

## WORKING PARTIES

THURSDAYS 10—1

- JULY 13<sup>th</sup>
- AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>
- SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>

SATURDAYS 10—1

- JULY 15<sup>th</sup>
- AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>

TROWBRIDGE CARNIVAL  
SAT. SEPT 2ND: 10—4

HERITAGE OPEN DAY  
SAT. SEPT 9TH: 10—3



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## C S BOWYER FUNERAL DIRECTORS

3 St Thomas Road  
Trowbridge  
BA14 8SF

**01225 768846**



## Chairman's Ramblings

Welcome to the second newsletter for the Friends of the Down Cemetery.

I am pleased to say that we are progressing with the clearing of ivy and brambles from the graves in the first section of the Cemetery.

We have also started the process of transcribing some of the headstones.

If you would like to help with transcribing some graves, please contact me ([robertw@fotdc.org](mailto:robertw@fotdc.org)) and I can provide the form and give you instruction on how to complete it.

We held our first weekend working party on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June. and despite the heat we had a good turnout.

We finished clearing the front wall of weeds and ivy on the left hand side and opened Sir Roger Browns' mausoleum (see overleaf: Down Cemetery Heritage).

Our recent funding bid to the Trowbridge in Bloom committee was successful and a full report on how we spent the money will be in our next issue.

I would like to say a big thank you to Trowbridge Garden Centre for their

generous support with the purchase of gardening tools.



See you at the Cemetery



## Daffodil Update

We knew when we were planting the daffodils that February was way too late.

But to our surprise we had a very good showing of flowers at the front entrance and on the roundabout.

We hope to increase the number of bulbs to make this even more colourful next spring.

**Trowbridge  
Garden Centre**

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[www.trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk](http://www.trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk)

# Identifying British Snakes



**Grass snake** (*Natrix natrix*) Widespread throughout England and Wales. Often found near water in open woodland, commons, hedgerows and gardens. Usual length 70–100 cm.

**Slow worm** (*Anguis fragilis*) Our only legless lizard, found throughout mainland UK in a wide variety of habitats and thrives in wild gardens where its superficially snake-like appearance can sometimes cause alarm. Usual length 35–40 cm.



Sliding scales

amphibian and reptile  
conservation 

PHOTOGRAPHS: Heads: Fred Holmes, Grass Snake: Ben Limburn. All others: Howard Inns



No—We haven't seen any snakes at the cemetery!

# Identifying British Snakes



**Adder** (*Vipera berus*) Found throughout mainland UK on heathlands, commons, road and rail embankments and in open woodlands. Male (*head left*) usually greyish with black markings; female (*above*) usually pale brown with dark brown markings. Usual length 40-70 cm.

**Smooth snake** (*Coronella austriaca*) Uncommon with distribution limited to heathland in Dorset, Hampshire and Surrey. Usual length 45-55 cm.



[www.arguk.org](http://www.arguk.org)  
[www.arc-trust.org](http://www.arc-trust.org)

Find out more in the ARC endorsed book  
***Britain's Reptiles and Amphibians***



PHOTOGRAPHS: Heads: Fred Holmes, Grass Snake: Ben Limburn. All others: Howard Inns



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# FRIENDS OF THE DOWN CEMETERY



## Summer Newsletter

### Wildlife in the Cemetery

The first of the bird nest boxes have been installed and (fingers crossed) next year we should be able to report some activity.

A few bird feeders have been hung and the birds are enjoying the new dining area.

We are appealing to all the Friends to help provide bird food for this project.

If you feel that you are able to donate some food or money towards the cost, please contact robertw@fotdc.org.

Fat balls, suet pieces, seed, peanut hearts, and sunflower hearts, all go down well.

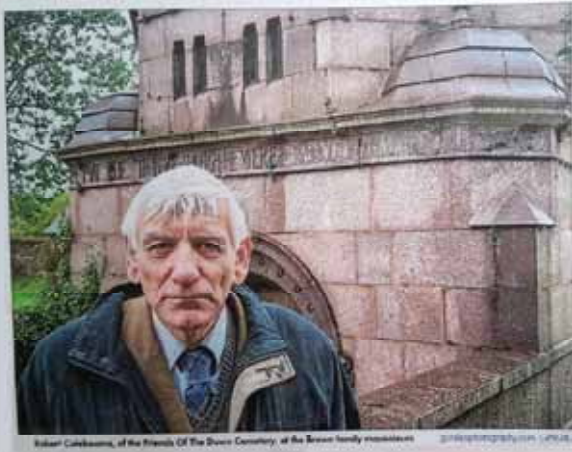
Wilkinson's are good and cheap — maybe you could pick some up next time you are shopping?



### Down Cemetery Heritage

Sadly, it has been noted that there is some vandalism to the lettering on the Roger Brown mausoleum. The committee are looking at ways of repairing this and making it vandal proof.

#### Vandals strip mausoleum of bronze lettering



THE group which restores Trowbridge Cemetery looks its best all year round in December when a mausoleum was vandalised.  
Members of Friends Of The Down Cemetery were on their weekly clean up of the cemetery on May 20 when they discovered that bronze lettering and a metal top had been removed from the mausoleum of Sir Roger Brown, a highly successful, well known, who funded the building of Trowbridge Town Hall.  
The Grade II listed mausoleum was built by Sir Brown in memory of his wife, Lady Brown, in 1906 and is a focal point of the cemetery.  
In 2017 the bronze gates were stolen from it and the group wants to put a stop to vandalism at the cemetery.  
Robert Colebourne, 68, a member of the group, said: "We were deeply disgusted to find that Roger's beautiful mausoleum has been vandalised. It gets so much to the town and has such a prominent figure, so the vandalism is a real disgrace."  
"We think whoever did it might have stolen the bronze lettering to sell down and sell on."



Meanwhile, the mausoleum was opened for maintenance on the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June, when some of the Friends got to see inside.

The ivy was cleared from the inside and outside of the mausoleum and it now looks much smarter.

More pictures can be found on our web site and facebook page where you can also find a video showing the mausoleum being opened.



## Coming Soon—the Trowbridge Carnival Fair...

We have a display in the Trowbridge Carnival Fair on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and we're looking for people to help man the stand.

I will be present all day and just need people to help, so if you can come along for an hour or so, please contact robertc@fotdc.org

**PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ALL ABOUT OUR PROJECT**

**WE NEED MORE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Friends of the Down Cemetery — [www.fotdc.org](http://www.fotdc.org)