THE BROADSHEET

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THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

COUNCIL CONFIRMS 'OPEN DOOR' FOR NEW GRASS CUTTING POLICY

Following the exciting news, notified to your Editor by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, that the Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemetery have been awarded the best Churchyard and Cemetery Award by 'Anglia in Bloom', a fresh approach has been made by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to the Head of Environment, Adur and Worthing Councils, Andy Edwards, regarding the future mowing regime for 'our' cemetery.

An enlightened Andy Edwards confirmed in late February 2015 that he and the Council have an **'Open Door'** to any proposals that the Friends may have. In view of the fact that 78% of the voting Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery were in favour of some gesture being made to promote seasonal flower growth to the benefit of wildlife and insects and, by implication, improving the aesthetics of our large site, we will be formulating a 'new approach' policy for consideration by the Council during 2015. In fact Andy Edwards mentioned in a very positive communication that he had been in contact with South and South East in Bloom to promote sites and community groups who may become involved in the competition and he thought that the FBWC stood an 'excellent chance of recognition' in view of all the work and commitment that we have put in (over the past 7 years). There was insufficient time for us to formulate a new policy for presentation to the Council now but watch this space. Andy has stated that he "would be happy to attend a meeting with Friends to discuss their proposals, taking into account the various representations." We hope that the majority view, well presented, will prevail and that intransigence and any Luddite tendencies evaporate. [Below: 'our' cemetery in bloom! All photos by Editor unless otherwise credited.]



It should be added that the positive approach by the Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemetery came up with a comprehensive plan whereby two areas of the cemetery were not cut in the spring flowering season and another two areas were not cut in the summer flowering season. The Friends helped rake old grass which allowed nutrients to enter the soil. In total these four areas comprised only part of the overall cemetery. Interpretation panels were erected to explain to the general public why the grass was not being cut at a particular time in certain areas and what flowers they should be looking out for. There was both school and local community involvement, which helped them win the award. Well done Great Yarmouth!

FBWC CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

As detailed in the last issue of the BROADSHEET, 2014 was a record breaking year and it is gratifying to be able to anticipate our many 2015 activities positively. 2014 saw membership peak at just over 100 (although this has settled at about 90) and the number of visitors on Saturday tours shows no sign of declining. The venture into Sunday tours, begun in 2013 with limited success, also found its feet last year. Attendance was up, feedback very positive and these will form an integral part of our comprehensive tour programme for 2015.

I was personally very pleased to see the launch of the self-guided Broadwater Cemetery Trail; a leaflet produced as part of the Worthing Heritage Trails project, that I worked on with a small group of the Friends. The trails leaflets produced during the course of the project (12 in total) have proved to be very popular with the public and it is great that the cemetery was chosen as the focus for one of them. It has offered another outlet for raising awareness of the site and encouraging people to visit.

The natural side of the cemetery does not escape mention either. The small core of regular helpers worked tirelessly and did a sterling job of trying to keep this vast site tidy. I am sure I speak for all those involved when I say that more volunteers would be welcomed with open arms [there are about 15 'regulars' –Ed.]. The year did not, however, pass uneventfully. We had grass so tall at one point that we were in danger of losing some of our members in it, let alone headstones. Views differed on how we should approach the Council regarding grass cutting policy and feelings ran high when some of the suggestions were discussed. I hope that we always give members the opportunity to express their opinions and that we can continue as a group, to find workable solutions that are acceptable to the majority of people.



Our 'hands on' Chairman on maintenance duties.

We are already on track for our 2015 summer tours and clearance work has continued throughout the winter. My main focus for the year is to digitise the Monumental Inscriptions that have been painstakingly recorded over the past several years. I have been delighted with the response from members offering to help with this project and I am hopeful that by the end of the year we will have a database that will be accessible from our website, searchable by Name and Plot Reference.

It is an achievement in itself that the Friends group is still going forward with a strong membership and a sound financial base, 2 years after the completion of the Heritage Lottery funded project and nearly 7 years after our incorporation. I am grateful for your enthusiasm, energy and support. [Our chairman **DEBRA HILLMAN** will, in future, prepare a Statement annually for publication in the BROADSHEET – Ed.]

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (1)
A LIST OF 2015 GENERAL MEETING DATES

January 30

February 27

March 27

May 29

June 26

July 31

September 25

November 27 (Annual General Meeting)

Please note all of these meetings in your diary now. All meeting are held in the Gordon Rooms in Stoke Abbot Road – just around the corner from the Town Hall and all meetings start promptly at 18.00 hours (6pm). All Friends of FBWC are welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (2)
A LIST OF ALL 2015 MAINTENANCE DAYS

Maintenance Days are held on the last Saturday of every month starting at 10.00 and last two hours. Meet at the cemetery chapels. All are welcome, some tools and gloves provided. Just turn up.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (3)
A LIST OF ALL 2015 CEMETERY TOURS

May 2	Saturday	11.00	**Unusual Deaths**	(retold)
June 6	Saturday	11.00	**Transport**	(new tour)
July 4	Saturday	11.00	**Spanish Flu Epidemic**	(new tour)
July 12	Sunday	14.00	**Typhoid Epidemic**	(retold)
August 1	Saturday	**[**10.00 to 15.00	**OPEN DAY]**	
		11.00	**Worthing, A Seaside Resort**	(new tour)
		14.00	**Worthing, A Seaside Resort**	(retold)
August 9	Sunday	14.00	**Nurserymen & Growers**	(retold)
September 5	Saturday	11.00	**Entertainment & The Arts**	(retold)
September 13	Sunday	14.00	**Canadian & American Connections**	(new tour)
October 3	Saturday	11.00	**Old Worthing Families**	(new tour)
November 7	Saturday	11.00	**The Great War**	(updated)



[A beautifully maintained grave – as it used to be]



The FBWC Grasshopper says "Maintainers Needed – NOW". [Photo: Paul Robards]

COME AND JOIN US WITH MAINTENANCE

If you want to help your FBWC colleagues and join them in their efforts with clearance and cemetery maintenance come and join us on the last Saturday of EVERY month.

You can be employed on light duties such as ivy removal from headstones, medium duties such as cutting down brambles and undergrowth or heavy duties with occasional headstone 'transplants'. You can work on your own if you wish, bring a friend or work with small or larger groups. It is fun and there is a wonderful atmosphere, with light hearted banter. Several tools are provided and from to time even a treat, in this case mince pies! See below:


Mince pie time! Maintenance in December.

MONEY AND PEOPLE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Our Treasurer John Vaughan reports that the FBWC presently has £4,820.74 at Bank and £96.60 held in cash in various floats, giving a total 'wealth' of £4,917.34. All fixed assets have been written down to zero. The FBWC are about to procure a special printer that will facilitate our successful booklet production. The anticipated cost is £127.10. Our Membership Secretary Mary Pickett reports that our current fully paid up membership amounts to 88 Friends, a renewal rate of over 87%, which is excellent.

WHY DO CEMETERY FRIEND GROUPS FAIL

By John Vaughan

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery are fortunate in that through the hard and dedicated work of its members the group is now enjoying its seventh year of existence with nearly 90 fully paid up members, up to 30 of which regularly attend meetings and up to 15 of which are seasoned and reliable cemetery maintainers, with a strong 10 person committee. 2014 was a record breaking year, as reported in the last issue of the BROADSHEET.

However any organisation such as the FBWC does not run on autopilot and considerable planning, policy and programme decisions need to be made in an ever evolving environment. There can be no room for over-confidence and at the end of the day the group needs to democratically sing from the same hymn sheet. There is no room for dominant and inflexible people who do not at least listen to the views of others or who become petulant because, now and then, everything does not go 'their' way and the majority do not share their views.

With the valuable assistance of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, whose help is hereby acknowledged, we reveal here for the first time, some of the reasons why groups of cemetery Friends fail. Your Editor has been given the precise locations of the various groups referred to in this article but they will remain confidential.

A group was formed in an industrial town in Yorkshire but they received no cooperation from their local council. Promises were broken and the council offered no support, which meant that the group could not progress or undertake any activities on council owned land without authority. The group eventually disbanded.

A group in Hampshire is hanging on by a thread. The group became well established but their previous officers left in despair at the behaviour of their local council, a problem the FBWC thankfully does not have.

Another group of Friends was formed but they didn't want to conduct tours and in addition they were overwhelmed by a large nearby London cemetery. With limited goals and few objectives the group slowly withered on the vine.

A group in the far North West was a typical small group driven by a couple of enthusiasts, who, with the passing of time grew old themselves and could not find anybody to take over the organisation. Exactly the same thing happened in a well-known Somerset town. Both groups folded.

In the heart of a major city in the Midlands a group was started by an enthusiast but eventually they couldn't face all of the problems. They carried on for a number of years but eventually the group didn't even hold an AGM and the person left doing everything (a committee of one!) had to call a halt.

One of the facts of life in this context is that in the early days of a new group there is much to plan and do. Everything is novel and there are numerous challenges to address and overcome. After a year or two when the group is running smoothly and activities are well established the work is not so attractive. The hard core of committee members and meeting attendees will have bonded and it can appear to the general membership and to new recruits that the

organisation is 'cliquey' and something of a closed shop. Also, as the years pass membership populations get older and they can no longer undertake some of the activities necessary to meet stated aims and objectives. In these circumstances new blood can sometimes be hard to find. So, the message here is that we all need to try hard, have some exciting and novel plans to interest members and the general public, which with possible emerging 'rival' Friends groups should keep all of us at FBWC on our toes with no room for complacency. With such great people on board we should all be able to celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2018. We do need help in certain areas, such as publicity for our activities and in clearance, so if you have the time and the inclination to do just that little bit more then let our Chairman know.

FOLKS WHO REGULARLY 'DO THEIR BIT'

Below we feature a couple of 'guys' who regularly 'do their bit' on cemetery maintenance days; the always cheerful Mike and Mo Bailey. They always like to say "Yes".





[Photos: Paul Robards]

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE By Sue Nea

During a Civilian Research session in the Worthing Reference Library I came across the attached reader's letter from the **5 August 1931** issue of the **'Worthing Gazette'**

BROADWATER CEMETERY – ANOTHER COMPLAINT

To The Editor of the 'Worthing Gazette'

Sir, Can nothing be done to call the attention of the Town Council to the disgraceful condition of Broadwater Cemetery?

Money is not spared on the upkeep of the beautiful public gardens; surely, then, the ratepayers have a right to demand that the burial ground of those we loved should be kept in a decent order?

A Ratepayer, Worthing.


Winter snowdrops. [Photo: Paul Robards]

MUNTJAC DEER IN READING CEMETERY

By John Vaughan

Most of the wildlife in the splendid oasis that Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery is ranges from foxes, squirrels, birds, butterflies to insects, however in Reading Cemetery at Cemetery Junction there has, for some time, been resident Muntjac deer, sometimes called 'barking deer'. Members of the public visit the cemetery to view the herd of about eight beasts. These visits are welcomed by the Friends of Cemetery Junction, obviously a progressive bunch, not worried about a 'zoo' image! The deer have no fixed breeding season and they continually breed throughout the year.

In January 2015 there was a shock in store for the Friends when one of the deer was found to have been savaged with the various limbs of the animal found within the boundary of the cemetery. Some postulate that a large dog may have attacked the deer, others say the deer may have been killed for its prized meat (allegedly tasty and valuable), while some suggest it may have been involved in a traffic accident; just reaching the cemetery before it died, and that the main body of the beast (which was missing) may have provided food for the likes of local foxes and smaller wildlife. This could explain the distribution of certain limbs.

It was later reported that a second deer had been killed and this had caused the local authority to impose a complete dog ban in the cemetery. Also, curiously, the local police have a base located at the entrance to the cemetery and yet no reports of dog fighting have reached them. However there was one report of three men and a Japanese hunting dog having been seen in the vicinity. In addition to the dog ban security has been increased and special vigilance imposed. However the cause of death of the deer remains unknown.

HEENE CEMETERY FRIENDS GROUP

During November 2014 a new group called The Friends of Heene Cemetery (St Michael's Graveyard) was formed. It is understood that a certain amount of clearance work has already been undertaken and that summer tours of the cemetery are envisaged. In view of the past efforts **expended by our FBWC group,** in maintaining (particularly) war graves at Heene Cemetery, pre-Remembrance Day, your Editor thought you would all like to know. The group is supported by Adur and Worthing Parks and Foreshore Section and Park Rangers attend working parties. The FWBC wish the group well, even if they are potential competitors!

THE FRIENDS GO 'GAY'



Maintenance and Clearance coordinator Paul Robards has been out shopping in the Robert Dyas sale. In addition to a pair of shears Paul purchased some new gardening gloves for use by the FBWC on clearance days. As modelled here by Mary Pickett, the gloves are extremely gay in colour. Although not yet modelled, please tell us Paul that the men's gloves are NOT the same colour or pattern? They do look like oven gloves – are you sure they're not?

FBWC PUBLISHING FAME SPREADS

As part of the Legal Deposit Libraries legislation the LDL Agency approached the FBWC for copies of our publications 'Worthing in World War 1' and 'Even More Unusual Deaths'. They are very selective in what they procure and being a legal requirement the publishers are expected to meet the cost of provision and postage. Your Treasurer has complied with the law (what do you mean "that makes a change"?), supplied the books and an acknowledgement has now been received.

As a result of the above our booklet products prepared by our researchers now reside in; The British Library, The Bodlean Library Oxford University, The Cambridge University Library, Trinity College Dublin Library, The National Library of Scotland and The National Library of Wales. This is a remarkable achievement and we should all be proud of the ever growing list of FBWC publications. Thanks go to Sue Nea and Mary Pickett for producing the additional booklets quickly, which due to high demand were out of print.

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Below is a photograph of the egg shell remains on one of the graves that was targeted by vandals. The egg throwing appears to have been a one-off incident. The Boxall grave has since been cleaned in addition to a couple of others. We are all being vigilant.



[Photo: Paul Robards]

CEMETERY HUMOUR

Don't take life too seriously – you won't get out alive.

When I die I am leaving my body to science fiction!

Sex is one of nine reasons for re-incarnation. The other eight are unimportant.

"What's the death rate around here?" – "The same as everywhere else; one per person".

I'm not afraid to die. I just don't want to be there at the time.

"My uncle Jack died the other day". "What of?" "I don't know but it was nothing serious."

A man goes to the library and asks for a book about suicide. The Librarian says "Section A, Shelf 4." The man says "But that's empty" to which the Librarian says "I'm not surprised they don't often bring the books back!"

A woman goes to the doctor for her annual check-up and is told she has only one day to live. She rushes home to her husband and says "I want us to spend our last night together having wild and crazy sex." The husband says "That might be alright for you but I've got to get up in the morning!"

It used to be only death and taxes that were inevitable upon death but nowadays there's shipping and handling too.

Headstone in a churchyard at Edwalton, Nottinghamshire:

Rebecca Freeland - Died 1741

'She drank good ale
Good punch and good wine
And lived to the age of 99'

SNELL HATCH CEMETERY

Crawley Borough Council has agreed to build the town's new cemetery at Little Trees, near Tollgate Hill. The 12 acre site is on council-owned land adjacent to the A264 Crawley South West By-Pass. They are inviting members of the public to have their say on the layout of the new cemetery, which will provide enough cemetery space for up to 50 years.

In addition to the above, at the time of writing, residents, faith groups and community groups are also being given the chance to comment on the layout of the new cemetery in accordance with the provisions of a consultation stage, whereby the council are seeking feedback to their plans. However the closing date was 8 March 2015 and so sorry, you're too late to contribute! Proposals have been drawn up showing the location of various types of burials on the site. The cemetery will be opened in various phases. The council are also offering 'drop-in' sessions, presumably to the council offices and not the cemetery!

‘THE GUARDIAN’ CAUSES ANGER TO SOME

“GREAT WAR COMMEMORATIONS HAVE LOST ALL SENSE OF PROPORTION”!

By John Vaughan

For as long as your Editor can remember there has rightly been an annual commemoration for all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, particularly in the two World Wars. These men and women gave their lives in the defence of our British culture. War memorials are part of the infrastructure of all UK cities, towns and villages **and so it should be.** There are additional memorials such as the Cross of Sacrifice in ‘our’ cemetery, erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1925.

The FBWC have certainly done their bit to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War, having conducted two special tours in 2014 with another planned for 2015. In the past the Friends have always paid special attention to military graves and indeed one of our experts, Chris Green, authored his wonderful 2012, FBWC published, ‘Military Burials & Inscriptions of the 20th Century World Wars’ book.

In addition, although not directly related to the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, John Stepney, Tom Wye and researchers have embarked on a project to record all 663 names on the Worthing War Memorial who died in World War 1 and make the results of the research available to the public. They are attacking the task in year order and have now reached the year 1918. Each victim gets one page irrespective of their details or rank. As much information as possible is included within the space, including background, education, details of their civilian and military life, such as enlistment date, regiment, battles fought, medals awarded etc. plus a picture of the grave and memorial the person is remembered on and a photograph of the house they lived in. The information will be made available to the public and details are available in the library and museum. There is a copy in the Town Hall.

However notwithstanding our efforts the national picture has been very mixed, with the commemorations attracting considerable criticism. Some say that there will be four years of commemorations as battles such as Gallipoli 1915, the Somme and Jutland 1916, Passchendaele 1917, Amiens and Armistice 1918 roll out anniversaries. In the UK, Canada and Australia commentators have pointed out that the vast cost of running these celebrations hugely exceeds the amounts being made available for treatment of those returning from more recent battles. Michael Blais, President of the Canadian Veterans Advocacy says that the amounts being spent on commemorations of old wars were **‘obscene’**. Nearly C$150m has been earmarked! Another example came from Sir Peter Wall, Chief of the General Staff who stated that “recent wars have bred a ‘warrior generation’ of soldiers eager to take the fight to any available enemy – even back to Afghanistan, of all places. All military personnel should read the history of Afghanistan before committing British troops to that area.”

The most vicious attack came from Simon Jenkins in ‘The Guardian’ newspaper. He said that “the Great War commemorations have become a nightly pornography of violence and had **lost all sense of proportion**. It has become a media theme park, an indigestible cross between Downton Abbey and a horror movie. I cannot walk down the street or turn on the

television without being bombarded by Great War diaries, poems, scrapbooks and songs. The BBC has gone war mad with Great War plays, proms, bake-ins, gardens and even a Great War Countryfile. There is the Great War and the Commonwealth, the Great War and feminism, Great War fashion shows and souvenirs. There are reportedly 8,000 books on the war in print. Even the Royal Mail issued presentation stamps that 'enable you to enjoy both the stories and the stamps'. Enjoy?" Familiarity will undoubtedly breed total indifference to it all.

Another viewpoint advocated in the press is the sad fact that many tens of thousands of the military personnel killed in battle particularly in the two World Wars was the direct result of **gross incompetence** of certain British Generals and Officers, who should not be afforded any due deference. Field Marshall Douglas Haig typified what historians have called 'The worst World War 1 General', 'a buffoon' and an example of 'class based incompetent commanders'. The following note was written by a noted historian: 'The commander of the British forces during the disastrous Battle of the Somme in 1916, Haig, has the distinction of overseeing the greatest single day loss of British lives in history; on the morning of 1 July 1916 60,000 troops – 20% of the entire British fighting force engaged – were killed or wounded (including all but 68 men of the 801 strong1st Newfoundland Regiment) in an offensive that failed to gain a single one of its objectives. Haig, ever the optimist however, did not consider the enormity of the casualties inflicted all that bad and even wrote in his diary '*the total casualties cannot be considered severe in view of the numbers engaged, and the length of the front attacked'.* Of course today such incompetency would result in immediate sacking of the offending buffoon but things were different back then. In fact Haig would continue to oversee the British forces for the rest of the war and was even promoted to Field Marshall for his fine work. Under his 'auspicious' leadership some 800,000 British soldiers would ultimately die.

Clearly there is not necessarily a link between rank and intelligence or war 'savvy'. However the UK and allies did win the Great War! Others have stated that it is all very well to hold World War commemorations if lessons have been learned but with the British participating in three recent unprovoked wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya at vast cost, massive destruction with no obvious benefit, and above all else with yet another crop of appalling British military casualties, there is little to commemorate and nothing to celebrate, **lessons of past wars clearly have not been learned.** Precisely what did one of our troops, say, lose a leg for?

There is even chaos and confusion within a special government committee. Sebastion Faulks, the author of the Great War novel 'Birdsong' has resisted a celebratory element while others such as the historian Professor Sir Hugh Strachan have called for more celebration, accusing the government of ducking debate. Some have discussed what should constitute a notable anniversary. The centenary of an event would seem to be justified and even half a century might just be considered worthy but now we have spurious 70 year milestones and one wonders whether it will soon be 42 years or 68 years. Also where do you draw the line on these celebrations? Will the battle of Watling Street 61AD, Edington 878AD, Agincourt 1415 or Waterloo 1815 be commemorated? Some wonder why centuries old Irish battles and confrontations should result in marches. Where does it begin and end, with many asking **should any war or battle be commemorated?** Except for the FBWC many are apathetic.

As Captain James Brown of the Australian Army put it after the Australian government allocated A$325m for Great War commemorations "ANZAC day has become a lavish festival of the dead and money would be better spent supporting returning soldiers. At war memorials it should be 'Let silent contemplation be your offering', but instead we are about to embark on a four year festival for the dead, which in some instances looks like a military Halloween.

GREAT FBWC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Your Editor hopes you didn't miss the FBWC Christmas celebrations held at the Cricketers public house in Broadwater during December. A total of 14 Friends turned up and except for a double dose of musical chairs, as we were obliged to move from one part of the establishment to the other, a good time was had by all, as seen in the images below.





CONGRATULATIONS WORTHING JOURNAL

Your Editor is truly delighted to offer, on behalf of all Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, our hearty congratulations and best wishes to Paul Holden owner and Editor of the prestigious monthly 'Worthing Journal' for publishing the 50th issue, effectively the Journal's Golden Anniversary. The 'WJ' faithfully reports on, records and advertises all of the activities undertaken by the Friends, providing valuable and gratuitous publicity for the FBWC. The 'Worthing Journal' reports on all matters local, with particular emphasis on the merits of Worthing, the history of Worthing and above all else the people of Worthing. Well done for achieving this milestone and long may Paul and the 'WJ' prosper. Thank you from us all.

PRIVATE JOHN PEACOCK

By John Stepney

I have just solved a mystery that has been puzzling me for a long time. While Pam and I were recording Monumental Inscriptions in Section A9, about 5 years ago, we made the following note:

"Peacock, John died 6 February 1918. I cannot find where this scroll should be. We found it on the Chapman family grave in Section A9. The scroll says 'John Peacock died of wounds 6 February 1931 aged 31'. I did some research and found that he was the son of George and Sarah and the husband of Harriett (nee Ayling) and lived at 20 St Michael's Road, Worthing. He was born in March 1887. In June 1911 he was in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Service no.G25500. He was buried in Tincourt British Cemetery in France. There are other Peacocks in the cemetery but I cannot find his parents or wife."

This week (25 February 2015) whilst researching the World War 1 soldiers I (again) researched a John Peacock. I found that in 1911 he married Harriett Ayling. Somehow, perhaps, my brain was working on that day and I remembered the Peacock scroll in the cemetery. Sure enough I was able to find its 'proper' home. We found the scroll on A9-3-48 and as my 5 year old notes stated I could not find a Peacock there and so left it on the grave. Then on looking at the scroll again and knowing of the marriage I looked at the position again. In A9-2-48 Harriett's parents are buried and they have now been there for over 100 years. The scroll had at some time been moved just one row away, possibly by the grass mowing gang. So, the mystery has been solved and Pam and I have since restored the scroll to its rightful position.

To add a few facts John Peacock was born in Brentford, Middlesex in 1886 to parents George and Sarah (nee Rust). George was a nurseryman by trade. George and Sarah had married in 1882 and they eventually had two daughters and three sons, including John. On removal to Worthing they lived at 5 Ann Street but later moved to Nursery Cottages, Wick. George had his own nursery in Littlehampton, where John worked with his father. He married Harriett Ayling in 1911, the daughter of William Ayling, a plasterer of Clifton Road, Worthing. The newlyweds made their home at 20 St Michael's Road, Worthing. After his death in 1918 John Peacock was remembered on the War Memorial at Wick. His widow placed a memorial notice in the local paper, which read "Someday we'll know, someday we'll understand".



Removing the ivy; December clearance day.

AMAZING CLEARANCE FINDS

Those who do not or cannot assist with cemetery maintenance tasks not only miss the satisfaction of clearing a group of overgrown headstones but also, on occasions, interesting discoveries. During the January 2015 clearance Saturday Mike and Mo Bailey (see Page 7) unearthed this delightful little stone with the charming inscription "SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS". The little monument had not been seen for many years.



A charming memorial discovered.

During the end of February 2015 clearance day a piece of stone was found under the massive trunk of a fallen tree, no doubt a victim of the great storm of 1987. After much digging it became obvious that the stone was part of a smashed headstone. Other pieces were discovered and after much heavy work eventually recovered, with the FBWC team then attempting a 'jigsaw' exercise to fit the segments together. Paul Robards and Frank Ffitch were the men getting dirty, while our Chairman performed oversight and management duties!


Lost for 28 years, since the 1987 storm.

Amongst the Friends maintaining during 2015 have been Frank Ffitch, Paul Robards, Sue Nea, John Vaughan, Mary Pickett, Debra Hillman, Jeff Hillman, Gillian Heasman, Mike and Mo Bailey, Pat and Mike Parrott, Tony Clansby, Antony Allchin **and others**, as well as those who often maintain mid-week in their own time, including John and Pam Stepney and David Styles. Your help would be welcome on the last Saturday of the month, every month, throughout the year. Work at your own pace, keep fit, and see you next time (see Page 5)!

ADMIRAL JOHN LYONS d.1872 Plot C4-1-18

By Humphrey Palmer

Admiral John Lyons was born on 1 September 1787 and just over a year later he was baptised at Lyndhurst in Hampshire. He was the eldest son of John Lyons of Antigua and of St Austens House, Lymington, Hampshire, and his wife Catherine, daughter of Maine Swete Walrond 5th Marquis de Vallado. Admiral John Lyons died in December 1872 aged 85 and is buried in **Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in plot C4-1-18.** It should be noted that Admiral John Lyons was the elder brother of Admiral Lord Edmund Lyons G.C.B., K.C.H., whose daughter Augusta Mary Minna Catherine married the 14th future Duke of Norfolk on 19 June 1839.

John Lyons entered the Royal Navy on 20 September 1798 as Midshipman at the age of 11 on board the HMS St George, a 98 gun second rate ship of the Line under the command of Captain John Holloway. It was attached to the Channel Fleet, other Captains including Sampson Edwards, Henry Nichols and William Grenville Lobb; this ship also bearing the flag of Admiral Lord Nelson and Admiral Charles Morice Pole. The ship was engaged in the Mediterranean at the blockade of Toulon and then with Captain Thomas Hardy on the same ship at the Battle of Copenhagen. In April 1801 he served under the flag of Admiral Sir Hyde Parker and during the peace of Amiens in 1802-1803, on the West India and Home stations in HMS Edgar (74 guns) and then HMS Childers, a brig sloop with 14 carriage guns. He was also with Captain Delafons in charge of HMS Africane (38 guns), which had been captured from the French in 1801.He also served with Captain Thomas Manby.

On the renewal of hostilities in 1803 he joined HMS Magnificent, a 74 gun vessel, under Captain William Henry Jarvis. Unfortunately while attached to the inshore squadron off Brest blockading the French, she struck an uncharted reef close to the Black Rocks at the approach to the harbour on 25 March 1804 but thankfully all of the crew were rescued. With Captain William Jervis he joined HMS Tonnant (100 guns), which had been a French ship of the line and had struck her colours at the Battle of the Nile and then commissioned into the British Navy. After three months he was transferred to HMS Victory, flagship to Lord Nelson. Still a teenager he shared in the glories of the Battle of Trafalgar, 21 October 1805.

He was later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 24 December 1805 while with Lord Collingwood in the HMS Queen (98 guns), during the blockade of Cadiz. He then served on HMS Eagle (74 guns) under Captain Charles Rowley in which ship he witnessed the taking of the Island of Capri from Napolean Bonaparte in May 1806. In 1807 he was transferred to HMS Montagu (74 guns) under Captains Robert Walter Otway and Rich Hussey Moubray, again at the Mediterranean station where he assisted in the evacuation in the Messina Straits in the winter of 1807. He commanded an attachment of seamen at the reduction of the Castle at Santa Maura on the Greek island of Lefkada in the Ionian Sea. Whilst in the Mediterranean he married Caroline Bowen in 1810 at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Malta.

She was born in 1789 in Dublin, daughter of Major Bowen R.A. He then served on HMS Repulse (74 guns), again under Captain Moubray and later in HMS Bombay (also 74 guns), under Captains William Cumming and Norborne Thompson, engaged principally in the blockade of Toulon, until May 1813. Next on the long list was HMS Anacreon a Cormorant ship/sloop under Captain John Davis. Luckily for John Lyons he was ill the following August and missed the ship's sailing and at a later date that ship was lost with all hands while en-route from Lisbon.

He joined HMS Ville de Paris (110 guns) in January 1814, bearing the flag of Sir Harry Burrard Neale. He attained the rank of Commander on 27 June 1815 and served in this capacity for a number of years, including from 1828 to 1830 at the Cape of Good Hope on board HMS Jaseur, a cruiser class 18-gun brig/sloop dealing with anti-slave operations from Mauritius to Madagascar. He was promoted to Captain in 1830 and later retired on half pay.

From 1839 to 1844 he was employed by the government of the Middle East moving from Cairo to Alexandria, on one occasion in 1840 being evacuated from Syria due to fighting in the Ottoman conflict. He was involved in introducing famous dignitaries to The Pasha, the Pyramids and other sites of interest as they travelled between Bombay, Suez and the UK. The overland route to India took only two months instead of six months sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, a situation avoided by the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. In the 1851 census he is shown as 'Captain R.N.' living in Fareham, Hampshire and the 1861 census curiously shows him living in Dorking High Street in Surrey. Lyons rose to the rank of Vice-Admiral on the retired list in 1866. Admiral Lyons first wife, Caroline died in August 1864 and is buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. He married for a second time in 1865 to Anna Maria Ferguson, widow of Colonel John L Mowatt of Bengal Horse Artillery at Hove, Sussex. In the 1871 census Admiral John Lyons with new wife Anna Maria was living in High Street, Worthing. He died in December 1872 aged 85.

CLEARANCE AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

By Paul Robards



Eight maintenance workers slaving away during our December 2014 bash, except for our poor Membership Secretary (right), who had a nasty cold and was taking a breather.

We have been extremely fortunate with the winter weather on our monthly clearance days. December and January were fine even though seasonably cold. The February day was damp with intermittent drizzle but 10 of our clearance stalwarts turned up. It didn't take long for the Friends to warm up as work was undertaken in Sections B4, A6 and A9. Considerable progress was made and some interesting memorials were unearthed (see Page 15).

I thank ALL participants in our clearance day programme, many who are named on Page 15. I am sorry if you have not been mentioned but the thanks are nevertheless sincere. In the 19 February 2015 issue of the 'Worthing Herald' there was an article on the bird boxes that have been installed in the cemetery (see the last issue of the BROADSHEET); good coverage and an advert for the cemetery. My thanks go to Angie and Antony Allchin for arranging the meeting.

As regards wildlife; Jays, Great Tits, Blue Tits, Sparrows, Magpies, Blackbirds, Pigeons and Crows have all been noted. A rich variety of spring flowers are now flowering, including primroses, snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils.

I have purchased in a Robert Dyas sale some ladies and gentlemen's gardening gloves and a pair of shears at a cost of £10 (see Page 9). I am also looking into the cost of restoring the 'Puckle' memorial stone, which out of 450 lead letters has about 140 missing. I have posted a number of cemetery fungi pictures on the ISpot website in attempt to identify the species, albeit without much response so far.

ALFRED JOHN MELVILLE

By Martin Melville

Alfred William Melville knew very little about his mother and nothing about his father. Even as a police officer there were limited resources available during his lifetime to enable him to trace his origins. All he knew was that he was born in Winchester in Hampshire and brought up in an orphanage near Shoreham by Sea.

[Below: **Alfred John Melville**: Photo courtesy Martin Melville]



In 1906, on the island of Jersey, Mavis Rose Melville was born to George and Rose Melville and was brought up alongside her brothers and sisters at Holly Farm around St Helier. Her father George was a religious man and served as a lay preacher for his parish. Rose was from the 'Gunton' family, a well-respected name on Jersey.

Mavis was the eldest daughter of eight children and probably took an active role in her siblings' care, especially for her youngest sister Genevieve who died aged two in 1920, when Mavis was only fourteen. Four years later an unmarried Mavis became pregnant. Christian love and tolerance was not as we know it today, therefore Mavis had brought shame on her family and was sent away, to leave the island, never to darken the door again, branded a fallen woman and completely ostracised.

On 15 September 1924 Mavis gave birth to her baby boy in a maternity home in Winchester, Hampshire. Possibly inspired by King Alfred the Great's burial place in Winchester she named and registered her son as Alfred John Melville; his father's name was not registered. We can only guess of Mavis' fate from here on. Perhaps she was placed in a workhouse, there was one in East Preston near Worthing. Her son was placed in an orphanage, maybe St Wilfred's in Shoreham by Sea. After a normal upbringing with her large family Mavis would have been feeling frightened, alone and grieving the loss of her baby. She survived this heartache for just 6 years. At the age of 23 and likely due to her impoverished lifestyle Mavis contracted tuberculosis and she passed away at Swandean Isolation Hospital, Worthing on 19 September 1930. Her death certificate registered her as a domestic servant and spinster of Upper Beeding, Steyning. **She was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in a shared and unmarked grave.**

Alfred John Melville ran away from the orphanage and joined the forces. He fought during World War 2 serving with the Royal Engineers and then married his wife Ruth in Hamburg, Germany just after the war. He joined the police force and he and Ruth settled in Wales, adopting Janice and Martin from a Barnardos home in 1961, providing them with a secure and loving family life. 'Johnny' Melville died in 1978, aged 54, knowing nothing of his mother's story. Mavis' son had passed away on the 19 September, four days after his birthday and on the same date his mother had passed away back in 1930.



A memorial at last for Mavis.

Mavis' siblings knew nothing of her pregnancy or what had happened to her after she left Jersey. They went on to marry and have children of their own. Their children remember their grandfather George Melville suffering from diabetes and developing an open wound. With no antibiotics to help him he died aged 58 in 1931, a year after his daughter Mavis. They also remember their grandmother Rose Melville as a quiet lady who never smiled and was seen crying on the shoulder of one of her sons. She died in 1951, aged 76.

84 years after her death Mavis' nieces now have her story and have happily welcomed their unknown cousin Johnny Melville onto the family tree. [Martin and the family have now had a splendid memorial engraved and placed on Mavis' previously unmarked grave in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery and have also generously prepared and installed a wooden memorial to the other, unrelated, person who was also incarcerated in the grave, Walter John Tuckfield. Thank you for the great story Martin, and the memorials – Ed.]

WALTER JOHN TUCKFIELD

By Sue Nea

Walter John Tuckfield was buried on 31 January 1910. He was 31 years old and his death was registered in Hampstead. However, his address was given as 101 Becket Road, Worthing and his occupation was shown as shoemaker. Little can be found about Walter's early life but we do know that he married Ellen Pullen in the winter of 1904 in Worthing.

The 1911 census shows Ellen Tuckfield, a widow, still living at 101 Becket Road with two boarders in her home, her occupation being shown as 'laundry work'. Ellen re-married at the beginning of 1925, fifteen years after Walter's death. Below is the fine decorative memorial donated by the Melville family, well over a century after Walter John Tuckfield's death.

Below, is the novel memorial generously donated by the Melville family.



WANTED - FBWC PUBLICITY OFFICER

With a record breaking 11 cemetery tours planned for the year 2015 the Friends urgently require a **Publicity Officer** to write brief descriptions of our forthcoming tours and other activities, plus occasional short articles. These descriptions would then be sent to the local newspapers (contact names provided) with the intention of them publishing the information shortly before events take place. Tour organisers will provide the core information, which may need just slight embellishment. It would also be useful but not essential if the **Publicity Officer** could post this information on social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter. The **Publicity Officer** would also be free to develop any other lines of publicity or communication to increase awareness of the activities of the Friends and the cemetery generally, with the primary objective of us maintaining the number of tour attendees. Other activities might include other avenues of publicity, for example poster placement. This is an important job but one with plenty of potential for development, without interference. If you are able to give the FBWC a little time please contact our Chairman. We really do need your help NOW. Contact mrsdebrahillman@gmail.com or your Editor at jamv@ntlworld.com .

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Well here we are at the start of another exciting season. We have a total of 8 Saturday tours and 3 Sunday tours planned for the year 2015. In addition there will be 12 monthly clearance and maintenance days, where everybody is welcome, and a total of 8 general meetings. The details of all of these events and relevant dates are contained in this issue of the BROADSHEET and so please **make a note in your diaries** or on your whiteboards now.

Another major task this year will be the inputting of data into a database recording every legible monumental inscription within the boundaries of the cemetery; a colossal task but one that needs to be done for posterity and also to assist researchers in the decades to come. In the meantime our research teams will be busy, as usual, and further booklets to thematically match our new tours will be prepared and published.

The next issue of the BROADSHEET, for publication towards the end of July, will be the **25th issue,** all with the present Editor at the helm. However I do not want you all to buy me gifts of silver for the Silver Anniversary (!!), just do what you can to help our cause and aims, as set out in our Constitution. If you want to be part of that special issue then get writing NOW. All items and articles for consideration should be sent to jamv@ntlworld.com. The deadline is 1 July 2015 but it would be better if any items were forwarded before that date.

Have a colourful spring and a great early summer and don't forget to attend as many FBWC events as you are able – our group reaches the parts that other cemetery groups cannot reach!

John Vaughan **Editor**



[The Cemetery Cat: Paul Robards]