THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.28 SUMMER 2016

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

2016 TOUR SUCCESSES OVER 100 VISITORS ATTEND OPEN DAY

So far this year the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have enjoyed great success with their varied programme of thematic cemetery tours, attracting some 300 visitors by the first week in August. Starting in May 2016 Saturday tour attendances have been 30+, 50+, 90+ and 100+ plus 30+ on our first Sunday tour of the season. This level of attendance does not happen by accident and all of those involved in organising the tours, in every respect, deserve recognition and a vote of thanks by all of the Friends.

A truly novel approach was adopted for our 2016 Open Day when a CHILDREN BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE theme was adopted. Our research leader and organiser Sue Nea proposed a cemetery tour whereby young members of the community would make the presentations at each of the 10 graves featured. Furthermore the young people would be dressed in clothes and uniforms that reflected the occupation or profession of the deceased person. This all took an immense amount of planning, in selecting the children, writing scripts based on the usual comprehensive research and sourcing the clothing. In addition all of the usual tasks needed to be undertaken including relevant grave clearing, special booklet production, information board preparation, refreshment provision, cake making, Portaloo facilities, sales stand operation and stocking, setting-up other sales stands, hanging the bunting, preparing posters, posting poster, preparing material for local newspapers, preparing for grave research and finding graves for visitors and a whole lot more. A very large number of Friends were actively involved in a wide range of activities. Above all else it was a very fine day with plenty of sunshine and the four hour event was enjoyed by everybody who attended. A PHOTO FEATUREAND MORE TEXT APPEARS ON PAGES 22 TO 24 INCLUSIVE.



[Springtime]

FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

A more pro-active approach to the use of the modern Facebook communication medium to promote the work of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery has been on the cards for some considerable time. At a recent monthly meeting Tom Wye offered to set-up a Facebook page for the Friends with Tom and Sue Nea being the administrators. This proposal was approved. The Friends already had a Facebook page set up by Sally Roberts but it was a closed (private) site that had limited accessibility, being used mainly for Sunday tours.

The purpose of a Facebook page was so that we could promote tours and all of the other activities that the Friends undertake. It therefore had to be public so that everyone could see and read it if they wished to. A flying start has been made with 84 members registered at the time of writing. If somebody wants to join our page either Tom or Sue have to approve it. They apply a suitability check. Once they are approved any member can post on the page and Sue regularly monitors the content. If there was any abuse then security settings can be changed and potential postings would then be pre-approved.

Sue normally posts information about forthcoming Saturday tours, the Open Day, clearance mornings and other events to encourage the public to attend, while Sally Roberts and/or Mary McKeown do the same for Sunday tours and events. Post-tour photographic images are often posted and even some items of research interest. Friends Gill Heasman, Carole Manning, Anne Powell and Paul Robards have all been contributors to the FBWC Facebook page. Gill has encouraged many of her friends to join. Gill also proposed to print an A4 poster advertising the page and purchased a Perspex stand, Chairman Debra Hillman designed a poster and Sue printed and laminated it – see photograph below.

If family photographs or photographs of children are posted then permission from family members or parents should sought. Several members who are not Friends have posted information about their relatives who are buried in the cemetery and as a result we have helped many locate family graves. So far having a Friends Facebook page has proved greatly beneficial and soon we will be measuring membership in three figure sums.



[All non-credited photographs are by your Editor]

MAINTENANCE JOY - PAGE 3 STYLE


Page 3 girl Mary Pickett takes cover! [Photo: Sue Nea]

Over the past eight years the Friends have been very fortunate indeed with the climatic conditions on both tour dates and on maintenance days. Even our Open Days have been blessed with favourable weather. We have had the occasional shower and a mizzly day or two but on the whole there has only been one occasion when our FBWC umbrellas were needed.

All of that changed on our maintenance day of 25 June 2016 when after a cloudy start the skies darkened and the most horrendous shower slowly crossed the cemetery sending many of our willing helpers rushing for cover, putting coats on, (in the Editor's case erecting the golfing umbrella he had brought with him; some of us listen to the BBC weather forecast!) or improvising with any weather protection that just happened to come to hand such as a pink plastic bag, see above!

Of course some of the female Friends tend to get a little sensitive when it comes to getting their hair wet, as illustrated above. I am happy to report that the shower didn't last long and maintenance work soon resumed.


A cemetery shower - 25 June 2016!

THE SCANDAL OF GRAVE RE-USE

In the last issue of The BROADSHEET your editor exposed the scandal of grave re-use in certain areas of the country. In the article, on Pages 14 and 15 of Issue No.27 Spring 2016, I cited the City of London Cemetery as being the only cemetery in the UK where there is a large re-use of graves, a theme subsequently taken up by the Worthing Journal. Your Editor's view was that the commonly used expression 'Rest in Peace' should mean just that, while recognising that additional burial space would have to be found somewhere, even if away from the area a cemetery purported to serve.

Our much missed former Treasurer Alan Rice, now enjoying retirement by the seaside but in Weston super Mare rather than Worthing, has since forwarded a contribution on the subject **(thanks Alan)**. The content is based on a 2016 lecture he had attended, given by Les Leggett titled "Where has the cemetery gone; selling graveyards for commercial redevelopment".

Les explained that he grew up in Cheetham Hill, Manchester, next to the Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery. His father had been a gravedigger and caretaker there and Les had retained an interest in the cemetery ever since. The cemetery opened in 1815 and the last burial took place in 1968. There had been 20,000 interments in 153 years.

The lecturer revealed a quite shocking story. Presumably faced with a considerable and no doubt expensive maintenance task the Weslyan Church sold the entire cemetery to Manchester Corporation for the **princely sum of £1** during 1973! Much later plans were lodged for the commercial redevelopment of the site and **Manchester Corporation sold the site to Tesco Stores Ltd for a whopping £3.75m!**

There was active opposition to the exhumation of the bodies buried in the cemetery, including Les, but the protests fell on deaf ears. In an appalling act, which your Editor regards as a national scandal, 20,000 exhumed bodies were removed to a mass grave at Bury, nine miles north of Manchester! A small memorial garden was created by the developers in a far and inconvenient corner of the development and twenty random headstones were re-sited therein. The remaining 4,000 headstones **were designated to be crushed and used as hardcore!**

The old cemetery is now a Tesco store but much of the former burial ground is now a car park. This case is the most disgraceful series of events that your Editor has come across. Les gave several examples of burial grounds in the Greater Manchester area that are at risk of being sold for development and he gave advice on how the public could oppose such actions by getting involved at an early stage. Manchester Corporation has been under the political control of the Labour Party since 1973. He also detailed existing legislation designed to protect old graveyards but which is often bypassed.

There is of course no direct link between re-using graves and re-using cemetery land but both scenarios should be totally repugnant to any right thinking person. Fortunately cemeteries such as 'ours' and Heene are not under threat but we all need to be vigilant to ensure that there are no behind the scenes manoeuvres by various interested parties, ignoring the dignity of the deceased for the sake of financial gain. As mentioned in a previous BROADSHEET the proposed route of the new (probably 'white elephant') HS2 rail route cuts through several cemeteries for the sake of saving businessmen 20 minutes on a London to Birmingham trip.

FURTHER GRAFFITI ATTACK - OUR PRESIDENT SYMPATHISES

Thanks for copying me in John – I had not heard about this happening again – sickening!

Tim Loughton MP

Member of Parliament for East Worthing & Shoreham

Your Editor has no intention whatsoever of giving the infantile graffiti vandal who again attacked our cemetery during May 2016 much space in our magazine. Such reporting only encourages others and promotes copycat attacks, as well as giving the culprit satisfaction. As usual this brain dead piece of flotsam used his spray can to daub scribble on some our headstones, including "I'm back' and 'Catch me if you can' messages. Prompt action by our local Council saw the offending messages removed but there is always a hint of residue.

The act of vandalism was reported, one individual was interviewed, flyers were delivered and posted by the Police and both Friends and cemetery dog walkers have been keeping their eye on the cemetery. Vigilante visits have been made and by the end of July there had been no repeat performance. However we cannot afford to be complacent. The idea of a reward for information 'leading to' etc was not recommended by the Police and Friends were warned not to approach the individual. However, by the same token, any photographic evidence would be useful. New CCTV cameras have been installed and monitoring the same is being addressed.

Your Editor reported this fact to our President and he was sympathetic, see above. It was refreshing to see an M.P. taking the time to write in the middle of considerable turbulence! So, many thanks for your message Tim and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM.

.



[Photos: Sally Roberts]



Re-action from the Friends was understandably hostile. The quotes must of course remain anonymous. One member said, conservatively "I can't believe that someone would stoop so low", while another said "It brought tears to my eyes – how could anybody do such a thing as this is beyond me. I hope they catch him, lock him up and throw away the key but in reality he will probably get a telling off by the do-gooders." One Friend telephoned the Police to report the incident but she was told that she couldn't report the vandalism because she didn't own the land!

However you Editor's favourite comment, uttered by a female committee member follows; "This is truly shocking. I do hope they get caught. I would strip them, spray them pink all over and parade them around Broadwater." Your editor would simply recommend surgery, leaving readers to guess whether it would be a lobotomy or a castration. Perhaps the latter just to prevent the procreation of an individual with similar tendencies!



MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE BOTH UP

Our Membership Secretary Mary Pickett has reported that yet again the membership of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery has increased and is now just short of the MAGIC TON! Having 98 fully paid up members is a significant achievement and is attributable to spreading the word on social media and to 'plugging' membership on cemetery tours. Membership is a mere £3 per annum and that entitles Friends to three issues of 'The BROADSHEET', participation in all of our activities and the ability to influence the decision making process at our broadly monthly meetings at the Town Hall, Gordon Rooms.

Our Treasurer John Vaughan, now known as the tightest blighter for many a mile (!), reports that the Friends finances are in a healthy state with a total net worth slightly in excess of £5,000. The objective is not to accumulate funds but to wisely spend money on cemetery enhancements, ranging from signs and maintenance tools to plants and flowers. The Treasurer must ensure that 'profits', as in net income exceeding expenditure, do not exceed £500 per annum and also to monitor that there is no irresponsible expenditure. He must ensure that all expenditure is duly receipted and to report on financial performance at every general meeting and at the Annual General Meeting. Floats must be properly managed. Also books must be maintained to balance with bank statements and annual accounts produced.

NEW CEMETERY SIGNAGE BOARDS

By Mary Pickett

Signage to enable visitors to navigate their way to specific graves was one of the items suggested by several Friends when the 'Wish List' of a couple of years back was being compiled. Sally Roberts and I volunteered to take on the task to look into options and to explore the costs of each.

The initial idea was to have a small sign at the corner of each section of the cemetery but this was shelved because it would have not only been costly but there would have been a confusing number of signs that would all need to be made, mounted and installed. This option was impractical and would have added to the complexities of grass cutting. We then came up with the idea of having one large sign at each of the two cemetery entrances, based on a similar example at Woods Mill at Henfield.

George Roberts (Sally's husband) suggested a colour coordinated version of the cemetery layout. After careful consideration of the proposal I selected nine areas for colour coding and approached Stephen Miller of Subway EPS (on recommendation by Paul Holden) to discuss how the final product could be produced. After looking at the initial design we decided that it would be a sensible idea to take a photograph of a grave in each coloured section that was easily distinguishable, confirming that the user was in the right place.

Stephen Miller then worked on the plan and completed a design for the finished product. He spent a considerable amount of time on the design but when we went to pay him for his efforts he insisted on charging us only for materials. John Stepney designed and assembled two sturdy stands to which the large signage boards were to be attached and Sally and George Roberts dug the foundations and concreted the boards and large stands into place.

It was also decided that it would be useful to have a smaller A4 sized laminated version of the plan available for visitors to use in navigating their way around the cemetery. For this purpose a tailor made receptacle was purchased to store the A4 sized maps in and this was affixed below the main map stands. These portable maps appear to be well used and with only two remaining we are about to produce more. Although the project took longer to implement than anticipated we hope the finished product will be of assistance for many years.



Sally, Mary and new sign.

THE SORT OF LETTER WE LIKE TO GET

Isn't it great to be appreciated in this world of ours? Well done Friend Mary McKeown.

Mr J Vaughan
The Treasurer
'The Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery'
15 Brook Barn Way
Goring by Sea
Worthing BN12 4DN

20th June 2016

Dear Mr Vaughan,

The Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery - Donation

I met Mary McKeown in your cemetery and she has been most helpful in tracking down some of my near and distant relatives.

As I result I would like to make a donation for your cemetery work, and I enclose my cheque for £100 made out to 'The Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery'. If you are a registered charity, as I am a full tax payer in the UK, the government will add to this donation.

I know that Mary would appreciate some of this donation going towards plants in 'The Typhoid Memorial Garden', and I would be grateful if that could be arranged.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Clifford

Enc.

GREAT START TO FBWC TOUR SEASON

Every year there is slight apprehension that even though an interesting tour programme is planned that the numbers attending may disappoint. None of it! Well over 300 members of the public and Friends attended the first five tours, four on the first Saturday of the month from May to August and one on a July Sunday (inc. our Open Day see separate report). The subjects featured on the thematic tours were hugely varied and featured Businessmen and Shopkeepers, Publicans and Hoteliers, The Day Sussex Died (Military) and Flora and Fauna.

The season was kicked-off by tour guide Frank Ffitch who conducted a new tour featuring local Businessmen and Shopkeepers. Over 30 participants enjoyed the tour and some delightful late Spring sunshine. Booklet sales amounted to £42 in addition to donations and refreshment contributions. Below, an attentive crowd listen to the carefully researched information before returning to display boards and sales stands beside the chapels.



Our second tour took place on 4 June 2016 when your Editor entertained a crowd of over 50 visitors and friends relating the stories of some of Worthing's Publicans and Hoteliers who were buried in the cemetery. This was another new tour and as with other tours a special FBWC booklet was produced and made available for the occasion. The weather was mainly dull but dry and a good time was had by all during the one and a half hour event.

The tour attracted some new members, book sales amounted to £56 with the overall 'take' amounting to £120. In addition to the usual informative display boards and stands the lads from Worthing Pubs History were also in attendance. As with all of our other tours refreshments were available and this season has seen our delightful catering ladies producing delicious cakes for visitors to enjoy, as well as tea and coffee. Donations for refreshments amounted to just under £40. As usual our total cemetery tour team, who all perform their respective responsibilities in a competent and professional manner, all 'did their bit' in making the event a resounding success. Two photographs appear on the next page.



Above, John Vaughan on the right, tour guide for the Publicans and Hoteliers tour, tries to entertain over 50 tour participants. Below, the Worthing Pubs History lads and their table with historic pub photographs in the foreground, which generated considerable interest.



[Photos: Sue Nea]

The third Saturday tour took place on 2 July 2016. Titled ‘The Day Sussex Died’ the tour commemorated military personnel buried within the boundaries of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery that had direct associations with the Battle of the Somme and also the Battle of Richebourg, both of which commenced a century ago. The tour was conducted by our Patron Major Tom Wye who in conjunction with others has been heavily engaged in First World War research and involvement in the accuracy of the Worthing War Memorial. There were some splendid display boards prepared by the Friends and on the refreshments side such novelties as Trench Cake and WW1 cupcakes were made available and were devoured with great gusto. Every grave included in the tour was decorated with poppies, a delightful touch.



Gill Heasman selling booklets.


John Stepney's super crosses.


Major Tom Wye, tour guide.

The grand effort made in successfully running 'The Day Sussex Died' tour was rewarded with over 90 attendees, including members of the general public and Friends. Booklet sales exceeded £110, some new members were recruited and over £60 was taken in refreshments contributions, in addition to general donations of over £17. There were many pleasant 'touches' ranging from bunting to the aforementioned poppies.



Left: Bunting.



Left: Poppies.

Below we see various cakes, including trench cake and WW1 cupcakes, by Carole and Gill.





[Photos: Sally Roberts]



'The Day Sussex Died' tour.

In addition to the Somme/Richebourg tour Tom Wye also conducted a special tour for the wheelchair friendly 'YOU' group centred on St Symphorian Church in Durrington. There were a dozen attendees who enjoyed good weather and an entertaining tour, describing interesting people who made Worthing what it is today. The paths had been kept clear and happily no mishaps occurred. After the tour of the cemetery the whole party retired to the church hall for a welcome cup of tea. Tom has offered to conduct similar tours for interested groups or even individuals. At the 'Day Sussex Died' tours the Friends did a roaring trade in booklet sales, so much so that Mary Pickett and the sales girls could hardly keep pace. Below we see Mary in action as some of the 90+ participants gather round.



DONATIONS, in addition to the donation for £100 already mentioned, we also received £30 via Carole Manning for a talk she gave about our cemetery, £20 via Sue Nea for assistance with grave finding and research, £20 via John Stepney for a cross he made for a relative of somebody buried in the cemetery plus other sundry donations. On behalf of us all we say very well done to all Friends for their efforts in assisting our finances.

FAUNA AND FLORA SUNDAY

The first Sunday tour of the season, organised by Sally Roberts and Mary McKeown and our Maintenance Coordinator Paul Robards, took place on 10 July 2016. This was a new tour and something of an unknown quantity and so there was relief all round when over 30 participants joined the tour party. Paul contacted Bryan Day from East Preston in view of his experience and expertise in the field. Bryan's main strengths are the origins of plants and what they can be used for, whether it is for medicinal purposes or as a foodstuff. The tour included the observation and explanation of a wide variety of trees, plants and resident wildlife. Over £30 was taken in booklet sales.



Tour guide Bryan Day. [Photos Mary McKeown]



Left: Flora and Fauna Tour

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maintenance Coordinator Paul Robards has procured a new larger blackboard for notes, located within the chapel archway by our store. Our Chairman has had discussions with the Greenspace Partnership about the possibilities of building a compost bay within the cemetery and the supply of a shredder. Watch this space! She has also been in contact with a Worthing homeless organisation regarding a project to help with cemetery maintenance but this seems to have fallen by the wayside due to a lack of communication from the third party.

POETRY IN MOTION !

Further to the 'FBWC Treasurer Mugged' article on Page 9 of the last issue of 'The BROADSHEET', which centred on the cost of hiring a Portaloo for our Open Day, our wonderful catering queen Carole Manning (un)kindly penned a poem titled:

AN ODE TO A PORTALOO

What suggestion did Norman make,
That made poor John quiver and shake?
A Portaloo for Open Day,
The rest of us said hip hip hooray.
How can we sell lots of tea
When there is nowhere to go for a wee?
Those of us that are there for hours
Can't just hide behind the flowers.
We realise the price is high
As John explained with a sigh,
But for all the children who will be there
We really must have a care.
So we'll ask all those who use our comfort station,
To please leave us a generous donation.
So please Dear John, do not fret and worry
It will mean our visitors won't leave in a hurry.
Plenty of time to buy the books on sale
And put their money in the pail.

Carole Manning 2016



[Photo: Sue Nea]

Carole and Karen maintaining our estate on a non-refreshment day. Is that a prayer mat?

A CAUTIONARY TALE

By Rosemary Pearson

The internet is a wonderful tool but it does have certain pitfalls, as I have discovered. I am sure that we are all aware that anything posted on open Twitter or Facebook can be read by anybody anywhere in the world, as long as they have access to the internet. However, how many of us have taken on board the fact that also applies to any contribution to 'The BROADSHEET'? Any name of a person or place, including the name of the author, will be picked up and can thus be 'Googled'.

This may not generally be a problem but I think it is something we should bear in mind. Back in 2010, a distant relative of mine was doing some unconnected research from *The Times* newspaper, when he came across a report from the Court of Probate, concerning the contesting of the Will of Ann Thwaytes. This case ran for three weeks and was reported in *The Times* on a daily basis. Knowing that Ann Thwaytes was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, and that I was a Friend of the cemetery, my relative kindly had the complete report downloaded and passed it over to me, thinking it may be of interest.

Indeed it was. After many hours spent poring over numerous pages of very small print I managed to uncover a fascinating account of Ann Thwaytes's life after the death of her husband, William, much of it spent at Charmandean. This formed the basis of an article, which appeared in issue No.10 of 'The BROADSHEET'.

At that time, having had little experience of the workings of the internet, I naively assumed the readers would be members of the FBWC, along with possibly a few visitors to our website. It was with some surprise, while doing some casual Googling on the internet a year or so later, that I came across my complete article. I had no problem with that, and thought no more about it until very recently when someone mentioned that there was information on Ann Thwaytes on Wikipedia. Out of curiosity I Googled 'Ann Thwaytes' and the first entry was indeed, Wikipedia. On reading through I was struck by the familiarity of some of the sentences, until I realised that they had been taken from my original BROADSHEET article. This had been credited, but I was somewhat taken aback by the following:

Note: 'Pearson credits 'The Times' online archives a source, however a proportion of the text reflects Mike Bundock (2000): see Bibliography'.

The book in question is apparently a history of the Herne Bay Clock Tower, which I have never read, but the note does seem to imply that I have plagiarised the text. Not guilty! While perhaps not a major issue, it does rather beg the question as to whether we need to pay more attention to referencing the sources of articles in more detail. This really applies to any article likely to go on line, such as in 'The BROADSHEET', rather than to our tour booklets. This subject may possibly be a point for future discussion.

[Editor's note: There is much legislation concerning the subject of copyright but there is no copyright on 'facts' or' title'. There is a 50 year copyright protection on photographs. 'The BROADSHEET' does not warn on copyright because our wish is for the content of our newsletter and especially our research, to be in the public domain and free for others to use.]

THE NEXT FEW DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Saturday Tours: Commencing 11.00 hours

Saturday 3 September 2016 “Upstairs Downstairs”
Saturday 1 October 2016 “The Medical Profession”
Saturday 12 November 2016 “Remembrance Tour”

Sunday Tours: Commencing 14.00 hours

Sunday 14 August 2016 “Overseas Connections”
Sunday 11 September 2016 “Royal Connections”

General Meetings (Gordon Rooms) 18.00

Friday 30 September 2016
Friday 25 November 2016 Annual General Meeting

Maintenance Sessions 10.00 until 12.00

Take place on the last Saturday of every calendar month.



Mary McKeown planting memorial flowers.


John Vaughan cleaning the main noticeboard. [Photo: Mary Pickett]

ANNUAL PUBLIC CLEARANCE DAY

Just about everything that the friends of Worthing and Broadwater Cemetery organise or attempt is normally successful, however the 2016 Public Clearance Day did not fall into that category. In fact only a handful of non-Friends turned up and the total population taking part in maintenance on 2 April 2016 could be measured in the 'twenties'. Bearing in mind that the population of Worthing exceeds 100,000 and the local coastal strip some 250,000 all that the event highlighted was public apathy.

The small turnout was not for the want of publicity in terms of posters and local newspaper and advertising magazine input. In fact so much effort was put into promoting the day that the end result made one pose the question as to whether the exercise was worthwhile, compared with, say, a standard monthly (last Saturday of the month) maintenance meeting. Below we see 21 of the attendees beside the chapels and we sincerely thank them for their time and effort. The majority appearing in the image are Friends of the cemetery. Nevertheless a reasonable amount of clearance was undertaken and everybody tried their best to trim, cut and prune within the time available. [Photo: Mary Pickett]



Our usual monthly clearance/maintenance sessions were all enjoyed by those attending and everyone was thanked by our Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards. As usual a wide range of tasks were undertaken and attendances were very encouraging with between 12 and 18 Friends working hard on each occasion for over 2 hours. Disposing of cuttings and even tree branches continued to pose a problem, especially when undertaken far away from the chapels area. Some material was dragged across the cemetery in builder's bags but some was dumped against the perimeter walls. The materials would all rot in the fullness of time but heavier items would take several years and the larger piles were not attractive aesthetically. The friends are now looking at shredding possibilities. Some fun maintenance pictures follow; all photographed during the past four months.



We think its Antony Allchin!
[All Photos: Mary Pickett]



Sally Roberts (R) and friends.



Paul Robards and Mike Bailey.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

By Paul Robards

In addition to what has already been recorded there is much to report since the last edition of The BROADSHEET back in March/April. One highlight was the Fauna and Flora cemetery tour already reported and another was the management of the Spring and Summer flowers.

Although the grass cutting cycle was agreed at the beginning of the year I have made attempts to ensure that certain areas of the cemetery remained uncut for the benefit of insects and other wildlife. The June cut was late and did not take place until the second week of July. Prior to the cut I managed to meet Steve, the foreman for the grass cutting gang, and walk around the cemetery. I had identified two large areas, which I had previously plotted out, and also a few smaller areas with clumps of flowers, which at this time were in their prime. These areas contained Birds Foot Trefoil, Orange Hawkweed, Ladies Bedstraw and Orchids and would provide areas for mating butterflies to lay their eggs.

After the main cut I revisited the cemetery and some of the selected areas were much larger than I had visualised. I asked Steve to reduce the size of these additional areas, which subsequently looked delightful and were no doubt successful. The next focus was on the Wildlife Tour to be conducted by Bryan Day (see Page 14) and I hoped that there would still be a variety of flowers in bloom. The Wildlife tour was well attended and it was amusing to see Bryan walking around the cemetery chomping on leaves and flowers, which he had picked. His delivery was very informative and he invited and answered questions. It was a sunny afternoon and the event was enjoyed by all who attended. A small Bug Hunt was also undertaken for youngsters. We continue to help maintain the cemetery and all are welcome at our maintenance days. Any observations can be noted on our new large blackboard/slate located just inside the chapel entrance. Comments have been made thereon regarding the wonderful display of flowers visible in the cemetery this summer.

Finally thanks to all those who have given us their valuable time on our maintenance and clearance days. We have had up to 18 attendees on some occasions, which is encouraging.



[Photo: Paul Robards]

GRAVE MATTERS

Advice from the Editor: When selecting an undertaker check-out the hearse they use and if either the engine is too powerful or the funeral parlour's chauffeur was once a racing driver, who unlike Goring and Ferring motorists likes to be quick off the mark, DON'T hire them!



Friend Mary McKeown took this perfectly positioned photograph of three seagulls in 'our' cemetery and on viewing the image chose to super-impose a humorous caption!



The Parish church was in financial difficulty and at the Sunday service a request was made for help. A week later the vicar asked who was prepared to help. One elderly lady said "I will donate £100 per month by standing order". The vicar was delighted. Another parishioner said "I will supply all of your food every week"; the vicar said he was extremely grateful. A third elderly lady said "and I will make love to you whenever you want it". The vicar was taken aback and asked why she had said what she did. The lady said that when asked for money her husband had shouted "you know what you and vicar can do and it won't cost me a penny!!"

2016 FBWC OPEN DAY



Above: The wonderful group of young presenters. They were each given certificates and a £10 Amazon gift voucher. The roll of honour is as follows. Front row left to right: Ben Walker was Edward Jack Burgess, Megan Perry was Mary Louisa (Polly) Bennett, Kai Nicholas was Alfred Crouch, Caitlin Churcher was Harriett Luff, Dougie Perry was Henry Hayden, Emily Batchelor was Ellen Lucy Foyster. Back row left to right, Kara Charman represented the Sisters of Sion, Rachael Hogg and Odette Gardner were Sarah Broadhurst and Oliver Batchelor was Hayward Frank Wade. All performances were highly commendable.

Below, the crowds gather beside the chapels at the start of the main tour with the theme ‘Children Bringing History Alive’. Over 100 visitors enjoyed the tour and the day.





Above, part of the large crowd listens to the delivery by Salvation Army girls Odette Gardner and Rachael Hogg. Below is Jack (and friends), one of our younger tour participants!



Below, Sally Roberts and Debra Hillman lead a group of youngsters on the demon Bug Hunt. There was also a Treasure Hunt enjoyed by half a dozen youngsters, with ‘sweet’ prizes.





The sun shone for most of the day, which all added to the enjoyment of the event. The atmosphere was friendly and yet vibrant as our young people delivered their scripts with conviction. Here the attentive crowd listen to Dougie Perry who was describing the life and times of Henry Hayden the Worthing pier master.

The total takings for the day including booklet sales, the refreshment 'take', donations and commissions amounted to about £250 gross but with considerable expenses for the Portaloo, gift vouchers for children, refreshment material costs, sound equipment and book production costs, the net result was a loss of about £80 on the day, plus of course hundreds of hours of effort given freely. However it was a true 'community' event and very successful, which was commensurate with the aims of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU DRINK !

By Anne Powell

During a recent research session I came across the following item in a Sussex newspaper dated 1909. The remaining unanswered question is of course 'where was the coal cellar'?

A RASH DRINK. – In a coal cellar at the Worthing Cemetery a workman saw a bottle, and thinking its contents to be beer, drank them. The contents proved to be poison, and the man died.

THANKS PAUL !

Your Editor would like to sincerely thank our Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards, for making arrangements for unlocking and locking the second cemetery main gate for both the delivery and collection of the Open Day Portaloo. It must also have made an interesting sight as four of the Friends, part of the 'Heavy Gang', moved the large cubicle into place, first checking that there was nobody inside at the time. Well done lads!

VERY LATE SUMMER GRASS CUT

Although there are four general cemetery grass cuts per annum the important June cut did not take place. The cemetery has not looked so bad for many years, which completely negated the efforts of the FBWC monthly maintenance team. The grasses grew higher and higher totally swamping many of the smaller graves and headstones, as seen here. It was a disgrace.



There was hope that the cut might have taken place before our important 'The Day Sussex Died' tour on 2 July 2016 but it was not to be. Warnings had to be given to tour participants not to stray from the paths because of obscured obstacles in the long grass. Finally on 6 July Council workers moved on site with machinery and strimmers. This was the frenetic scene:



At last a family could enjoy leisure pursuits, not dog walking but cycling! [Photo: M Pickett]



A SAD REFLECTION ON SOCIETY

By Sue Nea

My granddaughter Lauren has a boyfriend called Archie Keys who is the 3 x great grandson of James Rushden Keys. Archie's father is Steve Keys who owns the motorbike shop in Worthing that was previously owned by his father Roger and in turn by his father Basil Keys. Researchers checked to see whether there was any family connection with James Rushden Keys, the oldest serving soldier, and there was, James being Basil's grandfather!

On a recent walk around the cemetery I went to visit the grave where a short time ago a brand new granite headstone had been put in position by Key's great grandchildren to show Lauren and Archie. To my astonishment some vandal had kicked over the lovely little headstone, wrenching it from its securing posts that had in turn snapped off. The headstone will be restored but what a miserable reflection on today's society where such low life is tolerated.



. [Photo: Sue Nea]

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

The season has started well with good attendances on tours and with plenty of maintenance day support. The membership is increasing and our finances are stable. We are already half way through our annual tour programme and 'so far, so good'. There has been considerable novelty included in the Friends activities this year and we have become established on Facebook. There was no 'head count' on the Portaloo usage at our Open Day but the facility was well received by many. There have been so many Friends performing vital roles that it has not been possible to name them all personally within this issue of 'The BROADSHEET' but you know who you are. Forgive us for that.

There is no 'monthly' meeting at the end of August but the Friends will meet in the Gordon Rooms at the end of September – and try to attend our next series of tours - see Page 17.
Enjoy the rest of the summer and please send me any contributions for the next issue.

John Vaughan - Editor