

Cemetery Update

In February 2022 the parish council considered Report WPC.22.01. and approved the appointment of Gary Smith as Sole Operator in the Cemetery for the purpose of grave digging (excluding Cremated Remains plots). This arrangement has worked well, and the operator has expressed an interest in continuing in the next financial year (to be considered at the February meeting of the parish council.

The three water butts have been re-installed on levelled pavours. The three garden benches all have memorial plaques, and are likely to require some attention in the next financial year.

The clerk has obtained quotes for topple testing of memorial stones which will be considered at the April Estates meeting.

Progress on the cemetery records project is good. Our volunteer has transcribed the Register of Burials 1895 – 1972, and the clerk has captured images for the transcription of the Purchased Graves Register (1895-1951).

No. of Entry	NAME OF PERSON BURIED	Rank or Profession	Sex	Age	Place where Death occurred	Date of Burial	By whom Certificate was given (under Burial Laws Amendment Act, 1850)	Description and Situation of Grave Space	No. of Ditch Spots	In Consecrated Ground	In Unconsecrated Ground	From what Parish removed
161-180	161 Thomas Goldsmith Rutter	Gentleman	M	69	Wickhambrook	06 March 1901	Rev'd A Butcher		B		10	
161-180	162 Joanna Penelope Edgeley	Shoemaker's Wife	F	26	Wickhambrook	19 March 1901	Rev'd A McKechnie		O		3	
161-180	163 Eric William Hurst	Infant	M	1	Wickhambrook	02 April 1901	Rev'd A C Hall		B		17	
161-180	164 Louisa Foreman	Widow	F	66	Wickhambrook	09 April 1901	Rev'd A McKechnie		B		17	
161-180	165 John Copping	Farm Labourer	M	9	Wickhambrook	30 April 1901	Rev'd A McKechnie		P		20	
161-180	166 Lillian Jane King	Infant	F	6m	Wickhambrook	02 May 1901	Rev'd A C Hall					

The Register of Grave Spaces for the New Cemetery (from 1956) has been checked and cross referenced with the cemetery plan, which has been updated showing all both reserved and interred plots. Reserved plots are now being marked on site with the new grave space markers and this work is almost complete.

Our Cemetery Volunteer, and our Lay Member for Environment and Sustainability have proposed seeding some areas of the cemetery with wild flower seeds to attract insects and wildlife, and regular monthly tidying of the Cemetery will be trialled this year.

Prices for reduction of the two Cypresses nearest the Chapel of Rest have been obtained, to include in the work plan over the next few years. This should result in being able to remove the two trees eventually without incurring subsidence. There is a large crack in the lintel stone at the entrance of the Chapel of Rest which is likely to be the result of a root below it.

As part of the work Suffolk County Council completed installing a new pavement alongside the cemetery, it was established with the Diocese that the cemetery is not consecrated (and is therefore, technically, a burial ground), and that therefore no applications for faculty agreements need be made in respect of works in the cemetery.

The clerk has checked with the landowner to the rear of the cemetery in respect of the Cemetery Extension project, who has confirmed that they will give the parish council first refusal at any point when they decide they wish to sell.

Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
January 2023