



Friends of the Down Cemetery

www.FOTDC.org

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

Chairman's Ramblings

Welcome all to the fifth edition of the Friends newsletter.

As we are all been suffering in this year's heat wave, I am pleased to say, that despite the lack of rain, the wild flower meadow is thriving. The seeds area is struggling but some things are growing. I hope that if this trial is successful and next year the flowers return, we can convince Wiltshire Council to let us expand the area. It would look fantastic if it stretched from the main drive to the footpath.

Since the last edition, we have been successful in receiving grants from both Wiltshire County Council and Trowbridge Town Council. This will enable us to expand our wildlife projects within the cemetery. We will be able to increase our bird feeding stations and include some squirrel proof feeders.

The grants will also allow us to put up more bird boxes and site some hedgehog boxes in the cemetery. We are working closely with Trowbridge Men's Shed to produce these boxes. We will also be able to carry out wildlife surveys with some new exciting equipment, so watch this space.



Trowbridge Garden Centre



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info@trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk
www.trowbridgegardencentre.co.uk

I must thank Glyn Coy for the brilliant drone photographs and video that he took of the cemetery. A couple of photos are included in this newsletter. If you have not seen the video, check out The Down Cemetery Trowbridge, on You Tube, it is well worth watching.

Just a quick reminder that we are one of Asda's charities, so do remember to pop your tokens in the right slot. We are also one of this year's Trowbridge Mayor's chosen charities.

I hope to see you at the cemetery soon.

Robert.

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

William John Cockerton

William John Cockerton was born in 1897 in Holloway, London. His parents were John and Elizabeth, who moved to Trowbridge.

Before the war, William was a Wiltshire territorial. He was called up at the start of the war and was sent to India with the 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire regiment on the 12th December 1914. While on duty in India, he volunteered for service in Mesopotamia.

He was reported missing in February 1917. His family were later notified that he was wounded in the chest on the 2nd February 1917 and had died of his wounds. His name was placed on the Roll of Honour, which is located in the entrance of the Town Hall, Trowbridge.

Six months later, his parents received a letter in their son's handwriting, informing them that he was a prisoner of war and being held by the Turks.

William returned home in January 1919 after four years abroad, of which the last two were spent as a prisoner of war.

In his diary, he wrote how he was liberated by a British officer on November 16th 1918 and brought overland to England. It took two months to get home.

On arriving home, William was able to read his own obituary, which must have been strange.

In March 1919, he went to Harrow on the Hill for a holiday with his uncle. He was taken ill with malarial fever, which developed into pneumonia.

William died on Sunday 20th April 1919.

He was brought back to Trowbridge by rail and was buried in the Down Cemetery.



Not Only in Stone

Whilst walking around the cemetery, I came across this unusual inscription. It stated that a lady died in her 105th year, so I did some research.



Louisa Matilda Richmond Alley was born on the 3rd September 1843, in Trowbridge. This is verified by listing in the Birth, Death and Marriage book of 1843, in the district of Melksham, volume 8, page 370. She came from a large family, with her father marrying twice.

In the 1851 census, Louisa was 8 years old, again confirming that she was born in 1843.

In the 1911 census, Louisa was mentioned as being 68, single, and her occupation was a servant at the address of The Grange, Victoria Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

She is again listed in the 1939 register, as being a retired children's nurse and living at No12, The Halve, Trowbridge.

She is listed as dying on the 20th June, 1948.

So, all the evidence points to Louise dying in her 105th year.

Sarah Gunner

Job Alley

Ann Richman

Elizabeth 1819 - ?

Sarah Ann 1834 - 1903

William 1820 - 1904

Martha Anne 1837 - 1925

John 1826 - 1903

Hanna 1840 - ?

Henry Harry 1826 - 1903

Anna Maria 1842 - 1930

Ruth 1827 - ?

George 1842 - 1925

Job James 1829 - 1896

Louisa 1843 - 1948

Thomas William 1831 - 1891

Frederick 1845 - 1928



From Trowbridge Postcards & Ephemera



Louisa and her sister



Louisa and some of her brothers

Nature's Corner



Gold Finch

Carduelis Carduelis

Description

Goldfinches have a distinctive red face, with a white patch behind the eye, black crown and nape. They have a yellow wing patch, black tail and long pointed bill.

Both adult male and females look similar, but juveniles have a grey-brown spotted plumage and lack the face markings of the adult bird. They are approximately 12cm long with a wing span of 21-25.2cm and weigh 14g.

Distribution

The goldfinch is a permanent resident of the British Isles. They are less numerous in the up-lands area but are most numerous in southern England



Nesting

Goldfinches will nest in orchards, parks and gardens where there are tall, deciduous trees, as well as in open woodland and hedgerows.

They construct their cup-shaped nests high in trees and bushes, using grass and moss, and will sometimes decorate the outside of their nests with flowers. They produce two broods of 4-6 smooth, glossy, reddish-patterned, pale blue eggs, which the female incubates for 12-13 days.

Food

Feeds on soft, half-ripe seeds on long to medium height plants. Also eats tree seeds from Alder and Birch. If wishing to attract them to your garden, using niger seeds in special feeders is likely to attract them.



Nature's Corner

Peacock Butterfly

Aglais io

Description

The peacock butterfly is one of the larger species of butterfly. Males are smaller than the females. Their wingspan ranges from 26cm to 6.85cm. They can easily be recognised by beautiful purple eyespots on the hind wings. This is used to frighten predators or divert birds from attacking the body. This is in stark contrast to the underside, which is a dull brown.



Life Cycle

It is incredible to think that every year in Britain butterflies manage to survive our winters, and the Peacock does just that. In the weeks leading up to hibernation, they convert some of their blood sugar into glycerol to act as a kind of anti-freeze.

The Peacock finds a safe place with relatively constant temperatures, folds its wings and sleeps. It awakens in early spring. Over the next couple of months, it will lay its eggs, often above 500 at a time, on the underside of stinging nettle leaves.

In the ensuing weeks, the adults, which have now lived for almost a year, die of old age. The caterpillars of the next generation hatch out and start fattening up on nettle leaves. In July, they form a chrysalis, later emerging as adults in August, and so the cycle goes on.



Distribution

The Peacock can be seen in most habitats across temperate Europe and parts of Asia. Being one of the first to emerge in early spring, they enjoy open areas of woodland.



Aerial Photographs taken by drone



Area 1 cleared of overgrowth



Area still to clear



Wild flower meadow

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2018 - 2019 Diary

Sat. 23 rd Aug.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Sat. 8 th Sept.	10am – 3pm	Heritage Open Day
Thurs. 13 th Sept.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Sat. 22 nd Sept.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Thurs. 11 th Oct.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Sat. 27 th Oct.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Thurs. 8 th Nov.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Sat. 24 th Nov.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Thurs. 13 th Dec.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
No Saturdays in December – Merry Christmas		
Thurs. 10 th Jan.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Sat. 26 th Jan.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Thurs. 14 th Feb.	10am – 12noon	Working Group
Sat. 23 rd Feb.	10am – 12noon	Working Group



We will meet at the Non-Conformist Chapel. If you are only available to make part of the morning, we still look forward to meeting you.

The Committee

Chairman	Robert Wall	Robertw@fotdc.org	01225 777266
Vice Chairman	Lynn Drewett		
Treasurer	Dom McDonald		
Membership	Robert Colebourne	Robertc@fotdc.org	
Secretary	Jenny Wall	jenny_wall63@hotmail.com	

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. If we all found one other member, it would move the project on, so that we could accomplish this year's goals.

A Warm invitation to become a friend of The Down Cemetery

The Down Cemetery is a grade II listed Victorian cemetery, opened on the 13th 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.

Name

Address

.....

Postcode

Tel. No.

Email

Your details will only be used by FOTDC

Cost is just £1.00 per year

(year runs January to December)

Please return completed form to:

Robert Colebourne

31 Innox Road

Trowbridge

Wiltshire BA14 9AT

Robertc@fotdc.org

This newsletter has been produced by the Friends of The Down Cemetery.

We would welcome contributions for future newsletters.

**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
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**C S BOWYER
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