

# Great Gransden Parish Council

## Cemetery Report April 2021

Again no theft or vandalism has been experienced this last year.

Concern was raised by a parishioner that mole hills were appearing throughout the cemetery. Moles have been a feature of the cemetery for more than 25 years and, unlike badgers, their impact is minimal - principally visual. The increase in prevalence is due to the very damp winter weather that softens the ground which moles prefer. The prevalence of moles will reduce as the spring progresses and the land dries out.

The winter of 2020 -2021 has been harsh and Spring remains cool. The grass in the cemetery has not yet leapt into growth, but is being monitored to ensure that grass cutting commences as soon as growth becomes significant. The grass cutting within the cemetery was again excellent last year, but the Parish Council has decided to utilise the services of an alternative contractor who also services Abbotsley cemetery to a good standard. The first cut has now taken place, and all seems well. We will continue to monitor the quality and timeliness of future cuts.

The Memorial Garden continues to be well maintained, but it will be necessary to look to replace the boundary dwarf privet hedging around the garden since numerous shrubs have succumbed to privet blight and a more sustainable shrub type may have to be substituted.

The heavy rain during winter has caused flooding on the banks of the brook that divides the cemetery and the graveyard, and flotsam had blocked the watercourse in a number of places. A work party successfully cleared the obstructions so that water flow is now satisfactory. However. The rear fencing to Rectory Farm has collapsed towards the brook, and a tree on their land has also fallen and is bridging the brook. The owners of Rectory farm will have to be encouraged to clear the obstructions originating on their land to avoid future blockages. The retaining wall at the side of the brook (cemetery side) near the bridge is showing signs of breaking up, and is starting to lean. Should this collapse, it will cause a major blockage. During the next 12 months this retaining wall needs to be examined by a structural engineer, and remedial action taken.

The agreement between the Parish Council and the owners of the Dole Field, to acquire a strip of land adjacent to the cemetery for a cemetery extension, has now been finalised. The additional land will not required for a number of years yet.

The cemetery bin continues to be emptied weekly even though some visitors seem to regard the bin as fair game for disposing of concrete, soil and grave furniture, even though it was not intended for that purpose.

Jeff Gorton

Cemetery Manager

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