

Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association Newsletter 2014

Welcome from the Chairman

Dear members

At last year's AGM Roger and Linda stepped down after ten years of untiring commitment to the YWBA. A change like this could have interrupted the smooth running of the Association but the new management team has worked hard to ensure a successful transition. I would like to thank Geoff and all those involved for their hard work in bringing this about.

We are not letting Roger go just yet, however. He has very kindly agreed to act as warden for the burial ground and we will continue to benefit from his extensive knowledge and experience.

I am pleased to announce that the restructuring of the association has been successfully concluded and a company limited by guarantee was formed in 2013. This now provides us with a robust and appropriate vehicle through which to run our affairs. The members of the management committee have now been registered as directors and officers of the company and continue to meet as required to take decisions on operational matters.

The year has gone very smoothly with 19 burials and 4 members having their ashes buried or scattered since April 2013. New membership so far this year has reached 35 enabling the association to generate sufficient funds to ensure that we can meet all our operational commitments and maintain a healthy cash balance to cover running costs going forward. Our annual tree planting day in December was extremely well attended and it was a pleasure to welcome so many friends and family of the deceased to the ground. For once the weather was kind to us.

The management team are in the process of considering a number of possible improvements at the ground and we hope to be able to communicate these at next year's AGM.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement. The burial ground is a wonderful facility for our area and we are committed to ensuring its continued success.

Mike Cosby



Tree Topics

Tree Planting Day 2013

We were delighted to welcome so many people to our annual tree planting day on 1st December 2013. The weather was cold but fortunately dry though we were grateful for the small marquee, loaned to us for the day by Derek Wood.

A total of 40 new trees were planted including 19 planted as memorial trees for those buried in the preceding year. Thanks to all who helped on the day with various aspects of tree care and the excellent supply of hot drinks and refreshments.



*** Our next tree planting day will be: SATURDAY 29th November 2014 ***

Grove Layout

When we set out a new area of graves, we will no longer plant trees but simply mark the location of each grave with a tree stake. In future all membership subscriptions will include a memorial tree which will be planted after the burial. If a member has reserved an adjacent plot, their tree can be planted alongside at the same time. We decided to make this change in order to avoid the need to move trees which may have become established before the plot concerned is used.

Ash Dieback

The problem of ash dieback has meant that we have had to remove ash from our list of permitted species since it is currently unavailable from our suppliers. We previously deleted oak, aspen and goat willow following our detailed tree audit in 2012 which identified that these trees were either not flourishing or proving too vigorous. There is still a good range of trees to choose from and an up-to-date list can be found on our website. We will continue to monitor the health of our woodland and will review the situation from time to time. The most popular trees chosen in the past few years have been cherry, crab apple, rowan, silver birch and Scots pine.

Site Development Plans

We recently commissioned a site survey to chart the existing layout of the site and establish where key reference points in each grove lie. Once this is completed, we will erect a weather-proof site plan to assist visitors in finding graves.

It is now more than ten years since our first opening and, with some 300 burials having taken place, we will now soon be thinking about how the currently unused two-thirds of the site should be developed to meet future needs. In particular, we will be considering where we need to extend the access road and the various paths linking the burial

groves, where new groves should be established and whether we should plant further areas of woodland.

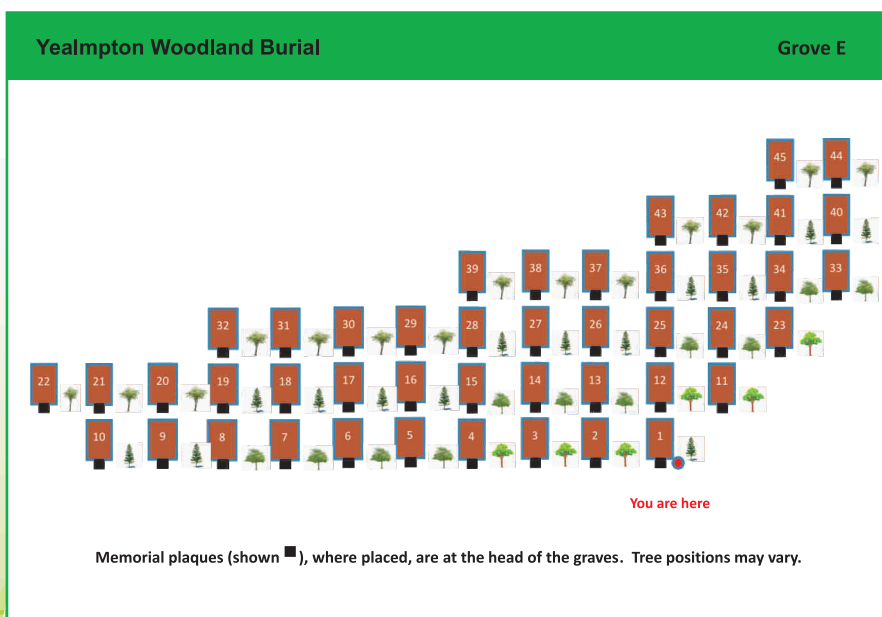
If you would like to make any suggestions about the future development of the site, please let us know.



Visiting Your Loved One's Grave

One of the most frequent questions we receive is from people wanting help in locating the grave of their friend or family member. We have recently added a new 'Visiting' section to our website which includes layout charts for each grove. The grove letter and plot number are now shown on the Interment Certificates we issue after a burial. If you do not have this, please give us a ring and we will tell you these details; the website does not give

the names of those buried as some may consider such a list an unwelcome breach of privacy.



We are still in the process of refining some of our grove charting but once this is complete we plan to erect a weather-proof chart by the first grave in each grove.

Please remember that we do not record the locations where cremated remains are buried or scattered – see overleaf for a recently introduced solution.

Burial Of Ashes In Charted Plots

Whilst we are legally required to record the precise location of all full burials, there is no such requirement for the burial of cremated remains and it is often difficult to know where ashes are buried within an area of natural woodland as the landscape changes over the years. This may be a particular concern for those wishing to have their ashes interred alongside those of a spouse or other family member. We encourage people to mark the place where ashes are buried with a slate memorial plaque but it must be remembered that these plaques can get moved over time as tree roots grow.

In future we will offer the choice of either our existing practice of burying ashes in our established woodland areas or, for those wishing to have a charted plot, burial in a burial grove plot. The cost of a grove plot is, of course, more expensive but the same plot can be used for up to three burials of ashes so the additional cost is actually quite small.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 24th April 2014 at 7pm at Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton, Devon, PL8 2HF

Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 25th April 2013
2. Chairman's annual report
3. Finance report
4. Retirement and election of directors see Note 1.
5. Date of AGM for 2015

After the formal business, the meeting will be open to all for a question and answer session.

Note 1. All current directors shall retire but will be eligible for nomination for re-election. Any member may nominate one member or other suitable person to serve as a director. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting.

Our Contact Information

telephone: 07739 806898

email: enquiries@woodlandburial.org.uk **web:** www.woodlandburial.org.uk

postal: 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 please phone us.