THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.40
Summer 2020

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

FRIENDS FULL CEMETERY 2020 TOUR PROGRAMME **DEFERRED UNTIL 2021**

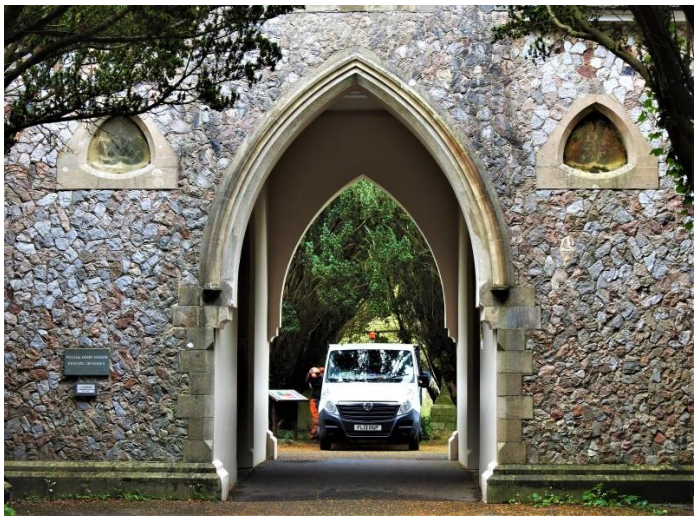
In view of Government and Chief Medical Officer recommendations during the current Covid-19/Coronavirus pandemic and all of the risks attached thereto, it has been decided to postpone our entire public and private cemetery tour programme for the calendar year 2020. The Committee have decided that although there has been some easing of restrictions, social distancing is still an issue, gatherings must be limited to 30 people, facemasks need to be worn in certain situations, names and addresses would possibly have to be recorded and there may well have been a disinclination for Friends and members of the public to attend.

The good news is that the entire exciting tour and events programme planned for 2020, as detailed on Page 2 of Broadsheet Issue 39, will now comprise our total tour plan for the year 2021, so that all of the research undertaken and all of the relevant thematic booklet production will serve a useful purpose. Full details and revised dates will be notified in due course. Some of our major planned projects have also been delayed but it is hoped that progress will be made at the earliest opportunity. General meetings have been cancelled.

In the last issue of The Broadsheet, Spring 2020, we informed all friends that they would be notified by e-mail of changes in the Covid-19 situation and indeed two such e-mails were issued. At the present time the official, last Saturday morning of every calendar month, Maintenance sessions are suspended but it is hoped that they will be re-introduced within the next few months. Again all Friends will be notified by e-mail when the current situation changes. In view of these unprecedented events the FBWC committee have decided:

That FBWC membership <u>will be free for existing Friends</u> for the year 2020/2021 – 1 October 2020 until 30 September 2021 (with a voluntary donation option - see Page 2 of this issue for details).

Below, hugely delayed cemetery maintenance starts at last; 27 June 2020. [Photo: Editor]



STOP PRESS: FREE 2020/2021 FBWC Membership for Existing Friends: OFFICIAL!

As mentioned on the front page, the FBWC Committee have decided that in view of the heavily curtailed 2020 events programme, attributable to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in all public and private cemetery tours, all general maintenance days and all general meetings to be either cancelled or postponed, that it would be only fair and equitable if membership subscriptions for the next accounting year, 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, were waived for existing Friends of the cemetery.

We are of course intending to continue to pursue a number of projects within the cemetery once circumstances improve and the pandemic rules and advisories are relaxed. Also despite the circumstances The Broadsheet has continued to be published three times per annum and therefore members have received some form of regular communication. However, the Friends are not about 'benefits', they are about enhancing the cemetery in a number of areas, in accordance with the Constitution. Notwithstanding the free membership, if Friends wish to make a voluntary donation commensurate with the annual subscription of £3, then any such remittances will be gratefully received towards achieving our goals.

We are also moving with the times and, if preferred, Friends can make any donations and pay their future annual membership subscriptions to the Membership Secretary not only by cash or cheque but also by Bank Transfer to the Friend's bank account. If you would like to make payment by this method, please contact me and I will let you know the bank details and the procedure for doing so. Please note that in normal circumstances annual membership fees are payable on or about 1 October each year. A reminder will be issued to all Friends on our e-mailing list at the appropriate time, others being asked to note the above details in their records.

Mary Pickett – Membership Secretary
Postal address: 91, Upper Brighton Road, WORTHING, BN14 9HZ

E-MAIL: marymouse61@gmail.com

FBWC MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

I am delighted to announce that notwithstanding all of the national problems attributable to the Coronavirus pandemic that our membership has increased to 103 Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. In the current circumstances this trend is most encouraging and you are all thanked for your support for our common cause at this difficult time.

FACEBOOK

For those indulging in modern media you are encouraged to visit our Friends Facebook page for latest news, observations, public contributions and photographs, all managed by Sue Nea.

ANOTHER LARGE TREE TOPPLES

At the end of June 2020 strong winds brought down yet another huge tree branch in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, blocking one of our grass footpaths. The event highlighted the need for substantial tree surgery throughout the cemetery. Our Maintenance Coordinator has identified other large trees that look vulnerable but a professional survey is, in the view of the Friends, urgently required. Fortunately there were no injuries on this occasion but in the current world of Health and Safety the Council need to address this potential problem.

You may recall a large tree fell in the south west corner of the cemetery during February 2020, which part demolished a boundary wall, and also a further incident reported in The Broadsheet in 2019 featuring a very large branch, which, without being dramatic, could have seriously injured somebody who just happened to be in the vicinity at the time. Below is an image of the fallen tree, in Section A6 of the cemetery. [All photographs appearing herein are by your Editor unless otherwise credited].



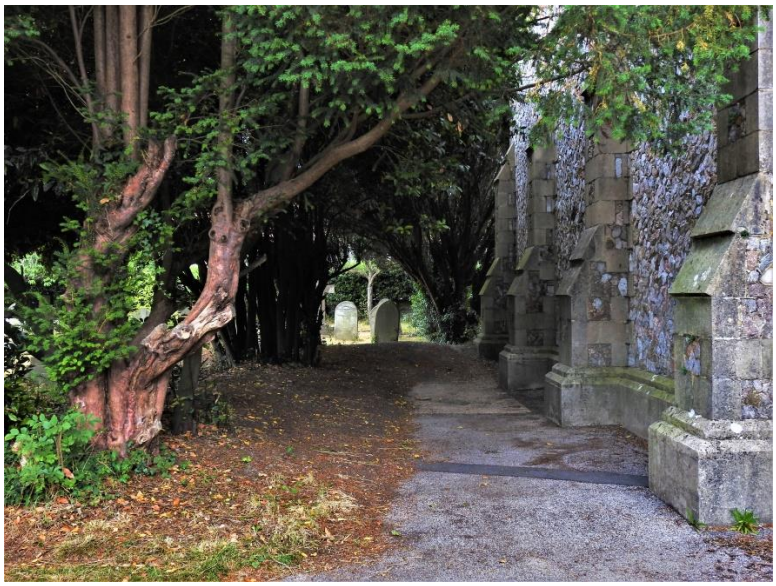
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

During a period of little financial activity due to the Coronavirus restrictions, resulting in the postponement of our cemetery tours, booklet sales and refreshment income, our cash at bank and floats have changed only marginally during the past 4 months. At the date of publication we have £6,412.13 at bank and £9.98 in cash floats, a total worth of £6,422.11 with no debt. The Covid-19 situation has deprived the Friends of several hundreds of pounds of income.

CHAPEL RUBBISH TIP CLEARED BY THE COUNCIL AT LONG-LONG LAST

Following problematical organisational changes within Adur and Worthing Council and after constant and at times fruitless badgering of the new so called 'Bereavement Services' by our Chairman, your Editor is delighted to report that after a period of nearly 12 months the rotting piles of largely green waste, the result of the maintenance efforts and sheer hard work by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, have at last been removed. A lack of manpower due to the Coronavirus was blamed for the long delay but the rubbish was accumulating months before anybody had heard of the virus and pandemic. They say all is well that ends well but my goodness it has been a hard and rocky road while waiting for somebody with a grain of pro-activity within the corridors of power to actually do something! Below are 'before and after' pictures, which show the scale of the problem.





VANDALISM RETURNS AFTER COUNCIL APPROVE SECURITY CHANGES

Two of the primary reasons for the creation of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery some 12 years ago was the deteriorating state of the cemetery but also a spate of vandalism, when some of the graves desecrated included Commonwealth War Graves. At that time, following such incidents, the Council were persuaded that the Carnegie Road entrance should be locked from Monday to Friday inclusive, being open only on weekends. Former Worthing Mayor and our Patron Major Tom Wye was the instigator of these changes. He knew what he was talking about and vandalism immediately decreased.

Late last year some ill-informed Council official ordered changes in security procedure because, allegedly, some members of the public, who use the cemetery as a shortcut plus a few dog walkers, complained that the entrance was closed and accordingly, within a couple of months of the entrance re-opening, the age old problem of vandalism reared its very ugly face. The damage incurred is heart-breaking to those who care about the cemetery and who have spent hundreds of hours of their lives trying to maintain and enhance the site. What follows are some shocking views of the senseless damage incurred. The damage is most likely caused by youths who 'hang about' the cemetery, using the Carnegie Road entrance.

We have also been informed of another quite shocking case of the Council not properly monitoring the performance of the company employed to provide security. It is posted on the two cemetery entrance gate locations that at this time of year the cemetery closes at 20.00 hours. At the end of May 2020 the Friends received this shocking report:

"We love the cemetery and we walk all year round to see the woodpeckers, variety of butterflies, squirrels and all the meadow flowers. The different bird song is lovely. Unfortunately last night four groups of walkers got locked in (the cemetery) and we had to climb over the walls. The Council says (the gates are closed at) 8 p.m. but we were locked in at 7.40 p.m. It wasn't easy with dogs and a disabled person climbing over the walls. It was quite a painful exercise. Thankfully a local resident who was gardening helped lift the dogs over." [How awful – Ed.]. Illustrations of the vandalism follow:



[Photo: Paul Robards]







Where are the security staff when this is happening, where are the community police officers, where are the legal deterrents, where are the prosecutions, where are the Council? Close the Carnegie Road gates Monday to Friday **NOW**! Are you listening Adur & Worthing Council?

THE LAST – CEMETERY HUMOUR

The Cemetery Humour page was introduced originally to somewhat lighten the subject of death, cemeteries, burials and the whole of the 'Bereavement Services' industry but perhaps at times there has been just a little 'over the top' levity, although if any one item brought a smile to the faces of my readers then a purpose will have been served. However I think the item has now run its course, at least without printing 'that' sort of joke. Here are a few more:

Did you hear about the government video about the Coronavirus? It went viral!

During the Coronavirus the best place to visit is our cemetery because everybody there is at least 6 feet away from you!

I don't think that people are taking the deadly Covid-19 virus seriously enough. After all in China you can die from just talking about it.

During the Coronavirus what did the cemetery say to the hospital? "Sorry about the delay, but thank you for your patients".

What do you call an overpriced funeral? A R.I.P.-off!

My grandfather worked hard for his entire life so that he could afford a nice cremation. After all he urned it!

What's the worst joke that you can hear at a funeral? Knock knock ……!

Police in Worthing found a dead woman face down in a bathtub full of Cornflakes. West Sussex Constabulary said that it looked like the work of a cereal killer!

NEW WATER TAP FITTED !!

We are not quite sure whether the cemetery chapel water tap was vandalised or whether it failed mechanically but it required replacement. Well done Adur & Worthing (for once!).



COUNCIL FAILS TO ADHERE TO MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES – OVER NINE MONTHS BETWEEN GRASS CUTS

After 11 long years – soon to be 12 years – the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have given thousands upon thousands of hours of their lives in supplementing Council general cemetery grass cutting with their monthly maintenance sessions, with the objective of ensuring that the wonderful Victorian cemetery did not become a jungle. Although the Council have traditionally cut the cemetery grass three times per annum their maintenance does not include, for example, the cutting back of brambles, or removing ivy from headstones and a whole lot more. The Friends have been happy to deal with the latter.

Last autumn, long before the Covid-19/Coronavirus arrived there was some form of Council re-organisation just after the Friends had established really good contacts and communication with the Council on a wide range of issues. There were also changes of senior Council personnel, which proved to be to the detriment of our work and objectives. Although our Chairman and the Committee have tried hard to communicate with the newly formed 'Bereavement Services' department with the objective of promoting pro-activity in the cemetery maintenance areas, it has been difficult. The Coronavirus arrived and the reason then given for the neglect of 'our' cemetery was a lack of manpower. However there seemed to be ample manpower to mow and strim the grasses at Durrington Cemetery! (see Page 25).

The result of this Council neglect and inactivity has been interesting. There has always been debate about heavy cut backs of grasses in the cemetery to create a neat and tidy appearance versus the preservation of habitat for birds, butterflies, insects and wildlife. Eventually, a few years ago now, the Friends arrived at a sensible solution to the problem whereby our Maintenance Coordinator would mark-off certain areas of the cemetery where there were no known graves and that these areas would remain uncut, with the cooperation of the Council. This arrangement was highly successful, a sensible 'balance' having been reached.

However without a grass-cut between late Summer 2019 and mid-Summer 2020 cemetery growth remained unchecked and this resulted in a strange situation, which divided opinion not only amongst the Friends but also with members of the public. On the one hand the lack of a grass cut produced an unprecedented display of flowers of every description but with a special emphasis on Oxeye Daisies (or Dog Daisies), *Leucanthemum Vulgare,* when thousands of the flowers burst into bloom. These fairly large flowers bloom for almost three months and are regarded as colourful and vigorous plants by some and weeds by others. Whatever ones point of view the display was impressive but on the other hand burial places were simply consumed by these flowers and various long grasses completely obliterated some graves and memorials, offering a depressing view for those who have spent so much time on manicuring the cemetery. The birds, butterflies and insects must have had a 'field day' (forgive the pun) having so much more ground in which to thrive, compared with the reserved but restricted uncut areas of previous years.

Love it or hate it, it was not until late June, after much 'nagging' by the Friends, that grass cutting commenced and it was completed towards the end of July 2020. What follows is a pictorial extravaganza of the great, the good, the bad and the ugly.

The next two pages illustrate the remarkable floral display in the cemetery, which was entirely attributable to the cemetery grasses not being cut by the local authority.





Here are two further floral scenes, including the Jefferies Garden, South Farm Road entrance.





Attractive though the colourful photographs on the previous two pages are, the fact remained that a large number of graves were completely obscured by the uncontrolled grass growth. Bottom of page, the Cross of Sacrifice is out there somewhere!





On the previous page we featured long grasses and below is a now long-lost war grave. Bottom, headstones are just keeping their ‘heads’ above the long grasses.





With the various flowers dying-off after three months of being in bloom and having persistently requested a cemetery grass cut from ‘Bereavement Services’, grass cutting at last commenced at the end of June 2020. A month later the work had just been completed.





The maintenance team from the Adur & Worthing Council's Parks and Foreshores department are seen at work, or rather 'Making Hay While the Sun Shines'!!





CORONAVIRUS IMPACT ON FUNERALS

The Covid-19 virus arrived with a vengeance on these shores during March 2020 and the impact has affected the nation ever since. The virus has adopted pandemic status, killing hundreds of thousands of the world's population. Although in the eyes of some unproven, the evidence available would seem to indicate that the source of the virus was in China, a country that seems to be alienating many other countries at this time but we won't get political here!

The Government has issued guidelines for everything and while there may be some inconsistencies it is remarkable that the manpower has been found to implement all of the large scales relief schemes and to organise a plethora of virus related activities. Also, even here it would not be right to fail to recognise a large number of NHS staff and certain key workers for their efforts in recent months. There were five tranches of regulations issued locally and nationally during March 2020 regarding cremations and burials, including recommendations on who should attend a funeral.

Initially attendances at all funerals was restricted to immediate family only, including spouse or partner, parents or carers, brothers and sisters and children (with partners where applicable). There was a long list of 'do's and don'ts'. These included staying in your car until the funeral time, without using the waiting room, not touching the chapel door handles, not shaking hands with anybody or touching the surface of a coffin, not discarding tissues or personal items, washing hands for 20 seconds if using the toilet, socially distancing oneself from other attendees etc. At Worthing the Book of Remembrance closed from the 30 March.

From 18 May 2020 there was a very slight relaxation with members of the same household being allowed to attend funerals, all immediate family members or close friends, if family members should not be able to attend. They also added the obvious; that anybody showing symptoms of Coronavirus should also not attend. On 9 July 2020 the rules changed again with up to 30 people being allowed to attend funerals, subject to all of the provisions mentioned above. The above items are essentially bullet points and are not comprehensive, the full rules and regulations being sufficient in volume to fill one of our cemetery booklets!

The pandemic has impacted much of what we do in just about every area and all we can do is to hope that circumstances return to normal at the earliest opportunity. Below, a special sign!



A CORBETT/WISE FAMILY UPDATE

By Debra Hillman

Many of you will be familiar with the Corbett family grave in the cemetery (especially if you have attended our tours) and will remember the story of 15 year old Molly (Mary) who died in Lausanne, Switzerland and is reported to have been laid to rest in a glass coffin in this family vault. The vault is also the final resting place of her parents Maxwell, who was buried here in 1947, and Veronica (Eileen Kathleen Veronica) who was laid to rest in 1985.

We were aware that Molly's biological father was a gentleman called John Wise and that Veronica (then known as Eileen) had married Max when Molly was 10 years old. But we now know much more about John and his relationship with Eileen. This is thanks to a lady called Susan Tayler, who contacted me from Australia. With Helen Babore and Stephen Brooks, she has researched the Wise Family Journey and, finding the connection with Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery through his daughter and ex-wife, sent me a wealth of information. Susan and Helen are 2nd cousins once removed from Molly. They are descended from Joseph and Matilda Wise (John's grandparents) and in 2008 they held a reunion attended by over 200 descendants of the couple!

Joseph Wise



John & Elizabeth Wise (John's parents)



It took them some time to find Molly, their search hampered by the fact that she died in Switzerland (not Australia), was buried in England and had changed her name! They were looking for Mary Wise not Molly Corbett. It was through Eileen's death records that they were finally able to establish the link and prove that Eileen Corbett was indeed the Eileen McCarthy who had married John Wise.

So, back to the beginning. John Wise was a police constable in Melbourne, Australia. He married Eileen McCarthy on 22nd August 1911. She was the daughter of Elmore publican and former police constable, Terence McCarthy. It is possible that they may have met at Elmore Commercial Pub, somewhere John may have stopped on his commute home from work. Their daughter Mary (Molly) was born on 11th May 1912, barely 9 months after their wedding! The marriage was short-lived however, and less than 2 years later, Eileen left

their home and did not return. She told John that they were not suited and she had found a job as a barmaid. She did, however, ask him for money later that year as she was short of cash and he sent her £3. It seems Molly was being looked after by her maternal grandparents at this time.

Eileen was to hit the headlines (and not in a good way) in 1916 thanks to a reported affair with a married man called Charles Meyers. She was, at the time, manageress at the Queenlander Hotel in Melbourne and the many newspaper articles covered the dispute between her and Charles's wife over jewellery he had given to Eileen. Jewellery belonging to his wife, including a pair of diamond earrings that Charles had given her as a gift, which he then decided to re-gift to Eileen! The court case was covered in detail including the subsequent allegations that Eileen had shot at Charles. She claimed she had fired the revolver 3 times when he had burst into her room using bad language but that she had shot at the ceiling and had not hit him. The outcome in the end was that the jewels were returned to Louisa Meyers. The headlines included lines such as "Presents for an Old Man's Darling", "The Bazaar-Maiden and the Baubles" and these were later to be followed by those of "Erring Eileen. Wise's Wandering Wife" when the divorce suit went to court and the stories relating to Meyers were revisited in the papers.

Eileen had already been travelling extensively and by December 1917 was in Singapore. It was the following April that she asked John for a divorce. It is possible that she may have already been in a relationship with Max by this time. This is what she wrote:

> *Jack*
>
> *I am writing to ask you to set me free. After three years, I think you ought to give me my freedom. Even if you wished it, you know that I could never live with you again.*
>
> *I have a chance to make something of my life so I ask you to give me a chance to start over again. You can easily divorce me. You need no more evidence than you have.*
>
> *Do think it over and see it in the same light as myself.*
>
> *Yours sincerely*
>
> *Eileen Wise*

Eventually John petitioned the court on 27th November 1918 citing desertion without just cause or excuse since February 1914 and applied for custody of Molly. The decree nisi was granted and their divorce became final in October 1919.

John Wise married for the second time in November 1937, Lily Alice Morey and when he left the police force he worked for a while as a labourer but then moved to Gunbower where he worked with his brother as a Sleeper Cutter. In 1948 he was involved in an accident where he was a passenger in a truck that collided with a car. Both drivers escaped injury but John was hospitalised with a hip injury and was to be awarded £2900 damages for injuries received in the incident. He died aged 80 in September 1967 and was buried in Wangaratta.

HEDGEHOGS

Regrettably the hedgehog project has had to put on hold for the time being due to the Coronavirus and issues arising. We have the houses and hope to make early progress.

ZERO CEMETERY TOURS TO ILLUSTRATE

Ever since The Broadsheet started to include photographs of our cemetery tours back in the Autumn of 2011 the Summer edition has always been packed with photographs and reports of our popular cemetery tours, with, on occasions, over 100 visitors and Friends attending. There would be images of the crowds, book stall, refreshment stand and much else but sadly the Coronavirus has put paid to all of that. However Friend **David Styles**, who lives in Goring by Sea, was looking through some of his personal photographs of past tours and thought readers might like to have just a reminder of a couple of past tours conducted by Sally Roberts (Vice Chairman) and Paul Holden (Editor of the Worthing Journal). It would appear that David didn't choose the best days to attend and weald his box brownie, or more likely digital 'point and shoot'. Two of David's images appear below – precise tour dates unknown but the top image would appear to be one of our Sunday tours.





It could now well be the Summer 2021 edition that features further tour photographs!

DURRINGTON CEMETERY EXTENDED

As previously reported here the Councils plans to extend Durrington Cemetery to accommodate several decades of new burials have come to fruition and the new access road, to the north of the A27 trunk road, has been completed and surfaced. The Council wasted little time in making the enlarged site available for new burials, demonstrating the urgent need for more space. Indeed within a few weeks of completion the first burials have taken place and below are two images; one showing the new access road and the other one of the first burials at the new location. Let us all hope that any suggestion of an A27 improvement scheme involving a flyover across the nearby roundabout never comes to fruition.





THE CRICKETERS – BROADWATER

By Mary Pickett

In 1757, Ayling Shepherd from Arundel inherited land and buildings from his father-in-law, John Monk, on the site now occupied by The Cricketers public house. It was then only a small cottage with stables at the back. In 1848 Thomas Gibbard acquired the property; he was the Headborough of Broadwater (constable) and was also reputed to have fought in the Battle of Waterloo. In his position as Headborough he produced a report on the state of the beer shops in Broadwater.

By 1851, Thomas Gibbard had taken in a lodger, Thomas Luff, from Kirdford, who became the new owner in 1853. Thomas Luff then applied for a spirit licence on 31 August 1853, annual licence day, but his application was refused. It would appear that the main opposition came from Edward Goodyer who ran the nearby Maltsters Arms. On the 1871 census, Thomas Luff was living at the property with his wife Mary, from Cornwall, and their five children, his occupation being an innkeeper. Mary died in 1875 and in 1881 Thomas was shown on the census with his new wife, Harriett (also from Cornwall, so quite possibly a relation of Mary) and two further children.



Thomas Luff remained in the property until sometime in the 1870s when he moved to an adjacent property and opened a boiled sweet shop. During the period of his occupation the premises were renamed ‘The Brewers Arms’ and at some stage a butcher’s shop was being run in an alcove above the lounge bar, with Luff’s premises next door being used as both a slaughterhouse and a confectioner’s shop. Thomas died in 1909 and is buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in A10-10-33.

Alfred Rewell took over as landlord in 1878 although he was only in residence for a year. It was under his management that the premises were given the name ‘The Cricketers’, which has endured to the present day, presumably due to its connection with the cricket played on the nearby Broadwater Green, and where the players used to meet after a match. The bar still sports a cricket ball and some bails built into the top of the woodwork. Alfred was born in Angmering in 1823, the son of James Rewell, a miller. In 1851 he was living at the Post Office in Walberton with his wife, Hannah, 20 years his senior and his occupation was a warehouseman/grocer. In 1861 Alfred (and Hannah) was at the Leonards Hotel, Horsham shown as a victualler. Ten years later he was described as a farmer with 12 acres of land.

He ran The Cricketers for just a year, perhaps based on his previous hotel experience but at the age of 56 he is found living next door to the Coach and Horses public house in Patching owned and run by his brother-in-law, William Johnson, and Alfred's sister, Selina. He is, at this stage, noted for having no occupation, maybe a real 'jack of all trades'? He died in 1893 at his home in Newland Road, Worthing and was buried at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in A7-3-28, aged 68 years.

Only a year later, in 1879, John Dudney had become the new owner with Benjamin Read as the landlord. John Dudney owned the Portslade Brewery and old photographs show adverts for Dudney's Ale on the side of the building.



Benjamin Read was the owner of a spaniel dog which he used to take out with him when he went poaching on the original Offington Estate. It became quite a joke with the local lads of the village to try to take the rabbits from him as he made his way back across Broadwater Green. Benjamin later went on to become the landlord of another pub in Broadwater, 'The Maltsters', from 1896 until his death in 1900 at the age of 49. He is buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in A6-3-22.

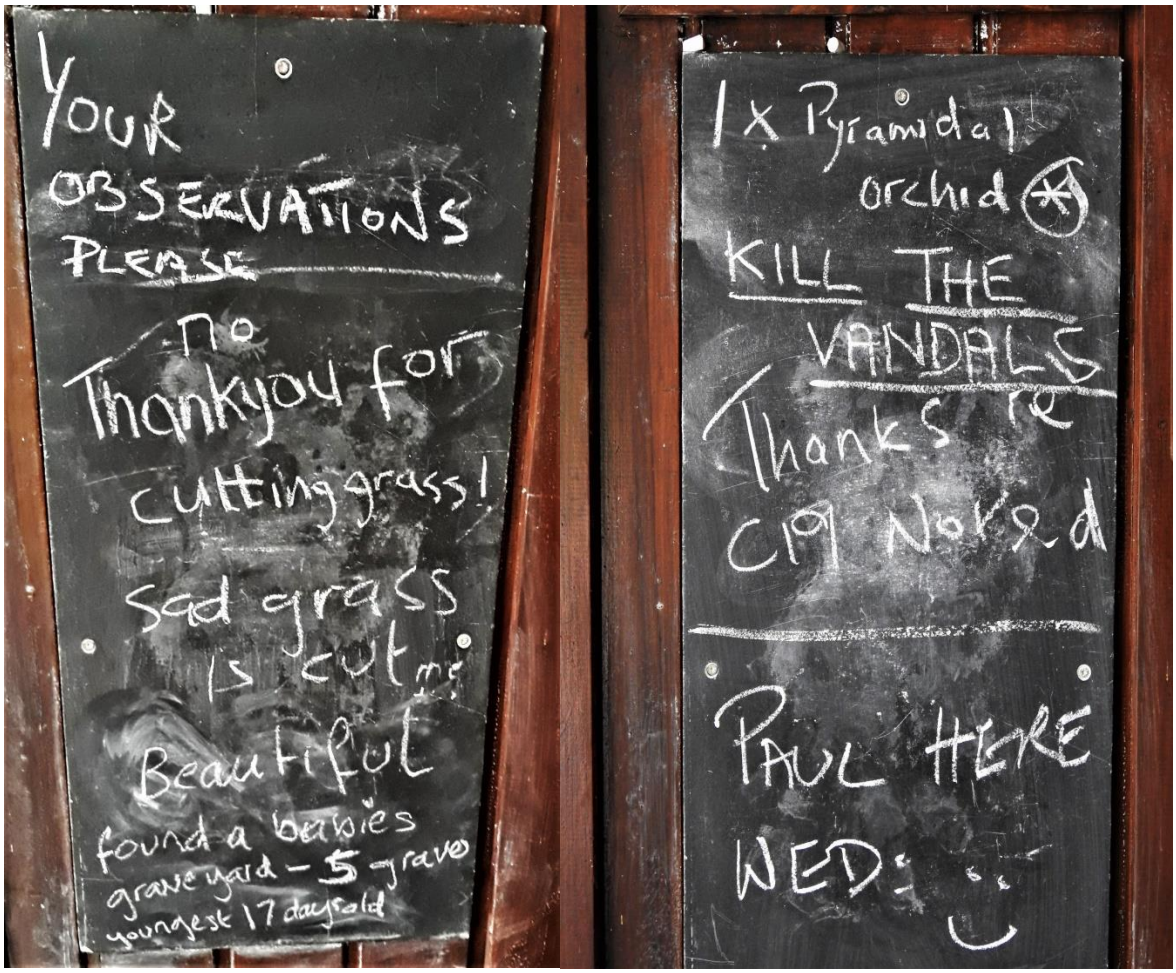
After Robert Mews had a brief period of three years running the pub it was taken over by Mrs Margaret Medlock. She was born in 1847 in Huntingdon and was married to Charles, whose trade was a carpenter. Charles and Margaret were living in Brighton in 1881 with their 5 young children. Charles died in 1890 and Margaret became the landlady of The Cricketers. Her daughter, also called Margaret, worked in the pub as a barmaid and her son, Charles aged 16 was working as a butcher in a room at the rear of the pub. During the time Margaret was running the pub, a tea room was opened in a room at the back, as was fashionable at the time.

In 1913, The Cricketers reopened after major alterations, including the digging out of a cellar to store the beers. It had previously been just a simple cottage with stables at the rear. A skittle alley and gymnasium were included, the latter being used by boxers to do their training. A well-known boxer named Bombardier Billy Wells was believed to have trained there before a championship fight and another sporting hero, Giles Barring, former captain of Hampshire, also used the gymnasium.

Margaret and her family ran the business for 33 years until it was taken over by Harry Challenger Page in 1923, the same year as he married Edith, the widow of Margaret's son, Edward. Margaret died in 1933 and probate of £336 (£25,000 today) was granted to Edith Mary Dodington Page. Margaret was buried in Broadwater and Worthing cemetery in A7-2-12. Harry Challenger Page was born in Worcestershire in 1882, the son of a schoolmaster. When Harry died in 1946, his son, Wilfred Page took over the helm, until his death in 1989. Wilf Page is still remembered fondly by many local landlords. END

BLACKBOARD SCRIBBLINGS

It is a fascinating exercise to view the blackboard beside the chapels, installed by Paul Robards a few years ago, primarily for members of the public to make a note of any observations of interest they have seen in and about the cemetery. One of the entries shows the split in public opinion regarding the 'cut or not to cut' cemetery grass situation and also the care somebody has taken to look at some of the gravestones within the cemetery. Another person seems to have a radical solution to vandalism. Also a pyramid orchid has been spotted, a note that Paul Robards would be maintaining on Wednesday, along with Frank Ffitch, Steve Eade, Chris and Matthew Laker and Mary Pickett. [Photos: left Paul Robards, right Editor]



PAUL'S PAGES

Here we continue the series whereby our Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards shows off his camera skills and knowledge of sightings within Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

RED VALERIAN: Not all classic wild flowers are native. The Red Valerian arrived in Britain in the Tudor era, bringing a splash of Mediterranean colour to formal gardens. Inevitably, it escaped and began to spread rapidly across Britain. Like other invaders it took advantage of the fact that it can survive in dry habitats where other plants cannot compete. Butterflies, bumblebees and wasps love it. It is a sure sign of Spring slipping into Summer.



GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS: What is a true sign of summer? When birds have mostly ceased singing in June; the buzzing of bees perhaps? It is summer when grasshoppers and crickets start to be heard. To tell the difference between a grasshopper and a cricket look at their antennae. If they are longer than the body the chances are that it is a cricket, if shorter a grasshopper. Crickets favour twilight and so any daytime sounds are likely to be from a grasshopper. Crickets prey on small insects while grasshoppers (below) feed mainly on grass.



EVERLASTING PEA: The Everlasting Pea is a French native that has been grown in gardens elsewhere since at least the 15th century. It is still better known as a garden plant and wild populations have no doubt escaped there. In the cemetery we have at least eight established locations, which add a splash of pink and will be producing seed pods in the second or third week of July. I have guarded them with a post as the grass cutters are currently in the cemetery cutting the now long grass. [See page 26 – Ed.]



PYRAMID ORCHID This year we only have four Pyramid Orchid locations. These too have been guarded to prevent them from being strimmed. Then hopefully they will re-appear next year. Not rare in themselves, if you go to the local Hilldown or North Lancing Ring, where there is chalk down, you will find many, but in the cemetery where there is clay soil they are worth treasuring when they appear. Sadly one has been picked by persons unknown.



COVID-19 IMPACT ON OUR ‘SIGNATURE’ GRAVES WITH ZERO MAINTENANCE

Our normally well kept ‘signature’ graves have suffered as a result of the lack of local authority maintenance and these graves are the very ones especially mentioned on the chapel walls at our main South Farm Road entrance. Watch this space for early improvement.
We feature the Hudson, Jefferies and Hughes graves and headstones.







40TH ISSUE OF THE BROADSHEET

It was tempting to use this milestone as a Page 1 headline but with due humility I have consigned it to Page 26 of the current edition. This issue marks the 40th issue of our in house magazine, The BROADSHEET, which was first published 11.5 years ago. I won't bore you with statistics except to say that in total the 40 issues have amounted to a grand total of **723** A4 pages of news, articles, items of interest and photographs plus approximately **one quarter of a million words!!** If you think it is time to appoint a new Editor please let me and/or the Chairman know, otherwise you will have to endure the present content and style!

PICTORIAL CEMETERY MISCELLANY

Below, somebody has been sleeping rough beside the cemetery chapels, using old builder's bags as blankets. The messy residue was cleared by Paul Robards, who took the photograph.

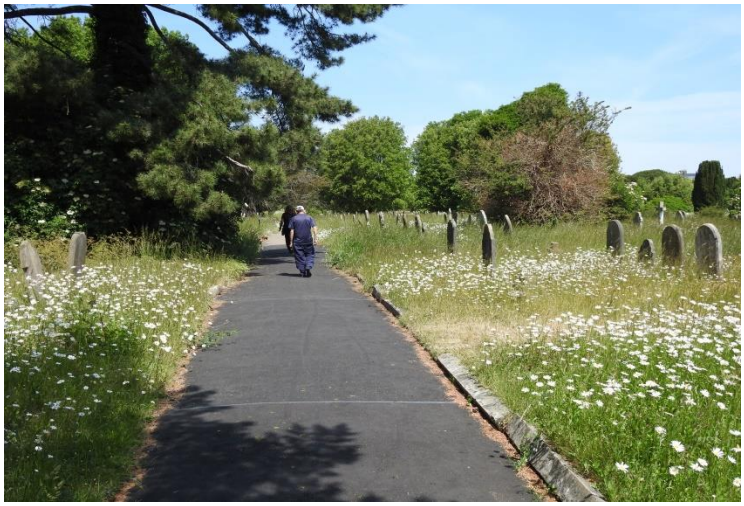


Below left we see an example of Paul Robards' markers surrounding a clump of Everlasting Peas. Also below a picture of the righted vandalised statue. [Photos: Editor and Paul Robards]





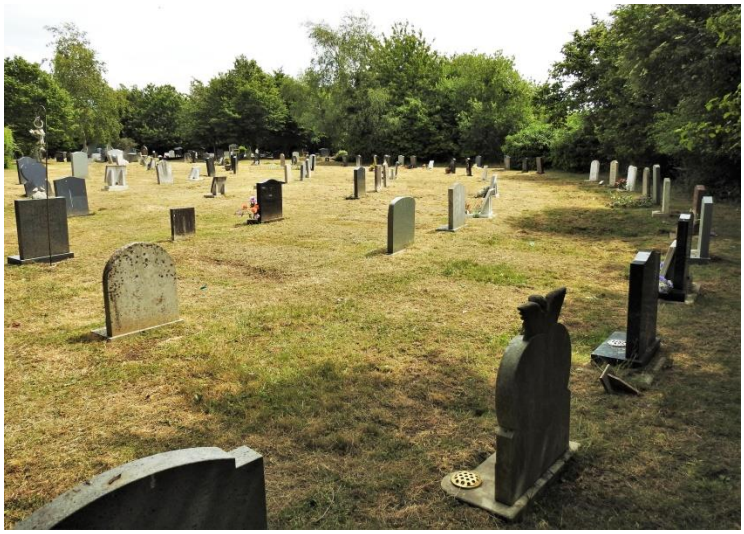
Below we see a section of resurfaced path within the cemetery.



Strange clumps of grass remain, even after the long delayed general cemetery grass cutting.



Notwithstanding an alleged shortage of manpower, Durrington Cemetery was well groomed AND it was being groomed again on 24 July!! We hope there is no cemetery discrimination!



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

This wretched Coronavirus has certainly impacted the world of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Our entire carefully planned 2020 programme of events has had to be postponed, although there may be a chance that our monthly Maintenance session may be able to restart, while observing all rules, regulations and government advice, later in the year. We plan to simply carry forward the 2020 programme into 2021 because much of the work involved has already been done. Otherwise it is a question of 'watch this space'.

Free membership of the Friends seems to be a really good idea for the year 2020/2021 in view of the 2020 circumstances. We have of course been unable to proceed with our major 'wish list' projects but they will come to fruition, albeit eventually. Our Chairman in particular has been in almost continuous contact with the Council's 'Bereavement Services' department but with only limited success. I spoke to one member of their staff who didn't even know that the Friends existed! We hope for better things from this point forward.

The Council have suddenly decided that the Friends need to take out their own Public Liability insurance while undertaking all of the events and gatherings of every kind, as we are deemed to be employers! For the past 12 years we have been 'covered' by the Council's insurance and so yet again we have to cope with bureaucratic nonsense. Everything we do is on behalf of the Council and the local community. The Committee are resisting this gross imposition, with no doubt costly premiums. It really is hard work at the top!

Our cemetery has looked both remarkable and awful during the past four months and this subject is featured within. Falling trees have been a problem with a wall crushed late last year and a path blocked this year; again maintenance being completely neglected by the Council. We must NOT be dispirited by current events and retain a high degree of optimism that we can return to 'business as usual' as soon as possible. Have a great summer and don't forget to visit 'our' cemetery to view the novelty of cut grass! Cheers for now and enjoy the 40th issue.

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