



National Federation of  
CEMETERY FRIENDS

[www.fotdc.org](http://www.fotdc.org)

## Chairman's Ramblings

Welcome to all members old and new.

I was concerned that after having nearly a whole year without the Friends being able to meet, that membership would have declined. How wrong I was. Our membership has increased and already since lockdown has eased, we have managed 118 hours of work at the cemetery. So, a **BIG** thank you to you all.

Following on from my last ramblings, we did manage to complete the restoration of the two pre-WW1 graves. We have also arranged to assist Trowbridge Royal British Legion with the placing of the Poppy crosses on all the war graves.

During my research we have found several graves where families have added memorials to loved ones that they lost in combat. I have also found some graves for the fallen that are not marked - all these will have a poppy this year. This research is ongoing so more will be added. I will notify you all when we will be placing these crosses and anybody that wishes to join us will be welcome.

Already this year we have put in two bids for funding. The first to Wiltshire Council is to replace bird feeders and nest boxes that have been damaged by squirrels and woodpeckers. The second is to the Co-op so that we can build the pollination corridor.

This year's goals will be to continue painting the railings and gates (if you have not seen what we are doing take a look), transcribe the headstones on the conformist side of the cemetery.

I have nearly completed the burial records for the non-conformists, this should be completed later in the year.

At long last, we have been given permission to plant fruit trees near Roger Brown's mausoleum, so hopefully we can do this in the autumn. And of course, continue to clear graves of brambles and ivy.

Looking forward to the year ahead and see you all soon.



**Trowbridge**  
Garden Centre



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01225 763927  
[info@trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk](mailto:info@trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk)  
[www.trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk](http://www.trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk)

**Robert**

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers...

**Sergeant Wilfred Jeffery Baker**  
**Service Number 10432**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Bn Wiltshire Regiment**

Wilfred was the second son of William and Annie Baker of 15, Avenue Road, Trowbridge.

He was a pupil at Newtown School and won a county scholarship, continuing his education at the Secondary School.

On leaving school he was employed by Mr Ledbury, before working for the county council land agents.

Wilfred volunteered for service on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914.



He was wounded on August Bank Holiday 1915, near Dickebusche, Belgium, having been shot in the arm. Wilfred was then evacuated to England, first being sent to Brighton Hospital and then on to Wingfield House Red Cross Hospital.



After being in service for four years Wilfred was struck down with influenza which developed in pneumonia. He died on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1918 at the military hospital in Aylesford Kent aged 24.

His body was brought home to Trowbridge where he was buried with full military honours.

*Taken from the book The Great War Trowbridge Soldiers written by Richard Broadhead*

## Not Only in Stone



Back in the autumn of 2017 we wrote in our newsletter, that we were uncertain of the reason that the Kingston and Hastings family were buried together in the mausoleum. Well thanks to John Antill who wrote to me, he has come up with the solution whilst researching his family tree.

The Rev J. D. Hastings wife was Ellen (née Dobbs) (1806-1885, daughter of (Thomas) Henry Dobbs (1775-1843)

The Rev Thomas Kingston married (first wife) Ellen's sister Elizabeth (1802-1833)

Both the reverends attended and graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in the early 1820's.

The following people are buried in the mausoleum.

Name	date buried	where died
Rev John David Hastings	21/4/1869	Trowbridge
Ellen Hastings (née Dobbs)	11/4/1885	Bath
Eliza Jane (Daughter of Thomas & Jane Kingston)	23/1/1862	Rathfarnham Dublin
Ellen Catherine	9/4/1861	Hastings Sussex
Thomas Kingston	23/3/1867	Monkstown Dublin
Jane Frances Kingston	20/6/1888	Dublin



It must have been an ordeal to transport a body from Ireland to Trowbridge in the 1800's

If you have any interesting stories about your ancestors that are buried in The Down Cemetery, and are happy for us to share it please email me the details at [chairfotdc@gmail.com](mailto:chairfotdc@gmail.com)

# Nature's Corner

## Tawny Owl *Strix Aluco Syluatica*



### Description

Length 15-19 inches, wingspan 27-41 inches, lifespan up to 10 years.

Most birds belong to a greyish type, streaked, mottled, and barred with various shades of Brown. Underparts dull white, with dusky streaks and paler bars, wings, and tail brown. The female is larger than the male.

### Distribution

Resident almost throughout Europe except Iceland, Ireland, and Scandinavia. In all kinds of woodland and wooded areas, such as farmland with tall hedges and trees. Can be heard hooting most of the year.

### Nesting

The normal site of the nest is a natural hole in a tree, sometimes uses old nest of Rooks or Crows. No nesting material is used.

2-4 eggs that are white, smooth, and somewhat round in shape, incubation is between 29 – 30 days and only one brood between April and June.

### Food

Drops down to take Voles, mice, rats, frogs, beetles, and earthworms from the ground. Also, will occasionally catch small birds.

### Fun Fact

We do have a nest box at the cemetery, but it has yet to be occupied by an owl, although I have seen squirrels in it.



# Nature's Corner

## Wild Rabbit *Orytolagus Cuniculus*

### Description

Male (buck) and female (doe) generally measure 40-45 cm long and have 8.5cm, long ears. They have compact bodies with long, powerful hind legs. Fur is grey/brown in colour with white underparts with a short tail. Life span can be up to 9 years.



### Distribution

Widespread across the whole of the United Kingdom. In the 1950's the disease Myxomatosis was introduced to curb their numbers, nearly making them extinct. They have now recovered and again have become a serious pest for farmers, eating and damaging crops.

### Feeding

Rabbits are herbivores who feed mainly on grass but will eat vegetables and crops. They re-swallow up to 80% of their faeces to use their food more efficiently, in a process known as refection. Rabbits graze heavily and rapidly for roughly the first hour, followed by about half an hour of more selective feeding.

### Reproduction

Rabbits generally are able to breed at a young age and may produce litters of up to seven young, often doing so four or five times a year, due to the fact that a rabbit's gestation period is only 28 to 31 days.

New-born rabbits are naked, blind, and helpless at birth, but mothers are remarkably inattentive. To overcome this lack of attention the milk is highly nutritious and among the richest of all the mammals. The young grow rapidly and are weaned in about a month.



### Fun Fact.

At the cemetery, you can find plenty of evidence of rabbits, but still yet to see any.

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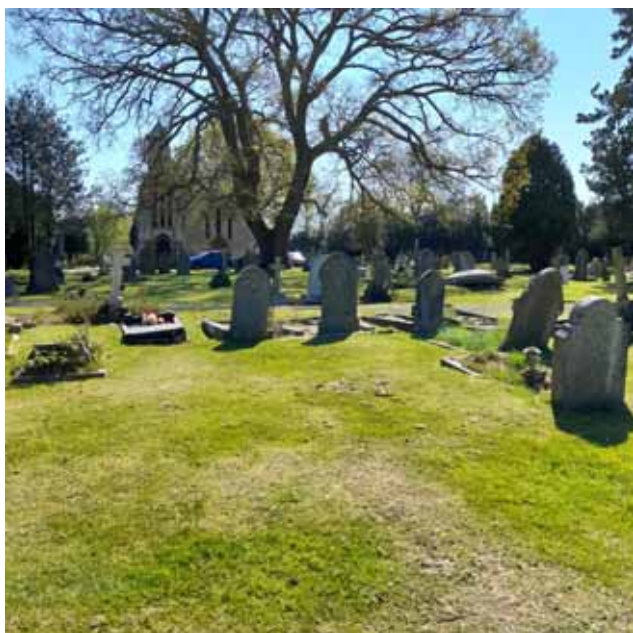


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## Views of the Down Cemetery - Thanks to Rachael McDonald



Specialist Monumental Mason based in  
the Market Town of Devizes Wiltshire

Tel: 07951536529  
Email: [danbod1981@gmail.com](mailto:danbod1981@gmail.com)  
<https://markettownmemorials.co.uk>

## A Warm invitation to become a friend of The Down Cemetery

The Down Cemetery is a grade II listed Victorian cemetery, opened on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1855.

The Friends' aim is to assist the council in keeping the cemetery as something that the town can be proud of. Our mission will be to clear overgrown graves, transcribe headstones (before inscriptions are lost to erosion), photograph all headstones, plot graves and make this information available to the public.

We will be looking at ways to conserve and repair graves and mausoleums with our partners, James Long.

Nature conservation is also a large part of our aims, including bird feeding and nest sites, bat boxes, hedgehog boxes, wildflower meadow and anything that we can do to enhance the cemetery as a wildlife haven.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Tel. No. ....

Email .....

*Your details will only be used by FOTDC*

### TURN TO US FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

In your time of need  
we'll take care  
of all the  
funeral arrangements

**Call us 24 hours a day**

- Funeral Pre-Payment Plans
- Memorials

### **C S BOWYER FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

3 St Thomas Road  
Trowbridge  
BA14 8SF

**01225 768846**



Individual membership costs £2.00 per year (year runs January to December). Corporate membership is £6.00 per year.

Please return the completed form to:

Robert Colebourne

31 Innox Road

Trowbridge

Wiltshire BA14 9AT

[robertc@fotdc.org](mailto:robertc@fotdc.org)

This newsletter has been produced by the Friends of The Down Cemetery. We would welcome contributions for future newsletters.

## Diary for Summer and Autumn 2021

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Saturday 26th June 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Thursday 8th July 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Saturday 24th July 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Thursday 12th August 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Saturday 28th August 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Thursday 9th September 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Saturday 25th September 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Thursday 14th October 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Saturday 23rd October 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Thursday 11th November 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Saturday 27th November 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Thursday 9th December 2021	10am - 12 noon	Working Party	Cemetery
Saturday 25th December 2021	10am - 12 noon	No Working Party - Christmas!!	Cemetery

We meet at the Non-Conformist Chapel. The sessions run from 10:00 until 12:00. If you are only available to make part of the morning, we still look forward to meeting you.

## The Committee

<b>Chairman</b>	Robert Wall	<a href="mailto:chairfotdc@gmail.com">chairfotdc@gmail.com</a>	01225 777266
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Lynn Drewett		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dom McDonald		
<b>Membership</b>	Robert Colebourne	<a href="mailto:Robertc@fotdc.org">Robertc@fotdc.org</a>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Jenny Wall	<a href="mailto:jenny_wall63@hotmail.com">jenny_wall63@hotmail.com</a>	

## How can you help?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the following:

Cemetery Gardening, Gravestone Transcription

History Centre Research, Computer Processing

Nature Conservation, Grant Applications and Fundraising

If you know of anyone who may be able to help, please ask them to join.