THE BROADSHEET

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THE TRIANNUAL VOICE OF THE FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

BROADSHEET CELEBRATES 25 ISSUES

I am delighted to be publishing the 25th edition of our newsletter and voice of the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, 'The BROADSHEET'.

Following the inauguration of the Friends in October 2008 it was decided that it was imperative to have a newsletter for distribution to the Friends community. Yours truly was elected as Editor, having previously been the Editor of a national magazine and the author of 50 mainly transport related books.

The Editor decided to call the newsletter 'The BROADSHEET', a name used in the newspaper industry to describe large format papers that are generally of better quality in content than the less serious and less sensational tabloids! Also the title contained the first five letters incorporated in the name of our cemetery, viz. BROADwater and 'sheet' such as in sheet of paper or a news-sheet.

The first issue was published in January 2009 and the content amounted to just 5 pages. The product has gradually evolved and the 24th edition contained 24 pages. From the 10th issue page numbers were included and from the 12th issue a major development occurred when photographs were included for the first time. The first 20 issues were bound for posterity.

Overall statistics are impressive in that to date over 360 pages of news and articles have been produced amounting to over 110,000 words and 250 images and photographs. The success of 'The BROADSHEET' has been substantially attributable to a considerable number of contributors, far too numerous to mention but my thanks goes to them all. It would fill this issue if a complete review of the past 25 issues was compiled because there have been so many momentous events in the 7 years that the Friends have been in existence.

An enormous amount has been achieved over the years under the Chairmanship of Tom Wye and Debra Hillman supported by a pro-active Committee and over 90 fully paid up members. The Friends are now professional publishers of booklets, they run large numbers of successful cemetery tours every year, research the backgrounds of many hundreds of cemetery 'residents' and their families, maintain the cemetery as best they can, provide services for visitors ranging from refreshment provision to a 'find a grave' facility, plus a whole range of other activities, which have all been reported in 'The BROADSHEET'. Welcome to this largest ever, 29 page, 25th Anniversary issue and enjoy.



NEW BURIAL IN 'OUR' CEMETERY

After all the fuss and bother of last year when Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery was described by a Council official as closed, implying disuse, we were reminded in the merry month of May 2015 that there are many family graves within the 14.5 acre site that comprise the cemetery, which are still in use.

Whenever a family member dies and if advanced provision has been made in a family grave plot, we witness yet another funeral and internment. There may be only a handful of new burials each year but such events are reminders that the cemetery is still very much 'alive' in terms of being fit for original purpose but in the 21st century.

In a way it is quite re-assuring that some 152 years after the first burial in the cemetery, in May 1863, that it is still being used and to that extent the likely number of public visitations to the site will be maintained. Below are illustrations by Mary Pickett and John Vaughan showing the pre and post internment scene. No doubt the plot will be made good in the fullness of time.





FBWC ASKED TO HOST NATIONAL AGM

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have been asked by the National Federation of Cemetery Friends whether we would be interested in hosting their AGM in 2016. In 2014 and 2015 their AGMs were held in Glasgow and Leeds respectively.

The task involves planning the overall event, sending out invitations, dealing with queries about local accommodation, including quality and price, booking a suitable venue for the AGM, providing an entertainment programme such as a cemetery tour and perhaps a guest speaker, providing relevant meals and snacks, hosting the actual AGM, setting-up an exhibition/sales type stand and other ancillary tasks.

Even though there are financial contributions from the NFCF, in respect of (for example) venue costs and from delegates in respect of food, the privilege of organising and hosting the event normally ends up as a charge on the funds of the local organisation, estimated at £250 but this can be partly compensated for by the kudos of successfully running a national event (assuming it is successful!).

The problem that we have within the FBWC is the available manpower to undertake the enormous amount of work involved. At the best of times volunteers are thin on the ground to execute even local tasks and this could present a very real problem. There is no point in committing the FBWC to the hosting role if the task fails or is done in an unsatisfactory manner.

At the time of writing the matter was under consideration but early indications measured in feedback from the membership are somewhat pessimistic, despite of the esteem of lining up with the likes of Glasgow and Leeds. Since writing our Chairman has advised the NFCF that while we have not closed the door on the subject of hosting a future AGM, we feel that we cannot undertake the responsibility in 2016.



Spring tulips in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery [Photo: Paul Robards]

EARLY 2015 TOUR SUCCESS



The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery enjoyed a very successful start to the 2015 tour season. On 2 May our Chairman, Debra Hillman, was the tour guide for an 'Unusual Deaths Tour' (retold). On a fine day and with the cemetery full of blossom and spring flowers 70 visitors populated the tour.

Illustrated information boards, refreshments and a booklet sales stand were all in situ after a considerable amount of work by our specialist stalwarts. Their efforts cannot be under-estimated. The tour went well and although not a measure of success we sold booklets to the value of £44, refreshments amounting to £24.38, received £17.60 in respect of donations and signed-up a new member. Above and below we see our Chairman at work surrounded by an attentive audience.



On Saturday 6 June 2015 it was the turn of tour guide and Friend Frank Ffitch to conduct a new tour featuring our deceased predecessors who in one way or another were concerned with local Transport. On a delightful sunny, if breezy, day again just over 70 participants arrived at the cemetery for the 11.00 start. In the absence of our Chairman, deputy Chairman Sally Roberts introduced Frank, who admitted to being a lifelong transport enthusiast.

In total 11 graves were visited in about one and a quarter hours, a fraction over schedule and attributable to waiting for the large crowd to travel from grave to grave before each narrative could start. It was a happy occasion with the crowd milling around our various stands. On this occasion a more vigorous approach to booklet sales was adopted and this included a novel large 'A' board, kindly provided by Rosemary Pearson with Sharon Holden graphics.

Below we see Frank Ffitch in action beside the grave of John Stent, cab and fly proprietor, with the well-known Ralli tomb on the right. [All photos by the Editor unless otherwise credited.] On the day booklet sales amounted to £108.00, refreshment takings were £28, with donations tipping the scales at £24.95 and one new member signed up; overall an extremely successful day. Well done to all involved for all of their hard work on behalf of the FBWC.



A brand new booklet titled 'Transport in Worthing' was produced by the Friends for the event and many thanks must go to not only our researchers but also to Mary Pickett and Sue Nea for compiling and designing the book, checking content, securing relevant photographs, printing and binding plus all of our sales girls who have been developing their new, shall we say, persuasive technique. Many booklets were sold and no visitors left the cemetery with broken legs. We like it when a plan comes together!

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

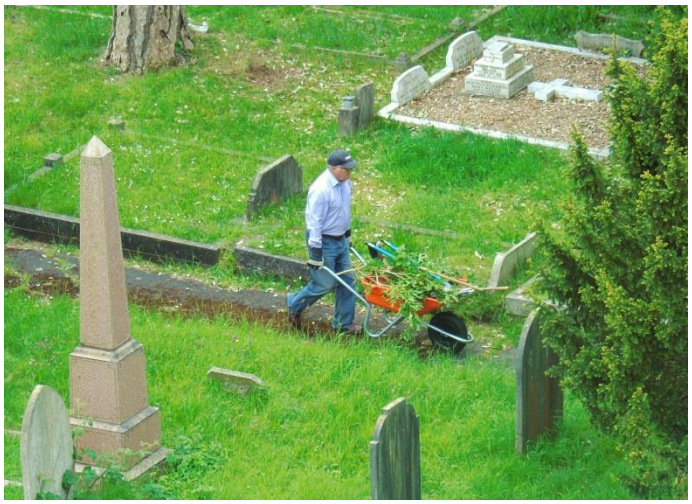
By Mary Pickett



On the cemetery maintenance Saturday of 30 May 2015 some workmen were busy painting and renovating the cemetery chapels and tower. After two hours of clearance work we were just packing up and about to leave the site when I commented to the workers how wonderful it would be to see the cemetery as they could, high up on a hydraulic 'cherry picker', especially as I had my camera with me.

To my surprise they offered to elevate me in the cherry picker to get some shots from high above the cemetery. Having made the flippant comment but not being a fan of heights at the best of times, I felt more than a bit apprehensive. However Frank Ffitch bravely agreed to accompany me and we were duly hoisted up into the sky. Holding onto Frank and the cage rail tightly, I later realised that it was not quite so scary, let go of both and focussed my camera on the views, which were amazing and gave an entirely new perspective of the site.

Just as we were about to descend we spotted what appeared at first glance to be a gnome with a wheelbarrow and I quickly got my camera focussed. The figure disappeared from sight and it was only when the pictures were downloaded onto my laptop that I realised it was in fact none other than our esteemed Treasurer and Editor! [I may not be Mr Universe but in being called a 'gnome' I can honestly say that I have never been so insulted in all my days - Ed.].



[Photos: Mary Pickett]

HEENE CEMETERY REVIVAL

By Diane Guest

In November 2014 I visited Heene Cemetery for the first time with the Worthing Borough Council's Park manager who thought this would be a good project for me, in my capacity of the new Heene Ward Councillor, and the opportunity for me to get a band of volunteers together to clear the brambles.

From what I can gather it has been at least six years since anyone attempted to restore some order to the cemetery, other than for the Council cutting the grass paths to Commonwealth graves [Friends of Worthing and Broadwater Cemetery, including Tom Wye, your Editor, Frank Ffitch, John Stepney, Chris Green and others have in the past cleared war graves just prior to Remembrance Day - Ed.].

Slowly but surely we are having an effect and you can see we have made a difference, even though nature has a winning hand as the brambles grow back, especially after a spell of rain.

We secured funding from the CLC from which we have purchased six two year old 'Egremont Russet' Sussex apple trees, which have already blossomed and have small apples growing on them. We have cleared one area where by the beginning of July 2015 two beehives will be placed from which we will hopefully have Worthing honey! We hope to have another two by the end of August. They will be looked after by a professional beekeeper that lives in Worthing.

One of our volunteers, Sue Standing, has sourced a map of the known headstones and is researching memorials of interest that Tom Wye will use as part of his guided tours, the first of which **will be on Sunday 18 July 2015 at 10.30am.**

Hopefully by this time next year we will be able to invite schools on a tour showing them how nature works together, within a burial place. We really would like some more people to volunteer with us on Saturdays, from noon until 14.00pm.clearing the brambles. Coffee and cakes are provided! You can either visit our Facebook page, Heene Cemetery, or telephone me Diane Guest 0781 4548855 for more details. Any Friend of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery would be welcome

Heene Cemetery (St Michael's Graveyard), which was opened in 1873, is located on the corner of Manor Road and St Michael's Road, Worthing.

FERRET SIGHTINGS IN CEMETERIES



[A pet ferret being walked in a cemetery.]

A storm has been brewing in Bridlington, in the ceremonial East Riding of Yorkshire. Rabbits have infested the local cemetery and ferrets have been commissioned by the local authority in an attempt to control rabbit numbers. The rabbits are deemed to be a nuisance.

A petition was started against this decision and was signed by 508 residents but that was insufficient for action to be taken, 1000 signatures being the minimum necessary requirement. It was stated by the petitioners that rabbits are chased from their burrows into nets, where they are 'dispatched' by a waiting ferreter. Rabbits scream with terror when in fear of their lives and when in severe pain. The local authority has said that the action was justified because the rabbits are digging unsightly mounds, nibbling on tributes and allegedly causing instability of certain memorials. The petitioners have stated that memorials are prone to subsidence whether rabbits are present or not. The failed petition asked the Council to spare the lives of the rabbits.

In the meantime Mary Pickett thinks she has seen a ferret in our cemetery, although it was a fleeting glimpse. Apparently it was a bit on the small side for a ferret at only circa 16cm long and could have been a young rat or even a stoat. It was a light brown in colour and was seen in the corner of cemetery section A1. She has added the animal to the sightings board below



STRAW POLL RESULTS

A small random straw poll conducted by Friend Sue Nea asking visitors how they became aware of our 'Unusual Deaths' tour in May produced the following results (bearing in mind some folks are aware year upon year of our tours calendar). Posters 13%, Social Media 25%, Worthing Herald 25% and the winner was the Worthing Journal with 37%. The percentages relate to the numbers included in the small poll, not of the total tour attendees.

HS2 HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE SHOCKER

Information has now come to light that no fewer than five burial sites will be disturbed by the alignment of the proposed new high speed rail link (initially) between London and Birmingham. The proposal has already cost the government, as in 'taxpayer', £1bn and it hasn't yet received formal approval, at least in its final form. The line will cost £37m per mile and a whole 20 minutes will be saved on the London to Birmingham route! The Chairman is the highest paid civil servant at £750,000 per annum. The HS2 headquarters is not in the back streets of Wolverhampton but in Canary Wharf.

For those interred along the route the words ‘Rest in Peace’, a short idiom wishing external rest to somebody who has died, are likely to have a very hollow ring. The final business case has not yet been made but one wonders how much has been set aside for re-burials and whether cost will override quality in the selection of the deceased’s final resting place?

BASKET CASE

We have all seen wonderful oak coffins priced out of the market and beyond the reach of the common man and in many cases replaced, through clever promotions and fancy marketing techniques, by so-called ‘eco-friendly’ (for that read ‘el cheapo’ qualitatively) versions, which still cost an arm and a leg for a ‘big basket’. However some control is now being exercised by the agreement of minimum national standards in the quality of materials used and standard of construction in the manufacture of coffins. Steps are being taken to implement these standards and to enforce them by law. So, from now on be buried with a Kitemark whatever the cost!!

FRIENDS AND FUNDS

The FBWC currently has 92 fully paid up members and a bank account credit of £4,803.81, with an additional £85.34 in terms of working floats and petty cash; £4889.15 in total.

DISAPPOINTING PUBLIC CLEARANCE DAY

Although most of the news appearing in ‘The BROADSHEET’ is always extremely positive the public response to our public cemetery clearance day on 4 April 2015 was, by our standards, disappointing. Only a couple of members of the public turned up to assist our FBWC stalwarts, despite the publicity effort. The morning was a success but was comparable only to one of our standard ‘last Saturday of the month’ maintenance days.

The main reason for the failure was bleak and slightly damp weather but also because when the date was chosen it was not realised that 4 April 2015 was Easter Saturday; a case of ‘live and learn’ perhaps? Thanks to all who contributed to the day in whatever capacity.

One chap turned up who commendably took the entire task very seriously indeed and here we see him merely warming up with an amazing array of power tools! Good for him.



CEMETERY HUMOUR

Over the past 25 issues the Editor has included hundreds of cemetery and death related musings in the form of jokes, stories and even headstone inscriptions. Here is another small selection for your edification! Items are obtained from many sources [redacted]

[redacted]

The Best way to get praise is to die!

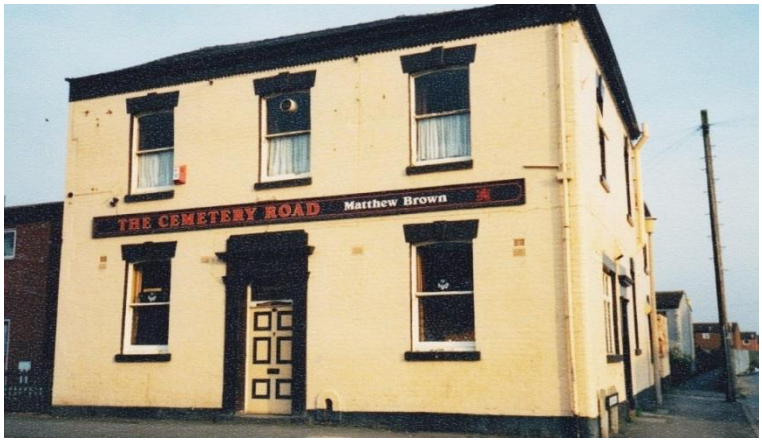
My uncle was crushed by a piano. He had few friends and his funeral was very low key.

What do you call an Irishman who has been dead for 1,000 years? "Pete"!

I'm always amazed to hear that aircraft victims have been identified by their dental records. If they don't know who you are, how do they know who your dentist is?

There is a terrible heatwave and sadly an elderly couple perish due to the high temperatures. The local undertaker can't cope so the ambulance driver takes the corpses to the taxidermist to see if he can help preserve the bodies." I'll do what I can" says the taxidermist "but do you want them mounted"? "Nah", says the ambulance driver "just holding hands will be fine"!

Is this the one place that we can all have a last drink? Sorry, the Preston pub closed in 1999!!



Seen on BBC TV re an advert for a Radio 2 programme: "Jeremy Vine presents news, views and live guests"! Glad there were no dead'uns - Ed!

THANKS TO AND FROM THE EDITOR

Your Editor has never in the past 7 years touted for any re-action to the publication of every issue of 'The BROADSHEET' however he would like to thank (as a one-off) the following individuals for their unsolicited messages, received via e-mail after the publication of the 24th Spring 2015 issue.

Rosemary Pearson: "Once again, thank you for another bumper edition of the BROADSHEET". Thank you Rosemary.

Pam Stepney: "Many thanks for the wonderful BROADSHEET." Thanks Pam.

John Stepney: "Always a pleasure to receive." Thank you John.

Carole Manning: "Thanks John for another excellent BROADSHEET." Thank you Carole.

Sally Roberts: "Thank you John for all your hard work putting the BROADSHEET together. As always it is a really good read." Thank you Sally.

Tom Wye: "I agree with Sally's comments, a very enjoyable read." Thanks Tom.

Humphrey Palmer: "I have to say that the BROADSHEET is a terrific read." Thanks very much Humphrey.

John Mitchell: "Thank you John, a very enjoyable read." Thanks John.

Mike Searle: "I nearly fell off my chair laughing at the rude ones in 'Cemetery Humour'." Thanks Mike.



Springtime at Paul's Corner – a real splash of colour – before Council strimming destruction!

GLASGOW CEMETERY DEATH - 8 YEAR OLD CRUSHED BY HEADSTONE

We have probably all talked about the present day Health and Safety regulations 'rubbish' and we have probably all 'done a Meldrew' and mumbled that cemeteries are not playgrounds for children, or complained that the parents of very young children should know where they are at 19.25 in the evening.

However, whatever ones point of view, tragedy struck at Craigton Cemetery on Glasgow's south side on 26 May 2015. Eight year old Ciaran Williamson was playing with two ten year old friends when a substantial gravestone toppled over and fell on the three youngsters. The alarm was raised and emergency services were summoned. The eight year old Ciaran was taken to Yorkhill Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

One of the ten year olds was also taken to Yorkhill where hospital staff described his condition as stable. The other lad was taken to South Glasgow University Hospital and was later discharged. Inquiries were continuing to determine the full circumstances surrounding the incident however they were not treating the incident as suspicious. A report was being prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

Cemeteries are full of potential danger and the FBWC always give warnings about the risk of hazards before tours. In Glasgow a safety check was being made on the stability of all headstones. Our walls and fences discourage playing in 'our' cemetery but we must never be complacent.



The Lelliott graves have been cleaned but give the impression of being painted white.

CLUMSY COUNCIL MAINTENANCE

The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have built-up an excellent relationship with our local authority officials and we are in contact to discuss a range of matters affecting the cemetery. We will shortly again be addressing the subject of mowing/strimming policy and timescales.

Having said that the Friends were hugely saddened following a late April 2015 grass cut when 'sit-on' mowers and cutting machinery smashed a number of horizontal memorial stones as a result of careless and/or ultra 'gung-ho' operatives.



Damage of this type and of this scale (see picture above) must be heart-breaking for relatives and seems to be an avoidable irony that so much time is spent by the Friends looking after the cemetery, cleaning and discovering headstones, only to see existing ones smashed almost before their eyes. This subject will be raised with the Council officials to ensure there is no repeat of such appalling incidents.

MORE SMASHED GRAVESTONES BUT THIS TIME THE NEWS IS GOOD


[Photo: Gill Heasman]

On one of our monthly clearance mornings (always the last Saturday in the month from 10.00 until 12.00) Friend Gill Heasman was removing and trimming undergrowth on a cemetery

path that had long been disused. As the brambles and ivy were cleared Gill became aware of a small headstone in the shape of a heart, which belonged to a child's grave or that of her family. The child's name was Jennifer May West who died on 25 January 1947 aged only one month!

Paul Robards, being the fine fellow he is, said that he thought he might be able to affect a repair because the stone was in only two pieces. In the meantime Gill mentioned the discovery to researcher Sue Nea who thought it would be interesting to try and contact the family and let them know what was going on at Worthing. She traced the family to Lutterworth in Leicestershire and then Gill tried social media to make contact via Facebook. Notwithstanding Sue's research, which was made available to the family, they did not think that they were the (distant) family of Jennifer.

Although there was little further action that could be taken regarding the background of Jennifer there was a happy ending in one respect, in that Paul managed to save and repair the small headstone and Gill replaced it in the correct location. Long may baby Jennifer be remembered.



[The repaired headstone]

NON-POLITICAL CONGRATULATIONS

The BROADSHEET is essentially non-political but we would like to congratulate our FBWC President, **Tim Loughton**, our valued Friend, **Sir Peter Bottomley** and our Patron, **Major Tom Wye,** on their respective election successes as MP for East Worthing and Shoreham, MP for Worthing West and Borough Councillor for Tarring, respectively. The Friends only move in high places!!

ASHES TO ASHES?

There a shocking but growing trend for the relatives of cremated deceased persons not bothering to collect their ashes from funeral directors. This is a national problem as the number of containers continues to grow. Funeral directors have requested that the standard cremation form includes a statement that stipulates that unclaimed ashes are returned to the original crematorium after a specified time period, with the crematorium having the responsibility of locating someone associated with the deceased person to arrange for collection.

If this proved not to be possible the crematorium would have to arrange for the respectful disposal of the remains. It was emphasised that the legal and practical responsibilities would need to be detailed by statute and an audit trail would be an essential part of any legislation. Acceptable standards would need to be adopted throughout the industry. Thanks to the NFCF for this information.

MARY's CEMETERY 'WILD'LIFE

This photo feature shows some of our little friends as seen in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery through Mary Pickett's camera lens during the past year.







Some very interesting species - illustrated by Mary.

FAMILIES JOIN CEMETERY TOUR

By Rosemary Pearson and Sue Nea [Photos: Mary Pickett]

When researching the lives of people interred in 'our' cemetery that are to be included on our tours, it is always pleasing to make contact with their relatives. It is even better if those relatives are able to attend the tour**. In the case of the Glover family** contact came about following a series of fortunate coincidences.

When the decision was made by the research group to base a tour on the topic of 'Transport', I had opted to do the research on Richard Glover, one of the last old stage-coach drivers who

had retired to Worthing. It was while working on this at the beginning of the year that I was informed that Dr Janet Pennington was giving a talk about stage-coaching in Sussex to members of the West Sussex Archives Society. As non-members were invited to attend, I thought it would be too good to miss as the talk might provide some useful background information.

Meanwhile, a descendant of the stagecoach driver had also heard about the talk and she had informed her father. He was unable to attend but he kindly e-mailed information and images about his great great grandfather's life as a coachman to the organiser, Leigh Lawson, who put it on display. I discovered that the coachman in question was none other than Richard Glover! How fortunate was that!

After being put in touch with Murray Glover, who had provided the information, e-mails were soon flying back and forth with further images and fascinating details of Richard Glover's life being received, which proved invaluable to the research.

Although Murray was unable to attend the tour, we were delighted that his daughter Katie and her husband Steven O'Melia were able to come along. Sadly the graves of Richard Glover and his brother, Newman, also a coach driver, are both unmarked but the Friends were able to locate them from the burial records and Katie is photographed at the site of Richards's grave in B6-7-3. [Rosemary Pearson]



In the case of the Stent family, we were recently contacted, via our website, by Debbie Bridle who was asking our advice about clearing her great grandparents' grave in 'our' cemetery. Debbie explained that there were a lot of brambles and a tree/bush at the site of the grave. She said that her great grandparents were called Enoch and Lillian Stent.

Coincidently, the following Saturday 6 June 2015, we were holding our 'Transport' in Worthing tour at the cemetery and we were including the Stent family as they played an important part in Worthing's transport history, being well known cab/fly drivers in the town. I checked census returns online and found that Enoch was indeed the son of George Stent who ran a fly cab business from Ann Street, just east of the old Town Hall in Worthing.

I contacted Debbi to let her know about the tour and she was pleased to be able to attend with her daughter, and find out a lot more information about her Stent ancestors. We were able to look at Enoch Stent's grave and have agreed that the Friends will help to clear it on our next clearance morning, which was then Saturday 27 June 2015. We also took Debbi to see the grave of her great great grandparents, George and Sarah Stent together with the grave of George's brother, John Stent, who ran a fly cab business alongside George; both sons following in their father's footsteps as Charles Stent was also a fly cab driver. Below, Debbi and her daughter are seen at John Stent's grave. [Sue Nea]



FIRST CEMETERY 'SELFIE'?

This is the claim by our Vice Chairman, Sally Roberts, photographed centre, with Anne Powell left and Mary Pickett right – all with their maintenance minder!! Nobody can say that the Friends are not up to date technologically. We even 'do' Facebook while ladies Twitter!


[Photo: Sally Roberts]

PICKETT'S PUBLISHING By Mary Pickett

As briefly mentioned in the last issue the FBWC has purchased a brand new Brother HL-2365DW printer. The primary purpose was to make the printing and therefore production of our popular booklets a much easier operation. [This onerous task is primarily undertaken by our Membership Secretary, Mary Pickett, who apparently has the printer located in her home office – Ed.]. It produces quality reproductions, superior to the photocopier which was previously used. The machine can be used as a standard printer and is now being used for printing and sending copies of 'The BROADSHEET' to Friends who are not on electronic mail, printing posters and other paperwork needed for publishing our tours.

It is a duplex printer, which means it has the facility to print double sided documents – an essential part of the production of the booklets. Research by our Chairman, Debra, sourced this model as being suitable for our purpose and, so far, it is proving invaluable. Once the original booklets, made using Office Publisher, are completed, they are then converted to a PDF format from whence the booklets can be simply printed out in batches ready for the laminated covers to be added and stapled together. The toner cartridges are proving to be reasonably economical and the whole process, although still time consuming, has become more streamlined.

DOGGY DOINGS AND DOO-DOOs

Man's best friend has been much in the news at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, some good news and some not so good. Large numbers of local folk exercise their dogs in the cemetery and the majority keep their dogs on leads and clear up 'afterwards'. Recently the Friends asked for the Worthing dog warden to be more vigilant. Going by the evidence photographed below there has been an improvement in 'picking-up'; witness the doo-doo bags visible in the photograph below. However this is not a 'dog bin' but a general rubbish bin, although bin disposal of any sort is better than none!



Apparently there are signs with different messages on each of our two entrances, one saying no dogs allowed and the other that dogs must be on leads. We will approach the Council for action on that one. On the bright side we have again had some dogs on our recent tours and the photograph below shows a very well behaved and very welcome doggy on our 'Transport' tour on 6 June 2015. However we do require the now smelly bins to be emptied regularly!


[Photo: Mary Pickett]

SPRING MAINTENANCE ILLUSTRATED

Normally our Maintenance Coordinator, Paul Robards, reports on progress with our clearance duties, informs us of what plants have been seen growing and flowering in the cemetery and details any wildlife sightings that have been observed by him or other friends. In this 25th issue of 'The BROADSHEET' we have, on this occasion, shown below maintenance in action by the six to sixteen volunteers that have turned out on the last Saturday of every month in the first six months of 2015. Paul has named them and thanked them in his monthly reports. The weather has been kind. [Third image below: Mary Pickett, others by the Editor.]



Crikey that's better than my DVD player at home!



Two of our lovely mature ladies in action!



There's plenty more room in that barrow!



They say there's great strength in numbers!

Albert William Lisher - alias 'Curly' [1896 to 1933] By David Styles

My maternal grandfather Albert William Lisher (known as Curly) was born at 131 Newland Road, Worthing on 21 November 1896. He was the son of Reuben Lisher and Jessie Kate (nee Welham) who married in Lewisham, London in 1893. Before marriage Reuben was serving as a private in the 20th Royal Hussars in Aldershot and before that he was a 'fruit-grower journeyman'. In the Hussars he was an army cook. Their first daughter Elsie was born in 1889, four years before their marriage. Albert also had an older brother, Frederic Harry who was born in 1895.



Albert the chauffeur/driver. [Photo courtesy David Styles]

Reuben Lisher, died at the early age of 36 in 1900 of chronic gastroenteritis leaving Kate to bring up three children. The family were living in Brougham Road, Worthing in 1901, where Kate was letting out rooms. Daughter Elsie was a mother's help and Frederic was a printer's apprentice.

My mother was not forthcoming with information about Albert's early childhood but I have always assumed that he went to Sussex Road primary school, or possibly the school in Howard Street, Worthing. Albert joined the Army Service Corps as a driver and spent time in Mesopotamia, part of modern day Iraq, and Kuwait. He was injured in his right arm and came home to convalesce at St Mary's home in 'Westbrooke'.



Albert in the centre right of the group. [Author]

In October 1919 Albert married Alice Maud Humphrey at St Paul's church in Chapel Road, Worthing. His wife was born on 1891 at 10 Crescent Road some three months out of wedlock. Albert and Alice started their life together at 15 Chatsworth Road, Worthing and then in turn lived at 33 Broadwater Street West, 23 Carnegie Road, 2 Thorn Road, 2 Eastcourt Road and 32 Hertford Road. At the latter address his bedroom was, curiously, painted in red distemper throughout. The couple had four children, the eldest being Stanley, Jo (my mother), Violet and the youngest a baby girl who died at the age of only four years. She is also buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery.

Albert caught scarlet fever and pneumonia; he was transferred to Swandean Hospital, where he died of cardiac failure on 24 June 1933, aged only 36, ironically the same age that his father had died. During his time in the civilian world Albert was a motor taxi driver and he managed up to a dozen other drivers of both taxis and coaches, while working for the Silver Queen Motor Services Company based in Worthing, with offices adjacent to the old Grafton House. Between the First World War and his years driving taxis and working for the coach company in 1931, he was also a chauffeur. As an aside he was also in the choir at St Paul's church.

As a matter of interest, Albert's eldest son Stanley was in the Coldstream Guards and completed his training at Caterham in Surrey. He was killed with six other soldiers in September 1940 and his name is included on the Worthing War Memorial by the Town Hall.

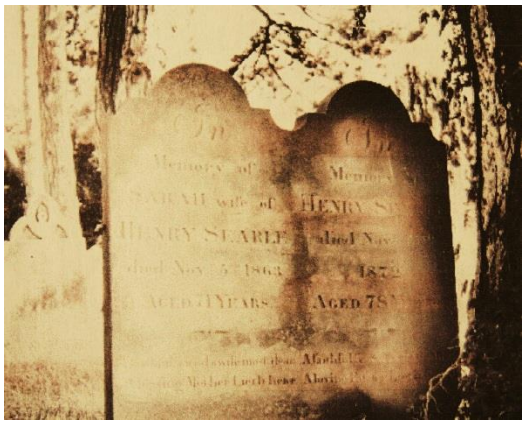
Albert William Fisher ('Curly') was featured in the Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery's 'Transport in Worthing' tour on 6 June 2015. He is buried in grave B14-1-11.

HENRY AND SARAH SEARLE

By Sue Nea

In February 2015, I received an e-mail from Mike Searle in Bournemouth; Mike and I had corresponded previously when I was researching one of his ancestors, Jacob Searle, for our Businessmen & Shopkeepers 2 Tour and associated booklet. Mike had kindly provided us with helpful photographs and information.

The purpose of his e-mail was to ask if the Friends could look for the fallen headstone of Henry and Sarah Searle in A2-1-2/3, Mike had a photograph (see below) of the headstone taken in 1986 but knew it had been damaged in the hurricane of 1987.



[Photo: Courtesy – Mike Searle]

I asked Frank Ffitch to help locate the spot where the headstone lay and, once Frank had located the spot, it was clear that it was an overgrown area. On our clearance day at the end of February 2015, both Frank and Paul Robards with the help of Debra Hillman worked hard to expose the stone that had been badly broken. They continued digging and searching and were soon able to piece together the segments that were found, very much like a large stone jigsaw.







[Photos: Mary Pickett]

As soon as I returned home I e-mailed Mike with the exciting news that the headstone had been located and forwarded photographs to him, which were taken by Mary Pickett. Mike was pleased to hear that the Friends had been successful and replied to say "Those are quite amazing pictures, and a remarkable record of the detective work involved in pinpointing and uncovering the stone. I trust the satisfaction of rediscovering it went some way to compensate for all the hard work involved."

By now I was keen to find out a little more about Henry and Sarah Searle and once again Mike was able to supply plenty of information. A brief summary follows (we don't want to give too much away because the Searles are due to be included in our 'Old Worthing Families' tour on Saturday 3 October 2015 and you will be able to hear the whole fascinating story then!).

Henry was born in Sullington, Sussex in 1795; the second son of James and Sarah Searle. His elder brother was the infamous James Searle whose story you can hear about in October. Henry was baptised in Sullington parish church on 5 June 1797, aged two years. Henry and his brother James shared their wedding day, marrying the West sisters in a double ceremony at Lyminster parish church on 14 October 1817; Henry married Mary whilst James married her sister Sarah. Henry and Mary had seven children; Henry 1818, William 1821, James

1823, Charles 1826 all baptised in Goring whilst Mary Ann 1828, George 1830 and Eliza 1833 were baptised in Broadwater.

The 1830s proved difficult for Henry; in 1833-34 he appeared on a list of Broadwater paupers whose weekly allowance from the Parish Guardians was 2 shillings (10p in today's values!). In 1838 his eldest son, Henry, was charged with his cousin, John Searle, and Zachariah Churcher, with the theft of a copper pot from the Royal George Inn at Worthing. Henry alone was found guilty and sentenced to six weeks hard labour. The same year his second son, William, then a 17 year old labourer, died of consumption (known today as tuberculosis).

It was also around this time that Mary died leaving Henry a widower with several young children; however, on 26 July 1841 he married Sarah Longley, a widow, at Broadwater church. It is this Sarah that Henry is buried alongside in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The 1851 census shows Henry living at 36 High Street, Worthing and he was working as a huxter (a peddler of small items), also living with him, amongst others, were his wife Sarah, two of his children from his marriage to Mary West, Sarah's son from her former marriage, Sarah's son-in-law, James Miles, a widower who had been married to Sarah's daughter, and his daughters, Mary and Sarah Miles [almost unimaginable – Ed.].

By 1861 Henry and Sarah had moved to 54 High Street, which is thought to be accommodation with adjoining shop premises, as Henry was by then running a marine store, supplying the local fishermen. On 5 November 1863 Sarah died of chronic bronchitis, aged 71 years. She was buried in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery on 12 November. A year later, on 6 November 1864, then aged 69 years, Henry married his third wife, Mary Gravatt, another widow who was almost 20 years his junior. Once again Henry inherited a family and living with him and Mary was Mary's daughter, Pheobe, her husband Henry Carver and their two small daughters.

Henry died on 15 November 1872 and he was buried with Sarah in A2-1-2/3 on 21 November, in a grave purchased by Henry just before Sarah's death. Mary survived another 27 years and died in 1899 and was buried on 15 April that year in an unpurchased grave in Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, at grave (reference) A8-23-10.

THE SUCCESSFUL 'A' BOARD

Below is an image of the mega successful 'A' board, supplied by Rosemary Pearson, with graphics by Sharon Holden. Sales of our booklets rocketed. Thanks guys!



MASSIVE MAINTENANCE TURNOUT

Saturday 27 June 2015 was a quite delightful day in more ways than one. The weather was near perfect, with sunny periods and not too hot, with a seaside breeze. The other reason was the really encouraging turnout by Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. The role of honour included Mike and Mo Bailey, Sue Nea, Mary Pickett, Gill Heasman, John Vaughan, Frank Ffitch, Tony Clasby, Dot Mcbride, Neila France, Sally Roberts, Mark Enveney, Janet Green, Angie and Antony Allchin and Debra Hillman. Well done everybody we all truly moved mountains, mountains of brambles and undergrowth that is. Below we see some of the happy group in a special BROADSHEET 'seminar' shot. Why not join us next time?



One of the joys of clearance work is the regular 'discovery' of a long lost headstone or marker. This was the prime find (of many funds) on 27 June 2015, a child's classic but modern headstone on what is obviously a family grave. It reads: '**Kelly Maria Sprange – Fell Asleep - 4.7.1982 - Aged 9 Days – Safe in the Arms of Jesus'.** Nearby was a wonderful decorative rose, largely undamaged.



WORTHING U3A QUESTER TOUR

By Carole Manning

Following a talk to the University of the Third Age, given by our Chairman Debra Hillman, the Questers Group requested a private tour of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery. Paul Holden, our Secretary, and Editor of the 'Worthing Journal', volunteered as tour guide.

On a lovely sunny afternoon 14 members assembled at the chapels. After assessing the capabilities of the members, Paul told them a little about the origins of the Friends group before expertly leading them on a general tour.

Many members said they had often passed the cemetery but had no idea about how large it was, or how beautiful, nor had they any knowledge of who had been buried there. They were fascinated by the stories told to them by Paul and several expressed a desire to return.

Following the tour the members browsed the booklets that Friend Sue Nea had kindly put on display, and were given information about the forthcoming tours. At the same time they partook of the refreshments provided [by Carole Manning thanks CM - Ed], which were very welcome on such a warm afternoon. Donations to the Friends amounted to £42 plus a little more for books and refreshments. [Photo below: Paul Holden in action by Sue Nea]



ALL RIGHT MATE?

These two pigeons (one a dove?), have defied the netting to make a home for themselves between the chapels, while also avoiding the security cameras, in the event of any intimacy!



GRASS CUTTING POLICY UPDATE

Friends and readers of the BROADSHEET may be wondering what the latest position is regarding the headline carried in Issue No.24. The position is this: our Maintenance Coordinator Paul Robards is making a presentation to the full FBWC Committee on the evening of 23 July 2015, when the matter will be fully discussed and a course of action recommended for further discussion at a general meeting.

It was devastating to see 14.5 acres of flowers cut down in their prime in June and yet we strive to keep the cemetery in a neat and tidy condition, the usual dilemma! Some form of rotation may be the answer, we will see what transpires. Whatever decision is made we do not want to waste Council time and money, such as occurred with the ridiculous "20s Plenty" campaign, which was thankfully defeated by public referendum. Watch this space…… Once a decision is made representations will be made to the Council and a final policy hopefully agreed.

CROWDS SUPPORT SPANISH FLU TOUR

There was terrific support for the FBWC 'Spanish Flu' tour when at the beginning of July over 60 members of the public and Friends joined Pauline Reed, our tour guide, on a quite splendid day weather-wise. Pauline got so immersed in her subject that she 'whizzed' the tour participants around in a record 45 minutes. The pace was so hot that our refreshment takings were very satisfactory! Excluding refreshments book sales amounted to £58, donations £32 and two new members were recruited, raising £6. Below Debra Hillman leads the throng, although she may have been waving to the photographer! In the second picture we see the sun-drenched crowd listening to Pauline.



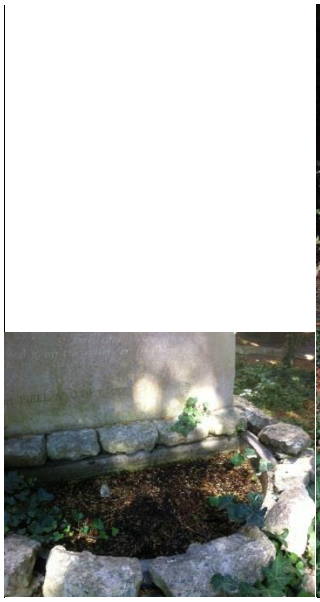


JEFFERIES/HUDSON MEMORIAL AREA

Visitors to the cemetery in the past few weeks will have been treated to an amazing display of poppies, as seen in the photographs attached by the Editor and Mary Pickett.



In the meantime Mary McKeown had been busy planting flowers around the Typhoid Memorial for her forthcoming Sunday tour and noticed that the water hole in the Jefferies/Hudson memorial was bone dry and filled with old plant growth and tree droppings, as seen in the photograph. She soon cleaned it out, filled it with water and found 26p in the mini 'trough', as if somebody had used it as a wishing well! See the 'before and after' photographs below by Mary McKeown, which illustrate the difference made by just a little attention to detail. The Friends can cope with diversity in their wide spectrum of activities!





SUNDAY TYPHOID [RETOLD] TOUR

For the first time in ages the weather for our first of two Sunday tours in our 2015 calendar was poor with fine rain being driven by a strong wind, deterring visitors. In fact compared with 70 visitors in early season Saturday tours only 7 turned up. Not only was it damp but this was a 'retold' tour on the same day as the Men's Wimbledon tennis final. Mary McKeown was a real trooper in conducting the tour as if it was a fine summer's day. She was supported by Sally Roberts, with Gill Heasman and Debra Hillman delivering and collecting markers and Diane Babcock running the bookstall. Well done to them all. Umbrellas were provided for visitors that wanted them and the whole team stuck to their guns. Thank you also to the hardy souls who participated. Below, Mary delivers her pre-tour 'speech'



ALL SUPPORT OUR OPEN DAY

This is a reminder to ALL FRIENDS and readers that our OPEN DAY will take place on Saturday 1 August 2015. This is our showcase day and it would be wonderful if you all turned up. A new tour 'WORTHING: A SEASIDE RESORT' will be conducted at 11.00 and repeated at 14.00. There will be special stands, a find-a-grave service, special information boards, refreshments and a loo! A new booklet will be available for the occasion at the princely cost of £1 (!) and we reasonably expect your support, please. Tell your friends, post it on Facebook or Twitter, put up a poster and let us make it a day to remember.



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS



[Above, Diane Babcock has set out our stall for tour visitors, including booklets, information board and umbrella for our first Sunday tour of 2015.]

Well, that's it! I hope you enjoy this monster 29 page issue for the 25th Anniversary edition of the FBWC 'The BROADHSEET'. Seven years of effort have been expended reporting our every move. This issue contains over 7,000 words and a whopping 51 photographs. I deeply apologise to 'buddies' who must print this magazine but I can guarantee that the size of this issue will never be repeated and the next issue is likely to be, at best, half the size.

I am content to continue as Editor for the foreseeable future, subject to AGM vote but if any of you fancy your hand or think you would like to see some new ideas introduced, a new format, a new style or just a change of Editor, then I would happily acquiesce.

There has never been an editorial as such and personal opinions have been expressed on very few occasions. However it is impossible to edit and produce such a project without editorial freedom and I can honestly say that I have never been interfered with! I am always happy to receive contributions and as I have said many times this is YOUR magazine, so, if you have something to say or share or some demon piece of research that you would like to see in print please send it to me at jamv@ntlworld.com. There are no reproduction fees but you might receive international acclaim, add it to your lifetime CV or be sued!

Finally congratulations to all of the workers and participants who have freely given their time and effort to our cause [you know who you are]. Please attend our OPEN DAY, turn up at our maintenance sessions and continue your membership to a very worthwhile cause. All the very best and enjoy the rest of the summer. The next issue is due on or about 1 December 2015, after our Annual General meeting. I'm off for a rest.

John Vaughan

Editor