THE BROADSHEET

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THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

FBWC AMBITIOUS 2016 PROGRAMME

Never a group to rest on their laurels the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have spent the winter planning their most ambitious programme of cemetery tours and events ever.

A total of seven Saturday cemetery tours are planned between May and November, inclusive. The majority of tours, which take place at 11.00 on the first Saturday of the above months, are brand new having been planned and researched by our professional team. In addition there will be three Sunday tours during the months of July, August and September, all starting at 14.00 hours. Our Annual Open Day from 10.00 until 15.00 on Saturday 6 August will include younger members of our community when children in appropriate period costume will describe the life and times of the deceased at specially selected graves. On the latter occasion (only) toilet facilities will be available and there will be a number of stalls.

It is planned to have a nature tour (TBA) and there will be a Public Clearance Day on Saturday 2 April when members of the local community will be invited to assist the work of the Friends. At least five new booklets are due to be published in 2016 with an unchanged cover price of a modest £1 each. Refreshments will be available on all Saturday tour dates plus the Public Clearance Day. On the last Saturday of every month, including Easter Saturday 26 March, there will be a general maintenance day. These sessions have become increasingly popular in recent months. In addition general meetings will be held in the Gordon Rooms, adjacent to the Town Hall, on the last Friday of April, May, June**, July, September culminating in our Annual General Meeting on Friday 26 November. [** note that the June meeting will now take place on Friday 1 July due to the EU Referendum.] There will also be a Remembrance Day service and tour in November.

All activities are listed on our FBWC web-site and are detailed within these pages. Please put all of these dates in your diary NOW so that you do not miss out on a super programme.



[Editor]

FBWC CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

Well, here we are, another year on and 'The Friends' are still going strong. Still in a good financial position, membership numbers continue to hover around the 90 mark giving us a solid foundation to work from; not that we will be resting on our laurels or reducing our efforts to recruit more members in 2016. I would like to think that as well as working hard our members are also enjoying what they do and are making new friends in the process. It's not just a rumour; I have actually heard people laughing as they work!

It was sad to see vandalism raise its ugly head again last year after such a long spell without any sign of it. The bright green 'LOL' tags added to a number of headstones around the cemetery certainly did not make any of us laugh. The Council were very quick, on both occasions, to clean off the graffiti and the police were made aware of the problem and to date there have been no further occurrences, except the minor external item reported on Page 5. Long may the vandalism-free situation continue.

Following the continued success of the 2015 tours I am very positive about the new tours being prepared for the 2016 programme, detailed on Page 4, particularly the introduction of local children as our 'Tour Guides' for our August Open Day. This will bring a new dimension to proceedings and will hopefully encourage a broader audience. My thanks, as always, go to all of those involved in making our tour days so successful. It takes a great team of people many hours to pull everything together but the consistently high visitor numbers and their positive feedback makes it all worthwhile. There are a huge number and variety of tasks involved both on the day and leading up to it. Willing volunteers are always welcome.

I reported last year that I was hoping to have the Monumental Inscriptions online (or at least some of them) by the end of 2015 but unfortunately I have not been able to meet that objective. I think it was rather an optimistic target but thanks to my team of data volunteers steady progress is being made and the fruits of that labour should be available for all to see.

I think we should all be proud of what we achieve as a group and please remember that every person's contribution, however small, is valuable and appreciated. **Debra Hillman.**



[Photo: Paul Robards]

FBWC RESEARCH TEAM RECOGNISED

A major project recording the life and times of over 600 men and 1 woman who were killed in the First World War, the Great War, who are recorded on Worthing War Memorial, has been completed. The three year project has culminated in the production of six large volumes of single page mini biographies, with each individual's profile being contained within a single page, each page containing text and photographs.

The massive project was placed in six large binders and presented by the project coordinator Cllr Major Tom Wye to the present Worthing Mayor, Cllr Michael Donin, who, in a short speech, was full of praise for the work of the volunteers who had together spent thousands of hours researching every Great War victim recorded on the memorial. Details of their lives from cradle to grave were researched and recorded, including their military records, and where possible photographs of the individuals and the houses they lived in.

The bulk of the research was conducted by the research team of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Tom Wye said "Their contribution has been immense, as has that of Paul Holden, editor of 'The Worthing Journal', who proof read every volume." The staff of Worthing Library made a significant contribution also, as did Eddie Mitchell who provided many of the photographs included therein.

The six volumes would be displayed and available for perusal in the Town Hall and anybody who provided a memory stick was welcome to a copy of the massive product, which was now available in PDF format. The presentation took place in the Gordon Room and featured in the photograph, from left to right are John Stepney, Mary McKeown, Carole Manning, Sue Baker, Sue Nea, Mayor Michael Donin, Tom Wye, Mary Pickett, Angela Butler and Rosemary Pearson. Some researchers were absent e.g. Pam Stepney. [Photo: Paul Holden]



OUR TOTAL 2016 PROGRAMME – PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW

SATURDAY TOURS

7 May 11.00 **BUSINESSMEN AND SHOPKEEPERS** (New Tour)

4 June 11.00 **PUBLICANS AND HOTELIERS** (New Tour)

2 July 11.00 **THE DAY SUSSEX DIED AND THE SOMME** (New Tour)

6 August 10.00 **ANNUAL OPEN DAY - SPECIAL TOUR** (Narrated by Local Children)

3 September 11.00 **UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS** (New Tour)

1 October 11.00 **THE MEDICAL PROFESSION** (Retold Tour)

12 November 11.00 **REMEMBRANCE TOUR**

SUNDAY TOURS

10 July 14.00 **FLORA AND FAUNA** (New Tour)

14 August 14.00 **OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS**

11 September 14.00 **ROYAL CONNECTIONS**

FRIDAY GENERAL MEETINGS GORDON ROOM ALL AT 18.00 HOURS

29 April

27 May

1 July ***(rescheduled from 24 June)***

29 July

30 September

25 November (***Annual General Meeting***)

SPECIAL EVENT : SATURDAY

2 April 10.00 – 13.00 **PUBLIC CLEARANCE DAY AND NATURE TOUR**

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE CLEARANCE MORNINGS: SATURDAYS

Held from 10.00 until 12.00 on the last Saturday of EVERY calendar month.

MORE VANDALISM: OUTSIDE CEMETERY



[Photo: Sally Roberts]

It was reported by our Deputy Chairman, Sally Roberts, that late last year more vandalism had taken place, probably in the dark hours, when one of our external signs located on the 'outside' of the boundary fence advertising our cemetery tours, had been damaged. It appeared that the sign had been smashed by a beer bottle or similar. Sally's husband George had repairs in hand and the sign is now as good as new, well almost! Thanks George. Your Editor is pleased to report that there have been no further vandal attacks inside of the cemetery but nevertheless all Friends must remain vigilant.

DOG POO BIN: COUNCIL RAPID RE-ACTION

On Page 3 of the last issue of the BROADSHEET our colleagues at Worthing and Arun Council were praised for their immediate response to our request for a dog poo bin within the cemetery. I will not repeat the full content of the article here but the addition to the cemetery 'furniture' was most welcome. The only slight problem was that the bin was located next to our fine Typhoid Memorial. A photograph showing its location was included in the last issue.

Andy Edwards, Head of Environment/Communities, who receives the BROADSHEET, picked-up on the comments and immediately arranged for the bin to be repositioned on the opposite side of the path and nearer to the chapels, see below. Thanks from the FBWC Andy.


[Photo: Editor]

FBWC MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

At the time of going to press our Membership Secretary, Mary Pickett, reported that the FBWC had attracted 90 fully paid-up members, with the overwhelming majority having elected to renew their membership. The FBWC Treasurer John Vaughan has reported, also at the time of going to press, that the FBWC had £5,187.27 at Bank and a further £33.06 in cash floats, amounting to a total cash asset value of £5,220.33. Overall all membership and financial statistics show a very healthy situation indeed. Below Mary Pickett appears to be desperate to recruit new members, even if they have been 'resident' in the cemetery for some considerable time!



[Photo: Editor]

THE PUCKLE MEMORIAL



[Photo: Editor]

Friend and craftsman John Stepney has handmade two glazed wooden frames containing information regarding Lt.Colonel John Puckle DSO Army Service Corps and formerly of the South Wales Borderers (24th Regiment) who was drowned in active service on 15 April 1917 near Ciphano, Greece while commanding troops on HM Transport Arcadian. The vessel was sunk by a German submarine. He remained on the bridge until the end but was lost with the ship. The original memorial cross was dedicated by his wife to the beloved memory of her husband.

John crafted the frames and proudly attached them to a single matching post. On a re-visit and to his horror, during this record breaking wet winter, there had been some water ingress and so John removed the frames and applied copious amounts of sealant to prevent any future damage. The photograph on the previous page shows John's handiwork to advantage after the frames had been re-attached. Well done John for a handsome addition to 'our' cemetery.

DEPOSITED WITH BRITISH LIBRARY

All FBWC publications produced during 2015, amounting to five new tour booklets, have now been lodged with The British Library in accordance with legal requirements. An acknowledgement is still awaited. All FBWC publications, produced over the past seven years, are listed on the FBWC web-site and all past copies of the BROADSHEET can also be accessed via the web-site under the 'Newsletter' heading.

CHARGING FOR MEETING ROOMS

As part of the current austerity policies that sees infrastructure deteriorating, libraries closing, pot holes increasing, maintenance suffering etc., local authorities are strapped for cash and as every Friend will know Councils are looking for economies. Our Council is increasing the amount that it charges for the use of certain meeting rooms and premises used by a range of organisations and it was feared that the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery would have to pay for the use of the Gordon Room at the Town Hall for our general meetings. However our Patron Cllr. Tom Wye has made enquiries and clarified the situation. In view of the 'charitable' work that the Friends undertake and the contribution we make to the local community it has been confirmed that the FBWC **will not** be charged for use of the room on the allocated eight evenings per annum. Good news indeed.



[Photo: Editor]

THE HUBBARD GRAVE CLEARED BY FBWC MAINTENANCE WORKERS

One of the important activities on our clearance days is to clear heavily overgrown graves of those who are to be included on future tours. On Saturday 27 February 2016 the team were asked to clear the Hubbard grave – the owners of a well-known Worthing department store, now Debenhams. Below we show before, during and after images, a FBWC masterpiece!



[Photo: Gill Heasman]





[Photos: Editor]

FBWC TREASURER MUGGED

At the general meeting held in the Gordon Room on Friday 26 February 2016 the FBWC Treasurer was mugged by attendees when he was outvoted by 20 to 1 by those wanting to have toilet facilities at our 2016 Open Day on 6 August. The Treasurer sympathised generally with the possible need for such a facility but voted against because in his view, as the responsible officer for FBWC finances, such expenditure could not possibly be justified. In his view, even though the funds were available it was financially **irresponsible** to spend more on a Portaloo for 5 hours than the entire gross income from donations, book and booklet sales, refreshments and any other sources attracted during the entire Open Day proceedings. There would be a deficit in our finances for the privilege of all the work involved in running a free public Open Day and if we attracted 80 visitors they will **each be subsidised** to the tune of £1.50 each, whether or not they actually use the unpleasant Portaloo facility!

In the previous issue of the BROADSHEET your Editor had pointed out that the cost of a Portaloo for the day had increased in a single year from £65 to £114 (2014 v 2015), a rise of 75%! Accordingly toilet facilities were not provided, there were **no complaints** and such facilities were not, in any event, expected in a cemetery! However at the meeting it was pointed out that the duration of the Open Day would be five hours and there would be a large number of children attending the 2016 event. A democratic vote took place and the Treasurer comprised a minority of one. For his obstinacy the Treasurer was also charged with instigating a tendering process to seek three quotations of cost. Consequently there will be toilet facilities but inflation will take the old expression of having to 'spend a penny' to at least 'a pound a pee'! If we sell 230 books then in net cost terms we could break even!

MAINTENANCE REPORT By Paul Robards

Recent monthly maintenance sessions have been extremely well attended and it has been particularly encouraging to have witnessed great teamwork and a happy atmosphere.



[Photo: Editor]

I would like to thank all of our maintainers who so generously give their time to this very worthwhile cause and although inevitably I will miss some names, for which I apologise, these are some of the regular attendees (in addition to myself): Frank Ffitch, Janet Green, Mark Caveney, Gill Heasman, Anne Powell, Anthony Allchin, Mary Pickett, John Vaughan, Richard Cossey, Mike and Mo Bailey, Debra and Geoff Hillman, Sue Nea, Sally Roberts, Mike and Pat Parrott. Below is a wonderful 'seminar' shot of some of the early maintenance worker arrivals on Saturday 27 February 2016, taken beside the cemetery chapels.



[Photo: Editor]

All of the usual bird sightings have been recorded such as Crows, Wood Pigeons, Magpies, House Sparrows, Blackbirds, Robins, Great and Blue Tits, Long Tailed Tits, Jays, Gold Crests and the Green Woodpecker. With the mild but very wet winter bulbs and flowers have been running early and below is a daffodil photographed in the cemetery during **December!**



[Photo: Mary Pickett]

Debra and I have attended a 'Greenspace Partnership' workshop where the subject was 'Help to attract volunteers and keep them'. [For those interested there are copious amounts of information – as in pages and pages of text and tabulations about the Greenspace' initiative – on the www.forestry.gov.uk website – Ed.]. Further meetings are planned and it is hoped that overall, discussions will result in additional volunteer labour being available to the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in an attempt to help meet the growing list of maintenance requirements and other objectives. This subject will be returned to in the next edition of the BROADSHEET once certain issues have been addressed and clarified.

A programme for further clearance and maintenance work to be tackled in the current year is presently being drawn up. Please note all maintenance dates shown on Page 4 of this issue. Below, is a Blackbird on ivy within the cemetery.



[Photo: Paul Robards]

NEWS IN BRIEF

Frank Ffitch and Norman Manning have attacked our cemetery store! They have generally tidied-up this useful facility and provided new shelving, giving a far greater opportunity in future to keep the store in some semblance of order. Thanks lads!

Mary Pickett, turned engineer, has removed a troublesome drum from the FBWC printer, given it a mighty whack, replaced the component, which is now working well!

A very pleasant FBWC Christmas gathering was held at the Cricketers public house in December and the event was enjoyed by all attendees. The number of Friends attending ran well into double figures.

It has now been agreed that any officer of the FBWC, including ALL committee members, who are intending to transmit items via e-mail to the entire membership, or a significant part thereof, will in future use the BCC (blind) copy box so that individual e-mail addresses are not visible to other members or, by inference, the general public.

OTHER CEMETERIES

In this issue pictures and captions of other cemeteries replace 'Cemetery Humour'. Below we see St Clement's Church cemetery at Powderham in Devon. It would appear that this could be an ideal resting place for railway enthusiasts? [Photo: Gavin Morrison]



We think that we have some difficulties with maintenance issues but this was the Autumn 2015 scene in the cemetery adjacent to St James the Great Church at St Kew in Cornwall. It is easy to say but it would appear that a dedicated Friends group is urgently needed!



[Photo: Editor]

If you have interesting pictures **and** stories of other cemeteries (not just record photographs of headstones) please forward them to the Editor with a short text explaining the story behind the image and why it is of particular interest or a source of amusement.

THE PEOPLE INDEX 1.

A truly remarkable product that seems not to have had the publicity it deserves is what we are calling on our FBWC Website **'The People Index 1'.** It can be accessed under the'Publications' header. This index amounting to a staggering 39 double column pages is a truly unique listing of every single name that has ever appeared in all of our cemetery Booklets that accompany our monthly tours and every name included in every issue of the BROADSHEET; a vital document for anybody who is engaged in research. Not only are the names tabulated in alphabetical order but all relevant cross references are also shown. The incredible list can be accessed by the simple click of a button and it makes fascinating reading. If you haven't seen it then visit our website now!

This wonderful document was created after much hard and demanding effort by **Anne Bevis**, Library Assistant at Worthing Reference Library. Well done Anne, truly a 'Proper Job'.

A WONDERFUL SPALSH OF COLOUR

What a pleasure it is to roam around our 14.5 acre cemetery and suddenly come across a well maintained grave by a family that cares, especially when there are colourful floral tributes; whether they are real of artificial flowers. Below are two recently photographed examples.





[Photos: Ed.]

SIGNAGE By Mary Pickett

Progress is still being made regarding signage. I have been in contact with Stephen Miller at Subway EPS and he has made up what will hopefully be the finished design and produced a copy. I will be taking this along to a Committee meeting on 11 March for discussion. The cost of the 1200mm x 1000mm board will be £120 plus V.A.T. He has very generously donated to the Friends his time and his artwork. Stephen has been asked to produce a full size copy of his work for John Stepney, who has kindly agreed to make the stand(s) on which the signs will be mounted. Present plans are for signs to be positioned at both the main South Farm Road entrance and also at the Carnegie Road entrance.

THE REUSE OF OLD GRAVES

By John Vaughan

There are few subjects that generate more controversy and emotion that reusing old graves. To the writer it is verging on the obscene to tamper with the remains of the buried deceased. 'Rest in Peace' in the writer's view should mean just that! The thought of me or my parents, or their parents being 'dug-up' is deeply offensive, however much sensitivities are addressed. So without further lengthy commentary on what the writer regards as the most disrespectful process imaginable, further investigation was called for.

It has to be recognised that with a rising population there is an inevitability that burial space in rapidly growing areas or major conurbations with an increasing population, or where immigration factors exist, will become increasingly scarce. The appalling planning record of incompetent politicians in terms of house building, appropriate commercial development and infrastructure has caused some of these problems, despite having an army of professional statisticians on the payroll. The death rate and the percentage of burials Vs cremations are available and so there is no excuse for not having a strategic plan. However land is scarce.

That being the case the only answer to the internment problem is either to bury the deceased local population many miles away from their home town or area, increase the number of cremations, or to reuse graves in existing cemeteries. The Church of England (for example) allows cemeteries to reuse graves on consecrated land in which there has been no burial for at least 75 years, providing it receives permission from its diocese. Others are worried that they are breaking the law by reusing graves. The University of York's Cemetery Research Group has stated that the government could do much to allay such fears if it clearly stated that it is not illegal, which it hasn't done.

The government have come out with the usual 'Sir Humphrey' statement; "No decisions to change policy have yet been taken and any changes in the way in which burial space might be used will of course need to be considered carefully and sensitively". This was followed-up by another statement from the Junior Justice Minister in July 2012 that stated "After careful consideration he had taken the view that introducing a policy of reusing graves was not critical at this time. Also the government had committed to keeping the situation under review." Wonderful stuff!

The City of London Cemetery is the only place in the UK currently reusing graves on any scale. It's a practise that is not illegal but the laws are so complex that other cemetery managers are putting off any such actions despite the lack of space. Over 60% of burials in the City of London Cemetery are now in reused graves. In the last five years there have been over 1,000 burials in reused graves, the cost being over 40% less than a burial in a 'new' grave. London generally is the most critical area in the UK for a shortage of burial space.

It has been said, by official sources, that by the year 2037 all designated burial space in the UK will be full unless changes are made. A process called 'Lift and Deepen' will probably be instigated where old graves will be deepened with room for up to six new coffins to be placed on top of the older remains. Families could refuse permission for graves to be reused for at least another generation. It would be up to local authorities to contact relatives of those who are buried in a particular plot, a job that may be difficult due to illegible and weathered headstones that may be over a century old. A minimum of 100 years should have passed

before the grave was considered for reuse, although that may be reduced to 75 years in areas with a particular problem. For a comprehensive document on the subject the House of Commons Library 'Reuse of Graves' report of 15 May 2014 makes interesting reading.

There are other issues surrounding the grave reuse subject. It has been said by a Senior English Heritage Adviser that reuse is crucial to the sustainability of our cemetery heritage. Without new burials or cremation memorials, more and more cemeteries will fall out of use and there will be no new source of income for their general management, let alone the conservation of their older monuments. Also, nationally, there is now a 30 year backlog of damaged memorials to repair after the (ridiculous) era of Health and Safety 'topple testing'. A Select Committee have stated that "If the public are to continue to have access to affordable, accessible (local) burial in cemeteries, fit for the needs of the bereaved, there appears to be no alternative to grave reuse".

During 2018 the centenary of the burial of my Great Grandfather William Austin Morley in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery will be celebrated and all I can say that if I see anybody attempting to dig up his remains for grave reuse it will be a question of how long the Crown Court Judge commits me to the hoosegow! I could be the first cemetery NIMBY! One recognises that reuse in certain circumstances in the distant future may become a reality but as far as the writer is concerned it is the most appalling prospect. The word 'sacrosanct' comes to mind and what would be the point of Janet Green, below, clearing and cleaning long lost headstones, only for them to be removed from their rightful place upon grave reuse?


[Photo: Editor]

EXCLUSIVE: WORTHING'S 2015 STATISTICS

The Adur and Worthing local authorities have kindly provided, exclusively for the BROADSHEET, the latest statistics for the year 2015. In the full calendar year there were 1364 deaths in Worthing and 691 in Adur district; a grand total of **2055 deaths**. Of those 2055 there were 200 burials in respect of the Worthing deceased and 158 from the Adur area, **a total of 358**. Therefore the (reducing) percentage of people being buried was **17.4%.** I am pleased to report that there are no immediate burial space problems in the Worthing and Adur area. Another impressive statistic is that Worthing Crematorium handled **3,361** cremations during 2015; 1697 relating to the Worthing and Adur area and 1664 from outside of the immediate area. Again many thanks to our data source for these fascinating statistics.

A VISUAL MEMORY OF LAST SUMMER

All are welcome at our popular cemetery tour days. Visitors of every persuasion attend; males, females, youngsters, seniors, the tall, the short, the disabled and even dogs on leads. However we also have our share of characters and they are also welcome. This study by Mary Pickett shows one of our more colourful visitors standing by a headstone in the sunshine.



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

I am now entering my eighth year as Editor of the BROADSHEET and I am left wondering where all that time has gone. I have published this issue two weeks early due to editorial holiday plans plus the early date of the Easter weekend. I have also restricted the issue to 16 pages because I have to remind myself regularly that it is a newsletter and not a national magazine, although I did edit one of those from 1979 until 1983! Another slight change is a move from Cemetery Humour to 'Other Cemeteries', effectively photographs from elsewhere with a story behind them. After publishing hundreds of jokes and musings it was becoming more difficult to source material, other than for 'near the knuckle' items.

It looks like 2016 is going to be busy. Our full schedule appears on Page 4 and so there is no excuse for missing an event or bumbling several months from now claiming not to know what is going on! Over the years we have been very lucky with the weather on our tour days and let us hope that this good fortune continues, especially on 6 August when at our Open Day we are incorporating the younger members of our community. I am so pleased that we have mature ladies overseeing the project, which saves me buying a crash hat and sitting under the kitchen table. We will have toilet facilities at the Open Day and so I implore you to have a 'leak per hour', which is the **only** chance of us getting value for money!

There have been zero contributions from the Friends again for this issue but the pages seem to get filled nonetheless. Have a colourful spring and a great summer until the next issue on or about 1 August 2016. Don't forget my "Publican's" tour on 4 June, supported by CAMRA.

John Vaughan **Editor**