

**FRIENDS OF
EARLHAM CEMETERY**



© Sandra Lockwood

The newsletter for Friends of Earlham Cemetery

Issue 4

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All walks start by the Cemetery Office and gates at the Earlham Road entrance. Indoor meetings are held in the small room at the Belvedere Centre. The following dates have been arranged:

Saturday 11th April 2015 – 2pm,
Signs of spring
Sunday 24th May 2015 – 2pm,
Flowers and insects
Sunday 13th June 2015 – 2pm,
Trees and insects
Sunday 19th July 2015 – 2pm,
Big butterfly watch
Saturday 15th August 2015 – 2pm,
Cemetery management plan

The header image in this issue is "Spring blue tit", photographed by © Sandy Lockwood
Logo design © Vanna Bartlett.
Layout design and editorial Sandy Lockwood.

Please send any articles, photographs and other images for inclusion in the next newsletter to sj.lockwood@ntlworld.com
Please supply photographs as 300dpi jpegs if possible.



As I look out of my window after a cold start to the day trying to photograph the elusive solar eclipse in Norwich you can really begin to see the signs of spring. I'm lucky to have bagged the back room for my office which overlooks our garden and cemetery so I get a constant view of all the comings and goings of birds and wildlife. The activities of the local birds have dramatically increased in March and there is much pushing and shoving for nest sites and territorial disputes are increasingly common. It's all very distracting when you have to work.

Friends of Earlham Cemetery have started what will be a busy and interesting programme of events for 2015. Our first meeting of the year on January 3rd saw a few brave members of the group conduct a Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland New Year's plant hunt. This will now become an annual event run by the society to gather information about what is in flower across the country. All the gathered information will be passed onto the BSBI for analysis.

We were joined by the Bryological Society on 31st January to explore the mosses and liverworts of the site. I am grateful to Mary Ghullam, the Bryophyte recorder for East Norfolk, for writing up the report for the newsletter. Members who are receiving the electronic newsletter will be able to click on the links in the article and view images of the species found on the day.

Do try and come along on the walks if you can. You don't have to be an expert and we are a friendly bunch. If there are subjects about the cemetery that you are interested in and which may be of interest to others why not drop us a line and we may be able to organise a walk around that theme. Speaking of walks we are always on the look out for people to lead walks in the cemetery. You don't need to be an expert as there will always be other members who are more than willing to contribute their knowledge. If you are a little on the shy side just bring a friend for support as the more the merrier.

A big thank you, as always, to those who contributed articles to the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading them.

Sandy

Visit of the Bryological Society - Mary Ghullam



Ten members of the group met up with a number of Friends of Earlham Cemetery to explore the mosses and liverworts (bryophytes) of the site. These had been recorded before in 2001 and 2008 and 40 species found, virtually all in the main area, east of the hospital. Before starting, a few people took the opportunity to admire hemisphaeric liverwort *Reboulia hemisphaerica*, growing on the steep bank at the Earlham Road entrance. This is its most southerly site in Norfolk. It was good to see it still doing so well and interesting to compare it with crescent-cup liverwort *Lunularia cruciata*, which can be deceptively similar, when it doesn't have its crescent-shaped **gemmae** cups.

After a quick stop to list the mosses in the grassland where the waxcap fungi grow, the group concentrated on the previously recorded area and then the section west of the main entrance. The part of the cemetery west of Farrow Road was only visited as a lunch stop.

Of the previously recorded species, 34 were re-found this time and 26 new species added to the list for the site, including 3 more liverworts which doubled their number. The new species can be roughly divided by habitat into those growing on soil or paths, on stone or brickwork and, by far the largest group, the epiphytes, which grow on trees.

Of particular interest in the first group was water screw-moss *Syntrichia latifolia*. This species is usually found growing at the base of riverside trees close to the waterline. It is, however, increasingly to be seen colonizing wet tarmac and it was found on paths in two different parts of the cemetery. The new species found on stonework were those often to be seen in churchyards and cemeteries. They included some of the beard-mosses such as wavy beard-moss *Didymodon sinuosus* and rigid beard-moss *D. rigidulus*, which usually has ball-shaped gemmae on its leaves. It was more unusual to re-find Lyell's bristle-moss *Orthotrichum lyellii* on a gravestone, as it is much commoner as an **epiphyte**.

With such a range of different trees growing in the cemetery, it was not, perhaps, surprising that the epiphytes were varied. Marble screw-moss *Syntrichia papillosa* was growing on a **grey poplar** with other epiphytes. This moss is becoming increasingly common on urban trees and is distinguished by groups of ball-like gemmae along the centre of its leaves (hence the 'marble' in the vernacular name). Another screw-moss, lesser screw-moss *S. virescens* was on a European lime along one of the paths. In order to identify this species it is necessary to cut leaf sections and look at the structure of the costa (nerve) under a microscope.

It was on oaks, however, that there was the greatest range

of epiphytes and the rarest species of the day. Lateral cryphaea *Cryphaea heteromalla*, clings tightly to the bark and then sends out projecting secondary shoots with capsules on one side of the stem. It is also a species which has spread throughout the county in recent years. Here it was growing with one of the 'cushion' mosses – smooth bristle-moss *Orthotrichum striatum*. Capsules are needed to identify this moss, which, unlike many of the other bristle-mosses, has smooth ripe unfurrowed capsules. It was, however, another bristle-moss, slender bristle-moss *O. tenellum* which was the bryological highlight of the visit. This was only the fourth record for the vice-county of East Norfolk and there was only a tiny tuft fruiting on the spreading branch of an oak in the north-east part of the cemetery. This oak was particularly species rich, as it had a range of other bristle-mosses, including elegant bristle-moss *O. pulchellum* as well as frizzled pin-moss *Ulota phyllantha*. In addition, it had all three of the epiphytic liverwort species found in the cemetery growing on it - dilated scalewort *Frullania dilatata*, even scalewort *Radula complanata* and the thalloid forked veilwort *Metzgeria furcata*.

It was a really enjoyable challenge to attempt to identify the many exotic trees in the cemetery, especially given the time of year. There was almost as much discussion over the trees as there was over the mosses! I'm sure there is still more to find.



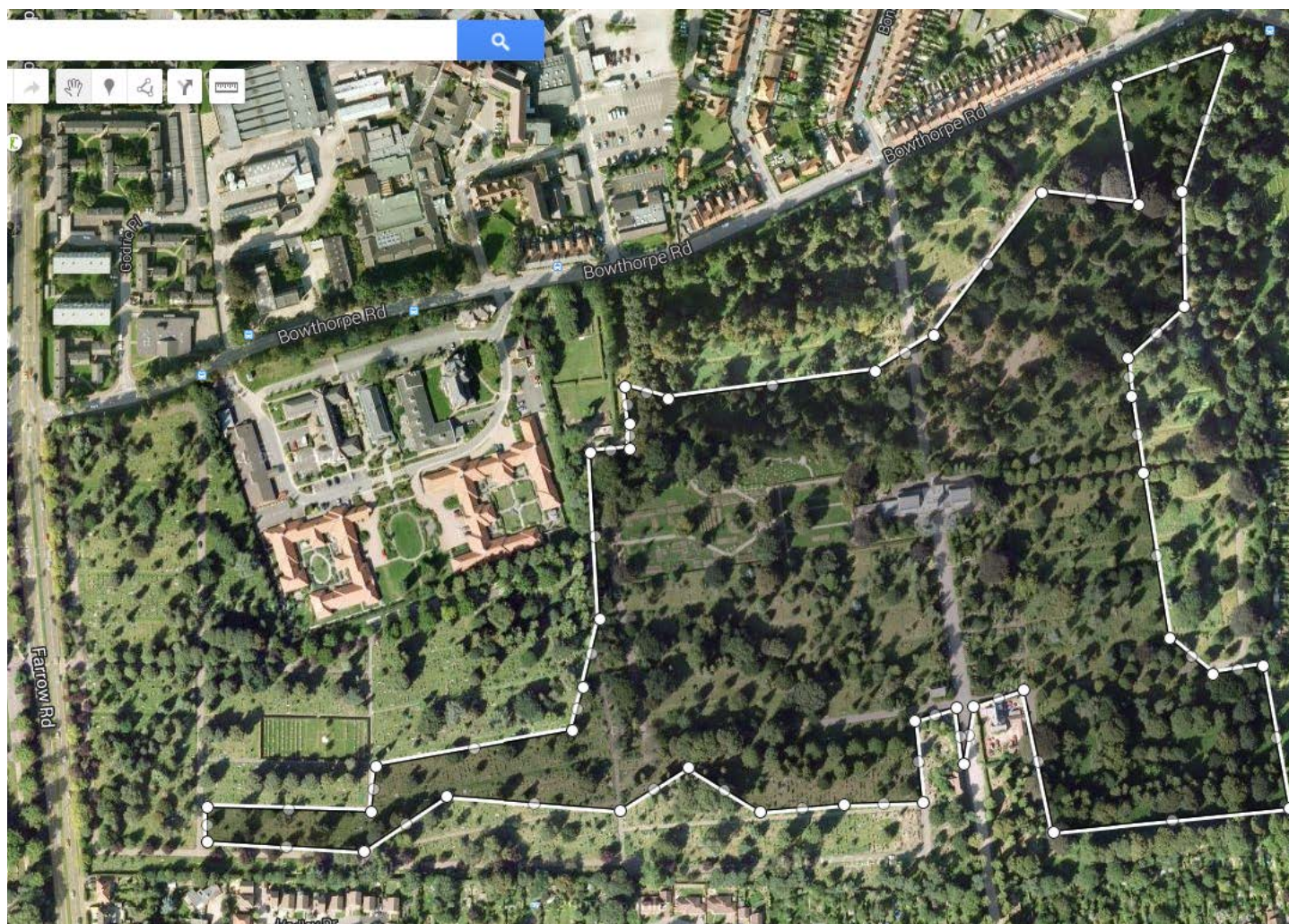
© Jeremy Bartlett

Mary Ghullam
Bryophyte Recorder for East Norfolk



© Jeremy Bartlett

New Year's plant hunt - Ian Senior



Approximate route taken across the cemetery. © Google map extract 2015

Friend's of Earham Cemetery in Norwich, conducted a Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland New Year's Plant Hunt on Saturday 3rd January 2015. This has now become an annual event run by the society in order to gain information about what is in flower from across the country. The collected data is sent to the BSBI where it is analysed by the coordinators of the project.

Four members met at 10:30am ready to do the hunt. The weather was not great for our search but it did start off dry, cold and cloudy. As the search went on the rain arrived making our search rather cold and wet by the end.

The route of the walk covered most of the east cemetery, with just the blocks nearest to Farrow Road being missed out. It took us two-and-a-half hours to cover this area. Lowest numbers of flowering plants were

found in the heavily wood areas, near to Dereham Road, whereas those in more open, grassy locations seemed more willing to be in flower. These tended to be west of the burial chapel.

It only took one flower to be open on a plant in order to qualify for inclusion in the list. Many plants did only have a single flower open but a few were more willing to open more flowers in the dreary conditions! A list of all the species found is at the end of this article:

A total of 44 species were found flowering this year compared with 28 in 2014. One tall grass was not identified and two different brambles (white and red flowering respectively) are listed separately but counted as one. A total of 5 species were discovered flowering in the 2014 hunt that were absent in this year's search. These were:

- Black Nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*)
- Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*)
- Mexican Fleabane (*Erigeron karvinskianus*)
- Shepherds Purse (*Capsella bursapastoris*)
- Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*)

Winter aconite was seen just a few days later, though, on the 9th January 2015.

During the winter it's only expected that a few plants will be in flower such as daisy, dandelion, hazel, primrose and possibly early spring bulbs such as snowdrops and winter aconites. However, 2014 was the warmest year on record for the UK and the autumn was not particularly cold. Only a few frosts were noted towards the end

of the year. This will have allowed more species to carry on flowering throughout the autumn and into early winter. The species table below shows the general flowering periods of the plants that were found during this hunt. Those that flower normally late into the year can be expected to carry on flowering if conditions are suitable for them. What is possibly more surprising is the presence of plants that are normally spring & summer flowering being found. Plants such as wild strawberry, cow parsley and yarrow should not be flowering in early January!

There are of course a few notable missing species from our listing. Plants such as common chickweed and shepherds purse are notable by their absence (the latter species was found in the 2014 hunt).



Oxeye daisy. © Ian Senior

One would expect them to be flowering in these mild conditions and both were subsequently found flowering in streets surrounding the cemetery a few days later but simply were not seen during our search.

National results from the New Year's Day Plant Hunt were as follows:

- A total of 2,908 records of plants in flower from across Britain and Ireland.
- 143 lists were submitted - around half of them contained 20 or more plants in flower.
- A stunning 368 different species were recorded in flower across the 5 nations.



Red dead nettle © Ian Senior

Dr Tim Rich of the BSBI said of this year's plant hunt "The most commonly recorded plants were Daisy and Dandelion, each of which was recorded in 115 lists (75%). However, only 12 (3%) species were recorded in more than half of the lists, and most were only rarely found in flower: 160 (43%) species were only recorded in flower once, and 60 (16%) were only recorded twice. In terms of absolute numbers, Cardiff won (it was joint winner last year) with 71 species in flower and Cornwall came second with 70 species in flower.



Canadian fleabane © Ian Senior

Half of the records of spring-flowering plants were from just three species: hazel, lesser celandine and primrose."

Our 44 species found equates to **17.7%** of the cemetery flora flowering in early January. Last year only 11.3% were found flowering. The nationwide record of 368 plants equates to 15% of the UK flora in flower this January.

Our 44 finds is certainly a respectable number although not the Norwich record in this year's plant hunt. On the same day as our search, another group discovered 66 species flowering in our fine city. I strongly suspect they had to go to lots of different habitats to find so many!

If you'd like to know more about this year's plant hunt take a look at the BSBI blog:



Cyclamen © Ian Senior

[BSBI New Year Plant Hunt in the media](#)

[New Year Plant Hunt: comments from the Co-ordinator...](#)

[New Year Plant Hunt 2015: the results](#)

[New Year Plant Hunt: an avalanche of blogposts!](#)

[New Year Plant Hunt over for another year.](#)

[Social media for New Year Plant Hunters](#)

[New Year Plant Hunt: Day 2](#)

[New Year Plant Hunt: 1st records in!](#)

We shall be taking part in the 2016 New Year's Plant Hunt so why not come and join in the fun and do a bit of 'citizen science' in the process?

Ian Senior.

Common Name	Species Name	Flowering Period
Annual Meadow Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	Jan - Dec
Annual Mercury	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Jan - Dec
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Jun - Oct
Broad-leaved willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	May - Aug
Canadian Fleabane	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Jun - Nov
Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Jun - Sept
Common Field Speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Jan - Dec
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mar - Sept
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Apr - Jun
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Apr - Oct
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	May - Sept
Crocus	<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Feb - Apr
Cyclamen	<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Aug - Sept
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Jan - Dec
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Jan - Dec
Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Mar - Jul
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Jan - Dec
Hairy Bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Feb - Nov
Hazel tree	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Jan - Mar
Hedge mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Apr - Oct
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Apr - Oct
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Apr - Aug
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Apr - Oct
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	May - Sept
Oxford Ragwort	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Apr - Dec
Pellitory-of-the-wall	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Mar - Nov
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Jan - Dec
Pineapple Weed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	May - Nov
Prickly Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Jun - Oct
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Dec - Jun
Red Flowered Bramble	<i>Rubus spp</i>	May - Oct
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Apr - Oct
Red Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Jan - Dec
Round-leaved Cranesbill	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Apr - Aug
Smooth Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Jun - Oct
Smooth Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Apr - Dec
Snowdrop	<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Jan - Mar
Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Apr - Oct
'Tall grass'	<i>Species unidentified</i>	-
Thale Cress	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Jan - Dec
Wall Lettuce	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Jul - Oct
White Bramble	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	May - Oct
White Deadnettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	Mar - Dec
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Apr - Jun
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	May - Nov
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Jun - Aug

South Lodge - *Jeremy Bartlett*



Images of South Lodge © Jeremy Bartlett

Since the last newsletter, South Lodge has been sold for £326,500. The former Cemetery office and Superintendent's house (see "Heyday" in Issue 3 of this Newsletter) was [put up for auction](#) on 18th February 2015, with a suggested price of £250,000.

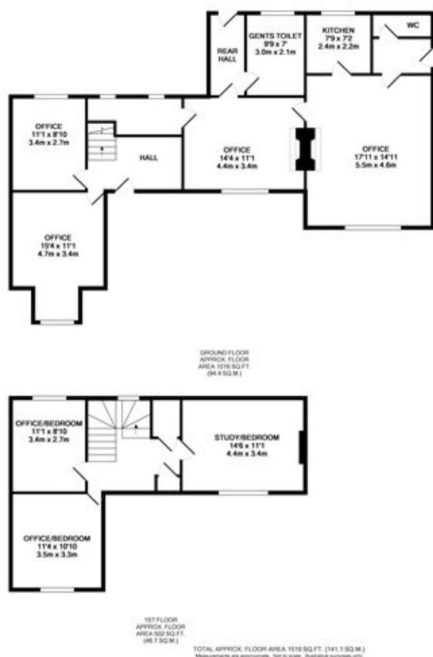
Prior to the auction there were three open viewings, and I managed to go along on Tuesday 3rd February 2015 to have a look round and take photographs.

Although I mentioned in "Heyday" that someone had told me about a hole in the ground near the building, I saw no evidence of this when I visited.



South Lodge has been divided into two halves and the front half has been used recently as an office and dumping ground for old Norwich City Council paperwork. This prompted me to contact the Council and also Norfolk Record Office and in mid March I helped Freda Wilkins-Jones from Norfolk Record Office to rescue some records of slum clearance sites in Norwich.

The greenhouses surrounding South Lodge that are shown on old maps of the Cemetery are long gone and the greenhouses and outbuildings to the east of the Lodge have been replaced with more modern outbuildings. The sale particulars included a current floor plan of South Lodge:

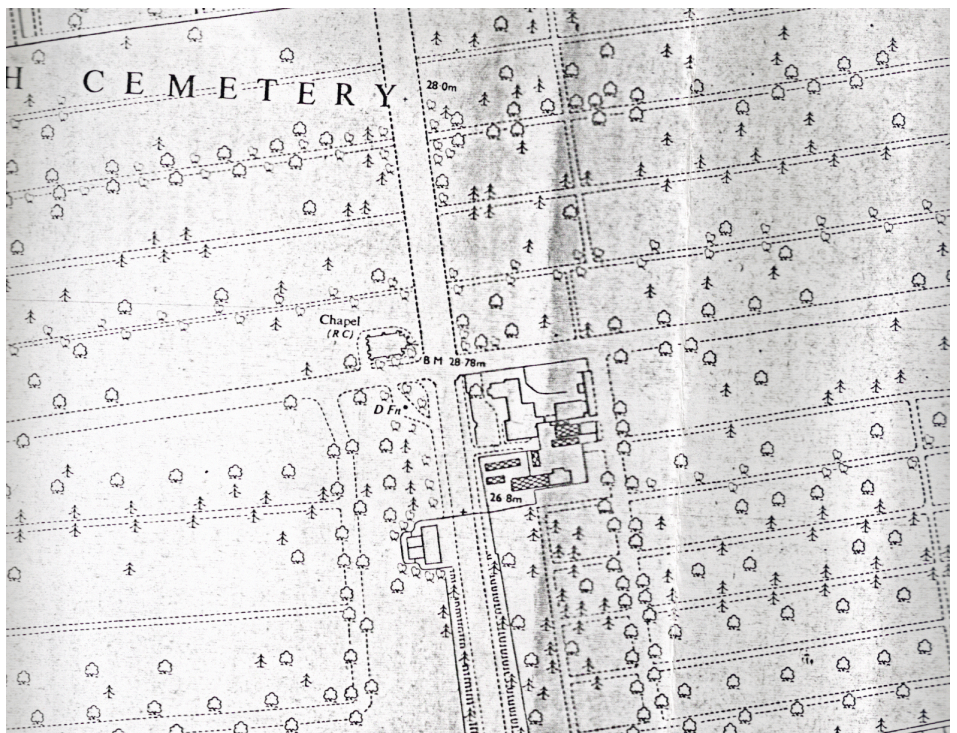


Floor Plan of South Lodge

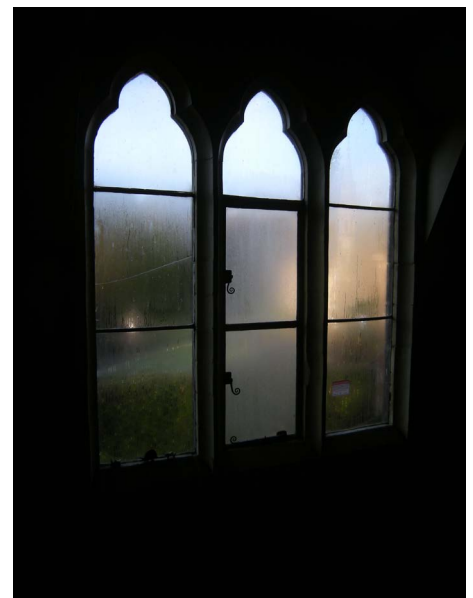
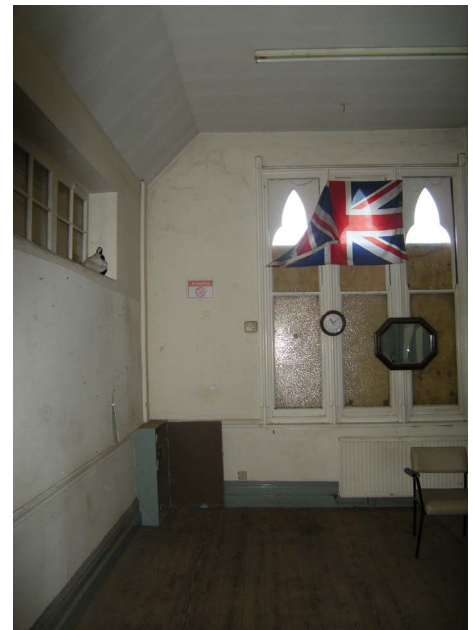
The Lodge used to have a cellar as well, but I couldn't see any sign of this.

One thing is certain – whoever takes on this property has a lot of work to do, and a lot of money to spend!

Jeremy Bartlett.



1960s map showing greenhouses at South Lodge

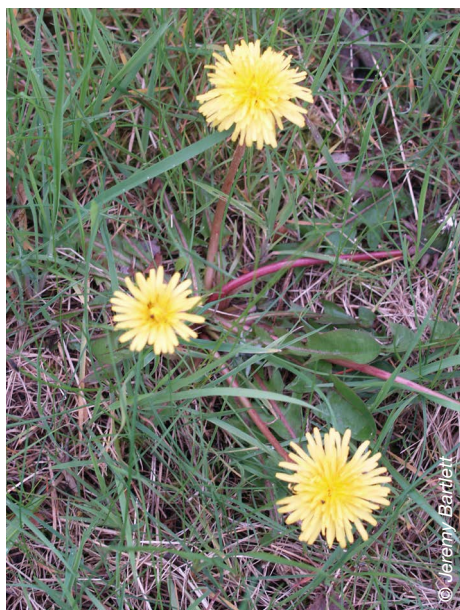


Bumblebees - Vanna Bartlett

Bumblebees, like honeybees, are social animals and live in a colony but, unlike honeybees, this only lasts one season – all the workers, males and the original queen die at the end of the summer. It is only the new queens that, once mated, will find a place to hibernate and survive the winter.

So, in spring, the first bumblebees that you see will be the newly emerged queens and the first thing they need is a supply of nectar and pollen to feed up on so they can then find a nest site and start laying eggs to begin their new colony.

Depending on the species, queen bumblebees emerge in March or even late January or February depending on how mild the winter has been and how warm the spring. It is vital that there are plenty of early flowers out for them to feed on.



In the cemetery one of the earliest flowers to come out are the masses of crocuses that carpet some areas and begin blooming in February and are at their peak in March. Near the Dereham Road gate there are plenty of primroses and also some daffodils. There are several places with patches of red deadnettle, another early flower that bees love. (Another very important early flower is the humble dandelion – so please don't pull all of them out of your lawn if you have one!).



Red deadn Nettles and dandelions are useful flowers for bees – if they don't get mown first!

Certain trees can also provide food for the bees. Important early tree flowers include willow, blackthorn and the lines of *Pisardii* plums found lining the main roadway towards Guardian Road. Honeybees and hoverflies frequent their plentiful delicate blooms as well as bumblebees.

Once the queen has found a nest site (often an old mouse nest, a small gap under a shed or even an old blue tit's nest in a bird box), she will gather pollen and make it into a little mound about the same size as herself on which to lay her first eggs. She will also make a small wax pot to store nectar in so that she can feed within the nest during bouts of bad weather.

The eggs hatch into larvae that feed up on the pollen and, after several moults, pupate and then emerge as the first 'worker' bees of the colony, which are infertile females. These bees are often considerably smaller than those that emerge later in the year, reflecting the available food supply. With the workers gathering pollen and nectar, the queen concentrates on laying more eggs and building up the colony.

Outside the nest, as spring progresses, more plants come into

flower and there is a more plentiful supply of pollen and nectar to support the growing colony. Although bumblebees will forage up to 400 metres away from the nest, they do need flowers nearer to hand, especially in spring when the colony is building up and in times of poor weather.

June and July bring more blooms and, hopefully, warmer weather. The cemetery has an impressive list of wildflowers which should provide ample pollen and nectar from at least March through to August and September. However, the cemetery has a strict mowing regime which means many areas are kept closely cut throughout the summer months. Whilst it is perhaps appropriate that the areas used regularly for interment should be kept neat and tidy for visitors, it should not be forgotten that the older parts of the cemetery are designated as a County Wildlife Site and support some important and rare species. As such, these areas are intended to be managed in a way that benefits wildlife whilst still maintaining access to graves. In the recent past, changing contractors has led to either



*Red-tailed bumblebee, *Bombus lapidarius*, on spear thistle © Jeremy Bartlett*

no cutting or a somewhat zealous approach. Members of Friends of Earlham Cemetery have been in contact with Norfolk Wildlife Trust (who oversee all County Wildlife Sites) over their concerns.

As a result, a new management plan has been drawn up with input from our members to ensure that the wildlife is taken into consideration and that designated areas are subject to the correct mowing regimes. If this is implemented successfully it will ensure the Cemetery's status as a County Wildlife Site and preserve its wildlife heritage and value for the future.

Last year the area shown in the photo on the right was mown a few days later, but if the new management plan is followed this year cutting will be postponed until later in the summer when the wildflowers are over and have set seed.

Another important feature in the cemetery is the Memorial Gardens. They are planted up with a variety of heathers that flower over a long season through the winter and into spring. They provide perhaps the most important source of pollen and nectar in the earliest part of the year. There are also several ornamental shrubs in these gardens (flowering currant is a great early flowerer for bumblebees) and their sheltered aspect provides a warm place for insects in early spring sunshine. This is in fact the best place to visit to see bees and butterflies on the first warm days of the year.



Tree bumblebee, Bombus hypnorum, on bramble © Jeremy Bartlett

In summer, some of the bumblebees that emerge are males and also the new queens are produced too. The males have longer antennae than the workers and queens and are sometimes differently coloured.



They don't collect pollen and lack the pollen baskets of the workers. Bramble flowers become an important source of nectar and pollen in July and August – the big unruly clumps are a magnet for bumblebees as well as honeybees, hoverflies and also butterflies. Their tangled growth often hides a fox's den and it might even be covering the bumblebee nest.

By September, the number and diversity of flowers is waning and so too is the colony. Many workers will have died over the summer and as the weather cools the rest will follow. Once mated, the males have the rest of the summer to live out before they too will die. The new queens continue to feed up and prospect for a hibernation site and the old queen finally dies.

Autumn colours in the cemetery can be quite amazing with the leaves of many of the unusual tree species turning bright buttery yellow or flaming reds and russets. September, October and November are sparse months flower-wise, ivy being one of the few plants which flower through these colder months. Again, the Memorial Gardens offer late flowering heathers to keep the bees and other insects going.

As autumn progresses and leaves start to drop, any dead flower heads shelter spiders and ladybirds. Somewhere a queen bumblebee will be settling in for the winter...

Bumblebees are very important pollinators – without them we'd have

a lot fewer fruits and vegetables and some wild flowers could be lost. For them to thrive we need to make sure they have a continuous supply of nectar and pollen from March to September/October. High summer sees a great variety of blooms readily available but early and late season are a bit trickier to fill. A growing number of showy flowers that are available have very little pollen and/or nectar – double flowers are particularly bad for this. Friends of Earlham Cemetery have asked the council if it would be possible to create a 'bee garden' in the cemetery to ensure a long supply of food for bees as well as butterflies and other insects. The idea was welcomed although the site we originally proposed was turned down – but we have been told that another area has been approved for one.

A good number of bumblebee species have been recorded in the cemetery along with honeybees, cuckoo, solitary and mining bees.

As yet, we have no complete list of the bees found in the cemetery but [our website](#) lists [wildflowers](#) and [tree species](#) and Stuart Paston has drawn up a [list of seasonal nectar sources](#) (specifically for hoverflies but many are also used by bees).

Records of any insects found in the cemetery are always welcome and we can try to identify insects from your photos too: e-mail friendsofearlhamcemetery@yahoo.co.uk.

Vanna Bartlett

Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) - Jeremy Bartlett



Box in Earlham Cemetery © Jeremy Bartlett

Box “A drab, malodorous and not especially useful shrub” Richard Mabey, ‘[Flora Britannica](#)’.

Box, *Buxus sempervirens*, will never win prizes for its height or beauty but it is nonetheless an interesting plant, and one that is useful for both wildlife and people (in spite of what Richard Mabey says in the quotation above).

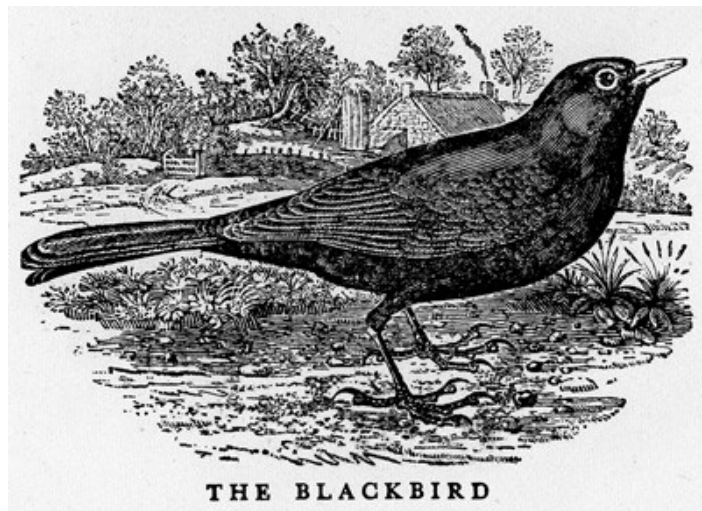
Box is a slow-growing evergreen shrub or small tree. Its evergreen habit makes it a popular choice in churchyards and cemeteries and Earlham Cemetery has several specimens, the largest next to the avenue of lime trees leading into the cemetery from the Dereham Road gate.



Box ‘bee’ at Helmingham Hall in Suffolk © Jeremy Bartlett

Elsewhere, it is often used as an edging for garden beds and borders, when it is clipped to no more than a foot (30cm) high. But it is capable of growing into a tree and [can reach at least 30 feet \(nine metres\) tall, with a trunk up to 20 centimetres \(7.9 in\) in diameter](#). Box is a British native, a member of the family [Buxaceae](#), which also contains [Sarcococca](#) (sweet box) and [Pachysandra](#) (Japanese spurge), both of which are useful garden evergreens.

In the wild, box grows on limestone and chalk in the south of England, often on steep slopes, and is often found associated with beech. It is now [found in many parts of the British mainland, as well as in parts of Ireland](#), as it has been widely planted. British places named after box include the famous Box Hill on the North Downs in Surrey, which is our largest area of native box woodland. Other places include Bixley near Norwich (‘Box woods’), Bexhill and Bexley in Kent, Bix in Oxfordshire and Bexington (‘settlement amongst box’) in Dorset. However, Boxted Green in Essex is probably from *Boc-hamstede* (‘homestead amongst beeches’) and Boxworth in Cambridgeshire may be from *Bucc’s worth* (‘Bucc’s enclosure’). Further afield, box occurs in open dry montane scrub, particularly in the Mediterranean region and has been naturalised in parts of North America.



The Blackbird - Thomas Bewick.

Box wood is yellow, very hard and fine grained. It is the wood of choice for wood engraving. (One of [Thomas Bewick’s](#) wood engraving blocks was still sound after 900,000 printings.) It is ideal for small wood turning products, such as chessmen and small pulley blocks, clarinets, tool handles and marquetry. As the name implies, it also makes excellent small boxes.

Box foliage has a distinctive smell, not unlike a tom cat’s urine, and Vanna’s mother cut down a box bush near her front door because she didn’t like the smell, especially on a hot sunny day. I don’t mind it – it reminds me of a box that grew in the garden we had in Scotland when I was a child.

Box [flowers](#) in early spring. The flowers are inconspicuous and greenish-yellow, with no petals, and are insect pollinated. They are popular with Hoverflies, and [in Earlham Cemetery, Stuart Paston has recorded at least seven species visiting the flowers.](#)

The [box bug](#), *Gonocerus acuteangulatus*, is a charismatic insect that used to be very rare and was only found on box on Box Hill. The good news is that this bug now feeds on other species such as hawthorn, bramble, rose, yew and plum, as well as box, is expanding its range and [now occurs widely in the south-east of England and beyond, including Sweetbriar Marshes in Norwich.](#) (It may yet turn up in Earlham Cemetery.)

The box buckler or [boxwood psyllid](#), *Psylla buxi*, is another insect associated with box. It sucks the sap and distorts the shoots but gardeners with box hedges can [regularly clip their plants](#) to remove the affected shoots.

More serious for gardeners is [box blight](#), a fungal disease of box leaves and stems caused by two fungi, *Cylindrocladium buxicola* and *Pseudonectria buxi*. *Cylindrocladium buxicola* can affect *Sarcococca* and *Pachysandra* as well as box. Both fungi make box leaves go brown and fall, leading to bare patches. In severe outbreaks, it may be necessary to dig out the infected plants and destroy them. There is plenty of advice on the

internet: [Monty Don describes his troubles with box blight](#) and [Bunny Guinness describes how to control it.](#) Sensible measures not involving fungicides include not watering the plants from above and clipping box hedges less severely and frequently.

In the garden, [box is also affected by other troubles](#), such as box rust, box red spider mite and mussel scale.

If you want to have a green edge for your borders and beds but want to avoid box, [Ilex crenata](#) is worth considering. At [Highgrove Gardens](#) they use [hedge germander](#), *Teucrium lucidrys*, as a hedge. The effect is different but there is the added benefit of more pleasantly scented foliage and flowers that are [attractive to humans, bees and butterflies alike.](#)

Further reading:

J. Edward Milner, "The Tree Book", Collins & Brown, London, 1992

Richard Mabey, "Flora Britannica", Sinclair-Stevenson, London, 1996.

Jeremy Bartlett.

Interesting find of the newsletter

This photo was one of the more unusual finds of the week spotted by Jeremy near by the children's cemetery plot.

Maybe he was the inspiration for one of Terry Prattchet's Discworld characters





The Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Awards presentation 2014 © Jeremy Bartlett

Membership

- We now have 27 members.

Walks

- Our monthly walks continue to be well attended and continue to attract new people. The best attended walks were in March 2015 (21 people, Françoise's 'Norwich Lives' tour), January 2015 (20 people, on joint visit with Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group), December 2014 (15 people) and March and May 2014 (14 people).
- We replaced our February 2015 walk with our Quiz and Chips (see below).
- We are short of walk leaders – volunteers welcome!
- We have tried to have more themed walks, such as Fungi (October & November 2014), Mosses & Liverworts (January 2015), Norwich Lives: Selected Graves from Earlham Cemetery (March 2015).
- Jeremy led members of Friends of the Rosary on a historical walk around Earlham Cemetery in October 2014. In return, members of Friends of Earlham Cemetery were given a tour of the Rosary Cemetery later in the same month.
- In July 2015, historical tours of the cemetery are planned for Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries and a group from Cringleford Church.

Wildlife

- The management plan for the cemetery was completed in January 2015. It now needs to be implemented!
- We had a joint meeting with the Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group in January 2015. 34 of the 40 species known for the cemetery were re-found and 26 new species were added to the list for the site, including 3 more liverworts (which doubled their number).
- Group members are continuing to discover new records for insects, fungi and plants, not least Diptera (flies) and other insects being recorded by Stuart Paston and fungi (Ian Senior).
- Our website now has 16 lists of animals, plants and fungi that occur in the cemetery (up from 12 in early 2014).

Quiz and Chips

- We held a Quiz and Chips on Wednesday 18th February 2015 at the Belvedere Centre. Forty-nine people took part and we raised £119.51 from the evening for our funds. Thanks to everyone who came along, to everyone who donated prizes and secondhand books, to The Belvedere Centre for providing the venue, to The Chip Shop on Stafford Street for supplying the food, to Liz and Vanna for collecting it and a special thanks to Neil Blunt, who set the quiz questions and was such an excellent quizmaster.

Projects

- In March 2014 we took cuttings from the three remaining native black poplars in the cemetery. The cuttings are currently being looked after in pots in various back gardens and will eventually be planted in more suitable areas, such as the Bowthorpe Southern Park.
- Work on a book on the cemetery, covering its natural history, is still at very early stages.
- Jeremy Bartlett is continuing to research the history of the cemetery and has written a couple of chapters of a book on the subject. (The plan is to apply for funding later this year and to produce the book as a Friends of Earlham Cemetery publication).
- Jeremy has also been involved in the rescue of documents by Norfolk Record Office from the cemetery's South Lodge (recently up for sale).

Networking

- Our Quiz and Chips featured teams from several other Norwich groups, including Friends of the Rosary, Friends of Eaton Park, The Plantation Garden, Norwich Allotments Association, Norwich Green Party and Norwich In Bloom.
- We continue to work closely with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norwich City Council on the Habitat Management Plan.

- Our "Short History of Earlham Cemetery" and information about our group will be available at the Sustainable Living Festival at The Forum on 7 - 8 March 2015.
- Our Facebook page now has 162 "Likes" (up from 72 in early 2014).
- Our website has had 4,636 visits and 3,272 unique visitors since its launch in November 2012. (Figures in early 2014 were: 2,142 visits and 1,310 unique visitors.)
- We have been allowed to put up posters advertising our walks by the main cemetery gates.

Awards

- On 22 July 2014 we won the Group category of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Awards 2014. Stuart, Ian & Jeremy attended the awards ceremony.

Jeremy Bartlett,
Secretary.

18 March 2015.



Stuart, Jeremy and Ian collecting the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Awards 2014 © Jeremy Bartlett