

Friends of the Down Cemetery AGM

Held 14th January 2020

15 people attended plus Robert Wall, Jenny Wall, Lyn Drewett, Mark Rhodes, and Dom McDonald
Apologies from Robert Colebourne, Mike and Jacqui Snelling, Kevin Hartley and Nola
Welcome to the AGM and the starting of our 4th Year Committee to stay the same
Chairman

This has been a great year, clearing lots of graves, held successful bat walk, and transcribed nearly half of the non-conformist side of the cemetery. All are now on the computer; also all plots have now been entered on database. This means that we have approx. 6-7k people buried here. Planters made by men's shed outside chapel and planted with flowers, expanded wildflower meadow to double its size after getting permission from Wiltshire Council.

Membership

46 members and 3 corporate, same as last year.

We are giving out lots of leaflets but every group in Trowbridge is looking for members. The leaflets have been well received with them being available at the Hub and the Town Hall

Co-op charity donation

£16 was paid for the first half of the year and we expected about the same for the second half. But we received £1264.00. We need to allocate where this money is to go and as we are not a profit group it needs to be spent on wildflowers, tools and extra projects.

Treasurer

We need to feed the birds even if the working parties are cancelled. Mayor's charity was well supported by members, we attended all the quizzes and other events including a full table at the mayor's dinner, the total that we received from the mayor was £1100.00

This year we have spent £178 on tools but we need more.

£17 left in Trowbridge in Bloom account.

Current balance £2344.00

Insurance is covered by membership.

Chairman

We need more ideas for 2020 and beyond. We suggest more trees planting as council have removed old trees but not replaced. Good space would be next to Roger Browns Mausoleum. Plant fruit trees, which give blossom and berries which fits our wildlife remit. We will have to ask Wiltshire council and see what happens.

Would like to increase the wildflower area to the total area originally planned, but again will need permission. This will need a new boarder and proper notice boards telling the public what has been done, could use as a boarder rosemary or lavender.

We have had the offer of a petrol mower from a member but will need to change or health and safety policy before we use it. It was suggested that we continue to work on the non-conformist side, lifting the trees canopies, clearing graves and transcribing them. It would be nice to have this side finished by the end of the year.

TTC have brought a gutter sweeper and we should look to whether we can hire this to clear the paths as the grass has grown over the paths by 6-8 inches in parts.

Non-Conformist transcriptions need to be completed, lots of interest in helping, have been able to help a few people with enquiries but more work to be done.

2 graves of conformist side are war graves but pre WW1 so will not be repaired by war graves so will need to look into cost and repair, estimate is approx. £670.00

TTC and civic have money so may be able to get grant of up to 70% of cost. Having these done would be good for publicity and we can afford it. Better than having to get grants for mausoleums
Civic want us to take responsibility for Roger Brown but only have £1000 to put towards any work. A project for the future.

Planter

TTC donated bulbs from the park, these were planted and should look good

Ideas for this year

- Members to grow seeds at home to use to plant up Large Planters FOTDC will provide all items.
- Let's look to get pre-war graves done this year
- Turf cutter to remove grass to expand wild flower area
- Change name for wild flower area to Meadow and pollinator corridor
- Plant trees
- Get more members

Robert Wall thanked everybody for coming and called the meeting to a close