First World War Sweetheart Cushion
Chairman’s Letter

Dear Friends

My first six months in office have been busy. In June, Felicity Brown organised a very successful trip to the Poppy Factory in Richmond. July saw the Friends providing the catering for the unveiling of a memorial opposite the cemetery chapels to mark the centenary of the foundation of the Royal Air Force. We also had a lichen walk in July and a fungi walk in October. We hosted a visit to Hawkenbury cemetery by the Friends of Highbury Cemetery and in August we visited Tonbridge and Southborough cemeteries in conjunction with the Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery. September saw the launch of our new publication “Remembered” which records the 73 men of the First World War who rest in Tunbridge Wells Borough Cemetery. The accompanying exhibition was the main feature of the Friends’ contribution to Tunbridge Wells Heritage Open Days. The exhibition will be on display again in the South Chapel from 1.00 to 4.00 on Remembrance Sunday, 11th November.

Looking to the future, I would like to tell you about some of our plans. On Saturday 17th November there will be a blessing of the graves in the Roman Catholic section of the cemetery and the Friends will be providing refreshments for the parishioners of St Augustine’s Church from 14.30 in the South Chapel. On the 1st December we are holding a Christmas Carol Concert in the North Chapel in conjunction with the Friends of the Museum and Create. After the four years commemorating the First World War, we have decided to declare 2019 as the Year of the Angels and we will be organising a number of events during the year inspired by the angel memorials in the cemetery. Finally, may I take this occasion to thank you for all your support of the Friends and to wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Barry Melbourne Webb
October 2018

Gardening Report

We are very happy to announce that TW Cemetery & Crematorium has received the Gold award this year in the South & South East in Bloom competition (see back cover). Many thanks to all the Friends and our colleagues for collectively helping to achieve this very high standard.

Sometimes the landscape at the cemetery alters because nature takes its course. Recently the wind whipped through and damaged the Liquidambar tree in the Bayham bed. This will now have to be removed completely and a replacement will happen in due course. Here are a few photographs supplied by the Parks team.
Sadly, we also have to report that the Friends beds have attracted other damage which is not part of the nature’s intervention. Here is the lovely Crocosmia Lucifer which should have dark pink phlox in front of it. Unfortunately all stems have been neatly snipped and not by the Friends gardening team.

Note to visitors to the cemetery please bring your own flowers and leave the planting for the enjoyment of all.

On a cheerier note the gardening team have been very active as volunteers putting in lots of spring bulbs at various point around the cemetery. First to be planted was the bed at the entrance to Benhall Mill Road and then the Lower Garden of the Crematorium (Bayham Bed). This is first of a series of planting sessions the Friends are involved in.

We always welcome new members as we have hundreds if not thousands of bulbs and plants to plant around the cemetery.
Past Events

Exceptional Women Summer Exhibition

2018 has been the centenary year of women getting the vote. Our summer exhibition, Exceptional Women, focussed on the talents, lives and achievements of some of the many thousands buried here who lived through, and in some cases played active roles in the battles against, society’s attitudes and the heavy legal and other restrictions applying only to women.

Author, aviator, literacy champion, missionary in China, funeral director, Mistress of Girton, international ballerina, medical statistician, horticulturalist, and editor of two national newspapers were just some of the roles they filled.

We also repaired the memorials of three of those featured - Lydia Le Lacheur, suffragist and her suffragette daughter Dorothy; and Ethel Newbold, local school girl and brilliant mathematician, after whom today’s Bernoulli international prize on innovative statistics is named. A section of the exhibition “Girls can do anything” was contributed by 1st Southborough senior guides. It covered the years since the pioneering 1st Company Royal Tunbridge Wells Guides was established by Helen Dunn and her daughters in 1911 - three of our exceptional women buried here. The project had included collecting “aspirations” cards from some younger guides today, whose ambitions soared way beyond anything those early women working to lift the cloak of invisibility must have dreamed of. We particularly liked this one.

My Aspiration

When I’m older I would love to be an Olympian and represent my country. I would also like to become a police woman to help people and stop crime. I want to create my own clothing brand company. People can feel comfortable in, and I want to become my own manager because I like playing the harp. We’ve been doing it for 3 years and I’m on grade 3.

June Bridgeman

Le Lacheur grave repaired by Burslems
June Outing to Richmond Poppy Factory

A luxury coach ride from Broadwater Down delivered us to Richmond for a rewarding, educational day at the Richmond Poppy Factory.

After an introductory talk from David on the history of the poppy, we heard a modern rendition of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae’s famous poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ read by Leonard Cohen. We then saw some of the original poppies from the first Poppy Day held by the British Legion in 1921.

Following lunch we all made our own poppies and met some of the disabled veterans who make all of the Remembrance products for The Royal British Legion. This valuable charity rebuilds the self-esteem of ex-service men and women some of whom are suffering from PTSD and other neurological issues as well as visible amputation and musculoskeletal disorders.

Gam, (left) ex Gurkha had a connection with Tunbridge Wells and was very keen to show us around and explain how working in Richmond had helped him come to terms with his personal issues. He also pointed out the wreaths made for the Royal family, explaining that the Queen’s wreath is made of 93 poppies. (No one knows why—not even the Queen!) CA

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae
July Lichen Walk with Keith Palmer

The evening walk was highly successful with 14 attendees, all members. We will all be looking at walls and gravestones with new understanding. Keith explained how stones can be identified by particular lichens which prefer either acid or alkaline stone.

Keith found the original boundary wall very interesting and he estimated over 40 species. He is keen to return with another expert and carry out a full lichen survey of this beautiful wall which will take a day and will be carried out later this year, 2018. Keith has now agreed to be our Consultant Lichenologist.
Thanks to Carol Mellors for arranging this evening. Once again we learnt so much about the natural environment and enjoyed our beautiful open spaces and parkland in Tunbridge Wells.
Summer Outing to Tonbridge and Southborough Cemeteries

On Saturday 25 August, a small party of us went over to visit Tonbridge Cemetery. We were met by the very enthusiastic Pam Mills who had only four days before organised the appearance of a World War 1 tank in the grounds of Tonbridge Castle.

She kept up a stream of information on all matters to do with Tonbridge, not least the military personnel buried there. We were also interested to see the Belgian war graves in the cemetery. Tonbridge cemetery was opened in the late nineteenth century because, like ours, the graveyard surrounding their ancient church was full. It is situated to the north east of the town, commanding rolling views and is still accepting burials, though fewer in number than in its heyday.

The ancient mediaeval church of St Peter & St Paul, Tonbridge has been altered by the late Victorian ideas of architect Euan Christian, resulting in an interesting interior. Various refitments, restoration and cleaning of monuments has resulted in a wealth of historical detail with some magnificent effigies. Also on display are interesting connections with Jane Austen's family; including this tablet to the Rev. Henry Austen a cousin to Jane's father George. Alongside hatchments (banners placed outside the houses of the rich dead, to show that the household is in mourning). I had heard of them (see Evelyn Waugh's novel *Sword of Honour*), but this was the first time I had seen one. Not just one, but a whole nave full! This church is well worth a revisit.

We moved on to Southborough Cemetery, to meet the Sexton, Malcolm Reynolds, who showed us around his beautiful, tranquil cemetery with its single chapel. It is a marvel of good housekeeping. Malcolm, the sexton (he is proud of this old title) goes about his work with the love of someone who lives for his job.
The grass is immaculate, the edges are neatly trimmed and there is not a weed to be seen. Malcolm also digs each grave by hand, a job which takes him a day and a bit to complete. There are still about twenty graves each year dug in this way.

We weren’t the only visitors that afternoon. The cemetery is situated in a beautiful rural setting surrounded by fields.

We then visited St Peter’s Church, Southborough, situated by the cricket ground in Southborough and designed by Decimus Burton. The vicar asked us if we had spotted what is unusual (unique?) about his church, and none of us found the correct answer: it is that the church does not face east, but rather north-south.

Here are some of us admiring the natural setting at St Peter’s. Loving the light and shadow and drifts of flowers. Lots of lichen as well.
The more formal part of the churchyard includes a memorial to local philanthropist Amelia Scott after whom the new Cultural Hub in Tunbridge Wells is to be named. Truly a wonderful finish to our day.

David Wakefield


Heritage Open Days September

Heritage Open Days were held over two days in the cemetery and coincided with the publication of ‘Remembered’, the stories of the seventy three servicemen of the First World War from Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa and the United States of America who lie in the Tunbridge Wells Borough Cemetery in graves which are maintained by the Commonwealth War

An exhibition accompanied the book with many exhibits from private collections as well as detailed display boards from the biographies including Private Goldsmith, (below) aged 19, who died in 1917. We were delighted to meet some of his relatives who came to join us, share personal letters and pay a visit to his grave.

A former pupil of St James School, Drummer S. Goldsmith, better known as ‘Jim’, is one of seventy three servicemen whose full biographies can be read in ‘Remembered’.

Each serviceman was remembered by the placement of a cross of remembrance outside the chapels; as well as flags provided by London embassies to represent the fallen servicemen from forces overseas.
Photographically represented are:

Charles Henry McKenzie, Corporal, Canadian Forestry Corps.

Charles Homer Heather, Private, Canadian Forestry Corps.

Arthur Cecil Packham, Sergeant, Canadian Army Pay Corps.

William Edward Byrnes, Private, Australian Imperial Force.

Jack Henry Graham, Gunner, South African Heavy Artillery.

Their stories and maps of the cemetery indicating the locations of the First World War graves are available in the chapel and the book, exhibition and map will be viewable on November 11th Remembrance Sunday. Remembered is priced at £5, p&p £2. If your delivery address is in Tunbridge Wells, Langton Green or Southborough, the book will be hand delivered without cost.

Please contact Peter Blackwell email: pwblackwell@hotmail.com

CA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>English Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boletes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chalciporus piperatus</td>
<td>Peppery Bolete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xerocomellus cislpinus</td>
<td>Red-cracking Bolete</td>
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<td><strong>Agarics (gilled fungi)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agaricus augustus</td>
<td>The Prince</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agaricus campestris</td>
<td>Field Mushroom</td>
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<td>Amanita rubescens</td>
<td>Blusher</td>
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<td>Amanita muscaria</td>
<td>Fly Agaric</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clitopilus prunulus</td>
<td>The Miller</td>
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<td>Coprinopsis atramentaria</td>
<td>Common Inkcap</td>
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<td>Coprinopsis micaceus</td>
<td>Glistening Inkcap (seen before the walk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entoloma bloxamii sl (possibly E. atromadidum)</td>
<td>Big Blue Pinkgill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnopilus junonius</td>
<td>Spectacular Rustgill</td>
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<td>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</td>
<td>Poisonpie</td>
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<td>Hygrocybe flavipes</td>
<td>Yellow Foot Waxcap</td>
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<td>Hygrocybe intermedia</td>
<td>Fibrous Waxcap</td>
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<td>Hygrocybe pratensis</td>
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<td>Hypholoma fasciculare</td>
<td>Sulphur Tuft</td>
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<td>Laccaria laccata</td>
<td>Deceiver</td>
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<td>Macrolepiota procera</td>
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<td>Panaeolina foeniscii</td>
<td>Brown Mottlegill</td>
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<td>Parasola plicatilis</td>
<td>Pleated Parasol</td>
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<td>Psathyrella piluliformis</td>
<td>Common Stump Brittlestem</td>
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<td>Russula betularum</td>
<td>Birch Brittlegill</td>
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<td>Russula ochroleuca</td>
<td>Ochre Brittlegill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russula nigricans</td>
<td>Blackening Brittlegill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tricholomopsis rutilans</td>
<td>Plums and Custard (seen before the walk)</td>
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<td><strong>Bracket fungi &amp; allies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Daedaleopsis confragosa</td>
<td>Blushing Bracket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ganoderma australe</td>
<td>Southern Artist’s Bracket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grifola frondosa</td>
<td>Hen of the Woods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piptoporus betulinus</td>
<td>Birch Polypore; Razor Strop Fungus</td>
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<td>Postia tephroleuca</td>
<td>Greyling Bracket</td>
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<td>Trametes versicolor</td>
<td>Turkeytail</td>
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<td><strong>Earthballs</strong></td>
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<td>Scleroderma verrucosum</td>
<td>Scaly Earthball</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cup Fungi &amp; allies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Helvella crispa</td>
<td>White Saddle</td>
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A brilliant day, organised by Lynne Monckton. Here is Martin pointing out some Razor Strop Fungus, used by Victorians for sharpening their razor blades.

**New System for Subscriptions**

As you may know, the Friends of Tunbridge Wells were set up in 2014 and after our foundation, subscriptions were collected, often in cash, on those occasions when the Friends met at the AGM or another event. Since then the number of Friends have grown and we now need to put in place a more efficient system to collect annual subscriptions.

We have selected GoCardless as our partner to collect subscriptions by direct debit. The great advantage of direct debit is that you can have complete peace of mind because the direct debit guarantee ensures that in the event of an error you can easily obtain a refund of the money erroneously collected. GoCardless have an excellent reputation as a first class trustworthy company with over 30,000 customers worldwide who process over five billion transactions annually.

So during November/December 2018, those of who have email addresses will receive an email invitation from GoCardless to complete an online direct debit authority enabling the Friends to collect your 2019 subscription of ten pounds by direct debit on the third of January 2019 and thereafter on the same date annually. You will always receive an email advice from GoCardless in advance advising you of the forthcoming payment before it is collected.

Those Friends who are not on email will receive a letter with a standing order form to enable you to pay your subscription direct to our bank account with Metro Bank.

Your annual subscriptions are a vital source of income for the Friends enabling us to fulfil our objectives. Please encourage your friends and family to join us by completing an application form for membership which can be found on our website – [www.fotwc.wix.com](http://www.fotwc.wix.com)

**John de Lucy – Deputy Treasurer, October 2018**
Forthcoming Events 2018

Sunday 11 November: Remembrance Sunday, 1918 Armistice Ceremony:

WW1 Exhibition ‘Remembered’ 1:00pm until 4:00pm

2:00 pm Laying of Wreaths WW2 & WW1

2.30 pm RAF memorial

2.45 pm Royal British Legion lecture: Christopher Everett, CBE: The partition of the Middle East after the First World War.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund - Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery - We are honoured and delighted to announce that we have received an award of 10 silhouette figures ‘There but not There’ to represent some of the names on the cemetery gravestones.

Refreshments available.

Friday 23 November 7.30pm: Rev.Henry Austen, Jane’s Favourite Brother - A talk by David Wakefield at the Camden Centre, (Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery). Free event.

Saturday 1 December 7.30pm : Carols in the Chapel with The Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, The Friends of Tunbridge Wells Library, Museum & Art Gallery and CREATE Choir invite you to join them in the Twin Chapels at Tunbridge Wells Cemetery for festive carolling, mince pies and mulled wine.

Tickets £5 donation towards our fund-raising. June Bridgeman, 01892 525578, jbman@btinternet.com

All details correct at time of going to print.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/TunbridgeWellsCemetery

Twitter: TW Cemetery @FoHCTW
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