

FRIENDS' OF WHITCHURCH ROAD CEMETERY MEETINGS

AGM

The recent death of Tom Edwards was reported to the meeting and acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution to the cemetery, his clearing of the site and careful recording of the graves.

Following advice from Caring for God's Acre the cemetery grassland has been managed in a slightly different way during 2023 in order to enhance biodiversity and reduce the carbon footprint. 'No mow May' left the grass slightly longer and a rewilding area was established to the north of the site. More bulbs were planted, a dead hedge built, a hedgehog house, new bird and bat boxes.

The cemetery was awarded a gold certificate from the 2023 Churchyard award scheme run annually by the Diocese of Lichfield, along with a nature friendly certificate and a special prize of a bird drinking station.

A new WW1 commemorative bench was purchased and placed near the cemetery chapel, signage improved and the interpretation panel repaired. The railings have been painted and the 200 metre perimeter fence treated.

The War Graves Commission have erected a sign on the front railings advising people about the war graves in the cemetery.

The above was followed by the ordinary committee meeting.

The group was advised that a new contractor was needed to manage the grass cutting. This was delegated to three members of the committee to appoint one of the three applicants who had responded.

The group has received five new saplings from Shropshire Council and these have been planted along the path to the rear of the cemetery. It was agreed that more trees need to be planted and it was suggested that a water butt at the chapel would help to water these.

A member of the group volunteered to record any new wildlife since the introduction of new grass cutting methods.

Rosemary Dodd