

# Newsletter 2008

## YEALMPTON WOODLAND BURIAL ASSOCIATION

### RAPID EXPANSION

Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association's membership is expanding much faster than had been anticipated. In the ten month period ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008, 51 new members have joined, giving us a total of 231 members at that date. The importance of protecting the environment has an increasingly high profile and this is leading more people to choose a green burial.

We continue to have a good relationship with funeral directors. Many are very supportive and appreciate the fact that our work to provide a woodland burial ground increases the choices they can offer their clients at a difficult time. We also believe that success breeds success: the fact that our Association has remained financially viable over the five years' of our existence gives Funeral Directors confidence to recommend us as a reliable alternative.

As we approach the end of our financial year on 31<sup>st</sup> March, we are confident that we will be reporting (through our Treasurer) a surplus for the year. This will enable us to place a further sum of money on deposit for the future. In the longer term, any surplus will be used to



*Entrance gateway*

ensure that the burial ground can be maintained as woodland in perpetuity.

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*Information Board*



### SITE MANAGEMENT

We are very pleased with our new notice board. In the end, we decided to place it by the turning circle, as most people will see it there. We do still find a lot of plastic and litter discarded at the burial ground, which is a pity, but we hope that the information board will help to reduce this. The turning circle is losing

its definition somewhat. We want it to look a little smarter, but not 'municipal' so we are obtaining quotations to have the weeds removed and the area reseeded with slow growing grass. We may also install a circular border.

The trees are now well established and we anticipate that those planted in 2003 will show good progress in the coming growing season.

Recent visitors will have seen that we have moved the fencing and started planting trees further into the lower end of the 9.5 acre field. This is because we will soon need more space.

In December 2006, the roadside hedge was planted out with hazel. The tree shelters on top of the roadside hedge have re-



*Turning circle*

cently been removed and all the young hazels are well established. The hedge looks much better now and when the hazels come into leaf, the approach to the burial ground will be much improved.

## TREE PLANTING DAY

Our annual tree planting day took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007. Once more we had lots of members and friends attending, which created a wonderful atmosphere. We planted over 100 trees and this would not have been possible without your assistance. We could not guarantee good weather, and in fact it was quite a dark and stormy afternoon, but we were able to offer the small reward of shelter in our yurt (a Mongolian style canvas tent) after the planting had taken place, and just before the rain set in. By the end of

the afternoon your support had resulted in successful planting of a new grove of trees with 10 different varieties. In addition, several memorial trees were planted to commemorate the lives of relatives or friends, and we finished on a positive note with tea, coffee and cake in the yurt.

PS Someone left a purple folding umbrella after the tree planting day. If that was you, please call 881070 to retrieve it as it is missing you.



*Linda and the Yurt*



*Planting Grove C*

*"We could not guarantee good weather, and in fact it was quite a dark and stormy afternoon"*

## YOUR COMMITTEE AND HELPERS

LEFT TO RIGHT:-

ROGER DURMAN (HON TREASURER)

RICHARD YONGE

DONNA FOSTER (HON SECRETARY)

MARGARET PARNELL

ALISON JORY

MARION MEAD

LINDA DURMAN (HON CHAIRMAN)



## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are a 'not for profit' organisation, but we do have to make the books balance. When we consider what we need to charge new members in the next financial year (the subscription cost) we take into account the cost of maintaining the burial ground and the cost of running the Asso-

ciation. We do **not** have shareholders, so do not have to pay dividends. The committee is recommending that we do not need to increase membership subscriptions before April 2009. We will inform funeral directors of this decision, and hopefully this will keep the flow of enquiries and

new members high. The choice of burial at Lower Heddon remains competitive with other burial grounds.







## Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 in the Yealmpton Community Centre at 7pm

1. Minutes of the AGM 2007
2. Honorary Chairman's annual report
3. Honorary Treasurer's annual report
4. Resignation and Re-appointment of Honorary officers
5. Restructuring YWBA (see below)
6. Next year's AGM will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton at 7 pm

After the formal matters of the AGM, the meeting will be open to all for a 'question and answer' session.

## SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The following resolutions will be proposed as special resolutions on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 to be duly considered and if thought appropriate, to be passed by the requisite majority of 66% of those members attending the AGM and voting.

### Special Resolution 1

To transfer all the activities and assets of the Association to a new bespoke charitable incorporated organisation set up for the purpose (the charitable incorporated organisation being the new form of corporate charity introduced by the Charities Act 2006) which organisation will take over and run the burial ground and its affairs as successor to the Association with all the benefits of incorporation and charitable status. ( the "Transfer")

### Special Resolution 2

To cease all activities of the Association with effect from such date as the General committee and their professional advisers shall decide, to discharge all lawful liabilities of the Association and to make such arrangements as necessary to wind up the Association and transfer its assets and activities to the charitable incorporated organisation.

### Special Resolution 3

To authorise Roger Durman, Linda Durman and Donna Foster of the General committee to approve the Transfer and all documents and formalities connected therewith, to set up the charitable incorporated organisation with the Charity Commission, with full power to amend or settle any documentation, to approve all arrangements, give instructions to professional advisers, authorise on behalf of the Association the execution of all documents, and to do all such other things or take such other actions as may be necessary in connection with the matters referred to in these resolutions all of which will have the effect of closing the Association in due course.

{
*To Transfer all the activities and assets of the Association to a charitable  
incorporated organization*
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## YEALMPTON WOODLAND BURIAL ASSOCIATION



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*If you support our aims, you may join the Association, and gain the right to be buried at Lower Heddon. We also offer burial of ashes following cremation, scattering of ashes, and purchase of a memorial tree. We are a 'not for profit' community association and deliberately keep our running costs low so that the cost of burial at Lower Heddon stays well below the cost of more traditional graveyards. In fact the cost of burial here is similar to the cost of cremation, but burial has a much lower impact on the environment. Please contact Donna Foster (Honorary Secretary) for more information.*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.WOODLANDBURIAL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WOODLANDBURIAL.ORG.UK)**

## NATURE NOTES

It was with great excitement that we discovered that our wonderful Burial Ground has become home to many species of wild animal. It is also apparent that although we encourage the planting of wild flowers by our members, that some flower species have self-seeded themselves and are also thriving.

At varying times, we have seen the skylark and witnessed its distinctive song. One of the RSPB Red List species, it is a small brown bird, somewhat larger than a sparrow but smaller than a starling. It is renowned for its display flight, vertically up in the air. Also spotted have been kestrels, buzzards, sparrow hawks, swallows, swifts and barn owls.

Down on the ground have been voles, foxes, rabbits and the brown hare which was the first animal to be considered in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to improve numbers. Not yet considered endangered, rare or under any kind of threat, it was once very common but has now declined significantly.



*Brown Hare*

On the flower front we have discovered the colourful chicory has put in an appearance. A bushy perennial herb with blue or lavender flowers, common chicory can be known as coffee weed.



*Skylark*



*Chicory*