

Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association Newsletter 2017

New Field Shelter for those rainy days



The South Hams boasts a milder climate than other parts of Devon but we have to admit that the sky is not always quite as blue as it was on the October day we completed erection of our new Field Shelter. Shown above, the 3.6m x 5.5m shelter offers space for parties of at least 20 people to escape the sort of downpour that made our 2015 tree-planting day rather miserable. It is, at least for planning purposes, a 'portable building' but it is well anchored to withstand the gales we occasionally have – and which nearly blew away our marquee last year! The entrance ramp makes it readily accessible for wheelchair users or others with limited mobility. Our thanks are due to one of our Directors, Derek Wood, for the many days' work assembling such a splendid shelter from what at first appeared a daunting kit of parts.

Help run the Association

The Woodland Burial is a company limited by guarantee and run by a voluntary board of directors. If you would like to join the team and help guide the future development of the burial ground all you need do is ask any Member to nominate you before the AGM.

See back page.

Our Current Directors:

Mike Cosby (Chairman)
Geoff Craddock (Manager)
Sheila Barton (Secretary)
Richard Yonge
Roger Durman
Alison Jory
Derek Wood

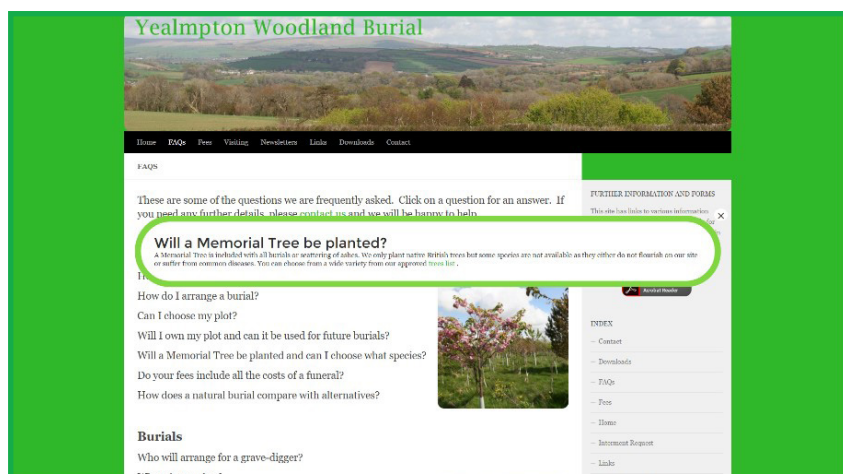
Email

Our email address is now info@woodlandburial.org.uk
We had to abandon the original address, enquiries@ because the volume of spam had risen to an unmanageable level.

You have been sent this Newsletter because you are either a member of Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association or the nominated representative of a deceased member. If you do not wish to receive future mailings from us, please let us know.

New Website

Our website www.woodlandburial.org.uk has had a major facelift recently to bring it up to date and make it suitable for viewing on the smart phones and tablets which more and more people are using these days.



There is a whole new section of FAQs where we have tried to answer many of the questions posed over the past few years.

Applications for membership and requests for burials can be completed online or, if you prefer, the necessary paper forms can be printed. You can also download our charts showing the layout of each burial grove if you need help to locate a particular grave.

Tree planting day 2016

The weather was much kinder this year and another 30 trees were planted by friends and family in memory of those who died in the previous year.

The most popular trees were:

- Sweet Chestnut 9
- Wild Cherry 8
- Crab Apple 6
- Rowan 4



Holly, Silver Birch, Scots Pine, Hazel and Lime were also chosen. To preserve a good balance of species, we buy extra trees of the less popular varieties and add them to our plantation areas. Nigel Fenlon, our tree expert on the right in the above photo, is helping plant a new tree.

*** This year's tree planting day will be: SATURDAY 25th November 2017 ***

Site Maintenance

Roger Durman, one of the Association's founders, visits the burial ground regularly and keeps a close eye on what needs to be done to look after the site.

Nigel Fenlon is paid for a day each month to deal with tree maintenance and volunteers from the committee and membership also lend a hand. The main tasks include cutting the grass in the unused 5 acres of the site with a tractor, keeping the tracks clear and removing any items that do not comply with the Association's rules.

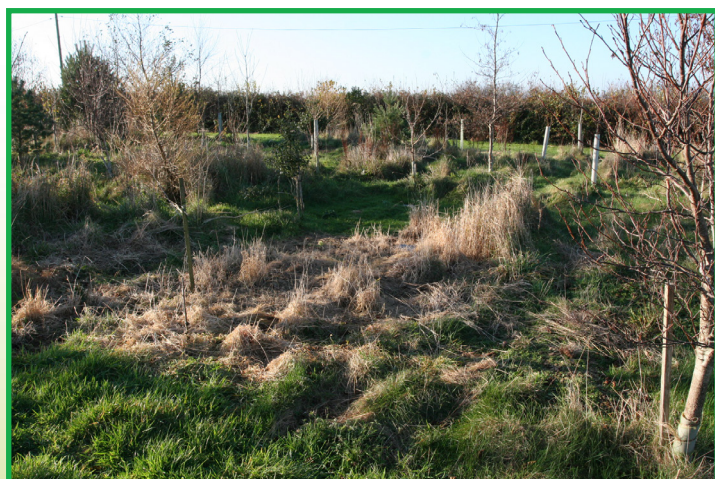
We are increasingly concerned that the rules regarding what can and cannot be left on and around burial plots are disregarded. All members are urged to acquaint themselves with these rules by visiting our website's FAQs section. We have started to implement the rules more strictly and are removing offending items such as plastic flower wrappings, plastic ornaments, vases and plastic frames for floral tributes. Where possible, they will be placed in the field shelter for collection and anything still there after 2 weeks will be disposed of. We also remove plants which are not on our list of approved trees or wildflowers.

We continue to remove invasive Aspen and Blackthorn and this is opening up some parts of the woodland which will encourage more vigorous growth of the remaining trees. On occasions the brush is left in situ as a temporary measure until it can be removed and burnt.

We hope to arrange volunteer days for members to spend a day (or less) with us carrying out essential work. If you would like to be involved please contact our manager and register your interest.



No herbicides please!



Yealmpton Woodland Burial is intended to be kept as natural woodland and whilst we don't object to grass being trimmed around graves we were dismayed to find the grass on this plot completely killed by the apparent use of a herbicide. **Please do not use any kind of weedkiller anywhere on the site.**

Our maintenance team occasionally use weedkillers on the driveways and under carefully controlled conditions to destroy particularly invasive plants such as Aspen.

Updates

- The Woodland Burial continues to serve the community well. Fifty new members joined the Association in the past year taking total membership to 668 and 30 burials took place during the year.
- We have replaced the combination lock on the vehicle access gate as the numbers on the old lock were becoming hard to read but the code remains unchanged. Unfortunately the first replacement proved faulty and some visitors over the Christmas period were unable to open it; we apologise for the inconvenience.
- Fees were increased in April 2015 but no further change is anticipated for the time being.
- The Association's finances remain in good order. Our new Field Shelter cost nearly £5,000 but we still expect a small surplus for the year to 31st March 2017.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th April 2017 at 7pm at Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton, Devon, PL8 2HF

Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 21st April 2016
2. Chairman's annual report
3. Finance report
4. Retirement and election of directors - see Note 1.
5. Review of prohibited items - see Note 2.
6. Date of AGM for 2018

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.

Note 2. To ensure the Association's rules about prohibited items reflect the aims of the Association, are clear and communicated to members.

Telephone: 07739 806898

Website: www.woodlandburial.org.uk

Email: info@woodlandburial.org.uk

Post: YWBA, Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton, Devon, PL8 2HF

Note: this is not the address of the burial ground. You can find directions on our website or please phone us.