



# Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery

## The Gardening Team's Report for 2022



The gardening team has grown in number in 2022 and we welcome several new and enthusiastic volunteers to continue the annual cycle of planting, weeding, pruning, mowing and raking which keeps the cemetery looking good for visitors, and preserves the natural habitats for our local flora and fauna. Over 520 hours of gardening work were given by the team in 2022. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". We take this maxim to heart and on a day when the weather was too atrocious to venture into the cemetery we enjoyed together a pre-Christmas lunch. Meet the team:-



*From left to right:- Kirsten Bolt, Angela Swain, Matthew Budd, Sarah Thomas, Catherine Dorman, Sarah Budd, Mike Higgins, Marilyn Loos and David Nealon.*

We welcome any further newcomers who would like to join us with gardening work, even on an occasional basis. Angela Swain [angelaswain2@outlook.com](mailto:angelaswain2@outlook.com) or Catherine Dorman [mail@cdorman.eu](mailto:mail@cdorman.eu) would be pleased to hear from you.

The winter months of early 2022 brought devastating storms and gale force winds to S.E. England, damaging several trees in the cemetery. A Sawara Cypress was broken off at a height of ca 7 metres from the ground. T.W.B.C. provided professional tree surgeons to make it safe and to clear some of the debris. Boughs and torn branches from other damaged trees could be cleared by the volunteers, with the wood added to our two "dead hedges" where it can slowly rot down whilst providing a dry safe habitat or shelter for small animals.

The boundaries of the cemetery are of diverse materials and need specific care – low stone walls, high brick walls, chain link fencing, hedges, fences and trees. In 2022 several large trees on the boundary were felled, exposing the north east corner of the cemetery. The trees



were on a property in Park Road. Many weeks of work were spent by the gardening team clearing the area, moving a dead hedge to a more sheltered position, digging out brambles, bindweed and dock, and then sowing a wild flower seed mix. This creates a new meadow for insect life and provides a natural feature at this lower, informal entrance/exit to the cemetery.



Michael's meadow, the spring bulb meadow, starts flowering with snowdrops in February and continues the colourful show with winter aconites, wild daffodils, wood anemones and fritillaries though to camassias in May. In spring 2022 we added further snowdrops "in the green" , and in autumn we added more wild daffodil bulbs.

The stone outcrop on which the chapel is built is a geological feature typical of the Tunbridge Wells Common and other places in the vicinity. The wire netting over the crag, which has been in place for many years to deter badgers from taking up residence, is difficult to keep clear of brambles and bindweed. A concerted effort has been made this year to keep the crag as clear as possible so that this local feature can be appreciated and admired.

The Grosvenor meadow has been planted with diverse native wild flowers such as scabious, clover, yarrow and oregano, which should establish well and seed across the whole area.



The gardening team has a rolling schedule of jobs for each month; our log books record work completed, hours spent and notes of when specific features, trees or flowers look their best. In preparation for events in the cemetery such as concerts, guided tours, tree planting etc we turn our focus to the areas which will be most on show. In 2022 we were lucky to have several occasions where additional visitors enjoyed the cemetery:-

The dedication of the dove tree in February which was planted to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a nature trail led by Dr Ian Beavis in June, the Heritage open Day Tour in September and the concert by the Wadhurst Brass Band also in September.



The Autumn of 2022 brought some welcome rain after the heat and drought of the summer creating ideal conditions for an excellent showing of fly agaric fungi. The autumn foliage was glorious, especially the tulip tree which was a burst of gold brightening a dark area of the cemetery.



Woodbury Park Cemetery was entered for the South & South East in Bloom competition, in a newly created category especially for churchyards, and we were delighted to receive a Gold award, which is now displayed in the noticeboard by the entrance to the cemetery.

We look forward to meeting many "Friends" of the cemetery whenever they visit this beautiful place. We all wear "Volunteer" T-shirts so do come and say hello.

Catherine Dorman  
January 2023.

The plan overleaf shows the layout of the cemetery and the location of various areas mentioned in the above text.

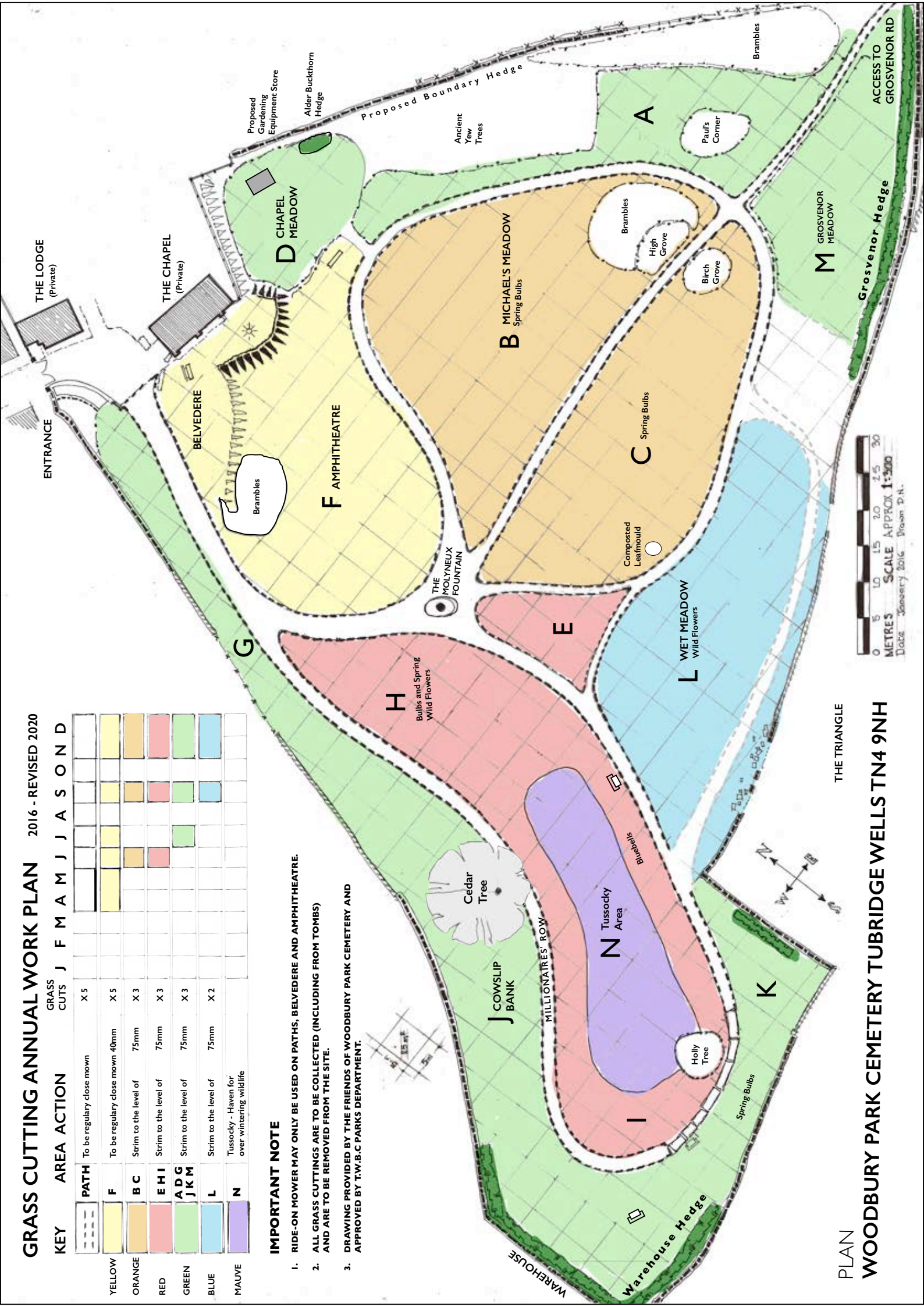
# GRASS CUTTING ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2016 - REVISED 2020

GRASS CUTS J F M A M J J A S O N D

KEY	AREA ACTION	X 5									
---	PATH To be regularly close mown	X 5									
YELLOW	F To be regularly close mown 40mm	X 5									
ORANGE	B C Strim to the level of 75mm	X 3									
RED	E H I Strim to the level of 75mm	X 3									
GREEN	A D G Strim to the level of 75mm	X 3									
BLUE	L Strim to the level of 75mm	X 2									
MAUVE	N Tussocky - Haven for over-wintering wildlife										

## IMPORTANT NOTE

1. RIDE-ON MOWER MAY ONLY BE USED ON PATHS, BELVEDERE AND AMPHITHEATRE.
2. ALL GRASS CUTTINGS ARE TO BE COLLECTED (INCLUDING FROM TOMBS) AND ARE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE SITE.
3. DRAWING PROVIDED BY THE FRIENDS OF WOODBURY PARK CEMETERY AND APPROVED BY T.W.B.C PARKS DEPARTMENT.



PLAN

WOODBURY PARK CEMETERY TUBRIDGE WELLS TN4 9NH

THE TRIANGLE

0 5 10 15 20 25 30  
METRES SCALE APPROX 1:300  
Date: January 2016 From P.N.