



did you know?

INFORMATION FROM THE TSS ARCHIVES

In 1927, Horace Dixon decided to plant Ivy around the new Clock Tower/Delpratt building to replicate the old English ivy that climbed on the buildings in Cambridge University, England.

As the newly planted ivy grew to cover the Clock Tower, little did Horace know he had planted the wrong ivy, his was an invasive fig species (*Ficus*) and very unlike the non-invasive ivy found in England.

Over the many years this fig ivy had eaten away the grout on the Delpratt brick work and it had to be removed a few years ago. A huge job entailed in fixing the destruction the ivy had caused, including the gargoyle sculptures which were left as mere stumps and had to be recreated using photographs.

The ivy is now kept trimmed to limit the growth, but stubborn little shoots can still be seen growing from random parts of the building.

In March this year, the ivy actually fell off the outside of the Memorial room and had to be put back in to place using a small crane, due to the weight. The poor crane driver had a nasty shock when he disrupted a wasp nest and had to delay the task until the wasps were moved.

So next time you admire the beautiful ivy, spare a thought for the gardeners who are constantly working to keep it in check.

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