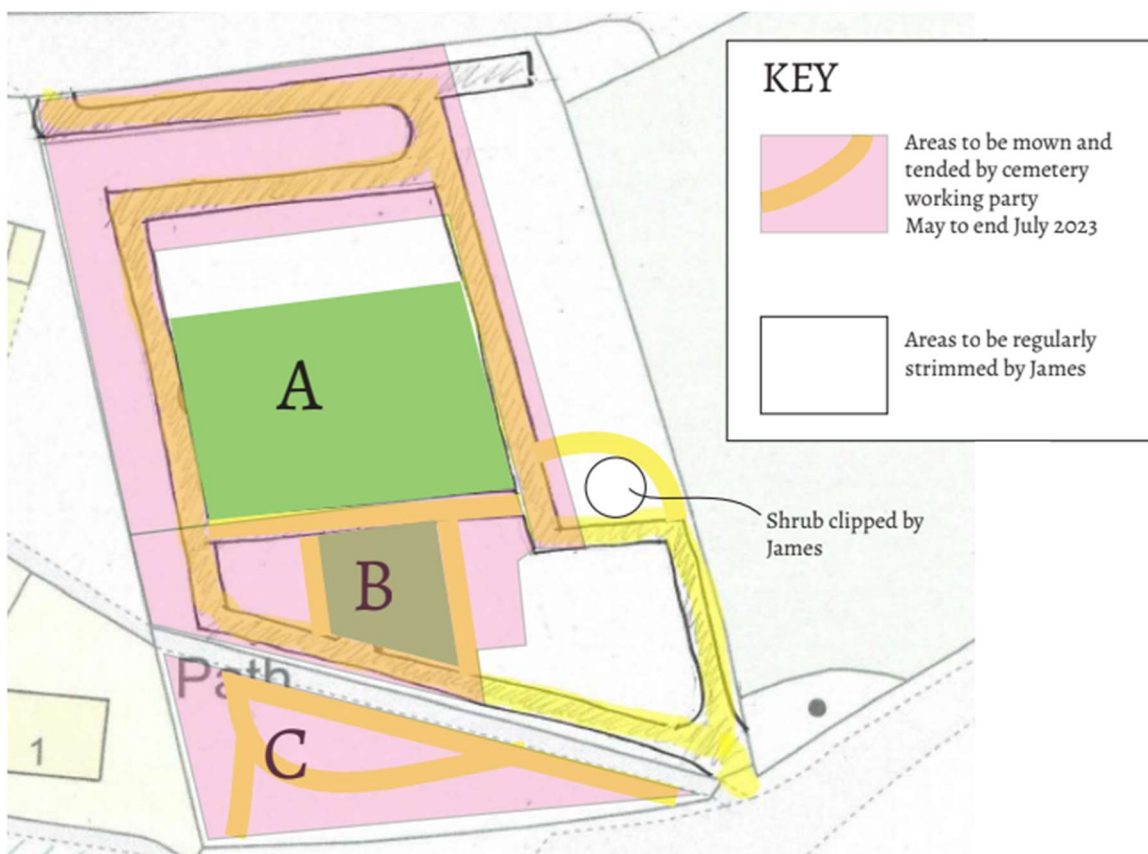


Freshford Parish Council – cemetery maintenance schedule

(Councillor Elli Bate, Oct 2023)

It is proposed for a vote at the October 2023 Parish Council meeting that a volunteer group led by Loulou Brouard will continue to contribute to the maintenance of the cemetery, as described on page 2 of this document.

Maintenance to be carried out by James Lock – plan for the year:	
Areas A & B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strim once in March and once in April - Then leave long until end of July - Strim end of August - Then strim fortnightly until end of September - Strim once in October and once in November
Area C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strim once in March and once in April - Volunteer group will mow and tend from start of May to end July - Strim end of August - Then strim fortnightly until end of September - Strim once in October and once in November
White areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strim regularly, as previously
Pink areas and orange paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strim end of August - Rest of the year the volunteer group will mow and tend
Hedge on Tying side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut in October, no need to cut subsequently in February - Trim during Spring/Summer when looking untidy, checking for nesting birds
Saplings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please continue to cut as previously, including on graves where accessible



Cemetery Volunteer Group

June 2023

There is currently a core group of 4 people who are keen to take this on and are ready to get started straight away. We're confident that others will want to join us and we welcome all offers.

Initial period from now until end July 2023 (2 sessions in June and 2 in July), followed by review. This is what we will address over the cycle of a year.

- Mow the paths and ensure ease of access. Trim any overgrown areas that border the paths so vegetation doesn't flop over onto the paths. For this to happen, we will need to ask James to leave the paths and to continue to trim only the areas around the more recent graves. We are still happy for him to trim the entire area at an agreed date in late July or early August.
- Rake and remove the loose grass and tidy the graves where James has been strimming (unless James is able to take this on).
- Hand weed thistles, docks, nettles and other unwanted vegetation from all areas.
- Cut back any areas of grass that have gone over or become too vigorous.
- Systematically adopt the oldest and most overgrown/neglected graves and clear them of weeds, rubble and saplings. This will be done one grave at a time according to our capacity but I think that this is the only way to do it with care and sensitivity, rather than attempting to blitz the whole lot. This is an opportunity to explore some of the history of former Freshford residents and to involve older residents whose knowledge is invaluable. There will over time be a cumulative effect on the overall state of the graves. I think it is still helpful if James continues to do what he can to combat the saplings.
- Plant more bulbs (October) to add to what we have planted so far. This has been a great success. Last year we worked in collaboration with Friends of Freshford and the children from Freshford Primary School.
- Carry out species counts through the year and document the biodiversity in the cemetery and share this with the wider community (newsletter, poster in the village shop etc).
- Forge connections with the organisation "Caring for God's Acre" and tap into their knowledge, experience and resources <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/resources/>