

Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard Meeting Minutes 25 May 2023

Attendees: Peter Barker, Diana Knight, Anne Bailey, Jenny Hailstone

Apologies: Tim Hailstone, David Holmes

The main purpose of the meeting was to progress the planning and execution of the wildlife, flora and fauna surveys. The results will give us a benchmark to compare what we find in the graveyard this year with what we find next year after 12 months of a less manicured existence.

Proposed and agreed that the project be split into four segments of plants, insects, other wildlife such as birds and bats, lichen. The original plan was to invite anybody who was interested to come and help survey. On reflection, as this is a learning experience for us, we will keep the numbers small and try and recruit people with a sound knowledge base in these areas to help us identify the various species. The first survey will be of plants on June 3rd advised by Stevie Rogers of Dartmouth Green Partnership. The remainder are to be organised once we have found people with some expertise to advise us.

Following up the surveys

The results will be displayed on the website, Facebook, in the E Newsletter and on the church display board. An A3 whiteboard to be placed in the church porch and visitors will be invited to write down what they have seen during their visit. This board will be wiped weekly and interesting 'spots' will be reported on social media. We should consider whether we keep a record of all sightings.

Other thoughts to engage the wider community were discussed such as activity sheets.

All – please have some thoughts about this so we can agree an approach at the next meeting.

Path from the east side to the coffin gate

FOSP and ourselves agree that a resin path is the best route to take. A key benefit of this material is that it will allow natural drainage which the current path does not. Peter to take a sample to the PCC meeting on June 5th.

Benches

The PCC agree with the proposal that the perfect place for the first bench is on the far side of the church near the Sutton family area. Peter to show bench examples at the next PCC meeting.

Mowing of paths through wildflower area

Kevin Sumner has very kindly offered to mow the paths when they need doing. He will let me know when he needs cover.

Communication

Anne has drafted the next E Newsletter which will go out shortly. As ever, is doing a great job keeping Facebook and the website updated and writing a monthly article for the parish magazine.

Next meeting. TBC – probably late June when hopefully the surveys will be completed