

FOTC AGM Tuesday October 21st 2025

Another very busy year for our small enthusiastic team of Friends of Teignmouth Cemetery volunteers. Throughout the last 12 months there's been the usual grass mowing and strimming, care of our 49 Commonwealth War Graves plus heavy duty grave clearance work in 3 sections of the cemetery, keeping the driveway tidy ie raking up leaves plus picking up fallen branches and twigs from the driveway areas and from under other cemetery trees, flower beds & planted grave maintenance work, "continual management" of regrowth of unwanted perennial weeds, ivy & brambles plus heavy duty pruning work on 2 conifers and a lime tree as well as sycamore, hawthorn and holly pruning work.

Section II clearance work was completed after a year's hard graft by mainly 3 or 4 of our FOTC volunteers - many long hidden and very neglected graves have been restored as well as numerous anthills flattened and ivy roots removed etc

Work has now begun on clearing section JJ- once this has been done we really need to check on previously cleared sections above the laurel hedge for bramble and ivy regrowth plus clearing anthills ,levelling ground etc

Needless to say we are again very grateful to Justin for his support with regular recycling of our numerous full dumpy bags of green waste

Also many thanks to -

*Wendy & Ian for their continued regular cemetery grass mowing and strimming

* Mal for tip runs with cemetery plastic waste etc

*Jacqui for adding her lovely cemetery photos to our website

*Neil for his continued cemetery grave research plus mapping work on more cemetery sections

* John for his continued mower repair work

* Thanks also to Kay FOTC treasurer for financial records and prompt reimbursement of expenses ref petrol ,repairs etc

* Wendy and I plus new volunteer Elaine worked several extra Thursday morning work sessions during the summer ie weeding and tidying cemetery boundary walls and pavements, weeding and strimming CWG and access paths

Chris & Duncan our CWGC volunteers were busy working in the cemetery for their second year scrubbing clean the CWG headstones

For FOTC volunteers keeping the grass and access paths to the CWG cut regularly is a never ending task - plus the 8 gravelled CWG need regular weeding. Recruiting local ex servicemen to assist with maintaining our CWG this year was not a success despite lots of time spent in preparation for them taking on the regular work commitment

There have again been several cemetery tours arranged this year for Teignmouth Walk This Way, Teignmouth U3A Local History Group plus other tours advertised for interested local residents ie general tours plus CWG tours

Special mention and thanks to our recent new volunteers- Mike plus the students and staff from Orchard Manor School Dawlish for their hard work and commitment during our Tuesday morning work sessions plus Carol who joins us for our Saturday morning work sessions

Teignbridge District Council have removed a tree on lower boundary of cemetery this year - we are still awaiting their work on the damaged large conifer below the driveway ie near Leah Laforgue grave. The lodge archway is still fenced off with no sign of imminent repair work plus the tap on driveway by Exeter Rd was replaced but alas is now no longer working. Contractor Paul Cary completed the first meadow cut July/August thankfully earlier than last year - hopefully the 2nd meadow cut will be done soon as the grass is rather long again.

The local police have been supportive in checking the cemetery with regard to unsocial behaviour in evenings and weekends ie alcohol drinking, drug taking and littering

Finally very special mention of our lovely Paul McClure who sadly passed away earlier this year - much missed as a FOTC volunteer colleague