

FRIENDS OF  
EARLHAM CEMETERY



© Jeremy Bartlett

## The newsletter for Friends of Earlham Cemetery

Issue 6

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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:

Sunday 14 August (2pm),

War graves

Sunday 11 September (2pm),

Late summer

Saturday 22 October, (time t.b.a)

Norfolk fungi group

Sunday 13 November (2pm),

Fungi

Sunday 11 December (2pm),

Cemetery graves and Christmas drinks at the Fat Cat.

The header image by © Jeremy Bartlett

Logo design © Vanna Bartlett.

Layout design and editorial by Sandra Lockwood.



It's too hot! An understatement this year if I ever heard one.

You can always guarantee that the good old British weather will get everyone in a flap. Good or bad it's never boring because here, on our island, we have weather. Everyone else has rain or the sun. Due to the vagaries of our weather our wildlife fights a constant battle to breed and survive. Earlham Cemetery is a fascinating place to watch these dramas take place month-by-month.

At last the Council is starting to implement the Habitat Management Plan. This will, with support, help to protect and improve the biodiversity of the cemetery. You can read all about the aims of the plan and what Friends of Earlham Cemetery will be doing to help on page 2.

Last October Friends of Earlham Cemetery joined with Friends of the Rosary and Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries for a fascinating visit to the first garden cemetery in London, Kensal Green Cemetery. We have now been invited to join another trip this time to Brookwood Cemetery in Woking. The cost is £25 and Brookwood will charge £5 per person for the tour which takes about two hours. The deadline for coach numbers is 17th August so if you would like to go please contact our secretary Jeremy Bartlett asap.

Our list of cemetery walks is on the left. All our walk leaders make them an interesting way to spend a couple of hours and there is always something new to learn and share. Please note that the time for October's walk has yet to be confirmed. Please keep an eye on [Friends of Earlham Cemetery's](#) website and Facebook pages for up-to-date information about this and all our walks.

Finally, don't forget that the wonders of modern technology mean that you do not have to scroll through the articles if you don't want to. Clicking (or tapping for mobile device users) a title in the Contents on this page will take you straight to that article.

I hope you enjoy what's left of the summer - regardless of the weather.

Sandy

Please send all submissions for inclusion in the next newsletter to [sj.lockwood@ntlworld.com](mailto:sj.lockwood@ntlworld.com). Please supply photographs as 300dpi jpegs if possible.

On 13th May 2016, Vanna, Stuart, Ian and I met with Chris Eardley and Sue Stoner at City Hall to discuss various aspects of the cemetery. Key amongst these was grassland management. Our meeting followed extensive discussions between us, Chris and Sue from the Council and Helen Baczowska from Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

The good news is that Norwich City Council have adopted the Management Plan for the cemetery. This will mean that significant areas of the oldest part of Earlham Cemetery will now be managed for the benefit of wild flowers and fungi.

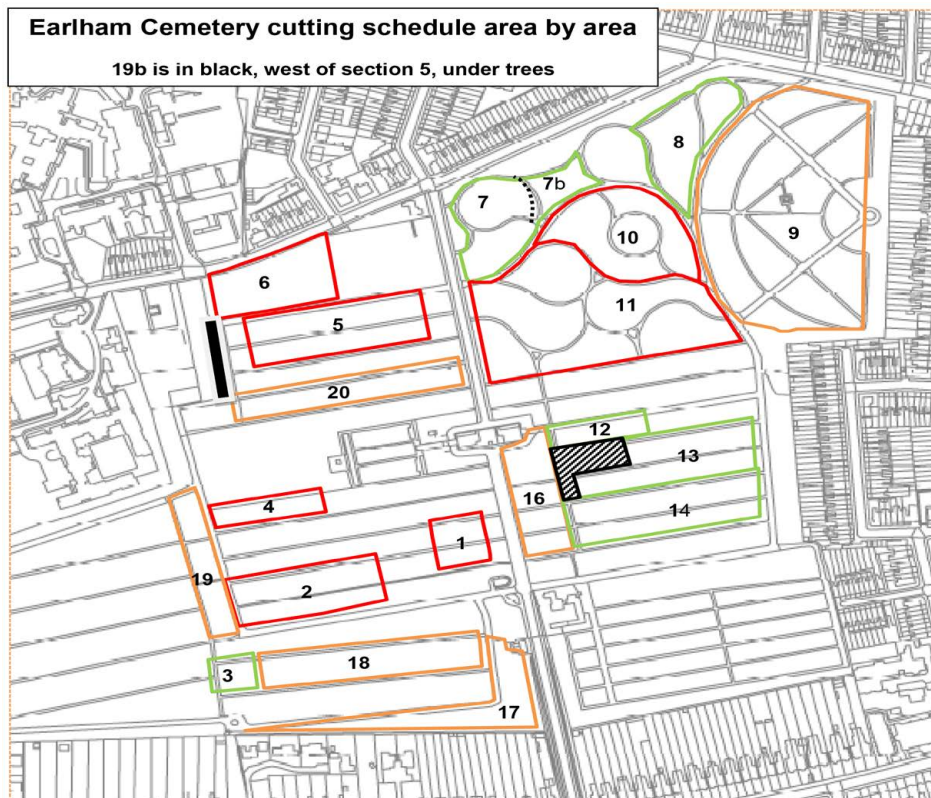
### Grassland Cuts

Grassland in the key conservation areas that we have identified (shown in the plan right) will be managed by one of three different cuts:

- Fungi cut – these are areas good for fungi and the panels can be cut as for a standard cut through the summer, but cutting should cease at the start of October, or if it looks like there are a lot fungi present. Cuttings can be left and not raked.
- Summer meadow cut – this is for areas of early summer flowers, such as meadow saxifrage. This involves a cut from the end of July-end of August, with cuttings raked up.
- Late summer meadow cut – this is for later flowering plants, such as knapweed or ox eye daisy. This involves cutting from late August – mid-September, with cuttings raked up.

A late winter cut in March was also discussed for areas that are very grassy, with no spring flowers such as primroses or bluebells. This has been missed this year, but will be reviewed over the winter with any possible areas identified then. This is to reduce fertility on grassy areas and will need to be a cut and collect.

Edges of the tarmac paths will also be trimmed, to show that the area is still being looked after and access will be cut to tended graves.



### Marking Key Plants

We also obtained agreement that we could mark notable plants outside the key conservation areas, such as pignut, viper's bugloss and wild clary. Ian and I have used bamboo hoops to do this and we have also obtained permission from Dignity, who run the crematorium, to do this for plants on the main access drive to the cemetery from Earlham Road.

So far things are looking good, with the exception of the wild clary plant that we marked, which someone has ripped out by the roots!

We hope to be able to reintroduce wild clary into the cemetery at a later date – Ian and I both have several plants in our back gardens, the plants are in flower at the moment and we plan to collect seeds later this summer.



Hoops protecting wild clary © Ian Senior



After wild clary was ripped out © Ian Senior



Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) © Jeremy Bartlett

## Yellow rattle

In February 2016 I put together a consultation paper “Controlling grass height in Earlham Cemetery by use of Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*)” and, as a result, we have been given permission to trial the use of yellow rattle in the cemetery.

The plant is a hemi-parasite. It has green leaves and makes its own food but, importantly, also attaches to grasses underground and takes food from them. This results in a much shorter and more open sward, meaning that the grassland looks tidier, contains more wildflowers and needs cutting less often, which saves money.

We will start our trial in area 7 on the plan. Helen is going to supply us with seed. We will have to sow this in autumn, as it needs a winter chill to germinate, and we will have to scrape some bare patches to give the plant a chance to grow.

Jeremy Bartlett, June 2016.

## Controlling Grass Height in Earlham Cemetery by Use of Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) - Jeremy bartlett

*“In the past this plant was a serious pest for farmers as it weakens grasses and as a result can reduce hay yields by as much as 50%. In a landscape or garden context, however, this suppression of grass growth is welcomed as it produces a better display of wild flowers and eases the mowing required.”* (from [Emorsgate Seeds website](#)).

### What is Yellow Rattle?

Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) is an annual, native British wildflower. It has attractive yellow flowers from May onwards, followed by a seed capsule which rattles with the brown seeds inside, giving the plant its English name. Seed is set in July, so by early August the plant has completed its lifecycle and dies. New plants arise from seed in the following spring and the cycle is repeated.

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Yellow rattle grows in old hay meadows but has also been introduced into recreational grassland to provide colour and control the vigour of grasses.

Yellow rattle was present in Earlham Cemetery until the mid 1990s but is no longer present because the grass was cut short before the plant managed to set seed.

Yellow rattle has been used very successfully in Cromer Town Cemetery. In late June 2015 it was possible to visit all the graves by walking through the low grassland, because its height and vigour had been controlled by yellow rattle. (The white flowers are oxeye daisies.)

### Proposal

To trial growing yellow rattle in a couple of small areas under the new Management Plan, to see whether it is a suitable means of controlling grass height and density and its effect on the cemetery’s wild flowers.

Friends of Earlham Cemetery are prepared to buy the necessary seed (from [Emorsgate Seeds](#)).

Sowing would take place in autumn. Before sowing, the ground would need to be scarified with rakes to remove any grass thatch.

The seeds require a cold spell to germinate. Seedlings should appear in early April from an autumn sowing.

The grass in the trial areas should not be mown until early August. Ideally the cuttings should be allowed to remain on the ground for a few days before removal, but this is not absolutely essential.

Grass cuttings should be removed.

(I am uncertain whether the new “vacuum cleaner” tools used to suck up grass cuttings will also suck up and remove the seeds. It might be best to test this as, if seeds don’t remain on the ground, there will be no yellow rattle in subsequent years.)

If the yellow rattle is happy it will gradually colonise grassland outside the original area.

If you or anyone else is unhappy with the yellow rattle, it can be killed off by mowing before the seeds ripen. Thus there is no danger of releasing a “weed”.

If the trial works, more yellow rattle could be sown.

I have grown yellow rattle in a small “meadow” on my allotment off The Avenues for the last ten years, on soil similar to that in Earlham Cemetery (sandy loam – sand). I initially bought seeds and sowed them into fine grass. After a couple of years the yellow rattle seeded into a patch of much ranker grass (mainly couch) and the yellow rattle has helped to restrict its height and vigour, allowing slower growing wild flowers and finer grasses to colonise. It now sows itself every year and keeps the whole grassland low in the summer.

## Summary

- A means of controlling grass vigour and improving the appearance of the cemetery;

- An initial pilot, paid for and carried out by volunteers;
- No extra costs to Norwich City Council or Norse.

See <http://wildseed.co.uk/species/view/2> and <http://wildseed.co.uk/page/using-yellow-rattle-to-increase-species-diversity> for more information.

Note: Some areas of very coarse grass, such as the north-east corner near Dereham Road are not going to suit the introduction of Yellow Rattle. However, anywhere in full or part sun in the level parts of the cemetery should be suitable.

Dr. Jeremy Bartlett, Secretary, Friends of Earlham Cemetery.

February 2016.



Earlham Cemetery © Jeremy Bartlett

## What Does the Cemetery Mean to Me - *Thea nicholls*



*Chrysoclista linneella* © Thea Nicholls

Nearly 25 years ago I moved back to Norfolk to start a new job in Norwich. Despite growing up in the County and wanting to move back to my home village near Dereham, my inability to drive and the dire state of Norfolk's public transport system meant we had to live in Norwich. The first place we looked at was just outside the Golden Triangle, up a cul-de-sac and right next to Earlham Road Cemetery. It was the perfect place to live while I learnt to drive ready to move back to the County. Yet, nearly 25 years later we're still here (and now in the Golden Triangle!) and a lot of that is down to the green space next-door.



*Silver-washed fritillary* © Thea Nicholls

Many people said things like 'I wouldn't want to live next to a cemetery' but the cemetery gives me a little bit of countryside right outside my window. It can sometimes be tricky seeing the seasons change in a city and it was something I missed when I lived in Leeds. Here, though, the seasons make themselves known from the fresh green

of spring to the stark beauty of the trees in winter. Those trees also shield us from the worst of the traffic noise on Earlham Road so it feels surprisingly peaceful.

Then there's the wildlife. For a nature-geek like me it's like a wonderland. Thanks to other members of the group I have seen plants, insects and fungi that I have never seen before. I saw my first firecrests (a small bird with the most amazing red blaze over the top of its head and a black bandit mask). I have seen a silver-washed fritillary and purple hairstreak butterflies on the FoEC walks. I've seen amazing moths such as six-spot burnets and the wonderfully named *Chrysoclista linneella* - a micro moth that lives on lime trees - and the Chinese dragon that is the sycamore moth caterpillar as well as the cemetery's special insect - the large scabious mining bee.



*Sycamore moth caterpillar* © Thea Nicholls

There are also some downsides. There are no-longer any spotted flycatchers or burnet moths. The great-spotted woodpecker no longer drums in spring and we don't hear the green woodpecker so often or see common blue or small copper butterflies where we are. But there are also the positives - blackcaps have returned to serenade us in the springtime and nuthatches have taken up residence and are breeding quite successfully.

Walking home from the City I can see the cemetery's trees standing above our house and it always gives my heart a little lift and then living in a city doesn't feel so bad after all.

Thea Nicholls

## Kensal Green Cemetery - Jeremy Bartlett



*The start of our visit to Kensal green © Jeremy Bartlett*

*"For there is good news yet to hear  
and fine things to be seen,*

*Before we go to Paradise by way of  
Kensal Green."*

G.K. Chesterton.

On Halloween (Saturday 31st October 2015) five brave souls from Friends of Earlham Cemetery spent the most haunted day of the year visiting Kensal Green Cemetery in London. The cemetery was the first garden cemetery in London and was established by Act of Parliament in 1832. It became the burial place of many notable people, including Charles Babbage (mathematician), Blondin (tightrope walker), Isambard

Kingdom Brunel (engineer), Wilkie Collins (author), Harold Pinter (playwright) and John McDougall Stuart (explorer), various MPs and members of royalty.

The coach trip was organised by the Friends of the Rosary and we were invited to come along, along with some Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries. The coach set off from Thorpe Hamlet but four of us were picked up from the bus stop next to Earlham House Shops, which saved the effort of walking across the city centre.

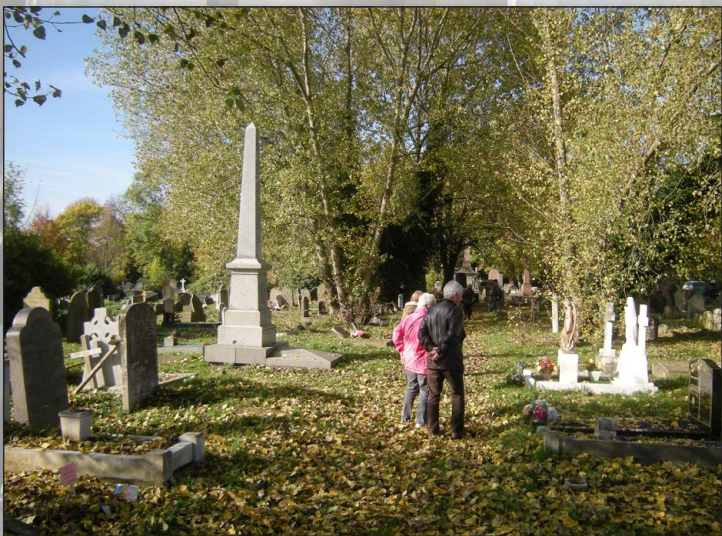
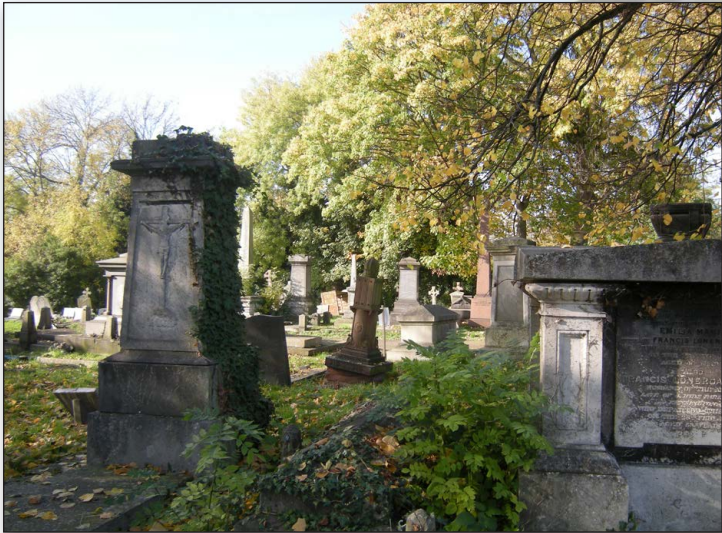
We reached Kensal Green Cemetery in the late morning and spent a happy

few hours there, being shown around by members of The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, who provided a very warm welcome with tea and shortbread biscuits.

Later this year there will be another visit to a London cemetery – I will pass on invitations as soon as I have the details.

Jeremy Bartlett.

# Kensai Green Cemetery in pictures

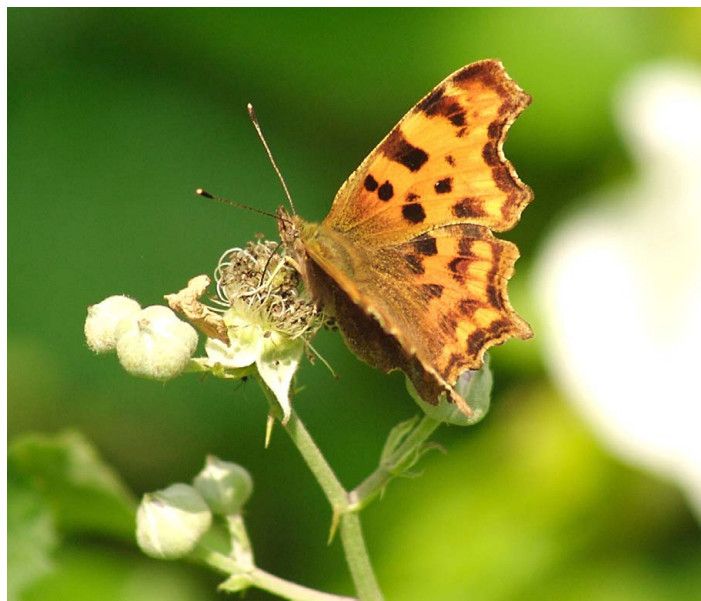


## Plantation Garden Wildlife Workshops - Vanna Bartlett

***This year several members of Friends of Earlham Cemetery are running wildlife identification workshops in The Plantation Garden. As a result, Plantation Garden volunteers will learn more about wildlife identification and our group will receive funds to pay for projects in the cemetery.***

A series of four workshops aims to introduce the Plantation Garden's volunteers to the wildlife to be found in the garden and to give them help and advice on how to identify and record their sightings. The long term aim is to build up a record of what wildlife occurs in the garden and how the garden can be managed to keep and improve upon its biodiversity.

The first workshop was held in the Plantation Garden on Sunday 8th May 2016, led by Stuart Paston with James Emerson and Jeremy and Vanna Bartlett. It was attended by a small group of Plantation Garden members and volunteers. Neil Blunt (one of the trustees) gave a short introduction regarding the funding the garden had received to enable the workshops to go ahead and then Jeremy outlined the purpose of wildlife recording and the different material available to help with identification which he had brought along. These ranged from the laminated charts produced by the Field Studies Council, through generalist and specialist guidebooks to apps for ipads and smartphones. The purpose of recording sightings was emphasised by how the spread of diseases like ash dieback are being mapped and monitored as well as the spread or decline of species possibly linked with climate change.



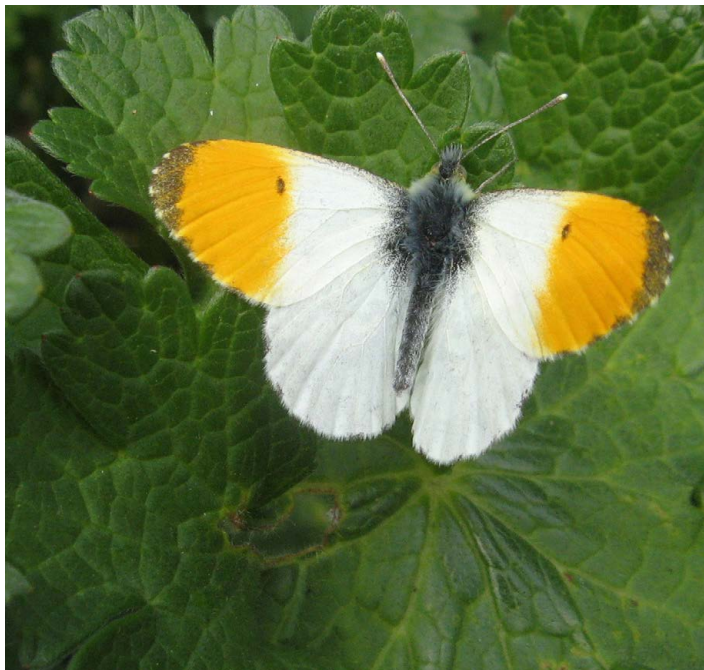
*Comma (Polygonia c-album) © Sandy Lockwood*

The workshop was billed as birds and insects, depending on the weather. As it was hot and sunny, the insects took precedence over the birds. Stuart had already begun recording hoverflies in the garden so he knew the best places to look. We started along the bottom of the steep east facing slope where spanish bluebells form a blue swathe and thick clumps of comfrey are spreading. The garden's ornamental planting includes plenty of colourful flowers that have lots of nectar and pollen and should therefore provide food for visiting insects. However, it was quickly noted that the comfrey was a magnet for the



*Holly blue (male) Celastrina argiolus © Sandy Lockwood*

different bee species present with all but one species recorded visiting the flowers. Comfrey can be very invasive, seeding prolifically, but in its current position in the garden it forms attractive clumps where other more delicate plants would perhaps struggle to grow.



Orange-tip butterfly (male) © Thea Nicholls

Several butterflies were patrolling up and down above the slope, most noticeably male Orange-tips, seeking females and chasing off other males. It was quite a surprise to some people on the workshop to discover how territorial and combative such delicate creatures can be! A Holly blue was found and caught at rest, giving the opportunity to see the pale undersides of the wings with their fine black markings. Usually this butterfly is just seen as it flits through the garden in a somewhat erratic jerky flight, a shimmering waif of silvery blue.



*Epistrophe eligans* © Val Striker

A few species of hoverfly were noted around the flower borders but their numbers were lower than expected.

Surprisingly they don't like really hot weather and are more active earlier in the day. In very hot weather a lot of flowers stop producing nectar and will often wilt as a deliberate way to not lose too much moisture. So Stuart led us up the steps of the west bank into the trees to look for species that prefer the cooler dappled shade. On the top path along the perimeter of the garden he found the hoverfly *Epistrophe eligans* which feeds on honeydew produced by aphids which is very plentiful on sycamore and field maple, two trees that are numerous in the garden. We also found an orange ladybird. This species was once regarded as quite scarce and thought to be an indicator of ancient woodland as it was usually found on field maple. That was until a young girl discovered it on a sycamore tree in her garden. Since then it has been found to be widespread and common. This discovery illustrates the value of wildlife recording and the important contribution that anyone can make. No one had been looking at sycamore trees as they are generally regarded as non-native and don't support a lot of wildlife. As soon as the girl's discovery was known, people started looking at sycamores and the number of records for orange ladybird skyrocketed.



Anthomyiid fly (*Delia platyura*) © Val Striker

A number of birds were recorded, nearly all from songs or calls and Jeremy demonstrated a bird song app to confirm some of the calls. He also went over some of the recording schemes available online for submitting records as well as those like i-spot for help with identification.

A couple of hours can only provide a brief snapshot of what wildlife is in the garden and it is hoped that frequent visitors will be encouraged to look at what's in the garden with them and send in their records. As most people now carry a camera in their pocket in the form of a phone they can easily take photos good enough for identification.

Vanna Bartlett.

## Black Poplars - *Jeremy Bartlett*

On Monday 29th February 2016, along with Paul Holley, Norwich City Council's Natural Areas Officer, we planted out nine young [native black poplar](#) trees at [Marston Marshes](#), a local nature reserve on the southern edge of Norwich, by the River Yare.

The trees were [grown from cuttings taken from trees in Earlham Cemetery in Norwich in March 2014](#). Members of our group potted up the cuttings and looked after them and by the end of last year we had ten healthy, well established trees. We used deep pots, used for growing climbers, to give the trees a good root depth. As the trees like wet conditions, we stood the pots in seed trays full of water and this has encouraged good root growth.

The tenth tree was planted a few days later at [Tyrrel's Wood](#), a Woodland Trust reserve near Long Stratton in South Norfolk, to replace a large native black poplar that was blown down in a gale earlier this winter.

We were given permission to take more cuttings and did this on our walk on 10th April. We hope these will produce another set of rooted trees by early 2018.

Read more about native black poplars and the Friends of Earlham Cemetery black poplar Project in Issue 1 of our newsletter or [here](#).

Jeremy Bartlett.



Collecting cuttings of black poplar © Jeremy Bartlett

# Review of the year: 2015 - 2016 *Jeremy Bartlett*

These are the main headlines for the year 2015 – 2016:

## Membership

- We now have 36 members (up from 27 in 2014 -15).

## Walks

- Our monthly walks continue to be well attended and continue to attract new people. The best attended walks were in October (21 people, fungi walk), July (18 people, Big Butterfly Count), November (16 people fungi walk) and April (15 people – “Signs of Spring”). Our December walk was followed by Christmas drinks in the “Fat Cat” on Nelson Street. Walks are themed wherever possible.
- There was no walk in February 2016 but during the month we have our AGM, drinks in the “Fat Cat” and a tree planting event (see “Projects”).
- We are still short of walk leaders – volunteers welcome!

## Visits

- Jeremy showed members of Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries and a Cringleford Church women’s group around Earlham Cemetery in July 2015. Both groups made a donation to our funds.
- Jeremy showed Anglia in Bloom judges the cemetery in July 2015.
- In October (Halloween) we had a great coach trip to London’s Kensal Green Cemetery, with Friends of the Rosary and Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries, organised by Friends of the Rosary. Thanks to Nick Williams and Mark Shopland for arranging this.
- In November we were given another tour of the Rosary Cemetery. Thanks to Nick Williams for showing us around.

- In April 2016, the Barney, Fulmodeston and Thursford Food Production Club will be visiting the cemetery.

## Wildlife

- The Management Plan for the cemetery was partially implemented in 2015 but there were still lots of examples of vegetation being cut at the wrong time of year. Jeremy is showing Helen from Norfolk Wildlife Trust around the cemetery in late February, prior to her meeting with Chris Eardley on 1st March to discuss full implementation of the Plan, after which we will meet Chris Eardley later in the month.
- Group members are continuing to discover new records for insects, fungi and plants, not least flowers and fungi (Ian Senior) and other insects (Stuart Paston). On our August walk we found a silver washed fritillary in the cemetery for the first time.
- Jeremy is going to give a talk to Great Yarmouth Naturalists’ Society about our work in the cemetery, in November 2016.

## Projects

- In March 2014 we took cuttings from the three remaining native Black Poplars in the cemetery. There are now 10 cuttings, which will be planted out soon at Marston Marshes (see our report on the previous page) and Bowthorpe Southern Park. The group will plant the first trees will at Marston Marshes on Monday 15th February 2016. Thanks to Nic, Lesley, Rosemary, Jeremy and Vanna for raising the cuttings and to Paul Holley and Imogen Mole (Norwich City Council) for help with the project.
- Work on a book on the cemetery, covering its natural history, hasn’t moved forward.

- However, Jeremy is continuing to research the history of the cemetery and has written several chapters of a book on the subject.

- In August 2015 we produced First Day Covers featuring the Scabious Mining Bee second class stamp. There are still some covers for sale – for a £5 minimum donation to group funds.

## Networking

- We continue to work closely with Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norwich City Council on the Habitat Management Plan.
- We are developing good relationships with other “Friends” groups, including Friends of the Rosary, Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries and Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery.
- Our Facebook page now has 197 “Likes” (up from 162 in early 2015).
- Our website has had 9,922 visits and 4,848 unique visitors since its launch in November 2012. Last year we answered about a dozen queries about the cemetery, via our website.
- Our posters at the main Cemetery gates have been very useful and have attracted new attendees for walks and new members. Thanks to Nic Carver for making solid plastic backing plates for the posters. The plates stop the wind from ripping the posters and makes them look much neater.

## Awards

- Earlham Cemetery won the Biodiversity Award in the 2015 Anglia in Bloom competition.

Jeremy Bartlett, Secretary.

6 February 2016.

