THE BROADSHEET Issue No.8 Autumn 2010

THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

THE BEST ANNUAL OPEN DAY – EVER

The Annual Open Day, this year held on Saturday 7 August, was without doubt the most successful ever organised by the Friends of the cemetery. During 'opening hours' the weather was kind and all the work and preparation by so many individuals was amply rewarded by a turnout estimated at 200 visitors. Members of the public wanting to join our guided tours were so numerous that multiple tours were run simultaneously proving the value of having several fully trained guides.

Sally Roberts was charged with masterminding the overall event and she delegated the multifarious tasks based on a list of volunteers and their various declared preferences, thereby ensuring that all participants were enthusiastic about their chosen role. All of the experience gained and lessons learned in running previous Open Days was put to good use and operations ran very smoothly indeed. Services provided covered a broad spectrum of activity, ranging from the provision of refreshments to comprehensive searches for members of the public seeking the locations of graves where deceased relatives were buried. Outside organisations such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Sussex Family History Group also attended.

It was encouraging to see the visiting crowds milling around the chapel, studying the colourful displays, participating in tours, purchasing books and generally enjoying themselves. The age range of those attending was surprisingly broad with a number of families noted. The event also provided an opportunity for Friends to work together away from the environs of the Town Hall and the regular group meetings. Visitors could see Friends at work clearing

graves and it was rather satisfying seeing our Treasurer with a smile on his face counting the takings from the day. It would be wrong to single out any individual for particular praise but thanks must go to Sally Roberts who somehow managed to find the time to co-ordinate some fairly disparate tasks - and individuals!

General organisation, the provision of signs and bunting were in the hands of George and Sally Roberts. Media and advertising Paul Holden. 'A-Z' book sales Denise, Rosemary Pearson, Moya Hills, Martin Brown and Michael and Pat Parrott. Collection of donations Alan Rice. Tour guides Tom Wye, Paul Holden and Sonia Hawk. Monumental inscriptions Anne Powell, Mary Pickett and Frank Ffitch. Gazebo provider Mary Pickett. Refreshments Alan and Janet Goldsborough-Jones. Water, Southern Water. Clearance work John Vaughan, Michael and Pat Parrott, Ted Street. Civilian research Debra Hillman and Sue Nea. Military research Chris Green. Historical research Chris Hare. General stewards Christopher and Mary Thornton. Clearing-up just about everybody. Other Friends were present and they too are thanked for their support.

Overall the only 'fear' was either atrocious weather or a significant decline in general interest and on the day there was no sign of either. 7 August was a special day of which all Friends can be proud. We also gained some new members and sold several books.

DROP–IN AND TOUR DAYS STEADY

Following the highly successful Open Day in August it is extremely encouraging to report that attendances on our 'First Saturday of the Month' drop-in maintenance and public tour dates continue to be well patronised. Numbers turning up on 4 September were greater than could be accommodated on a single tour, which was split into two groups. Almost 50 members of the public attended. However the number of Friends on site was disappointing with only a handful recording memorials and maintaining graves. Our work is never ending so get those 'wellies' out and get 'stuck in'!

DEBRA 'ON DISPLAY'

As mentioned in the last issue of 'THE BROADSHEET' the offer of the use of a large display case at Worthing Museum was enthusiastically accepted by the Friends and populated by Debra Hillman with, as usual, the help of several of the gang including Sue Nea. Your Editor visited the museum and found the case in a fairly dark area where the display lighting had maximum effect.

In the case was an Edwin Douglas painting and write-up, an early picture of the cemetery chapel, the dead man's penny and medals belonging to Henry Arthur Budd, an article on Claud Bald supported by pictures and a clock, a war memorial from Christ Church boys school (found in a scrap yard in 2004), an article on Jacob Searle (1826-1890) plus a photograph, funeral cost ledgers from 1893 and 1915, illustrations of the cemetery, a site plan and an 'A to Z' book. Of local interest was a tureen lid and an orange from the sunken S.S.Indiana plus a Montague Street Brewery label!

The result is quite magnificent and is highly recommended. I was interested in the work involved in this enterprising activity and asked Debra for a few words on the subject.

“It all started with two visits to Worthing Museum to check out the temporary exhibition location. The first was with Tom Wye and the second with my colleague Sue Nea. The first activity was to measure the cabinet, which offered the potential for a three dimensional visual display.

It was obvious that we were going to need more than just photographs and text to fill the available space and to make the exhibit interesting. I knew that we had war medals, kindly donated by Mrs Budd, and these were to be a focal point of the display. However even with the inclusion of a copy of the FBWC 'A to Z' book additional items would be required.

Following my plea for objects and research on various topics

Friends came to the rescue with an enthusiastic response. Paul Robards supplied me with data on the history of the cemetery, Mary McKeown told me that the museum had a painting by Edwin Douglas and Pam Stepney was able to offer an orange collected from the cargo of the S.S.Indiana and a clock belonging to Claud Bald. Suddenly things were beginning to come together.

I then arranged a meeting with Kate Loubser at the museum where Sue and I discussed some of the people we had research material on. Kate agreed to search their records to see if they had any suitable objects relating to these people or events that we could include in our exhibit. We booked a date to populate the display case.

Over the next week Sue and I frantically reviewed, edited, typed-up in a suitable font size all the research we thought we might use and laminated it [Debra said that anything that had got in their way at this stage would also have been laminated – Ed!]. We printed photographs and ordered a large sign for the back of the display. On Monday morning 9 August we arrived with with all of our objects, text and photographs. Kate was on hand to assist and supplied us with the painting, chapel photograph and tureen lid.

A few hours later, after much deliberating, arranging and rearranging we were finished. We had done our best to create an interesting and cohesive display. Was it OK? Would our Friends like it? Would the public like it? There was nothing more we could do, we had done our best."

MOLLY – YOU'RE LOVELY AGAIN

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ONE OF THE LOVLIEST MONUMENTS IN BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY, THAT OF MOLLY CORBETT, HAS BEEN CLEANED AND COSMETICALLY RESTORED DURING ONE OF THE H.D. TRIBE RESTORATION COURSES. FOLLOWING THE WORK DONE LAST YEAR BY HSBC EMPLOYEES THE GRAVE LOOKS TRULY MAGNIFICENT. ALL THAT IS NOW NEEDED IS FOR THE ANGELIC FIGURE TO GAIN A PAIR OF HANDS – A PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE PERHAPS. WELL DONE TO ALL CONCERNED FOR BRINGING THIS CENTREPIECE 'BACK TO LIFE'.

LUCANUS CERVUS SAGA ENDS

We will all remember the Lucanus Cervus (Stag Beetle) saga (headline last issue) that has now, thank goodness, been laid to rest. After the bouncing backwards and forwards of a few letters in the press, penned on behalf of the Friends by our Chairman, it seems that all of the fuss has died down and our preservation credentials are back in place. Sad to report that it will now be next year before the male beetle flies about in nocturnal light in search of a mate. I always wondered why 'The Mrs.' never let me out after 7pm!

Although criticism of my criticism of the 'nosy neighbour' lead feature was uttered by a minority the fact is that that the incident lost us hundreds of hours of valuable maintenance effort. We all like animals and the majority of insects and with our policies fully endorsed by the preservationists we should never again have to defend ourselves against such criticism. We all love peace and quiet, harmony and tranquility but if a similar incident happens again and the Friends are unfairly criticised the editorial double barrels will again be loaded. This Tome is a newsletter and not (only) an historical document. Let us hope for the return of the Latter Day Saints community.

LIKING LICHEN

BY Paul Robards

WHAT DO YOU THINK LICHEN IS?

An algae or a fungus? Well it is both.....

Lichens are an example to all of us on getting on together. They are actually not a single organism at all. But simply two quite separate organisms living together in harmony, and depending on each other.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF LICHEN DO YOU THINK THERE ARE?

There are over 1,600 known types of lichen in Britain. Some prefer woodland, some coastal cliffs, some heathland. Churchyards (and cemeteries) are of supreme importance for lichen conservation, providing an excellent environment for them to thrive in. At least 300 varieties have been found in churchyards. Almost half of these are considered rare. Some seldom occur in other habitats.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ATTRACTS THEM TO CHURCHYARDS?

Low or no pollution, left alone without too much disturbance, different types of stone introduced to make the gravestones.

WHAT TYPES OF STONE CAN BE USED FOR GRAVESTONES?

Marble, granite, Portland, slate, limestone and sandstone (of different density and porosity). Providing there is sufficient light and moisture, lichens are able to grow and colonise these stone surfaces. They grow very slowly, sometimes no more than 0.5mm per year, but once established are long living, providing that the habitat is not changed or disturbed.

WHY AM I WRITING ABOUT LICHENS?

Because a balanced churchyard maintenance plan is a must, and should be very beneficial to all forms of wildlife that frequent this haven of trees and shrubs. Damage to the gravestones by lichen is minimal and over time will show little deterioration, other than that caused by natural weathering.

Some of the memorials are made of stone that laminates (a layered rock formation). Plant growth such as ivy, although providing some benefit by providing a canopy over the stone, will send out roots to maintain a hold on the vertical surface, BUT may grow into the stone surface and prise the layers apart.

Where it is considered necessary to clean a gravestone to enable the inscription to be read, this is best achieved using a soft brush and clean water. Spraying with bleach or other agents should be avoided as it will damage the lichen. Lichen is susceptible to the smallest of changes. Please help by allowing the lichen to remain in place.

[Paul acknowledges the assistance of the British Lichen Society. This feature needs to be considered sympathetically, in respect of comparison with the content of any memorial restoration course – Ed.]

HEADSTONE SMILES OF THE DAY

"Beneath this stone
my wife doth lie.
Now she's at rest
and so am I"

"Here lies Joyce
she'd rather not
but had no choice"

GRUESOME HAPPENINGS
- A BROADWATER TRAGEDY -
LOYAL BROWN BONIFACE (B6-6-21)

By Sue Nea

Loyal Brown Boniface was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on 24 February 1897, aged 40 years. At the time of his death he was Inn Keeper at The Engineer's Arms, a public house situated next door to the old Paine Manwaring building, opposite Broadwater Green. Loyal was born in Petworth during 1857 and his parents were Richard Loyal and Sarah Boniface (nee Brown).

In the 1851 census Richard was a farmer of 40 acres in Felpham. In 1858 Richard's brother-in-law, John Brown, prepared a Will leaving him the Old Mill in Felpham. After inheriting the mill Richard promptly sold it in March 1859 for £350 but by the end of that year Richard also died. In 1861 his widow Sarah was running a farm in Petworth with six children, including Loyal by then aged four years. There was a governess living at home with them.

By 1871 Loyal was a pupil at Cliffe House School, 33 High Street, Lewes and by 1881 he was back in Petworth and described as a 'Gentleman'. In 1883 he married Olive Peters. In 1891 Loyal and Olive and their two young daughters were living in Orme Road, Worthing. Loyal's occupation was described as a 'Mail Driver'. This would seem to be far removed from his status as a 'Gentleman' just 10 years earlier. This 'demotion' is curious and the reasons will never be known.

In another leap in the story but without background data it appears that the couple became publicans. On the evening of Saturday 20 February 1897, after they had closed The Engineer's Arms for the night, Olive Boniface retired to bed leaving her husband sitting beside the kitchen fireside. Events took a sinister turn and later that evening Loyal Brown Boniface shot himself in the head with a pistol. An enquiry was held on the afternoon of Tuesday 23 February at the village Reading Room conducted by the Coroner Mr F W Butler. A Mr G Paine was chosen as Foreman of the Jury and amongst those present was Henry Nye, representing Messrs Tamplin, the brewers and owners of The Engineer's Arms.

Olive Boniface dressed in deep mourning, who was much affected by the proceedings, gave evidence. A verdict of “suicide while temporarily insane” was

returned and the Foreman remarked that he had seen the deceased a great deal about the village of late, and was quite sure he was off his head. Olive and her daughters returned to Olive's parents, John and Sarah Peters, who ran the Black Horse Inn at Findon. Seven years later in 1904 Olive married one Frederick Slaughter, who in today's crude 'lingo' would have been regarded as a 'toy boy'. Olive died in 1944 aged 82 years while Frederick died in 1950 aged 81 years. The couple latterly lived at 32 Broadwater Street East. The couple are buried in Graves A7-2-45 and 46.

A **summary** of the report in the Worthing Gazette dated Wednesday 24 February 1897 follows.

'TRAGIC OCCURRENCE AT BROADWATER
A BEERHOUSE KEEPER BLOWS HIS BRAINS OUT'

“That quaint little licensed house at Broadwater which bears the name of The Engineer's Arms was the scene on Saturday night of a terrible tragedy. Shortly after the house was closed at ten o'clock Mrs Boniface, wife of the landlord Mr Loyal Brown Boniface, went up to bed leaving her husband sitting in the kitchen. She had been in her bedroom but a very few minutes when she heard the report of a firearm. Hurrying down to the kitchen she was terribly shocked to discover that something – the awful extent of which she at first apparently failed to grasp – had happened to her husband. Medical aid was at once procured, but the unfortunate man's case was hopeless and death took place about two hours later. It has since been currently reported that the actual cause of this determined act of suicide was the receipt by Mr Boniface of a letter containing a threat to institute an action against him for alleged defamation of character, but at the inquest yesterday it was shown that other circumstances had occurred to occasion him worry, and independent testimony was forthcoming to the effect that the deceased, a man of admittedly excitable temperament, had latterly by his manner conveyed the impression that he was 'not quite right in the head'.

There followed a distressing account by the widow of running down the stairs with no light with the gas having been turned half way off. She saw her husband's form and saw blood rushing out of his forehead. Olive divulged that they had been under notice to leave the pub. She was not aware of the reason but admitted they owed the brewer a little money and that trade had been slack. However a letter was produced from William Marner & Co of Broadwater that stated “If you do not come and see me respecting the reports you have circulated, which are absolutely

untrue, I shall take action against you for defamation of character". It also transpired that both Loyal's uncle and cousin had both committed suicide in earlier years.

[Don't read the next paragraph if you are squeamish – Ed.]. The attending Doctor was questioned at the inquest and Dr Alan Duke stated "I was called to see Boniface at about twenty-five minutes past ten o'clock. He was alive. I found him lying on his back supported by Mr Meetins (a neighbour). He was breathing stertorously, his eyes were unconscious to light and he was quite unconscious in every way. There was a great deal of blood on the floor. About two inches above the bridge of the deceased's nose was a circular wound, from which the brain was exuding. There was a great deal of black powder about the wound, showing that the weapon had probably been held very close to the head, but there were traces of an internal fracture at the back. I waited until death occurred at half past twelve o'clock. Nothing could be done surgically and it was useless to attempt to extract the bullet". The local police constable found the firearm in the kitchen.

The story makes quite a change from accounts of the good and the great but above all else it demonstrates that Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery contains 25,000 human stories, which is all part of the fascination.

RISING COST OF DEATH IN WORTHING

Although Worthing has an undeserved reputation for having an older population than average on a per capita basis the Crematorium lost £60,000 last year. This loss is because the death rate is, at the present time, below forecasts and is the lowest rate per head of population ever recorded! It appears we are all living longer, the flu jab and other medical advances are having a profound impact on projected lifespan and therefore income. There has also been a reduction in medical reference

fees. This is all expected to change radically when the so called 'Baby Boomers' (there was a massive post World War Two increase in the birth rate as men returned from six years of war) start to 'pop their clogs' in some numbers, which is predicted to kick-in between 2015 and 2020 [I am suddenly feeling uncomfortable – Ed!].

Not necessarily linked to this shortfall in funerals is a shock announcement by Worthing Borough Council that from this month the cost of placing a large headstone on a grave is increasing from £52 to £255. A spokesman said that historically Worthing has had a very low charge for the right to place a very large headstone on a grave. The fee for the right to place a normal sized memorial will be £120. The spokesman continued, "The larger stones require more health and safety visits, which costs the Council more than was being charged to the public, and after a review of fees across West Sussex, which are significantly higher for large headstones, the decision was taken to move the cost of large headstones in Worthing cemeteries in line with other council's prices".

We soon won't be able to afford to die, so we might as well stay
alive!

BOOK DATES

IT HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED THAT BOTH THE BOOK BY CHRIS GREEN

TITLED 'A MILITARY GUIDE FOR BROADWATER CEMETERY' AND PAUL ROBARD'S 'HISTORY OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY' WILL NOW BE PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2011. WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THOSE PUBLICATIONS AND WISH THE AUTHORS WELL IN THEIR WINTER LITERARY PURSUITS.

MOVE OVER CHARLES ATLAS

Armed with crowbars and other tools muscle bound Tom Wye, his son, Paul Robards, Ted Street, Frank Ffitch and John Vaughan were called upon to move some heavy headstones and crosses prior to the open day. There was joy all round as one of the stones revealed was a small marble cross relating to 101 year old Harriet Mary Horwood whose cremated remains were buried on 31 August 1934 . The main grave was that of Charles Horwood (identified by Paul with the aid of a 'mirror on a stick'), who was buried on 14 January 1870 aged 30.

Charles and Harriet were married in St Giles, London in the first quarter of 1861. He was born in Belgravia, Middlesex and she was born in Highgate. In 1861 the couple were living with Harriet's parents. Harriet died in Henley-on-Thames (research by our Civilian Researcher Debra Hillman).

Not only was the grave of a centenarian discovered but that of a wife who had survived her husband by a staggering 64 years – a great story for THE BROADSHEET.

FRIENDLY FRIENDS

BY SUE NEA

MAUREEN ROSSER (NOW CARTWRIGHT) CONTACTED ME VIA HER DAUGHTER DAWN PIPER, A FRIEND OF MINE, TO ASK IF I COULD HELP HER LOCATE THE GRAVE OF HER TWIN BROTHERS WHO DIED AGED 1 AND 2 DAYS RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER 1936. THEIR NAMES WERE

PAUL AND PETER ROSSER BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER INFORMATION.

I FOUND AN UNPURCHASED AND UNMARKED GRAVE AND JOHN STEPNEY KINDLY OFFERED TO MAKE A WOODEN CROSS TO MARK THE GRAVE FOR MAUREEN (JOHN REFUSED TO TAKE ANY MONEY, SO MAUREEN KINDLY MADE A DONATION BY WAY OF PURCHASING AN A-Z). JOHN MADE THE CROSS AND SUBSEQUENTLY ERECTED THE MONUMENT.

THIS MORNING I MET UP WITH MAUREEN AND HER BROTHER MAURICE (TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS) AT THE CEMETERY. THEY CUT THE GRASS AROUND THE GRAVE, PLANTED A MINIATURE ROSE AND SOME SPRING BULBS AND LEFT A TOUCHING CARD SAYING "FROM YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER. SORRY ITS BEEN SO LONG". QUITE A FEW TEARS WERE SHED AND IT WAS A VERY MOVING MOMENT. THEY WERE, NEEDLESS TO SAY, EXTREMELY GRATEFUL AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TEND THE GRAVES.

THIS IS JUST ANOTHER STORY OF THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY, WHO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A FREE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Paul Holden

Paul as Editor of THE SENTINEL newspaper has regularly featured items of interest that relate to those interred at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. He has kindly given his permission to reproduce a large number of his items – reported 'word for word'.

1911: Worthing endured an unusually cold April, and it was reported that birds had been found frozen to death in their nests in Broadwater Cemetery.

1962: Harry Pike, superintendent of Broadwater Cemetery, died at the age of 60. He lived at Cemetery Lodge, South Farm Road.

1924: Major Herman Brooke-Knop, of 11 Park Crescent, was buried at Broadwater Cemetery. Officers and NCOs from his regiment, the 12th Lancers, with whom he had served with distinction during the Boer War, were at the graveside.

1910: A distinguished naval officer, captain Reginald Yorke Heriz-Smith of 5 Park Crescent, died and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. He took part in the 1890 attack on the King of Benin's Palace, and came away with spoils of war made of ivory and gold.

1874: Thomas Banting, founder of the Banting Memorial Home at the junction of Marine Parade and West Buildings, died and was buried at Broadwater Cemetery. He left £97,000 to be distributed among various charities.

1925: There was criticism of the 'neglected state' of Broadwater Cemetery, with one indignant grave owner commenting on the long grass obscuring memorials: “I must say it resembles a wild unkempt field rather than a resting place for our beloved dead”.

1918: Postman Stephen Monnery, of Penhill Road, Lancing, who had been blinded in both eyes during the Great war, died of meningitis, aged 30, caused by a fragment of shell lodged in his head. He was buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

1893: A distinguished Army officer, Major-General William George Hamley, of Hardwicke, Tennyson Road, died at the age of 78 and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. His grave was lined with moss, ivy, forget-me-nots and primroses.

1890: A 13 year old boy was fined £1, or 14 days hard labour if he failed to pay, for stealing two roses from a grave at Broadwater Cemetery, which was plagued by thefts of flowers, crosses, wreaths and vases.

1916: Crimean War veteran George Lindup was buried at Broadwater Cemetery. He landed in the Crimea with the 7th Foot on 17 February, 1855, and saw “plenty of fighting – all trench work”.

1935: Major T F M Wisden, a veteran of the Boer War, North West Frontier and Great War, was buried at Broadwater Cemetery. His medals were placed on top of a Union flag-draped coffin.

1861: A meeting was held to finalise plans for the new Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery off South Farm Lane after ratepayers were

warned that space in the burial ground of St Mary's Church, Broadwater, would be filled within two years. The total cost of acquiring the land and building the chapel was estimated at £2,214.

1889: South Street printer George Henry French, co-founder of the Worthing Gazette, died and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

1914: Mrs Winchester, wife of the proprietor of the Central Hotel, Railway Approach, died. A newspaper reported that she had been born on a Monday, confirmed on a Monday, married on a Monday, and died on a Monday. Her maiden name was Munday. She was buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

1938: William Walter, who championed the idea of Worthing Pier being taken over by the town council, died at his home Oakcroft, Woodlea Road, aged 87, and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. The former councillor was also Chairman of the electricity committee in the early days of this new-fangled form of power.

1928: John Barnett, of Bright View, Brighton Road, one of Worthing's pioneer tomato growers, died at the age of 85 and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery. During the Great War he was arrested in Newhaven by soldiers with fixed bayonets who feared he was a spy after being spotted looking out to sea with binoculars.

1918: Boy mechanic E E Steere, of Gloucester Place, was awarded the Albert Medal by the King for rescuing the crew of a crashed and burning airship before carrying bombs to safety. The former St Andrew's School pupil later died in an airship crash and was buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

It has been a very busy summer for the Friends with a plethora of diverse activities often taking place simultaneously. THE BROADSHEET has tried to keep pace with all important activities but for minor issues and other items, not reported within these

pages, the minutes and reports relating to our broadly monthly meetings should be referred to. If you have not been mentioned in these pages please don't take it personally because space is finite. The best way of 'being mentioned in despatches' is to write an article for your paper. I have limited this edition to 16 pages but I am not overwhelmed by prepared articles in the wings.

I have now edited THE BROADSHEET for two years/eight issues. **IF** elected at the AGM I would be prepared to willingly continue in my Editor role for a further 12 months but by then I think new blood with new ideas should take the helm. Just two IMPORTANT final comments for this issue.

PL. ATTEND THE AGM ON 29 OCTOBER
* HAVE A SUPER FESTIVE SEASON *

John Vaughan - Editor