THE BROADSHEET

ISSUE No.35
AUTUMN 2018

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

THE WORK OF FBWC RECOGNISED ON BBC1 NATIONAL TV AFTER THE CENOTAPH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

One of the proudest moments in our 10 year history must have been the accolade and recognition of the research work undertaken by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, which was screened on BBC1 immediately following the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, which this year commemorated the centenary of the First World War Armistice, bringing about the end of over four years of terrible conflict.

Interviewed by Dan Snow, who presented the programme with David Dimbleby, Roger Miles who had been in contact with Sue Nea explained; "It was all down to the WW1 cemetery tour you conducted in 2014, which we attended following a notice in the Worthing Herald. Such was my passion to discover information about my Grandfather, which painted a picture of that period, automatically qualified as interesting. It was only through the tour and the accompanying booklet that we discovered a greater degree of certainty as to Archie's movements in the weeks preceding his demise. My expression of thanks [on TV] on Sunday was understated to say the least." Roger Miles had contacted Sue in advance of the Cenotaph commemorations to say that he had been approached by the BBC and would be interviewed after the 'Nations Thank You Parade'.



Sue Nea reminds us that the story of Private Archie Miles who was fatally wounded whilst fighting in France during WW1. "His wife, Amelia, received a telegraph summoning her to the base hospital in France where Archie was dying. Amelia travelled to France leaving their three month old baby Tommy in the care of a good friend and neighbour. Amelia was at her husband's hospital bedside when he died on 17 December 1917. He was buried in the Mont Huon Military Cemetery at Le Treport. On her return to the Worthing area Amelia, now a grieving widow, was met with more devastating news; baby Tommy had died from whooping cough and pneumonia the same day as his father! Tommy is buried in 'our' cemetery. Archie and Amelia had two other children."

The programme was watched by millions as royalty, including HM Queen Elizabeth 11, the Royal Family, politicians, civil dignitaries, ambassadors from a wide range of countries, the military and military bands, the police, a large contingent from the British Legion, other veterans and for the first time 10,000 members of the public, paid tribute to the soldiers who were killed and injured in the First World War. I hope I speak for all of the Friends of the cemetery when I say that this was a very poignant moment in our 10 year history.

On the home front our annual Service of Remembrance at the Cross of Sacrifice within Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on Saturday 10 November 2018 was a more modest but no less sincere event this year, as the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts directed their energies to the 'main' Remembrance Service outside of the Town Hall in downtown Worthing. This was held the following day, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Nationally the 2018 centenary of the end of the war had even more significance than usual.

Notwithstanding the above our Patron, Major Tom Wye, conducted a commemoration at our cemetery, which was attended by the Mayor, Councillor Paul Baker. The last post was sounded by 16 year old Grace Heath and about 35 people attended, including representatives of the forces, the British Legion and a number of cemetery Friends. [Photos: Mary Pickett]





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & VOTING

The AGM of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery was held in the Gordon Room at Worthing Town Hall on Friday 30 November at 18.00 hours. There were 28 attendees and there was much discussion on a wide range of issues, per Fran Dingwall's agenda. **The detail of the meeting will be contained in our competent Secretary's minutes, which will no doubt follow the publication of The BROADSHEET.** The results of the democratic voting for the 2018/19 FBWC Committee posts were as follows:

CHAIRMAN: **Debra Hillman**

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: **Sally Roberts**

SECRETARY: **Fran Dingwall**

TREASURER: **John Vaughan**

CIVILIAN RESEARCH: **Karen Foster**

MILITARY RESEARCH: **John Stepney**

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: **Mary Pickett**

BROADSHEET EDITOR: **John Vaughan**

PUBLICITY OFFICER: **Carole Manning**

MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR: **Paul Robards**

DEPUTY COORDINATOR: **Frank Ffitch**

Although minutes of meeting will be issued it was reported and agreed that 2018 had been a most encouraging year for the Friends. Tour attendances were at a high level, several new thematic tour booklets had been published, private tours of the cemetery had been conducted, research had continued apace, resulting in over 500 booklets being produced and sold. The provision of refreshments had significantly boosted funds; membership numbers had been sustained and were on target to exceed 100 in number. There had been a really good turnout for the monthly maintenance sessions, a magnificent cemetery bench had been procured and donated with the full £1,000 cost being found from FBWC funds, without a deterioration in our net worth compared with last year. Find a grave services and wooden cross memorials had boosted funds by way of donation, relationships with the local Council and other related organisations had consolidated, our 'green' credentials had been further enhanced with a focus on forna and flaura and the environment generally. Our general sales performance was excellent, all resulting in a very successful year. Thanks were offered to all Friends who had an input and who had made a contribution to achieving our many targets and objectives.

SOLID FBWC FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The FBWC Treasurer has reported on the excellent financial performance of the FBWC. On an annual turnover in excess of £1,500 (33% book sales, 30% membership fees, 22% donations, 15% refreshments) and having paid in full the sum of £1,000 for the acquisition and installation of a new cemetery bench, an excess of income over expenditure (or 'profit'!) of £19.44 has been achieved. Other equipment has been procured ranging from maintenance tools to a large umbrella and stand for the refreshments stall. The signed-off and approved accounts are published here for the first time, a summary having previously been provided.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY
22 OCTOBER 2017 TO 21 OCTOBER 2018

Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Book Sales	519.00	Printing and Stationery	139.81
Membership Fees	474.00	Plants and Flowers	18.10
Refreshments [Net]	241.11	Postage	32.70
Donations	338.03	Subscriptions and Fees	45.00
		Equipment	137.07
		Maintenance and Materials	105.02
		New Cemetery Bench	1000.00
		Donations	75.00
		Income/Expenditure Surplus	19.44
TOTALS	**1572.14**		**1572.14**

Balance at Bank 22 October 2017	5436.47		
Cash in Hand 22 October 2017	66.37	Total	5502.84
2017/2018 **Surplus**			19.44
Balance at bank 21 October 2018	5444.53		
Cash in Hand 21 October 2018	77.75	Total	**5522.28**

We declare, as duly elected officers of the FBWC, that these accounts represent a true and accurate record of the financial activities of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in respect of the above accounting period. Signed:

D Hillman ..... J A M Vaughan .....

Mrs D Hillman (Chairman) **Mr J A M Vaughan (Treasurer)**

31/10/2018

STAGGERING INCREASE IN COSTS: FUNERAL DIRECTORS INVESTIGATED

With a dramatic increase in the UK population a grand total of 640,000 people die every year, approximately a rate of 9.6 per 1,000. That equates to some 1,760 per day. Of those 77% are currently cremated but all require some sort of funeral. During the past 10 years the cost of funerals has increased by a staggering 68% to 84% (depending on area) whereas the Retail Price Index has increased by 28%. Therefore the cost of a funeral has gone up a whopping three times the inflation rate. The average funeral now costs between £3,800 and £4,300 (again depending on area and type of funeral). This would appear to be potential 'Watchdog' material and the CMA, Competition and Market Authority, have now become involved.

The CMA market study, announced on 29 November 2018 (The BROADSHEET is 'on the ball' you will note) will examine whether the information provided by funeral directors on prices and services is clear enough for people to be able to choose the best option for them. It will also look at how prices have changed over time and the factors that affect them, such as increases in local authority charges. In addition to the costs mentioned above funeral directors have long lists of 'extras', which can inflate the cost of a funeral by an additional £2,000! Affordability and debt can therefore be a real concern to many people, with those on lower incomes potentially spending one third of their annual income on the funeral of a relative.

The rising level of cremation fees will also be investigated. The Senior Director of the CMA has stated that "People can understandably be very emotionally vulnerable when planning a funeral. We therefore think it important that at what can be a particularly challenging time the process should be made as easy as possible. As part of this study we want to ensure that people can at least receive clear information on prices and the services making up a funeral and that people get a fair deal on the cremation fees charged."

An interim report presenting initial findings will be published in May 2019 ahead of a final report due to be published a year from now. The CMA is empowered to enforce competition and consumer law. The task will be considerable because the CMA estimates that there are around 5,000 funeral director branches and 294 crematoria currently in operation in the UK. Of the 294, 106 are privately owned, the remainder being owned and operated by local authorities.

The industry is worth over £2bn per annum and 'they' must have something to worry about because on the day of the announcement of the investigation by the CMA the share price of Dignity Funerals (a national chain) fell by 17.08% or 172 pence, from £10.07 to £8.35. As a matter of interest Dignity Funerals have 12% of the UK market and Co-oP funeral services 16%. There was a scare for the Dignity Company last September when the Co-oP announced that it was cutting the price of its lowest cost 'Simple' funeral. A survey by YouGov found that 4 million people in the UK had suffered hardship following the death of someone close.

James Congdon, from Quest, a division of Canaccord, who has thoroughly researched the funeral director sector, has stated that "there is plenty of evidence that prices are too high, particularly when compared to margins in the same sector in other countries." It will be interesting to see whether prices are fair or another example of 'Rip-Off Britain'. [Ed.]

AUTUMN IN 'OUR' CEMETERY





[All photographs by the Editor unless otherwise credited]

A SECOND FRIEND'S BENCH INSTALLED

In the last issue of The BROADSHEET, issue 34, Summer 2018, Pages 16/17, the subject of cemetery benches and the procurement of a new high quality bench for the Friends to donate to the Council for installation in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery was described at great length. You may recall that in addition to the Friend's bench located adjacent to the chapels and those in the vicinity of the Cross of Sacrifice there was one long bench in the centre of the cemetery, which had been misused and damaged by drug addicts, drunks and vandals.

Based on the FBWC 'Wish List' a high priority item was a replacement for this central bench and for any new bench to be firmly anchored to a concrete base for use and enjoyment by the general public. Correspondence was exchanged with the Council and meetings were held, including a site meeting on 25 July 2018 with Gary Prescod, Assistant Parks & Open Spaces Manager. The precise location for the bench was agreed and a deposit paid. Subsequently a price of £1,000.00 was negotiated to include the bench, ground preparation, concrete base, fixings and a donations plaque. The following photographs show the ground preparation and the concrete base, poured at the beginning of November 2018.





At all stages communications with Council officials was excellent and in due course the Friends were notified that the Friend's bench was ready for installation. The balance of the cost was duly paid and a request was made for the bench to finally be installed and the entire process completed before our Annual General Meeting and before this issue of the BROADSHEET was published. I am delighted to say that the entire project has now been completed and below are photographs of our new pride and joy. Let us all hope that the mindless minority of the population do nothing to spoil this magnificent addition to the cemetery. I quite fancy sitting there watching the world go by on a late Spring afternoon!

WELL DONE TO ALL FRIENDS. THIS IS, PER PLAQUE, YOUR BENCH AND WELL DONE TO THE COUNCIL FOR MAKING THINGS HAPPEN - FOR PUBLIC USE! Below we see the old bench on the Council scrap lorry and our super new bench in situ.







MEMBERSHIP AND BOOKLET MATTERS

Our Membership Secretary Mary Pickett reports that during 2017/18 the membership of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery rose to 110 as more members of the general public became interested in the work and objectives of our group, with some new folk participating in our many and varied activities. Also our membership fee of a miserly £3.00, which has been unchanged for the whole decade that we have been in existence, represents extraordinary value for money. There is always a small downturn when it comes to membership renewal time but many Friends pay late or are spurred into action when they receive a reminder from our Membership Secretary. We have considered a 'Don't Pay and We'll Take it Away' approach but much better that members simply hand over three pound coins or a cheque for £3, or £6 for couples, made payable to 'FBWC'.

Although there is no specific Committee post labelled as such your Editor must recognise and commend the amazing achievement of Mary who has single handed manufactured over 500 books during the past 12 months. The logistics of ordering paper, laminates, ink cartridges, designing booklet pages, putting text and pictures from researchers in some semblance of order, printing double sided A4 pages, collating, preparing and laminating covers, saddle stitching (stapling) the finished product and transporting finished books to the cemetery, as well as storage, is probably **the** most onerous task amongst the Friends. 500 books at about 40 pages per book mean printing some 20,000 page sides in her office room at home. Sales of booklets account for 33% of our income and so a hearty WELL DONE Mary. Thank you.

Once our booklets are printed and effectively published there is the question of selling them and we are lucky enough to have some wonderful bookselling ladies who use their charms to entice visitors to part with their £1 coins in exchange for a high quality booklet. These booklets are of course filled with data gathered by our remarkable researchers who find the most incredible stories to relay to the world at large. Below we see a cheerful group, including, left to right, Anne Powell, Jocelyn Clasby, Rosemary Pearson and Mary Pickett.



FBWC FEATURED IN WORTHING HERALD

Although our very well attended 10th Anniversary Open Day in August was featured on Pages 4 and 5 of the last issue of 'The BROADSHEET', which included a photograph of the Worthing Herald photographer capturing a group image of the event, the actual publication of his efforts was too late to be included. So, belatedly, here is the photograph and caption for all to see. Reproduction is of poor quality because the original was printed on newspaper.



www.worthingherald.co.uk, shorehamherald.co.uk, littlehamptongazette.co.uk Thursday, August 9, 2018

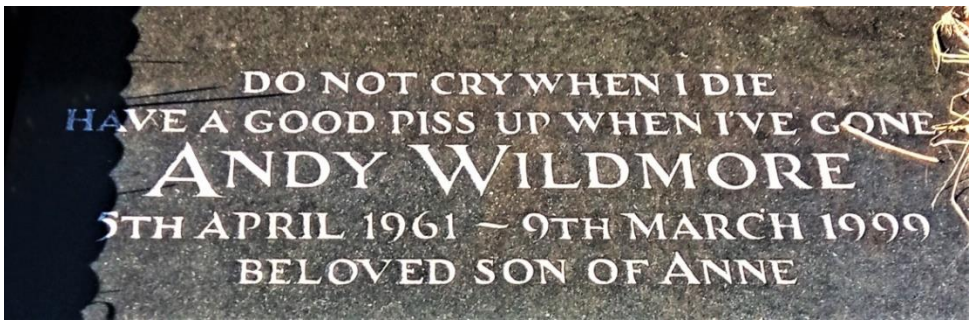
Friends tour
Royal links to cemetery revealed

PICTURE: DEREK MARTIN DM18501084

Around 100 people joined the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery for their tenth anniversary tour on Saturday. The Friends, who look after the cemetery in South Farm Road, Worthing, created a special tour for the occasion, telling the stories of 11 of the many interesting people buried in the 14.5-acre site. One of the most interesting was the life of Caroline Heath Barrett, who was appointed by Queen Victoria as her private reader.

FRIENDS OF HEENE AND DURRINGTON

Our Friends at Heene Cemetery have now been established for 4 years and we offer our congratulations to them for all they have achieved. In the meantime a meeting was held in June to establish a Friends of Durrington Cemetery group. The group is to become operational in the Spring of 2019, after a review of the cemetery is completed. A meeting of the group with the Council scheduled for 25 September 2018 was postponed pending the outcome of the review. Issues include grave embellishments and fencing.



Above, is a remarkable and amusing headstone photographed in Durrington Cemetery.

SCARY HAPPENINGS IN THE CEMETERY

All of our 2018 tours up to and including our grand Anniversary Open Day, held on 4 August 2018, were fully described and illustrated in Issue 34, the Summer 2018 edition of The BROADSHEET. The next tour to be conducted was a general cemetery tour, which took place on Sunday 19 August 2018. Being a general tour and being a fine summer day only about half a dozen members of the public turned out, although this figure was to more than double (see below). The tour guide was Mary McKeown, featured in the photograph below.



Shortly after the tour began there was an unexpected and therefore unplanned invasion by the Worthing Bonfire Boys group who had become aware that some of the original 'Boys' were buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. In the company of Worthing Town Crier, Bob Smytherman, the bizarrely dressed group, many resembling skeletons, joined the tour, making a colourful (the best adjective your Editor can use in print!) addition to the gathering. Below is the Worthing Bonfire Society group, the Town Crier and on the right tour guide Mary and Deputy Chairman Sally Roberts. There is always room for FBWC novelty!





Above, Mary McKeown delivers her script as the slightly bizarre combined and **complete** group of general visitors and the Bonfire Society members listen attentively. The Bonfire folk also bought along with them some strange hangers-on, as seen in the images below.





SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER TOURS

As already mentioned, the FBWC cemetery tours that took place between April and the beginning of August 2018 were fully reported and illustrated in the last edition of the BROADSHEET and the August general Sunday tour appears on Pages 9 and 10 herein.

The next tour was a very poignant ‘After World War 1’ tour conducted by Frank Ffitch on a bright and sunny 1 September 2018. This well attended tour addressed the large number of ex-military personnel who were not killed during hostilities but who suffered and eventually succumbed from their injuries, in some cases many years after the end of the war. As usual a special booklet was produced and 45 copies were sold, total book sales amounting to £67. In addition Wayne Batchelor was on location not only dressed in his WW1 army uniform but also with a full set of equipment and rations, which many of the troops would have been issued with a century ago (see next page). Below, the impressive crowds, who were generous with their donations, gather round to hear the tour guide, Frank Ffitch.









On Sunday 23 September it was time for the last Sunday tour of the season. This tour was intriguingly called ‘A Tree Tour’ conducted by our Deputy Chairman Sally Roberts. The idea was to combine a dendrology tour showing the amazing variety of trees in the cemetery with a tour that described the life and times of those buried beneath certain trees. There was a reasonable turnout on yet another favourable day weather-wise. Here the crowd gathers round the tour guide. The tour was successful and Sally Roberts made sure that refreshments were available, a welcome facility. On the next page a photograph shows a fairly lonely looking Rosemary Pearson who had to withstand slightly cooler temperatures on the bookstall for limited reward. Thank you Rosemary.







Rosemary Pearson in charge of book sales and donations reads her book during ‘The Tree Tour’ and tries to keep warm beside our store at the cemetery chapels. Unfortunately on this one occasion, only £7.46 was in the ‘bucket’ from donations and book sales. Bless her.

The final tour of the 2018 season on Saturday 6 October 2018 was a retold story of some of the notable Businessmen buried within the boundaries of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The tour guide was Pauline Reed. Book sales and donations amounted to £43, which was sufficient to keep the wolves from the door in the ‘closed’ tour season. Here the crowd gathers to hear Pauline’s dulcet tones. For this tour our ‘leader of the pack’ John Stepney created a novel but practical baseball cap topped with a marker flag, vice his normal red shirt, so that the crowd could follow him from grave to grave [Photos: Mary Pickett]



PRIVATE CEMETERY TOURS

In addition to the normal 'general public' tours a number of private tours were conducted for a range of clubs and organisations. One such tour took place on Saturday 13 October 2018 for a branch of the Woman's Institute. The tour was conducted by our Chairman Debra Hillman and 13 ladies and a dog turned-up. However as this picture by your Editor shows, there was also one gentleman who joined the tour (back row centre); best not ask the obvious question! As usual on such occasions a welcome donation was made towards the work of the Friends.



COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT ALLEGATION

If you have not retained a copy of the last issue of The BROADSEET then I recommend you look at Issue 34, Summer 2018, available on our website, fbwc.co.uk, and at Pages 18 and 19 the story behind an alleged copyright infringement by the FBWC is described.

Briefly, we received a letter from a company called PicRights UK Ltd accusing the FBWC of infringement of copyright by publishing a cartoon way back in 2015, which was owned by one of their clients called CartoonStock Ltd. The former company use sophisticated algorithms that they apply to the World Wide Web to identify drawings and illustrations that have allegedly been published without their client's permission, thereby avoiding reproduction fees. There are however what are called 'Copyright Trolls' in existence whose sole purpose is to extort money from often innocent parties under threat of legal proceedings.

Their initial claim was batted away in that no proof had been provided that their client company did in fact own the copyright to the cartoon, there was no reply regarding how, with a claimed half a million cartoons on their books, that any organisation could determine ownership of any copyright. Other logical questions were not answered. We were told that we could avoid legal proceedings upon payment of a 'fine' of £60, otherwise the offer would be withdrawn and that we would be liable for substantial legal costs. Your Editor is hopefully not gullible but with the support of the majority of the FBWC committee a robust response was issued and my 2 x A4 page letter is reproduced below. It was agreed that we would pay nothing to this company, although a cheque in the sum if £12.00 (as yet unpresented) would

be sent to the alleged copyright holding company, which would have been the reproduction fee in normal circumstances (in which case we would not have used it!).

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery
15 Brook Barn Way
Goring by Sea
WORTHING
BN12 4DN
31 August 2018

Anne Sinclair
PicRights UK Ltd
34 New House
67-68 Hatton Garden
LONDON
EC1N 8JY

Your Ref: CartoonStock Ltd. 0501-9751-9714

Dear Ms Sinclair,

I write again to inform you that the Charitable Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery do not conduct business by e-mail and this is the formal response to your e-mail timed at 15.39 and dated 24 August 2018.

You do not seem to have been capable of comprehending the content of our letter **dated 6 July 2018** and as already stated in our communication dated 30 July 2018 you have completely **failed to answer a single specific point** of the reasonable comments and questions posed therein.

Let me make things simple for you.

1. We would never pay any sum of money derived entirely from donations from the public **without proof of debt.**

2. There has been no proof of debt in that we have **no evidence whatsoever** that your alleged client company hold the alleged copyright for the item in question. You have FAILED to supply the documentation.

3. You have also FAILED to answer our point about the alleged stock of half a million cartoons held by your client company and the practical **impossibility** of any responsible individual or organisation identifying copyright from what may well be many other similar companies allegedly holding copyrights. The notion is quite ridiculous.

4. You have not explained how any organisation could identify copyright, if it exists, **without** copyright accreditation or metadata on the image.

5. We have **not received** any recorded delivery correspondence by post as you claim. Please **let us view** (photocopies acceptable) Post Office Royal Mail receipts for such postings and/or copies of the letters you claim to have sent. I hope you have not stupidly sent letters to a cemetery!

6. We have said that if your claims were proven to our **entire satisfaction** then as a responsible Unincorporated Charitable Organisation we would have been prepared to pay the reproduction fee of £12 in accordance with the CartoonStock price list.

7. In fact I have to inform you that this fee **has already been paid** to CartoonStock Ltd to settle the matter equitably and we have **no intention whatsoever** of paying any **arbitrary sums** from our

meagre donations money to any other organisation that we have never heard of, or ever done business with and whose credentials are unknown to us. That would be highly irresponsible. We are **NOT** saying you are, but you could be mere scammers or copyright trolls.

8. We resent your implication that we do not understand the situation clearly, per your e-mail of 24 August 2018. We understand clearly that you are **trying to extort money** from voluntary cemetery maintainers.

9. We note your offer of a £60 settlement 'fine' has been rescinded. We have **no reaction** to that because any reproduction fee would have been £12, if the 'debt' could have been proven to our satisfaction, and in any event that has already been paid on a 'without prejudice' basis. Also we only have your word that anybody owns any copyright or that there has been any alleged infringement, whatsoever. That is simply not good enough.

10. We have **repeatedly** informed you that this is not a business and that it would be completely irresponsible to pay one single penny of limited
charitable funds, other than those reproduction fees charged by your client company and duly paid, to any unknown organisation.

11. We have also suggested that this whole matter is deminimus and it is **not worth further pursuit** and it is not for you to tell us that we will be liable for additional fees incurred. We suggest you do not waste **your** time or money.

12. If YOU choose to incur further fees then **that is a matter for you**. We have stated our case clearly and suggested that this entire matter is not worth further pursuit. So contrary to your words in your e-mail the matter has not been 'exhausted', simply put your papers in the repository!

13. Overall, if you should choose to waste everybody's time and money in pursuing this matter, **if indeed any debt had been proven, which it has not**, from a charity that is prepared to pay and has paid what is legally due, then we would relish our day in court by explaining our case to the judiciary. In any event there are no assets for you to pursue and this entire matter is a complete waste of time.

14. We have done our best to explain the situation to you but have been faced with **commercial arrogance**. We are honest hard working volunteers who perform unpaid acts for the benefit of the community and the public.

16. Finally you quote the Copyright Design and Patents Act of 1988, may I remind YOU of **Section 40** and various other sections of the **Administration of Justice Acts, where ignoring The Friends in us saying that we don't owe you any money demanded is illegal** and also the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. It is also prohibited by law for the original debtor to pass on even an alleged debt (which we refute) without informing a debtor (or alleged debtor) in writing. **We expect to hear no more on this spurious matter you have invented.**

Yours sincerely,

John Vaughan
Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

As you will see we refused to pay any arbitrary 'fine' and said that "We expect to hear no more on this spurious matter you have invented". In any event the amount was *de minimus.* Your Treasurer is not complacent and there is a small chance that we may hear something more but in the past three months we have heard nothing. Let us hope that this is an end to the matter but it has created unnecessary work and a little concern. In this modern world we must all be wary about any e-mail we receive from sources unknown to us!

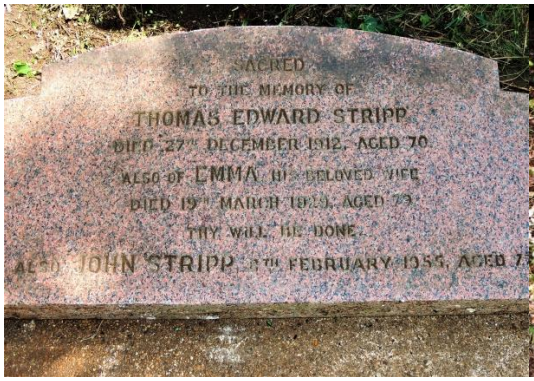
CLEARANCE AND MAINTENANCE

As we all know the last Saturday of the month throughout the year is our Clearance day and during the period covered by this issue of The BROADSHEET attendances have been remarkable. On every occasion between 12 and 20 Friends have turned up for a two hour workout, from 10.00 until 12.00, whatever the weather, which has luckily been fine on all but one occasion and even that was not too bad. So much clearance work has been done that disposal of pruning and cutting material has become a problem.

These are happy occasions where participants do whatever they can within their physical capabilities. The camaraderie is wonderful and all are welcome to these monthly events. The happy group below shows just 10 of the volunteers who turned up on Saturday 25 August 2018 and the inclusion of five gentlemen and five ladies is purely coincidental! Others were working elsewhere in the cemetery and if you are not included we will get you next time!



Some wonderful headstones have been cleared and some even unearthed from beneath the ground, having not been seen for years, which is always a very satisfying situation.





From time to time there are very unusual discoveries and one such ‘find’ occurred on

Saturday 27 October 2018 (below) when this almost sarcophagus type memorial was unearthed, although this was not ancient Egypt or Greece but Worthing, West Sussex!



Below are some random scenes of 'the workers' from clearance and maintenance days. The pictures show Gill Heasman, Frank Ffitch, John Whittington, Paul Robards and lady assistant and Janet Brown. There are many, many, others and our thanks go to them all.





Here is another busy but final (for this issue) image of our remarkable maintainers featuring, left to right, Gill Heasman, Sue Nea, Frank Ffitch, Mary Pickett and Karen Foster.



WORTHING TENORS : A FURTHER LINK

By Pam Stepney

Further to Mary Pickett's excellent article on Worthing Tenors in the Spring 2018 edition of 'The BROADSHEET', Issue 33, I have found that the tenor John Sims Reeves has another link to 'our' cemetery. [If you have not kept a copy refer to our website – Ed.].

At a recent car boot sale my husband, John Stepney, had the good fortune to find an old copy of a book in the 'Worthing Cavalcade' series and published in 1947. It is titled 'William Henry Hudson'; a tribute by various writers and edited by Samuel J Looker. The book contains 30 illustrations.

From this book I have learned that Hudson's wife Emily had been an opera singer of some note, mainly in Paris. In her heyday she had shared a concert platform with many famous singers of the era including one John Sims Reeves, at venues such as the Crystal Palace. When Hudson met her she was running a boarding house at 11 Leinster Square, Bayswater, London and supplementing her income by giving singing and piano lessons. Emily was described as small in stature with a beautiful look of kindness about her. She was twelve years older than Hudson who she married in 1876. He was said to have been moved by her beautiful voice and her glorious red hair.

Our book goes on to say 'fate decreed' that John Sims Reeves and his second wife were buried in Broadwater and Worthing cemetery, as were the Hudsons but we now know this was not the case. Sims Reeves died at his Worthing home but he was cremated at Woking. His wife who was many years his junior, remarried and died in Holborn in 1955. END

OTHER CEMETERIES

Below is the truly delightful entrance to the nearby St John the Divine Parish Church and churchyard at Patching, photographed on an autumnal 6 November 2018. The church dates back to circa 1200AD.



They say that there should always be a good public house within stone throwing distance of any parish church but who would guess that this scene was taken in downtown Havant, Hampshire. Above the headstones in the churchyard of St Faith's Church is the Robin Hood pub, which your Editor was obliged to visit. All part of the job as they say!



GEORGE WRIGHT

By Sue Nea

George Wright died during the morning of 9 December 1927 in the home that he shared with his two sisters in Hertford Road, Worthing. His funeral took place the following Monday afternoon at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. He was buried in grave number B17-2-2.

George's father, George Hopson Wright was for many years the stationmaster at Worthing railway station and in 1859, when George (junior) was just 13 years of age; he joined the London Brighton & South Coast Railway, working in the booking office at Worthing under his father. George later acted as relief stationmaster also at Worthing following a promotion to Inspector of the Southern District.

George married Elizabeth Atfield in Worthing in 1871 and they had two sons; William George in 1874 and Archibald in 1877. Soon after Archibald's birth the family moved to London as George had received promotion to the responsible position of Station Superintendent at London Victoria station, a role he remained in for 30 years. During his time in this position he witnessed the number of passengers using Victoria increase from 5 million to in excess of 18 million per annum (over 75 million in 2017 Ed.).

George was described as a strict but considerate disciplinarian to his staff and it is said that he had a commanding physique with a delightful personality; he was respected by everyone he came into contact with. He was known for his calmness and organisation skills which stood him in good stead during the long and trying period when the old Victoria station was replaced by a new one that opened in 1908.



The late Mr. George Wright.

As Superintendent at London Victoria, George came into contact on numerous occasions with members of the Royal Family and other dignitaries. In fact George was the first of his subjects to greet the new King, Edward V11, on his arrival from Portsmouth after the death of Queen Victoria. The King often invited George to Buckingham Palace to discuss travel arrangements and topical railway matters. Two of his most demanding events were when the body of Queen Victoria was brought by train to Victoria station amid all the surroundings of a state funeral and it was left to George to organise the event successfully without mishap.
The second event was in 1902, when the King fell ill with appendicitis and needed surgery,

George was responsible for his safe journey from London Victoria to Portsmouth, the surgery having caused the postponement of the Coronation from June until October 1902. This was

an anxious time for George and he was relieved when he was informed that the royal invalid was safely on board the Royal Yacht at Portsmouth.

In later life George would often reminisce about how both Queen Victoria and the Shah of Persia were both concerned about the speed of the trains on which they were to travel and it was down to George to reassure them. He also had a recollection of the Fenian scare at the station in 1884. George was at home, close to Victoria, when he heard an explosion. He rushed straight to the station where he found flames being extinguished. Part of the station had been blown up by dynamite that had been placed in a Gladstone bag and left in one of the cloakrooms. Luckily there was only one casualty, a station hand who had been slightly injured. Following the explosion a search was made of other London stations and Gladstone bags containing dynamite were found in cloakrooms at both Charing Cross and Paddington.

After 30 years as Superintendent at Victoria and after 50 years of working on the railway George retired in 1908. He received many accolades and retirement gifts as a mark of respect. He received a jewelled scarf pin from King Edward V11 in the form of the King's cipher mounted with a gold crown; the King also wrote him a personal letter, which George treasured. He received another scarf pin from the Prince of Wales and it predictably featured three ostrich feathers on an enamelled background surrounded by pearls. He also received a silver cigarette case from Prince Henry of Battenburg and a piece of jewellery from the Duke of Connaught. In addition he was the recipient of a signed photograph from Lord Bessborough, Chairman of the London Brighton & South Coast Railway.

Two weeks later, at a public presentation held for him at the Grosvenor Hotel, he received a public testimonial which consisted of a purse containing the remarkable sum of £900 and a bound vellum book, which had the names of all the subscribers who had given money, presented by Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher. 400 staff members at Victoria station gave him an oak writing table and chair. Following his retirement and upon receipt of a pension worth £300 per annum, George and Elizabeth went to live in Southsea for a few years whilst their then married sons remained in the London area. The couple subsequently moved back to Worthing where they lived in Railway Approach, until Elizabeth's death in 1922. She was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in grave B17-2-1.

George then moved to Northbank in Hertford Road to live with his two sisters and remained there until his death in 1927, aged 81 years. He was buried with his wife. George's parents, George and Lucy Wright are also buried in 'our' cemetery in graves B2-1-12/13. His father died in May 1877 at Worthing railway station whilst still the Stationmaster, and his mother died in 1883.

FACEBOOK PROGRESS

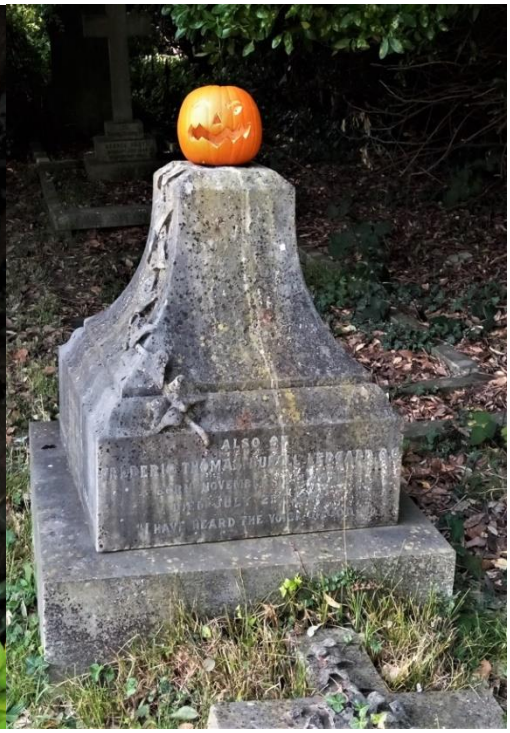
Coordinator Sue Nea has confirmed that this form of modern media is gaining strength in both spreading the word and in increasing our publicity machine. She reports that we now have 204 members, a number that is steadily growing. One recent unsolicited comment from a new lady member was as follows; "I love this site, it's so interesting and I've learned a lot from it." Both messages and photographs are now frequently posted.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Most readers of 'The BROADSHEET' will be delighted that this edition has returned to a near normal 25 pages compared with the bumper 30 page 10th Anniversary, Summer 2018 Issue 34. After the AGM it looks as though you are going to be stuck with your present Editor for another year. Remember this is your magazine and contributions are always welcome.

It was an immense pleasure to see our second cemetery bench installed in November, all down to the membership fees, donations, book sales and tour refreshments profit and a great deal of time consuming hard work by the many. Tour attendances have been excellent this year and the weather was beyond belief, light precipitation occurring on only a single occasion. Umbrellas were mostly used as parasols! Below are two amusing sights in the cemetery, a posing squirrel by your Editor and a Halloween special by Mary Pickett!





A full programme of our 2019 cemetery tours, carefully planned by our highly respected Research Team, headed by Karen Foster, will be published in the next Spring 2019 edition of 'The BROADSHEET'. There will be both monthly Saturday and some Sunday tours.

Instead of a Friends Christmas drinks social at The Cricketers, this year our Chairman is holding a drinks and nibbles session at her home from 14.30 on Sunday 9 December 2018. An e-mail circular on the subject will be issued by our Secretary shortly.

Finally I wish all Friends and readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, and above all Healthy, New Year. Let us hope the Friends continue to go from strength to strength.

John Vaughan Editor : jamv@ntlworld.com / www.fbwc.co.uk