THE BROADSHEET Issue No.9
Winter 2011

THE VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

STRUCTURAL CHANGE FOR THIRD YEAR

A combination of spreading the workload plus succession planning has resulted in a change to the structure of Committee postholders within the organisational structure of the Friends of Worthing and Broadwater Cemetery. The changes were discussed at the Annual General Meeting in late October, the start of the third year of the Friends organisation.

The main changes have been the appointment of a Vice Chairman and the creation of new posts of Membership Secretary and a Clearance Co-ordinator. These changes will help to reduce the workload of the Chairman and the Treasurer/Secretary as well as adding order to our clearance and maintenance schedules. The full list of pivotal postholders for 2010/11 is:

President: Tim Loughton M.P.
Chairman: Tom Wye
Vice Chairman: Debra Hillman
Secretary/Treasurer: Alan Rice
Membership Secretary: Mary Pickett
Civilian Researcher: Sue Nea
Military Researcher: Christopher Green
Clearance Co-Ordinator: John Stepney
Press Officer: Paul Holden
Newsletter Editor: John Vaughan

The new organisation would become effective immediately and it was recognised by the meeting that many individual Friends who were not incumbents of specific committee posts nevertheless had made significant contributions under the various activity headings.

CEMETERY CLEARANCE SCHEDULES

Although it has been the policy of the Friends since inception that cemetery maintenance 'Drop-In' days would take place simultaneously with the public 'Cemetery Tour' dates, which take place on the first Saturday in every month from April to October, our new cemetery Clearance Co-Ordinator has proposed that the **first Saturday of every month throughout the year** should be a maintenance 'Drop-In' day. The only exceptions to this rule are likely to be down to inclement weather, although in 2011 the first Saturday in January falls on New Years Day and so attendance from 10.00 to 12.00 (maximum) may be thin on the ground. At least it will differentiate between those who indulge and those that have temperance inclinations!

We really do need good turnouts on these Saturdays in order to maintain motivation and to make a real impact on the most overgrown areas of our cemetery. You can all work at your own pace and within your own capabilities, so dig out those old clothes and the rusting tools in your garden shed or garage and come along for a couple of hours and enjoy yourself while working off those Christmas/New Year pounds. Regard the activity as a free slimming plan, or if you prefer a gym workout without the subscription fees! As with well known First World War advertisements **'We Need You'!**

LOGO A GO-GO

After what seems to have been an interminable period the Friends have at last agreed Paul Robard's design for a Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery logo. It is based on one of Paul's photographs and comprises a glimpse of the cemetery as seen through the arch between the twin chapels at the cemetery's main entrance. Along with the Lottery Funding logo the FBWC example should appear on all publications, communications and relevant documentation. As you read this Paul is putting the finishing touches to his 'History of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery' book, which will be published in limited numbers early in the new year.

FAREWELL WORTHING SENTINEL - WELCOME WORTHING JOURNAL

The Brighton Evening Argus organisation has decided to cease publication of the very popular 'The Worthing Sentinel'. The Editor Paul Holden, also our Media Officer, had minimal notice of their decision and the reaction of the general public was one of disbelief. Paul, through the medium of the Sentinel, had a major impact in the creation of the Friends and he willingly gave significant publicity to the activities of our group. He gave notice of all tour dates and Open Days and was always interested in various discoveries and news events affecting our group. Overall the combination of Paul and the Sentinel will forever be associated with the creation of the Friends and everybody attending the AGM showed their appreciation of his efforts during the previous 2-3 years.

In the interim Paul has been doing some work for the 'Worthing Herald' but he has announced his intention of producing a brand new monthly local interest paper/magazine to be called 'The Worthing Journal'. Irrespective of further help and publicity he may afford the Friends, all members wish him all the very best and commercial success with his venture. The Journal is not free but nobody has any doubt that it will be well worth the £1 per issue (annual subscription – 12 issues - £11) and everybody reading this is encouraged to take out a subscription and to tell their friends and colleagues to purchase the tome. The first issue should appear in January 2011 – don't forget to acquire this collector's item. Let us all wish Paul a Happy New Year – which reminds your Editor -

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FRIENDS

I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY AND PREFER THE **NEW FORMAT OF 'THE BROADSHEET'**, WHICH HAS BEEN REDESIGNED TO SAVE **30%** IN PAPER AND PERHAPS BE SLIGHTLY MORE PROFESSIONAL IN PRESENTATION, WHILE RETAINING THE SAME CONTENT VOLUME.

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[The following is a seasonal, light hearted and inoffensive look at some of the 25,000 citizens buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery who might otherwise have remained in splendid anonymity. A most original work but as for some of the matches!! – Ed.]

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

by Sue Nea

On the first day (Ivy Day A11–5–22) of Christmas (Christmas Evans A14–4–17) my true love (Rosina Love B11–1–52) gave to me a partridge (Arthur Partridge A9–4–41) in a pear (Walter Pears C10–28–2) tree (William Tree B4–8–20).

On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me two turtle doves (Henrietta Dover A7–27–32). On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me three French hens (George Henry French C3–1–13). On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me four calling (McCall A8–5–2) birds (Georgina Bird A7–6–54). On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me five gold rings (Frederick Goldring C20–7–24).

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me six geese (Ester Geere B2–8–28) a laying (Emma Clay A13–10–22). On the seventh day of Christmas my true love made to me seven swans (Sarah Swan B4–2–15) a swimming. On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me eight maids (Maidment A9–5–21) a milking. On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me nine ladies (Lady Amelia Thurston C24–1–51) dancing (Hannah Dance A15–2–4).

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me ten Lords (Emily Lord A10–2–16) a leaping (Charles Sleap C12–14–3). On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me eleven pipers (Robert Pipe C17–4–32) piping (William Pipkin A7–7–4). On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me twelve drummers (Ann Drummond A10–7–26) drumming etc etc!

[DON'T TRY SINGING THE SONG IN THIS FORMAT - ED!]

REST IN PEACE – R.I.P.

BY PAUL ROBARDS

Looking around a graveyard or cemetery today it is not unusual to see the letters 'R.I.P' on memorial gravestones. The abbreviation is generally accepted and taken for granted. However in the Burial Board Minutes Book (held for the years 1861 to 1903) there is a documented meeting at the old Worthing Town Hall for 10 October 1881 that at the time caused quite a stir.

An application was made to the Board to sanction inscriptions on the memorial stones of Mr Sweeting and Captain Dyer, which included the letters 'R.I.P'. This abbreviation was previously objected to by the Rector of the Parish. It was resolved that the Burial Board sanction the proposed inscriptions, subject to the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese, by reason of the objection of the Rector to the inclusion of the letters R.I.P. in such inscriptions.

At a meeting on the 9 January 1882 the clerk reported that since the last meeting, he had received a letter from the Bishop sanctioning the use of the abbreviation in such inscriptions, such as those proposed for Mr Sweeting and Captain Dyer. Interestingly these two graves have been located and John Sweeting's gravestone does have the R.I.P. Inscription but Captain Dyer's does not.

The grave of John Sweeting C3-3-20, an artist from Gratwick Road, was thus presumably **the first gravestone** in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to have this abbreviation on a headstone.

It reads in Latin: Requiesce cat in pace (may he or she rest in peace)
Died November 7 1880, aged 37 years
'of the ills that flesh is heir to
he had a goodly inheritance'

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

HIDDEN STORIES BY ROSEMARY PEARSON

Where a family has been able to afford the purchase of a burial plot there is normally a monumental inscription of some kind giving information on the person or persons interred within the grave. Sometimes there will also be a memorial to a family member who is buried elsewhere, as in the case of the inscription of my Grandfather, Walter Paine, in C17-3-4, which includes his youngest son, Richard Gilbert, who was killed in Baghdad in 1918.

However, comparing an inscription with the Burial records can reveal some unexpected results. One such example is the headstone of Walter's younger

brother, Charles Paine, situated on the other side of the path in C20-5-16. This bears the names of six adult family members for a single plot. Even though it is not uncommon for there to be two or even more burials in a plot, six seemed highly unlikely. A check with the Burial records revealed that all were buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, but that only Charles and his wife, Annie Marie, were buried in this plot. The others all lie in unmarked graves. Charles' sister, Kate Elizabeth, and another brother, Horace Henry, are both in the adjacent plot at C20-5-15. His Mother Mary and brother Frank Edward lie together in C7-8-5, while the grave of his brother George Frederick (also known as Frederick George) is in B6-5-1 and was later re-used.

This is not the end of the story though. Some years ago, I inherited a collection of family related ephemera from a cousin, the daughter of one of my father's brothers, Charles Leslie Paine. This included a letter written by the eldest brother, Ernest Duke Paine, to Charles Leslie's widow, Florence, which is dated 30 April 1940, twenty-three years after the death of Charles Paine in April 1917, and a little over a year after the burial of his widow Annie Marie in February 1939.

The letter includes the following:
(I am) pleased to have your thanks for what I did for Uncle Charlie's estate. So far you are the only one to appreciate and recognise all the trouble and worry the trustees had to contend with owing to the neglect of the former trustee.

This did not make much sense until I visited the National Probate Office in Holborn and purchased a copy of Charles' Will. Not only did Charles omit one of his nephews, he also made the following request:

I give to my trustee free of duty the sum of thirty pounds upon trust that thy shall expend the same in the erection of tombstones upon the graves of my Mother Mary Paine my sister Kate Elizabeth Paine and my brothers Frederick George Paine and Frank Edward Paine in the Borough of Worthing Cemetery and upon my own grave with inscriptions thereon shewing that they are erected to the memories of the aforementioned persons.

Whether the fact that Charles' death occurred during the First World War resulted in this request not being carried out is not clear, but bearing in mind the length of time taken in sorting out the terms of the Will, the sum of thirty pounds would probably no longer have covered the cost of erecting separate headstones. This could explain why all inscriptions were on a single stone.

If there is any doubt, it is always worth cross-checking the monumental inscription with the burial records. I have come across several other instances of inscriptions which do not include all the burials in that particular grave. It is likely that there are others waiting to be discovered by the dedicated band of Friends who are in the process of recording the inscriptions, though with over 24,800 burials in the cemetery, this could take some time!

A COURAGEOUS SPIRIT TO FIGHT

BY CHRIS GREEN

In the south-east corner of cemetery plot C20, there is a headstone that records the death of Phoebe Beatrice Cooke in 1900. To this has been added an inscription that her husband Alfred Theodore Cooke died whilst serving in the (WW1) trenches with the French Foreign Legion.

Alfred Cooke was born in 1864 in Stockton-on-tees. His father, Charles was a schoolmaster. Within the next few years the family moved to Eastbourne. In 1892 Alfred came to Worthing as a professional architect and surveyor, and it was said that he was responsible for a new departure in the style of buildings in Worthing. He designed the Proscenium in the Theatre Royal, which was situated in Ann Street. For a long time he was a partner with J.G. Cogswall having an office at Shelley Lodge, Liverpool Gardens.

At Christchurch, Worthing on Ladysmith Day 1900, he married his wife to be, Phoebe Blake. The news of the relief of Ladysmith had just been received and the organist played the National Anthem prior to the ceremony. It was the intention that the couple should live at Shelley Lodge, which he had designed. Sadly his wife died within six months of marriage, then aged 20.

Devastated, Alfred lived with his sister Julia for a short time, but decided to leave the town for a new life abroad. In the Transvaal, he purchased an estate between the White River and Crocodile River where he resided for several years. On the outbreak of war in August 1914, he had a burning desire to serve his country in its hour of peril. At this time he was aged 51. He returned to England but was horrified to find that he failed to gain permission into Lord Kitchener's army.

He crossed the Channel and joined the French Foreign Legion. He underwent a short period of training in Paris and then was sent to the Front. He was the crack shot of his section, which numbered 250 men, and fighting near Peronne he gave evidence of the accuracy of his fire. In a letter which appeared in *The Times* he stated that “he was placed on guard immediately he arrived on the Front. As incredible as it may seem at the end of two hours he was inside a lean-to and instantly fell asleep. I was so exhausted, even though the bullets were cracking against the wall from the German trenches and the shells bursting”.

The letter continued “I shall never forget Christmas Day when the message 'Peace on earth and goodwill towards men' was accompanied by a volley from our line, lasting from 2am to 4am and from 6am to 8am. Slowly the dawn rose and there I was with my rifle between two loopholes, the ground white with frost, and so the great contrast – I was feeding a tame robin at my feet with breadcrumbs, the only Christmassy thing on that Christmas morn. My chum and I agreed not to fight that day and looking through the loophole I saw two

Germans carrying a plank. I took careful aim and pumped three shots in. I saw the plank fall – that was all".

In another letter to *The Times* on 21 January he recorded "Within a few feet of the German trenches were two wheat sacks. Four men volunteered to burn them. About 2am orders were passed along the line that none were to fire until ordered. Looking through the loophole, I saw the blaze and knowing nothing of the raid, I woke the sergeant and reported it. How that fire grew! It seemed that the four crawled through the darkness, each with a bottle of paraffin, and fired the stacks. The whole landscape illuminated and it was 30 hours before the last embers died out and the four got through a tornado of bullets. I shall not forget our return in silence through the long trenches as we got well away – a red sky, a lacework of frost, and our dark columns of multi-coloured knapsacks marching in loose order. On the return we passed through one of the great battlefields, where there were graves of two and three, then ten or more – we came to an extra large row, the command rang our 'present arms' and so we paid the last tribute as we marched passed".

Alfred's military career was short lived after he contracted typhoid fever. He died on 26 January 1915 at La Fleche, France.

In the early days of this war, those at the Front were able to write about their experiences. However, censorship gradually took over. After the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 with its vast number of casualties, which affected morale at home, details of soldier's experiences were not allowed to be published.

HARD BENCH DONATION

The Friends received some encouraging news from fellow Friend Mike Parrott who confirmed that at their Annual General Meeting the Richard Jeffries Society had agreed to finance a bench seat for the cemetery with the provision that it be made of English hardwood; a really practical and useful addition to the furniture in the cemetery. Many thanks to the RJS.

A CRUSHING TALE

By Paul Robards

As a result of research for my cemetery history book, which is nearing completion, I came across a most unusual gravestone that incorporated a seven spoke wheel in the centre of a holy cross. The grave was that of Frank Talbot Foster Todd (B14-1-7) who was accidentally killed by the fall of a steam roller wheel on Thursday 7 July 1910.

In a copy of the 'Worthing Gazette' from July 1910 it was reported that "A shocking accident occurred at Broadwater, on the outskirts of Worthing. A married man of Sussex Road, a former engine driver for the London & South Western Railway company, was crushed to death under tragic circumstances by one of the heavy side wheels of a steam roller. The roller was in Forest Road and Todd was trying to replace a wheel when it's axle slipped back and toppled over on him. It weighed 30 hundred weight (1.5 tons!).

Accidental death was recorded. The deceased left a widow and three children. More than 100 of the employees of the Corporation followed the coffin of the deceased on foot from his house, four of the workmen acting as bearers.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

By John Stepney

A grave at plot C21-5-4 has a most unusual inscription. It reads:
"Friends are requested kindly not to place mementos on this grave". Was the deceased simply a tidy person or an OCD case?

THE FRIENDS 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

By Tom Wye

The Friends have had a remarkable year and the major achievements are tabulated below. There were scores of other unlisted but still important activities successfully undertaken.

A total of 21 Friends were trained by Tribes on memorial maintenance and many fine memorials have since been restored. A further 5 Friends were trained by John Stepney on basic cleaning techniques.

Our A–Z book was published and an A4 information leaflet produced.

A definitive cemetery site plan was produced for the first time.

Tours of the cemetery were provided for 360 Worthing residents. Four further tours were arranged for special interest groups. Five talks to local interest groups were conducted and well received.

No less than 60 Worthing High School students were engaged in cemetery tours, memorial logging and maintenance. Further corporate maintenance activity provided approximately 500 hours of assistance with area clearance.

A 100% record was achieved in helping the public find long lost graves. Major contributions were made by FBWC researchers to the local media.

Memorial logging continued at a great pace and ahead of target.

A Friends of B&WC web site was set-up, enhanced and transferred successfully.

A superb and highly successful 'Open day' was arranged. Over 100 guests attend plus other societies. Friends donated about 1,000 hours of their time on cemetery projects and the heavy gang have replaced memorials damaged during the great storm of 1987.

Four issues of the BROADSHEET newsletter were published on time. Progress was also made on two other FWBC book projects.

A large 'semi-permanent' display case was populated in Worthing Museum and interesting memorabilia acquired.

A 'Buddy' system was introduced for the dissemination of a variety of paper communications for those without computers.

Local history talks on Worthing's Heritage were conducted, attracting audiences of up to 130 on several occasions.

And many, many other lesser but still notable achievements.....

CLEANING UP OUR ACT

By John Stepney

During 2010 three 3 day grave and headstone restoration courses were run for the Friends by Tribes the funeral directors. Several friends were unable to attend the courses due to work commitments. After the Tribes course my wife Pam and I cleaned family graves for a couple of folks and I was then asked whether I would be prepared to organise a grave cleaning course for those who could not attend the 3 day courses.

I agreed to run such a course and on 16 October 2010 buckets, brushes and various chemicals were made available for the five students who had signed-up for the extra course, namely Sue Nea, Christopher and Mary Thornton, Martin B., and Norman Manning. I had targeted the Lloyd graves in plot C22 because they were comprised of white marble, they were relatively small headstones and in good condition. Also these particular graves are normally featured on cemetery tours.

The procedures that follow are for use ONLY on marble graves. It is essential that the chemicals used for marble are not to be used for other stones such as Portland stone or sandstone. Such stones must be cleaned with much less-harsh chemicals to minimise the risk of damage.

The first procedure is to check the lead lettering, which is often loose and proud of the marble. A special rubber hammer is used to hammer the lead flat so it is flush with the marble surface and without potential snags. The next stage involves using water combined with plenty of elbow grease. The professionals use special 'diamond' pads that cost about £15 each but for our use I found that simple abrasive pads costing about 25p each perform the task of removing grime very well indeed. It is necessary to scrub the headstone(s) to remove what in many cases is over a century of accumulated grime and deposits from the weathering process. We also discussed special alternative methods for use on badly stained stones, often with uneven surfaces. A selection of wire brushes including examples for use with a rechargeable drill were on display. Having cleaned most of the grime from the marble a final water rinse was applied before the next stage.

This included the application of industrial bleach to the marble with a brush. This was a stage where the introductory health and safety talk was particularly relevant as the use of goggles and gloves is essential. The bleach should be left on the surfaces for about 10 minutes before being rinsed. This process can be repeated many times and in cases of severe staining the bleach can be left for several hours, or more coats applied. It is usual to get some brown staining below the lead even after several coats of bleach but in most cases this will disappear within a week or so.
Having passed on the knowledge and experience I had gleaned it was then the turn of pupils to clean family and other graves, a process that went really well. Pam helped Sue clean a grave in plot A17, Christopher and Mary cleaned a wonderful white marble angel in plot C20, Norman finished cleaning the Lloyd graves and Martin cleaned an adjacent grave. A three day course had been crammed into three hours, an additional five Friends had been trained in the art of cleaning and five headstones had been restored to something like their former glory. If there is sufficient interest I may run a further restoration course in the Spring of 2011.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Great news at Arnos grove cemetery near Bristol as a £5m restoration project has just been completed marking an end to a 15 year campaign to save the cemetery from neglect and the threat of local redevelopment. To mark the event a horse-drawn Victorian hearse flanked by schoolchildren in Victorian dress delivered a yew tree for planting.

Much nearer home, at St Mary's Church at North Stoke (near Amberley), an exhibition of 18 modern gravestones, plus a newly commissioned work

by Gary Breeze, were on exhibit in the churchyard until October. The purpose was to increase awareness of memorial arts. Your Editor visited the site and found many of the new works utterly fascinating not to mention colourful but perhaps a little too modern to be commensurate with the lovely aged surroundings.

Putting Worthing to shame is the remarkable achievement of the Friends of Belgrave Cemetery in Leicester. The cemetery comprises a modest 5.5 acres but they have a paid-up membership of 200 Friends. Their office is a Portakabin within the cemetery grounds, which they share with the

cemetery keepers!

At Manor Park Cemetery in East London there is the most remarkable, nee unbelievable, grave monument. When Steve Marsh died last year his family wanted to mark his passing with something very special. Steve was a car enthusiast and his memorial comprises a beautifully sculptured BMW convertible car! The stone looks quite remarkable and it weighs-in at one imperial ton. It looks just like somebody has parked a real car on top of a plinth on his grave. A crane lowered the 'car' onto his grave, the operation requiring 20 operatives, hopefully with permission.

Thanks to the National Federation of Cemetery Friends for the above. we have wisely chosen to renew our membership to that organisation.

CEMETERY LUMBERJACK?

A young pupil from Worthing High School was told that he would be visiting the partially overgrown Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery to do some 'logging'. The poor fellow thought he would be sawing down trees and branches but much to his disappointment it was 'memorial logging' that he was asked to undertake – not terribly 'macho'! All Friends and our President agree the importance of involving young people in our work and increasing their understanding of our heritage.

BROADSHEET HISTORY

The first eight issues of THE BROADSHEET covering two calendar years, amounting to 95 pages and 28,846 words, are about to be lodged with Worthing Reference Library, and the Records Office at Chichester for posterity. Please find enclosed another 4,706 words, condensed by font size into 11 pages vice 16! Enjoy the issue and thanks to all contributors.

John Vaughan
Editor