

Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee Annual Report May 2023-May 2024

The Joint Burial Committee has met on five occasions during the past year. They are responsible for overseeing the grounds maintenance, memorials, and burials. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Town Clerk have held regular meetings within the cemetery grounds to ensure that these areas are sympathetically managed.

During the past year the weather has given rise to some different challenges within the grounds, especially by the prolonged rain earlier this year. There are some grave plots where the ground has sunk, probably caused by rain washing away some of the subsoil leaving some headstones tilted. The plot owners have been notified that the town council ground staff will level the soil, however any rectification to the headstones are the responsibility of the plot owner.

The very large Holm Oak tree has required major work to remove some of the heavy branches, which were causing a concern that their weight could cause the tree to fall across many graves. The public were of course excluded from this area once this risk had been identified.

The turning circle has had metal posts and chains put in place which protect graves in this area. Planted in the middle of the circle is a dwarf magnolia in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

Two new sections, one for burials and the other for ashes have been plotted and new paths to help with their access are in the process of being laid.

In September there was a successful and well attended Heritage Open Day held in the cemetery. The historical records were available for members of the public to view in the chapel. Tracey Warren of Stoodley and Sons gave a guided talk around the cemetery entitled 'Life and Death in Crewkerne'

Julia Borland, Chair, Joint Burial Committee
23rd May 2024