THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.43
Summer 2021

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

BACK IN BUSINESS - AT LAST

It would take somebody with a degree in 'Covid' to have a full grasp of the precise and ever changing rules and guidelines in terms of the Coronavirus pandemic. In an ever changing environment this is of course understandable with only the multitudes of media and opposition commentators getting it right in their wonderful world of retrospection. The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery are of course not political and so, as a responsible organisation, all that we have successfully done is to follow Government Guidelines. This has now, at last, worked in our favour.

It is hard to believe that our last cemetery tour was conducted on 5 October 2019, which, had the Covid restrictions not been relaxed, would soon have been two years ago. However I am delighted to confirm the content of our Hon. Secretary's circulars, in that our last Saturday of every calendar month maintenance sessions re-commenced on 28 June 2021 and our seasonal monthly Cemetery Tours start again on Saturday 7 August 2021. Details of our three tours for the remainder of 2021 are shown on Page 5 of this 43rd issue of 'The Broadsheet'. The numbers participating in each tour are limited but we intend having a second tour guide available as back-up to conduct a second identical tour on the same day if necessary. Accordingly, we hope that after all of the hard work involved in making these arrangements that you are able to attend.

Below: The Ralli tomb in bloom. [All phots by your Editor - or as credited]



INSURANCE SHOCKER

After 13 years of operation it has been decided in the 'corridors of power' that The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery must, from this moment on, take out their own insurance in respect of their full spectrum of activities. So, even as a quasi-charitable organisation that performs a public service in increasing the awareness of the cemetery and the local Worthing area history associated with it and who help the local authority maintain 14.5 acres of their property, must find the sum of £157 per annum from our hard won funds to pay for the premium!

Our Chairman Debra Hillman has done a terrific job in finding the 'right' insurance policy at the 'right' price, provided by the Zurich Company. What follows is an outline of the cover:

Public Liability: £5 million. 'Employer's Liability: £10 million. Officer's cover: £100k, Money in transit cover: £5k. FBWC money in private home: £250. Contents cover (excluding items stored outside) £25k. Personal accident cover: from £50 per week for temporary partial disablement to £10k for the loss of a limb or death [god forbid – Ed!]. Debra points out that as with all insurances there are terms and conditions that apply for claims to be successful. It is a requirement that we have suitable risk assessments in place and to keep records of them and any training undertaken.

This insurance premium will 'consume' the annual membership fees from 52 Friends of the cemetery or 50% of our total income from that source. Your Editor holds the view that while in today's world of litigation insurance cover is desirable it is outrageous that the FBWC Friends should have to pick-up the tab!

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

Our Membership Secretary, Mary Pickett, has informed your Editor that the current fully paid-up membership stands at 104 Friends. You are all gently reminded that after a 'free' membership year for 2020/21, due to enforced inactivity, a notice will be issued later in the year regarding 2021/22 membership fees. We sincerely hope that you will all renew your membership!

At the time of publication of this issue of The Broadsheet we have a credit balance at Bank of £6,050.50 and the sum of £22.10 in cash floats; a total net worth of £6,072.50. The Treasurer, your Editor, forecasts that for the first time in the 13 years of our existence, our accounts will show a net loss, entirely due to the Coronavirus and the consequent absence of income.

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE RESTARTS!

After a very long lay-off, cemetery maintenance by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery recommenced on Saturday 26 June 2021. With the Covid-19 virus attacking us all, plus the various Government restrictions, including lock-downs, we had been unable to tackle our monthly effort to keep the cemetery looking as it should. To their credit some individuals did perform maintenance tasks during this difficult period and we acknowledge their efforts, but our organised monthly gatherings could not take place. As a result the whole site has become a jungle and this subject is featured in the following pages.

Our Chairman and her husband set a fine example by turning-up ‘for work’ with our Coordinator Paul Robards overseeing the whole operation. Some progress was made in the area west of the Cross of Sacrifice. Below we see a line-up of cemetery maintenance stalwarts posing for the photographer! To assist with maintenance the Friends are about to procure a cordless strimmer and it is hoped that the local authority can get their act together and give the cemetery a ‘haircut’ now that the ‘peak season’ for flowers and insects is nearly over.

On a delightful summer morning we see the FBWC maintainers briefly posing.



Our Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards, has been doing his best to encourage the general public to join the Friends in their monthly maintenance sessions and also, by implication, to join the FBWC clan. He has produced small posters and posted them adjacent to the cemetery entrances. However we are not sure whether he has the permission of the late General Haig (1861 – 1928) to be used in such advertising!



CEMETERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

To set a coordinated approach to the future overall management of the cemetery our Chairman is in communication with the Council regarding the drafting and agreement of a Management Plan. Such a plan would include elements of coordination between the Friends, Council and other interested parties in setting out certain objectives over the next few years.

The Friends are pursuing a number of projects, such as rebuilding the Typhoid Memorial Garden at the main South Farm Road entrance (see Page 22). Such a plan would include listing the necessary actions required, the prioritisation of action points, timescales, the allocation of responsibilities, finance, all wrapped up in a set of objectives and targets. Watch this space for reports of progress.

OUR 2021 TOUR PROGRAMME

A Committee decision was made during the first week of June 2021 that it was now possible to recommence our tour programme due to some mild relaxation in Government Guidelines for outdoor events. Numbers attending would have to be limited but a contingency plan was arrived at whereby a second, fully briefed, tour guide would be available (if needed) to run an identical tour on the same day some 15 minutes behind the first group. **Tours start at 11.00 sharp!**

We would have time to organise these tours and with our ever-efficient master printer Mary Pickett producing our customary tour booklets for sale on the day. The tour dates and tour subject matter is as follows, please give us your support:

Saturday 7 August 2021: **75th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY**

Saturday 4 September 2021: **LOCAL TRADERS**

Saturday 2 October 2021: **LIVERPOOL TERRACE**

How your Committee and guests suffer! A June meeting held outside, in our Chairman's garden, under a gazebo in pouring rain. Good refreshments though!



THE BIG DEBATE

There have always been divided opinions when it comes to cemetery maintenance. Although a gross over-simplification, it boils down to whether cemeteries, such as 'ours', should be immaculately groomed, as they were years ago when most cemeteries had a sexton (a name which comes from the old English Seaxe Tun – which means Saxon Village) and a permanent dedicated staff, or huge eco-gardens where grasses and flowers grow, birds feed and insects thrive. Within the Friends group there has always been much debate on the subject. Eventually an ideal compromise was reached where a number of areas within the cemetery, where there were fewer graves, would be marked out and be exempt from the 'regular' Council grass cuts; the best of both worlds.

However the arrival of the Coronavirus and the subsequent, partially justified, corporate nationwide excuse of doing nothing or providing a reason for an often severe degradation in service, (as in: "you are 56th in the calling queue"! Ed) has resulted in a lack of local authority cemetery maintenance, which has resulted in much of the cemetery looking like a jungle. This has resulted in a formidable future task of restoring the cemetery to some semblance of order. What follows are some depressing recent views of the **totally unacceptable** 'jungle'.





[A keystone grave!]


[The CWGC grave of an old soldier.]


[A former showpiece.]

On the other hand many strollers and dog walkers as well as some members of the FBWC community have expressed great pleasure in seeing the wild flowers grow, the immense variety of flowers and the colourful ‘carpet’ they provide, at least when in flower. As a group we have encouraged birds and wildlife, by installing bird boxes and hedgehog houses; these being just two examples. In fact we have been the grateful recipients of donations specifically for the purchase of wildflower seeds. We are also in contact with organisations such as ‘Caring For God's Acre’' and ‘Greentides’ plus involvement in the Wildflower Trail and so there is plenty going on in terms of striking the right balance.

Council grass cutting schedules have been established, although it would appear from simple observation that they are theoretical rather than actual (and hopefully not in accordance with every grass verge, roundabout and footpath in the Borough, which are in a **deplorable** state!). Paul is currently undertaking a ‘History and Biodiversity Survey’ with WBC Bereavement Services input and we also need an urgent ‘Tree Survey’ because we, as in the Friends, have repeatedly pointed out that there are some potentially dangerous trees in the cemetery, witness recent tree and heavy branch falls. Below is an image that makes the ‘out of control’ cemetery look very attractive!

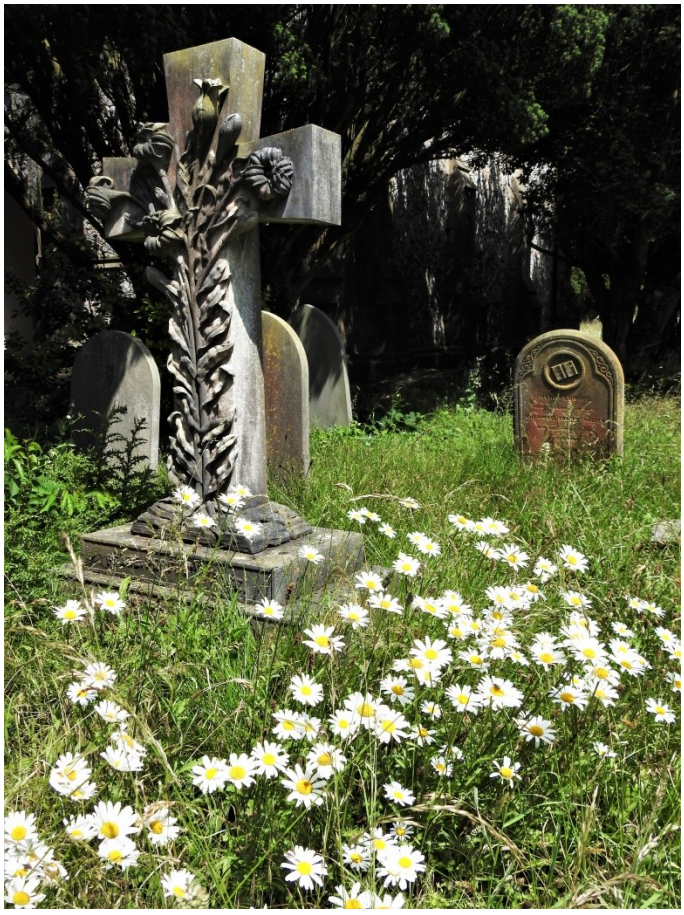


It has been very interesting to read on Facebook (not that your Editor would even contemplate being a member of the Facebook community!) comments from the public regarding the state of the cemetery, diverse views indeed!

One Mr D.C. said "Boy is this what it [the cemetery – Ed.] looks like now! As a kid the cemetery that I used to walk through was so neat and tidy, such a shame."

While Ms S.C. stated "It's a joy to see. We need more places like this. Leave the wildlife and their habitat to thrive. I for one would be happy to end my days in an area like this surrounded by wildlife."

So the debate goes on but in the fullness of time, if and when the cemetery is properly maintained by the Council, with the support of the cemetery Friends, the original solution of some preserved 'natural' areas with the main part of the cemetery being regularly mowed and strimmed, is the best solution. Saving the best news for last; Bereavement Services are looking at the possibility of cut grass being raked-up and removed after mowing. Now that really would be progress, provided there are no flying pigs about!



[Attractive; while they last!]

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Our Clearance and Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards, had the idea of helping to focus attention on wildlife within the cemetery walls by organising a photographic competition, with the specific subject matter being butterflies. This was an on-line competition run via the Facebook medium.

To use Paul's own words; "Between now and the end of July upload your pictures, taken on a camera or the camera on a smart 'phone, of butterflies seen in the Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The best picture will be judged by the number of 'likes' but with final oversight by the organiser. There is a prize. (A book on Butterflies and Moths – Ed.)"

Below is a copy of the notice that Paul attached to the cemetery gates for all to see. A full report of the competition, including the number of entries, reproductions of the best three images and a photograph of the winner will be included in the next issue of The Broadsheet.



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION WEEK – MAY 2021

The CWGC ran its first ever War Graves Week between 21 and 28 May 2021. The week was to 'shine a light on the work and the people who keep remembrance of our war dead alive'. It was reported that "In Worthing on Friday 28 May 2021 Sarah Nathaniel, the Public Engagements Coordinator for the South East, will be running tours at Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery throughout the day. The cemetery is home to about 80 war graves and memorials from both World Wars and that there are some fascinating stories about the men and women commemorated there to be shared."

The CWGC pointed out that they look after graves and memorials of around 1.7 million Commonwealth casualties world-wide. The tour guides were members of the CWGC but the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery had a significant input in terms of information and research. In addition to tours for members of the general public there was a special 'V.I.P' tour at 14.30 and a wreath laying ceremony at 15.30. Amongst those attending were our President, Tim Loughton, MP., The Mayor of Worthing, Councillor Lionel Harman, the Deputy Mayor Elect, Councillor Richard Nowak, Parade Marshall and Veteran's Association representative, Mr Kevin Maynard and our Chairman Mrs Debra Hillman and husband Jeff. Also in attendance was the Worthing Town Crier, Bob Smytherman.

Your Editor was asked by the CWGC to record the event and a small selection of images are reproduced herein. Below is the CWGC tent in 'our' cemetery.



Below are images of one of the ‘public’ tours and another of the V.I.P tour, including attendees mentioned in the text on the previous page.





Below we feature scenes of the wreath laying at the Cross of Sacrifice.



[Tim Loughton MP]



[FBWC Chairman]



[Civic dignitaries]

It is just After 16.00 and the ceremony is complete, with the official party posing around the Cross of Sacrifice and six commemorative wreaths in place. Tim Loughton said afterwards that "It was an honour to go to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery for a tour of some reflection in connection with 'War Graves Week."



PRIVATE TOURS RECOMMENCE

In addition to general cemetery tours and cemetery maintenance sessions recommencing after a very long gap, it was good news that requests for private tours have also again been received. On 8 September 2021 your Editor will be conducting a tour for the University of the Third Age (U3A). Further details regarding time and subject matter are presently being discussed.

Thomas Richards

By Mary Pickett

Buried in B7-15-14



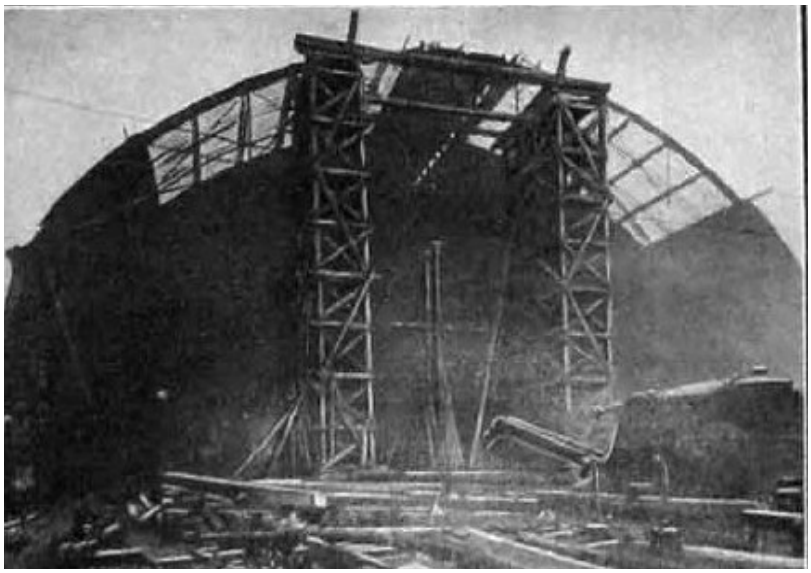
Thomas Richards was only 39 years old when he was killed, following the collapse of the roof of Charing Cross Station in London.

Thomas was born in Bognor in 1866 to parents Frederick and Emily. In 1851, at the age of 15, he was living with his parents at 3, Buckingham Place and was working as a carpenter, the trade he continued to follow until his death.

He encountered another dramatic event in his life, having travelled to South Africa at the end of 1899. He travelled from Cape Town to Kimberley, to arrive there only six weeks before the siege took place in which the Boer forces attempted to take over the diamond mining enclave from the British. Thomas played a part as a member of the Town Guard.

On his return to England, he entered into the employ of Messrs Maple and Co. as a carpenter, and worked for them in France, Ireland and all over England. It was whilst he was employed on the renovation of the Avenue Theatre in London (now the Playhouse) that his tragic death occurred.

On December 5th 1905, a 23m length of the original roof and part of the western wall of Charing Cross Station collapsed, causing mayhem. Six people lost their lives, including two workmen who had been working on the roof, a W H Smith stall holder and three workers in the adjacent Avenue Theatre, one of whom being Thomas Richards. Thomas and his colleague, Mr Hunt, were working close to each other when the wall collapsed. Hunt jumped to one side and called for Richards to follow him, and then everything was engulfed in a cloud of smoke. As the dust cleared, Hunt scrambled down to the point where he had last seen his friend and called out to him. From under the rubble came the muffled cry of “Hunt, Hunt”. Hunt searched desperately but to no avail, then he heard a cry of “water, water” and after that, nothing more.



It wasn’t until six days later, due to the enormous amount of rubble that had fallen, that Thomas Richard’s body was unearthed from the wreckage. A representative of Messrs Maple and Co. had visited Thomas’ mother to get a photograph of him for identification purposes.

His body was taken to a local mortuary and, from thence, back to Worthing where he was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

This was the second tragedy in the family as, only five years earlier, Thomas’ father, Frederick Richards, had also died in an accident. He had been travelling in Lancing in his cart when a passing train frightened his horse, causing it to bolt. Frederick was thrown from the cart and landed underneath the upturned cart, as a result of which he sustained fatal injuries.

PAUL'S PAGES

[All photos: Paul Robards]

PYRAMID ORCHIDS. There are presently 13 Pyramid Orchids at various locations within the cemetery. Each year I seek out these exotic flowers. In the past I have pegged them out to protect them from the grass cutters but this year they have stayed concealed to avoid them being picked by passers-by.



BEES IN A TREE. This year I came across an active pollinating bee colony in a tree. Tree Bumblebees have only recently taken up residence in the UK; ID of ours awaited. This tree has hosted Great Tits, Green Woodpeckers and Squirrels.



SPARROW HAWK. This year we were fortunate enough to have a family of Sparrow Hawks take up residence in our cemetery in order to raise their young. They fledged on 5 July and we hope they escape the attentions of the magpies.



Every year I personally collect fresh seeds from the cemetery and then later disperse them throughout the cemetery to increase the floral diversity within the cemetery. Photographed here is a typical collection of seeds.



WORTHING 1893 TYPHOID EPIDEMIC NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS

The Friend of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery express their sincere gratitude to the West Sussex County Council Library Service for the fascinating extracts, from Newspapers of the day, which follow :

Your Editor reports that while nobody would under-estimate the seriousness of the current Coronavirus pandemic, the problems encountered reminded one of not only the 'Spanish Flu' epidemic of 1918, which took 228,000 lives in the UK alone, but on a local basis the Worthing Typhoid Epidemic of 1893.

[Important footnote: In recent weeks, Friend Colin Reid has confirmed that a number of FBWC Researchers have undertaken further research into the Worthing 1893 Typhoid Epidemic, such that we now have obtained details of at least 191 victims. It is our intention to run a third Typhoid Epidemic Tour of the Cemetery in 2022 [provided the current pandemic allows!].

From a Worthing newspaper, early June 1893 FUNERAL AT THE CEMETERY The remains of the late Mr. Abraham Duffield, whose sad death, after a short illness, occurred at the Worthing Infirmary on Saturday, were interred at the Broadwater Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. The coffin was carried by members of Binstead's Band and was followed to the grave by the widow and relatives, and a large number of friends.....The greatest sympathy is felt for the widow, who is left unprovided for with six young children, the youngest not being three weeks old when its father died. A subscription has been started to enable the widow to open a little shop at the Ham Arch Post Office.

Pall Mall Gazette, July 24 1893 FEVER-STRICKEN WORTHING A SUMMER HOLIDAY RESORT SHUT UP .....Forty deaths, chiefly among the poorer classes, have occurred within the past fortnight alone, and one out of every sixteen of the population of 16,000 has been stricken with the fever.....The summer visitors have scampered away, and the front of the town is a desert. No pleasure boats put out to sea, for there are no holiday makers to use them.....The hotels and lodging-houses are empty, and many escape the fever merely to find ruin staring them in the face..... Preparations for a new water supply and improved drainage are being pushed forward. Meanwhile, all fresh cases of fever are being isolated in the mission rooms and chapels which have been turned into temporary hospitals.

Sussex Daily News July 26 1893 THE FEVER AT WORTHING .....A sick-poor fund started by the Mayor has already reached the total of over £300, and.....it may be noted that the employees of a builder in the town (Mr. J. G. King) have handed over £6 for the sick poor instead of going for their annual outing.

Morning Leader August 16 1893 THE TYPHOID AT WORTHING The number of cases of typhoid in Worthing has exceeded 1,150. At a meeting of the Town Council last night it was decided to go to Shoreham for water for temporary purposes, and mains are to be laid at once. It is hoped that within a month fresh water will be in the town

Sussex Daily News August 16 1893 DESOLATE WORTHING There are five improvised hospitals.....all of these are full of patients.....The Richmond House Home, standing in a garden, is a beautiful place as looked at from the outside. Nearly all the windows stood open to the sun. All the rooms, upstairs and down, had been turned into wards, and every bed was occupied by a fever patient – by men and women, boys and girls, and little children..... A little girl, convalescent, was amusing herself with dolls, and Sister Bothamley said that Mrs. Hooft had sent a large box of beautifully dressed dolls for the children..... There are more children at the Travellers' Rest in Clifton Road, ten little ones being in one big room. Happily nearly all were recovering, some sitting up in bed with dolls and other toys. One little girl was dressed and sitting at an open window.....Mrs. Elmer said she would be able to go home in a day or two.

Pall Mall Gazette, August 18 1893 A STRICKEN TOWN On returning to my home in Worthing last week I found the town almost deserted, the tradesmen depressed, ruin before many of them, and the typhoid still raging. I came by the London-bridge train that gets to Worthing at half-past one in the afternoon. It is a train which at ordinary times, and especially at this season of the year, brings crowds of visitors to the town. My friend and I were the only persons who alighted; our trunks the solitary luggage on the platform. We went out into the once bright little town. There was panic in the air. Groups of persons stood here and there on the pavements talking of the fever and the water supply. Tanks filled with water from the West Worthing Waterworks were placed about the streets.....Many of the residents have fled, and there are no visitors. Many buildings have areas turned into wards, and every bed was full.

In 'Rood' Health

Charting the life and death of Alice Amelia Rood

[A7 17 31] By Colin Reid

For Worthing, the year of 1893 will forever be associated with the tragic loss of at least 188 residents to the ravages of Typhoid/Enteric Fever. At the height of the second wave of infection, Alice Amelia Rood died on July 30th aged just 24 years. She had been working in the North Swiss Cottage (which became the Beechwood Hall Hotel), Park Crescent as Cook to a family called Cathcart; and the cause of death was given as Enteric Phthisis. The latter is an archaic medical term for which a precise definition has so far eluded me, but it has to be possible that Alice's death was in some way connected with Worthing's Typhoid Fever. She was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on August 2nd.

Alice had been born in Southampton circa 1869 and her parents William (a grocer) and Charlotte Maria (nee Bundy) had her baptised in St Peter's Church that June. She was the second of six children born there before a sudden move to Brighton, where they had two more children. With births between 1867 and 1883, they were named: Charlotte Hester, Alice Amelia, Frederick Wickham, William, then twins Albert Edward and Annie Victoria, Selina May and Ernest Luke. I had been right to be puzzled by their move from Southampton to Brighton circa 1880. It transpired that an excise officer discovered a 3oz piece of lead under one the weights of the grocery store's beam scales. This wrecked their Southampton business and William was subsequently declared bankrupt. Brighton offered a fresh start.

Subsequent to Alice's death, two of her sisters – Selina May and Florence Georgina (my great grandmother) – spent periods in Worthing, Both of their histories are very complicated and the reader is encouraged to purchase a copy of 'My Dear Clarice' for very detailed descriptions of their lives and much, much more. [With 192 pages and 273 illustrations, 'My Dear Clarice' is a snip at £14.99. Just e-mail me via halfscottish1@zen.co.uk.]



[The Beechwood Hall Hotel]

TYPHOID MEMORIAL GARDEN

By Debra Hillman

The subject of a substantial rebuild of the Typhoid Memorial Garden has been on our 'Wish List' for a considerable time but it is only during the past few weeks that it has been possible to make any progress. I have been discussing the matter with Liam Lord of the Council.

We need an area that is easy to maintain, has a defined boundary and which looks attractive aesthetically, with uniform planting. We are looking for plants that thrive in a dry and shady area. I will check with a tree specialist to ensure that nothing we plant affects the yews. The suggestion is that we border the area with flat railway sleepers. My brother is willing to source them and to bolt them together. There would also need to be a membrane to discourage weed growth. We have identified other plants that would thrive in such a location and in such conditions, subject to a maintenance rota.

He has confirmed that we are can now proceed with the planned changes to the area surrounding the typhoid memorial stone. We are OK to use a loam based medium to increase the depth of soil but we should avoid adding anything like well-rotted manure or other high nitrate medium to enrich it as this could have a negative impact on the yew trees. Now this has been confirmed I will make some enquiries about materials.

I also took the opportunity to talk to Liam more generally about the trees in the cemetery. He carried out a survey of the trees in the cemetery and he confirmed that a survey had been conducted last year and will be repeated every three years. However he did say that if the Friends spot anything that we feel needs attention then we should report it and then the Council would take any necessary action. The speed at which action is taken will depend on the circumstances. Health and Safety is paramount but potential damage to property, e.g. headstones, will also warrant intervention.



[Chairman at work]

** TIME TO PASS THE BATON **

By Debra Hillman

Since its first issue in January 2009, our Broadsheet magazine has reflected the activities of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery and told stories that our researchers unearthed, topped off with some 'Cemetery Humour' and Editor's Ramblings'. Also included have been all topical news items of the day. The consistent quality of the publication has been as a result of a considerable amount of hard work by our Editor, John Vaughan, who has acted as reporter and cameraman at most of our events. He has chased those of us who have been tardy in supplying him with articles for inclusion and has sought out relevant items to bolster the content when it has been thin on the ground.

In addition to his editorial role, John has also been our Treasurer for over 8 years, a post which is essential to the smooth running of the group.

Sadly, John has decided that the time has come to take a well-deserved rest and he will be standing down from both positions at the Annual General Meeting in November 2021. He will of course remain a Friend of the cemetery.

Alongside his Committee posts, John has also been a regular member of the Saturday morning Clearance team and has been one of our tour guides on cemetery tour days. His input into the Friends group will be greatly missed and on behalf of all members I would like to thank him for all of his efforts over the past twelve and a half years.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

This does mean of course that we will have two Committee posts to fill by the end of November. These are both responsible and interesting posts with plenty of opportunity for creativity and with a worthwhile end product. **I am inviting enquiries to fill these vacancies and if interested I ask you to contact me for more information.** Job Descriptions have been provided but leaving plenty of room for post-holder improvisation. Needless to say a full and proper handover will be arranged and help and advice will always be available.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held towards the end of November 2021 and full details will be distributed by our Secretary prior to the date, depending on the Government guidelines prevailing at that time.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

The main news has to be the recommencement of our Cemetery Tour programme on Saturday 7 August 2021, the last public tour being conducted, almost unbelievably, in October 2019! Our monthly Clearance and Maintenance sessions also recommenced at the end of June. Although the overall situation is somewhat volatile, with many members of the public still confused about Covid rules and regulations, (and your Editor is NOT, like so many commentators, being 'an expert in retrospect') and others are still understandably a little nervous about any form of public gathering our outside tours will have regard to professional advice on the Covid-19 situation. Please help support our objectives and efforts by attending the tours detailed on Page 5.

Your Editor was nominated and then voted into the post of 'Newsletter Editor' at the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery in October 2008 and since then our now Tri-Annual publication has appeared, with the distribution of this issue, 43 times. He once edited a national magazine and while such experience was not absolutely necessary, it probably helped get the publication off the ground. Over the years the Broadsheet [the name being applied by your Editor, as in Broad(water) and (News)sheet] has been developed and enlarged, with arguably the most significant change being the introduction of photographs from the 13th Issue, Winter 2012, being the most important development.

I will write more about the production of The Broadsheet in the next issue, suffice to say that after such a long innings, which has been enjoyable in many ways, it is regrettably time to pass the baton to a new Editor with maybe a new idea or two to take over the reins. **I am sure there are those who fancy putting together news and pictures and to applying their own style of writing to this publication, which is, after all, 'The Voice of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery'.**

Your Editor has also been the FBWC Treasurer for the past 8 years, gaining the reputation for being the tightest 'blighter' for many a mile. We will be spending some 'big bucks' on our 'Wish List' items in the near future and rather than suffer a coronary attack he is also resigning his Treasurer post, as and from the date of the November AGM. So those who fancy being a mini Chancellor of the Exchequer should apply to our Chairman now. A full handover will be arranged.

Finally, I wish you all a pleasant and Covid-free summer. Enjoy the issue.

John Vaughan [Editor] **jamv@ntlworld.com**

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