THE BROADSHEET

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SUMMER 2017

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

TOUR ATTENDANCES ON THE 'UP'

Welcome to the biggest BROADSHEET published so far; the 25 page Summer 2017 issue. Your Editor is delighted to report that in the 9th year of operation the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have managed not only to attract and sustain cemetery tour attendances but to exceed historical numbers. The number of participants on the first four Saturday tours has averaged over 80 and while some of those attendance figures include Friends of the cemetery the overall picture is exceedingly healthy.

This state of affairs does not occur by accident but by a combination of exciting and novel tour themes, evocative tour titles, well researched material for use on the tours, professionally produced booklets that accompany every tour, good local publicity and slowly building a reputation for putting on a good show, via expert tour guides and the provision of refreshment facilities. Of course these large attendances produce a number of logistical problems as the time taken to move the crowds from one grave to another is extended, the overall 'pace' being determined by the least fit member of the crowd.

Another factor that affects attendances to some degree is the weather and we have been extremely fortunate in that respect, as every tour date has, so far in 2017, been fine and in many cases sunny. A photographic record of all four Saturday tours follows. These images give an impression of the wonderful scenes that we have all been privileged to witness so far this year. Having said that there is no room for complacency and all of the Friends involved in the many aspects of tour operation are keen to sustain the very high standard achieved so far. Please see Page 19 for details of the remainder of our 2017 Saturday and Sunday tours. Come and support us and make our efforts worthwhile!

Below: View towards the chapels. [All photos by your Editor unless otherwise credited.]



CONTRACTOR STRIMMING DISASTER

The Friends of the cemetery have excellent working relationships with Worthing and Adur Council. We are in regular contact about a whole range of issues and we have discussions about everything from composting bins, to tree planting, to maintenance schedules to electricity supply (and a whole lot more). Our dealings are always amicable and meaningful and above all positive. Long may that situation continue.

However during the last month or so some real issues have occurred that give considerable cause for concern. There have been a whole set of examples where Council contractors have perpetrated some of the most insensitive strimming that it has ever been the Editor's misfortune to witness. There seems to be an urgent need for contractors to educate their employees in using their grey matter when it comes to many aspect of strimming using industrial quality equipment. The very real examples that follow show appalling ignorance of the most fundamental aspects of cemetery maintenance. Common sense seems to be completely lacking and as for supervision of such appalling acts of contractor vandalism, there simply can't be any, unless the quality of supervision is no better than the intelligence of the operators. This careless maintenance was also perpetrated at Durrington Cemetery as well as Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

Can you imagine anybody strimming the bark off of a commemorative tree, in this case the tree dedicated to Salvationist Sarah Broadhurst. According to our tree expert this careless and totally unnecessary act may result in the 'death' of the tree. Other saplings have been completely severed and therefore destroyed. Also what sort of operative cannot see before his eyes that the strimming of lead lettering on horizontal gravestones destroys heartfelt words on memorials that have hitherto been in place for a century or more? The words 'thick' and apathetic come to mind. Also, although one can understand that personal memorabilia, flower pots and personal mementos do present a problem for those maintaining cemeteries, at Durrington row after row of grave adornments and memorials were desecrated and scattered to the wind in a blitz of unnecessary insensitivity. Words really do fail your Editor.

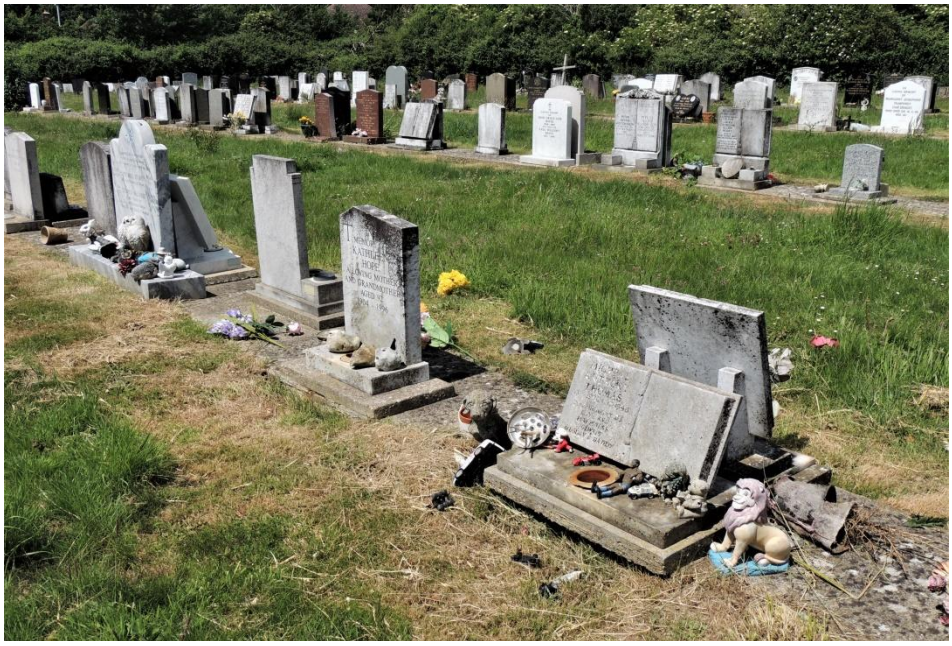
There clearly needs to be an urgent training course for contractor operatives. Managers and supervisors should be severely reprimanded for being 'in charge' of such wanton destruction. In the cases below, the camera does not lie but what sad and depressing scenes are illustrated. Something needs to be done and done NOW! Below, is an image that shows the damaged bark on the Sarah Broadhurst commemorative tree; what a tragedy.



Below, the picture shows the damaged lead lettering cause by thoughtless strimming.



Finally we reproduce an image from Durrington Cemetery with just about every flower pot, ornament and item of personal memorabilia smashed and scattered to the wind in a totally insensitive attack by maintenance contractors. This totally unnecessary act, with even the grass scuffed to its roots with the central grass uncut, shows absolutely no pride in the work done. Where is their common sense, training, supervision, sensitivity and decency?



MONEY AND MEMBERSHIP

Both the FBWC Treasurer and the Membership Secretary report very satisfactory situations. John Vaughan reports that including bank deposits and two cash floats the FBWC net worth currently stands at £5,614.30 but with a chunky £400 bill for a 'Window on the Pier' (balance) in the pipeline plus a nominal sum for the procurement of cemetery maintenance tools. At the date of publication of this issue of The BROADSHEET Mary Pickett reports that the FBWC has 95 fully paid up members and that the membership list has been updated to reflect the current situation. Annual accounts will be produced in November 2017.

FBWC SEAFRONT NOTICE BOARD

As reported on Page 4 of the Spring 2017 issue of The BROADSHEET, our Hon Secretary and Editor of the *Worthing Journal*, Paul Holden, kindly made arrangements for the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to make use of a very prominent Worthing seafront notice board to promote our full range of activities. Located on the landward side of the promenade just west of the Worthing Lido, the board is normally used for regimental/military purposes. The contents were designed and positioned by Mary Pickett (photographed here) assisted by Sue Nea. The photograph appeared in the *Worthing Journal* and was taken by Paul on 1 April 2017. We had use of the notice board for over two months and we are sure there were plenty of viewers. There is a chance that we may again have use of the display cabinet later in the year.



TREES AND A WINDOW

I am pleased to report that the 'Window on the Pier' commemorating the cemetery and the work of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, which was commissioned earlier this year after a democratic vote, has now reached the design stage and the very first design proof was shown to those Friends who attended the Town Hall meeting on 30 June 2017.

In general terms the design was greeted positively although there were strong feelings expressed by many that the lettering within the fused glass panel should show at least the initials of the Friends group. The design will now be developed and further consultations will take place. It is likely that the finished panel will be installed in the Autumn.

An idea floated by Paul Holden to plant preferably cherry trees in the cemetery to form a distinctive feature in the Spring when the trees are in blossom, forming perhaps an archway of colour, was enthusiastically received by a general meeting of the Friends in May. The discussion went so far as to provisionally allocate the sum of £700 from FBWC funds for tree purchase. However after the rush of enthusiasm some practical problems arose as the total ramifications of the initiative were closely examined.

Most of the possible planting areas would apparently be too near existing graves and, in time, tree roots would disturb the graves. It might have been possible to plant a row of trees in the centre of the cemetery but they would encroach on existing pathways. If far away from the chapels, where the only cemetery water supply is located, there would be a problem watering the trees, our tree experts pointing out that for at least a couple of years young saplings would require copious amounts of water. There were also issues about who would care for the trees, which would eventually include pruning.

As a third option the random planting of trees was discussed but that would be so far away from the original objective of creating a specific feature that the whole idea was put onto the back burner. The original idea was a good one and an attractive one but the practical problems were very real. With so many trees already in the cemetery and with recent experiences with careless strimming there was a vote held on 30 June 2017 and it was decided not to proceed with random planting. In the fullness of time there could be a further survey of likely planting spots but none were identified at the time of discussion.

COMPLIMENTS TO THE COUNCIL

Having criticised the Councils contractors for indiscriminate strimming it is now time to congratulate them in terms of routine maintenance of the cemetery waste bins and dog ‘poo’ bins. They also pick-up obvious trash, such as crisp packets and tin cans, carelessly disposed of by the minority of the great British public. These two gentlemen were happy to pose for the camera as they were going about their work in an industrious, positive and above all cheerful manner. Just looking at the one bag one can gauge the amount of trash removed; and there were other sacks of recovered rubbish by the main gates in South Farm Road. Well done chaps and thank you for looking after ‘our’ cemetery.



OUR 2017 CEMETERY TOURS SO FAR

In 2017 our season started early with our Chairman Debra Hillman kicking-off as tour guide for an **'Unusual Gravestones'** tour. The Friends were a little concerned that the event would attract only a small crowd so early in the year but any fears were unfounded as the crowds poured into the cemetery. Below, we see Debra in full flow with an attentive audience all bathed in plenty of sunshine. At the bottom of page we see the full extent of the crowd in another part of the cemetery [Photo: Sally Roberts]





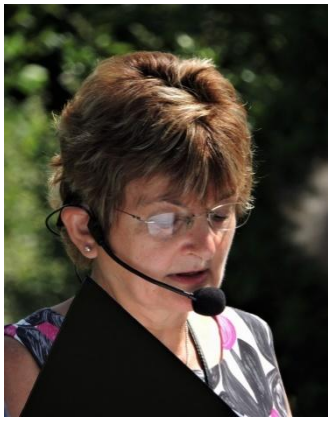
On 6 May 2017 it was the turn of FBWC stalwart Frank Ffitch to stun the crowds with his **'Equine Matters'** tour, which included about a dozen interesting histories of those buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Again the sun shone and a very respectable crowd in terms of numbers and behaviour attended! Below the crowds are seen on their way to the first grave on the tour by our Friends Anne Powell and Jocelyn Clasby. Centre, Frank entertains a large crowd, with the houses in South Farm Road as a backdrop. Finally a dog has joined the crowd and seems to be taking a liking to Frank! [Bottom photo: Sally Roberts]







Friend Pauline Reed stepped up to the plate for a **'Fatal Accidents'** tour on 3 June 2017. She probably had the most entertaining, or perhaps bizarre tour title and Pauline told some rather gory tales, which fascinated the substantial crowd. The weather was superb with plenty of sunshine under blue skies. The Friends sold 74 of their £1 tour guide booklets and a few new members were signed up, as well as there being a good few pounds in our donations bucket. Below we see a studious Pauline at work and below another good crowd listening to the well-researched commentary and then (bottom) forming a snake, walking between graves.









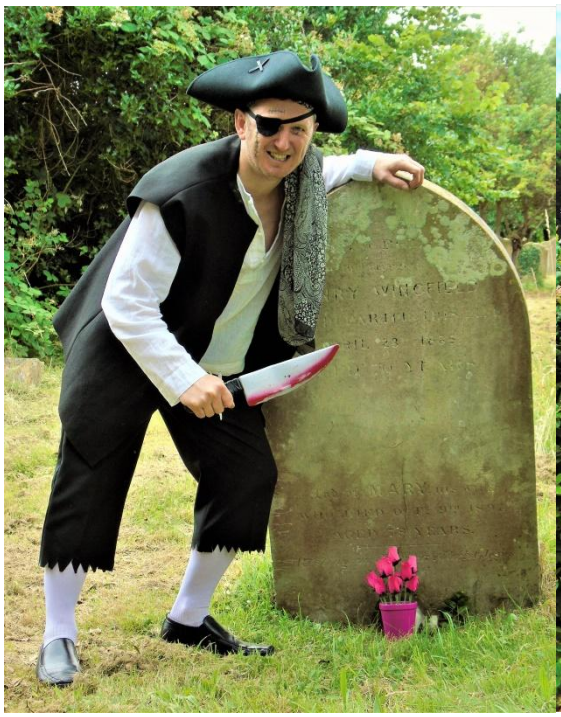
[The 'portrayers' – Photo: Mary Pickett]

A truly novel tour took place on 1 July when a themed **'Relatively Speaking'** tour was included in the 2017 programme. The idea was for relatives of those buried in the cemetery not only to speak about their ancestors but to dress as they would have appeared in their era, either on a day to day basis or reflecting their occupation or profession. As each individual had so much to say in telling their tales and as it took so long to move 88 people between each grave the elapsed time of the tour broke all records at almost 2 hours! The weather was cloudy but bright. All of the speakers did their very best and the pre tour line-up above shows all of the presenters. They were, in random order:-

Edward Payne – portrayed by Colin Reid
William Austin Morley - portrayed by John Vaughan
Alfred Chapman – portrayed by Mike Chapman
William Cyril Beeney – portrayed by Ben Walker
William Walter (Emma) – portrayed by Carole Manning
Henry Wingfield – portrayed by Martin Lemon
Catherine Paine – portrayed by Rosemary Pearson
Thomas W Wingfield (Rachel) – portrayed by Karen Foster
William Henry Linfield – portrayed by Malcolm Linfield
Charles William and Annie Parkhurst – by Lance Scott Dale and Debra Hillman
Henry Irvine (Sophia) – portrayed by Connie Apps



[Carole Manning in action. Photo: Mary Pickett]




Above left, a cut-throat pirate or at least seaman, alias Martyn Lemon and above right, a very respectable (?) preacher, alias John Vaughan with old family bible. [All photos: Mary Pickett]




Above left is Rosemary Pearson who specially knitted her jumper to match the one shown in this photograph of her ancestor and above right is Colin Reid, who not only grew his whiskers to emulate his long deceased relative but was wearing a pocket watch that was a family heirloom of the period. The event was an awful lot of fun and greatly appreciated by the audience, who purchased 64 tour booklets as souvenirs of their visit to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

CEMETERY TOUR SUPPORT

Behind the scenes of every cemetery tour there is a tremendous amount of organisation and effort with over a dozen people having an amazing variety of roles. In a future issue we will detail all of the work undertaken and identify all of those folk who give hours of their time to ensure that each of our events is successful. Setting up the bookstall and our display tables is one major task and in this scene Debra Hillman, Pam Stepney and Mary Pickett discuss tactics after erecting the display boards in the background.



Another vital part of our major events is the provision of refreshments with kingpins Norman and Carole Manning and Karen Foster, plus regular helpers, performing miracles to ensure that tea, coffee and cake is available for both the Friends and the visitors. On a typical tour day takings can vary from £30 to £45 but on the whole the donations made by members of the public are disappointing. However in a full accounting year Carole & Co make a net contribution of nearly £300 to the coffers of the Friends. Here is their new notice board!





One of the most important aspects of cemetery tour support is setting up the various display tables and boards illustrating our work and the nature of the tours, placing all of the various publications we have for sale on tables, strategically placing the contributions bucket and visitors book, not to mention our ‘A’ boards. Above shows the scene by the chapels as visitors start to arrive at the cemetery.



How many times have we heard during any of our tours “follow the man in the red shirt”? No, not some local communist but Friend John Stepney who plans and organises the tour route and who the crowd follow from grave to grave under his leadership, not walking too fast or too slow. Here John, in the middle of the photograph, points the way forward, with a Union Jack umbrella adding an amusing touch, while reminding us of our traditional culture.

OTHER CEMETERIES PICTORIAL

Featured here are cemeteries in other parts of the country that have something a little unusual about them. Below is the wonderful and ancient 15th century church at St Winnow on the banks of the River Fowey in Cornwall, just a few miles from the town of Lostwithiel. Across the river china clay trains make their way down to the docks at Carne Point, Fowey.



Below is the cemetery at Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire where the headstones are overshadowed in the background by Ferrybridge Power Station and its massive cooling towers. The power generator became a victim of emissions regulations as it mostly burnt our main energy producing natural resource – COAL. The UK now mines less than 25 million tons per annum whereas China produces 3,874 million tonnes, the USA 907m, Australia 644 m and India 538 m. We now import most of our coal; **unbelievable!** [Photo: Peter Marsh]



WORLDWIDE CREMATION RATES

The BROADSHEET is politically neutral and takes no particular stance on religion; however it has always fascinated your Editor that across nations there is a need for some form of spiritual belief. Worldwide there is such a massive variance in the teachings of the various religions, many in conflict with each other, which can vary from worshipping 'the gods' in ancient times to modern religions, many of which are based on ancient documents but written only centuries ago, in a world that has been here for billions of years. The strict adherence to many of the 'teachings' is interesting to analyse, with some writings being written by mere mortals and which may have limited relevance in today's world. You will be delighted to hear that there will be no further extrapolation on the history of religion or exploration of the logic of 'Darwinism' or the benefits of 'Atheism' but there is spiritual belief in every human society, with manifestations of human desire for some form of continuance after death.

Whatever, it is re-assuring that somebody will say something pleasant about you after you 'pop your clogs'! These various religious doctrines and beliefs hugely impact what happens immediately after death whereby, for example, some dictate that the dead should be buried while others propound a policy of cremation, with many variations in detail. The first recorded cremation in the United Kingdom was at Woking in March 1886, only 131 years ago. Since 1960 the percentage of UK cremations has increased from 34.7% to 75.44% and that is against an increasing Muslim population who bury their dead. It is fascinating to take a snapshot of cremation rates across the world. Cremation rates are increasing everywhere (except **), much of it attributable to a shortage of land in cities and urban areas to bury the dead. Without being morbid the average weight of a UK male is 84kg and female 69kg, that weight being reduced to 2.7kg and 1.8kg post cremation. Below is a random cremation rate by country. It should be noted that rates within countries vary hugely. For example in California the cremation rate is 65% whereas in Missisippi it is barely 20%. In Canada the rate in British Columbia is 77% but in largely French speaking Quebec it is only 43%.

JAPAN 99.9%
HONG KONG 90%
INDIA 85%
SWITZERLAND 84.6%
THAILAND 80%
UNITED KINGDON 75%
NEW ZEAKAND 72%
AUSTRALIA 65%
CANADA 62%
CHINA 49%
RUSSIA 48%
AUSTRIA 35%
FRANCE 32%
CUBA 21%
ITALY 15%
IRELAND 6%

** Cremation in many Middle Eastern countries is contrary to Islamic law and is therefore prohibited. No statistics are available but one assumes the cremation rate is 0%.

MAINTENANCE DAYS FUN AND FROLICS



Above, the age of chivalry seems to be dead as four of our strong lady maintainer Friends struggle with a builder's bag full of cuttings. The male population must have been hiding! This was the scene on 27 May 2017. Below, on a slightly less favourable 24 June 2017 this happy band of maintenance pilgrims band together to pick-up the numerous cuttings produced by your Editor while giving a 'haircut' to a huge willow tree in the cemetery. This was one of the few days in the season when rain did briefly stop play – but that didn't stop the merriment, joking, fun and frolics. Why don't you come and join us. WE MEET AT 10.00 ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH AND SO NO NEED TO DIARISE THESE DATES. SESSIONS RUN FROM 10.00 AND LAST UNTIL 12.00. MOST TOOLS ARE PROVIDED AND YOU CAN WORK ALONE OR IN A GROUP. THERE ARE LIGHTS TASKS AND HEAVY TASKS – TO SUIT EVERY INDIVIDUAL. JOIN US!



There are a couple of dozen cemetery ‘maintainers’ and on any Maintenance Day anywhere from 12 to 24 individuals turn up to contribute. Many Friends casually turn up when they feel inclined on any day of the week such as friend David Styles and in recent months our Chairman’s husband Jeff Hillman. Jeff and of course Debra have been putting in many hours. Below, Jeff is seen slaving away while two gentlemen Friends haul yet another load of cuttings and prunings to the chapel tip, where the material will removed by the Council.



Not to be left out of the pictorial tributes we see below our Chairman hard at work on one of our Maintenance Days, the last Saturday of every month. Give it a try, you will enjoy it!





Above: A busy scene from the monthly Maintenance session on 27 May 2017.



Above and below are ‘before and after’ comparisons on the 29 April 2017 maintenance morning, showing in detail the efforts of the cemetery Friends. [Photos: Mary Pickett]



LOUISA GAUFFNEY - Buried in A8-23-16

By Mary Pickett

Louisa Gauffney was born in France in about 1835. She came to live in England where she obtained work as a nurse/nanny. By 1899 she was living in Worthing in the household of Thomas Samuel Millington (a retired glass merchant) and his wife Angelina, at 2 Warwick Place. Angelina had been retired for nearly three years.

Little is known about Louisa's life before she came to live in Worthing, but it is understood that she had previously worked as a nurse for a high class family. Letters found in her possession after her death implied that she was being financially provided for by a benefactress, a Mrs Lee, possibly her past employer.

In the time leading up to her death, Mr and Mrs Millington had noticed a change in Louisa. She had always been a very private person, keeping herself to herself, doing her own shopping and dealing with her affairs. However when the Millingtons noticed a change in her habits, including the fact that that she appeared to have started drinking a little to excess, they had spoken to her and suggested that they might have to give her notice to leave. In reply she stated that she was intending to give them notice to leave herself. [Below is a 2017 picture of 2 Warwick Place, Worthing, where Louisa Gauffney lived and worked. Photo: Mary Pickett].



A few days after this Mr Millington, concerned about his lodger, knocked on her door and enquired whether she was in. She replied that she wasn't feeling well. When he enquired in a similar fashion a couple of days later he received no reply and went to the Police Station. A constable attended the house and upon forcing open the door Louisa was found lying on her bed fully dressed. Dr Hinds was called and ascertained that she had been dead for at least 24 hours. Next to her body were two bottles, one labelled 'Laudanum' and the other was found to contain chloral hydrate, the former to treat pain and the latter for sedative use.

A Coroner's inquest was held and the information given by various witnesses left no doubt as to her state of mind in the days leading up to the event. Robert McDermott, a pharmacist,

who ran his business from 13 Rowlands Road, was acquainted with the deceased and recalled her coming into his shop just over a week before her death and purchasing six pennyworth of Laudanum. She claimed that she needed it to treat her bad toothache and wanted it to rub into her jaw. As he knew her and was aware that she had previously been a nurse he supplied her, more than would normally have been given. He remembered telling her to be very careful with it.

Emma Weaver, a widow, who lived at 11 Egremont Place, said she knew the deceased well. Emma stated that when she had last seen Louisa she was in a highly excitable state, singing and laughing and it would seem she had overindulged in drink. She asked Emma to promise that if anything happened to her, to always think kindly of her. At the time, Emma thought this a very strange thing to say, although she did note that on several past occasions Louisa had told her that she was tired of her life.

Charles Fibbens, acting for the Coroner's Office, made a search of the deceased's room to see whether any evidence could be found to assist in the enquiry. A number of newspaper extracts, all bearing upon suicide were found in a work box and underneath her pillow were several letters from children – apparently those that she had nursed in the past. The most poignant piece of evidence to suggest that she was intending to take her own life was provided by Mr Millington. A few days before the tragic event he had been in the garden singing to himself when Louisa had tapped at the window and called out to him from the top of the stairs not to sing pretty little tunes but instead sing 'the Dead March' from Saul because she said "we will need that presently". She died on 17 June 1899 and was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery but no headstone was erected.

2017 TOUR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As reported elsewhere in this issue, a considerable amount of work goes into every FBWC tour and there is nothing more encouraging to those involved than to see a healthy turnout for each event. The remainder of the 2017 programme is detailed below. We hope to see you there! Saturday tours start at 11.00 and the Sunday tours at 14.00, don't miss them.

SATURDAY TOURS

5 August 2017	**[Past] Park Crescent Residents**	**John Vaughan**
2 September 2017	**By Their Own Hand (Suicides)**	**Debra Hillman**
7 October 2017	**The Feminine Touch**	**Pauline Reed**

SUNDAY TOURS

16 July 2017	**Victorian Tour of Worthing**	**Sally Roberts**
20 August 2017	**Nature: Flora and Fauna**	**Paul Robards and Guest**
24 September 2017	**General Cemetery Tour**	**Mary McKeown**

NATIVE AMERICAN DEATH CUSTOMS

The Native American people (Indians in old lingo) always lived close to nature and they knew that death from hunger, disease or enemies was never far away. Their history can be traced back to the last Ice Age, at least 12,000 years ago. Individual tribes maintained their own death customs but generally they believed that the souls of the dead passed into a spirit world and became part of spiritual forces that influenced most aspects of their lives. Many tribes believed in two souls; one that died when the body died and one that would wander on and eventually die.

Burial customs varied widely and Indians disposed of their dead in a number of ways. The Arctic tribes, for example, left their dead on frozen ground for animals to devour. The ancient mound-building Hopewell tribes in the Upper Mid-West placed their dead in lavishly furnished tombs. South Eastern tribes practised secondary bone burial, where corpses were dug up, their bones cleansed and then re-buried. This still happens in Hong Kong. The North East Iroquois saved the skeletons of the deceased for a mass burial that included furs and ornaments for the dead spirits' use in afterlife. North West tribes put their dead in mortuary cabins or canoes fastened to poles. Further south the Californian tribes practised cremation.

The tribes of the western mountains deposited their dead in caves or fissures in the rocks, while Nomadic tribes of the Great Plains either buried their dead if the ground was soft or left them on tree platforms or on scaffolds. Central and South Atlantic tribes embalmed and mummified their dead however when there were sudden deaths due to outbreaks of smallpox (for example) the dead were cast into mass graves or simply thrown into nearby rivers.

Rites among Native Americans tended to focus on aiding the deceased to the afterlife. Some tribes left food and the possessions of the dead in or near their grave site. Other groups, such as the Nez Perce tribe of the North West, sacrificed wives, slaves and a favourite horse of a dead warrior. Among many tribes, mourners, especially widows, cut their hair. Some Native Americans discarded personal ornaments or blackened their faces to honour the dead while other gashed their arms and legs as an expression of their grief. California tribes engaged in wailing, staged long funeral ceremonies and held an anniversary mourning ritual after one or two years. Southwest Hopi Indians wailed on the day of the death and cried a year later.

Some South Western tribes, such as the Apache and Navajo, feared the ghosts of the deceased who were believed to resent the living. The nomadic Apache buried corpses swiftly and burned the deceased's house and possessions. The mourning family purified itself ritually and moved to a new place to escape their dead family member's ghost. The Navajo also buried their dead quickly with little ceremony and those who were exposed to the corpse had to undergo a lengthy ritual purification process.

While some of these beliefs and rituals may seem strange to us, others are still practised today in so called civilised societies. With such a variation of religious beliefs in the 21st century who are we to say who is right or wrong? There are 5.2 million Native Americans in the U.S.A. today, one quarter of which live on tribal lands (reservations). 50% are unemployed and 28% live below the poverty line. Heart disease associated with poor diet is the main cause of death and the average Native American lives 5 years less than the average American. Their death customs are now the same as in the rest of U.S.A. except that some rituals are incorporated in present day ceremonies. **By John Vaughan**

TAKING THE LEAD – BUT WHICH ONE?



Above, a young woman dog walker in the cemetery is seen getting in a tangle with the leads for her four dachshunds but at least she does have her hounds on a lead. Recent observations show that even though new 'keep dogs on leads' signs have been erected only about 50% of dog owners/dog walkers keep their four legged friends on leads within the cemetery.

MYSTERY HEADSTONE PHOTOGRAPH

A friend of your Editor recently took the photograph below at Durrington Cemetery. The image was captured on a mobile telephone and no tinkering, for example in Photoshop, has taken place. The red, blue and yellow flowers that had just been placed on the headstone appear bottom right, but they appear to be white, while their reflection in the black marble shows their real colours! Nobody can explain this phenomena and the only solution that your Editor can think of is to assume flash was used to illuminate the scene and this light source 'bleached-out' the nearest real flowers but not the slightly more distant reflection. Perhaps there are better explanations, either logical or technical. Send any suggestions to the Editor.



[Photo: Mrs Janice Christopher]

CLEARANCE AND NATURE WATCH

By Paul Robards

The cemetery grass was cut on Wednesday 28 June 2017, just prior to our 'Relatively Speaking' tour. This slightly late cut was a blessing because all the flowers were then ready to seed, which they were not on the scheduled grass cut date, two weeks before. I have found 7 orchids in the cemetery and Debra Hillman found one more and I have marked these, hoping that they might be preserved. Although there was a residue of grass left about the cemetery in some areas the cut was very tidy, bearing in mind the enormity of the task. Sadly some strimming has caused damage; see Page 2 of this issue. Below, shows a tidy post-cut scene.



I have started to prepare the two retained special areas with a light trim, which I intend to do in rotation with other areas in July and September. These are traditional harvesting dates and in September I will start to sow the recently purchased seeds comprising several different types of flower, including Kidney Vetch, Meadow Cranesbill, Horseshoe Vetch and Yellow Rattle. I had a meeting with Sussex Wildlife Trust Officer, Michael Blencoe and I will prepare a report for the BROADSHEET in due course about our discussions and the plans emerging.

I have held a cemetery tools audit and in most respects we have sufficient equipment for our purposes at this time. Repairs have been completed on an overworked wheelbarrow and at a meeting I was unable to attend I understand that the purchase of some loppers was approved.

There have been some excellent attendances at our last Saturday of the month Clearance Days and I have thanked all of those involved in my reports for our regular meetings at the Town Hall. A large number of overgrown areas have been cleared but if you have any ideas for future Clearance Days please let me know. An update on the construction of compost bins appears elsewhere in this issue. The next Clearance Day will take place on Saturday 29 July at 10.00 and I hope to see you there. A large variety of butterflies and birds have been observed in the cemetery, please use the chalk board by the chapels for your observations.

COMPOSTING BINS – THE STORY SO FAR

By Debra Hillman

It was some time ago whilst sitting in a Green Space Partnership meeting listening to reports from other members that the idea of building compost bays in the cemetery occurred to me. It was prompted by a desire to reduce the amount of unsightly waste being left to rot around the cemetery and to find a tidy sustainable solution without increasing the volume of waste to be collected by the Council.

Once the 'seed had germinated' I spoke to the Council and the Community Park Rangers about it. They responded very positively and were very keen to help. They offered to measure up the area, source the timber and build us the bays, an offer not to be refused.

I chose the site of the old Sexton's hut near Section A9 as there was an area of hard standing and no graves (and we were already using it for our green waste). However there was a considerable amount of clearing to carry out before any measuring, let alone building, could take place. I am grateful, in the first instance, to the Council for clearing the bulk of the huge mountain of waste that had been accumulating for many years. The surrounding area was then cut back to the boundaries by a small team of our members on a clearance morning. This created a new pile of rubbish but much of it would be able to go into the new bays once they were built. Having persuaded my husband, Jeff, and our Vice Chairman Sally Roberts into the action we sorted this new pile into thicker branches (which were placed down by the chapels for collection by the Council) and potentially compostable greenery, which was placed into five large builders 'grab bags'. Jeff then completed the clearance by removing any spare soil and grass from the area, using the soil to back-fill sinking graves, leaving us with a clear level area for the compost bays. The area has been measured, the timber sourced and we are now looking forward to 11 July when the Rangers are due to start building. Below; the chosen site.



Access to a chipper/shredder has also been offered by Sustainable Sussex (another Green Space member). This would have to be collected and returned and training given. This is something the Rangers have said they would also be able to help with. It would allow us to fit more into our compost bays and would help everything break down quicker and is something I will follow-up. So, it is now a question of 'watch this space'.

STOP PRESS – CEMETERY CRASH

Your Editor was just leaving the cemetery on Saturday 8 July 2017 when in South Farm Road there was a general kerfuffle when a southbound Citroen car collided with a Dillistone's 'Private Ambulance', often used for moving dead bodies between the hospital or place of death and the mortuary. The road was closed and traffic diverted. Allegedly and looking at the angles of the front wheels of the vehicles, the right offside of the car collided with the front nearside of the 'van'. The cemetery boundary wall can be seen on the right of the image.



SEASONAL JOY IN JEFFERIES GARDEN

There is seasonal colour to be seen in most corners of our cemetery but during June and July the Jefferies Memorial Garden is simply a blaze of colour with vivid red poppies, buddleia and our prolific large white daisies (the Latin names escape me!), as seen in the image below.



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

This issue of The BROADSHEET is being published and distributed by our Secretary over two weeks early because the content has already reached a bumper 25 pages and for the selfish reason that your Editor has not yet started the preparation for the cemetery tour he is leading on Saturday 5 August 2017; the 'Park Crescent Residents' tour.

Peter Wish, a Council official, has asked the Friends to keep a record, in the form of a timesheet, of the accumulated voluntary hours given over to our various activities and tasks. We have had an enquiry from a company who want to hold a 'Corporate Day' within the cemetery in September with their staff undertaking some clearance work. Paul Holden is looking into the possibility of producing folders designed to hold multiple copies of our famous tour booklets. The cost should be in the £2.50 to £3.00 bracket. The construction of some new 'compost bins' is due to start on 11 July 2017, see report on Page 23. The Friends have been offered the use of a 'chipper' or wood shredder to assist with the disposal of green waste created during 'Clearance Days'. We have been averaging an attendance of just over 20 Friends at our (nearly) monthly meetings.

Debra Hillman is busy working on the updating of our website. Tom Wye is still collecting contributions towards an 'Ellen Chapman' window on the pier, which is presently half way towards the target. Just a reminder that there is no Town Hall 'monthly' meeting at the end of August; the next dates are Friday 28 July and Friday 29 September, both at 18.00 hours.

The window on the pier design looked promising but Friends unanimously agreed that at least the 'FBWC' initials should be incorporated in the design. Further iterations will follow. On Thursday 20 July 2017 from 18.30 to 20.30 at the Maybridge Keystone Centre there will be a celebration of the achievements of the community groups that work on Adur and Worthing's green spaces. The event will be overseen by Adur and Worthing Councils via The Conservation Volunteers. There will be a free BBQ and a chance to meet the Councils Well Being Team, Parks Team, and the Sustainability Partnership. It has been most encouraging to see such a good turnout on our Maintenance and Clearance Days and also the high number of visitors attending our high quality cemetery tours. Have a great summer; participate in as many FBWC events as you possibly can and a big 'Thanks You' for your support. All being well the next issue of The BROADSHEET should appear on or about 1 December 2017.

John Vaughan **Editor**

