

# Yealmpton Woodland Burial Association Newsletter 2018

## Our first Yew tree

We added yew to our list of approved tree species last year and the first yew tree was planted at our last tree-planting day in November.



## Membership

By the end of 2017 the Association's membership had grown to 500 for burial plus a further 145 members requesting burial of ashes and 69 for scattering of ashes. Of that total of 714 we have 267 members who have reserved burial rights for the future.

## Burials in the past year



There were 25 burials during 2017 and 7 burials of ashes. We estimate that approximately 25% of the site's 10 acres has been used to date so, at the current usage, the

burial ground will have sufficient land to meet future needs for about a further 50 years.

## Volunteers

If you can spare a few hours from time to time to help keep the developing woodland tidy, please let us know.

## 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  
Allison Jory  
Derek Wood

## Finance

The Association's finances remain healthy with reserves of around £70,000 which will enable the woodland to be well maintained once it is fully developed.

*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.*



## Site Maintenance



a recent pruning session.

Much recent work has involved clearing brambles and unwanted undergrowth to open up the space around specimen trees. This allows easier access and encourages wild flowers to colonise the ground.

After 14 years the early plantings of our woodlands are reaching semi-maturity and we have begun to undertake some more rigorous pruning and clearance of unwanted vegetation.

Derek, one of our maintenance team, is seen here burning some of the huge piles of cuttings from



## Pruning and thinning trees

As the woodland develops it is essential to prune trees and remove any which show signs of disease or are likely to impede the growth of better specimens. The Association's Membership Rules include provision for lifting, pruning, coppicing and thinning, consistent with prudent management of a sustainable woodland area.

Some memorial trees may need to be sacrificed to ensure nearby trees can grow successfully. We understand that members will not want to lose trees planted as memorials to their loved ones and our aim is to not remove any memorial tree for at least 10 years. We employ a professionally trained tree specialist to advise on best practice and, should he tell us that a memorial tree needs to be removed, we will endeavour





to contact the family's nominated representative and explain the need before proceeding. At this time, only trees in groves A and B, or the initial plantings, might be considered for thinning.

Members are reminded that trees, by their very nature, are not permanent memorials and we encourage all burials to be marked with a more durable memorial plaque.



## Ash Dieback



Although not confirmed, we suspect that there are some initial signs of ash dieback among the early woodland plantings. Ash is not on our current list of approved species but about 20 have been planted as memorial trees over the years and these could be at risk. It is a fungal disease with spores active from June to October which cause necrotic lesions in the bark, crown dieback and leaf loss. We will continue to monitor the situation.

If we find that it is necessary to remove infected trees, we will replace them with alternative varieties.

## Take a seat

The weather was fairly kind to us on our tree-planting day in November but the field shelter got rather crowded during the few showers. We didn't have enough chairs for weary souls so this splendid bench has been built along the back wall. Our thanks are due to Derek Wood for his excellent and speedy craftsmanship.



## Tree Planting Day 2018

We plant our trees in the autumn because the young saplings have no risk of drying out before their roots become established. Friends and family of those buried during the preceding year are invited to join us and plant the tree they chose from our extensive list of approved varieties. Attendance last year was the best ever with more than twenty cars at one point.



\*\*\* Tree planting day this year will be **SATURDAY 24th November 2018.** \*\*\*  
Join us from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Light refreshments will, as usual, be provided.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7pm at  
Yealmpton Community Centre, Stray Park, Yealmpton, Devon, PL8 2HF

### Agenda

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th April 2017
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 2019

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.

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Email: [info@woodlandburial.org.uk](mailto: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.*