

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

‘EYES ON, HANDS ON’ PROJECT

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, and ensures they will never be forgotten.

There are a couple of local CWGC ‘Eyes On, Hands On’ volunteers who help to care for and monitor the condition of the 149 Commonwealth War graves within Bebington Cemetery. As ‘Eyes On, Hands On’ volunteers they firstly photograph every CWGC grave, both Commission headstones and private memorials, checking that the headstones are in good condition then report back to CWGC and highlight any repair/maintenance work that needs doing to the Commission headstones but unfortunately the CWGC cannot repair private memorials. They do monitor the private memorials to ensure the individuals name is legible.

The ‘Hands On’ part is where, if necessary, they clean and tidy the war graves in the care of the CWGC and trim back vegetation close to the graves. They only use water and a light scrubbing brush, **never** using detergents, bleach or any form of power-jet washer. For the graves that need a deeper clean or a maintenance issue has arisen a member of the CWGC craft maintenance team will attend to the issue.



“One of the best things about the volunteering that we do is finding out the stories of the people who are buried in Bebington Cemetery, that’s one of the most rewarding elements, finding out about them, their stories and their backgrounds”

Sarah & Dennis, local CWGC volunteers