

Dear Lisa

P/21/079/TWA Old Town Churchyard

Brian has asked me to write, in support of the above tree works application.

You may be aware that Brian and myself took on the massive renovation project in the old churchyard back in March 2021 (mainly on the 19th century terraces, constructed by Augustus Smith of Tresco, but now we are working in most areas of the church grounds.)

We have all the necessary permissions, and you will know Brian's professional background. He has also worked on all the islands' churches during his career for the diocese.

Now we are volunteers, but approach the work in a professional manner with the support of Mike Shellhorn, Time Served Monumental Mason, and Allan Brodie from English Heritage along with various other professionals.

The terrace walls, where appropriate have been repaired using traditional methods, tools and materials by Brian over the course of the last nine months.

We have had conversations with Ned Rogers about the Holly tree. It is dying around its crown, many of the limbs are dead or in very poor condition. The trunk is shooting out new growth, but this is to be expected of Holly trees, they have a strong survival instinct. Aesthetically the tree is in a dire state, its removal would help in Brian's repair works. The overbearing size of the tree means that the side area is permanently damp and dark, its removal would bring light into the left hand side of the terraces, allowing the more sympathetic and appropriate planting to thrive and Brian would more easily be able to access the walls to rebuild them, currently this is not possible.

The tree has caused, in Brian's professional opinion, untold damage to the adjacent terrace walls, the roots themselves have badly undermined the stonework and the side wall is in a state of collapse. One cross, has been shattered by falling limbs. The cross belongs to Elizabeth Maria White, who died in 1884, she was the wife of Rev. James Henry White, who died later the same year in tragic circumstances. The nearby graves are all showing signs of root damage, the grave on the low walled area by the tree is particularly vulnerable.

We should like to support the tree's entire removal, as it is hard to see how a tree of that age would ever look presentable again, at the cost of the destruction of people's graves. After all it is a churchyard.

Regards

Brian & Lindsay Sanford - Formerly ABS Building Contractors.

