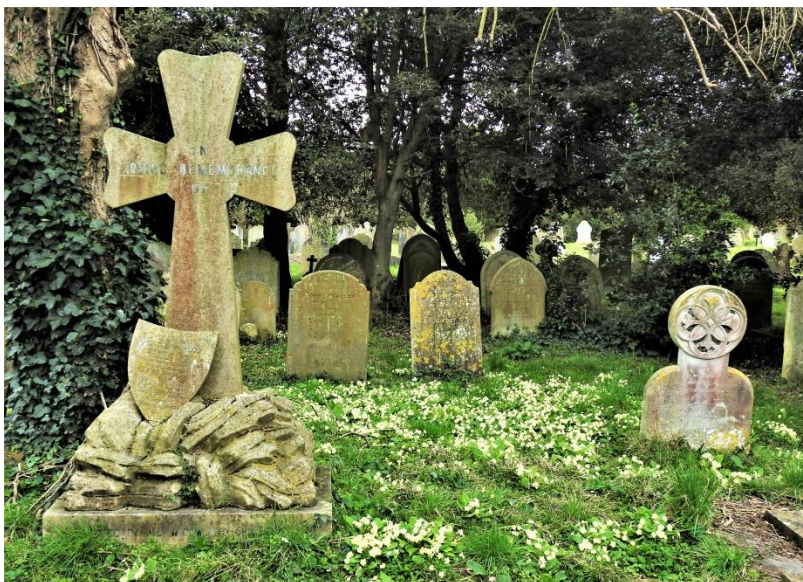


## EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL FRIENDS

Well, we are certainly living in turbulent times when for many people over 12 months of our relatively short lives have been partially ‘lost’ in terms of living what, hitherto, was regarded as a normal life. Many of the population have not been able to be with their families, meet their friends, attend their normal workplace, indulge in their hobbies or pass-times, enjoy a holiday at home or abroad, participate in any form of social life and in many cases have their medical requirements dealt with timeously. This has of course all been attributable to the Coronavirus pandemic and necessary government restrictions.

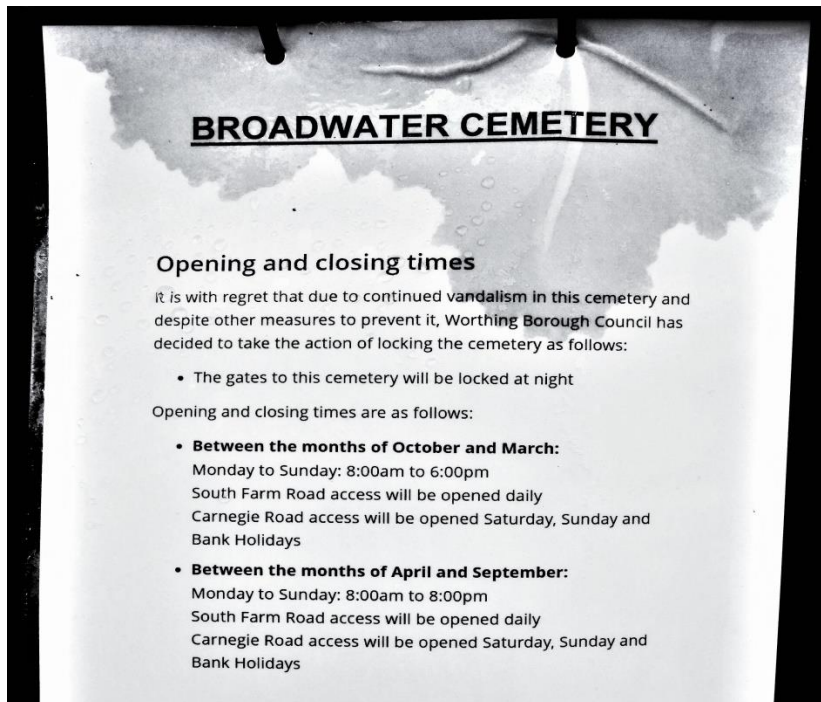
Even studious people have found it difficult at times to keep up to date with the ever changing Government rules and regulations in terms of so called ‘lock-down’ and who one could meet, as well as where and when. There have been changes in our everyday vocabulary such as ‘working at home’, lock-down, isolation, vaccination, social distancing and a whole lot more. The situation has been volatile and understandably, something of a precedent that the politicians and scientists have at times struggled to cope with. However we can all be clever people in retrospect and certainly the perpetual media and press negativity is hardly helpful. Covid-19 has certainly impacted the work of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery but **we remain positive and cannot wait to relaunch our tours and recommence our maintenance sessions. Our Secretary will immediately inform you when that time comes.**



[“Spring” Photo: Editor]

## CEMETERY SECURITY

The FBWC Committee have been delighted with the new cemetery security arrangements whereby the Carnegie Road entrance has been locked from Monday to Friday inclusive. The reductions in vandalism, drug taking and loitering by undesirables has noticeably decreased, thereby justifying the reversion to earlier arrangements. The FBWC have been calling for change for some time and it is satisfying to know that our lobbying has been successful. Below are a cemetery notice and an image of how the Carnegie Road entrance looks midweek. [All photos by your Editor unless otherwise credited.]





Also helping with cemetery security has been occasional patrols by community police officers, further acting as a deterrent to those intent on causing damage or mischief. The dramatic increase in dog ownership as a result of Covid-19 and lock-downs has seen far more people wandering about the cemetery, which from a security point of view is quite useful, provided they 'pick-up'!



[Photo: Sue Nea]

## **FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP**

It is perhaps not surprising that with a free membership for the 2020/2021 accounting period that our membership number remain at 103. The membership fee situation will be kept under review and an announcement will be made in October/November 2021, predicated on the Coronavirus situation and whether we can, by then, resume our full range of activities.

Since the free membership for the 2020/2021 accounting period was announced we have received just short of £100 in donations in lieu of membership fees but without cemetery tours there has been no income from book sales or refreshments. The only outgoings have been for bird boxes and fixtures and our annual subscription to the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, plus a few stamps to post hard copies of the Broadsheet to those without computers.

As of the date of publication the FBWC have a credit balance of £6,301.45 at bank and £33.38 in our two cash floats, resulting a total net worth of £6,334.83.

## HEDGEHOGS : BIRD BOXES : SEEDS

Although it has not been possible to progress our major 'Wish List' projects during the Coronavirus pandemic there has been plenty of other activity, which has been overseen by Paul Robards, our Wildlife and Maintenance Coordinator. A full report about hedgehog houses and the introduction of the little critters appeared on Pages 11 to 13 in the last issue of the Broadsheet (Autumn 2020). Below is a December 2020 image of a second tranche of hedgehogs being introduced to the cemetery by a representative of Wadars, the local Animal Rescue Charity; partners in the FBWC venture. [Photo: Louise Robards]



We all hope that the hedgehogs have survived the winter and photographed here is a recent picture of one of their detached residences. Watch this space.





In addition to hedgehog activity new and replacement bird boxes and securing ties have been procured and placed in position by our Wildlife and Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards. Paul has also modified each of the boxes in terms of roofing and access apertures, to ensure that squirrels do not damage the boxes. Below we see a line-up of new boxes and also an older one, still fit for purpose, in situ. [Photos: Paul Robards and Editor].



It is hoped that these nesting boxes will be used and that the relatively ‘safe havens’ will encourage more of our feathered friends to reside within ‘our’ cemetery. You are invited to take a stroll and indulge in some twitching!

We have recently received fifteen packs of wildflower seeds from Sarah Nathaniel of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. She is their new Public Engagement Coordinator for the South East area. These have been passed on to Paul Robards to sow the seeds in our cemetery, possibly along the northern boundary near the school grounds. There is a planned CWGC War Graves Week planned for 21-28 May 2021 and the seeds are part of this event. There is a competition that any organisation planting seeds can enter by sharing a photograph of the blooms on Twitter/Instagram. There will be prizes for the best in the form of garden centre vouchers. If the seeds germinate and produce blooms we may (or may not!) enter.

## **WINTER IN THE CEMETERY 2020/21**

As we all know the past winter was very wet with little snow but there were a few frosty mornings. Above all else the winter was noteworthy for the volume of rain, which in parts of the country was record breaking. Weather patterns such as ‘The Beast from the East’ and storms such as ‘Storm Christof’, ‘Storm Bella’ and ‘Storm Darcy’ impacted the UK, bringing down some tree branches within our cemetery walls. There were no significant snow falls in our area but there were frosty scenes such as this (below) to demonstrate the time of year.





Normally keeping an eye on the weather conditions is crucial because our monthly maintenance sessions have always operated throughout the year but in 2020/21 our activities had to be suspended due to the Covid-19 regulations. We have in the past called for local authority inspections of our tree population because some specimens seem to be in a potentially dangerous condition. Little did poor Eliza and William Foster know that over 100 years since they departed this world that their headstone would be supporting a huge fallen tree branch!



Jack Frost was surrounding the Sarah Broadhurst memorial, provided by the Salvation Army, when photographed on 8 January 2021.

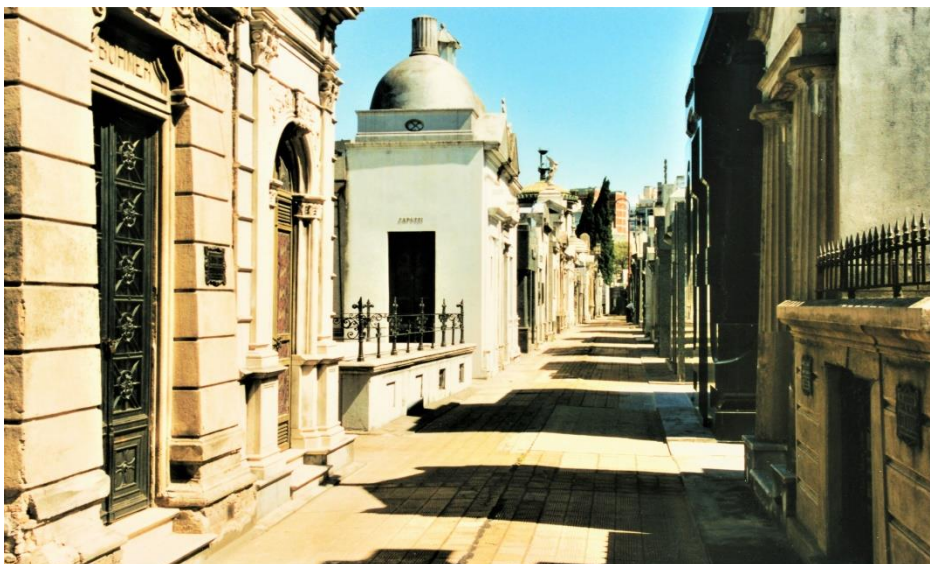




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## OTHER CEMETERIES WORLDWIDE!

Cementario de la Recoleta in Buenos Aires, Argentina was founded in 1822 and is one of the most important cemeteries in the world. The six hectare cemetery boasts famous sculptures and vaults. The tombs are very impressive, built by the rich and famous, including that of Eva Peron, known as 'Evita'. Here are two images recorded by your Editor exactly 20 years ago.





Below we take you firstly to the old ‘Wild West’ Boot Hill cemetery in Tombstone, Arizona. Opened in 1878 and closed by 1883 it was the resting place for not only townsfolk but also of notorious criminals. The name comes from the number of men who died with their boots on! It became derelict but was restored in the 1940s and is now a major tourist attraction. The ‘headstone’ reads ‘Here Lies Lester Moore – four slugs from a 44 – No Les – No more’!



Back in England’s green and pleasant land we see the little cemetery surrounding St Agatha’s Church at Coates, near Fittleworth that dates back to circa 1100AD, with Parish Registers that are 462 years old; back to 1559.



## THE FRIENDS HELP THE NUNS

By Sue Nea

On 18 February 2021 I received an e-mail from John Vaughan, via our Chairman, Debra Hillman, from Sister Tessa Hughes, one of the sisters of Our Lady of Sion who are based in Birmingham. Tessa explained that she is responsible for the Archive Collection of the Sisters within the UK. I was the recipient as I had previously researched the Sisters buried in Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery for a tour back in 2012, titled 'Religious Figures'.

She was documenting the graves of all the sisters who were buried in Broadwater & Worthing cemetery and in the Worthing, Findon and Durrington cemeteries. As she had a few missing details in her records she asked if we could help her with those in 'our' cemetery. However, she explained that she would only be able to give us the religious names of the Sisters, not the family names but she did have the date of deaths.

Following that tour Michael Scullion, who was the headmaster of Sion School in Worthing, contacted me about my research as four of the present day Sisters, were keen to visit the graves. I spent a lovely afternoon showing them the graves and discussing the research that I had done (a full report can be found in the Broadsheet Issue 20 - available via the website under 'Newsletters').



The Sisters graves – FBWC

When I replied to Tessa's e-mail I told her about the Sister's visit and how I had given them a folder containing a copy of all the research I had done. She had previously requested information on nine of the Sisters which I was able to help her with; the burial records actually show the family name and not the religious name so, between us using the date of death and burial, we were able to match each of the Sisters with their family and religious name.



At first Tessa was a bit confused about the layout of the cemetery and where the graves were actually situated, so I e-mailed her a cemetery plan that I had highlighted all of the Sisters' grave positions on; she was very grateful. I also sent her photographs of some of the graves. She then had all of the information and photographs she needed with regards to the Sisters of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery but asked if it would be at all possible for us to send her some photographs of the graves in Durrington Cemetery.

Mary Pickett, the Friend's Membership Secretary, kindly offered to visit Section 2 at Durrington Cemetery to locate and photograph the graves that Tessa requested. Mary was able to locate six graves and each grave had three Sisters buried therein. The photographs were e-mailed to Tessa and gratefully received. However she pointed out that there were six more graves behind the ones Mary had found. Below is one of the headstones at Durrington. [Photo: Mary Pickett]



Mary returned to Durrington, found the remaining graves and photographed them. Mary hadn't noticed them because they were of a completely different design to the previously mentioned graves (which had an exposed metal cross above the headstones). A further set of photographs were forwarded to Tessa, which completed the task. She is currently updating her database with the additional information plus photographs and she will be sending a copy to me to check following completion.

## **COVID-19: JAKARTA CEMETERY FULL**

Between March and December 2020 a total 4,650 bodies were buried in Pondok Ranggon Cemetery in Jakarta (Pop; 10.5 million) with death rates running at 280% the norm (238 per day vice 85 normally). An additional 13,300 square metres of space was made available in October but this was filled by the end of the year; December 2020 being the deadliest month for Coronavirus deaths. Bodies are now being buried in five other cemeteries but overall the issue is rapidly becoming a major problem.

## CEMETERY FALLS INTO THE SEA !

There has been a disaster at the small town of Camogli, near Genoa in Italy when a 100 year old Cliffside cemetery partially fell into the sea. There was a massive landslide on 24 February 2021 and it is estimated that at least 200 coffins fell into the sea as well as two cemetery chapels, which were swept away, crashing onto the rocks below. The village Mayor said that it was an ‘unimaginable catastrophe’. Emergency workers launched boats to try and recover at least some of the coffins, which were seen floating on the surface of the sea. Only 10 coffins were recovered and the next stage was to employ divers, again in the search for coffins and remains. Not surprisingly the entire area has been sealed-off, above and below the cliffs.

## MUSLIM COVID BURIAL PROBLEMS

The rapidly rising number of Covid deaths in Muslim communities within the UK has been causing problems, requiring radical solutions. At one Muslim burial ground in London an unprecedented method of burial has had to be adopted, after approval by religious elders. The method is known as ‘SAFF’, saff being the Arabic word for row. By this system 10 bodies are buried in one long plot but with dividers giving the impression of individual chambers. A single funeral prayer is said for all of them. Normal burial rates at the ‘Eternal Garden’ resting place are 10 per week but recently 50 were buried in a single week.

Muslims bury their dead as soon as possible and the deceased is washed and shrouded in cloth. The deceased is laid to rest on their right side facing Makkah. There is enough burial space in the Eternal Gardens in South East London, between Bromley and Chislehurst but the problem is the time that it takes to dig a grave, which the saff method has cured.

There has also been a sharp increase in Covid related deaths in the Bradford community. Out of a Bradford population of 528,000, 27% is Asian or Asian British; approximately 143,000 residents. As many people are dying in a single week that would normally be expected in a month. It has been said locally that as fast as graves are being dug they are filling up with bodies. Cemetery authorities have had to employ an independent construction company to assist. One of the potential problems identified was multi-generational family homes with young people having many more daily contacts with elderly relatives. There have also been problems identified of vaccination take-up. The Chairman of Bradford’s Council of Mosques said “he had never seen anything like it”.



## WHERE DOES TIME GO ?

It may seem hard to believe but Debra Hillman has now been our Chairman for over 8 years. Below we see a 2012 image with Debra taking over the Chairmanship and our former Chairman, Major Tom Wye who is sitting in front of his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday cake at one of our FBWC Town Hall meetings. Our then Research Supremo Sue Nea also makes an appearance!



Also, it is now a full decade since this memorial seat was presented to the Friends by the Richard Jefferies Society; in 2011.



## STOP PRESS - CEMETERY FINES !

As we went to press news came through that the Dog Warden had issued £100 fines on three consecutive days, 29/30/31 March 2021 to people walking dogs in our cemetery off-lead. It's much cheaper to purchase a packet of poo-bags!

## PAUL'S PAGES

As usual our Wildlife and Maintenance Coordinator has been roaming the cemetery recording images of fauna and flora as he goes for our visual benefit.

Below, we see an image of Snowdrops (*Galanthus*), which are widespread and found on grassy banks and in meadows. The hardy plant flowers between January and March. However the plant carries a sinister tale, in that if picked and brought into the house it will lead to the death of one of the inhabitants.



Primroses (*Primula Vulgaris*) derive its name from the Latin for 'first flower' and compete with Celandine and Daffodils in the annual flowering calendar. Primroses are no more than 10cm high and in bloom from December to May.





Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) is closely linked to the outset of Spring. Its shiny leaves first appear in December, the bright yellow flowers arriving in the Spring. The name 'Celandine' is thought to arrive from the Latin meaning 'swallow', although it is too early to see migrant birds of the same name.



Catkins can be found on a number of trees including Alder, Hazel, Silver Birch and White Willow amongst others. A catkin is a slim, cylindrical flower cluster with no petals. They contain many flowers on a single, drooping stem.





## CEMETERY MISCELLANY



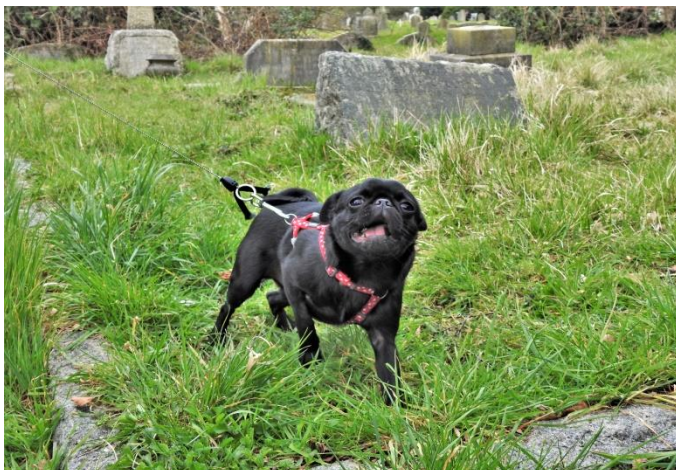
[Photo: Paul Robards]

One of many hundred cemetery squirrels poses on a memorial.



[Photos: Editor]

Was this damage caused by stormy weather or vandals? A sad sight to see.



Here was see 'Moses' the miniature pug having a great walk and on a lead.



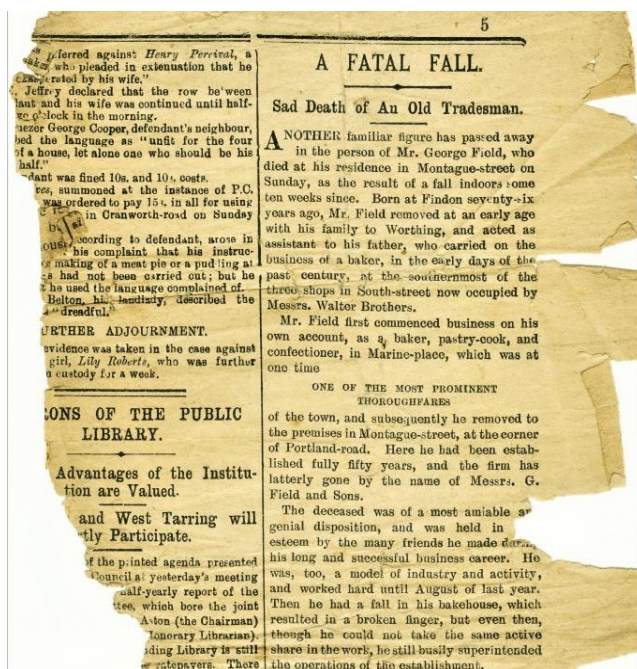
# FROM INSPIRATION - THROUGH PERSPIRATION - TO CELEBRATION

## George Field [B7-3-4] by Colin Reid

In the last Broadsheet, I wrote an article about William Humphrey [A8 18 18]. That described some of his history and explained how I was inspired to study my family history because of a letter in the Worthing Guardian early in 1987.

If William Humphrey was the inspiration for that research then what followed – before the days of PCs, before the coming of the internet and before the advent of on-line aids such as ‘Ancestry’ – was more perspiration; and it started with George Field. Let me explain: I was unusually blessed in this endeavour for three reasons: I had inherited three suitcases full of photographs and family documents, my Mother and Uncle Bob were still alive to identify subjects of so many in the family photographs and so much of my maternal grandparents’ ancestors had lived locally in East and West Sussex.

In one of the aforementioned suitcases there was a preserved an undated article torn out of a newspaper long, long ago. It was entitled: ‘A Fatal Fall’ and referred to the demise of George Field, a baker, pastry cook and confectioner of Montague Street. My mother and Uncle confirmed George was an ancestor and Uncle Bob estimated he had died in the early 1900s and certainly before 1910.



As a first step, my mother and I approached the offices of the Worthing Herald; and, very kindly, they arranged for us to spend some hours looking through bound volumes of the Worthing Gazette for the period 1900 to 1910. Starting with 1910, we worked backwards but by day-end we had had no success. As we left the building, we were informed that Worthing Library possessed microfilms of the Worthing Gazette.

At Worthing Library, we wound through reels of microfilm starting at 1900 looking at page after page until 'our eyes were on stalks', but we were rewarded when we reached page 5 of the Worthing Gazette for September 3rd 1902. There was the full, undamaged article: 'A Fatal Fall'. Armed with details of George Field's death, I nervously queued up outside West Sussex Record Office which was then housed in 'Ede's House' in East Street, Chichester but I need not have worried: the staff there were exceedingly patient with me as a novice researcher; and helped me locate the baptism for George Field in the parish registers for Findon and so much more.

At WSRO it was also possible to look at relevant census material for the nineteenth century. Early on, I realised it would be so helpful to obtain some Birth, Marriage and Death certificates; and, in those days that could only be done by lifting down large, very heavy ledgers that contained the registers in St Catherine's House in London. It was rewarding but very time-consuming; and my habit then was to order individual certificates from the specific registrar, paying by cheque.

My early success at WSRO ground to a halt when I was quite unable to find where and when George's father, Edward, had been baptised. I manually scoured through microfilm copies of the registers for 45 parishes without success; and I was beginning to believe this was something I would never discover. Extraordinarily, it was only when I took a look at the October 1822 Licence for Edward's marriage to Mary Marshall in Chichester that I found a note verified by Edward's brother, John, that his name at baptism had been incorrectly recorded as 'Richard'. That single discovery enabled me to take the 'Field lineage' right back to another baker, Edward Field, who married a Selatina Ayling in 1749 at St Mary's Church, Rumboldswyke.

Along the way, I found connections with the Boniface family – yeoman farmers in Eastergate; an explanation of a family myth that we had gipsy forbears; and marriage into the Hayllar family in Chichester that spawned the genesis of a noted family of talented artists: father (James Hayllar) and his four daughters: Jessica, Edith, Mary & Kate. Richard Cobden MP – co-founder with John Bright of the 'Anti Corn Law League – was a cousin of the Hayllars; and James



Hayllar himself had married an aunt of Edith Cavell – an heroic Nurse in the Great War executed in 1915 by a German firing party for her role in enabling 200 allied troops to escape from German occupied Belgium. These were exciting discoveries that I was able to celebrate with living relatives; and it all started with seeking a full account of the demise of George Field in Worthing in 1902.



[Photo: Colin Reid]

During the 1990s – knowing a large number of my forbears were buried in Broadwater Cemetery – I paid a visit there and was distressed to see how amazingly overgrown it had become from my memory of it in former years. I'd made that visit with no knowledge of the cemetery layout; and ignorant of the records of burials and grave purchases. Then, late in 2010, I heard about the existence of FBWC and I made contact. I was astonished by the speed of response from Sue Nea and John & Pam Stepney who printed out relevant records for a couple of dozen of my ancestors. Soon afterward, I became a fully paid up member of FBWC and was happy to provide an article about George Field for the 2011 'Businessmen & Shopkeeper' cemetery tour. [In 2018, for the 'FBWC 10th Anniversary' tour I chose to provide a more detailed article that included photographs of George Field and his second wife, Sarah, that I recently had discovered in the Worthing Museum collection of photographs.] Sarah outlived her husband by some 26 years and was buried at B7- 8- 6 in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on May 17th 1928. Her nephew, Albert Edward Lucas raised a stone to her memory.

Just before the first Covid-19 lockdown I published a book of family history entitled: 'My Dear Clarice'. It is a very detailed account of my maternal ancestry with a lot of local reference. With 192 pages and 273 illustrations, it's a snip at £14.99. If you would like a copy, please e-mail me at: [halfscottish1@zen.co.uk](mailto:halfscottish1@zen.co.uk).

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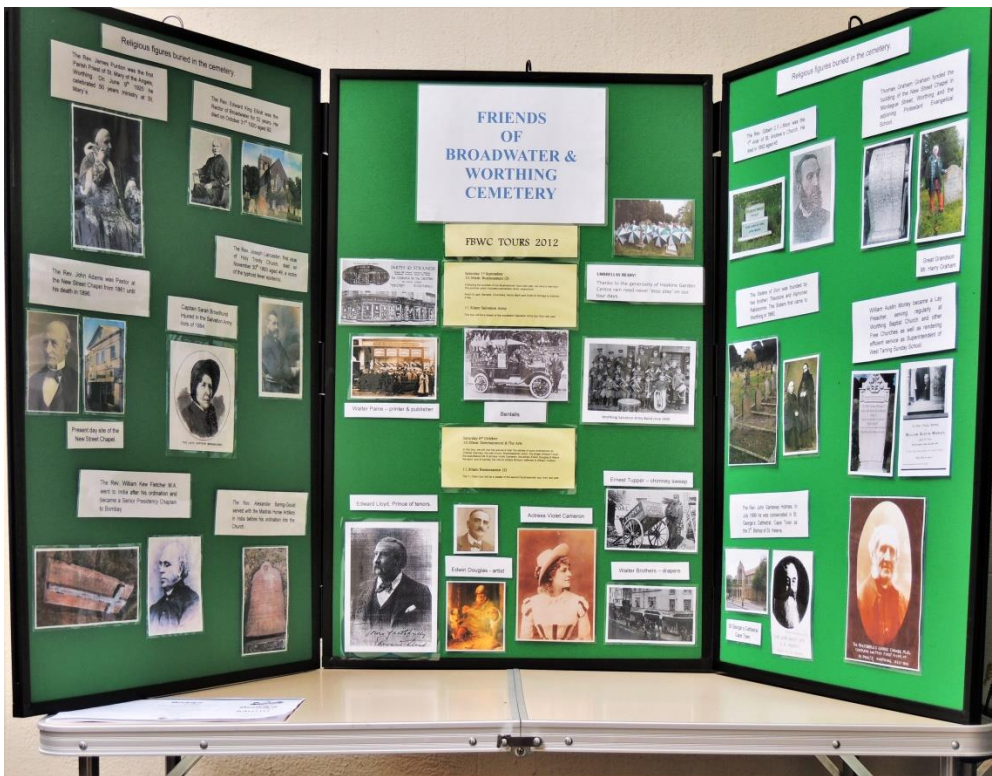
## FBWC TOURS 2012 AND 2018

It seems hard to believe that it was 2019 since we last conducted one of our thematic cemetery tours. The Coronavirus pandemic completely destroyed our exciting schedule of tours planned for the year 2020. As a responsible organisation we obviously adhered to the various Government Covid-19 rules and regulations, which also meant that we couldn't hold our popular monthly maintenance sessions. Over the years the popularity of our tours increased and in modern lingo we were 'on a roll'! Below are a couple of images from 2012 with John Stepney and Sonia Hawke as tour guides.





Gradually the public attendances of our tours increased and by 2018 we often attracting a ‘crowd’ of over 60 visitors. In the first picture below it is clearly high summer, judging by the attire of the gathered masses. It is our sincere hope that once regulations are relaxed we can enthusiastically recommence our tours and again build the numbers in the audience. In the second image is an early picture of one of our well populated display boards.



## **BURIAL AND CREMATION ADVISORY GROUP – REPORT FROM THE NFCF**

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends have published a belated report of a meeting of the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group that contained some interesting information that your Editor now shares with you, dear reader.

There is national concern about the transfer of burial rights. This concerns grave owners informing cemeteries about next of kin, making it easier for them to inherit plots. There was also clarification on the disposal of pacemakers. The NHS considers that they are single use items and are part of the deceased's estate. Therefore relatives may (if they so choose) instruct a funeral home to remove such devices and to donate it to overseas charities for re-use.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has launched an initiative to train volunteers in inspecting war graves and safe cleaning techniques. A pilot scheme is up and running. Sheffield University has collaborated with families to run a trial of resomation; dissolving corpses. Five bodies have been treated this way (this has been mentioned in previous Broadsheets). Body disposal by this means is not illegal but neither is it regulated. There are other approaches also being pioneered overseas, most recently reducing the body to compost [sounds gruesome to me – Ed.]

There continues to be growing concern about burial space and grave re-use. Planning authorities have failed to take into account future burial and cremation requirements. The main players in the system have mostly been reluctant to re-use graves. There is a 'perception' that the subject will shortly become critical. Legislation has been passed allowing re-use of graves but rules vary, for example where this has occurred the deceased must have departed this world at least 100 years ago. A majority of the general public are against grave re-use and so there is potential conflict in the making.

A new initiative has been rolled out whereby the funerals of all stillborn children and those up to the age of 18 years will be paid for by the government. The clause included in the legislation talks about the re-imburement of 'reasonable costs'. A whole range of issues were discussed such as children's 'shrines' not then being confined to the children's section within cemeteries and further demands being placed on burial space. By law a baby must be buried or cremated if he or she is stillborn at or after 24 weeks. Overall it seemed that all current major issues were addressed by representatives of 'the industry'.



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## EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS



Somebody asked your editor if, with very little happening in terms of our cemetery activities compared with 'days of old' and due only to this miserable virus business, I was going to publish a Spring 2021 broadsheet. I referred them to the last issue and our 'WE NEVER CLOSED' headline. There are over 100 of 'us' and once these restrictions are over we must all be positive and proactive in getting the show on the road again. We have come too far in our 13<sup>th</sup> year to give up now. Many Friends are not getting any younger but we do attract new members and consolidation and recruitment will be high on our new list.

Our 'Wish List' is also important and we have the funds to make great improvements including a complete redesign of our main entrance. I hope that you and your family have escaped the worst of the virus and that vaccinations, where relevant, do their job. I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER AND PLEASANT SUMMER. Enjoy the issue.

**John Vaughan**

**Editor**

[jamv@ntlworld.com](mailto:jamv@ntlworld.com)



[Grape Hyacinths]

