

### Report from Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery

Whitchurch Road Cemetery has come a long way judging by the photographs shared at the Service conducted by Rev. John Jukes around a plaque celebrating the efforts of Tom Edwards which was recently installed on the front of the Chapel. Basil Chesworth is also commemorated on a plaque for his work. This is on the newly restored bench near the information board.



As relative newcomer to Wem I regularly appreciate the openness of the Cemetery and the battle there must have to been to wrestle and restore the space from the brambles, so that it could become accessible once again. It is testament to the hard work and restoration brought about by Tom and Basil. Standing on their shoulders a diverse group look after the cemetery today. The Cemetery is first a place to remember loved ones and reflect, but, also to enjoy the many wildflowers which were always there but have come to light through a more relaxed mowing regime to the rear of the Chapel. This is an important area for wildlife too, hence the addition of dead hedges, a large bug hotel and renewed management of the compost heaps.

The war graves are an important element to maintain and share with visitors as Hazel and Judith were able to in June with the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers when they came as part of “Love Your Burial Ground week”, planting snowdrops, cleaning the Lych gate, cutting brambles and a myriad of tidying tasks.

In July the Cemetery was tidied and the Chapel was opened as an important part of the annual Sweet Pea weekend. Henry Eckfords grave is currently under the attention of the group regarding restoration of its chains.

A TPO has been posted on the Cemetery gates regarding the proposal for a development adjacent to the Cemetery. The group is keen to safeguard the Cemetery Boundaries and trees.

Barbara Cotterell 18:08:25