THE BROADSHEET

Issue No.13
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THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

THREE YEARS OF FRIENDS

By our Chairman - Tom Wye

From its opening in 1863 Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery has received periodic adverse comments from the residents of Worthing. This is not surprising as the opening was at a time in our history when under the 1862 Burial Act the burial of the deceased became a civic responsibility, having previously been the sole duty of the church. In more recent times the local newspapers regularly published letters that were critical of the Council for not cutting the grass, for not stopping vandalism and even for allowing the cemetery to be taken over by drunks and drug addicts. To help remedy this situation and since the establishment of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery just over three years ago, there have been significant changes and this fine historic cemetery is now in better condition, visited more often and subjected to more loving care than it has been for many years, as explained below.

From the 1970s the cemetery had been in general decline and had become increasingly neglected. The great storm of 1987 had caused widespread destruction, necessitating the closure of the cemetery for major works as fallen mature trees and smashed memorials had to be made safe. Vandalism was rife and undesirables used the site making the cemetery something of a 'no-go' area for the general public. Various small groups and individual volunteers tried their best to halt the general decline and it was the Worthing Combined Ex-Services Association (CESA) that ensured the long lost war graves were uncovered, cleaned-up and made respectable. Considerable credit must also be given to the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts who assisted with this work and continue to help to this day, see Editor's 2011 Remembrance Day photo below, and Page 4.



Nearly four years ago the most terrible act of vandalism occurred when a gang of low-life entered the cemetery and utterly destroyed five Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) headstones. This single act of wanton destruction was to prove the catalyst to the forming of one of the most hands-on voluntary organisations in the town. Such was the repugnance felt by many of the responsible residents of Worthing that a 'Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery' (FBWC) was quickly formed. The first meeting was held in October 2008 and was attended by over 20 residents with the common aim of turning the cemetery round and reclaiming it from the vandals and undesirables. No resident who attended that inaugural meeting could have anticipated the success that they would achieve. Also, happily, the CWGC restored the damaged war graves.

After the first meeting, which resulted in various committees being formed, a constitution was written and agreed and a concentrated effort on obtaining funds for various projects was launched. This work culminated in the 'Friends' being awarded £32,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and ensured that the initial surge of interest was not only maintained but increased as the number of volunteers grew. To date the Friends have achieved and completed the following:

. Large areas of brambles and undergrowth have been cleared

. 60% of the headstones/memorials in the cemetery have been recorded (this work will continue until 100% complete)

. Hundreds of lost memorials have been located, turned over and where possible repaired (help was also given to Christchurch)

. Hundreds of local residents and visitors have been assisted in locating long lost family graves

. Notable headstones/memorials have been refurbished

. 18 volunteers have been trained by professional stonemasons on basic memorial cleaning and repairing (these volunteers in turn training others)

. Approximately 200 residents attended the Worthing Heritage Course organised by local historian Chris Hare

. Nearly 100 cemetery tours have been conducted including general tours and themed tours featuring Centenarians, Worthing Mayors, 1893 Typhoid Epidemic, Shopkeepers and Businessmen, and the Salvation Army, plus tours for special groups including local school children

. Some 10 corporate bodies have taken on community work in the cemetery

. The Probation Service have conducted community payback projects in the cemetery

. A definitive Site Plan has been produced

. A FBWC web site has been set up attracting interest from all over the world

. The following literature has been published: A History of the Cemetery, The A to Z of the Cemetery, an A4 information sheet and a number of A5 booklets covering the subject of the themed tours. A book dedicated to the War Graves and memorials is presently being completed. Copies of all publications have been presented to local libraries and the British Library.

. Produced a local 'Broadsheet' that continues to grow in quality and quantity

. Given 10 talks to various local interest groups

. Produced a display in Worthing Museum

. Expended 1,800 volunteer hours on all of the above

The above list is impressive but words cannot say the joy the Friends have given to so many residents in finding graves of their long lost loved ones and for making the cemetery a place that is safe to visit. We now have over 75 members or 'Friends' and there is hardly a day that passes when there is not a volunteer presence in the cemetery completing clearance work or research and answering questions from the public. Not a single item of drug paraphernalia has been found in the cemetery for 2 years and the number of beer cans found has dramatically decreased.

This wonderful group of diverse characters have not only retaken the cemetery from the low-life, they have completely transformed it! The monthly meetings are a pleasure to chair and I believe much enjoyed by those attending, indeed they can be said to be great fun. I doubt that there is another voluntary group with so many 'hands on' members, while also appreciating those who provide passive support. Each and every volunteer has found a niche where they can contribute to the greater good of the cemetery and the Friends. I am proud to be associated with this group and have full confidence that they will continue well after I have fallen off my perch. Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery is in safe hands.

FRIENDS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

On 8 November 2011 all of the books and booklets published to date by the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery were formally registered with the Legal Deposit Office of the British Library, thereby not only complying with the law but ensuring our products are saved nationally for posterity.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

There was an excellent turnout for the 2011 Service of Remembrance at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on 12 November, which was attended by Worthing Mayor, Councillor Anne Barlow and other civic dignitaries. The sun shone brightly in unseasonal weather as representatives of the British Legion and the 2nd Durrington Sea Scouts gathered in considerable numbers that were swelled by cemetery Friends and members of the public. The service was conducted by Father Christopher Ingle. There were Hymns, Prayers, Readings and an Exhortation. Poppy Crosses and Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, RAF/RFC, Royal Merchant Marines, Women, Civilians and Youth following the sounding of the Last Post, the Silence and Reveille. It was a colourful scene enhanced by various flags and other embellishments, a grand occasion overall. Here we see a large group of Sea Scouts, who are regular attendees at the event, and Worthing High School pupils during their November visit (see Page 6). [Photos by John Vaughan and Tom Wye]





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTIONS

There was a good attendance of 33 Friends at the Annual General Meeting on Friday 28 October 2011. The minutes of that meeting reflect the items discussed per agenda but the following appointments to committee positions, with commensurate responsibilities, were made and/or confirmed following nomination and popular vote, for the next 12 months:

Chairman – Cllr. Mjr. Tom Wye
President – Tim Loughton M.P.
Vice-Chairman – Debra Hillman
Secretary/Treasurer – Cllr. Alan Rice
Membership Secretary – Mary Pickett
Head Researcher (Civilian) – Sue Nea
Head Researcher (Military) – John Stepney
Media Officer – Paul Holden
Broadsheet Editor – John Vaughan
Clearance/Wildlife Coordinator – Paul Robards
Deputy Clearance Coordinator – Frank Ffitch

KEEPING HEENE CLEAN

A handful of the Friends 'Heavy Gang' descended upon the old Heene Cemetery in early November to help clear the war graves that are located in that long forgotten cemetery. Prior to every Remembrance Day our Chairman asks for volunteers to maintain the resting place of the heroes of yesteryear. The day was cloudy but dry and after the visit there was a significant improvement in the relevant graves in 'before and after' terms. The gang then moved on to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery where a couple of hours of clearing work were undertaken. It was refreshing to note a number of our lady Friends deep in the brambles!

HIT THAT WEB SITE

The FBWC web site had 91 hits in September 2011. The statistics were as follows; 86 within the UK, 2 from Belgium, 2 originated in the USA and 1 in Australia. 43 came via Google (presumably cyber visitors having used their search engine) and five via the Worthing Council web site. The site is growing in popularity thanks to the increasing interest in our work and to all Friends 'spreading the word'. Further improvements are planned for 2012. Well done Debra for all your hard work in <u>all</u> media departments! We continue to receive support from the *Worthing Journal,* much appreciated.

DAFT DENBIGHSHIRE

From Martin Brown

Martin Brown sent this extract from 'The Oldie' magazine Summer 2011 issue. "Yet another example of Health and Safety obsession arrives at Oldie Towers. Visitors to Rhuddlan New Cemetery in North Wales risk finding the gravestones of their dearly departed deliberately knocked over. Official signs stuck in the ground next to the toppled gravestones state that 'Following a Health and Safety inspection they were deemed to be unsafe'. According to a notice at the entrance to the cemetery 'Any memorial found to be dangerous will be made safe prior to contacting the deed holder or next of kin'. The cemetery is now littered with toppled gravestones.

Just who is it that Denbighshire County Council thinks will be harmed by a wobbly gravestone? An over-enthusiastic mole? A startled field mouse? Or maybe it is concerned that would-be vandals might injure themselves, and take it to court for negligence".

SUSPENDED RESURRECTION

By Mary McKeown

News from the April 1902 issue of the 'Worthing Gazette' tells of a most unusual funeral, as originally reported in a 1751 issue of 'Gentleman's Magazine'. "The remains of a farmer, who had died in 1721, 30 years before, were interred. He had bequeathed his estate, worth £400 per year, to his two brothers, and in case they died to his nephew, to be enjoyed by them for 30 years. At the expiration of which time he expected to return to life, when the estate was to return to him. He provided for his re-appearance by ordering that his coffin be fixed on a beam in his barn, locked, and the key enclosed that he might let himself out [how did they put the key in the locked coffin-Ed?]. He was allowed four days grace beyond the 30 years predicted, and as he did not present himself again in the world he was duly buried with Christian ceremony."

SPECIAL TOURS

The Friends have conducted special cemetery tours for the SCOPE organisation, a group from the Salvation Army, as well as for Worthing High School students.

CEMETERY HUMOUR

This issue we feature some of those large roadside signs that seem to infest highways in the good old U S of A. They are all religious and all are actual observations - albeit only loosely connected with death and cemeteries.

"Every day above ground is a good one."

"Aspire to inspire before you expire."

"Church only parking. Trespassers will be baptised."

"The best vitamin for a Christian is B1."

"Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him."

"Under the same management for 2,000 years."

"How do we make holy water? We boil the hell out of it."

"There are some questions that can't be answered by Google."

DOSH DEPOSITS

Our honourable Treasurer reports that our credit balance at the HSBC bank, as at 25 November 2011 is:

One million, four hundred and thirty two thousand, three hundred and fifty eight pence (£14,323.58)! **We want to retain our Friends for the coming year and beyond so if you haven't already paid your modest £3 sub for 2012 - it is due - NOW.**

BUTTERFLY KING

Except within local butterfly communities there was sadness in 1927 when Albert Edward Burton, know as Worthing's 'Butterfly King', died at the age of 48. He lived in Sompting Road and he was interred at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. He was a railway porter by trade, working for the Southern Railway. He amassed a huge collection of nearly 5,000 butterflies and arranged them in what were described as 'clever designs'. It is not known what happened to the butterflies, hopefully acquired by a fellow lepidopterist.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO DIE?

By John Vaughan

Funeral costs are soaring with the typical UK funeral now costing £3,091! Across the country charges have risen by £400 in a single year. Costs are generally rising but a significant factor is that nine out of ten Councils have increased costs this year due to general budget cuts. The Managing Director of funeral planning for the Cooperative has stated that "Costs are outstripping inflation, rising at between seven and ten per cent a year". The average funeral including every aspect of the overall process is now a staggering £7,248, although much is predicated on the chosen coffin. An oak hardwood coffin can cost well into four figures whereas a newfangled 'banana leaf and water hyacinth' Eco example rolls in at £700 [money for old rope-Ed.?]. If one is attracted by, what for some, may seem something of a gimmick, one can have a so called 'green' burial with no headstone or memorial for a modest £1,000.

So many people are worried about the rising costs of funerals that over 104,000 people purchased 'pay in advance' funeral plans last year, up from 60,000 in 2005. The Chief Executive of Dignity, which operates a chain of funeral directors, has stated that this near doubling is because people are locking into today's prices to secure their funeral and partly it is a greater awareness of such plans by buyers. The current cost of the Coop's mid-range 'Velvet' package is £2,835, which excludes only flowers and a newspaper announcement. Many firms allow a customer to 'tailor' a funeral in advance, incorporating personal touches or individual ideas.

There are risks in taking out a funeral plan, especially if buying from a company that is not a member of the Funeral Planning Authority. They set out a code of conduct, covering marketing and sales, BUT registration is voluntary. The law states that funeral directors must either place customers' money in trust, with independent trustees and regular audits, or use the cash to buy a whole-of-life insurance policy on behalf of a customer. However the writer offers due warning that while some plans are genuinely all-inclusive in many cases there is no guarantee that disbursements such as crematorium charges and doctor's fees will be fully funded. Also plan costs are sometimes based on estimates and final bills could be higher and, outrageously, the purchase of a grave plot is not included. The writer could not determine what happens if the funeral director 'goes bust'. All of these factors contribute to what is undoubtedly a difficult decision for the individual to make and whether a suitable life insurance would perhaps not be a better bet. As with bringing up children and paying for weddings the cost of a funeral is not only expensive but a certainty – and taxes of course!

ANCIENT COIN FOUND IN CEMETERY

It was recently reported by Friend Paul Robards that in the course of excavation work by contractors for new soakaways next to Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery chapels that an ancient coin had been unearthed. Initially it was thought that the coin may have been valuable, dating back to 1117 in the reign of King Henry 1 but it has since transpired that it is 'merely' a bronze French jetton/token dating back to 1350-1364,

from the 'John the Good' era and worth only a few pounds. This interesting discovery really does make one wonder who dropped the 'coin' and what a day in his or her life may have been like over 660 years ago. [Photo next page Paul Robards]



BEWARE OF METAL THIEVES

We are all now well aware that with escalating commodities prices the value of most metals has significantly increased in recent times and now everything from church roofs to railway lineside cabling are targets for criminals, who are no doubt well aware that the chances of being apprehended by the Police are next to zero and that if brought before our impotent courts they will be told not to do it again, or they might have to perform 10 hours community service.

In June West Norwood Crematorium's copper roof was stolen over two nights and later South London Crematorium's roof was also removed by thieves. Colin Fenn of the Friends of West Norwood described the police response as "pathetic". A few weeks later West Norwood suffered another theft with individual headstone lead letters (we have thousands of them in 'our' cemetery) being removed from 20 memorials allegedly doing "a further £40,000 damage for about £4.20 worth of lead". So, all Friends or visitors should be vigilant and on guard, noting any strange behaviour by visitors to the cemetery, ensuring gates and fences are secure, and performing random walk-round security duties, if you happen to be passing the cemetery and have time to spare. The recommended use of *Smartwater* may be beyond our means and impractical.

RESEARCH CORNER: JANE CRABB D.1873

Story and pictures by CHRIS ALLEN

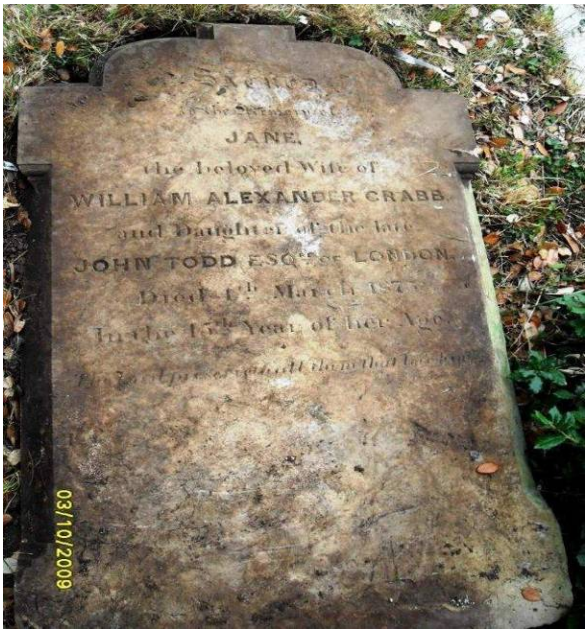
In 2009 I was helping Paul Robards with gravestones just before the weather closed in for the winter. On our way out we turned over a stone that was lying face down, and which proved to have well cut lettering. It read as follows:

To the memory of

JANE

the beloved wife of
WILLIAM ALEXANDER CRABB
the Daughter of the late
JOHN TODD ESQ OF LONDON
Died 4th March 1873
In the 45th Year of her Age

Inevitably the stone captured our interest, and I checked through some census returns to see if I could trace these individuals. In 1861 William A Crabb, aged 48, was living in Greenwich with a sister and a servant. William's occupation is shown as 'artist' and his sister as 'fundholder', i.e. she had her own income. So, who was William Crabb and what were they doing in Worthing? In the Worthing Reference Library I looked in Graves' *Royal Academy of Arts Exhibitors 1769-1904* and found him; confusingly there is another William Crabb, a portrait painter, distinguished only by the middle name.



He exhibited at the RA between 1830 and 1859, and from the titles of the paintings seems to have been a painter of still life, flowers and fruit featuring almost exclusively. Who were the Crabbs and the Todds? Christening records (St Giles, City of London) indicate that William Alexander Crabb was born in 1810. In the 1841 census he and his father are both described as 'Pattern Drawers' i.e. of designs for china. By the 1851 census William Alexander is still living in Greenwich with his Father age 76, but both are now described as 'artists'. Presumably they moved on from drawing patterns to still life paintings, more

prestigious an occupation and perhaps more remunerative. By the 1871 census he is married to Jane Todd, still living in the Greenwich area, together with his widowed Mother-in-Law, also named Jane Todd. According to the headstone Jane died in Worthing in 1873, perhaps having come down to the area for health reasons. William subsequently died in 1879, in the Croydon area.

What of the Todds? There is a curious entry in the 1851 census which I had to take advice about, because the entry for the Father's occupation is spread over two lines and is very difficult to read. The Todd family are resident in the Greenwich area, which is presumably how she met William.

To cut a long story short, whereas Jane's Father appears to have been a 'Clerk to a wholesale grocer' her older brother, also named John Todd, did well for himself. He is a 'Member of the College of Surgeons, England; Secretary of the Apothecaries Society; and a General Practitioner'. This is all repeated in the 1861 census when John is now married and living in South Bersted, Essex. It would appear that in mentioning his Father-in-Law on the gravestone, William is also picking up on the success of his Brother-in-Law.
I wonder if it is possible to find out where the Crabbs stayed in Worthing, and for how long they were here. Did William do any paintings while staying in Worthing, it was his means of income after all?

A BIZARRE 1924 DEATH

Courtesy the Harmer Family and Sue Nea

Local resident Michael Harmer participated in one of the cemetery tours organised by the Friends on 6 August 2011 when he met Sue Nea. Michael mentioned that there were two family graves in the cemetery and one of them related to an uncle of his wife's who died in most unfortunate circumstances. The grave of the deceased at A15-11-28 has the following inscription thereon 'In loving memory of our dear son Charles Cecil Taylor. Fell asleep 16 December 1924 aged 23. God called forth. Also of dear Husband George Leonard Ralph. Fell asleep 19 October 1965 aged 73 years. In God's care Violet Lottie, wife of George L Ralph, died 16 March 1973 aged 76. (Violet Lottie was Charles Cecil's sister who married George Leonard Ralph).

The sad death of Charles Cecil Taylor was reported in the Worthing Gazette dated 20

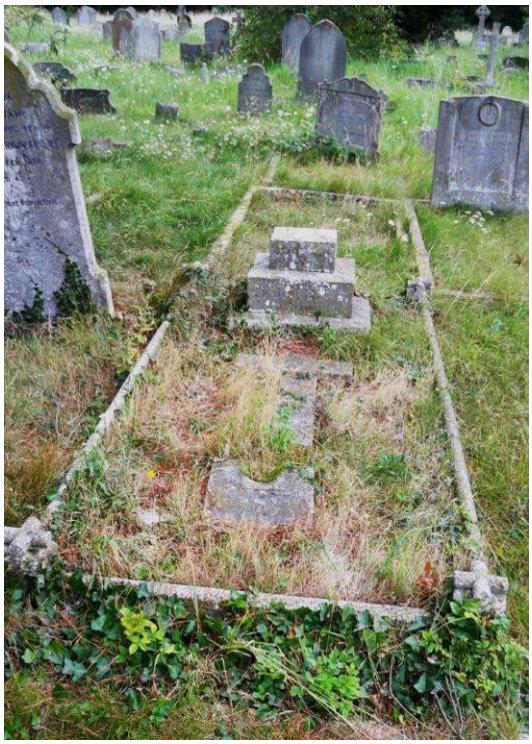
December 1924 under the headline 'Found Dead in Motor Car' with the sub heading 'Chauffeur Poisoned by Fumes'. “A sad tragedy which occurred under rather unusual circumstances was recorded to the West Sussex Coroner (Mr F Butler) at the Worthing Fire Station on Wednesday evening at an inquest on Charles Cecil Taylor (aged 23) a chauffeur residing at 15 Chandos Road, Worthing, and employed at Wades Garage, who was found dead in a motor car on Tuesday evening. It appears that the deceased shut himself in a garage whilst running the engine of a motor car and was asphyxiated by the fumes from the exhaust, which prevented would-be rescuers from entering the garage for several minutes.

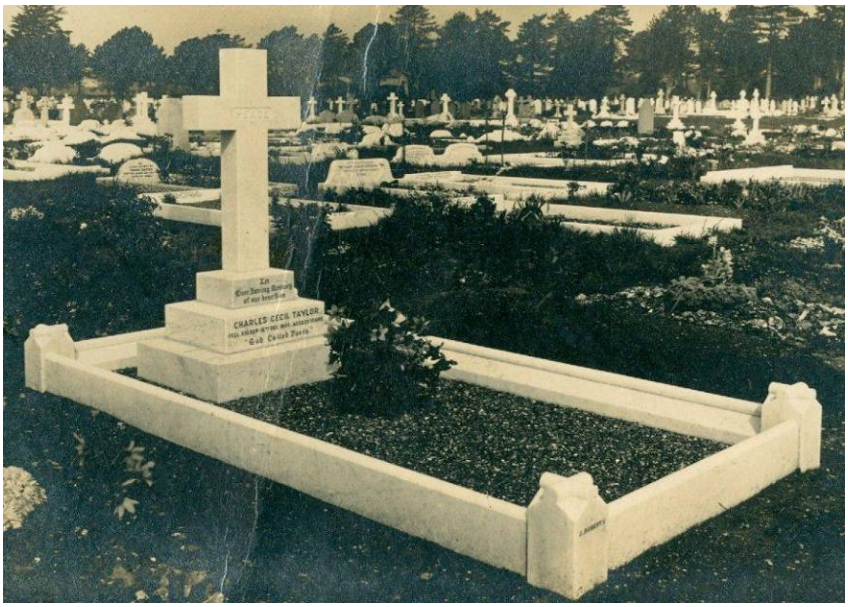
John William Taylor, chauffeur, said his son left home shortly before 2pm on Tuesday, saying that he would be driving to 25 St Botolph's Road. He appeared to be in excellent health. Witnesses next saw him at 6pm when he appeared to be lifeless. Walter James Ford of that address stated that he had employed the deceased through Wade's Garage, to drive a car in the morning and afternoon. Upon returning to the house at 3.30pm they talked about the dampness of the garage and the deceased proposed running the engine of the car to dry it off, which he did with the doors closed. The witness left him and at 4pm the cook took some tea to him. As he did not come to the house by 5pm, as expected, the witness returned to the garage. The doors were closed but he opened them and heard the engine still running. He shouted 'are you still here, Taylor?' and receiving no reply assumed that the deceased had gone out, there being no lights on the car. The witness waited outside for a few minutes as the fumes of the engine prevented him from entering. Eventually the cook came and found the deceased in the car. He was placed on the footboard and Dr Gibson was called-in. For over an hour artificial respiration was tried in vain. Dr Pitt gave evidence at the post mortem examination and stated that with the exception of the spleen - which was rather hard - all the organs were healthy. In his opinion death was due to gas poisoning. The Coroner decided that death was accidental, being due to asphyxia from inhaling the exhaust fumes of a motor car engine. Mr H J Brown on behalf of Mr William Wade, the employer of the deceased, expressed his sympathy with the relatives.”

It seems naïve to believe that a car engine could cure garage damp and that the deceased did not realise the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Also it is strange that both garage doors were completely closed at one stage. However death was deemed to be accidental

with not a mention of suicide; all rather sad really [Ed.].

Friend Sue Nea has established that the grave was purchased on 22 December 1924 by John William Taylor of 15 Chandos Road, Worthing. He also purchased grave A16-3-30 in May 1928. This other family grave has the inscription on it 'Peace in ever loving memory of my dear husband William Taylor who died 22 Sept. 1934 aged 70 also of his beloved wife Hannah Louise, fell asleep October 3rd 1946 aged 71 years God called forth. (William Taylor was the father of Charles Cecil, he was registered as John William Taylor but was known as William by the family. His wife's maiden name was Burrell). Below we see the sad remains of the grave in 2011 taken by our Civilian Researcher Sue Nea and on the next page is a family picture of the grave in 1925, note the corner stones. What a contrast!





Michael Harmer reported that the Harmer Family Association has been researching family history since 1978, visit www.harmer.org . Also, a bit of scandal for you – apparently the West Tarring Players unofficially stored their scenery in the cemetery South Chapel during the late 1960s and 1970s until the Council found out – hasty removal followed!!

NATURE WATCH

By Paul Robards



Our resident green woodpecker –[Photo Paul Robards]

Having been elected Clearance Coordinator at our Annual General Meeting as well as being Wildlife Coordinator I will be able to combine my weekly Thursday visits to observe wildlife with recording areas within the cemetery that require attention and clearance. My thanks goes to John Stepney for all the clearance work that he overseen and undertaken during the past three years.

Following very mixed summer weather it remained mostly dry throughout the autumn, right up to the middle of November, with water shortages being threatened for next year. The records of observed wildlife were slow but steady with the following becoming the usual sightings: Blackbirds, Wood Pigeons, Crows, Robins, Sparrows, Magpies (unfortunately now quite numerous), Blue Tits, Common Seagulls, Green Woodpeckers (now frequently seen), Jays (at least four), Collared Doves, Greenfinches, and resident Grey Squirrels. Sparrowhawk not seen since June, have been present witness a headless Pigeon found in October with feathers plucked and spread over a wide area.

When my sister Gail visited from the USA in September she was delighted to see and photograph our resident Fox cub at close quarters. She was thrilled to view the animal so near and was amused at its antics, including running off with one of my gardening gloves! By November, with the leaves falling and the mornings damper there were many more toadstools to be seen, which I have photographed but will require assistance identifying the various species; if any Friends or readers have expertise I would be pleased to hear from them. As seen on the TV 'Autumn Watch' programme the Redwings are on their way and I was excited to see four of them flying between the red berry bushes in our ideal environment.

Red Admiral butterflies were still evident up to the end of November with the weather being mild, although the wild flowers had mostly disappeared following the last grass strim prior to our last tour date in October. Fortunately flowering ivy was still attracting them until the more recent cold spells. They are normally the last species of butterfly to see before the colder winter period. Also during headstone turning during early November a couple of large green frogs were noted. Hopefully they found new homes for the winter.

In conclusion many thanks again to all Friends who have passed onto me their observations; much appreciated. Seasons greetings to all and look for an update in the Spring 2012 issue, by which time I hope to have a Nature Table, to interest younger members who attend our Open Day event.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

A very sociable and seasonable event took place at The Cricketers Public House on 8 December when a total of 11 Friends celebrated the past year and looked forward to the next. We hope you all participate in our forthcoming programme of events in 2012. Enjoy this bumper illustrated issue of THE BROADSHEET, our biggest and, arguably, best so far. All that remains is for me to wish all Friends and readers **A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR**

John Vaughan **Editor**