THE BROADSHEET

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THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

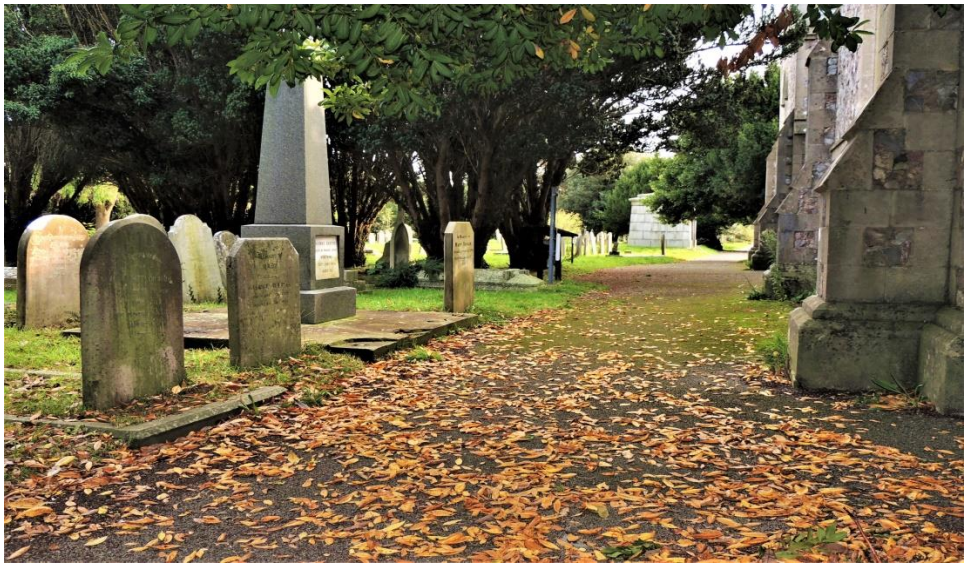
FRENETIC LEVELS OF FBWC ACTIVITY

As we enter our 10th year since being formed the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery has never been so busy. On occasions your Editor has needed to be creative in filling the pages of The BROADSHEET but this has not been the case with this issue.

Throughout the summer the Friends have conducted a series of tours and half a dozen have been successfully run since the mid-July summer issue of The BROADSHEET. The tours have been well attended, new booklets have been supplied for almost every tour, refreshments have been provided in considerable volume and research has been carried out in some detail. A large number of Friends have been involved in the many aspects of this important part of our work to promote the cemetery. Every month there have been good attendances at our Clearance days and much has been achieved. Special protected areas of the cemetery have remained uncut to promote wildlife, natural grasses and wild flowers.

We have worked closely with the Council, the Green Spaces organisation and a composting bin area has been created. A new printer has been procured and replacement tables ordered. There have been special cemetery tours organised, a commemorative event for a former fireman held and even a visit arranged by the Town Hall for Lady Emma Barnard, High Sheriff of West Sussex. A window on the pier was ordered and has recently been installed. The annual Service of Remembrance took place on 11 November and was well attended.

At the recently held Annual General Meeting there were changes at committee level for the first time in a number of years. Throughout the period both membership matters and financial control have been maintained. Reports of all these activities are included herein and in most cases illustrated within the pages that follow. All photographs were taken by the Editor unless otherwise credited. Below is an image of our cemetery recorded in the autumn of 2017.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

There were changes 'at the top' for the first time in many years as Sue Nea, coordinator of all Civilian Research and Paul Holden, Secretary and Media Officer, relinquished their posts after several years of making a significant contribution to the work and objectives of the Friends. Thanks were offered for all that they had achieved. There was a lengthy agenda and minutes of that meeting, held on 24 November 2017, will be prepared and distributed in due course. There were 22 attendees at the AGM and after a democratic process and vote the following officers were elected to serve in the following Committee posts:

CHAIRMAN:	**Debra Hillman**
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:	**Sally Roberts**
SECRETARY:	**To Be Nominated**
TREASURER:	**John Vaughan**
CIVILIAN RESEARCH:	**Karen Foster**
MILITARY RESEARCH:	**John Stepney**
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:	**Mary Pickett**
EDITOR AND MEDIA OFFICER:	**John Vaughan**
MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR:	**Paul Robards**
DEPUTY COORDINATOR:	**Frank Ffitch**

There were a number of changes announced in that the responsibilities of the Head of Civilian Research would change from 2018, with certain activities being delegated to other Friends within the research group. The posts of Media Officer and Editor of The BROADSHEET magazine would be combined into a single 'Editor and Media Officer' post and finally that there would be a Deputy Maintenance Coordinator post.

Each of the committee members gave a report on the progress and main activities within their sphere of activity during the past 12 months, which again, will be reported in the minutes of the meeting. However overall it can be said that in terms of progress the 2018 cemetery tour programme was well on target, our finances were in good shape and the rate of membership renewal was very promising, with 91 Friends already having renewed their subscription. It was agreed that the annual membership fee should be maintained at £3 per annum, which has now remained the same for 9 years and must be considered the bargain of the century!

Friends were reminded about the maintenance session to be held the very next day and confirmation that the date of the next meeting would be held **on Friday 26 January 2018.**

2017 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



There was a good attendance for this year's annual Remembrance Day service beneath the Cross of Sacrifice in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. All of the armed forces were represented in addition to members of the British Legion. As usual the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts were present in some numbers and during the previous week some of the scouts had taken part in what has become an annual litter picking exercise within the boundaries of the cemetery. Our Patron Major Tom Wye officiated and the service was conducted by the Reverend Keith Smith, who delivered a lively sermon with an endearing style. The last post was sounded, prayers were said and flags were momentarily lowered. There was a touch of drizzle in the air but not the rain experienced in past years. Many Friends of the cemetery were in attendance and our Chairman Debra Hillman placed a wooden cross with poppy in remembrance of Civilians lost in past wars. In the photograph below Debra places her cross below the Cross of Sacrifice, as the Rev. Keith Smith (left) and Tom Wye (far left) look on.



ADUR AND WORTHING COUNCIL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES TEAM

By Daniel Ross – Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Adur and Worthing Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team carry out a wide variety of tasks throughout the Borough and the District in our roles of custodians and managers of a diverse portfolio of sites at over 200 individual locations. We aim to manage these sites to high standards, striving for clean, well maintained places offering a variety of facilities to different users, including sports and recreational groups, across the community. We try to enhance habitats wherever possible providing space for wildlife to thrive.

Our sites include formal parks and gardens, recreation grounds, cemeteries and churchyards, the Crematorium, nature reserves, the Foreshore as well as numerous informal open spaces. We work in partnership with many community groups (nearly 40 groups work in our sites throughout Adur and Worthing) to ensure that the local community can get involved with and help the shape of management of their local green spaces. This includes the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

Our Grounds Maintenance teams are employed directly and include specialist staff such as our sports team of greenkeepers and ground staff providing facilities for football, cricket, bowls, golf, putting, tennis, croquet, petanque. We also carry out horticultural maintenance in formal and informal areas, grass cutting and design and planning of new landscaping plans, weed control, hedge cutting, grave digging and general grounds maintenance. All of our staff are trained to the industry standards for their own disciplines, and the majority of the staff have in excess of 10 years' experience.

We carry out essential maintenance on the wooden groynes for the coastal protection of Worthing, and working with our colleagues, the Community Park Rangers, we look after 43 children's play areas and allotment sites. [*See the next page regarding the work and responsibilities of the Community Park Rangers – Ed.]* In Worthing, we support the Worthing Allotment Management Group who undertakes self-management of Council owned allotments to great effect. We manage over 20,000 trees on Council land to ensure they are maintained safely, and professionally inspect those trees through our in house Arboriculture Inspector.

We cut 17 miles of hedge each year; maintain 11 bowling greens and 62 football pitches. We also manage Highdown Gardens, which holds a National Plant Collection and is one of three of Worthing's Parks to have achieved 'Green Flag' status.

[Daniel Ross was invited by your Editor to pen some words about the work and responsibilities of the Parks and Open Spaces Team following a recent Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery grass cut. The feature clearly shows that responsibilities within the community extend far and wide. Our working relationship with the Council is excellent however in the last issue of The BROADSHEET your Editor incorrectly referred to 'Council Contractors'. Daniel puts the record straight; those employees that maintain 'our' cemetery are directly employed by the Council – Editor]

ADUR AND WORTHING COUNCILS COMMUNITY PARK RANGERS

Based on an Adur and Worthing Council Handout

The Environment Division, as part of the Communities Directorate, manage the Foreshore, Parks and Open Spaces, cemeteries, closed churchyards and the crematorium. The service is managed jointly by both Adur and Worthing Councils. At a time when there are significant reductions in Council budgets the section is focussed on enabling communities and the voluntary sector to work in partnership with the Council to deliver sustainable services and high quality, well used, parks and green spaces. Parks and green spaces have a real potential to help build resilient, enterprising communities and through greater community involvement and ownership they can achieve many health and wellbeing benefits. This was the message broadcast at a 'Green Spaces' meeting on 20 July 2017 attended by your Editor and our Chairman and her husband plus a couple of other Friends (Debra and Jeff can be seen on the right in the attached seminar image).



To help achieve this we have a team of three Community Park Rangers to engage and work alongside community groups that are working on Adur and Worthing Council's land during the week and at weekends. At the moment we are working with the Conservations Volunteers to help build new groups and to strengthen established ones.

Rangers can support practical tasks, provide tools and equipment to support the work on task days, supply materials such as woodchips, advise and help source plants, trees and hedging, provide technical advice, provide First Aid training, assist with the disposal of materials, provide publicity, give specialist support (herbicide advice and chainsaw training) and provide access to the Councils External Funding Officer to find new sources of funding.

[As far as the FBWC is concerned we are shortly employing the Community Park Rangers to assist with the use of an industrial shredder to help with the reduction of old clearance material and to assist with the practical launch of our new composting bin, see Page 19 – Ed.]



Above, the composting bin has at last been built, although further partitions might be added at a later date. Posing for the picture are, from left to right, Paul Robards (Maintenance Coordinator), Debra Hillman (Chairman) and Mary Pickett (Membership Secretary).

FOUND IN THE CEMETERY

This little chap was discovered in the northern part of our 14.5 acre cemetery. He looked a bit hungry and somewhat forlorn but some *tlc* administered by our Membership Secretary went down well. However your Editor thought it a bit mean when Mary demanded his £3 annual membership fee before arranging welfare!



FBWC 2017 CEMETERY TOURS (PART2)

The tours that took place in the first half of the 2017 season were all covered in the Summer 2017 issue of The BROADSHEET but a further half dozen took place between 16 July and 7 October and all are illustrated here. The numbers participating ranged from over 80 on the most popular Saturday tour to around 14 on the quietest Sunday tour, with an average of between 50 and 60. Here on 16 July a popular Sunday 'Victorian Tour' took place with Sally Roberts acting as tour guide. Below we see our splendid ladies in Victorian dress. From left to right are; Debra Hillman, Mary McKeown, Sally Roberts and Rosemary Pearson. [Photo: Jeff Hillman]. Bottom we see the tour in full flight on a reasonable day weather-wise with tour guide Sally Roberts on the extreme right. [Photo: Mary Pickett]





On Saturday 5 August it was the turn of your Editor to act as tour guide on a 'Past Park Crescent Residents' (Worthing) tour. Again a good crowd turned out and the weather was kind. A final reminder to the crowd about donations and booklet and refreshments availability certainly paid dividends as our takings for the day were significantly higher than normal. Again a special booklet was made available for sale at the usual and very modest price of £1 and this was attributable to our many researchers but mainly to Friend Mary Pickett who produced something in the region of 80 booklets for the event, all printed, folded, saddle stitched, with laminated covers. Well done Mary and all of our 'little' helpers.



One of the joys of running the cemetery tours is the opportunity to meet and chat to our visitors. Here the tour guide chats with one of our senior participants, while below is an illustration of the attendees of the 'Past Park Crescent Residents' tour, which took place on yet another delightful summer day. [Photos: Mary Pickett]



On Sunday 20 August it was the turn of a rather different 'Fauna and Flora' cemetery tour and unbelievably the weather was dry and bright, which encouraged the visitors, resulting in a very healthy attendance number-wise. This was all about the plants and wildlife that could be found in the cemetery. The tour was led by guest guide Brian Day ably supported by Paul Robards. Brian amused the crowds by eating many of the (edible!) plants in the cemetery, which certainly boosted everybody's confidence in being re-assured that Brian knew what he was talking about! It is hoped that Brian might again lead one of our tours in 2018.



'By Their Own Hand' was the rather morbid but nevertheless descriptive title for the Saturday tour of 2 September. The tour guide on this occasion was our Chairman Debra Hillman. A predictably large crowd turned up for the occasion and Debra was in good form. The sometimes gory details were all contained in yet another special booklet, which sold like the proverbial 'hot cakes'. Below, Debra in the foreground delivers the facts to a huge crowd that took ages to move from one grave site to another. [Photo: Mary Pickett]



On Sunday 24 September it was Friend Mary McKeown's turn to entertain the visitors. Being of a general nature and not strongly thematic there were fewer attendees than usual but for what it lacked in quantity it made up for in quality, also providing a somewhat more intimate environment. Below Mary entertains the visitors and it would appear, a dog!



The final tour of the year, held on 7 October was called 'The Feminine Touch'. Pauline Reed was the tour guide and a fair crowd attended even though there was a rather fierce wind blowing, so fierce that Pam Stepney (right) volunteered to hold Pauline's text to stop the pages turning at the wrong moment (pictures next page). There was some drizzle in the air but yet again conditions were far from adverse.



The delightful little glimpse below of one of the younger visitors (and her dog) was captured by Mary Pickett, who also took the above photograph. The weather had turned somewhat cooler by 7 October hence the appearance of coats and anoraks.



FBWC MEMBERSHIP

Throughout the year FBWC membership figures held steady at between 90 and 100, a very respectable total for an organisation of our kind. Equally encouraging is that by the date of the AGM on 24 November over 90 Friends had already renewed their subscriptions for the year 2018! Consequently it looks as though our membership next year will hopefully be maintained at least at the 2017 figure, with hopefully more folks joining mid-year. The membership fee of £3 per annum has been frozen at 2008 levels representing very good value indeed. Three issues of The BROADSHEET per annum are worth more than that!!

GET THE FIRE BRIGADE

On Sunday 29 October 2017 Worthing firefighters gathered at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to pay their respects to a fireman who died of his First World War wounds exactly 100 years ago, in 1917. That fireman was Sergeant John Jackson Jones, who as chance would eventually have it, was buried adjacent to the current Worthing fire station. He died of head wounds in Huddersfield and his body was returned to Worthing for burial. His coffin was draped in a Union flag with a brass fireman's helmet placed amongst the floral tributes. There was a large turnout for the funeral. This was the graveside scene at the commemoration.



Firemen especially cleaned the 100 year old headstone and cleared some brambles that the Friends had not yet got around to. The Reverend Wing Man Tsang, who is in charge of Queen Street Church, officiated and is seen above on the right. Below, fireman line up beside the grave with civic dignitaries, including the Mayor, Alex Harman (left). [Photos: Mary Pickett]



CATERING AND REFRESHMENTS

There are a large number of Friends who make significant contributions to the Friends of the cemetery group by donating their time and to some extent their money. This item concerns catering and the content is not in any way meant to denigrate the efforts of others.

What a truly magnificent effort has been made this year by Carole and Norman Manning, Karen Foster, with the enthusiastic help of Madeline Jupp and Gill Heasman. Month after month and tour after tour these wonderful folks have performed tirelessly to not only provide refreshments for the multitudes but also to generate valuable income for the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. In the accounting year 2016/17 Carole and Karen generated a profit of £261.88. Not to be forgotten are the Sunday refreshments team headed by Sally Roberts. Below it does appear that there were some and frolics as well as hard work!



[Photo: Karen and Carole – by Mary Pickett]

Above, the girls have a smile behind their cakes and the cup rack. According to Carole the most popular item was Karen's lemon drizzle cake and it should be mentioned that the girls made their cakes without charging for time or materials. Gill Heasman made thematic cup-cakes. This was a wonderful effort, which is formally recognised here. Mind you there seems to have been a tad of naughtiness on occasions, see photograph below. No caption or further comment is offered! Maybe we could produce a 'Friends' Calendar'?



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Having completed the FBWC annual accounts our Treasurer, John Vaughan, reported a highly satisfactory financial performance for the accounting year 22 October 2016 to 21 October 2017. The annual turnover of the Friends was £1354.77 with an excess of income over expenditure (or net profit) of £24.27. The turnover was broadly comparable with the past two years of £1322.58 (2014/15) and £1487.93 (2015/16) respectively.

The primary source of gross income was book sales, which have been remarkably consistent at £561 (2016/17), £577 (2015/16) and £569 (2014/15). Well done to the booklet producer. Refreshments yielded over £300 gross, which included a modest contribution from Sunday tour refreshment provision. Membership fees amount to the average number of members for the year multiplied by £3, which in this past year amounted to £285.

The main recipient of our hard earned income was the £500 'Window on the Pier' project, which was approved by a majority vote at one of our monthly meetings. Printing and stationery amounted to £260, and £225 was spent on equipment. Full accounts are available on request and were presented at the Annual General Meeting. Our accounts are in accordance with the legal and taxation requirements of the 'Small Unincorporated Organisation' legislation. They were 'signed off' by our Chairman on 31 October 2017.

The Treasurer has had nothing to do with 'magic mushrooms' but these healthy examples were photographed by the cemetery chapels on 28 July 2017.



THE LATE TED STREET

The Friends were very sorry to hear of the passing of Ted Street, a former Friend of the cemetery. For many years Ted was an active member of the FBWC. He was always friendly and affable and was an active participant, particularly on our Clearance days. We will miss you Ted! Our condolences go to Ted's family and friends. We were delighted to hear that a commemorative 'Window on the Pier' has recently been installed dedicated to Ted.

MY CEMETERY WILDLIFE VISION FOR NOW AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

By Paul Robards

I am the nominated Wildlife and Clearance Co-ordinator for the cemetery and have been a Friend of the cemetery since 2008. I organise 'sensitive' work to be carried out monthly in the cemetery, where tidying up is required to be done, with a team of willing volunteers.

What follows is not scaremongering and the following is actually fact. UK butterflies are facing a crisis, 2016 being their worst on record in terms of numbers. Many species have experienced a serious decline in numbers according to the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Some 40 of the 57 species studied recorded a decline compared with previous year's records.

The butterfly is regarded as an indicator of the health of the environment around it. Butterflies are failing to cope with our changing climate and how we manage the environment, this can be reversed. The butterfly can and has fortunately responded to conservation work where improvements are made and where the habitat that it relies on to thrive is adjusted to suit its requirements.

I am passionate about helping. Since 2015 I have suggested to the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery that we can all help. We can help by adjusting how the cemetery is managed. Four times a year the cemetery grass is cut short, often at crucial times, when butterflies need grass for protection of the chrysalis, for laying eggs in and for food. I have discussed this situation with the Friends of the cemetery and the Council. I have expressed my concerns and thoughts on improving the situation. It has been agreed that I can retain and manage two areas of approximately 30 square metres as a trial in the cemetery. Below, Paul is seen maintaining one of two areas that he is managing. [Photo: Linda Robards]



This is a first and good step forward to help restore the balance to form an oasis where butterflies can go. I am mentioning butterflies, but this also applies to all other invertebrates and wildlife. I intend to introduce more wild flowers for nectar in these areas that I can personally manage and keep them in prime condition producing a much improved habitat.

I have been doing this now for two years and have seen positive changes with the butterflies and grasshoppers attracted to these areas. I have a marker post in each corner and the Council have agreed not to cut the two specially managed areas. I have kept the long grass cut to approximately 300-500mm in height, leaving the flowers to seed and the seeds to disperse.

I was given the go-ahead from the Friends at a monthly meeting to purchase quality seed from Emorsgate Seeds. This September, when the climate cooled down and the weather was damp I cut the grass in mosaic sections, leaving some areas slightly longer than others but in rotation. I scraped other areas down to soil level in order to plant seed for species such as Yellow Rattle, Horseshoe, Kidney Vetch and Meadow Crane-bill to name but a few. This in time will grow, go to seed and increase the flowers in these two areas. I will monitor and report back to the Friends on the success of this. Hopefully it will be agreed that further areas could be left in rotation.

I have been studying much literature, attending courses on wildflower meadow management and spoken with members of the Sussex Wild Life Trust for advice on managing the cemetery. Below, Paul has even encouraged his wife Linda to participate in his experiment, not that she needed encouragement. Linda is seen in action below. [Photo: Paul Robards]



I realise that this is a cemetery where people have their family members buried. I have the greatest respect for this and have initially selected only two areas where there were fewer grave stones evident. I have personally offered to clear any grave or stone as requested. I do receive lots of positive and encouraging comments from visitors to the cemetery on how lovely it looks. I would like to say a big ‘thank you to the Friends of the cemetery for their help and support.

[After Paul wrote this article the cemetery grass was cut between 27 and 30 October 2017. Paul has since reported really encouraging attendances at the monthly Clearance days – always the last Saturday of every month, including December. Paul has stated that some really good work has been undertaken this year and hopes to see you all participating. – Ed.]

BEFORE AND AFTER

Now and then we include ‘before and after’ photographs featuring areas of the cemetery where the monthly maintainers, who attend the Clearance Saturdays, have made a significant impression on the aesthetics of the cemetery. In these views we see the impact of sensitively pruning the branches and twigs of a weeping tree to reveal a large number of headstones.



Before.



After.



Friend Mark Caveney at work.

OTHER CEMETERIES

In this regular feature we illustrate other cemeteries both here and abroad. Below we see the well-kept East Moy Cemetery in Wisconsin U.S.A. with an inter-urban car in the background; an ideal spot for railfans. [Photo: Chris Davis] By contrast we see at the bottom of the page Durrington Cemetery in Worthing, with some wonderful autumn leaves on display beside the chapel, photographed on 15 October 2017.





VISIT BY LADY EMMA BARNARD

Organised by the Town Hall, with our Patron Tom Wye having a major input, 'our' cemetery was recently visited by Lady Emma Barnard, the current High Sheriff of West Sussex. The BROADSHEET was informed that she was "very impressed by the work of the Friends". Lady Emma also made a generous donation to the Friends to make further improvements to the cemetery. On behalf of the Friends your Editor offers his sincere thanks for the gesture.

WINDOW ON THE PIER

The commemorative £500 'Window on the Pier' ordered by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, in conjunction with a Worthing Journal initiative, promoted by the Editor and our former Secretary Paul Holden, was finally installed on Monday 13 November and an 'unveiling' ceremony was held on Saturday 18 November 2017. The illustration below [Photo: Paul Holden] shows the actual panel installed on the pier, at sunset, which has enriched the natural colours contained in the glass; with 'our' name just visible bottom right.



Unfortunately the weather on the unveiling day was unfavourable but only 8 female Friends and one male Friend attended the occasion, probably attributable to the weather rather than interest in the subject. There were no speeches but the majority of those attending enjoyed coffee or tea at the end of the pier, notwithstanding the premium price. Ray Pickett showed his generosity in the cafe and also took the photograph below of our fair damsels!



SWEET AND SOUR WOOD SHREDDER

There were high expectations in the cemetery on the Saturday 25 November 2017 Maintenance Day when, after a delay of one month, the Sustainable Sussex organisation provided a wood shredder for the Friends to use to dispose of a growing mountain of material that had been removed during Clearance days and placed in builder's bags beside our new composting bin. The machine arrived on a trailer hauled by a 4 x 4 pick-up truck, which entered the cemetery via the Carnegie Road gates. It was finally wheeled to the composting bin site, where the gathered maintainers were given a thorough briefing by Rangers Keith and Anthony. Their talk and instruction session was very comprehensive and included dozens of both operating and health and safety instructions and guidance. I am sure I speak for the Friends when I offer thanks to the Rangers for their time and a job well done. The photograph below shows the machine during the comprehensive operating and safety briefing.



The training session was thorough and included, inter alia, earplugs, goggles, safety equipment, starting procedures, feeding the machine, handling mulch, dealing with machine jams, safety switches, adding petrol and petrol container handling, suitable operating base, moving the machine, hot spots, a list of what to do and not do and a whole lot more. In fact there was so much information delivered that it soon became apparent that such a machine couldn't be left for casual use by any random Friend and that if used again we would need to nominate a couple of specialists to exclusively operate the machine, when made available. Below, Friends listen attentively to the talk and instruction on shredder operation by Rangers.



It was then time for the Friends to 'have a go' and over the remaining period of the Clearance session our Clearance Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, Paul Robards and Frank Ffitch were the primary operators, overseen by the Rangers. Unfortunately there was a downside to the operation. The list of instructions etc. was formidable. The machine was extremely noisy as it always ran at full revs., which was normal. The machine produced a considerable amount of light but airborne sawdust, covering the operatives over time. The machine jammed once and required an element of dis-assembly by the Rangers before it could be re-started. Brambles had to be folded before placement in the hopper. Here Paul feeds the hopper while Frank wisely stands back from the operation!



Although eight bags of cuttings were shredded during the remainder of the session key personnel decided that overall the operation of the shredder was not for them. Ear protectors or not it would be a noisy operation, with exhaust fumes, the need to wear special equipment the whole time and was far removed from a gentle couple of hours maintaining graves. The immediate conclusion by our responsible officer was that shredding or removing the product of our labours was ultimately the responsibility of the council, whether by shredder or by the methods used over the past 9 years. However watch this space for further news and final conclusions on any likely repetition of the exercise. Willing volunteers may still be sought!



[Photo: Long shadows by Mary Pickett]

2018 CEMETERY TOURS

The comprehensive Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery tours programme for the 2018 season will be announced in January and will be listed in the next issue of this tome.

DRUGS ADDICTS AND DEALERS

Over the years there have been regular reports of undesirables in the cemetery, ranging from alcoholic ‘men of the road’, fornicators and drug addicts. Most of these reports have been based on personal observation but some evidence in terms of beer cans and bottles are regularly discovered. However this remarkable device, illustrated below, was discovered in the bushes reminding one of some Turkish opium den. However I am informed that it is in fact a ‘bong’, used for smoking cannabis or tobacco. All part of the rich fabric of modern life I presume! There are no plans to restore the ‘bong’ for use over the festive season!



VINTAGE FBWC GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

This vintage group photograph from about 2010 was recently discovered by Paul Holden and it features some 15 Friends posing in the cemetery. It is a nostalgic view with everybody looking just a tad younger. Unfortunately amongst these fine folk is an old rake. Can you see it, er er him? Numerically the girls ‘have it’; the respective scores being 11:7 or 61%/39%.



FRIEND'S CHRISTMAS DRINK

As usual this year's Christmas drink get-together will take place at **The Cricketers** public house in Broadwater **at 19.00 hours on Wednesday 13 December 2017.** All friends are welcome but the Treasurer has stated that neither he nor his float will be paying for the drinks, unless, perhaps, we can start a 'Drinks on the Pier' project!

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

It is always tempting to include news items that have already appeared in the Minutes of our general meetings at the Gordon Room, which are held eight times a year, with all friends welcome to attend. However such inclusions would dilute the purpose of the minutes, which are distributed to all via e-mail or by 'buddies'. In addition to the 'Window on the Pier' we have also spent money on a new printer and some new tables. Paul Holden is presently looking into the provision of binders in which to store our numerous cemetery related booklets. **Thank you** to Janet Green for sending some pictures of the cemetery but unfortunately there was a technical problem, which meant they couldn't be used.

This year we have been required to complete timesheets, which are being collated by our Chairman for presentation to Council funded organisations so that they can assess the amount of voluntary labour expended within the community in various activities on Council property, including various types of maintenance. Plans are being drawn up for next year's cemetery tours programme and we all look forward to the challenges that face us in 2018. The thoughtful poster below has recently been applied to the gates on both entrances.



Finally may I take this opportunity to wish all Friends and readers a very pleasant Christmas and a Happy and above all Healthy New Year. I have no doubt that 2018 will present challenges, all of which will be overcome!

Enjoy the issue. Send any contributions to: jamv@ntlworld.com

John Vaughan Editor