THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.44
Autumn 2021

THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY



At a well-attended Annual General Meeting, the first for two years, there was a wide range of topics for discussion and decisions to be made, in addition to the election of officers voting process for those nominated for FBWC committee posts. The meeting was held at the Offington Park Methodist Church Hall.

It is not the intention of The Broadsheet to duplicate our Hon. Secretary's report by way of meeting minutes and so here we merely highlight some of the more important and interesting topics. There were several personnel changes in Committee posts as John Vaughan resigned from his Treasurer post, which he had held for 8 years and his Broadsheet Editor position, which he had held since the formation of the Friends 13 years ago. Also a new 'Publications Officer' Committee post was created, relating to booklet production, which comprises a host of diverse but important tasks, undertaken for years by Mary Pickett.

In terms of the general Friends membership a number of changes were proposed and carried by a unanimous vote. The main change was in the membership accounting year, whereby following a period of free membership, as and from the 1 January 2022 the membership year will now run from 1 January until 31 December, in other words the calendar year. Although costs had increased it was agreed that the membership fee for 2022 would remain at £3.00, with the Membership Secretary writing to all Friends regarding the new arrangements. Also with the FBWC likely to change bank accounts, following draconian charges about to be imposed by HSBC, advice to those wanting to pay by bank transfer, standing order or direct debit would be issued as soon as possible.

There were the usual reports from officers, which will be included in the minutes or reported elsewhere within the pages of this issue of The Broadsheet.

Election of Committee Members:

Chairman: Debra Hillman

Vice Chairman: Sally Roberts

Secretary: Fran Dingwall

Membership Secretary: Mary Pickett

Maintenance Coordinator: Paul Robards

Media Officer: Carole Manning

Broadsheet Editor: Barry Chidlow

Treasurer: Sally Roberts

Publications Officer: Mary Pickett

Tours and Research Coordinator: Vacant

Changes included Sally Roberts adding the role of Treasurer to her portfolio, Barry Chidlow becoming the new Editor of the Broadsheet and Mary Pickett taking up the new post of Publications Officer in recognition of the full spectrum of booklet production work that she has been undertaking for many years. A tours and research coordinator is, however, URGENTLY required.

In respect of other subjects under discussion at the AGM, the minutes will be published shortly but what follows is a brief precis of what transpired. The tent dwellers presently 'resident' within the cemetery had been reported and removal was awaited. There had been some vandalism in respect of certain cemetery signs and one Friend had witnessed drug dealing and other related activities within the cemetery. A meeting had been held with the Council's 'Bereavement Services' on a number of subjects and progress was awaited, with limited optimism. Pyramid orchids were thriving within the cemetery and it was hoped that the hedgehogs introduced to the cemetery earlier this year were doing well. Finally, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, there would be no Friends Christmas drinks session this year, especially with more negative Covid developments on the horizon. Finally, the next general meeting was scheduled for 18.45 on Friday 28 January 2022, probably at the same venue as the AGM, to be notified.

HSBC BANK OUTRAGE!

At the end of August 2021 your FBWC Treasurer was informed by HSBC Bank, which originated in China and Hong Kong back in 1865, that in future they would be imposing charges for 'Community' Accounts such as ours. The imposition of these charges also applied to a range of accounts held by charities, sports and social clubs, community organisations and various voluntary groups.

The imposition of charges was explained away in 'political speak' and in a booklet that could only be accessed on line. The three classic sentences selected by your Treasurer and extracted from their notification letter include the following, which he described as 'unmitigated claptrap' and 'balderdash'!

"We constantly review and invest in our products and services so that they remain relevant to our business customers".

"We're committed to supporting all UK organisations".

"We understand introducing charges isn't a welcome change, but we hope these changes make it easier for customers to understand our charges".

The bank go on to say that accounts such as ours "will carry a monthly fee and cash and cheque transactions will now be chargeable." For us these charges were truly outrageous, with every cheque paid in attracting a fee of 40p (!!!) and as our membership cheques are for just £3.00 each this would result in a rake-off for the bank of 13.33% of our income, with HSBC gaining from our deposits in their bank for which we would receive no interest! They also wanted to grab 0.40% of the value of all cash deposits and to charge a whopping 1.5% of the value of all cash withdrawn. Not only that, but they are also imposing a monthly fee of £5, even if there happened to be no transactions during a month. HSBC then had the temerity to say to customers 'take it or leave it' implying that they didn't care whether accounts were consequently closed or not! "If you don't accept the charges …… you must tell us before they come into effect, you'd then have to close your account without charge." **One must feel sorry for HSBC whose pre-tax profits for the 3 months to 30 September 2020 rose to only £3.9 billion. We <u>WILL NOT</u> be adding to that figure!**

With other high street banks still offering a free service to community groups it is the intention to dump HSBC as our bankers and to set up a new account with a bank that is community friendly and provides banking services to groups such as ours, to spread goodwill. In the personal opinion of the Treasurer [NOT speaking on behalf of the FBWC] he would not now bank with HSBC under any circumstances. One wonders in which country this policy was approved!

FBWC MEMBERSHIP

Mary Pickett, our long established Membership Secretary, Booklet Coordinator and Printer/Publisher, reports that notwithstanding the ramifications of Covid, a small turnover of members and a period of inactivity, the FBWC still retains over 100 members, which is a credit to you all for sticking with us in times of adversity. Please see the brief report of the FBWC Annual General Meeting for details of some subtle changes in the membership 'year' and for confirmation of fees and methods of payment. Some of this information may be sent by e-mail or via 'buddies' for those without computers.

FACEBOOK

For those interested in modern social media and who are members of the Facebook community, you are reminded that there are regularly some interesting contributions and observations that may be worth reading on the FBWC site, as well as copious photographic images of various sightings within the boundaries of 'our' cemetery. It is well worth a look from time to time and the whole operation is overseen by Sue Nea who monitors the site and acts as censor when necessary! After all, it makes a welcome change from reading about your friend's visit to Brighton or whether he or she is shopping in Marks & Spencer! Overall it is a useful way of keeping up to date and ensures that the FBWC retains it cutting edge in this world of Information Technology.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCES

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, 12 months free membership, no tours until August 2021 and therefore minimal donations and booklet sales, not to mention our net income from refreshment sales, your Treasurer regrets to report that for the first time in our 13 year history a trading loss has been incurred for the year 2020/21. Through careful financial management this loss has been limited to £249.46. There were a handful of big ticket items on the expenditure list, such as a strimmer, audio equipment, bird boxes and paraphernalia, plus the outrageous annual 'public liability plus' insurance premium of £157. However in terms of our asset base we retained a bank balance of just under £6,000 and when the amount of cash in our two floats are accounted for the FBWC had a total net worth of £6,110.80 and so we are still some distance away from the poor house. Overall there was a limited amount of financial activity compared to a normal accounting year and our full accounts of trading are attached, below.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY
22 OCTOBER 2020 TO 21 OCTOBER 2021

Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Book Sales	109.00	Printing and Stationery	45.18
Membership Fees	15.00	Plants and Flowers	106.65
Refreshments [Net]	48.06	Postage	13.15
Donations	128.40	Subscriptions and Fees	42.00
		Equipment/Materials	185.94
		Insurance	157.00
Income/Expenditure Loss	249.46		
TOTALS	**549.92**		**549.92**

Balance at Bank 22 October 2020	6345.13		
Cash in Hand 22 October 2020	15.13	Total	6360.26
2020/21 **LOSS**			249.46
Balance at bank 21 October 2021	5995.64		
Cash in Hand 21 October 2021	115.16	Total	**6110.80**

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 ..... JAM Vaughan .....

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

13/11/2021

[The Covid 19 pandemic had serious impact on the FBWC income, hence our first ever loss]

CEMETERY TOURS RECOMMENCE

The Friends were always determined to recommence their cemetery tour programme as soon as Government rules, regulations and advice permitted. Tours had been prepared for 2019 and 2020 but for the first time in our 13 year history it was simply not possible, due to Covid, to meet one of our primary objectives in promoting the cemetery. As reported in the last Broadsheet, Issue 43, Summer 2021, three tours were planned; for 7 August - 75th Anniversary of VE Day, 4 September - Local Traders and 2 October – Liverpool Terrace. Tour guides were to be Paul Holden, Debra Hillman and Colin Reid respectively. Attendances were down somewhat but 20 – 40 members of the public, plus many Friends, duly turned up and enjoyed their morning entertainment.

All of our old skills had to be resuscitated and below is an image of our wonderful refreshment ladies, Karen Foster (left) and Carole Manning. As usual delicious cakes were available in addition to tea and coffee. The girls are seen by the chapels on an inclement 2 October 2021. [All photos by your Editor unless otherwise credited.]



In addition to refreshments it was necessary for our wonderful Friends to set-up our bookstall and sales stand, not to mention information boards. Here are two images taken on a delightful 4 September 2021 and an awful 2 October 2021. After a lengthy period without book sales or donations some additional income was welcome in what had been a very lean year. Overall, although we had some misgivings, tour recommencement was undoubtedly successful, a credit to all.





As ever, none of our tours 'just happen', they happen only because decisions have to be made on thematic subject matter, painstaking research has to be undertaken by our team of expert researchers, advertising in the Broadsheet but also by the efforts in the local press by our Media and Publicity Officer, Carole Manning, all of the volunteer booksellers, route researchers, relevant grave maintainers, script writing by our wonderful team of tour guides, the efforts of our tour leaders, the provision, in terms of designing, printing and binding of our tour related booklets by Mark Pickett and by the efforts of many others.

Below is an image illustrating the first of our 2021 tours on 7 August featuring the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Tour guide Paul Holden of the Worthing Journal is seen addressing the crowd on a pleasant day. Note the long grasses.



Striding away from the cemetery chapels on 4 September 2021 is our Chairman Debra Hillman who was the tour guide for our ‘Local Traders’ tour. Again the number of tour participants, bearing in mind the Covid blight, was excellent.



Below, Chairman Debra addresses the crowd on another pleasant and dry day during her ‘Local Traders’ tour. Most of the cemetery grasses had, at long last, been cut making the overall appearance look cared for, rather than a jungle.



Our tour guide Colin Reid was not so lucky with the climatic conditions on 2 October 2021 when he conducted his 'Liverpool Terrace' tour. In this picture Colin (in suitable rain proof clothing, including hood) imparts information to a slightly thinner but attentive crowd, seen sheltering under a dozen umbrellas.



In addition to our general public advertised tours, as already described, your Editor also conducted a private tour for the University of the Third Age (U3A), ably assisted by Friend Frank Ffitch, on 8 September 2021. A letter of thanks was received later on the same day. Here we see the group after the 'Crime and the Law' tour, which was enjoyed by all. **Our 2022 cemetery tour programme will be announced within the next few months.**



STRAW POLL - UTION

After over 12 months of neglect and procrastination Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery grasses and ground foliage were finally cut at the beginning of September 2021. The neglect of 'our' cemetery by the Council's so called 'Bereavement Services' was intolerable. As the Coronavirus pandemic was the initial reason for inaction it was noticed that other Council parks and cemeteries were being maintained. This neglect was demoralising for many Friends who had been working hard to maintain the cemetery for over a decade and they were to see much of their good work undone. This is a reminder of the neglect.



Eventually, after much 'nagging', contractors did arrive to start cutting the grass, which took an age; in fact far longer than the company had anticipated. Below we see a half visible man at work with his strimmer.



The cutting had been left for so long that a further enemy arrived; **STRAW,** tons and tons of the stuff, strewn all over the cemetery. We even had 'banks of straw', almost haystacks! See the images below.





[What a mess!]

TRUE GRIT

Notwithstanding Council lethargy or ineptitude the Friends are made of better stuff and against adversity they have now recommenced their maintenance activities. Below we see Jeff Hillman hauling a huge load of cuttings towards the chapels after a heavy solo maintenance session.



One worrying trend since monthly Saturday maintenance recommenced has been the number of Friends attending these two hour sessions. This situation needs to be reversed. These have always been fun occasions where friendship and comradery are ever present, as attempts are made to restore old graves and headstones. Attendances have dropped from double to low single figures of late. Here are some of our stalwart maintainers in August and October respectively.





[Photo above: Paul Robards]

THE FBWC WISH LIST

For some considerable time the Friends have had a 'wish list' that comprises largely major projects but circumstances over the past couple of years have prevented any significant progress being made. One of the projects includes a major revamp of the main cemetery entrance but on 6 September things reached an all-time low when the Typhoid Epidemic Memorial Garden was decorated with a plant sitting in an old 'soft scoop' plastic ice cream tub! Improvements are not far away!



2021 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The traditional Remembrance Service in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery took place at the Cross of Sacrifice on Saturday 13 November 2021. There was an excellent turnout with representation from the British Legion, the Services, the Durrington Sea Scouts and related groups, such as The Beavers, plus parents of the youngsters, Friends of the cemetery and members of the public, all conducted and overseen by the Reverend Hazel Sherman.

Hymns were sung, prayers were said and there was a moving wreath-laying ceremony as the flags fluttered in the breeze. Overall it was a pleasant experience but the significant population of youngsters was, arguably, the most impressive aspect of the event, as those who made the ultimate sacrifice were remembered. Below, a small random portfolio of scenes is reproduced illustrating the scene for those who could not attend.







UNBELIEVABLE !!!!

It seems inconceivable but on the busiest day of the year at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, in terms of the number of human beings going through the cemetery gates, that the contractors employed by the Council's Bereavement Services did NOT unlock the Carnegie Road entrance! It was agreed some time ago that this entrance would be locked Monday to Friday but opened at weekends; viz. Saturday and Sunday. The annual Remembrance Service took place on Saturday 13 November 2021 and yet this important gate was padlocked, to the considerable inconvenience of many visitors and making some late for the service. This bumbling incompetence is being looked into by Bereavement Services who have stated: "The Company have been approached for an explanation and once I have this I can take the matter further."



RAT RUN VERSUS EMISSIONS

To the amazement of regular visitors to Durrington Cemetery the exit onto the busy A27 road has been blocked by way of two recently installed bollards, see photograph on the next page. Presumably this is to deter a 'rat run' from the busy and often congested A24 to the equally busy A27. However this also means that anybody visiting the newer parts of the cemetery now has to descend the hill back to the A24, try and cross the northbound lane, negotiate the Offington roundabout and ascend another hill if heading west. In the current 'climate' this decision seems brain dead, when all that was needed was a few severe speed humps. As a regular visitor I was not aware of any consultation! Also, reproduced are recent photographs of wild deer seen in that cemetery.







AUTUMN VANDALISM?

Photographed on 13 November 2021 we see another case of almost certain vandalism with this headstone ripped from its base on the footpath on the western South Farm Road side of the cemetery. Our Chairman is contacting the Council to have the stone permanently restored as soon as possible. There are again two tents pitched within the cemetery; the personal circumstances of the 'residents' unknown. One sympathises with the homeless, whether it be mental illness, drug addiction, personal circumstances or being unemployable but by precedent and the law, the cemetery is not the place for the 'living' to reside.



FBWC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Back in June and July of 2021 our Clearance and Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards, had the idea of holding a photographic competition for all and sundry which would have the thematic title of 'Butterflies in the Cemetery'. One of the objectives was to post notices on the cemetery gates and on the FBWC Facebook site encouraging local people to visit the cemetery with their cameras, to photograph our colourful friends during June and/or July. Entries were to be posted on Facebook and the number of general 'likes' (if you are on Facebook and understand the 'likes' facility), as well as technical ability and 'enthusiasm' (?) would all be taken into consideration, with Paul deciding which was to be the winning entry. A book on Butterflies and Moths was offered as a prize for the winner. There are 434 members who view the FBWC Facebook pages and 103 'Friends' of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery.

In total there were but a handful of entrants but perhaps non-photographers were encouraged to visit the cemetery after viewing the pictures on Facebook. Overall, and most importantly, our Coordinator considers the exercise to have been a success. The main entrants were Jane Cosham, Barry Chidlow, Daryl Peters, Mike Saveen, Catherine Burgess, Lynn Del Greco and Lorraine McNab. Shortly after the closing date it was decided that the overall winner was Jane Cosham. Below we see winner Jane and her pet dog, plus her winning entry.



[Photo: Paul Robards]



[Photo: Jane Cosham]

Please find below (and on Facebook) two further entries for the Butterfly Photographic Competition, with the name of the photographer credited.



[Photo: Lynn Del Greco]



[Mike Saveen]

AND ANOTHER!: No sooner had the Butterfly Competition ended when our Coordinator Paul Robards announced another Photographic Competition – 'Fungi'. (Best make it annual Paul or you'll run out of themes! Ed.). See below.

Exciting new Autumn Photographic Challenge..

The next BROADWATER & Worthing Cemetery photography Challenge is to be 'Fungi.' 'Fungi' = 'a plant without leaves, flowers, or colour that lives on other plants or on decaying matter..'[Definition from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary]

The previous 'butterfly' challenge was a success, with good response, so we thought it worthwhile arranging a further one for the coming Autumn months of October/November. The weather now being damper, should attract a good selection within the grounds of the Cemetery. Entries of suitable Fungi; Toadstools, Mushrooms or Bracket fungi photographs, (whether taken by camera or the camera on you phone) in the cemetery to be either uploaded to the Friends Facebook page;

(20+) Friends of Broadwater Cemetery | Groups | Facebook

Or, for those that do not use Facebook* any pictures that you would like to include can be emailed to the Friends email address as follows; fbwcpics@gmail.com

*For those who don't use Facebook. Please confirm to the images being posted on there and also for your name to be included on the post. Just your first name would be sufficient for identification purposes.

In the beginning of December, the Fungi photographs will be judged on merit, lighting and composition. In two age categories; under 14's and over 14's. Please indicate if you wish to judged in the under 14's category. There will be a prize for the winner of **each category.** The Challenge will also be advertised in the cemetery in the form of posters this following week. I look forward to seeing what you discover..

Any queries please email me on paul.robards2013@gmail.com

At the date of publication of this issue of the Broadsheet the competition end date had passed but information about the number of entrants in each category, the number of entries, the number of Facebook 'likes', details of the previously unspecified prizes, the judging progress or the overall 'success' of the second competition were not available. However in due course a report will be produced and reproductions of winning entries included in the Broadsheet, subject to decisions made at the Annual General Meeting.

PAUL'S PAGES

In this issue of the Broadsheet we depart from Paul's usual quartet of fauna and flora photographs and captions and show **a link** to a 'Blog' on the Sussex Wildlife Trust website, which includes a mini-biography and a description of Paul's efforts in Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery, plus numerous illustrations.

https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/meet-our-members-paul-robards

COVID UPDATE

Here we simply re-iterate the fact that the Committee of the Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery will continue to act in accordance with Government Guidelines, rules and regulations. Our events programme for the year 2022 will be published in the Spring.

THE LAST EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Well, here we are, as mentioned in the last issue of The Broadsheet, this will be your Editor's last issue, having edited our 'newsletter' since the inauguration of the Friends at the end of 2008, 13 years ago and 44 editions later. I will refrain from calculating the tens of thousands of words written, the hundreds of photographs published or the many hundreds of hours spent writing, compiling and editing the product because I don't want to break the computer!

Overall the task has been a pleasure but all good things come to an end. I would like to thank all contributors over those 13 years, although at times contributions have been (very) thin on the ground and so you have all had to put up with my ramblings! In particular I would also like to thank Pam and John Stepney, Carole and Norman Manning and Rosemary Pearson who have always sent a short e-mail of appreciation after the publication of each issue; a pleasant and motivating 'touch'. Also I would like to put on record **my every best wish** to my successor Barry Chidlow, who will put his own seal on the publication.

On occasions it has been difficult to keep up with all that has been happening but during the past year or two there has been far less activity. I hope the future of the Friends is successful but greater participation in our activities, especially monthly maintenance sessions is, I would say, a priority. Finally, although resigning my Editor and Treasurer roles I will, of course, continue to be a Friend of the cemetery and to take an interest in future events and developments. There has always been a place for humour in The Broadsheet and I hope that I will not be taking this turning (next page) for years to come!



John Vaughan Editor jamv@ntlworld.com



'Our' Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery; an Oasis. Long may it survive!!