

## **Caring for the 'Scattered War Graves' in St. James Churchyard, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ.**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has established an initiative to provide care for the 'Scattered War Graves' throughout the UK. Individual graves make up the majority of burials in the UK, with 90% of sites having fewer than 10 war graves. Scattered Graves are found in every type of burial ground from churches to cemeteries amongst other graves. There are 14 (fourteen) Scattered War Graves in St. James Churchyard and 12 (twelve) Canadian War Graves.

The appointed trained volunteer for the St. James Churchyard, Hampton Hill is Andrew (Andy) Oakley at [andyoakley1@hotmail.com](mailto:andyoakley1@hotmail.com)

He will identify and photograph all of the St. James Scattered War Graves and will, initially tidy and reveal/uncover the plots and, where required, wash down the headstones with water only and a soft-bristled brush. Thereafter he will check the graves twice a year. He will begin the grave tending on the week beginning Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

Ros Daly met with Andy Oakley on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> to help identify the locations of all the scattered graves and assess their condition. Four graves within Private Memorials were also identified. The CWGC does not own or maintain private memorials but does monitor their condition to ensure the individual's name is legible.

A previous proposal, in discussion stage only, to mount a display board in the church's inner courtyard identifying all the churchyard's war graves for visitors was looked at and considered to be a worthwhile project that would expound on the War Graves notice mounted on the railings at the west entrance to the south porch.

The current care aim for Scattered War Graves is to adopt a conservation approach for the headstones, ensuring: Inscriptions should be legible at reasonable light levels and viewing distances. Headstones should be upright, clean and accessible. The area surrounding the grave should be neat and tidy. Badges and emblems should be clear enough to be recognisable.

**ENDS 30/06/2021**