

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery Working Group Report for WMPC May 19th 2025

Further to March report and annual parish meeting reports the following is a summary of volunteer management tasks.

Cemetery work parties take place last Thursday each month

On average four (often six) volunteers attend and approx. 12 hours work are carried out each session.

Regular tasks:

Litter and stray faded tributes: flowers (real and artificial), wreaths and damaged receptacles collected. Three sacks of waste are often filled.

Young plants in boundary hedge and tree belts and young trees tended and mulched.

Evergreen native shrubs added to tree belt. New trees lime (replacement) and oak planted.

Lower boughs pruned from trees such as beech, lime, holly, crab and hawthorn.

Prunings chopped and stacked tidily to rot down slowly.

Self-sown elder berries pruned out of Irish yew tree avenue

Lime tree row (on Town Land Trust field) pruned, mulched and protected from deer by sycamore stem wigwams.

Twig wigwams also constructed around the tree row bordering the meadow (future burial land) where the wire fence helps to protect from deer, but some damage has been inflicted by deer.

Additional snowdrops, 250 planted in borders. Supplied by Clare Bulbs, Suffolk. Paid for by donations to PEG at WAW events.

A Memorial seat removed by Men's Shed Mr Laidlaw after we received a report of slat failures.

Ms Nelson Suffolk Barn Owl group to be booked in to inspect the two barn owl boxes. To meet Sonya and Anne. None recorded in 2024.

Visitors admired the lovely drifts of snowdrops, native wild daffodil, double daffodils, spring crocus (*Leucojum vernum*) and Narcissi Carlton (ESC Blooms).

In the older part of the cemetery ESSL have careful cut around several clumps of cowslip which regularly appear. The beetle log castle is slowly softening up with plants and decay will provide a home for invertebrates.

The Cemetery Group look forward to working with the WMPC on cemetery management to plan future tree planting, discuss cemetery management and planning for extension and next memorial garden when needed.

Wildlife species surveys and schedules can also be prepared to assist with grass cutting schedules and management plans.

Next date: **Thursday 29th May 10.00am**

Anne Westover Parish Tree Warden 12.05.25

Contact: ennaoverwest@btinternet.com

Report for WMPC Full Council for 19th May 2025