THE FRIENDS OF

BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER **Issue 51, Spring 2026**

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, http://www.fbwc.co.uk/

Message from the Chair

Sally Roberts



(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

First of all, thank you for voting me in as your chair and an even bigger thank you to Debra for being our chair for the last 13 years.

My first visit to the cemetery as chair was to last month's clearance day. Paul Robards has a great team who all work so hard, enjoy what they do and make a big difference to whatever area they tackle. From this month's clearance, they will help tidy the graves that feature on our tours and they always do a really good job.

The council's Parks & Gardens have been collecting the green waste and they have made quite a dramatic start on the much-needed maintenance of the cemetery. They will continue to regularly cut the paths and undertake grass cutting on a rolling basis.

Our researchers have made a great start with their research. We have two new researchers, Jackie Brown and Jane Daley, plus two new tour leads, Jackie Brown and Corina Seal. Jane has also volunteered to litter pick on her trips to the cemetery (see page 6). Corina has done a sterling job collating the first three booklets. Mary Mckeown is now our new research co-ordinator.

We welcome Corinne Bishop as our new photographer, and Lorraine McNab and Maria Budd as our new refreshment ladies. Lorraine and Maria will carry on the tradition of home-made cakes, but refreshments will only be available before the tour starts.

Our website needs quite a bit of an update. Does anyone want to volunteer?

A big thank you to Sue Nea for managing our Facebook page, which is there to promote all the good things we do as a group.

A big thank you to all our outgoing committee members and those who have changed roles: Mary Pickett, Lesley Hember, Sally Roberts and Debra Hillman. A thank you voucher will be given to them all.

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My last thank you must go to Anita for all her hard work producing our amazing newsletter and making contact with lots of publishers to promote the group and our tours.

Do pop into the cemetery if you are passing and admire the work we do, or better still become a member or come on one of our well-attended tours.

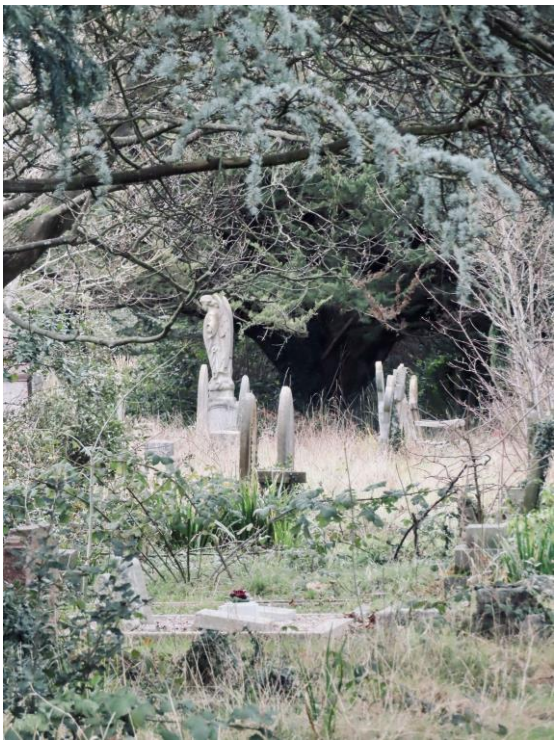
See you there.

Sally



(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)







(Above photos courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

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Useful Dates 2026	November	AGM



(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

Tour dates and themes for 2026

April	Pub Crawl 2
May	Ancestors to Epitaphs
June	Sporting Connections
July	American Connections
July (11th)	Nature Tour (booked hourly slots)
August	Fascinating to Mysterious
August (8th) (11 to 12 am)	Children's Treasure Tour (this date may change)
September	Nuns to Zadne
October	Alter Egos

Tours are conducted on the first Saturday of each month (April through to October) unless stated otherwise.

Ideas welcome for future tours

We'd love to hear any ideas you may have for a future tour. Please get in touch with us via our Facebook page. All ideas welcome!

Photos of the cemetery

Courtesy of Corinne Bishop











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(Photos courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

Wildlife spotted in the cemetery…



(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

Join us!
Become a volunteer

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer with us. There are plenty of ways you can help, plus we also have some specialised volunteering roles that we're eager to fill:

'Adopt a grave' volunteers

We're after volunteers who would like to 'adopt a grave' from our list of graves that need some tender loving care. This role involves general grave maintenance.

Volunteer for wildlife areas

We're looking for help managing our wildlife areas. This involves preparing and strimming certain areas, plus sowing plants ready for next spring.

Volunteer researchers

We're seeking researchers to come and join our team who are interested in exploring family and local history, and who have access to online sources.

If you're interested in any of these roles please get in touch via our Facebook page.

Thank you!

Volunteer news...

Jane Daley, who only moved to Worthing six months ago, joined our group in January. She has joined our team of researchers and is working with Mary Mckeown and Corina Seal to learn how to become a researcher.

Jane has also taken on the task of litter picking, on virtually a daily basis, when she walks her little dog.



Jane Daley
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

Work that we've done over the last few months…

- Tour planning
- Research meetings held
- Light clearance work
- Graves cleared (see page 8)
- Sowing of wildflower seeds
- Large tree branch removed (as nearby grave was at risk) (see page 8)
- Repair of bird box (see page 10)
- Supervising Northbrook College students and Duke of Edinburgh volunteer
- Investigating the Green Flag Award
- Working on a new website
- Liaising with local council
- One Information map/board repaired (see photo below)



Repaired information map/board
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

Work started…

- Perimeter holly hedge cutting
- Grass cutting
- Branch chippings are now being spread around
- Tree specialist has made a visit

What work still needs to be done…

- Another information map/board to be repaired
- Bramble – significant work needed
- Self-seeded saplings need cutting down – significant work needed
- Website

CAN YOU HELP?

We need various items to carry out our work at the cemetery. If you can donate any of the following, please get in touch via our Facebook page. Thank you!

- Garden shears
- Wooden bird boxes
- Wildflower seeds

Clearance days

The Friends hold clearance days on the last Saturday of every month (January through to December).

Light clearance work is carried out on these days, as well as general grave clearance.

While we are very fortunate to have regular volunteers come and join us on our clearance days, more volunteers are always welcome.

(We also have some specialized outdoor volunteering roles. These include volunteers to adopt graves and to help with our wildlife areas. For more information, please see page 6.)

The photos below show some of the work carried out by our volunteers on our February clearance day.



Grave after it was cleared

(Grave photos courtesy of Anna Hember)



Grave before it was cleared



Volunteers getting to work on a large tree branch

(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

Join us!

Become a Friend

As a Friend

You will receive a twice-yearly newsletter, plus you can have a say in how we manage the cemetery by attending and voting at our AGM in November.

Membership

Membership costs just £5 per year (and runs from January to December).

Membership fees can be paid via a bank transfer or a Standing Order (Lloyds, Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, sort code 30-99-50, account number 65378260).

Please reference your surname with your payment if you are paying by bank transfer or Standing Order.

Cheques to the value of £5 – made payable to 'Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery' – are also welcome.

Membership forms

Membership forms are available from our tables on tour days.

Some more photos of the cemetery…





Lungwort in flower



(Above photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

Paul's corner



By Paul Robards
Wildlife & Clearance Co-ordinator

The tidying up of graves that happens once a month is still being well attended by regular volunteers. We achieve a lot of good work and satisfaction in the time that we have (see page 8). It's a nice social too, plus meeting in the open air also benefits our mental well-being.

We have now received a maintenance and grass-cutting plan from the council, so I hope that it works better this year. The plan includes a promise of footpaths being cut regularly and the cutting of grass in mosaic squares across the site – early in the year and then again in the autumn.

I have been asked to do a nature ramble this year, which I have agreed to do but with a difference. This year, it'll be arranged in hourly slots with four to six people per hour with their cameras. This will allow for more interaction and to spot and discuss what is seen.

I have seen my first butterflies already as the weather is warming up – soon, hopefully, there will be many more.

I have mended, and fixed back up a suitable tree, one of the bird nesting boxes (see photo below).



In the next newsletter, I'll report what has been spotted in the cemetery.

Paul





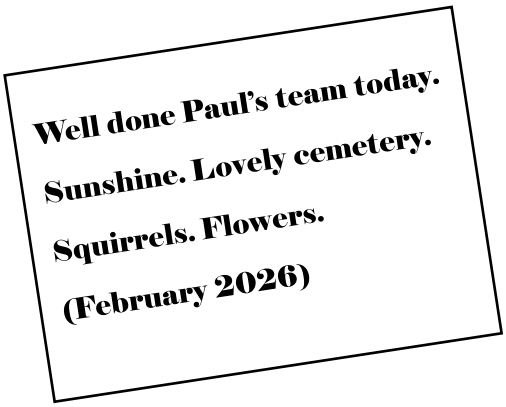
Wildflowers
(Photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

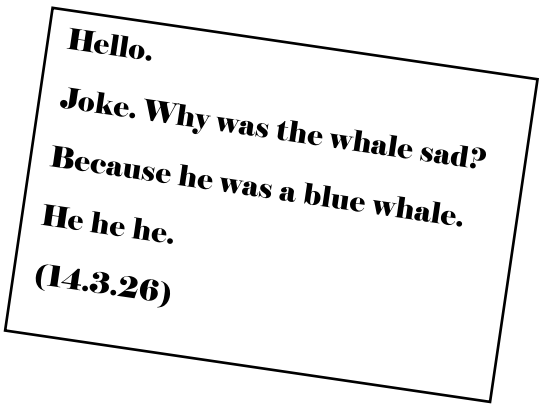
Blackboard observations

Our blackboard is located through the main entrance gates, and on the inside of the archway on the left.

We welcome anyone spending time in the cemetery to note down their observations and comments. We share a few of them here.

(Observations recorded by Paul Robards and Anna Hember.)





Please do keep making observations and comments about what you're seeing in the cemetery.

We really value your support, so please feel free to keep in touch with us via our Facebook page.

Thank you!