

# Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association Newsletter 2011

## Welcome from the Chairman

The Community Association has had another successful year. A highlight in June was the burial ceremony for Mr. Teddy Foster. His family asked if they could hold the ceremony at Lower Heddon using a marquee. We were happy to agree. It was not the best weather for erection of a marquee, but better the next day when the funeral took place. According to the family this was 'a magical ceremony and burial that we all contributed to. On the day it was sunny and breezy, ideal for the beautiful site and the light, airy style of the tent, its open end framing the distant view of Dartmoor. The family decorated everything in sight, with wild flowers. In all, the physical setting could not have been better in any way.'

The family has kindly agreed that we can include some photos here, that may inspire you to design your own celebration at Lower Heddon. We try not to be too prescriptive about use of the burial ground, and we facilitate family involvement as far as possible. Please ask us if you would like to hold a commemorative event.

Once more we have employed sheep to keep the grass down on that part of the field that is still meadow and they are to be congratulated for doing an excellent job. In fact it was a rather cold job in December when they were there. They had to be given extra hay to eat. When their water froze, they were removed to a less exposed field until the spring. The weather was so bad just before Christmas, that the road past Lower Heddon was covered with thick ice and impassable. It is not a bus route, so does not get gritted. Indeed it was so dangerous that the road was closed for 10 days. Fortunately no funerals were disrupted, but we had to cancel our tree planting day on 4th December. The ground was frozen so hard that the trees could not be lifted at the nursery, and we would not have been able to dig holes to plant them either. The event was rearranged for 4th February.





## Finance Report

Our membership has increased, and we have welcomed 40 new members during the 10 months to 31st January 2011, bringing the total membership of YWBA at that date to 393. The number of people joining the Association is encouraging and we hope to continue to grow steadily in the future. Since we opened seven years ago, 175 burials have taken place of which 55 were burial of ashes.

We have maintained a steady income and are financially strong. Our accounts for the first nine months of the 2010-2011 financial year show a healthy surplus. The report and accounts will be presented at the AGM in April.

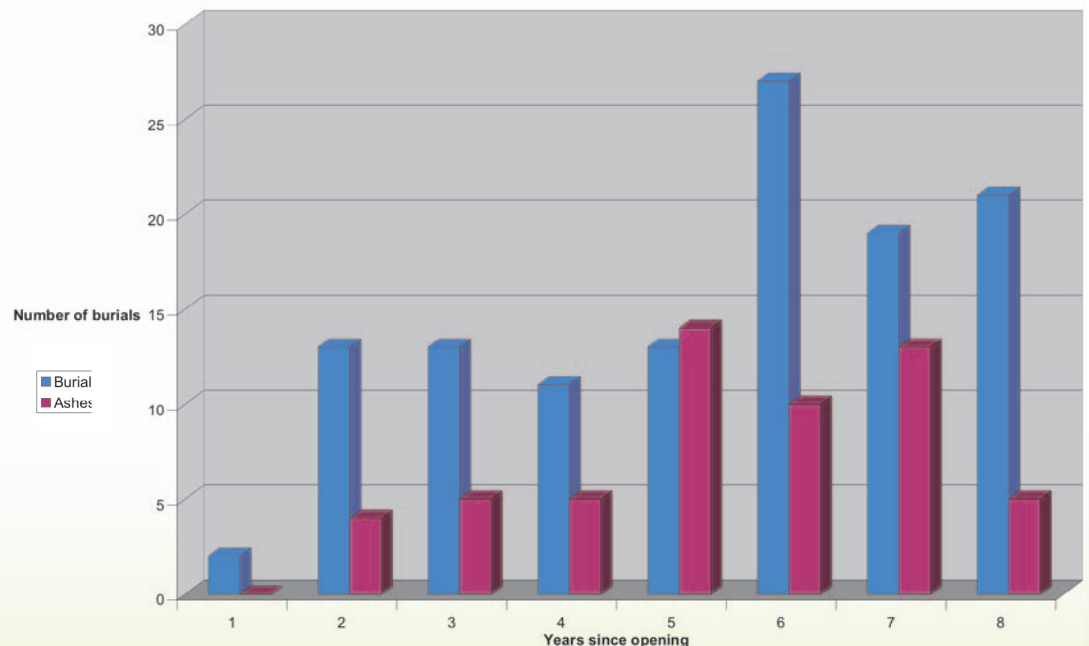


In the present financial climate, it is likely that cemeteries run by local authorities will be subject to a price increase. Plymouth City Council has already indicated that burial costs will be increased. Against that background it is comforting to record that YWBA have continued to keep our costs at a minimum, and are not increasing our charges for 2011-12.

## Your committee

Would you like to support the Association by becoming a committee member? It is not an onerous job; just two or three committee meetings a year and the AGM. We have a number of innovative issues to discuss at the next few meetings including the possibility of commissioning a literature review of the relative environmental benefits of burial (as opposed to cremation) and of beginning to fulfil another of the aims of the Association:

Bar chart; woodland burials to end January 2011



'8.4 Surplus funds should be used to support projects that enhance the community and life of Yealmpton as determined by the Members of the Association'

If you would like to discuss becoming a committee member, please call Linda or Roger on 01752 881070



## Wild Flowers

There is space at Lower Heddon for nearly 2,000 burials, so we expect that the field will be used as a burial ground for about 50 years. Knowing that there would be a considerable time during which some of the ground would be bare, we elected to plant a mixture of slow growing grass and wild flower seed. The grass is grazed by sheep, and the wild flowers enhance local biodiversity. Soon after we began to attract members of the Association, it became clear that people were interested in planting their own wild flowers as part of their memorials. In response we produced our Wildflower Policy and list of recommended flowers. The list of wild flowers allowed includes those that would naturally appear in either a meadow or woodland where no active planting has taken place. Critical to retaining the natural woodland, we asked and continue to ask, members and their families/friends to buy and plant WILD flower bulbs, plugs or seeds and NOT garden varieties which then ensures that the habitat is controlled and authentic. We also have a list of suppliers to help members to obtain their flowers from sustainable sources. English Nature has a very good Code of Conduct relating to the conservation and enjoyment of wild plants. This Code advises that picking wild plants with care and in moderation usually does little damage but that uprooting is harmful. There is a link on our website to the Code. Our Association Rules ask that members agree that everything brought onto the ground is biodegradable and/or made from renewable sources. During the course of our ongoing maintenance programme we have noticed some items and plants which do not fit the rules. We will continue to remove these items and plants and retain them for collection.

As one of the many people who have joined Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association, you have added strength to our aim to develop and maintain an ecology friendly burial ground and feel sure that you will support us in this.



*Buttercups*



*Bluebells*



*Wild Strawberry*



*Primrose*



*Ox Eye Daisy*



*Honeysuckle*



*Clover*



*Chicory*



*Blackberries*



*Poppies*

## Memorial Plaques

Whilst we keep a record of each grave position, they do become difficult to locate as the surrounding trees and shrubs mature. We therefore encourage relatives and friends to place an engraved slate plaque at the head of the grave to commemorate the deceased. The cost is not included in the fee for Membership of the Association.

We ask that engraved plaques should be 12 inches by 12 inches by 1 inch thick and laid flat on the ground. We will provide guidelines with further details on request. The guidelines can also be found on our website.



We are not required to keep a record of the location of buried ashes, so we advise you to mark the location with a plaque. Alternatively, you could purchase a memorial tree adjacent to the buried ashes and mark it with a plaque.

## Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association

Notice for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 28th 2011 in the Yealmpton Community Centre at 7pm

### Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM 2010
2. Honorary Chairman's annual report
3. Honorary Treasurer's annual report
4. Resignation and Re-appointment of Honorary officers
5. Proposal to use surplus funds for the benefit of the local community.
6. Next year's AGM will be held on 26th April 2012 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.

## Our Contact Information

web address [www.woodlandburial.org.uk](http://www.woodlandburial.org.uk)

email address [enquiries@woodlandburial.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodlandburial.org.uk)

postal address, YWBA at Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton, Plymouth PL8 2HF

Note: this is not the address for the burial ground –

You can find directions to the burial ground on our website or by phoning our secretary on 07739 806898