THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.1 - January 2009

THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

INAUGURATION OF THE 'FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY'

Welcome to the very first issue of 'The Broadsheet'. The headline for this first quarter has to be the inaugural meeting and establishment of the FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY. After much background work by Councillor Tom Wye and his associates during 2008, following further vandalism at the (then) heavily overgrown cemetery, publicity of the intention to create a 'Friends' group was notified to the general public via 'The Sentinel' local newspaper. Editor Paul Holden was a keen supporter of the proposal, especially following his interesting 'A to Z' series of historical articles pertaining to those buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

The inaugural meeting was held at the Town Hall on 24 October 2008, which was attended by 23 potential members with another 8 individuals offering apologies for non-attendance due to previous commitments. All of these folk 'joined-up' and can regard themselves as *Founder Members.* Following introductions, various officers were appointed and a committee formed. A draft constitution was proposed, approved and signed by all present. A nominal subscription rate was also agreed at a modest £3 per annum. Alan Rice has already distributed his excellent minutes of that meeting and the content will not be repeated here, suffice to say that a positive and wide ranging discussion on a range of topics and objectives ensued.

The meeting was a significant milestone in conserving Broadwater Cemetery in terms of maintenance, presentation, information, education and research, including the intention to create and enhance a database of some 25,000 internees, conduct site tours and increase public awareness of this element of Worthing's past.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CEMETERY FRIENDS - MEMBERSHIP

It can now be announced that the 'friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery' have become members of the 'National Federation of Cemetery Friends'. Our Chairman Cllr. Tom Wye generously donated the annual subscription of 'a tenner' from his own pocket to pay for the first 12 months of membership. Membership of this national organisation adds to the credibility of our group and a potted history plus photographs of Broadwater Cemetery have been forwarded to that organisation for inclusion on their website. Membership will provide information about national issues, the direction of those elsewhere who have similar objectives and perhaps, in certain circumstances, benefits from being part of a potential pressure group, for example in influencing relevant future government policy.

FINANCE

In addition to the membership fees collected amounting to approximately £75 the Friends have made an application for a Lottery Heritage grant. Notification has been received stating that our 'pre-application' is now in their system. If favourably considered this could yield £22,000 to be appropriated to heritage matters, education, maintenance and signage. Such funding would obviously have a profound impact on meeting various objectives at Broadwater. Our Chairman is the prime mover in getting our hands on the cash and our Treasurer/Secretary will no doubt be looking forward to agreeing (?) to various worthy bids and making appropriations! This bid cannot be taken for granted but the early signs are encouraging.

Other financial inflows that will not be included in our general coffers relate to particular projects, such as a contribution of £500 from the Richard Jeffries Society for the restoration of his grave and a further contribution from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds for the care of Richard Hudson's grave. It is important that we all try to recruit members, even if those potential members may not be 'active' but merely have sympathy of subject. After all there is strength in numbers in any representations we may make or activities we undertake – not to mention the annual membership fees. Finally on financial matters, an estimate of £500 has been suggested as the cost of creating, populating and maintaining a 'Friends' web site, which is out of our reach but Debra

Hillman is presently looking for a cheaper alternative. For now the WBC web site must remain the limit of our electronic voice and exposure!

KENSALL GREEN CEMETERY VISIT

There has been further contact with the well established Friends of Kensall Green Cemetery and it now seems highly likely that a Sunday visit will take place in the Spring when the days are longer and a little warmer. Any churchgoers will have to ask for forgiveness for their non-attendance at church. The size of the vehicle hired will obviously depend upon the numbers travelling but let us hope that it will amount to more than can be accommodated in a motorcycle and sidecar. Watch this space!

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

There was a large turnout for the Remembrance Day service held at Broadwater Cemetery on 8 November 2008. Again it was the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts who fronted the ceremony, plus the Worthing Ex-Services Association, with up to one hundred people gathered around the memorial. There were two wreaths placed in respect of the members of the Merchant Navy who served in both World Wars and another to William H A Stone MN who also served in both wars.

There were ten small crosses placed around the memorial and these were dedicated to The Royal Navy, The Army, The Royal Marines, The Royal Air Force/Royal Flying Corps, The Merchant Marines, Women's Services, Civilian Casualties, Our Youth, The Fallen Since 1945 and Albert Cobby. A moving service added to the poignancy of the occasion. After the service Tom Wye conducted another of his now famous tours of the cemetery. During the forthcoming year it is anticipated that there will a continuing demand for cemetery tours and Tom would be very grateful for some assistance in this department. So, in the best Corporal Jones traditions, volunteers please! Paul Holden informs me that the Cross of Remembrance was erected at Broadwater Cemetery, by the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1926.

Research Department

Although our excellent researchers Debra Hillman (Civilian) and Christopher Green (Military) will be issuing their own progress reports from time to time their early efforts must be commended. Debra will be preparing a report shortly but early in this New Year she is to form a sub-committee to agree common objectives and to plan the way forward in order to meet the targets set.

Chris has been making good progress with his research into CWCG graves. He hopes to place his findings in a folder for circulation to the Friends so that anybody can add content or correct mistakes. He is looking for a helper to read inscriptions or take down notes during Broadwater Cemetery fieldwork. Please e-mail Chris at the following address: chris.borrowdale@hotmail.co.uk

Chris has reported that in addition to 82 war graves, over 100 inscriptions have been found from the Great Wars, where service personnel have been either buried overseas, lost at sea or have no known graves. Details of these service personnel are being recorded and help is needed to:-

Record memorial details in the cemetery.
Search for information from various web sites, old newspapers or on microfilm, the last two at Worthing Reference Library.
Photograph memorials.
Endeavour to find family members who are alive today, who may have valuable information.

GOOD SAMARITAN

During a recent visit to the cemetery to maintain Great Grandfather's grave I met the only other person on site, an elderly lady who was visiting her sister's unmarked grave. She told me that after making exhaustive enquiries it was none other than our Chairman who had taken the trouble to help her locate the grave. As a result she was now able to reminisce and spend time with her sister, which gave her much pleasure and great peace of mind. Well done that man.

DECEASED PUBLICANS

In 1928 Mrs Lucy Roffey, who ran the 'Albion Hotel', on the corner of Montague Street and Portland Road, for 24 years, died aged 83. Her husband had died in 1919 and both were buried in Broadwater Cemetery. In 1933 Mrs Margaret Jane Medlock, for 42 years the licensee of 'The Cricketers' pub in Broadwater, died aged 87 and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

AND FINALLY.....

Your Editor has received some excellent contributions from Paul Holden and Tom Wye for inclusion in THE BROADSHEET relating to interesting people who are buried in Broadwater Cemetery, the Corbett Family, the great Typhoid Epidemic of 1893 and other papers, for example the R38 Airship Disaster of 1921 but as this issue covered our inauguration and because I have attempted to keep the length of this journal down to five pages this interesting data will be held over until a future issue. The next issue is due for Publication during the first week of April 2009.

A final and cheerful seasonal thought. I am advised that snowdrops have been planted on every war grave in Broadwater Cemetery.

I hope you have enjoyed this first issue, which I am sure will become a Collector's item! Please forward your criticisms, or contributions for the next issue at any time. Both will be welcome.

John Vaughan
Editor
1 January 2009