

## Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Hi everyone

Last week we held our AGM marking the end of our sixth year as the Friends of Teignmouth Cemetery. A copy of the full [Chairman's](#) report and [Treasurer's](#) report can be found on our web-site, and a summary at the end of this newsletter. But first a couple of other announcements.

### THE BIG HELP-OUT

One of the events we took part in recently was the "King's Coronation Big Help Out". At the AGM we decided to keep the spirit of this going by arranging additional work sessions throughout the summer on Thursday evenings. This would give an opportunity to anyone who may be working during the day to come along, find out what we are doing and join in. A poster explaining the arrangements for this is attached. Please do pass this on to anyone you think might be interested.

### CAUGHT IN FLAGRANTE

And on a light-hearted note, find out who, buried in Teignmouth cemetery some 100 years ago, was caught out! Click [HERE](#) for the full story on our website.

### THE YEAR IN SUMMARY

Looking back through the Facebook posts over the past year I would have to describe 2022-23 as the "Year of the Sow Thistle". It's an almost inevitable consequence of the clearance work we are doing. **Yes**, we are uncovering graves. **Yes**, we are opening the cemetery up more for people to visit and enjoy. And **Yes** we are giving natural wild-flowers a chance to flourish. Nature doesn't discriminate though, so bullies like sow thistle move in fast. Each plant can produce up to 60,000 seeds and will soon dominate the landscape if allowed to flower and seed. This brings a lot of additional work and reflects the balance we have to strike, as a small group of volunteers, between opening up new areas in the cemetery and maintaining those areas we have already cleared.

Apart from the physical side of the work we do in the cemetery there are other activities which go on in the background which all help to promote FOTC and what we are doing, and raise awareness of the cemetery as an important asset to the town. This includes keeping up a strong social media presence, attending other community events, running tours of the cemetery, giving presentations and continuing historic research into people buried here.

Our funds are reasonably stable thanks to membership fees and the generous donations we receive from families in appreciation of the clearance work we do in keeping up the appearance of the cemetery and improving accessibility to so many family graves.

Finally, we have made a strong start in recording all the graves and people in the cemetery in a way which can make them accessible around the world. This is via the [findagrave.com](#) website which we are populating with photographs and details of those buried here.

### THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT US

Neil Howell, Chairman FOTC