AGM date from the end of October in 2014 to the end of November in 2015 the posts will in fact be held for 13 months. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Debra Hillman
Deputy Chairman: Sally Roberts
Secretary: Paul Holden
Treasurer: John Vaughan
Membership secretary: Mary Pickett
Media Officer: Paul Holden
Broadsheet Editor: John Vaughan
Civilian Researcher: Sue Nea
Military Researcher: John Stepney
Clearance and Nature: Paul Robards

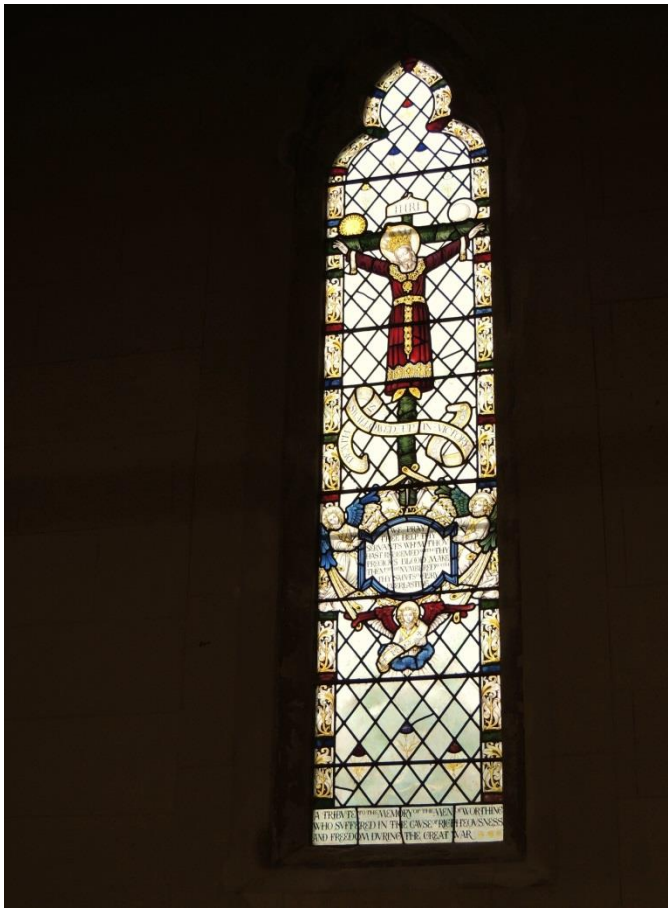
The above officers were thanked for all of their hard work during the past year and in addition all other workers involved with tour organisation, guiding tours, notice board and poster creation, sales stand manning, maintenance of the cemetery, refreshment provision, headstone cleaning and cross making, book production, researching, grave finding and a wide range of other vital activities were also thanked.



The wonderful notice board and embellishments prepared for the benefit of visitors to the FBWC World War 1 tour in August. [Unless otherwise credited all photos are by the Editor]

NORTH CHAPEL WINDOW EXPOSED

In collaboration with Adur and Worthing Councils, Parks and Foreshore Group, arrangements were made in August for the cemetery's North Chapel to be open to the public for one hour only, in order to view the wonderful stained glass 'Great War Memorial Window'. The chapels date back to 1863 and are presently used for potential exhibit storage purposes by Worthing Museum. The opening coincided with the August World War 1 (or 'Great War') tour. Both visitors and Friends showed great interest in the chapel and the window; the first time most had viewed the window. An amusing aside within the chapel was a row of stored, florally decorated, Victorian toilet bowls and a horse drawn carriage – without the horses!



MEMBERSHIP FEES REMAIN AT £3p.a.

A decision was taken at the AGM to freeze the FBWC membership fees at £3 per annum, to help get this country on its feet financially! It has been mentioned in the past that a fee of £5 would be easier to handle and that the membership fee has not changed since the creation of the group in 2008. However many people pay £3 and add a £2 donation and although welcome the Friends presently have no need for an immediate injection of additional funds.

Membership is excellent value for money in that not only does it open the door to participation in a wide range of activities, helps a very worthwhile cause within our local community but Friends receive three issues of the BROADSHEET; at just £1 per copy!

FBWC TOURS ILLUSTRATED

As mentioned and illustrated on Page 1, the Great War tour on 2 August 2014 guided by Worthing Journal editor Paul Holden attracted 101 participant, including members of the public and Friends. This was a single tour record, matched only by the 2013 'double' Pubs and Publicans tour. The total takings from that tour including book sales and refreshments was a staggering £191.85 and in addition a further £34.50 was donated to the British Legion, the Friends having agreed that donations on that tour date would go to the 'poppy appeal'. Again the weather held, as it did for all of our 2014 tours, except for an October shower. Photographed on 2 August 2014 the picture below features our Civilian Researcher and Saturday tour organiser Sue Nea, left, and our membership Secretary Mary Pickett. It's good to have some glamour on board and the flowers look great as well!



On Sunday 10 August 2014 it was the turn of Chris Hare to conduct his Skeleton/Salvation Army tour. As usual about a dozen graves were visited as Chris told the story of the Salvation Army, how they were opposed by many, leading to some famous Worthing riots. It looked like rain and as seen in the photograph of Chris (centre right) some of his followers wore jackets, which in the end were not needed. There were about 35 participants and the sum of £31.50 was collected from book/booklet sales. It was not possible to provide refreshments.



Norman Linfield kindly offered to conduct our September Nurserymen tour. As usual our team, directed by Sue Nea, distributed posters and leaflets as well as writing pieces for the local papers and as a result about 60 people participated in the tour, which told the story of Worthing's past in terms of its close links with the world of horticulture. His informative talk about many of the Nurserymen buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery was well received and the total 'take' from booklet sales, donations and refreshments amounted to £70.55. At a later date Norman received a further donation, which he kindly gave to the Friends. It should be emphasised here that the financial 'takings' are not related to the general success of a tour, at least from an individual visitor's perspective. Thank you Norman!

After a slow start to the year Mary McKeown and Sally Roberts worked hard to promote their Sunday tours. By their 21 September 2014 tour they had more than quadrupled the numbers attending when 31 Friends and members of the public joined the throng. Donations were rather frugal but a total of £18.50 was added to the coffers of the FBWC. Well done girls and strength to your elbow in getting the publicity machine in motion, which is what attracting the crowds is all about (and the weather!).

At the beginning of October it was your Editor who took-on the task of tour guide for the Pubs and Publicans tour. After a week of dire weather forecasts it was perhaps successful that about 56 people joined the tour, although to be honest the amount of work involved in distributing posters should have produced an even better turn out. The rain held off until the very last of the 12 graves visited! An hour later it was pouring. A grand total of £72.20 was collected and the guide was delighted at the volume of a round of applause at tour end! Below the crowd surrounds your somewhat distant Editor. [Photo: Mrs M P Vaughan]



The last tour of the year again saw Paul Holden appear as tour guide for a further World War 1 event. Yet again the weather behaved and no doubt Paul was delighted to see over 50 attendees enjoying the event. This was a somewhat different tour from the one he conducted in August. Donations amounting to £36.72 went to the British Legion, £71 for the year. Other takings totalled £47.31. Full support was provided in manning a refreshment stand and booklet sales stand. A photograph of the tour, including Paul, appears on the next page.



FRIENDS COMMEMORATIVE BENCH INSTALLED BESIDE THE CHAPELS

As a commemoration, indeed celebration, of the enormous amount of work undertaken by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery over the past 6 years, a high quality wooden bench has been procured by the FBWC Treasurer, in accordance with a previously agreed 'Wish List'. The Council were approached and they were delighted with the donation, so much so that they agreed to install the bench free of charge. Our thanks go to Andy Edwards.

There is no place for those visiting the cemetery, or those waiting for a tour to start, to sit and rest a while in the vicinity of the chapels and so the bench will serve a very useful purpose. Furthermore the Treasurer had to ensure that our excess of income over expenditure in the then current financial year did not exceed the limits whereby Corporation Tax would become payable. The procurement of the bench is entirely commensurate with the Friends Constitution and objectives.

The bench cost £583 and not even the Friends or the Council could escape a V.A.T. charge of £117. The Treasurer made a decision regarding the wording on an engraved metal commemorative plaque, which reads "THE FRIENDS BENCH" DONATED BY THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY 2014. The plate was fitted with Phillips type screws but the Treasurer had them changed to the vandal proof type, courtesy of the Council. The good looking bench has already been appreciated and we must hope that this wonderful object has a long life as a focal point for our many tours.



"THE FRIENDS BENCH"





The new Friends Bench in action on 1 November 2014. Resting their weary legs are all-round helper Frank Ffitch (left) and our Deputy Chairman Sally Roberts. Guarding them both and to ensure no misbehaviour is Wayne Batchelor of Church Road, Tarring, who has supported the Friends at Great War tours this year. Adorned in World War 1 Royal Sussex Regiment uniform, including rifle, with a large amount of period military paraphernalia he has greatly contributed to our events. Thank you Wayne, from the Friends.

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Our Media Officer Paul Holden has forwarded to your Editor the wonderful aerial view of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery **by Eddie Mitchell of Aerial News**, reproduced below. Apparently it was taken from a modern drone 'aircraft' flying high above the cemetery and it certainly provides a unique perspective of the site. The chapels are top left and Carnegie Road is at the base of the picture. All of the main paths are visible, notwithstanding the proliferation of trees. Now who is that kneeling down in A6?



DATA CORRECTION AND UPDATES

New information is ever evolving on a wide range of issues and it is interesting to be able to report revisions and updates. The first update comes from friend **Pam Stepney** who writes:

"On one of our tour days I was standing next to a lady who was reading our booklet on unusual headstones. She said she had found a mistake in the story of Kimmins. In my research I had said that this was the only cast iron headstone in the cemetery. The lady showed me another cast iron stone at B1-9-9. It was lying flat and was only visible because the grass had been newly cut.

The headstone is that of Catherine Bennett who was buried on 7 January 1873 aged 72. Briefly she was born in Hertfordshire and married William Bennett, a turner by trade, in Brighton in 1837. They moved to Worthing where two daughters were born. They lived at Pusses croft, later Gloucester Place, which was situated between 86 and 88 Montague Street and was demolished in 1964/65 for the Graham Road car park. William, who was many years her senior, died in 1847. For more than 30 years Catherine ran a bakers and grocery business, assisted by her daughters. In the last years of her life she was living at 62 Montague Street with a married daughter and still working as a baker and grocer."

Angela Butler, who recorded the monumental inscriptions for area B1 with Sue Baker, says all they could read from the headstone was "Affectionate remembrance of Catherine Bennett who departed this life ……." The grave was purchased on 20 October 1873. So now we have two cast iron headstones and may have to change the content of our booklet.

……

We have heard from **Gill Heasman** who says "I purchased the military book by Chris Green and found my great uncle on Page 9, Private Reginald Stepney Bacon. Some of the contents of his write-up are incorrect. I e-mailed Chris and he suggested that I e-mail John Stepney in an effort to have the corrections published in the BROADSHEET and he in turn suggested I should contact you. The corrections are as follows.

"Reginald's father was Javen James Bacon and NOT Gavin. He died at Prince AlberT Convalescent Home, Heene Terrace and not the Grange. He was 23 years old and not 24 and he was discharged from the army due to Bright's Disease and died from Nephritis and not insanity. I have also visited the Town Hall to get Reggie added to the war memorial and they suggested my family attend when the stone mason adds his name. It was also suggested that the Worthing Herald should attend or at least send a photographer."

The Friends are pleased to be able to report these facts Gill. Apparently the mis-information can be traced to errors contained in the original press reports in local newspapers accessed by our researchers in compiling book and booklet content.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Your Editor has lodged all of our FBWC publications produced in the calendar year 2014 with the British Library and acknowledgement of these books/booklets has been received.

HUMAN TRASH

This headline could be used to describe the rubbish collected by your Editor as assistant maintainer on one of our recent clearance days but also to the individuals who ‘disposed’ of the contents of the writer’s wheelbarrow, all within the boundaries of our treasured cemetery. What does this human garbage think is going to happen to these tins and packaging. What ever happened to the Litter Act and nowadays who would challenge these individuals and risk a violent or at least negative re-action. All we can do is to be vigilant and continue to clear-up their mess. Perhaps we should count our blessings that this is not a serious or unmanageable problem for the FBWC. It is doubtful whether more litter bins would help the situation.



CHUCKLE OF THE SUMMER

One of our cemetery maintenance sessions at the end of July coincided with the annual Open Day of Worthing fire station. As your Editor was pruning trees and cutting grasses around tour graves a great prehistoric monster gradually raised itself above the tree line towards the north of our cemetery. What on earth was it? Was it *amphicoelias fragillimus?* No! It transpired that it was Worthing’s Mayor and Mayoress who were attending the fire station Open Day and who were treated to a ‘ride’ on a hydraulic turntable ladder. My wave was not reciprocated but at least they had a unique view of ‘our’ cemetery.



DEMOCRACY AT WORK

There has been much debate about the rights and wrongs of making certain gestures to promote nature, whether it be forna and/or flora, within the cemetery. Strong views are held by some but it should be recorded in the BROADSHEET that at September's monthly meeting a vote was taken on "the principle of looking for suitable areas that could be used to trial various ideas". The motion was carried with 21 Friends voting 'for' and 5 'against'.

There were a number of contributions made by the Friends attending but the Chairman made the points that across the country cemeteries were highlighting the growing importance of wildlife within the relative sanctuary of cemeteries. She also stated that one of her relatives in an unmarked grave would have loved wild flowers on her grave. Others held the opposite view stating that the grass in the cemetery should be cut to the same length throughout the cemetery (this unfortunately has been the case and a Friends special flower bed has all but been destroyed).

This item will be fully reported when decisions on a way forward have finally been made. The popular view is that at least some effort should be made to promote forna and flora within this precious green space but not to the detriment of the site, which is first and foremost a cemetery. Fortunately preservation work has already started and within the past few weeks both bird and bat boxes have been placed high up in trees in suitable locations within the cemetery.

As with all Friends your Editor has his views but will not express them until the subject is further debated. What he will say is that the division here is potentially destructive to the whole Friends organisation; it creates bad feeling, destroys relationships and can lead to resignations. We must not see wedges driven into the organisation and rational discussion is best. As they say in life, we win some and we lose some! Also in life it is not always he who shouts loudest who wins the day and the will of the Friends by way of democratic vote should be respected. Whatever the decision there should be room for flexibility and of course the Council will be involved as the cemetery is, after all, theirs and public property. Happily the working relationships seem to be sound – see the feature on The Friends Bench procurement.

NEW CEMETERY SIGNS FOR 'WALKIES'

New 'doggy' signs have been posted at the main South Farm Road cemetery entrance.



THE HEAVY GANG AT WORK

Mention the words ‘Heavy Gang’ and the average Friend would conjure-up a picture of some sort of weight-lifting Adonis types, whereas in fact the FBWC heavy gang members, although of course rugged fellows, may not quite fulfil the above image. Nevertheless they wear the label well and members of the opposite sex have been known to react to the mere expression. In modern parlance to be one of the gang has ‘street cred’!

In the image below these hard working perspiring examples of manhood have been indulging in headstone turning, tough but worthwhile work within a cemetery environment. From left to right are Anthony Allchin, John Vaughan, Frank Ffitch and Paul Robards. You wouldn’t want to mix it with any of these mean hombres.



More headstone turning and removal is featured below but on this occasion Sue Nea (far right) has, as any woman would (understandably) like to do, joined the Heavy Gang and it would appear that she is directing ‘the traffic’. Was this a woman’s touch, female domination or a terrorised heavy gang? One of the gang was overheard saying “yes dear”! In all seriousness the gang perform a worthwhile task that should be recognised from time to time.



SOMEBODY CARES

Adding a wonderful splash of colour to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery is this fairly recent embellishment marking the resting place of Hilda Dorothy Bacon who died on 29 October 1918 aged only 9 years and 5 months. The grave is in Section A9-5-53 and is well worth a visit and a pause. Many surviving relatives of those buried within the cemetery do care and it is refreshing to see commemorations such as this, however unconventional!



THE MILES FAMILY

By Sue Nea

The theme of our August 2014 tour was Worthing in World War 1, to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of war. To commence the necessary research I consulted copies of Worthing newspapers in Worthing library and made notes of any articles that included Worthing families who were affected by the war. I came across a particularly poignant story published in December 1917; Archie Miles served as a Private with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and he was injured in France. A telegram was sent to his wife Amelia, summoning her to France as Archie was lying dangerously injured in one of the Base hospitals. Amelia left her two elder children, Frederick and Marguerite in the care of their paternal grandparents, Hezekiah and Clara, whilst her 3 month old baby Tommy was placed in the care of Amelia's good friend and neighbour Iva Grover. The family lived at 2 Railway Cottages, Cross Street, Worthing.

On 17 December 1917 Archie sadly died from his wounds with Amelia at his bedside. She returned to England as a widow only to be met with the devastating news that baby Tommy had developed whooping cough and pneumonia whilst she was in France and the baby had died on the same day as his father.

My next task was to check cemetery burial records and I was able to determine that baby Tommy had indeed been buried in an unmarked grave in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The grave position was A9-6-42.

We included this moving story in our tour and placed poppies on the spot where Tommy was

buried. A few days after the tour I was contacted by the Worthing Herald who asked me and Chairman Debra Hillman to visit their offices to discuss the tour and the work that the Friends carry out at the cemetery. The Herald subsequently printed the Miles family story in the newspaper.

The following month, when we were preparing for the September tour a gentleman arrived at the cemetery and asked to see me, introducing himself as Roger Miles, Archie and Amelia's grandson; his father was Tommy's elder brother Frederick. Roger had heard bits of the story before but he had never had the facts and was keen to find out where I had obtained my information. I was happy to give him a copy of the newspaper article confirming everything and we were able to take Roger to the place where his Uncle Tommy is buried.

John Stepney, a Friends of the cemetery, was able to assist Roger by making a wooden cross to mark Tommy's grave and Roger had a brass plaque made which was fixed to the cross.

The story was completed on 1 November 2014 when we held another Great War tour that once again included the Miles family story. Roger, his wife Stephanie came to the tour from his home in Angmering; his eldest brother Peter and his wife Christine travelled from Woking in Surrey and his younger brother Nigel and his wife Sharon came from their home in Worthing. The family were able to visit the grave and pay their respects by placing an arrangement of flowers on the grave and see the beautiful wooden cross that now marks the final resting place of baby Tommy Miles.

The story has now gone full circle and brought three brothers to the grave of their uncle and to remember the sad circumstances of his and their grandfather's deaths and to also remember that brave lady, Amelia, their grandmother. The view below shows the family and the cross.



[Photo: Courtesy Miles family]

CANADIAN SOLDIER VISITS WORTHING DURING 1917

By John Vaughan

Although I am English and of English parents (born in Kenley, Surrey and Littlehampton, Sussex respectively) I was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. My (Step) grandfather, Vincent Mifsud (1881-1982) did what a number of Canadians did during the First World War and joined the armed forces. His poor eyesight resulted in him being allocated to the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Vincent arrived in England in 1917 and his description of the train journey from Liverpool to Westenhanger in Kent in a non-corridor compartment carriage, with no toilet facilities, was vivid! I always remember him telling me that you could hear the boom of the guns in France from his camp in Kent. One Sunday he and an army pal went out for Sunday lunch but when they went into the restaurant they were told "we don't serve soldiers in here" – all this while men were being blown to pieces just 30 miles distant!

In 1917 Vincent visited Worthing to meet my Great Grandfather (his Father-in-Law), William Austin Morley who was of course the father of Vincent's wife, Laura Mabel Morley. William lived in 'St Clair', Northcourt Road, Worthing, where the photograph below was taken. This was their only meeting and this is the only surviving photograph, which has been saved for posterity.

William Austin Morley died one year later in 1918 and he is buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, at grave B15-12-4, which the writer still maintains. The faded photograph must be one of the very few surviving pictures of a Canadian soldier from the Great War in full uniform in Worthing. Although Vincent was never posted to or billeted in Worthing he did visit and there is clearly local interest in the image, even though local papers chose not to publish the feature.

For the record Vincent survived the Great War. He was not on the front line but he saw some gruesome sights in Northern France. He died when 100 years and 8 months of age in an old soldier's home in Vancouver, Canada, on 20 January 1982, having last visited the writer and his family in 1977 when he was 96 years of age. Imagine flying across the Canadian continent and the Atlantic Ocean at that age! This is all just another little bit of history that in military terms was checked and confirmed by our Military Researcher John Stepney, who traced documentation back to 1917. Thanks John.

All of this poses one question; why would a Canadian living 6,000 miles away join up and risk his life for a war so far away? Full credit must be given to the Canadians and other Commonwealth allies for their remarkable contribution to these conflicts.



SLUGS AND SNAILS

It has been reported by Anne Powell that while searching for a grave in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery with a new Friend, Gill Heasman, a lady approached them with a box contained inside a carrier bag. Anne asked her if they could help. “No thanks” came the reply, as the lady explained that she was simply re-homing slugs and snails from her garden to the cemetery! Anne commented that at least this would result in an additional food source for the resident birds. Your Editor had also come across this lady, who he photographed on a tour day just before she made another ‘deposit’.



CEMETERY HUMOUR

Notice in a Funeral Directors window: "Secure your future – ask about our funeral plans – discounts available for regular customers".

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Mel Blanc the man behind the voices of many Warner Brothers cartoon characters has engraved on his headstone **"That's All Folks"!**

……

The American singer, actor and rat pack member Frank Sinatra has the inscription engraved on his gravestone **"The best is yet to come"**; a line from one of his songs.

……

Its bigger and better in the good old USA: Bellefontaine Cemetery in West Florissant Avenue, St Louis was established in 1849 with the first burial taking place a year later, just in time for a local cholera epidemic. It now comprises 314 acres of beautifully maintained grounds and 14 miles of paved roads, with numerous king size monuments and mausoleums. ['Beautifully maintained?' - makes us sound like a very poor relation – how about it UK.-Ed.]

……..

Teacher Mary was talking to her class of children about being good and going to heaven. At the end of her talk she asks little Suzy where she wanted to go. "Heaven" came the reply. "And what do you have to be to get to heaven?" the teacher asks. "Six feet under" shouted little Johnny from the back of the class!

……..

Reported in the Portsmouth 'Daily Echo' on 14 August 2014. "A man was fined for pretending to be a ghost in a cemetery. Anthony Stallard had been kicking a football around Kingston Cemetery in Portsmouth. A group of people were visiting the grave of their loved ones when Stallard began shouting "woooo-woooo" at the mourners. He then waved his arms around and pretended to be a ghost. Police were alerted and they arrested and charged Stallard, aged 24, with using threatening or abusive words or behaviour likely to cause distress. He was fined £35 and ordered to pay the victims £20 and was charged court costs of £20" [another example of our 'wet' judicial system-Ed.].Also 3 months were added to an existing 12 month suspended sentence as a result of his actions [wow-a real deterrent-Ed.].

TREASURER POSITIVE ON FINANCES

At the AGM at the end of October the FBWC Treasurer was positive on finances, reporting that after paying in full for 'The Friends Bench' the annual accounts showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £294.25. We went forward into the new 2014/15 accounting year with a credit balance of £4,612.57, comprising £4,539.43 at bank and £73.14 cash in the form of working floats. There had been a huge increase in donations during 2014, other sources of income being record membership fees, an increase in book sales and profits from refreshment sales. Money would be available for all reasonable and justified 'Wish List items. The accounts had been signed-off by the Chairman on 25 October 2014. Anybody requiring an electronic copy of the accounts should e-mail the Treasurer at jamv@ntlworld.com .

BIRDS, BATS AND BEES HAPPY

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have already been pro-active in playing their part in protecting and caring for the environment. On the October 2014 maintenance day Paul Robards and Anthony Allchin performed death defying aerial acts by fixing six bird boxes and two of the more complex bat boxes to stout tree trunks at an appropriate height, within the boundaries of the cemetery. The boxes had been expertly made by septuagenarian, Friend and former Worthing High School for Boys pupil John Stepney. [Photos: P Robards]





The Friends were also recently approached by Worthing Beekeepers Association, which is looking for a place to site hives. The Council, which owns the land, support the idea. The next step along the path of progress is awaited but honey sandwiches could soon be on the menu of the stalwart maintainers of the cemetery. Join the gang – **10.00 on the last Saturday of every month throughout the autumn and winter.**

DONATIONS – A SIMPLE MESSAGE

No details will be mentioned because the number and size of donations this year have been overwhelming, ranging from a few coppers in a bucket to three figure sums for headstone restoration and special services rendered by the Friends. However a massive vote of thanks to **John Stepney, Frank Ffitch, Debra Hillman, Norman Linfield, Peter Bottomley; and all Friends who have provided a public service and been rewarded by unsolicited donations** from a wide range of sources, including grave finding and talks to clubs and special tours. Please do not feel excluded if your specific activity and reward has not been specially mentioned. Donations totalled £754.77, sufficient to pay for 'The Friends Bench' with change, and an increase of 98.6% over last year.

WELL DONE ALL - FROM A GRATEFUL TREASURER

CLEARANCE AND NATURE WATCH

Based on notes By Paul Robards

This year there have been a solid group of regular stalwarts who have arrived at the cemetery at 10.00 on the last Saturday of every months to assist with clearance and maintenance tasks. They will know who they are and have been regularly mentioned in my monthly reports. A considerable amount has been achieved this summer ranging from planting, preparing graves that are to be featured in forthcoming tours, clearing ivy from headstones, removing low hanging branches, especially where they overhang the footpaths and even affixing bird and bat boxes to tree trunks in elevated positions. The bird and bat boxes were superbly constructed by John Stepney and Anthony Allchin helped with the installation.

The latest clearance efforts were directed to section C20. Prior to that there was a lengthy session on a previous maintenance day turning and moving fallen and broken headstones, some of which had not seen the light of day for many a decade. In addition to general clearance there has also been much debate about the amount of effort that the Friends should be making within the cemetery to promote forna and flora, including in certain small selected areas allowing grasses to grow longer than elsewhere, in order to provide a suitable habitat for birds, butterflies and insects, bearing in mind the various life cycles. There are conflicts between these life cycles and the optimum time to cut the cemetery grasses generally and it is hoped that a selective approach will satisfy the majority of Friends.

There does of course need to be close liaison with the Council and there has been regular communication with them and also between our Chairman and the Parks and Foreshore group. There was a democratic vote at the Friends monthly meeting in September with 21 votes to 5 in favour of "in principle looking for areas (within the cemetery) where certain ideas can be trialled". Unfortunately since then the Council employees have run the main cutting machine over the prepared wildlife bank [after all the effort put into it - we really must take-up this nonsense at a high level-Ed.]. I have received encouraging remarks and good support regarding this wildlife project and we just need to get the Council workmen on board. Included below is a photograph of mum and daughter hard at work on one of our maintenance days. See you all (?) on Saturday 29 November 2014.



THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR TOURS

Your Editor photographed the foot apparel of one of our notable cemetery tour guides. This is not the start of a regular BROADSHEET quiz but it might be worth a guess – and before you say it, they are not mine! From the look of them they would best be seen at BOOT HILL!



THE SYERS FAMILY

By Sue Nea

During one of the Friends maintenance and clearance days it was necessary to move a large granite cross from its resting place for many a year to its rightful place on one of the Syers family graves. The Heavy gang were enlisted to help. As a result of this activity I embarked on a typical research activity in order to find out more about the family. My notes follow:

C13-1-36 Lavinia Syers
C13-2-35/36 Mary Helen, Walter Henry, Rose Aspinall and Edith Alice Syers
C13-2-37 Lavinia Margaret Knowles (nee Syers)

John Aspinall Syers was born in Liverpool in 1805; his parents were William Syers, a ship's chandler and later an auctioneer, and Margaret (nee Aspinall). John had two brothers, William and Thomas, and a sister, Mary Helen, who married Peter Ellis, a well-known architect in Liverpool who designed the Oriel Chambers building known for its ceiling and glass walls. John himself was a cotton broker and he married Lavinia Murphy (C13-1-36) at St George's Church in Everton on Christmas Eve 1835. [Below, the removed Syers family granite cross]



Lavinia Murphy was born in Stepney on 30 June 1816, her parents were John Murphy and Leanor, nee Coulson. They were married on 2 August 1815 at St Georges in the East Church, Stepney. Lavinia had had two siblings; Ellen born in 1818 and John Coulson Murphy in 1921. After their marriage John and Lavinia lived in Liverpool, Southport, Kenilworth and Leamington. They had at least five children; Lavinia Margaret, Mary Helen (named after her paternal aunt), Edith Alice, Rose Aspinall and Henry Walter (all buried in C13-2-35/36/37).

John Aspinall Syers died on 8 September 1882 at the family home of 38 Leam Terrace, Leamington, and probate records show that he left his estate of Over £23,000 to his only son Henry Walter Syers. By 1891 Lavinia, then aged 74 had moved to Worthing and lived at Clarendon Lodge, Victoria Road with her two daughters, Mary Ellen, aged 51, and Edith Alice, aged 42 years. They lived from their own means and employed two servants. Lavinia died at home on 15 February 1893 and was buried at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery five days later. The children:

Lavinia Margaret Syers was born on 13 October 1836 and baptised at St Anne's Church in Liverpool on 17 May 1838. She married Charles Knowles in Leamington on 28 April 1867. Charles was the Rector of the Parish Church of Winteringham in Lincolnshire. The couple lived in the rectory where they raised their children, Margaret Edith and Harold. Charles remained the Rector of the church for 33 years until he died on 26 December 1898. He was buried in the churchyard.

Mary Helen Syers was born on 20 August 1839 and after her father's death she moved to Worthing with her mother Lavinia. They lived at Clarendon Lodge, Victoria Road with her sister Edith. By the time of the 1911 census Mary was living alone at 'Ringstead', Cambridge Road, Worthing. However when she died on 28 April 1918 her home was 'Lancing House', Salisbury Road, Worthing. Probate records show that she left an estate of £210 to her sister, Rose Aspinall Syers, and her niece, Margaret Edith Knowles. Mary was buried on 1 May 1918.

Edith Alice Syers was baptised on 26 October 1848 in Holy Trinity Church, Southport and, like her sister Mary Helen, she moved to Worthing with her mother after her father's death. However in the 1911 census she had moved to Bristol where she lived alone. She was living back in Worthing when she died on 18 March 1919 at the above Salisbury Road address. She was buried on 22 March.

Rose Aspinall Syers was baptised on 3 September 1850 in Holy Trinity Church, Southport. She became a successful artist and one of her paintings, 'A Dutch Town', is exhibited in Sheffield Museum. She lived in Stanley Studios, Chelsea for many years but at the time of her death in 1932 she had moved to 69 Longridge Road, Earls Court, Kensington. Her probate record shows that she left her estate to her niece, Margaret Edith Knowles. Rose died on 18 March 1932 and was buried four days later in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery with her siblings.

Henry Walter Syers was born at Kenilworth and baptised on 11 June 1856 in All Saints Church, Leamington. He attended Leamington College and in 1872 went to Caius College, Cambridge. He studied science and took his degree in 1875 and M.A. in 1879. He took up medicine as his profession and worked in Westminster Hospital where he was appointed Medical Registrar and Tutor. In 1888 he began work at the Great Northern Central Hospital in Holloway Road, North London. He worked for 17 years mainly in the ever growing out-

patients department. His hobbies included music and languages and he was particularly interested in Arabic and Coptic (Egyptian) writings. On 10 October 1906, at the age of 54, Henry died from a septic infection that he received from a small scratch just one week earlier. He was brought to Worthing to be buried with the rest of his family.

MEMBERSHIP AT ALL TIME RECORD

Over the past 6 years the FBWC have steadily increased their total membership through hard work, tenacity and because the public have great faith in all that we are doing. In September 2014, towards of the membership year, our Membership Secretary Mary Pickett reported that we had a record 101 fully paid up members, or Friends, a significant achievement.

However enormous and rapid success comes at a price and with so many memberships now out for renewal it may well be that the figure of 101 members turns out to be a record that will stand for some time. We would all be delighted if this prediction turns out to be wrong. To our further credit many Friends have added a couple of pounds to their fee, sending to Mary cheques for £5.

Overall the membership is in a very healthy condition and long may that situation continue. However what we really need is more participating members to help with the multifarious tasks that we undertake. Well done Mary and to all who have effectively sold memberships.

BRINGING YOUNGSTERS 'ON BOARD'

By John Vaughan - based on notes from Paul Holden

Recently our Secretary and Media Officer Paul Holden and our Patron Tom Wye have been busy encouraging school children to take an interest in our Victorian burial ground; indeed it is the policy of the Friends to promote visits to the cemetery by children.

Groups from English Martyrs RC Primary School have already been taken round and they found the tour fascinating. Rain forced the postponement of another tour for Durrington Rainbows but hopefully it can be rearranged. In early November four classes from Broadwater CE First and Middle Schools were taken around the cemetery on guided tours by Paul Holden and Tom Wye.

The Friends are especially keen to get schools involved for the children of today are the custodians of the future. Paul and Tom were not sure how the first tour would go, and whether they could engage the children's interest, but they proved immensely enjoyable and informative. They fielded question after question from inquisitive minds about the people buried in the cemetery. They loved some of the stranger tales, such as the teenage girl buried in a glass coffin.

Paul got them to sing the school song at the grave of the opera singer Edward Lloyd and recite 'Mary had a Little Lamb' at the grave of Mary Hughes, said to be the authoress of the

rhyme. Overall it was a great success and teaches youngsters not only to respect the cemetery but also learn wonderful facts about the town's history.

The school's re-action to the November Broadwater schools tour was excellent and a feedback from teacher 'Paula' stated **"Thank you so much for the tours today. The staff that went were full of praise for the tour guides, their pitch and the information given. The children were 'full of it' when they got back to school. Can you please pass on our thanks to all involved. We really do appreciate all that you have done. It has helped to enrich our topic a great deal."** Well done Paul and Tom – that's what it's all about.

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Friend Chris Green has conducted a cemetery tour for the Ferring Conservation Group.

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THE FOULEST OF DEEDS

Your Editor has had to moderate his language considerably in reporting this item. Prior to the November tours when 120 children were due to be taken on tours of the cemetery, as reported above, Paul Holden and Tom Wye discovered two 'down and outs' (almost a euphemism) in the north chapel entrance. They had spat everywhere, there was a distinct odour of drugs but worst of all they had defecated against the chapel walls, leaving a disgusting mess.

Our Patron Tom Wye immediately used his Council contacts to get a cleaning gang on site and the employees did a magnificent job in quickly cleaning and disinfecting the appalling mess. The mess was cleared before the 120 schoolchildren arrived. Sometimes in this life decent folk can fall on hard times but there can be no defense whatsoever for the foul behaviour of these people, leaving excrement in a public place. They serve absolutely no useful purpose in this life and are offensive to the community at large. Please ask me privately if you want to know what I would do with these individuals; unfortunately there is no room for them below ground in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery!

Tom Wye has sent relevant e-mails to the Council and the Police and asked for patrols to be 'stepped-up'. We must eradicate this menace and if Friends have time or are in the area please drop into the cemetery for, shall we say, quiet observation.

A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



Photo: Paul Holden]

As widely reported in the press this year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and 70 years since the D-Day landings in the Second World War. Our 88-year-old Monarch has led the country in Remembrance services nationwide.

On Saturday 8 November 2014 at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery a moving service was conducted by the Rev David Farrant padre to CESA, and representatives of all branches of the armed forces were represented, in addition to the Mayor of Worthing and civic dignitaries. This year the proceedings were not attended by the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts because they wanted to attend the main event at the War Memorial adjacent to the Town Hall. Many Friends of the cemetery were present and as usual the British Legion was present in some numbers. It was great to see this fine tradition at the Cross of Sacrifice continue.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

This is, in page number terms, **the largest BROADSHEET yet produced** at 24 pages. The reasons for this are many fold. Firstly the triannual production inevitably means an increase in pages compared to the quarterly product, secondly the Friends are so busy that there is, seemingly, always an awful lot happening and therefore much to report, thirdly the popular inclusion of photographs inevitably consumes space and fourthly the scope for editorial freedom produces a small number of items that are relevant to cemeteries but not necessarily 'our' cemetery.

At the time of publication and distribution no firm arrangements had been made regarding a Christmas drink celebration but I suspect it will again be at The Cricketers in Broadwater. Look out for an e-mail from our honourable Secretary after the monthly meeting on 28 November 2014. Anybody looking for a review of cemetery tours for the full year should refer to BROADSHEET No.22 Summer 2014 where early season tours were described.

It was satisfying that all of our officers and therefore committee members were prepared to stand again. This prevents major problems occurring and maintains a largely happy band of people who can demonstrably work together. I enlisted the help of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends to prepare an article on why Friends groups cease to operate. Sometimes it can be apathy, sometimes disillusionment with local authorities, sometimes because officers retire without there being replacements and sometimes it can be through a lack of harmony within the group, leading to acrimony, resignations and eventual abandonment. This feature will appear in the next issue. These issues must not be allowed to happen within the FBWC and with Debra in the Chair they will not. Hopefully we can all work and laugh together.

Enjoy the issue and I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very pleasant Christmas and let us all hope for a happy, prosperous but above all healthy New Year. Articles/comments to jamv@ntlworld.com

John Vaughan **Editor**