THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.26
Autumn 2015

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

SEVENTH YEAR CONSOLIDATION

The calendar year 2015 will go down in the history of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery as a year of consolidation. With an enthusiastic Committee and a keen and largely active membership nearly all of our objectives have been successfully executed.

A full programme of thematic cemetery tours was conducted, whatever the weather, and the numbers attending remained encouraging. We also organised a wonderful Open Day, which drew-in the crowds. On the whole we were fortunate with the climatic conditions except at season end. Our research efforts went well and five brand new booklets were published to join our ever-growing and now formidable booklet list. We introduced new, more direct, book sale techniques and broke all records in terms of our net 'profit'. Over 500 booklets were sold and we invested in a new multi-functional printer to facilitate production.

Our monthly cemetery maintenance sessions went well and with a single exception attendances were at an all-time high and well into double figures. Our general evening meetings at the Gordon Rooms were well attended with an average of 27 Friends turning up to hear news, committee post-holder reports, contribute to events and to formulate policy. A large number of Friends worked hard to contribute to our programme and income and this included the provision of refreshments at main events, further contributing to our coffers.

In terms of membership we exceeded 100 fully paid-up Friends and in financial terms our income exceeded expenditure by £506, although future expenditure to improve the cemetery and to assist visitors in the shape of new signage is in the pipeline (see separate reports). The 25th issue of the BROADSHEET was published and the Friends were also instrumental, with full Council support, in having a dog 'poo bin' installed between the chapels and the main cemetery gates. The only negatives in 2015 were two graffiti attacks, where headstones were daubed with green spray paint. The damage has been made good by the Council and it seems the culprit may have been identified and verbally warned. Again see separate report within.

All in all it has been a very successful year of which we can all be proud. Well done Friends, especially that core group of individuals who have worked so hard to ensure, within their specialist functions, to produce the goods, on time, in budget and with a smile on their faces.



[Photo – Editor]

AGM ELECTION RESULTS

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Gordon Rooms on 27 November 2015, in addition to a large number of specific agenda items, the annual election for specific committee posts was held and unanimous votes from the 25 members attending saw the following individuals elected to the posts shown. These officers will serve in these posts for a period at least 12 months. The results were:-

CHAIRMAN	**DEBRA HILLMAN**
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	**SALLY ROBERTS**
SECRETARY	**PAUL HOLDEN**
TREASURER	**JOHN VAUGHAN**
CIVILIAN RESEARCH	**SUE NEA**
MILITARY RESEARCH	**JOHN STEPNEY**
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	**MARY PICKETT**
MAGAZINE EDITOR	**JOHN VAUGHAN**
MEDIA OFFICER	**PAUL HOLDEN**
MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR	**PAUL ROBARDS**

It must be emphasised that although the above post-holders do have specific responsibilities there are a considerable number of Friends who support them in a variety of ways, as well as non-committee posts that perform a multitude of vital tasks ranging from maintenance work to refreshments, from research to the production of booklets, from book sales to notice board preparation, from tour organisation to memorial cleaning and many, many other tasks, too numerous to mention. Thank you all.

NEW BOOKS IN 2015

Five new FBWC booklets were produced by our amazing team, led by Sue Nea and Mary Pickett and supported by a grand team of researchers:

'Transport in Worthing'
'Spanish Flu Epidemic'
'Worthing: A Seaside Resort'
'Old Worthing Families'
'Overseas Connections'

Have you bought your copies yet – only £1 each?
Copies will be lodged with the British Library.

CEMETERY 'DOG POO' BIN PROVIDED



. ***[All photographs are by the Editor unless otherwise credited].***

There was some good news for the cemetery in the late summer when the local authority provided a dog poo bin for Worthing and Broadwater Cemetery. This will hopefully encourage dog walking locals to use the facility. Dogs are welcome in the cemetery provided they are on leads and the owners 'pick-up' after their family pets. In the past there have been complaints about dogs running free and normal litter bins being filled with bags containing dog excreta. Also it can be quite unpleasant for cemetery maintainers if they encounter faeces during their clearance work. So, from all at FBWC, well done Worthing and Arun Council.

The only minor criticism is the location of the poo bin, which sensibly is between the main gates and the chapels, BUT the actual location is very near, perhaps too near our Typhoid epidemic memorial garden and the main notice board, as seen in the photograph above.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT!

A decision was made prior to our Open Day to provide toilet facilities for our 'staff' and the general public, in accordance with Open Days in previous years. However upon making enquiries of Sussex Toilets the price had risen in a single year from £65 to £114, an increase of 75%!! Upon complaining to the company they stated that they had undercharged previously and that demand was exceeding supply, clearly a 'business' to invest in methinks!

The Treasurer calculated the 'cost per pee' by a secret formula and quickly determined that the old expression of "going to spend a penny" was lamentably out of date. Accordingly the company were politely told where to rent their toilet and facilities were NOT provided. There were no subsequent complaints. A test on the day proved everybody to be very continent! It is highly unlikely that we will ever again provide toilet facilities because the cost would absorb our entire gross book sales, donations and refreshments income resulting in financial loss.

SHOCKING GRAFFITI ATTACK

There are times, in the capacity of Editor, that there is an overwhelming inclination to use some very basic language when describing certain actions and certain people. There is an even greater temptation to describe in some detail, in medieval fashion, what it is that one would like to do the perpetrators of certain acts and crimes. Police warnings, ASBOs, community service are all incredibly 'wet' and lamentably soft options but however weak, feeble and impotent the law of the land may be, it must prevail. Shame!

On two occasions this past summer Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have suffered from graffiti attacks, both perpetrated by the same individual. That comment is based on a study of writing style and the green spray paint daubed on certain headstones and other memorials. Samples of this individuals 'work' are shown below. [LOL = laugh(ing) out loud]





Our Secretary Paul Holden encountered an individual leaving the cemetery who was acting strangely and who looked completely out of place. Paul tackled this fellow about the graffiti and in doing that must have planted a seed in his mind. More recently a local dog walker, who has a certain 'presence' tackled the same fellow, saying that it was know who the

perpetrator was and many were on the lookout for the graffiti applicator 'in the act'. Apparently (and this is stated without prejudice to anybody's legal rights) the individual lives in Queen Street and is known to be a 'weirdo'.

It was decided after the first attack to give this individual no publicity whatsoever (which is what they seek) but after the second attack the unofficial press embargo was dropped and particularly the 'Worthing Journal' made the public aware of this menace. Since then there have been no further attacks but certain Friends, including your Editor, are making vigilante visits to the cemetery just in case. In the meantime the Council have been quick to act to remove the spray paint and although just visible on certain memorials their efforts have been not only timely but very successful. From the editorial chair we again say a mighty 'well done' to the local Parks Department. While cleaning the graffiti was in progress your Editor photographed this most unusual sign on the cemetery gates. Your Editor is not sure he would plant the idea of 'graffiti' into the minds of the passing public.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

During the past year we again exceeded the magic figure of 100 fully paid up Friends of the cemetery and numbers never dipped below the high 90s. At the time of publication our Membership Secretary, Mary Pickett, reports that the renewal rate of 2014/15 Friends for 2015/16 appears to be very encouraging, presently running at about 95%, which bearing in mind the annual fee of £3 has been unchanged since the inaugural meeting some seven years ago, may not be surprising.

There is always strength in numbers and so even if Friends are unable to help directly with our wide variety of activities, or live many miles away, we would still welcome all readers of this journal not only to re-join but to include family members or friends in their renewal applications. If nothing else, Friends get three copies of The BROADSHEET included in their membership and so at effectively £1 per copy renewal has to be worthwhile!

Mary stated in her AGM report that before year end she will be contacting all of those that haven't renewed reminding them to pay if they still want to be Friends and that if not received by a certain date we will assume they do not want to continue with their membership. So when reading this in early December **please** make sure you are fully paid up.

REFRESHING THE MULTITUDES

How civilised it is to be able to offer to visitors to the cemetery and Friends the opportunity of having a hot drink and a biscuit or cupcake. Our refreshment stall is organised and run, in total, by Friend Carole Manning with her husband Norman providing the muscle power to deliver and remove a load of equipment and supplies. Come rain or shine Carole sets out her stall and ensures provisions are available in the correct volume. At times she understandably has a helper. In the following photograph Carole shares duties with her granddaughter, a happy looking Sophie Meikle from Lincolnshire, on our Open Day on 1 August.



On occasions Carole is helped by her close friend Madeline Jupp (below, right), as was the case on 3 October 2015 when Carole was not available. On this day the Editor's daughter Joanna Tovell (left) offered to assist. Here the animated refreshments 'staff' enjoy a chuckle.



There were problems in the past few months with electricity supply but the Friends have now acquired some 'pump flasks' (thanks Paul) to supply hot tea and coffee. During 2015 Carole made a net profit of some £130 for the Friends, which was all down to her hard work. Well done Carole, the best tea lady, or rather professional catering entrepreneur, in the area!

CEMETERY TOUR BONANZA



All of the FBWC tours up to and including the end of July 2015 were fully reported and illustrated in the last summer 2015 anniversary issue of the BROADSHEET. Since then there have been four further Saturday tours and two Sunday tours. On 1 August 2015 our annual Open Day was held and two new identical and well populated 'Worthing Seaside Resort' tours were run in the morning and afternoon respectively with Pauline Reed guiding both tours. Our Chairman led the tours around the cemetery with Gill Heasman placing and collecting the decorative grave marker flowers. In total 80 visitors (46+34) enjoyed the tours.

Above, shows bunting around the main South Farm Road entrance to draw attention to the event, in addition to local press and poster publicity organised by Sue Nea and supported by Paul Holden. As mentioned elsewhere there was much 'behind the scenes' activity in planning for the Open Day and much to do on the day of the event. Many thanks to all those involved in not only the Open Day but also all of the other tours mentioned in the following pages. Below tour guide Pauline is seen in full flow, happily in the sunshine. In fact until the end of the season we were very fortunate in enjoying largely good weather on tour dates.



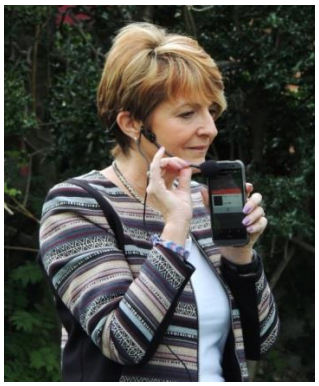
In the scene below Pauline Reed is seen in action on the second of the Open Day tours and it was surprising that even after lunch the crowds attending were still impressive. On the right Chairman Debra Hillman is ready to lead the visitors to the next grave.



Following a retold 'Nurserymen and Growers' tour on Sunday 9 August 2015, enjoyed by 15 attendees, ably conducted by our Friend and expert on the subject, Malcolm Linfield, our Chairman took centre stage by conducting a retold 'Entertainment and the Arts' tour on 5 September 2015. Below Debra is seen addressing the many attendees during the tour.



There was technological innovation during the tour when the voice of classical singer Edward Lloyd was relayed from a pre-recording on a mobile smartphone to the microphone contained in the FBWC tour guide headset. The result was very successful as the sound of the obviously dated recording drifted across the cemetery. It was an almost 'spooky' moment but quite definitely a 'first' in terms of the precise configuration. Below is a 'record' of the event.



On a rather grey Sunday 13 September 2015 our Deputy Chairman Sally Roberts was the tour guide for a new 'Overseas Connections' cemetery tour. Although not as well attended as our Saturday tours the appreciative group of visitors are seen here beside the chapels listening to Sally's opening remarks. Below left we see Sally delivering her script through her 'X Factor' type headset to the Sunday gathering.





The original intention was to base the tour on North American connections but research data came up short for once in providing prime and interesting examples of such links, as they related to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Therefore the tour title had to be expanded and re-titled to include the British Commonwealth, hence the 'overseas' label.

On Saturday 3 October 2015 it was the turn of our Secretary, Paul Holden, to keep the crowds entertained by guiding an 'Old Worthing Families' cemetery tour. Being a glutton for punishment Paul also volunteered to be tour guide for a 'Remembrance' tour on a very wet 7 November 2015, which was also the date of the annual Remembrance service before the Cross of Sacrifice. A total of 23 brave souls attended the tour, which in the terrible conditions was very commendable. Donations collected that day were given to the Poppy Appeal. Below we see Paul in action on each of the above mentioned tours.



[3 October Tour - Photo: Mary Pickett]



[7 November Tour - Photo: Mary Pickett]

Prior to the 'Remembrance' tour on 7 November 2015 the annual Service of Remembrance was held under the Cross of Sacrifice. As usual members of the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts and representatives from all of the armed services and the British Legion were represented. It was a damp occasion and the umbrella provided for the presiding clergyman seemed rather 'floral', as depicted in the rather 'happy' photograph below by Mary Pickett.



Attending the service was Mark Norris and his son Jack, who proudly wore the war medals of his great great uncle. He is seen below, appropriately, with a wheelbarrow full of poppies.



[Photo: Sue Nea]

SEPTAUGENARIANS AT LARGE!

On maintenance days pairings or groupings of workers is normally random, with some folks preferring to work on their own, some couples simply enjoying each other's company, while others work well in a 'gang'. At the October clearance day three Friends were working together trying to find and then uncover the grave of Sammy Chapman, former Mayor of Worthing and once the publican of the now closed 'Montague Arms' public house in Montague Street. Frank Ffitch, your Editor and Michael Kelly were hard at work when your Editor realised that the trio were all Septuagenarians, proving that you can still rely on a good maintenance tune from some old fiddlers, witness the **'before and after'** images below!





RANDOM ROLL OF HONOUR

A large number of Friends of the cemetery are active in many different capacities but focussing at random on maintenance, those attending the maintenance day at the cemetery on 25 July 2015 were, in alphabetical order:**Angie Allchin, Antony Allchin, Mike Bailey, Mo Bailey, Mark Caveney, Tony Clasby, Janet Green, Gill Heasman, Debra Hillman, Jeff Hillman, Carole Manning, Norman Manning, Dot McBrien, Sue Nea, Mike Parrot, Pat Parrot, Mary Pickett and John Vaughan.** This was by any standards a magnificent turnout which hopefully will be repeated on future maintenance days; the last Saturday of every month, except for Boxing Day 2015. Put the dates in your 2016 diary now! Below a trio of happy maintenance workers enjoy the sunshine on the July clearance day.



CEMETERY LOW LIFE

From to time anybody can fall on hard times, possibly through circumstances beyond their control. Sometimes this can result in homelessness. Another modern disease afflicting the weak-willed is drug taking, even though it may be difficult for people to understand how even intelligent people can take drugs, knowing them to be harmful, or even life threatening. Then there is the world of 'legal highs' where chemicals are induced into the body plus of course the common problem of alcoholism.

However whatever a persons circumstances there is absolutely no excuse for appalling anti-social behaviour, such as the events earlier in the year where disfunctional and unemployable people defacated against one of the chapel walls. You may recall that Paul Holden and Tom Wye got the problem sorted out shortly before the arrival of a party of school children.

Imagine then the shock that maintainers received on 27 October 2015 when the remains of a bonfire within the cemetery were discovered, also a headstone had been moved for use as a bench and both empty wine bottles and tins of beer were found in the area, plus an empty pouch of 'wacky baccy'. Frank Ffitch and your Editor rectified the damage and repaired the area around where the fire had been. However we could do without this low life in the cemetery and your Editor continues to conduct random vigilante visits to the cemetery to ensure that graffiti artists and vagrants are discouraged from ruining a site that we strive to preserve. Below is the miserable scene before restoration.



CLEARANCE REPORT

By Paul Robards

In the course of 12 months, with an average attendance of 12 Friends, more on occasions, and with each Friend working for two hours, we are putting in a total annual maintenance effort of some 288 hours. This effort keeps the cemetery looking tidy and the graves cared for. However another objective is to be sympathetic with wildlife and nature, such as not removing potential food sources for insects, birds and animals, for example berries, other fruits and flowers at the 'wrong' time of year. Also we have been leaving composting piles of cuttings and prunings to break down naturally in discrete places, saving the local Council time and money in removing the material and hopefully increasing their 'spend' on maintaining paths etc.

I have met Council representatives to discuss next Springs Wild Life area where I am planning to prepare and maintain two small areas of approximately 25 square metres where flowers and wildlife, particularly butterflies and moths, can be protected from the strimmers. There is also a wildflower bank alongside the flint wall that has been maintained by the clearance team this year, which has in turn proved popular with flowers attracting a wide range of butterflie, such as the small blue below.



[Photo: Paul Robards]

The monthly clearance team not only carry out general routine maintenance but give special attention to graves that are to be included in forthcoming cemetery tours, which will be in the public gaze.This year both bird and bat boxes have been installed in the cemetery, with assistance by Angie Allchin and John Stepney, which will hopefully be used once the boxes have 'weathered-in'.

We have regular local cemetery visitors that walk their dogs around the cemetery and they report to me about wildlife noted, such as foxes or woodpeckers. Unfortunately they have also reported a bonfire, graffiti, drugs and recently one dog attacking another. All of this has been efficently dealt with to prevent or at least discourage further episodes. I walk around the cemetery at least once per week in my lunch break to note areas that require maintenance. I also record flowers, fungi, birds and butterflies and compare observations with the notes from previous years, identifying trends and timescales. The pyramid orchid for instance, appears about 23 June, and this can be guarded to protect them, allowing them to complete their groth cycle, appearing in even greater numbers in future years.



[Photo: Paul Robards]

I have made contact with the Sussex Wildlife Trust and other interested local people to request assistance with a planned wildlife tour of the cemetery next June or July to enable members of the public and possibly schools to see and understand what a large open space in a local built-up community offers for trees, flowers and wildlife – all from a natural perspective. I also intend to maintain the garden around the Typhoid Memorial where plants and shrubs are now establishing themselves in difficult growing conditions under yew trees, with the ground greatly dried out by their root system. It is also hoped that next year an area of maybe raised borders with lavender bushes can be planted and organised to the north side of the cemetery path in the area of the Jefferies memorial garden, subject to funding.

Finally I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the regulars that attend the clearance days for a job well done.

VISIT BY SEARLE FAMILY MEMBERS

In the last issue of the BROADSHEET (Issue 25 Summer 2015 Pages 21-23) there was a lengthy illustrated article by Sue Nea regarding the Searle family. I am pleased to report that as the family was included in our 'Old Worthing Families' tour in October Mike Searle (left in the picture) travelled up from Bournemouth especially for the event. Here he poses with two relations with obvious connections, including Lynn West (right), by the Searle memorial headstone. The broken headstone was 're-discovered by the Friends earlier this year.



[Photo: Mary Pickett]

CEMETERY HUMOUR

"I have moved. New address: c/o 'Cemetery'. I'm looking forward to visitors."

"Even the best of friends cannot attend each others funeral."

"They say such nice things about people at their funerals that it makes me sad to realise that I am going to miss mine by a few days."

Athiests are clever – they belong to a non-prophet group!

"I hated going to weddings. All the grandmas would poke me and say 'You're next'. They stopped that when I started doing it to them …… at funerals!"

"Here lies Mary Devoe, wife of Henry Devoe. Tears cannot bring her back, therefore I weep."

[Below: courtesy of Sue Nea]



FBWC FINANCES

The Treasurer has reported that as at the end of of our annual accounting period for 2014/15 the total value of bank deposits and cash in hand totalled **£5118.96**, up from £4612.57 in the previous year. Over the past 12 months income exceeded expenditure by £506.39. Income was down compared with 2013/14 but similar to 2012/13. Expenditure had hugely decreased compared with the previous year. The profit from book sales was at a record level grossing at £569, £347 net. Net profits from refreshment sales amounted to £130. Overall the Treasurer has stated that the finances of the FBWC are in very good shape going into 2016.

THE SOPP SISTERS

By Sue Nea

On the clearance morning at the end of July a group including Tony Clasby, Mark Caveney, Dot O'Brien, Janet Green, Jill Heasman and myself started to clear a very overgrown part of the cemetery at the end of area A9.

Soon, we had cut back enough of the undergrowth to see that there were several headstones hidden inside and the thought of uncovering them spurred us on with the clearance. Not only did we find these headstones but we also found that in the middle of the brambles and weeds was a lovely old tree that had been virtually hidden. After such hard grafting the headstones and tree were eventually exposed in all their glory.

Amongst the headstones two caught my eye and I was curious to discover more about the people who lay buried in these graves; the two headstones belonged to Jane Sopp who was buried alone in 1953, and next to her grave we found a joint stone for Ellen Elizabeth Sopp who died in 1915 and Mary Ann Sopp, 1930. Surely these ladies were related but how?



[Photo: Sue Nea]

Saturday afternoon was spent on my computer looking for the answer and I quickly discovered that they were three sisters. The research shows that they did not marry and, it would seem, in later life they were still living together.

Henry Sopp, their father, was an agricultural labourer who was born in Earnley, a quiet village just a few miles from Bracklesham Bay. He married Amy Fidler, their mother, in 1859 and the couple set up home at Sidlesham where their four daughters were born. First born was Mary Ann in 1860, followed by Ellen Elizabeth in 1863, Emily 1865 and last but not least Jane in 1868. The family lived for many years in Almodington Cottages in Sidlesham.

By 1881 the older girls had left home to earn their living. Mary Ann, now aged 21 years, was a general servant for the Poland family who lived in Bath Place, Worthing; James Poland was a boatman. Ellen Elizabeth, age 17, was a housemaid at Nuntons Farm in West Wittering whilst Emily, 15, was a servant at a lodging house in Marine Parade, Worthing run by Elizabeth Miller. Jane, the youngest sister and only 12 years old in 1881, was still living at home with her parents at Almodington Cottages; she attended school.

Sadly in 1890 Emily was to die at the young age of 24 years; her death took place in Sidlesham and I can only assume that is where she is buried. The following year, 1891, when the census was taken, Jane, now 22 years, was the parlour maid at the vicarage in Southwater where she worked for the Reverend Andrews and his family. Mary Ann was working as a cook in a house in St Botolphs Road, Worthing but Ellen had returned to Sidlesham to live with her parents.

The 1901 cesus shows that Mary Ann, now 40 years of age, was still living in Worthing, she was then running her own lodging house at 12 Gratwicke Road. Ellen was still in Sidlesham looking after her now ageing parents but, unfortunately, I cannot trace Jane. Within the next few years, the whole family had moved to Worthing to live; Henry died in 1910 aged 76 and Amy died in September 1911 aged 80 years; they are both buried in Heene Cemetery.

Six months before Amy's death, the 1911 census was taken and it shows that Mary Ann continued to run her lodging house but this time it was in Rowlands Road; she was, by now, 50 years old. Her two sisters lived with her as did Amy, their elderly mother; Jane, aged 42, helped Mary Ann with the running of the house whilst Ellen worked from home as a dressmaker.

Ellen Elizabeth died in January 1915, aged 51 years, her address was given as Belle View Terrace, Elm Grove and when Mary Ann died some fifteen years later in September 1930, age 70, her address was the same. Probate records show that Mary Ann left the sum of £89-16s-6d to her sister Jane. Jane the surviving sister, lived for another 23 years and when she died in September 1953, her address was 57 Rugby Road, she was 85 years old.

How apt that the Sopp sisters who never married and lived close to each other all of their lives should spend their last resting place next to each other in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. How great that on that sunny Saturday morning in July 2015, we found their graves which, in turn, led to us discovering a little bit about their lives. I will now make sure I keep an eye on their graves to ensure they stay tidy and clean, I think I may even plant some flowers.

ANOTHER HEADSTONE RESTORATION

The Friends of the cemetery continue to effect repairs to damaged headstones and memorials, to clean certain headstones and occasionally to supply wooden crosses. The photograph shows our latest efforts to repair and re-secure a lovely engraving that had become detached.



[Photo: Paul Robards]

ALFRED LISHER 1849 – 1910

Additional family notes by David Styles

[Editor's Note – This item is best read in conjunction with the article on Albert William Lisher that appeared in Issue No.25 – Summer 2015 – Pages 20/21]

Following on from the Albert W Lisher item that appeared in the last issue of the BROADSHEET we deal here with Alfred Lisher. Both Albert and Alfred shared the same grandfather. Albert's father was Reuben Lisher and his father was Daniel Lisher. Alfred Lisher, featured here, was Daniel's brother and Reuben's uncle.

Alfred Lisher was born in Sompting in 1842 to Thomas and Sarah (nee Hills). However there was a skeleton in the cupboard because it appears that his father Thomas had already married one Mary Duke back in 1828. It would appear that there may have been a case of bigamy in the family!

Moving on several decades, Alfred became a bricklayer and also a volunteer for Worthing Fire Brigade. In 1891 Alfred, by then aged 48 was residing at 17 Newland Road, Worthing with his wife Emma (nee Coates) aged 51 and children Ellen 27, Frederick 22, Martin 16, Jesse 11, James 9, Sidney and Anne both 6 (possibly twins) and Robina 4. By 1898 Alfred, wife and eight children were living at 23 King Street, Worthing but with the addition of a 'Sarah' aged 23.

Alfred died in 1910 aged 68, with his seven daughters and six sons all attending the funeral [the number of children cannot be completely reconciled with the1891 census records above!] Alfred was buried at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in a 'blind' or unmarked grave at A10-3-29 but you would have thought that with such a large family that they could have spared a few pounds each to pay for a 'proper' grave. We will never know the reason why no such gesture was made!

BARROW GIRL!

Friend Gill Heasman has taken up the role of cemetery tour support person, specialising in placing floral markers on the graves to be included in our tours – and collecting them up afterwards. She is also a demon booklet seller with, shall we say, 'a direct approach'. WELL DONE Gill and thanks for all the work you do on behalf of the Friends.



[Gill on our Open Day]

FBWC CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Although our approved Constitution has stood the test of time over the past seven years our activities have expanded, our contacts with other organisations have widened, including the National Federation of Cemetery Friends and certain local groups, and a small loophole has been identified regarding the specific allocation and expenditure of FBWC funds.

Changes to the Constitution can only be made by vote at the FBWC Annual General Meeting and so the subject was tabled for discussion on 27 November 2015. The changes were approved by general vote; the main change being an addition to the Aims of the unincorporated organisation. The addition reads: **To research, record and publish information relating to the history of the cemetery and those interred therein. To generally increase public awareness of the cemetery and conduct regular tours thereof. To respect and as reasonably as possible, preserve the flora and fauna within the cemetery.** It was also agreed that rather than stipulating that the committee should meet 'at least four times per year' they should simply meet **'regularly'.** In terms of funds the slight change is as follows (new words in bold print): The Funds belonging to the **Friends** shall be applied only in furthering the **Aims** (of the FBWC). Finally, in the (hopefully) unlikely event of the Friends being dissolved it was decided that rather than the accumulated funds simply going to 'charitable institutions' it should be transferred to '**one or more like mined Worthing organisations with similar Aims'.**

It was not at this time envisaged that further changes to the Constitution would be necessary. The existing Constitution showing most of the proposed changes was sent to all Friends via e-mail on 19 November 2015. As a matter of general interest, the Heene Cemetery group has now produced a Constitution embracing their scope and objectives and a set of rules on the general conduct of their business.

A FUN LAST CLEARANCE OF 2015

Although only nine Friends turned-up for the November clearance day a fun time was had by all. The session started in delightful sunshine and changed for the worse only as the session ended, with Angie Allchin kindly providing copious packets of Jaffa Cakes for the group. In this busy scene six graves in a group are cleared by the furiously busy workers.



[Photo: Mary Pickett]



There was something of a challenge as the clearance gang competed for the largest branch cutting. There was nothing equal between the sexes. Membership Secretary Mary Pickett, above left, appeared to be bragging about the size of her cutting but she clearly trounced Mark Caveney's offering (above right), which Mary somewhat unkindly described as a twig! In the meantime Antony Allchin and Maintenance Coordinator Paul Robards performed herculean tasks by moving a long-hidden memorial from the undergrowth, which is what clearance days are all about. See picture below:



Finally, Jaffa Cakes were enjoyed by all; making a change from last year's mince pies!



DEATH BEFORE BIRTH?

One of the great stories of 2015 was when a roaming Friend, Ian Lelliot, discovered a headstone in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery where the deceased had in fact died before she was born, or so it appeared. One Ada Ellen Pay was born on 6 December 1872 but she died on 26 January 1871, as seen in the photograph below!



Friends and the public came from far and wide to see this remarkable phenomenon, as typified in this study of photographers recording the interesting memorial.



However there is always a spoilsport, or rather one of our clever researchers about, and Friend Mary Pickett discovered that Ada Ellen Pay had died on 26 January **1874.** Apparently the slanting part of the '**4**' had worn away over 141 years and close examination revealed a dot on the right hand side where the cross stroke would have joined. So, a great story ended but at least yarns about intoxicated Victorian stonemasons was well and truly quashed; slightly disappointing perhaps?

CEMETERY SIGNAGE

Progress is being made with proposed additional signage for our cemetery. A new colour coded signage system incorporating photographs is being perfected and discussions are being held with Stephen Miller of Subway EPS in Newland Road, Worthing. A sample will be provided shortly that can be perused by the Friends and their opinions sought. A question of 'watch this space' for developments during 2016.

LIQUID CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Getting priorities in order, may I remind all Friends that this year's FBWC Christmas drink **will take place at the Cricketers public house in Broadwater at 19.00 hours on Thursday 10 December 2015.** It will be great to see you there for a natter and a chuckle but as Treasurer I must warn you that any alcohol consumed **will not** be paid for by FBWC funds!!

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

The next issue of the BROADSHEET will appear on or about 1 April 2016 when all tour dates, meeting dates and maintenance dates will be listed. There will be not be an official cemetery clearance day on Boxing Day 2015 (unless you want to unofficially cure a hangover or get away from the relations) and so the next official bramble bashing date will be at 10.00 on Saturday 30 January 2016. The next general meeting will be held at the Gordon Rooms at 18.00 hours on Friday 29 January 2016. Please record the dates in your diary NOW.

Enjoy this 22 page issue and as ever, this is your magazine and so if you want to contribute articles or research items, observations or complaints then send them to your Editor by 1 March 2016 at jamv@ntlworld.com **. May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year?** Did you miss the 2 hour AGM? Below is a picture of proceedings showing the 25 attendees inside of the Town Hall's Gordon Rooms.



John Vaughan Editor