

FRIENDS OF  
EARLHAM CEMETERY



© Thea Nicholls

The newsletter for Friends of Earlham Cemetery

Issue 7

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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:

AGM for 2017 - 8pm to 9pm will be held on Wednesday 8th February in the small hall at the Belvedere Centre, Belvoir Street, Norwich, NR2 3AZ (more walk dates will be decided at the AGM.)

Monday 2nd January (2pm),  
New Year's plant hunt

Sunday 12th March (2pm),  
Early spring

Saturday 15th April (2pm),  
Spring flowers

The header image by © Thea Nicholls  
Logo design © Vanna Bartlett.  
Layout design and editorial by Sandra Lockwood.



As a never ending cycle winter is upon us once again. With the end of the old year it's a good time to reflect on the positive things that have happened in the cemetery. Global and local news has been filled with much negativity in 2016 and at times it's often been difficult to see the positives in anything. However, living next to or nearby the cemetery allows you the opportunity to see what amazing wildlife we have there. The cemetery is a wonderful green space available to everybody whether it's for the occasional walk to take in the fresh air or to investigate the birdlife, insectlife or the wonderful plantlife which survives there.

Winter can be a cruel task master, however, it also gives you the opportunity to see wildlife that you wouldn't often see. If you make the effort to put out food and water to help our wildlife survive this time of year you will often be rewarded.

Woodmice have once again taken up residence in our wood bunkers that border the cemetery along with the odd brown rat or two. The foxes are out and about looking for new mates and visiting the local gardens around the cemetery. Our birdfeeders are full of birds from the cemetery. Some can be a little reclusive normally but winter forces them to be much more confiding as they forage for food. The regular visitors of blackbirds, longtailed tits, robins, blue tits, great tits and coal tits are emptying the feeders every day but we do get winter migrants which have now returned to the cemetery as well. These winter visitors include blackcaps, redwings, siskins and, if we're lucky, waxwings.

So when the politics and news get you down why not wrap up warm and take a stroll around Earlham Cemetery - you might be surprised at what you see. Keep checking [Friends of Earlham Cemetery's](#) website and [Facebook pages](#) wall for up-to-date information about the cemetery including all our latest walks.

To all our members who help and inspire each other I hope you have a Happy New Year and find lots to be positive about in our local plant and wildlife.

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.



## Hay making in Earlham Cemetery - by Jeremy Bartlett

As part of Earlham Cemetery's Management Plan (see Newsletter No.6) Norwich City Council are treating selected parts of the cemetery as a hay meadow. Grass is cut in late summer (August or early September), after most plants have finished flowering. Previously, grass was cut several times in the year, often when wild flowers were starting to bloom.

Leaving the cut grass on the ground will increase nutrient levels in the soil and encourage coarse grasses to grow at the expense of wild flowers, so part of the process is to rake up the cut grass and remove it from the grassland.

Norwich Norse cut the grass with brushcutters, as usual, and then work parties organised by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) rake up the cut grass and pile it up by the tracks for Norse to take away. This year, the work took place on five days in August and September and several volunteers from the Friends of Earlham Cemetery helped with the raking.

Monday 12th September 2016 was a very warm and sunny day. Martin, Sue and I met up with Debbie Murray and her group of TCV volunteers at 10.15am, not far from South Lodge, and further volunteers from Norwich Green Gym joined us at 11.30am. Rakes and gloves were provided for us.



*Martin and Sue raking up hay © Jeremy Bartlett*

I ran a local conservation group in the 1990s and we did a lot of hay raking. Even though I am twenty years older now, I was pleasantly surprised, as the job was easier than I remembered. Back in the 1990s we worked on various Norfolk Wildlife Trust sites, mainly marshes, meaning that the hay was heavy and wet. Because of the dry summer, the hay in the cemetery was dry and much lighter. TCV now use special drag mats, rather than big, awkward tarpaulins that were difficult to drag. As there are plenty of trees in the cemetery, we could move to a shadier area when the hot sun became too much. As always, tea breaks form an important part of the day.

Not only does conservation work provide healthy exercise, but it is a sociable activity too, and it was fun to chat with the TCV volunteers. They come from a variety of backgrounds and some volunteer to pick up new skills, others for a day out in a green space, while others are retired and find the work a refreshing change from a working life spent indoors.

The work went on for several more days and the sunny weather continued. In the end the raking had to stop as Norse were unable to take away the hay quickly enough once it had been raked up. As a result, some grass cuttings weren't cleared up, but the most important areas were raked and we made much better progress this year than in previous years.

Next year, hopefully more hay will be removed. I will also be working with Debbie to apply for grants to fund more hay cutting, something that is vital as local government cutbacks restrict the amount of money Norwich City Council can spend on this kind of thing.

So TCV should be working in the cemetery again next year. Come along and join in – it's great fun!

Jeremy Bartlett.



*Collecting hay with the TCV volunteers © Jeremy Bartlett*



## Sowing Yellow Rattle - Jeremy Bartlett

In the last newsletter (Newsletter No. 6) I wrote about our plans to sow a trial plot of Yellow Rattle seeds in Earham Cemetery. The plans became reality in November 2016.

We chose a four square metre test patch in Area 7 on the Management Plan (see Newsletter No. 6), near North Lodge, on the east side of the main road through the Cemetery.

We had to purchase our Yellow Rattle seeds from [Emorsgate Seeds](#), as the seeds we were hoping to use via Norfolk Wildlife Trust were not available.



*Yellow Rattle seeds © Jeremy Bartlett*

Sue Stoner from Norwich City Council arranged for Norse to cut the grass in the trial patch in the week before we sowed the seed, which was a great help.

We met up on Saturday 19th November 2016 and spent about an hour preparing the ground and sowing the seed. We created some bare patches in the grassland, for the seeds to germinate in. This is traditionally done by cattle but we didn't have any. Luckily, Aaron had brought along his [azada](#) (a kind of digging hoe) and this proved to be the ideal tool for the job.

Yellow Rattle seed needs winter dormancy and, if the trial is successful, the seedlings will appear in spring. The plants are annuals with attractive yellow flowers in June which produce seeds in July and August. These rattle in their capsules, giving the plant its name. Yellow Rattle is a semi-parasite so it will reduce the vigour of the coarse grasses and allow wildflowers to thrive.



*Aaron breaks up soil with his azada, while Vanna rakes up cut grass. © Jeremy Bartlett*



*Jeremy sowing Yellow Rattle seed. © Vanna Bartlett*

That is the theory, anyway. I sowed Yellow Rattle in my mini-meadow on my allotment about ten years ago and it now appears every year and has improved the composition of the grassland, so that other wild flowers thrive.

Jeremy Bartlett.



# Visit to Brookwood Cemetery - Jeremy Bartlett



*Brookwood cemetery was built on heathland and many heathland plants remain, like this Bell Heather. © Jeremy Bartlett*

Following last year's successful trip to Kensal Green Cemetery in London (see Newsletter No. 6), three Friends of Earlsam Cemetery visited Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey, on another coach trip organised by Friends of the Rosary group.



*Some of the Cemetery's magnificent Sequoia (Giant Redwood) trees © Jeremy Bartlett*

Saturday 8th October 2016 started with heavy showers and it was still rather damp and cloudy when we reached Brookwood Cemetery, which is on the outskirts of Woking, to the

south-west of London. However, the sun appeared at lunchtime and much of our tour took place in bright sunshine. We set off at 8.15am and reached Brookwood at 11.30am.

Brookwood Cemetery was created as a great metropolitan cemetery for London and was opened in November 1854, following the closure of city centre churchyards for burial. The London Necropolis & National Mausoleum Company, created to run the cemetery, was set up in 1850. The company purchased 2,000 acres of Woking's common land and planted out 500 acres of this land at first. At the time of opening, Brookwood was the largest cemetery in the world. Although this is no longer true, it is still the largest cemetery in the UK, and probably in Western Europe. (In contrast, Earlsam Cemetery, which opened in 1856, covers 85 acres of land.)

Brookwood Cemetery is situated about 30 miles from central London and even today the road journey takes over an hour, whereas trains from Waterloo take about 50 – 55 minutes to reach Brookwood station, just outside the cemetery.

From the start, coffins and mourners were transported by special trains run by the London and South Western Railway from a private station at 121 Westminster Bridge Road, next to Waterloo Station. There were two stations at Brookwood Cemetery: North Station for the Nonconformist sections and South Station for the Anglican areas. The trains ran from 1854 until the station at Waterloo was bombed in April 1941.

After the war, the railway tracks in Brookwood Cemetery were taken up and as the North Station was infested with dry rot it was demolished sometime in the 1960s. South Station survived as the "South Bar" and provided refreshments to visitors. It was closed in about 1967 and the building was burned down in September 1972. Nowadays, the trackbed of the railway still exists, along with a platform from the North Station.

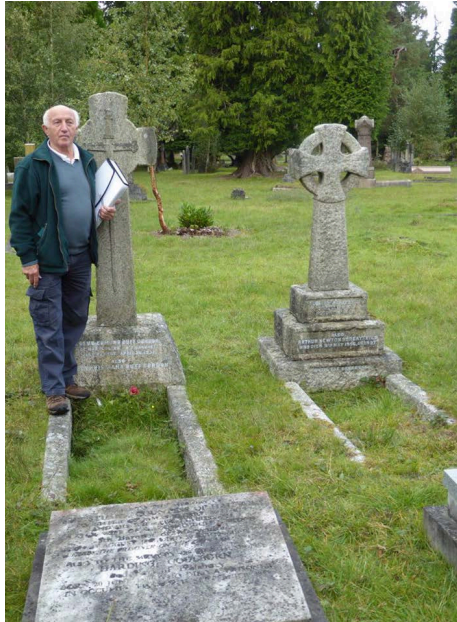


*William de Morgan. Artist, potter, inventor & author. 1839 - 1917. Known for his fine tiles. © Jeremy Bartlett*

Brookwood Cemetery contains the remains of around 235,000 people. Famous burials include the artists [John Singer Sargent](#), [William and Evelyn De Morgan](#) and [Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton](#), sometime Master of Queen Victoria's household. [Charles Bradlaugh](#) is buried here,



the first atheist to sit in the House of Commons and so is [Dr Robert Knox](#), who was one of Burke and Hare's best customers. Cosmo Duff Gordon is buried here too: he survived the sinking of the Titanic by buying a space on a lifeboat – so much for “women and children first”. Appropriately, his grave is now sinking. Nearby is the grave of Mrs Smith, the widow of the Titanic's captain.



*One of our guides, at the tomb of Cosmo Duff Gordon, who survived the sinking of the Titanic by buying a space on a lifeboat. Appropriately, his grave is now sinking © Jeremy Bartlett*

The oldest remains in the cemetery are of [St Edward the Martyr](#), a Saxon King of England, who was killed at Corfe in Dorset in 978 or 979. His remains were moved to Shaftesbury Abbey and finally placed in the



*St. Edward's Orthodox Church (formerly a cemetery chapel) © Jeremy Bartlett*

Orthodox Church in Brookwood in 1984. We visited the church as part of our tour. It started life as one of the cemetery chapels but is now run by the St. Edward Brotherhood, one of whom showed us around the church and made us very welcome.



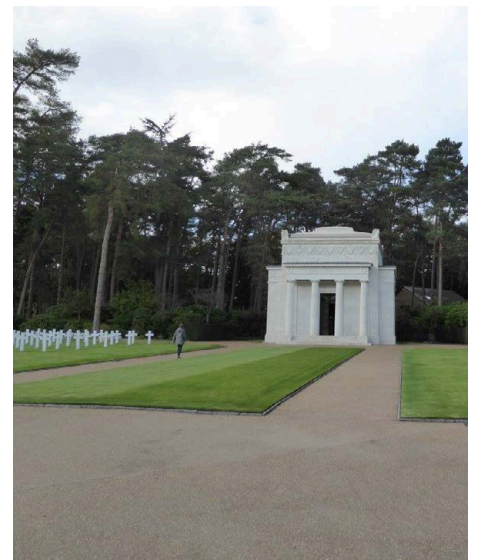
*Inside St. Edward's Orthodox Church © Jeremy Bartlett*

Elsewhere in the cemetery are thousands of Londoners buried at the expense of their parish in individual, unmarked graves. Some remains have been moved here from central London in recent years.

In more recent years, burial areas have been established for many different faiths and it was especially interesting to walk amongst some of the Muslim grave plots, which are often fenced in with tiny gardens that resemble a little piece of the Mediterranean region.

There are also almost 6,000 military graves in a number of different burial plots and from a number of countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, Belgium, Poland, Czecholovakia, Italy, France, India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and Turkey.

Brookwood is a good place for wildlife and flowers. We are used to cemeteries covered with grass, whether short or long. But much of Brookwood still feels like the heathland on which the Cemetery was built. Bell Heather was still in flower



*US Military Plot © Jeremy Bartlett*

when we visited, along with Devil's-bit Scabious. Fungi were making an appearance too, with Blackening Waxcaps and Shaggy Parasols being amongst the fungi I could identify. In the summer, Brookwood is a great place for insects, especially solitary bees and wasps. In Earlham Cemetery we are lucky enough to have the [Large Scabious Mining Bee \(\*Andrena hattorfiana\*\)](#); in Brookwood they have the [Small Scabious Mining Bee \(\*Andrena marginata\*\)](#). Both species are local and uncommon.

Brookwood Cemetery also contains some magnificent trees, including rows of stately Sequoias.

[See our Facebook page](#) for a full set of photos from our visit.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Rosary for organising the visit.

2017's trip should be to Highgate Cemetery in London – I'll keep you posted.

Jeremy Bartlett.

Further Reading:

About the Cemetery: [http://www.tbcs.org.uk/about\\_the\\_cemetery.htm](http://www.tbcs.org.uk/about_the_cemetery.htm)

Railway to Brookwood: <http://www.tbcs.org.uk/railway.htm>

Cemetery map: <http://www.brookwoodcemetery.com/cemetery-map/>

Famous burials: <http://www.tbcs.org.uk/notables.htm>.



# A History of Trees in Earlham Cemetery part 1 - by Jeremy Bartlett

Jeremy Bartlett has been looking through Council minute books in Norfolk Record Office to find information about the trees in the Cemetery. Here are his findings.



Earlham Cemetery is home to a wide range of trees © Jeremy Bartlett

John Claudius Loudon's 1843 book "On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries, and on the Improvement of Churchyards"<sup>1</sup> was very influential in the design of the new cemeteries that were created in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Trees and shrubs were a key part of the new look. Loudon's book listed twenty pages<sup>2</sup> of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants that he considered suitable for planting in cemeteries.

Loudon preferred evergreens, especially those with an upright growth habit, which would "interfere less with ventilation, sunshine, and the performance of funerals"<sup>3</sup>. Suggested evergreens included the Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), Irish yew (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata'), pines and arbor vitae (*Thuja species*). All are present in Earlham Cemetery, apart from the Italian cypress, which grows happily in some of London's cemeteries but would possibly have found Earlham Cemetery too cold and exposed, at least in the early years.

Loudon was less keen on deciduous trees and flowers as they were "not favourable to the expression either of solemnity or grandeur"<sup>4</sup>. Masses of shrubs planted in the interior of a cemetery were to be avoided, as were those planted as strips or belts around the edges. Planting in this way would waste valuable burial space, restrict the free circulation of air and would give the cemetery the erroneous character of a park or pleasure ground<sup>5</sup>.

When Earlham Cemetery was first opened in 1856 it must have been very windy and cold, with open farmland on all sides and the newly planted trees and shrubs offering little shelter. In November 1856 Burial Board minutes record that the trees and shrubs required staking to prevent wind damage and a hundred stakes were ordered. In November 1858 the shrubs were to be inspected and the failures were to be replaced "providing the expense does not exceed £5". More shrubs were bought in January 1860.

In January 1856 one of the cemetery superintendents was "allowed to take Box from the garden lately occupied by Mr. Spencer upon relaying the residue in a proper manner", implying that cuttings were taken from some existing Box bushes (*Buxus sempervirens*) and planted out. 'Quick' (Quickthorn - the hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*) was also planted on a bank dividing the part of the cemetery being used from its surplus land.

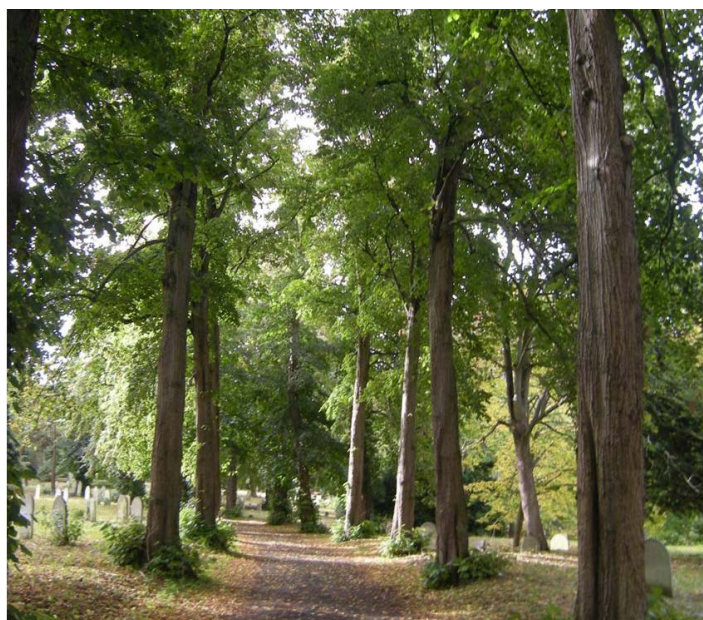
1. See [https://archive.org/details/onlayingoutplan00\\_loudgoog](https://archive.org/details/onlayingoutplan00_loudgoog) for a digitised version of the book
2. Loudon pp 95 - 115. Loudon p21.
3. Loudon p21.
4. Loudon p20.
5. [http://ihbc.org.uk/context\\_archive/77/paradise/sarah\\_rutherford.htm](http://ihbc.org.uk/context_archive/77/paradise/sarah_rutherford.htm), Sarah Rutherford, "Paradise regained in Reading", Context 77.



In February 1863 forty limes and other trees were ordered to replace trees that had failed as well as chestnut trees for an avenue adjoining the road leading west from the Dissenters' Chapel<sup>6</sup>. December 1864 saw an order for ten more replacement lime trees and a further £10 was spent on trees in November 1865.

From as early as 1858 tree seedlings were also bought in and grown to a larger size before being planted out in the cemetery "to supply future vacancies". In March 1870 30 shillings were spent on manure and seedlings for the nursery ground. In 1891 part of the spare cemetery land formerly let out to Mr Armes, next to the Isolation Hospital, was made into a nursery.

October 1868 saw the purchase of six copper beech, six limes and eight Chinese arbor vitae (*Platycladus orientalis*, formerly *Thuja orientalis*). Another £10 was spent on trees and shrubs in December 1868 and again in December 1869, including replacing dead specimens. In December 1871 119 shrubs and trees were purchased.



Lime avenue near Dereham Road gate © Jeremy Bartlett



Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) © Jeremy Bartlett

January 1872 saw the purchase of trees to form an avenue and in October 1872 twelve Irish yews were ordered to replace ones that had died. That year also saw the purchase of 550 more tree stakes.

In February 1873 100 holly trees were ordered from a Mr. Greenacre, at 1/6 per dozen. The November 1875 minutes note that more trees were to be planted and that December 70 trees and shrubs were ordered to replace dead ones on the latest extension to the cemetery.

Other purchases of trees, shrubs and other plants are recorded in the Burial Board minute books (and, from December 1929, the City Committee minute books), as follows:

6. The Crematorium's Garden of Rest now occupies this area and the trees are no longer there.

Date	Details
March 1876	Conditional order for 210 fir trees.
October 1882	2 thujopses ( <i>Thujopsis dolabrata</i> ) and 200 privet to be purchased.
August 1883	Superintendent offered 200 ferns from Costessey – authorised to cart them to Cemetery.
October 1883	350 Beech from Messrs Daniel Bros at 8/- per hundred. 300 more in November 1883 and 650 in December 1883.
September 1884	30 Silver Birch, 30 Copper Beech, 100 Beech.
October 1884	3000 young <i>Prunus myrobalana</i> (Cherry Plum or myrobalan Plum, <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> ), 240 Scotch firs, 30 silver birches.

Date	Details
March/April 1888	£9 1 shilling for trees and shrubs and a load of manure for planting.
September 1888	50 silver birches and 100 Scotch firs.
February 1889	20 silver birches.
September 1890	400 trees and shrubs for sections 34 – 41 (deferred until spring).
January 1891	650 myrobalan plants to be purchased for new fence near the Iron Hospital.
March 1891	500 put in nursery and 40 in section Q
May 1891	500 plants bought. <i>Arborvitea lobbii</i> (Western Red Cedar, <i>Thuja plicata</i> ) 2 – 3 years old, £2 10/6. Planted in nursery.
November 1891	6 birch and 6 beech trees for avenue at back of South Lodge. 2000 crocus bulbs.
December 1891	570 plants purchased at £7. 13 shillings.
March 1892	20 shillings of flower seeds.
October 1892	Bulbs purchased from Mr Jay, at not more than 20 shillings.
March 1893	20 shillings of flower seeds.
September / October 1893	Lime trees for channels of main road - 80 limes (South Lodge to Workhouse Lane).
October 1893	£9 for trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs in nursery ready to be planted out in cemetery.
November 1894	20 shillings for bulbs.
September 1895	20 shillings for bulbs.
February 1896	Chairman authorised to spend up to £20 on trees and shrubs, including 80 Prunus ' <i>Pissardi</i> ' trees for sides of broad path on land to be consecrated.
October 1896	City Engineer's plan of newly consecrated ground adjacent to Section K. 4000 privet and myrobella from Mr. Hussey of Eaton, to repair boundary fences by allotments and Mr. Armes' land <sup>7</sup> .
October 1897	20 shillings for bulbs.
February 1899	70 Silver Birches.

7. The boundary between Earlham Rise and the Cemetery.



Date	Details
July 1902	To plant lilac bushes by the wall between Section 11 and Winter Road, to stop children climbing over the wall.
October 1902	60 silver birches.
December 1902	800 <i>myrobella</i> and 80 silver birches.
January 1903	Bulbs for by Soldiers' Monument.
December 1906	Silver birches to be planted between the trees now standing on the broad path round the New Ground from section A to K.
January 1909	22 Beech plants.
March 1909	1000 Holly, for boundaries with Bowthorpe Road and Dereham Road.
May 1910	Bank adjoining shelter <sup>8</sup> to be planted with laurel instead of privet.
July 1911	300 <i>myrobella</i> to repair fence on Bowthorpe Road. Six silver birch for avenue sections 46 and 47.
October 1912	100 tree stakes ordered.
October 1913	£10 spent on shrubs and trees.
January 1914	200 privet, at a cost not greater than 12 shillings.
July 1922	600 myrobella, 600 privet, 300 holly, for boundaries of additional ground.
July 1923	£150 for trees and shrubs on additional ground.
July 1924	60 mop-headed acacias ( <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Inermis') to be planted on the broad walk lying between Sections 55 and 60 (known as Lemon Avenue <sup>9</sup> ). 30 of the trees had been planted by 24 October 1924, with the other 30 to be purchased and planted as soon as possible.
July 1929	Four trees "of a large growing type" to be planted at the intersections of the broad pathways adjoining Sections CC, 55 and 60.
January 1931	Estimated cost of tree planting on extension (beyond Farrow Road): £311. A single belt of trees will be planted around the boundary inside the railings and suitable trees will be planted at intervals along roads and pathways.

8. The shelter was on the site of the current Cemetery Office, opposite South Lodge, on the main drive from Earham Road to the Crematorium.

9. Named after Councillor Lemon, a former chairman of the Burial Board Committee.



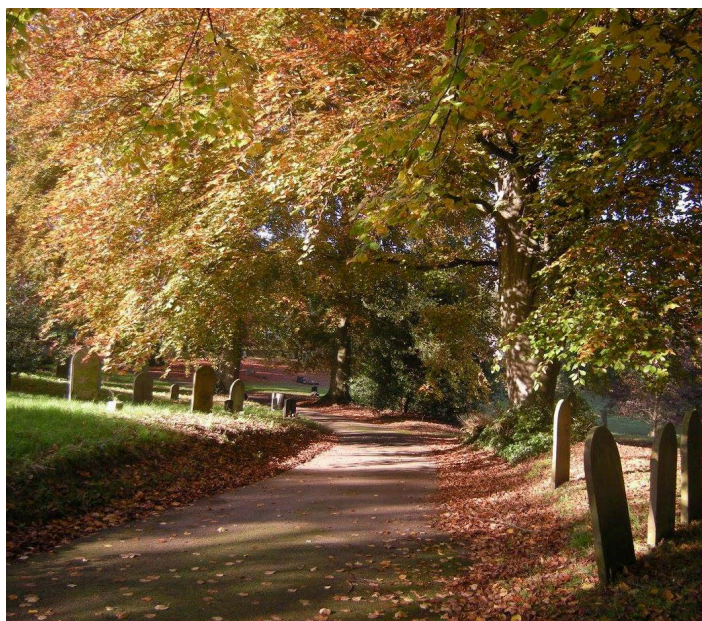


As the cemetery trees matured, they needed to be maintained. In February 1894 the trees on the banks at the Earlham Road entrance needed to be thinned and in 1898 some trees and shrubs had become too big or were damaging vaults and had to be removed. In July 1901 it was agreed to lop the large lime trees on each side of main drive and in July wire was ordered for tying up the Irish yews in Sections 8 – 9 and H – I



One of the large oak trees in the Cemetery © Jeremy Bartlett

In July 1907 a tree overhanging the chimney of a house on Winter Road was to have its top lopped off and that November a tree overhanging the house at no. 20 St. Thomas' Road damaged its roof and had to be lopped. In November 1911 four extra men were employed for tree and shrub trimming, at 5d per hour and the yews in Sections 8 and 9 were to be trimmed. In September 1914 lime trees were trimmed on the approach road in Section U and in May and June 1915 trees overhanging graves were removed.



Some of the large beech trees in the cemetery © Jeremy Bartlett

On 24 March 1895 40 – 50 trees were blown down in a gale and several gravestones were damaged. The wood was offered to the Council's City Committee. On 26 August 1912 the exceptionally heavy rainfall responsible for the Norwich Floods<sup>10</sup> caused many graves to subside. Several trees were blown over and other was damage done. On 28 March 1916 several trees were blown down and the City Engineer was offered the timber from three large pine trees in Section M.

In April 1920 an Oak tree in the Jewish Cemetery was removed. In July 1920 Mr. W. Jecks Drane complained about a walnut tree near his son's grave in Section 1: boys were throwing stones at it to knock down nuts. (It isn't clear whether his request to remove the tree was carried out.) In October 1920 trees near the Earlham Road entrance were trimmed and in January 1921 lime trees on the approach road from Earlham Road were to be cut down. An elm tree in Section 1 was to be removed in November 1921 and a lime tree in Section A was removed in July 1923. Winter 1923 – 1924 saw the elm trees in Sections 1 and 2 being trimmed, involving four extra men. In February 1925 three extra men were employed for a month on tree cutting and path clearance. In gales during the winter of 1938 – 1939 a large elm tree was blown down and smashed up three or four headstones. Several smaller trees were also uprooted.



Western red cedars at the Earlham Road entrance © Jeremy Bartlett

Over the years, some trees have grown into fine specimens, including large Beech and copper beech trees, a fine weeping beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula') and an avenue of very tall Western red cedars, *Thuja plicata*, lining the main drive at the Earlham Road entrance to the cemetery. Other trees are shorter lived. silver birch, for example, is unlikely to live for more than eighty years in the south of England, meaning that any birch trees planted in the cemetery before the 1930s are unlikely to still be alive<sup>11</sup>.

Other trees have succumbed to disease. Dutch Elm Disease means that no large elm trees survive in the Cemetery, though elms live on as bushes, which reach a certain height before they become diseased again. In October 1964 the Parks Committee minutes record the felling of three large elms in Eaton Road and Elm Disease

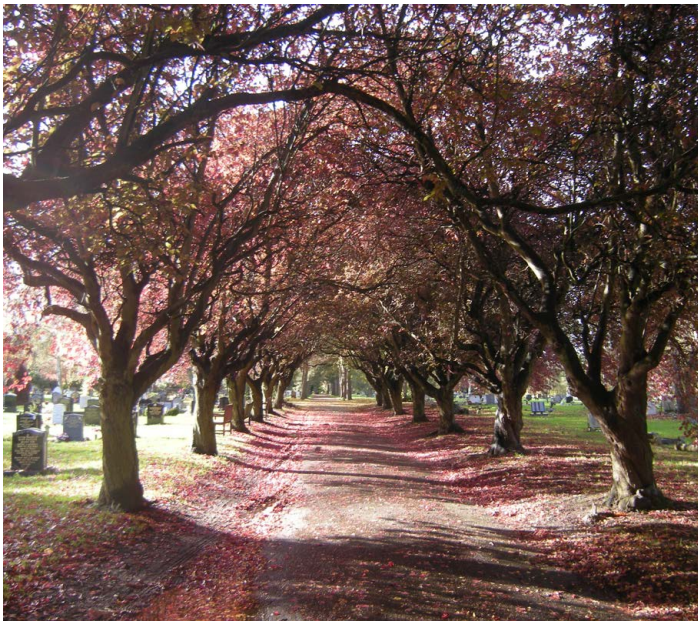




One of the cemetery's many birch trees © Jeremy Bartlett

control Orders were introduced in Norwich in November 1971, but to no avail. The last large elm trees in the cemetery were three Dutch elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*), the last of a row, felled in the 1980s.

There are very few large ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in the cemetery. Ash Dieback Disease was first recorded here in 2012 and is slowly killing several young ash trees.



An avenue of *Pisardii* plums in autumn © Jeremy Bartlett

Honey fungus (*Armillaria* sp.) is widespread in the Cemetery and has killed several trees, but there are several different species of *Armillaria* in the UK and not all of them cause serious damage to trees<sup>12</sup>. Some plants are more susceptible to attack than others, including lilac, apple, privet, willow, birch and cypresses. Annual plants and grass are not affected and yew, oaks, cherry laurel and beech are very resistant to infection.

The cemetery is also full of fungi that cause no harm to trees, ranging from species that live on dead plant materials to species such as fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) that co-exist with trees in a symbiotic relationship. In these

species the fungus' underground network of mycelia are joined to tree roots and help the tree to take up more water and nutrients from the soil. In exchange the tree supplies the fungus with sugars which are made by the tree in its leaves from the sun, by photosynthesis.

Jeremy Bartlett.

Part 2 will follow in the next newsletter.



Native black poplar © Jeremy Bartlett

10. The flooding was caused by a deep depression which moved across Norwich and gave continuous rain for over 24 hours. 7.51 inches of rainfall were recorded at Earlham Cemetery for the 29 hours ending at 9am on 27 August 1912. Arthur W. Preston, "Notes on the Great Norfolk Rainstorm of 25th and 26th August, 1912" in Trans. Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society Vol IX Part IV 1912 – 13, pp551 – 557. See <http://www.broadlandmemories.co.uk/blog/2012/08/1912-floods-photo-gallery/> for photographs of flooding in Norwich in August 1912 and <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/media/pdf/m/9/Aug1912.pdf> for the Met Office's report for that month. 103 bridges and culverts in Norfolk were destroyed or seriously damaged by the flooding, which cut Norwich's electricity supply for three days and caused suspension of the tram service for two days.

11. One May evening about ten years ago, when we were in the garden of our house on Helena Road (backing onto the Cemetery) there was a creaking noise and a dead birch tree fell and the top branches rested on the top of our fence. When we first moved to the house in the early 1990s the tree had a piece of wood high in its branches, which we were told was a floorboard from the original house on the site, which was destroyed by bombing in 1942. (The house was completely rebuilt in 1948.)

12. In "Honey Fungus - Friend or Foe?" Paul F. Hamlyn lists seven species. North West Fungus Group Newsletter, October 2001. See <http://fungus.org.uk/nwfg/armnov01.htm>.



## Additions to the Cemetery Hoverfly list 2016 - by *Stuart Paston*

I've been recording hoverflies in earnest in the cemetery since around the turn of the century but it's still possible to discover new species for the site. This year two additions have been made.

The first on 4 June was a female of [Melangyna umbellatarum](#) which was found visiting spindle flowers in the north eastern part of the cemetery. This species is quite distinctive from other *Melangyna* species as it has creamy white, not yellow, markings on the abdomen and the female has a shiny bluish thorax.

It is best described as widespread but scarce over much of its UK range and national data received by the Hoverfly Recording Scheme suggests it has somewhat recovered this century after a period of decline.

I've received few records for Norfolk since 2012 so it's occurrence in the cemetery came as a pleasant surprise. It is usually found in wooded or scrubby areas and the larvae are predators on aphids especially those associated with white umbellifers such as hogweed on which the adults are frequent visitors.

The other cemetery newcomer is [Epistrophe diaphana](#), with a female found visiting hogweed on 30 June, again in the north eastern section. Nine days earlier I had encountered the species at Ketts Heights on the other side of the city.

This species has a mainly south eastern distribution in the UK but has been moving northwards through the east Midlands into East Anglia in recent years.

I have previously received records from south Norfolk but this is the first evidence of it in the Norwich area.

It is associated with woodland and scrub. The larva is stated to be undescribed but other *Epistrophe* larvae are predacious on aphids. Identification is not straightforward as this species does resemble *Syrphus* species amid which it will be found, but it has a pair of pale longitudinal stripes running down the middle of the top part of the thorax and separation is possible from a good photo.

Stuart Paston

County Hoverfly Recorder

## How Your Newsletter is Produced - by *Thea Nicholls*

Newsletters are produced by so many groups and organisations that it is easy to forget how much work goes into them so here is the story of just one - your very own Friends of Earlham Cemetery newsletter.

The first stage is to get articles to go in it. For most of them this involves Sandy, in her role as editor, cajoling, persuading and bullying various people to write something. Sometimes she even asks nicely! Jeremy Bartlett, the group's secretary is keen to share his passion for the cemetery's wildlife and history and always comes up with several articles for each newsletter (more on this later).

Once all the articles are in Sandy then does the layout of the newsletter. This involves deciding what order to put the articles in, adding photographs and drawings and making the newsletter look good and easy to read. To do this, Sandy uses a piece of software called inDesign which is a professional layout program. Sandy has created an inDesign template for the newsletter to make sure each issue has the same look and feel but even so the layout process is time-

consuming. As she works full-time and also acts as my carer, Sandy has to fit working on the newsletter into those times when she doesn't have a lot of other work in.

Once the newsletter has been put together I get my chance for a sneak preview in my unofficial capacity as proofreader. As well as looking for the usual typos and grammatical errors I also make sure the articles read well and that the style of the newsletter is the same on every page. Then Sandy makes any corrections needed and sends a copy to Jeremy for him to cast an eye over it as secretary. Any corrections he finds are made and the newsletter is then ready to be sent out to you, the members. Of course, any typos etc that remain are there deliberately for members to find and be tested on at the AGM!

Sandy's final task is to save the newsletter as a PDF and email it to Jeremy who will send it on to the members either by email or as a paper copy and that's it for another issue.

So now to that passion of Jeremy's I mentioned earlier...

As I proofread this newsletter I was disappointed to see that it is the Jeremy Bartlett newsletter with Stuart Paston and myself as supporting acts. Not because of Jeremy's articles, which I always enjoy reading, but because of the lack of contributions by other members. It would be lovely to read other viewpoints and observations otherwise the newsletter is in danger of becoming a bit samey. It doesn't have to be an essay or a book - a paragraph or two about why you like visiting the cemetery or your favourite gravestone or the most exciting wildlife encounter you've had in there are just as interesting as a full-blooded monograph on blue tits. So please write an article, however brief, for the next issue - or it may just be a case that the newsletter dies a death and that would be a real shame.

Members who don't want to write may also want to consider sending in (captioned) photos of things they've seen or favourite views/trees or other cemetery related items.

Thea Nicholls

