

Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association Newsletter 2016

Improved access to the site

The new extension loop to the roadway was finally opened on 4th June 2015 and we were delighted to have our founding chairman, Linda Durman, to cut the ribbon. To the right of Linda, wielding her scissors, is our chairman Mike Cosby and, to his right, Cliff Tucker who did a brilliant job constructing the new road.



One of the first to officially cross the starting line in his 1962 MGB was Geoff Craddock, our manager.



This aerial image of the 10 acre site was created by John Endicott using several photos taken from a drone camera. The new loop gives easy access to the whole top half of the site and we plan to establish our next groves inside the loop. The beginnings of a new plantation were planted last November.

Our planning consent also provided for a further loop to be added at some future date to open up the lower half of the site but that is not likely to be required until the turn of the next century.

Tree planting day - gales, downpours and hailstorms!



Saturday 28th November 2015 arrived with the worst weather for years. For many years we have provided hot tea and coffee refreshments but this year all attempts were thwarted. We did manage to erect the marquee the previous day and were quite pleasantly surprised to find it still there on the Saturday morning. This photo was taken at about 10.30 am - shortly

before the team were forced to dismantle it as it looked about to take off and disappear over the hills to Dartmoor. Note the lonely figure of Christine Cosby valiantly manning the coffee pot.

Despite the atrocious weather, we managed to plant 40 new trees and one family were seen to joyfully celebrate the life of their departed with champagne; hopefully not too diluted by the rain!

***** This year's tree planting day will be: SATURDAY 26th November 2016 *****



Membership

35 new members joined the Association in 2015 taking total membership to 618. 22 burials took place during the year and the ashes of a further 7 members were scattered on the site.

A view to the North with Dartmoor in the distance

Fees unchanged for 2016

Membership subscriptions were increased last April but no further change is anticipated for the time being. Subscriptions are one-off fees and once burial rights have been purchased, no further fees are payable.

Charges from 1 st April 2015	Membership Subscriptions	Burial Charges Non-members
Chartered grave plot	£650	£700
Burial of ashes	£250	£300
Scattering of ashes	£180	£200



Approved Trees

We are required, as a condition of our planning consent for the use of Lower Heddon as a woodland burial ground, to plant only native British trees and we only permit species from our approved list to be planted. From time to time, we revise that list to take into account varieties that are known to thrive in the prevailing conditions and those that are not advisable due to threats of disease.

This year, we have added Yew (*Taxus baccata*) to the list as this has been a traditional tree for many church graveyards over the centuries. Visitors may notice that there are several beech trees around the site. These are not included in our approved list because they, like oak, do not seem to grow well but, if any member or their relatives particularly want one, we will be happy to oblige.

Site Maintenance

In keeping with our aim to create a natural woodland, we do not cut the grass on or around graves although we do remove intrusive weeds such as ragwort and keep an eye on the health of the trees. However, we understand that some families like to see their loved one's grave kept tidier than nature intended and those who do so are free to trim the grass and plant flowers; only wildflowers from our approved list please!

We employ the services of an expert 'Garden Doctor' to advise how best to manage our woodland and to undertake much of the regular maintenance. If you are not able to tend your plot and would like him to give it some extra attention, you can contact Nigel Fenlon on 07971 854917.

The other major task is mowing the grass between the groves and the unused areas of our site and we very much appreciate the voluntary work done by our chairman, Mike Cosby and his family. His daughter, Laura, is shown here driving the 1968 International tractor Mike learnt to drive as a boy.



Visiting

Our woodland burial site is open at all times and you are welcome to visit at any time and stay as long as you like. We do, of course, ask that families are given privacy while burials are taking place. The pedestrian gate is always unlocked but we keep the vehicle gate locked to deter unwanted activities such as fly-tipping; if you need to drive in but don't know the code for the combination padlock, just ring 07739 806898.



Although the roadway around the site is only a single track, if you keep to one side it is wide enough to park on without obstructing others. Please **DO NOT** drive onto the grass unless you are certain it is firm enough to do so without damage. During the very wet weather at the beginning of the year, some severe damage was done - and we have needed a 4x4 to pull at least one car out of the mud!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7pm at Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton, Devon, PL8 2HF

Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd April 2015
2. Chairman's annual report
3. Finance report
4. Retirement and election of directors see Note 1.
5. Date of AGM for 2017

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

Post: 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.