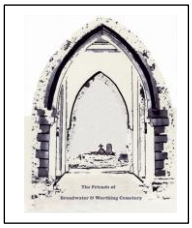
THE FRIENDS OF

BROADWATER AND WORTHING CEMETERY

NEWSLETTER **Issue 52, Autumn 2026**



The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, http://www.fbwc.co.uk/

Message from the Chair

Sally Roberts



(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

It's been a really busy time, plus we've had two very successful social gatherings. Gatherings have been enjoyed by all, and our last one even included a game of bingo with some very large wins by the group! We thank the Broadwater Working Men's Club for making us very welcome this year.

The council continues to give us the Gordon Rooms free of charge for some of our meetings and we thank them.

We've had a vast amount of trouble with homeless people pitching their tents right by the entrance to the cemetery, but with the help of Outreach, the council, and the police, they were rehomed just before our July tour.

All our tours have been well attended this year. We recognised the men who sadly died on SS Zadne and laid a wreath in their memory. Our customers continue to support us regularly and especially enjoy our home-made cakes and refreshments provided by Lorraine McNab and Maria Budd, with Al McNabe in support.

Our research has started again ready for next year and we have chosen six new tours, which is very exciting.

I visit the cemetery regularly but recently I decided to enjoy my lunch in the sunshine there and it is looking beautiful. We now have a good working relationship with the council and a good mix of rewilding and tended areas, meaning much wildlife visits regularly and flora and fauna flourish there. On my lunch visit there were runners, walkers, dog walkers, picnics, people on lunch breaks and a man mowing the grass around the war graves. This is all down to the hard work of our clearance teams headed by Paul Robards and our tour team headed by me. Anita Hobbs does all our advertising and creates our wonderful newsletter with photos now provided by Corinne Bishop. Our booklets are produced by Corina Seal and Mary Mckeown, printed by me, and sold by Rosemary Pearson and Ann Powell.

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All encourage an interest in the history of the cemetery, of old Worthing, and those buried in the cemetery. All in all, our team tend the cemetery, encourage new people to visit and enjoy it, and keep the memory of those in there alive. Thank you to the full team, which consists of far more than those listed by name here.

Next comes our AGM on 27th November, 6pm, at The Gordon Rooms. I look forward to seeing many there, where we will reappoint or newly appoint exec members of FBWC.

You would think we'd have a break then, but no, we enjoy what we do. Clearance continues throughout the winter, and research and planning has, as I said, started again for next year's tours and booklets!

Roll on 2027!

Sally





(Above photos courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

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Tour dates and themes for 2027

We are currently identifying themes and researching individuals for inclusion in our 2027 tours. Please check our website and Facebook page for details nearer the time.

Tours are conducted on the first Saturday of each month (April through to October) unless stated otherwise.

Ideas welcome for future tours

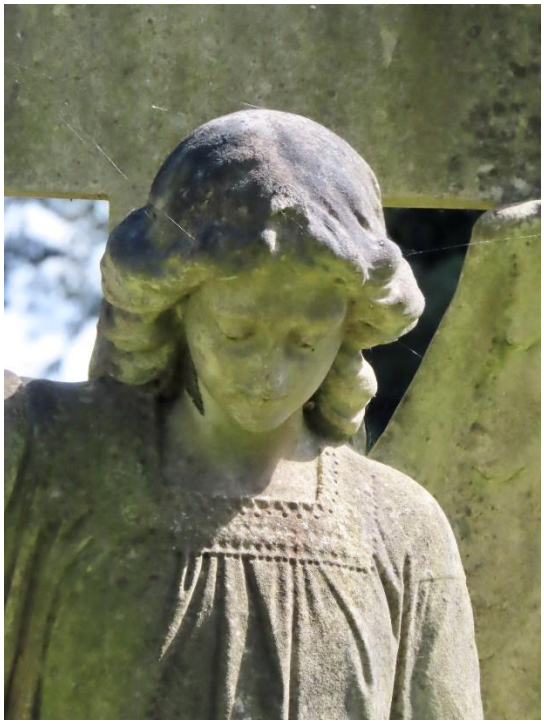
We'd love to hear any ideas you may have for a future tour. Please get in touch with us via our Facebook page. All ideas welcome!

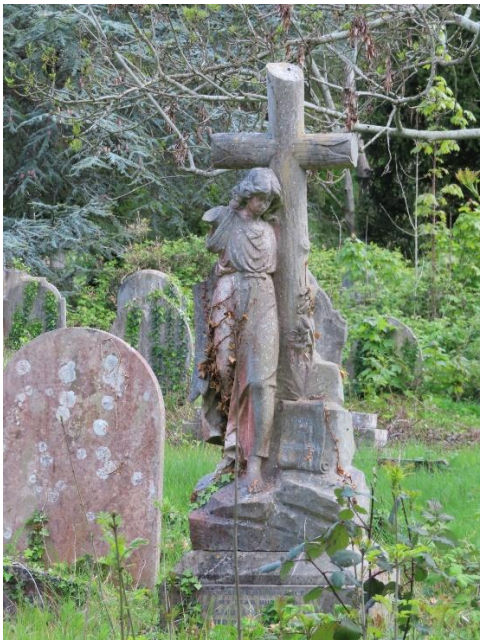


(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

Photos of the cemetery

Courtesy of Corinne Bishop











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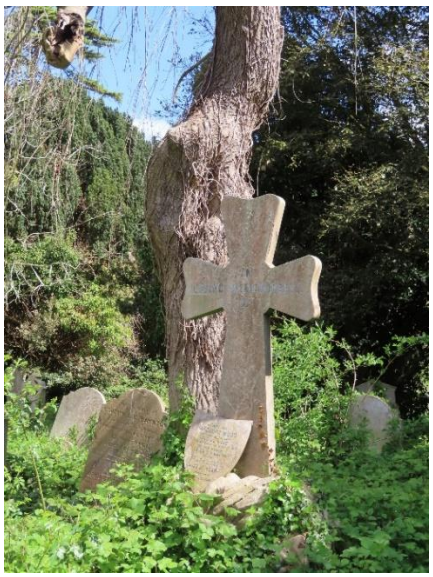

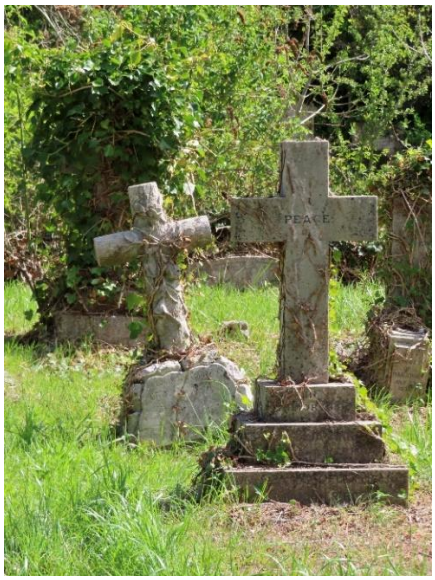



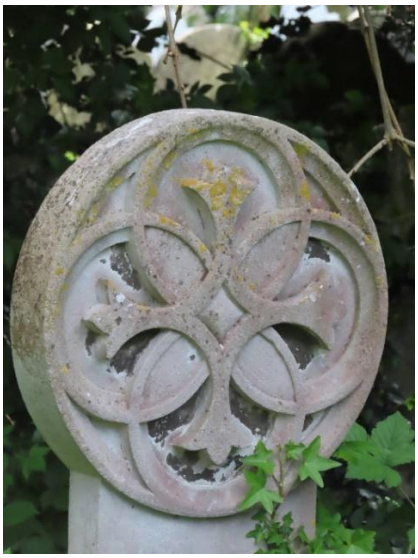



(All photos on this page courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

2026 Tour roundup

April: Pub Crawl 2 Tour

(Tour guide: Sally Roberts.)

Our first tour of the year in April was well attended – we had 65 people on the day – even though it was held over the Easter weekend.



Some of the attendees for our April tour
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

We are planning a Pub Crawl 3 tour for next year, so please look out for that.

May: Ancestors to Epitaphs Tour

(Tour guide: Corina Seal.)

We attracted 54 attendees at our May tour, which was Corina's first as a tour guide (find her write up of the experience on pages 13–14).



Corina Seal conducting her first tour
(Photo courtesy of Lofty)

June: Sporting Connections Tour

(Tour guide: Jackie Brown.)

There was a yellow weather warning in place for high winds on the day of our June tour. As the trees were in full leaf, it was decided the tour should be moved to the Sunday instead. Sally Roberts amended the cemetery's notices, updated Facebook, and advised members via email.



Tour guide Jackie Brown with attendees
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

(As is always the way, though, on the Saturday morning around 11:00 the winds had dropped and the sun came out!)

On the Sunday, we were joined by 36 members of the public, which included a couple of new people because of the Sunday change.

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We visited ten graves on the day. One of those graves belonged to Herbert Collet, who was once the head of Worthing Football Club (see also grave clearance page 18).

July: American Connections Tour

(Tour guide: Sally Roberts.)

A funny thing happened the week before the July tour. Sally Roberts and Mary Mckeown were walking the cemetery and placing markers on the graves selected for the tour, when Mary almost disappeared looking for one of the graves!



Mary Mckeown disappearing in the cemetery's long grass
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

Sally and Mary also bumped into fellow volunteer Jane Daley doing her regular litter pick.



Jane Daley and Sally Roberts
(Photo courtesy of Mary Mckeown)

Also before the tour day, while marking out the tour's route, Lesley Hember, Anna Hember, and Sally Roberts came across this lovely lady who was picking blackberries with her children.



(Photo courtesy of Lesley Hember. Permission obtained.)

The lady said that she is always in the cemetery. She picks the blackberries as the children love them, and she also picks the cemetery's elderflowers to make elderflower cordial.

Our July tour had 44 attendees.

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Tour guide Sally Roberts
(Photo courtesy of Lesley Hember)



Tour guide Sally Roberts with attendees
(Photo courtesy of Lesley Hember)

July: Nature Matters Trek

(Tour guide: Paul Robards.)

This was an additional item for July.

Although it was a very hot day, Paul did four walks in total, with no more than six people per walk. All had prepaid £2 each, which included a booklet.



One group for the Nature Matters Trek with tour guide Paul Robards (fourth left)
(Photo courtesy of Mary Mckeown)

Paul prepared for the trek by walking the route with his daughter first, taking photos of the plants and labelling them.



Paul Robards marking out the route for the Nature Matters Trek
(Photo courtesy of Louise Marshall)

Also helping him on the day were Barbara Shaw, Connie Gutjahr, and Mary Mckeown.

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Mary Mckeown manning the book stall
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Mary asked one couple (named Deb and Jon) for their comments on the trek.

They said, 'An interesting and informative walk with Paul, learning more about plants, insects and butterflies. Thank you very much, Paul. A lovely idea and we would come again.'



Paul Robards with one of the small groups
(Photo courtesy of Mary Mckeown)

August: Fascinating to Mysterious Tour

(Tour guides: Pauline Reed and her grandson Oliver Dempster-Reed.)

Our August tour was attended by 63 people, with at least five of those being first timers.

Another first timer was Oliver, Pauline's grandson, who helped host the tour alongside Pauline.



Tour guides Oliver Dempster-Reed and Pauline Reed
(Photo courtesy of Sue Nea. Permission obtained)

At aged 10, Oliver is our youngest ever tour guide!



Oliver Dempster-Reed, aged 10
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards. Permission obtained)

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Although it was an extremely hot morning, everyone appeared to enjoy the tour – so much so that one lady even gave Oliver money for an ice cream!



Pauline Reed and Oliver Dempster-Reed with attendees
(Photo courtesy of Sue Nea)

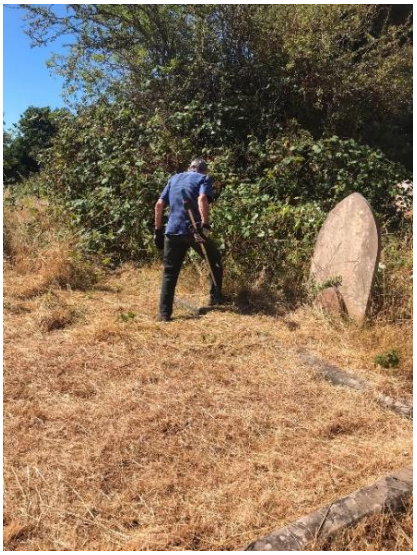
September: The Nuns to Zadne Tour

(Tour guides: Sally Roberts, Lesley Hember, and Anna Hember.)

Preparations for our September tour started in early August. One of the graves selected for the tour was the *Zadne* grave. (The SS *Zadne* was a vessel that went down off the coast of Worthing in 1894.) Being a particularly long grave, Sally and her husband George started to strim it before August's clearance day at the end of the month.



Sally Roberts strimming the Zadne grave
(Photo courtesy of George Roberts)



George Roberts clearing the area around the Zadne grave
(Photo courtesy of Sally Roberts)

On the day of the tour, we were blessed with good weather as well as 60 people in attendance. This included eight people who had not been on a tour before and two who had never been in the cemetery before.

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Our booklet table
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

This tour included some of the nuns who were part of the Sisters of Sion. We have 32 nuns buried in the cemetery. Many of their graves, however, are without their metal crosses because they were needed as part of the war effort.

As previously mentioned, the graves of 13 crew members from the SS *Zadne* vessel also formed part of this tour. We paid tribute to each one of the crew members by name and laid a beautiful wreath, made by Mary Mckeown, in their memory.



Sally Roberts as tour guide
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Lesley Hember as tour guide
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Anna Hember as tour guide
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

October: Alter Egos Tour

(Tour guide: Sally Roberts.)

On our last tour of the season we were joined by 63 members of the public, eight of which were visiting the cemetery for the first time.

Before each tour starts, we are fortunate to have volunteers providing refreshments and cakes for a small donation.



Lorraine McNab (L) and
Maria Budd (R) on our refreshment stand
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

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(From L to R) Mary Mckeown, Sally Roberts, and Frank Fitch before the tour
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Gathering by the chapels before the tour
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Our attendees en route
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Sally Roberts as tour guide
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Sally Roberts and attendees
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

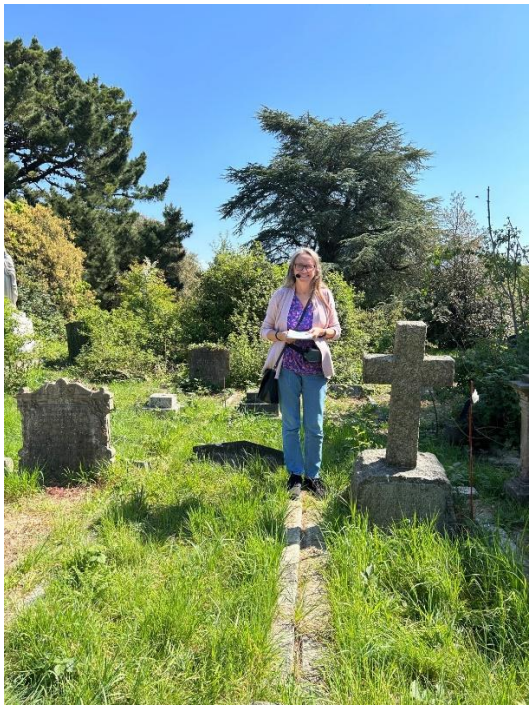
Thank you to everyone who made these tours possible, and all those who attended them. We really appreciate your support.

There will be six new tours for 2027. Our tours will recommence in April and will be announced via our Facebook page nearer the time.

We look forward to welcoming you all again next year.

Meet one of our volunteers… Corina Seal

Corina joined our group in June 2024, helping initially with clearing sessions. She attended her first research meeting with us in March 2025, where she wrote an article for the 'Old Worthing Families' tour later that summer. Our May tour was Corina's first as a tour guide. Below, she explains how she prepared for the tour.



Corina Seal conducting May's Ancestors to Epitaphs Tour – her first as a tour guide (Photo courtesy of Mary Mckeown)

By Corina Seal

The May tour 'Ancestors to Epitaphs' was my first tour, so I was keen to be well prepared and walked the route at least six times before the day!

Sally Roberts had selected the graves to be included: they were the graves of people with surnames from A to E who had been part of earlier tours. I located the original articles in early booklets and checked and amended them where necessary, adding to the stories when my research turned up new information.

I was keen to keep the theme of Ancestors and Epitaphs running through the tour, so delved a bit deeper into the families of the individuals and tried to find examples of epitaphs or memorials where I could. I put the booklet together with the individuals in alphabetical order but then worked out the order to visit the graves according to their positions in the cemetery. I then reorganised my speaking notes in the order of the tour. There was far more information in the booklet than I could cover in the time available, so I edited my notes until I had something that would fit into an hour.



Corina with attendees on our May tour (Photo courtesy of Lofty)

I felt really well supported by the committee throughout the preparations and on the day of the tour. Mary Mckeown, who has a sharp eye for detail, helped me make sure all my facts were correct. Sally Roberts reassured and advised me on presenting the tour – and her own tour in April was a great example of how to keep the participants involved.

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Anna Hember had helped me learn the route on clearance day, a week before the tour, and was a super guide keeping the tour group heading in the right direction on the day. The home-made cakes, which were delicious, and coffee provided by Lorraine McNab and Maria Budd kept my energy levels up.

I was concerned before the tour that I would get asked difficult questions, but in fact nobody asked any. People were happy to engage with my questions though. For example, I asked them what they thought a journeyman baker was. (A journeyman baker is someone who has completed an apprenticeship but has not yet achieved Master status.)

Everything went smoothly on the day. I'd practised using the headset and speaker the week before and I remembered to turn it on and off at the right times (something I was worried I'd mess up!). My voice held out for the whole hour, helped by the essential bottle of water I took round with me. It helped that I'd done a 'dress rehearsal', taking my husband round the tour a couple of weeks before the day. He gave me useful feedback which led to me editing my speel.

The weather had been quite unpredictable in the days before the tour, but we were lucky to avoid the showers that arrived after the tour ended.

There were over 50 people at the tour.

Corina



Corina at one of the graves on the tour (Photo courtesy of Lofty)



The cemetery on the day of the May tour (Photo courtesy of Lofty)

Join us!
Become a volunteer

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer with us. There are plenty of ways you can help, plus we also have some specialised volunteering roles that we're eager to fill:

'Adopt a grave' volunteers

We're after volunteers who would like to 'adopt a grave' from our list of graves that need some tender loving care. This role involves general grave maintenance.

Volunteer for wildlife areas

We're looking for help managing our wildlife areas. This involves preparing and strimming certain areas, plus sowing plants ready for next spring.

Volunteer researchers

We're seeking researchers to come and join our team who are interested in exploring family and local history, and who have access to online sources.

Website volunteer

We would welcome any help with updating our website.

If you're interested in any of these roles, please get in touch via our Facebook page.

Thank you!

Volunteer news...

We welcomed Al McNabe to our research team. Al also helps the ladies on our refreshment stand.

We had three new tour guides this year. Corina Seal led her first tour in May (see pages 6, 13 and 14), Jackie Brown led hers in June (see page 6), and our youngest ever tour guide at aged 10, Oliver Dempster-Reed, led his first tour in August alongside his grandparent, Pauline (see page 9).

Also, we will be working on a project next year with Worthing Heritage that involves recruiting Duke of Edinburgh candidates.



Wild carrot taken in June
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



Everlasting sweet peas in July
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Work that we've done over the last few months…

- Storeroom cleared and tidied
- Tour planning
- Research meetings held
- Light clearance work
- Graves cleared for tours (see pages 17–21)
- Sowing of wildflower seeds
- Supervising Northbrook College students and Duke of Edinburgh volunteer
- Investigating the Green Flag Award
- Liaising with local council





Area cleared by Paul Robards in November
(Photos courtesy of Paul Robards)

Work started…

- Clearing of brambles for the protected wildflower areas
- Reprinting of our most popular booklets
- Working on our website

What work still needs to be done…

- A second information map/board to be repaired (see image below)
- Deciding 2027 tours
- Further sowing of wildflower seeds



Deteriorating information map/board at the Carnegie Road entrance
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

CAN YOU HELP?

We need various items to carry out our work at the cemetery. If you can donate any of the following, please get in touch via our Facebook page. Thank you!

- Garden shears
- Wooden bird boxes
- Wildflower seeds

Clearance days

The Friends hold clearance days on the last Saturday of every month (January through to December).

Light clearance work is carried out on these days, as well as general grave clearance. Our volunteers also help to clear the graves that will be shown as part of our tours.

While we are very fortunate to have regular volunteers come and join us on our clearance days (see some of our friendly volunteers below), more volunteers are always welcome.

If you are interested in outdoor volunteering roles, such as adopting a grave or helping with our wildlife areas, we'd love to hear from you. Please see page 15 for our volunteering opportunities.



Clearance volunteers Anna Hember and Lesley Hember (July 2026)



Clearance volunteers from L to R:
Corina Seal, Christine Gill, Barbara Shaw, and Rob Seal (Corina's son) (June 2026)



Clearance volunteers Claire and Bryan Phipps (July 2026)
(Volunteer photos taken by Paul Robards)

The photos below show some of the work carried out by our volunteers from May onwards.

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May: the Collet family grave before it was cleared for our Sporting Connections Tour in June



May: The Collet family grave after it was cleared
(Photos courtesy of Lesley Hember)



June: Preparing one of the graves for the American Connections Tour in July
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

July's clearance day was said to be exhausting in the heat, but with extra volunteers a lot was achieved ahead of August's tour.



July: Volunteers Christine Gill and Corina Seal hard at work
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



July: The Marshall family graves before being cleared for the Fascinating to Mysterious Tour in August
(Photo courtesy of Nick Stevens)

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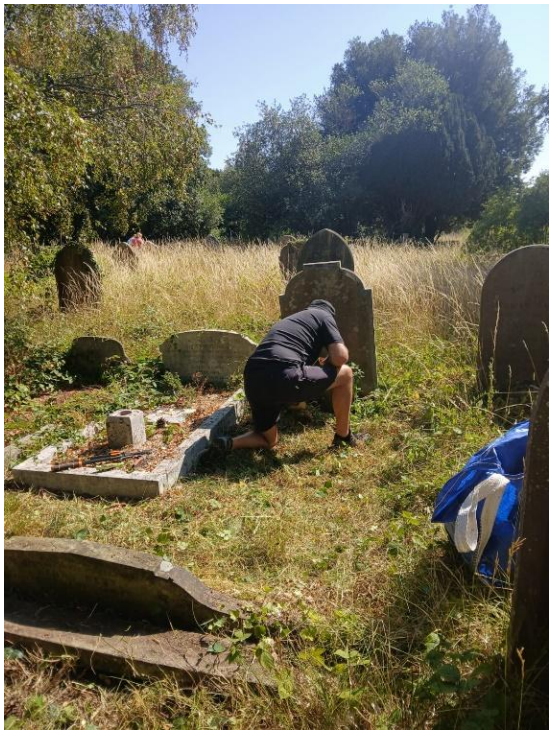

July: Volunteer Nick Stevens in the process of clearing the Marshall family graves
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



July: The Marshall family graves after being cleared
(Photo courtesy of Nick Stevens)

On our August clearance day, the weather was atrocious and we only had a few volunteers… however, a lot was still achieved.



August: Volunteer Barbara Shaw
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



August: Volunteer Nick Stevens
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



August: Grave 'A' before being cleared for our Nuns to Zadne Tour in September
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

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August: Grave 'A' after being cleared
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



August: Alfred Clout's grave before being cleared
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



August: Alfred Clout's grave after it was cleared
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



August: A volunteer hard at work
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

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(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

September's clearance day…



September: The grave of Henry Cooper before being tidied for October's Alter Egos Tour
(Photo courtesy of Lesley Hember)



September: Henry Cooper's grave after being tidied
(Photo courtesy of Lesley Hember)

Thank you to all our clearance volunteers for their hard work.

If you would like to lend a hand on our clearance day, we'd love to hear from you. Whatever time you can offer is very much appreciated. Please feel free to contact us via our Facebook page.

Thank you.

Join us!

Become a Friend

As a Friend

You will receive a twice-yearly newsletter, plus you can have a say in how we manage the cemetery by attending and voting at our AGM in November.

Membership

Membership costs just £5 per year (and runs from January to December).

Membership fees can be paid via a bank transfer or a Standing Order (Lloyds, Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, sort code 30-99-50, account number 65378260).

Please reference your surname with your payment if you are paying by bank transfer or Standing Order.

Cheques to the value of £5 – made payable to 'Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery' – are also welcome.

Membership forms

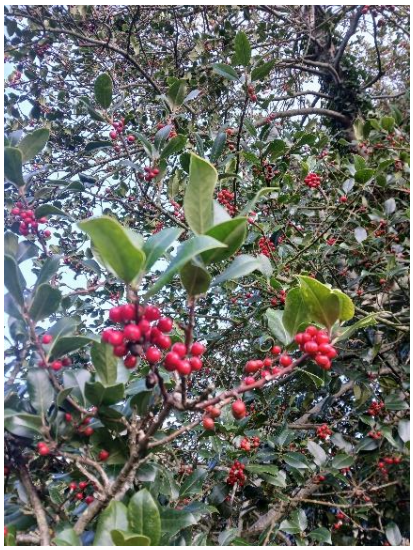
Membership forms are available from our tables on tour days.



The cemetery in April
(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

Other photos taken in the cemetery...





(Above photos taken in October courtesy of Paul Robards)



The cemetery in October
(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)

Nature in the cemetery



A squirrel in April
(Photo courtesy of Corinne Bishop)



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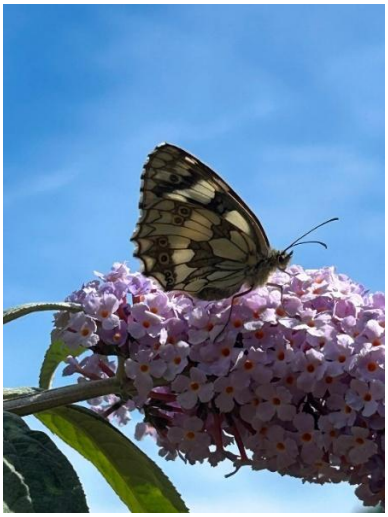
Blue Tit fledglings in May
(Photos courtesy of Mark Newman)



A Marbled White butterfly in June
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)



A Lesser Marsh grasshopper in July
(Photo courtesy of Evan Pugh. Permission obtained)



A Painted Lady butterfly in August
(Photo courtesy of Paul Robards)

Paul's corner



By Paul Robards
Wildlife & Clearance Co-ordinator

We have had a very successful year with our open volunteer 'tidy up' clearance days. The volunteers turn up every month, with smiles on their faces, keen to help clear and tidy the selected graves (see our clearance volunteers on page 17). From March to September, we normally tidy graves that are picked to be included on the tours and that the public will be viewing. We also tidy the route to and from the graves. This includes clearing overhanging brambles and ensuring that the footpaths are accessible and safe to walk. It is quite a task managing the clearance and co-ordinating the work to be done – time challenging but rewarding.

In between the tour graves, I visit and select graves that would benefit from a 'tidy up': the ones covered in ivy and being lost, usually. We can then unveil them and the folk buried within can once again be remembered. We take 'before' and 'after' photos to show the difference, which keeps the interest in the cemetery going.

I also visit throughout the year and survey the cemetery for wildlife. I report on when butterflies, insects, and flowers can be seen, and post photographs on the Friends of Broadwater Cemetery Facebook page.

The council continue to carry out work in the cemetery. While their timing may not always be to my liking, I understand that they have more than just this site to manage. I will continue to carry out 'the duties' of this post for a further year and see what can be achieved.

Whilst visiting the cemetery this past week (during October), in between recent storms, I have noted and photographed the flowers that are still present, and the mushrooms now showing (see photos below) due to the change in weather.

Paul



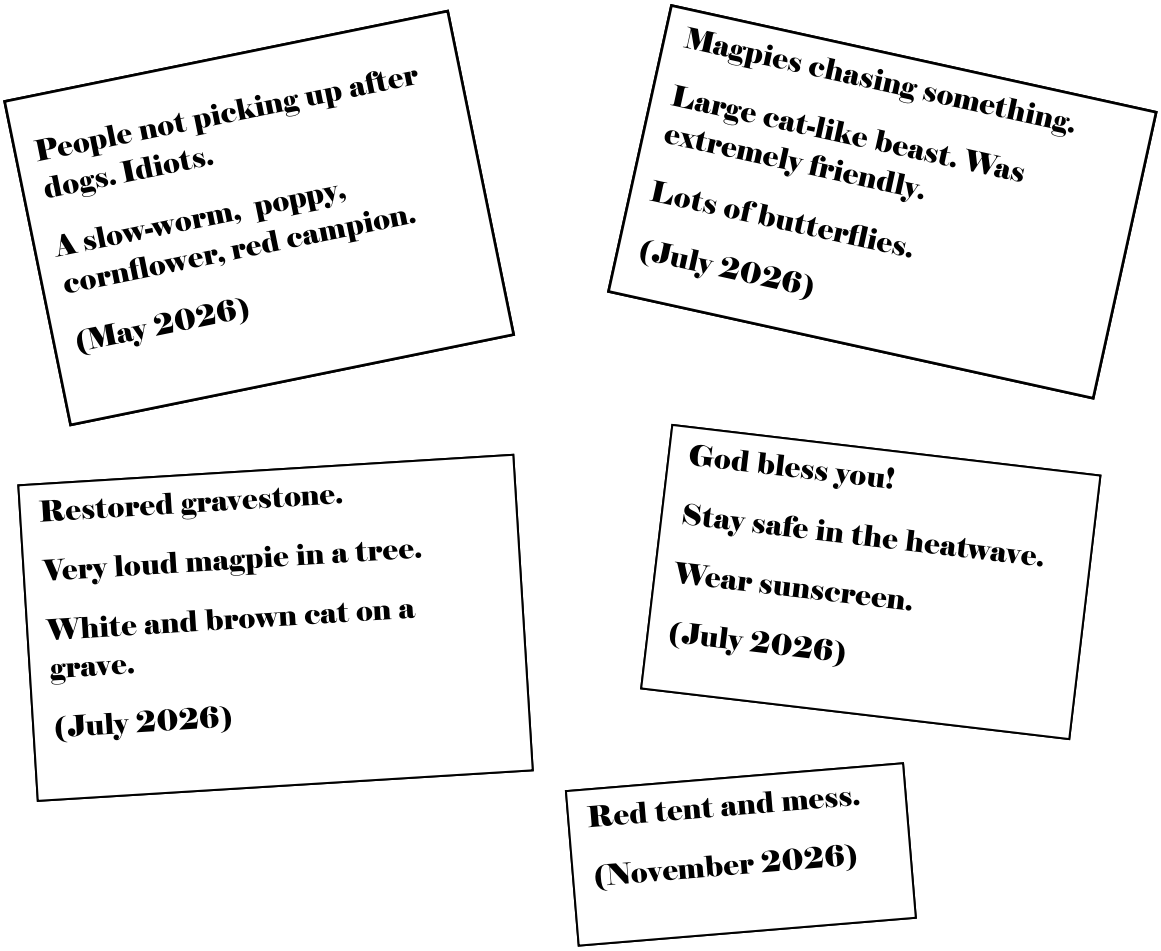


Blackboard observations

Our blackboard is located through the main entrance gates, and on the inside of the archway on the left.

We welcome anyone spending time in the cemetery to note down their observations and comments. We share a few of them here.

(Observations recorded by Paul Robards, Lesley Hember, and Mary Mckeown.)



Please do keep making observations and comments about what you're seeing in the cemetery.

We really value your support, so please feel free to keep in touch with us via our Facebook page.

Thank you!