



National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

www.fotdc.org

Chairman's Ramblings



Welcome to all members old and new. I write this newsletter as summer is just beginning and everything is growing fast, and the ground is very dry. Funny only a few months ago we could not wait for it to stop raining now we need the rain.

Since the start of the year, we have managed to continue to clear lots of graves, but the vegetation grows nearly as fast as we can cut it back. As a new idea we will be now placing the cut down vegetation in the concrete bunker between the old part of the cemetery and the new area. Although this will make more work for us, it will keep the main drive clear of our growing heaps of cut greenery between the times the contractors collect it. This may not be the best solution, but it is a start.

We have now purchased our new lifting rig and hope to start to use this over the summer months. This will help tidy some graves, put headstones back where they belong and allow us to transcribe those that are upside down.

You may have noticed that there is an extra week of working parties from the 10th July till the 14th (10am till 2pm) This is because we are again being loaned by Trowbridge Town Council their weed/path clearing machine. Hopefully if the weather is kind to us, we will again be able to clear the paths of encroaching grass and weeds. If we have time this week, we will also paint some more row letters on the main drive and surrounding paths. This will assist in finding graves and help when we are laying poppy crosses on the graves of the fallen. If you are only able to make an hour or so on any of the days or do all the dates, your help will be invaluable.

We are currently waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council to see if we have been successful in a bid for the grant to purchase a further battery-operated strimmer. If we get this it will indeed make our job a lot quicker.

We are still working on the possibility of launching a new website to enable us to store the ever-growing database for burials and people's stories. So, if anybody is or knows a web designer, please contact me at chairfotdc@gmail.com

Continued overleaf

On Saturday the 27th May we had a very successful day with Trowbridge Town Mayor, Stephen Cooper, launching the new Elizabeth II Jubilee Green Canopy orchard. It was good to see so many of you come along for the launch. I look forward in the future to seeing these blossom and fruit, and it was good to see another project from the Friends of the Down completed.

Well that about wraps up this rambling and look forward to catching up with you all again soon

Robert





Specialist Monumental Mason based in the Market Town of Devizes Wiltshire

Tel: 07951536529

Email: danbod1981@gmail.com

<https://markettownmemorials.co.uk>

Nature's Corner

Long Tailed Tit

Aegithalos Caudatus

Description

The Long-Tailed Tit is a uniquely round bodied, long tailed shape and very tiny. It is approximately 14cm long including a 9cm tail. Its wingspan is 15cm weighing around 7grams. It is recognised by its long tail and pink and black plumage, white head, striped crown with black, back is mixed black and rose, with white underparts, dusty on throat and breast the rest is tinged grey with black wings. Life span is 2-3 years.



Distribution

The Long Tailed Tit is wide spread across the United Kingdom and most of Europe and is present all year. It occupies mixed or deciduous woods, with bushy undergrowth, scrub, tall old hedgerows and can increasingly be found visiting gardens. It can be found in large flocks.



Nesting

Unique rounded and domed nest with a side entrance into soft, springy, elastic ball of lichen, moss, feathers and even cobwebs. The nest can usually be found in low thorny bushes. A single brood of 8 – 12 eggs can be laid between April and June. Incubation is between 15 and 17 days.



Food

Long tail tits diet is almost entirely insects, small beetles, moths, and spiders. Will eat a few seeds and can increasingly be found visiting garden bird feeders.

Nature's Corner

Slow Worm

Anguis Fragilis

The Slow Worm is not a worm or even a snake, but is in fact a legless lizard, the only such creature native to Britain. Their preferred habitat has plenty of dense plant cover, but also enjoys woodpiles and stone walls. They hibernate in winter so the best time to find them is spring to early autumn.



The Average length of a slow worm is between 40-50 cm weighing between 20 and 100 g. the slow worm is much smaller than a snake and has smooth, golden grey skin. Males are paler in colour and sometimes sport blue spots, while females are larger, with darker sides and a dark stripe down the back. The average live span can be up to 30 years.

The mating season starts in May when Males become aggressive towards each other, during courtship the males take hold of the females by biting her head or neck and then they intertwine their bodies. Courtship can last as long as 10 hours. After a gestation period of a few months, the female gives birth to up to 12 baby slow worms, usually in August or September. Whilst most reptiles lay eggs, the slow worm is ovoviviparous, meaning the eggs hatch while they are still inside the females body.



Slow worms diets are slugs, snails, spiders and earthworms.

Predators of slow worms are birds, badgers, hedgehogs. As a defence mechanism, firstly they play dead, if that fails to work they poo. This usually puts off most of their attackers, but as a last resort they can shed the end of their tails, this is a one time trick as the tail never grows back. A recent survey found that 50-70 % of wild slow worms has lost their tails



How to tell the difference between a snake and a slow worm

- 1) Slow worms blink, snakes do not as they do not have eyelids.
- 2) A slow worm has a notched tongue where as a snake has a forked tongue
- 3) It has no pronounced neck region, so its head does not seem distinct from its body as a snake does



On Saturday 29th July 2023 at 10am

Repeated Thursday 17th August 2023 at 10am

The Fallen of Trowbridge (part 1)

A guided tour of the cemetery mentioning some of the fallen military of Trowbridge.

The tour will start from the consecrated chapel (the one on the right as you enter the cemetery).

The Tour is open to members of the public.

You do not need to book, and it is **FREE.**



Heritage Open Day

Saturday 9th September 2023

An opportunity to view the wonderful, consecrated chapel at the Down Cemetery will be available from 10am -2pm

With a guided tour taking place at 11am
"Trowbridge Cemetery and Victorian Grave Symbols"

**There is no charge.
Suitable for all ages**

Come along meet members of the friends of the Down Cemetery and see what we are doing to maintain this grade II listed Cemetery.

Friends of the Down Cemetery (FOTDC) Membership Application Form

The Down Cemetery is a Grade II listed Victorian Cemetery opened on the 13th December 1855. It boasts two chapels, four mausoleums, two monuments, gate house, gates and pillars all that are listed. Also, an abundance of history and wildlife.

The aim of the Friends is to assist the council in keeping the cemetery a place that the town can be proud of. Our mission will be, to clear overgrown graves, photograph all headstones, plot graves, making this information available to the public and enhance the wildlife.

If this is something that you may be interested in, please complete the form below.

Personal membership costs £3.00 per year

Corporate membership costs £10.00 per year (year runs January to December)

If you wish to pay by bank transfer, please email chairfotdc@gmail.com for details

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone Number _____

Emergency Contact _____

Email _____

Your details will only be used by FOTDC

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following by ticking the boxes, please tick as many or as few as you wish.

Clearing graves and tidying cemetery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assist with articles for newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assisting with grant applications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>
Just keep me informed	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please return the form to either of the following:-

Robert Colebourne (membership secretary)

31 Innox Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 9AT

Email :robertc@fotdc.org

Robert Wall (chairman)

53 Foxglove Drive, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 7SQ

Email: chairfotdc@gmail.com

**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



Diary for Summer 2023

Saturday 24 th June	Working Party	10am-12pm
Monday 10 th July	Working Party	10am-2pm
Tuesday 11 th July	Working Party	10am-2pm
Wednesday 12 th July	Working party	10am-2pm
Thursday 13 th July	Working Party	10am-2pm
Friday 14 th July	Working Party	10am-2pm
Saturday 22 nd July	Working Party	10am-12pm
Saturday 29 th July	Tour	10am-12pm
Thursday 10 th August	Working Party	10am-12pm
Thursday 17 th August	Tour	10am-12pm
Saturday 24 th August	Working Party	10am-12pm
Saturday 9 th September	Heritage Open Day	10am-2pm
Thursday 14 th September	Working Party	10am-12pm

We meet at the Non-Conformist chapel (which is the chapel on the left as you enter the cemetery) The session run from 10am until 12pm. We have a variety of tasks that need doing on these mornings from gardening, bird feeding, wildlife studies and general tidying. If you are only able to make part of the morning, we still look forward to meeting you.

The Committee

Chairman	Robert Wall	chairfotdc@gmail.com	01225 777266
Vice Chairman	Lynn Drewett		
Treasurer	Dom McDonald		
Membership	Robert Colebourne	Robertc@fotdc.org	
Secretary	Jenny Wall	jenny_wall63@hotmail.com	
Committee	Paul Dickenson	paulfotdc@gmail.com	
Committee	Mark Rhodes		

How can you help?

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

Cemetery Gardening, 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.