

Cemetery Report December 2020

Visitors to the cemetery have continued to rise as it has provided a safe place for walkers and runners to exercise and a sanctuary where people can just get away from everything for a while and just sit and enjoy some peace and quiet.

I've lost count of the times that someone has said that they didn't even know it was there and have enjoyed their visit.

There has also been a significant increase in people trying to trace where ancestors are laid to rest.

The weather has been great for being able to get on top of the annual jobs and apart from getting the rose beds ready for winter I'm almost on top of everything that I'd had planned. I've started trimming the path edges back and just have the main driveway edges to do before the weather breaks.

The large Yew trees are due for their tops to be taken off and we have had a couple of contractors in to quote for this. If they are brought down far enough I can trim them myself in future.

The Cherry tree on the edge of the Garden of Remembrance that has always had such beautiful blossom in the spring unfortunately has had to be felled. It had come to the end of its natural life and had become unstable, so for health and safety reasons it had to be taken down.

I have two old headstones that are slightly rocky but currently not a danger. English Rose Memorials have said if I need any laying flat that I consider dangerous then they are happy to do it safely for me without charge.

As internments in the Garden of Remembrance are becoming more frequent we are considering using the area beyond the top carpark on the left hand side for future use. We still have the area between the path and the front border yet to use but given the current pandemic it's sensible to be prepared.

I've trimmed the Holly trees quite a distance from the ground to try and deter the ladies from the travelling community stealing it to make Christmas wreaths. Fortunately they don't usually come prepared with step ladders so I'm hoping they will be unlucky this year!

The large headstone laid flat at the entrance to the Baptist Burial area is sinking at one end causing the other end to be raised. I have some large rocks that I've salvaged from grave digs and will use these to try and make it more stable.

To comply with regulations regarding Covid-19 we have seen several funerals being conducted at the graveside as more people are able to attend. During one such service the Muntjac deer and her baby took an interest and wandered with several yards of the family, much to the amazement of the minister taking the service. As they had wandered up to the back of the family only he and I could witness this. Fortunately he was ever the professional and after a brief pause carried on with the service. The deer continued to observe the proceedings until Frank Sinatra's 'My Way' rang out from the speakers and then quietly took their leave. It was a beautiful moment on such a sad occasion.

Thankyou all for your continued support.

Tina Cooper

Cemetery Gardener.