

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Our seventh year of volunteering in Heene Cemetery has been very busy with many new visitors and a few new volunteers.

We did achieve the Community Green Flag award for 2022/2023, and the dedicated hard work of our volunteers, to achieve this, is greatly appreciated.

Our Stories from the Stones and Meadowland was well attended and all visitors enjoyed a lovely autumn afternoon.



The Remembrance Gathering in November was also under blue skies, albeit it a great deal cooler. Deep and grateful thanks go to the Worthing Branch Royal British Legion Standard Bearers, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Sarah Nathaniel for leading the service and Brian White for playing the bugle. We were also honoured with the attendance of the Mayor of Worthing and her Consort, who spoke the Exhortation, and laid a cross on two of our eight commonwealth war graves.

The winter months were reasonably good for the volunteers to carry out light conservation work over Tuesday's and Saturday's and it was lovely to meet new visitors who dropped by as they took their stroll around the area.



Sadly, on the 1st February we found our noticeboard was vandalised overnight, but the Worthing Council cemeteries department quickly donated a much-appreciated replacement, which was installed on 3rd March 2023.

On the 10th February we received some deeply upsetting news, from the cemeteries department, that we were not allowed to continue our voluntary work inside the walls of Heene Cemetery due to a survey identifying a large number of unsafe headstones.



Whilst we were not allowed to physically work in the cemetery, our species recorder and family research volunteers continued to do their work and upload a great deal of information onto our website. www.heenecemetery.org.uk

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters who enable us to continue this valuable and vital work in the centre of an urban area.

Sue Standing – Chairperson FoHC