WORTHING HERITAGE TRAILS 6

CEMETERY TRAIL

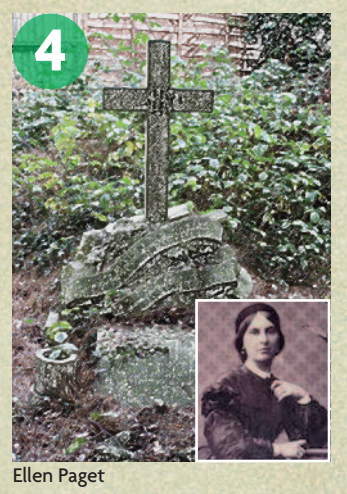
Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery's twin chapels stand at the entrance to the site which extends over approximately 14.5 acres and is the final resting place of about 24,800 individuals. This municipal cemetery was created to meet the needs of the town's growing population as space in local churchyards reached capacity and the first burial took place in May 1863. The entrance to the cemetery via the chapels is situated in South Farm Road, BN14 7AE. The Friends of Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery have supplied the text for this trail leaflet. The Friends run monthly tours during the summer months and have produced several informative booklets. Details of all their activities can be found at www.fbwc.co.uk/

Duration: 60 minutes. Less than a mile (1.5km)
Terrain: Uneven and grassed paths – some sections may be unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
Opening times: 9.00am – 4.00pm

The Worthing Heritage Trail leaflets provide information and visual images relating to local history: those using the leaflets and the website should ensure that they take due care and attention when following the trails. Please note that this trail may not always follow formal pedestrian routes and there may be some roads to cross.

George French

Ann Thwaytes

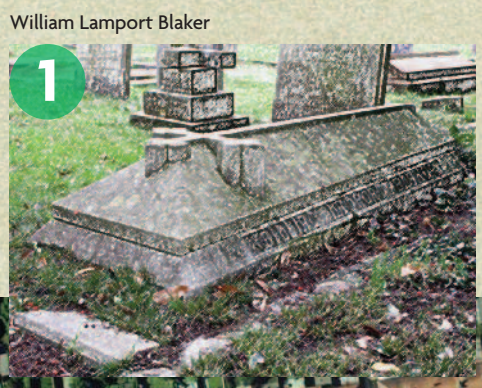


Ellen Paget

Sarah Broadhurst

Typhoid Memorial

William Lamport Blaker



Richard Jefferies

Reverend Edward King Elliot

Alexander Ralli

Reverend Joseph Lancaster

Alfred Cortis

Mary Hughes

Henry Barnwell

Doris Deacon

Zadne

Corporal H.C. Forrest

William Henry Hudson

Ellen Chapman

Corbett family

Slaughter brothers

1 William Lamport Blaker was born in Broadwater, the eldest son of William Blaker and Elizabeth nee Lamport. He began his building career in partnership with his father before setting up on his own. In 1861 he was appointed initially as architect and surveyor for the cemetery, later being awarded the additional contract as builder by proposing the use of Plymouth stone in place of flint as a means of reducing costs. By the time the cemetery opened in 1863 his health was failing and he died in 1865 at the age of 45.

2 Against the South Farm Road boundary is the grave of **George French**, die-hard conservative, joint proprietor of the Worthing Gazette and staunch opponent of the Salvation Army. He was the son of Peter French, himself an influential local newspaper man. George launched the Gazette in 1883 which coincided with the arrival of the Salvation Army in the town. In his inflammatory column in the paper he denounced the Salvationists, whose ideas he felt undermined traditional society, and the police, whom he blamed for provoking the Skeleton Army (opponents of the Salvation Army). He disliked change and opposed proposals for electric street lighting on the seafront. Like his father before him, he made his mark on Worthing, despite dying in middle age.

3 Ann Thwaytes was the wealthy and eccentric widow of a London tea merchant, William Thwaytes. It was the tea from his company which was thrown overboard at the Boston Tea Party of 1773. Ann purchased the Charmandean Estate as a country residence and became known for her philanthropy towards the local community. She distributed coals to the poor and made generous donations to Broadwater Church. She also helped to fund both Dr Dixon's dispensary and the posthumous publication of his book on Geology. Her strange religious beliefs led her to becoming estranged from her family, and although the large plot was purchased as a family grave, Ann remains the sole occupant.

4 Ellen Paget Born Ellen Jane Burnand in 1830, Ellen first married George Burnand, a wealthy merchant and then following a well publicised affair married Sir Henry Paget, the Marquis of Anglesey. Marchioness Ellen and her new husband lived in Marine Parade from 1860. Henry Paget helped form Worthing Cricket Club in 1855, but is more famous for being shot at the Battle of Waterloo 'whilst in the saddle next to the Duke of Wellington'. Ellen Paget passed away on June 6th 1874.

5 Renowned writer **Richard Jefferies** is commemorated by a blue plaque at his final home in Jefferies Lane, Goring by Sea, where he died of tuberculosis aged only 38, having battled against what he called 'the giants of Disease, Poverty and Despair'. Wiltshire-born on a small farm, he wrote his first novels whilst a local newspaper reporter. He moved, with his wife and children, to the Sussex coast – first Hove, then Goring – hoping the sea air would aid his health. He is remembered for his diverse depiction of English rural life in essays, books of natural history, and fiction (see www.richardjefferiessociety.co.uk). There is a memorial garden to Jefferies and Hudson on the West side of the chapel.

6 Reverend Edward King Elliot was the rector of St Mary's at Broadwater for 52 years from 1853 to 1905. He succeeded his uncle, Peter Woods, who had been rector for over fifty years. Elliott was a prolific pamphleteer, who condemned what he considered society's 'morbid craving for change'. He married Mary Elizabeth Richey on June 5th 1853 and they lived at Rectory Cottage. They had two daughters Julia & Alice and a son Edward James. All the family are buried in Broadwater cemetery. Edward James followed his father as rector, from 1905 until his death in 1927. Thus three generations of one family held the position of rector for a total of 130 years.

7 Alfred Cortis was a successful Corn Merchant who became Chairman of the Worthing Board of Health. When Worthing was granted Borough status in 1890, he was elected as Worthing's first Mayor. A generous benefactor to the town, he donated £5,000 towards the establishment of the Museum & Art Gallery, and funded the search for a new drinking water supply at Broadwater after the typhoid epidemic of 1893. He was one of England's finest rifle marksmen, winning numerous trophies and 'The Cortis' competition is still held annually. He collapsed and died in his chair at the end of the Town Council's monthly meeting in October 1912.

8 Mary Hughes While the true origin of the nursery rhyme Mary Had a Little Lamb may be a matter for debate, what is in no doubt is that Mary Hughes and her family believed that she was the inspiration for the poem. Born in Wales and growing up on Ty Issa Farm, Llangollen, Mary would often look after orphaned lambs and one day, during a visit by the three Buel sisters to their farm, one of the lambs followed her to the village school. She said that Sarah Buel (Sarah Hale after her marriage) wrote the poem that day and gave it to her; although she had actually written it some years earlier.

9 The three **Slaughter brothers** lived at 15 Gordon Road, Worthing before joining the army to fight in the Great War. Their memorial is unusual in that it is engraved on both sides. Drummer Walter Slaughter of the 4th Royal Sussex was killed in action at Gallipoli on August 14th 1915 aged just 34. On July 7th 1916 Sergeant Leonard Slaughter died aged 29 at Oxford from wounds received in France. On August 25th 1916 came the tragic news that Sapper Hubert Slaughter of the Royal Engineers died at Canterbury aged 24.

10 A beautiful statue marks the grave of the well-travelled **Corbett family**. Their family home was in Ipoh, Malaysia but when Molly died while at school in Lausanne, Switzerland, at just 15 years old, it was Broadwater that her parents chose for her burial. Her mother, Veronica, a well known tennis player, had married Maxwell Corbett, a mining engineer, when Molly was 10. Both Maxwell and Veronica are also buried here. Maxwell was brought from Mexico where he died in 1944 and Veronica from Australia, where she died in 1985 aged 87. Why Broadwater? Sadly we do not know.

11 The rather modest grave of **Ellen Chapman** (compared to that of Alfred Cortis) does not do justice to this rather formidable lady. She was the first woman to become Mayor of Worthing, the first woman alderman and a firm believer in women's rights (although not the strident actions of the suffragettes). A judge for the Kennel Club both here and overseas, she would often be seen with her much-loved whippets. She was a great benefactor of the poor in Worthing and lived in Ardsheal Road, in a house bordering the cemetery, where the current Fire Station now stands.

12 Raised in Argentina, **William Henry Hudson** arrived in London aged 33, poor in health and finance. Unable to find work as a naturalist, he went on to publish 23 evocative books of natural history, travel and romances, including 'Nature in Downland' (1900). He dedicated this book to Richard Jefferies, whose writings had a profound influence on his own work A memorial garden close to the cemetery chapel commemorates both men.. A passionate ornithologist, Hudson was a founding member of the RSPB . Marrying in 1876, he regularly visited Worthing, where his invalid wife, from whom he was estranged, came to live for health reasons. Hudson died in 1922, a year after his wife.

13 In 1894, the **Zadne**, carrying coal from South Wales, was shipwrecked off Worthing. Though a lone survivor was spotted in a small lifeboat, this sadly flipped over fatally just 300 metres from the shore, so details of the shipwreck remained unknown. Thirteen bodies were subsequently washed ashore – one was returned to Wales, the rest, including two unidentified men, were buried together in a grave marked by this fine memorial paid for by public subscription, which was shamefully vandalised in recent years.

14 Doris Deacon was fondly known as 'Dolly' by her family and customers alike. Dolly was the oldest of the original Worthing flower-sellers. On every possible day for 52 years and in all weathers she manned her flower stall on the Goring Road. Dolly always wore a hat, her trademarks being a bowler hat in winter and a straw boater in summer. Dolly, one of 13 children, passed away in June 2007 and her funeral service at St Mary's Broadwater was packed, confirming her popularity.

15 Corporal H.C. Forrest The grave of Corporal Henry Charles Forrest, whilst being a typical example of the Commonwealth war graves dotted around the cemetery, displays the unusual insignia of the Army Cyclist Corps. Henry was the son of a policeman and had just completed his training as a teacher when war broke out. He was transferred to the South Midland Cycling Corp from the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry and served in France for a year before being invalided home in February 1916. Later that year he married Constance Robertson but their married life was short-lived as he died aged 25, just two years later.

16 Henry Barnwell During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, glasshouse crops were an important feature of Worthing's economy and a number of pioneer nurserymen are buried in the cemetery. Henry Barnwell was barely twenty when he took over the nursery in Crescent Road following the death of his father. Initially in partnership with William Magness, he was later joined by his younger brother, Charles. The nursery had specialised in dessert grapes, but as the market for these declined, tomatoes were becoming increasingly popular and more glasshouses were built on the site. A shop was added later, selling plants, produce and garden sundries.

17 Reverend Joseph Lancaster came to Worthing as the first Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, which was described at the time as having no congregation, no choir, no organ, no tower and debts of £2000. Despite this inauspicious start, he became a much loved and respected member of the community. When the arrival of the Salvation Army to the town led to riots, he invited members to a special service in his church. During the typhoid epidemic of 1893, he worked tirelessly to help those afflicted before he, too, became a victim which led to his death at the age of just 49.

18 Alexander Ralli The grand mausoleum housing Alexander Ralli and wife Emily is modelled on his father's family's crypt in the Greek Orthodox part of London's West Norwood Cemetery. They lived at 10 Heene Terrace, inherited in 1882 from his father, who left an estate worth £437,000 (a huge amount for the time), accumulated in part through the successful family finance and banking business established in London after the family fled from Chios during the Greek War of Independence. On Emily's death in 1902, Alexander moved to Hove, dying in 1916 aged 76, when he was buried here. The mausoleum subsequently served as the hiding-place for Council records during the Second World War.

19 Sarah Broadhurst The rowan tree planted by the Salvation Army is dedicated to the memory of Captain Sarah Broadhurst who is buried in the cemetery in section A6. She led the Salvation Army at Shoreham. The Salvationists were not welcomed by many in Worthing and those who were most vehemently opposed to their views formed a local Skeleton Army. This led to inevitable altercations between the two, culminating in the riots of 1884. Hit in the chest by a large stone during one of the clashes, when the Skeleton Army marched into Shoreham from Worthing, Sarah never fully recovered from the injuries inflicted on her by the mob and she died a few years later, aged 42, in February 1892.

20 Typhoid Memorial The typhoid epidemic of 1893 was a major event in Worthing's history. Temporary fever hospitals were set up all over the town, water tanks were placed in the streets and soup kitchens and relief funds were set up to help the poor. Over 1400 people contracted the disease following contamination of the town's drinking water and of those that lost their lives as a result (approximately 188) the majority were buried in this cemetery. It was therefore fitting that a memorial should be erected here and the Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery are grateful to Co-operative Funeral Care for donating the beautiful polished blue pearl granite stone that now stands in this small memorial garden.

The Friends of Broadwater & Worthing Cemetery, **www.fbwc.co.uk**, were formed to try to restore this cemetery to a peaceful place of rest and to preserve the history contained within it.

The Worthing Heritage Trails are created by the Worthing Heritage Alliance (**www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk**) and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Project Manager: Chris Hare – sussexhistory.hare@gmail.com

For details of local train and bus timetables and routes see **www.westsussex.gov.uk/travelinfo**

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

More information about Worthing can be found at **www.visitworthing.co.uk**
www.worthingsociety.org.uk

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WORTHING HERITAGE TRAILS 6

CEMETERY TRAIL

Broadwater Cemetery – notable burials

Scan to open the guided walk on your smartphone

powered by iwalk

www.worthingheritagetrails.org.uk