THE BROADSHEET Issue No.4 – Autumn 2009

LOTTERY FUNDING GRANTED

After years of tearing-up losing lottery tickets all of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery won the National Lottery last week. It seemed that all those wasted pound coins were in fact not wasted and a deserving grant application, professionally produced by our Chairman, Major Tom Wye and his willing bunch of helpers, was approved by the Heritage Lottery Funding authority.

The timely approval of the £31,000 grant was ample reward for the many hundreds of hours of work undertaken not only by the Friends but many supporting organisations including schools, agencies, local businesses, the media and numerous individuals. The money will primarily be used for much needed cemetery signs, educational research projects, heritage training courses and cleaning and repairing headstones. The grant will give a tremendous boost to the work already undertaken by the Friends during the first 12 months of the group's existence and will greatly assist in preserving our local heritage for the future.

Our Chairman has issued a press release and this has just appeared in local newspapers. More information about the precise allocation of funds will shortly made available and the subject will be high on the agenda for the Friend's first Annual General Meeting on Friday 23 October 2009, which **ALL** Friends are urged to attend.

REMARKABLE OPEN DAY SUCCESS

It is extremely rewarding to be able to positively report on a truly outstanding Open Day at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. It is estimated that between 250 and 300 members of the public attended and there was a flurry of activity for several hours. A large number of Friends contributed their valuable time to the event. Activities ranged from clearing-up days, to arranging displays, welcoming visitors, and providing a wealth of information about every aspect of the cemetery. It would be churlish to mention individuals purely on the basis of risking omissions but every Friend who was involved justifies a good 'pat-on-the-back' for their efforts.

All of the arrangements worked well and our guest organisations such as H D Tribe and the Commonwealth Wargraves Commission played their part in entertaining visitors. Both our military and civilian representatives were busy and both the gratuitous refreshments and the 'mobile cafe' were welcome facilities for our guests. There was a most agreeable atmosphere to the event and the guided tours were very well populated. Even the weather behaved, albeit with a huge element of good fortune. There may not have been blue skies and sunshine but the rain held-off until about 20 minutes before the event ended at 3pm.

There was good local press coverage, although in the Editor's view the Worthing Herald could have done more. There were excellent write-ups in both the Evening Argus and The Sentinel and an attractive photograph of Moya Hills unveiling the new headstone on the grave of her Grandfather, James Rushen Keys. In one paper it seemed that a dozen Friends had leapt out of the bushes for a mug shot, nevertheless I am told that did not detract from the paper's circulation figures! An immense amount of detailed planning went into the event and there is no doubt it was a resounding success. Our Treasurer Alan Rice rubbed his hands with glee as we gained 13 new members and over £79 in donations. Well done Friends but I am not sure how we can hope to do even better next year.

PUBLIC REACTION TO THE OPEN DAY

With up to 300 members of the public visiting the cemetery on the Open Day it is perhaps hardly surprising that many had stories to tell and considerable numbers were interested in seeking and finding the graves of members of their families who had passed away many decades ago. Two examples came to your Editor's attention. The first was an unsolicited letter received from a Mr Eric Christopher of Goring. In his letter he stated:

"I just had to write to you with regard to the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery Open day on Saturday 1 August 2009.

With the help of a map of the cemetery [supplied by the Friends-ed.] and more importantly the volunteers on duty, I was able to locate the gravestone of a relative of my wife. I was most surprised to be able to read the inscription quite clearly considering the stone was 75 years old.

Many thanks to all your volunteers in making mine a very pleasurable and worthwhile visit to the cemetery".

Another interesting story was provided by the visiting Grandson of one Michael Tighe. He found his Grandfather's grave and told your Editor a most interesting story.

His Grandfather's nickname was 'Mickey' and this name is engraved on the stone border of the grave. 'Mickey' was a professional jockey who died in 1926. He worked for one of the Findon stables and had once finished third in the Grand National at Aintree riding a horse called 'Punt Gun'. Not surprisingly 'Mickey' came from Ireland. He had five children but they are now all deceased, however some grandchildren (obviously) survive.

One day in 1926 he was on his way from Findon to Gatwick Racecourse (then adjacent to what would become Gatwick Airport) in the owner's chauffeur driven Rolls Royce. There were three people

in the car. Tragically the 'Roller' was involved in a three-car crash and all were killed. 'Mickey' was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. As we often say, "just one of 24,888 stories".

YOUNG PRIZEWINNER

Many congratulations to Lauren Bailey who won a £20 book voucher for her research paper in the Open Day competition for youngsters. It is so encouraging to see the younger folk in our community showing an interest in their heritage. Long may her interest and that of her family continue. Again, well done Lauren.

CORPORATE ACTIVITY CONTINUES

Following the precedent created by the Corporate Day working party from HSBC Bank on 8 July 2009 there has been further corporate and group activity at the cemetery. In addition to the sterling work done by our industrious Friends, groups from Glaxo Smith Klein, The Church of Latter Day Saints and even young offenders working under the auspices of the Probation Service have all made significant contributions to cemetery maintenance.

These visits have multi-benefits not only by clearing undergrowth and maintaining graves but through a growing awareness of the cemetery's very existence and its importance in terms of heritage value within the local community. Such visits really are 'win-win' situations and I am informed that immediately staffing and workload levels permit, HSBC would again like to participate in a cemetery based Corporate Day. Watch this space.

CEMETERY LOCK-OUT

LOCAL NEWSPAPER HEADLINES IN MID-AUGUST ANNOUNCED THAT DUE TO YOBS STALKING THE GRAVEYARD AT NIGHT, VANDALISM, BOY RACERS AND DRUG TAKING IN DURRINGTON CEMETERY THE GATES WOULD BE LOCKED OVERNIGHT, FROM 8PM IN THE SUMMER MONTHS AND 6PM IN THE WINTER. TELEVISION COMPANIES TURNED-UP TO COVER THE EVENT AND THEY, OF COURSE, FOUND ONE WOMAN WHO CRITICISED THE 'EARLY' CLOSURE!

ALL REASONABLE PEOPLE APPLAUDED THE LOCKING OF GATES OVERNIGHT AND THE FINDON VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SAID THAT "IT WAS A SHAME THAT SO MANY MEMORIALS HAD TO BE DAMAGED FOR THE MESSAGE TO FINALLY GET ACROSS TO WORTHING COUNCIL AND SUSSEX POLICE". CERTAINLY THE BROADWATER FRIENDS RECOGNISE THE PROBLEMS AT DURRINGTON AND NOTE THAT A 'FRIENDS' MOVEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE ESTABLISHED AT THAT SITE.

WHAT INTRIGUED YOUR NON-POLITICAL EDITOR WAS THAT SGT. IAN COOKE STATED THAT SUCH ACTIONS WERE NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE "CONSISTENT LEVEL OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED". THAT BEING THE CASE THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE POLICE STARTING THE INCREDIBLY OBVIOUS ACTIVITY OF INSTIGATING NIGHTLY PATROLS OF THE AREA, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF APPREHENDING THE CULPRITS!!

INTERNET MUSINGS

With the **FBWC** web-site continuing to develop your Editor was amused when a colleague, who had tried to access the web-site via the Google search engine, came across the Fort Boyd Windsurf Challenge, the First Baptist World Changers, Fashion & Beauty Without Cruelty and the Faith Builders Worship Centre before finding the Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery address! He found THE BROADSHEET on page 8 of Google. I have now tried the search – we ***are*** there – world wide.

RESEARCH RUN RIOT!

Since the last issue of your newsletter there has been a truly remarkable output of Research Papers by the Friends. Some of the documents produced are short and punchy while other are remarkably comprehensive amounting to half a dozen pages. Some of the research comes in multi-part instalments and it is your Editor's intention to publish as many papers as possible. Although I am happy to produce a summary of longer research papers space is at a premium and there is always a risk of missing the most salient features or facts. Therefore while I am sure we all welcome and appreciate receiving e-mails containing the labours of love of the respective researchers I see a difference between circulars of 'that' nature and 'articles' for publication.

I am therefore asking all friends who have either produced or intend to produce such papers for general circulation via e-mail but who would also like the information contained therein to appear in this 'tome' (and by implication the web-site and on Google) to *additionally* prepare a short article for inclusion in THE BROADSHEET. Such items should **not exceed 500 words in length**. The published items will be credited to the author but regrettably no reproduction fee will be paid!

Some of the many items circulated via e-mail include Lady

Frances Charlotte Elizabeth Charlesworth by Sue Nea, James Bateman by Chris Allen with input by Paul Robbard, Capt. Sarah Jane Broadhurst by Tom Wye, Ernest and Harry Hosier by Paul Holden, The Paine Family by Rosemary Pearson, Edwin Douglas by Mary McKeown and many, many others, not to mention Chris Green's remarkable military research. So, if you feel inclined, please prepare a short article for THE BROADSHEET and your feature will be published in full, 'as presented', and without editorial interference, as soon as practically possible subject to available space. The first two examples follow:

DID YOU KNOW CORNER

by Paul Holden

In 1873 Dr Henry James Collett died at the age of 64 and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. The cortège consisted of the hearse, four mourning coaches, several private broughams, and 16 other carriages, followed by a large number of people on foot. A commentator noted “nearly every shop in the town was either partially or wholly closed, and along the line of the route every blind was drawn down”.

In 1874 Thomas Banting, who gave his name to a convalescent home for young women on the site of the old Wine Lodge pub, died at the age of 75. He was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. He left £61,740 - his fortune to be divided between 42 charities. Worthing's six schools received £315 each.

In 1908 a well known Victorian actor, Walter Wardroper, died at the age of 57 and was buried at Broadwater Cemetery. After retiring from the stage, he ran the Maltsters pub, Broadwater, from 1893 to 1896.

In 1909 James Colvil died at the age of 71 and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. He became a letter carrier in about

1860 when postmen still wore scarlet coats and top hats. He later ran the Steyne Hotel Shades, the Engineer's Arms, Broadwater and the Rambler Inn, West Street.

Some months ago the smashed memorial of George Hilbery Warne, founder of Warnes Hotel, was found by the writer lying under a tree at Broadwater Cemetery. The remains were removed to the grave of his son, Frederick, which seemed appropriate. George started the country's first car breakdown service (the forerunner of the RAC). He died in April 1916 and his son died in 1900, aged 12, predeceasing his Father. Incredibly our Civilian Researcher Debra Hillman searched the records and ascertained that they were both buried in the same plot and so Father and Son were, in a way, re-united.

ANN THWAYTES

The late Henfrey Smail (Notable Houses of Worthing)

Ann Thwaytes moved to Worthing with her husband, a wealthy London Tea merchant, in 1841/2 after purchasing the grand house of Charmandean. Her husband died in 1843 but Ann lived in the fine house until her death in 1866. During this period she developed the house and the estate. One of her projects was building a fine graceful iron conservatory, which was severely damaged in the great hailstorm of 1853, resulting in a repair bill in excess of £200.

The Thwaytes were very generous and carried out innumerable acts of charity. In 1842 they delivered large quantities of coal to the poor of the parish of Broadwater and helped set up a coal distribution organisation, but when the organisation failed in 1854 Mrs Thwaytes delivered the coal herself to over 600 poor people. [presumably not the actual lifting-Ed.]

In 1844 she donated £50 towards purchasing a site for the

Worthing Dispensary in Chapel Road. (Purchased from Sir Percy Shelley, son of the poet). She laid the foundation stone on 18 September and was presented with a silver trowel to mark the occasion. She financed the publication of the book 'The Geology and Fossils of Sussex' written by the late Dr Frederick Dixon of 3 Union Place, who had died aged 49 of Cholera in 1849.

Ann donated £100 to the new organ for Broadwater Church and arranged to pay the organist £40 per year. She also contributed £50 to the stained glass window in memory of Rev Peter Wood, rector of Broadwater and his chaplain the Rev William Davison who had campaigned for the education of the poor, with Davison C of E School being his lasting monument. She also contributed to the 1866 'restoration' of the church and was permitted to remove certain articles, a stained glass window and some wood panelling, which were incorporated into the Charmandean estate.

She died on 8 April 1866 and the Worthing Monthly Herald wrote of her; “Her life teemed with acts of warm hearted generosity; every form of human woe found in her a discreet, ready, and sympathising helper.” Not surprisingly she left a will donating large sums of money to charities, but this was contested by her relatives on the grounds of her eccentric religious beliefs and judgement was given in favour of her relatives.

Her 'eccentric' beliefs included thinking she would be the bride of Christ and she spent large sums of money preparing her 'reception'. At a full moon she would dress all in white and have her coachman drive her to the River Adur and back in a yellow painted coach. This practice continued until a few weeks before her death. Ann Thwaytes is buried in a vaulted tomb in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The iron railings which once surrounded her distinctive grave were removed for the 'war effort' and her memorial has been subjected to some serious vandalism. But after some superb restoration

work, which included the removal of over 100 beer cans, by Mr Paul Robbard (a Friend and a Worthing Council officer) her tomb is once again a fitting memorial to a truly outstanding lady.

{Rosemary has also produced an even more detailed paper relating to the life and times of Ann Thwaytes, including the ruling of the Judge upon the contested Will - Ed}

CEMETERY TO FALL INTO RIVER?

An ancient cliffside cemetery located on Hadrian's Wall is being urgently excavated by archaeologists before it slips into a river valley. The dig by Newcastle University and English Heritage is the first systematic excavation of such a cemetery. The operation, at Birdoswald Roman Fort near Gilsland on the Northumberland/Cumbria border, is continuing until 16 October this year. The fort and its civilian settlement are perched above the River Irthing. It is under serious threat from erosion, which has accelerated over the past few years.

Investigation work has revealed that erosion is being caused by a combination of the river at the base of the cliff and water and frost action on the boulder clay at the top. Excavation is therefore the only way to avoid the loss of delicate archaeology of the extensive cemetery. It is hoped the dig will reveal information about the make-up and lives of the fort garrison and the civilians who clustered around its walls.

CEMETERY OVERRUN BY PESTS!

Addlestone Cemetery in Surrey was recently closed for the day while pest control measures were carried out. According to Runnymede Borough Council the cemetery in Green Lane had been overrun by rabbits and moles

and environmental health officers had decided to take action. It is not known what substances were used for the pest control but all dog owners were advised to keep their pets on leads for a day or so. The council said that normal service would be resumed as soon as possible! Perhaps Addlestone Council could be asked to remove the human pests at Durrington Cemetery!

..... AND FINALLY

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery were formed only one calendar year ago and the progress made has been truly phenomenal. The list of achievements would fill a small book. On every front the Friends have been proactive and in terms of public awareness, research in both military and civilian fields, open days, web-site development, lottery funding grant, corporate days, physical renovations, clear-up days, joining the national federation, ensuring our bank account remained in credit, increasing our membership, rededicating military graves, holding a very successful Remembrance Day service, finding graves for the public, encouraging other organisations to support our cause, arranging corporate days, conducting cemetery tours, benefitting from financial support from local businesses, holding regular and purposeful meetings and even producing a quarterly newsletter (!) has been nothing short of sensational within such a short timescale. We all deserve success in the future and again your attendance at the AGM on 23 October is particularly important. Enjoy this largest-ever issue.

ENJOY THE AUTUMN TINTS

John Vaughan

Editor