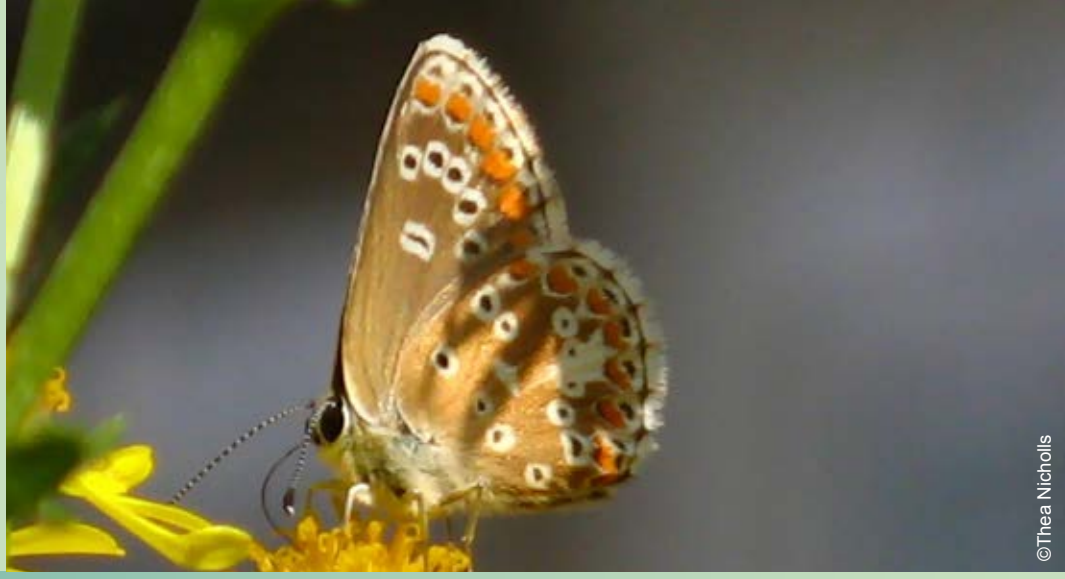
FRIENDS OF
EARLHAM CEMETERY



The newsletter for Friends of Earlham Cemetery Issue 9

Contents

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 19th November 2017 (2pm)
Fungi.

Sunday 10th December 2017 (2pm)
Introduction to Lichens followed by drinks in Fat Cat.

The header image by © Vanna Bartlett
Logo design © Vanna Bartlett.
Layout design and editorial by Sandy Lockwood

I must give a big thank you to my wife, Thea, who stepped in to help me get the previous cemetery newsletter proofed and edited so it would be out on time. Never an easy task when you're busy with work. I'd also like to say a big thank you to everyone who supplied articles and to the cemetery group members who supplied an article for the first time. I think it was our best issue yet.

Although autumn and winter see us into a quieter time in the cemetery we can look back on what was happening this summer with Vanna Bartlett's article on "A Summer Saunter" and "Evergreen Spindle" by Stuart Paston. Summer also gave us another first for our butterfly list. I won't spoil the surprise so see Jeremy's article for more details. I managed to miss it as I was away but Thea was lucky to see the butterfly concerned on the ragwort in our garden about the same time (also a first). I won't mention anything about jealousy but let's just say I went the tiniest tinge of green!

It was also a good year for bumble and solitary bees. Our cemetery bee list keeps on growing thanks to Vanna who has been bitten by the bee bug. Read about "More Bees" in Jeremy Bartlett's article.

Our October and November walks will concerntrate on fungi which are always popular. This is another species list that keeps expanding. Hopefully the new cutting and tidying regime will help protect the fungi we discover by providing better conditions for them.

Now the leaves are turning into their autumn displays of gold and reds and beginning to drop it should make it easier to spot the local bird life. Thea starts her series of bird articles with pieces about corvids (the crow family) and jays - an amazingly intelligent group of birds.

Thanks to everyone who supplied articles this time. I hope you enjoy reading them and that they inspire you to get out and explore the cemetery.

Sandy

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

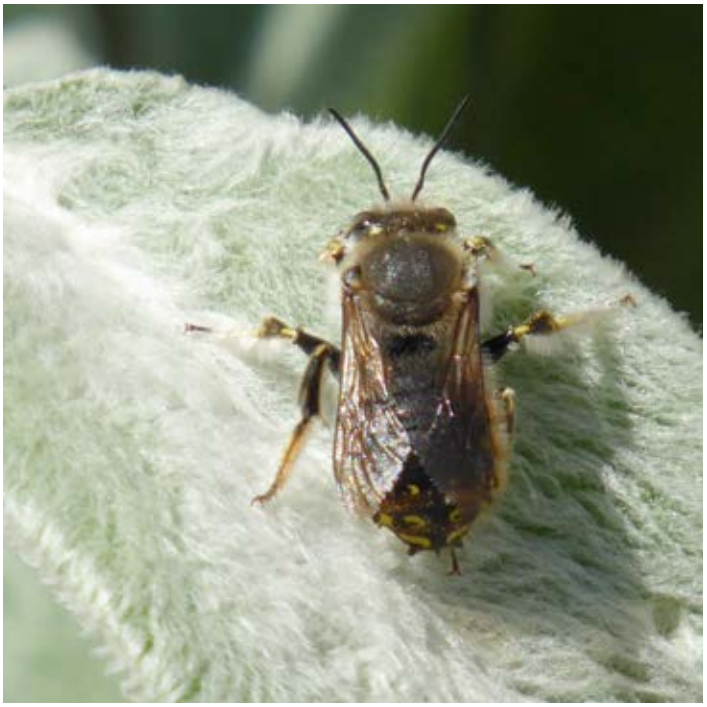
A Summer Saunter - by *Vanna Bartlett*

Wool carder bee Anthidium manicatum

I picked a ridiculously hot and sunny afternoon for a saunter round the cemetery. It was way too hot for birds, and hoverflies had sensibly retired out of the way by mid-morning. But like mad dogs and Englishmen I was out and about because I was seeking bees and butterflies.

The short cropped turf was brown and crisp under foot with balls of tinder dry mowings cast like unsightly tumbleweeds between the gravestones. The war graves cemetery was a greener oasis with its neat rows of sparkling white memorial stones interspersed with colourful splashes of sensitive planting. It drew me in, not just because of its cool yew hedge surroundings but because I was seeking wool carder bees (*Anthidium manicatum*).

These bees have a particular fondness for Lamb's Ears (*Stachys byzantia*) of which there are several plants at the far end of the war graves enclosure. Sure enough, the tall soft spikes with delicate purplish flowers were working their magic and I counted four Wool Carders, two male and two female. It isn't just the flowers that the bees come for though. As well as taking nectar, the female bees comb the lower surface of the leaves as material to line the cells of their nests with – hence the name wool carder. I have yet to see any carding going on but the bees were very active. The females moved around the flower spikes visiting each bloom for nectar whilst the males few up and down seeking a female to mate with. They are extremely territorial and will chase off males and other bees, even much larger bumblebees. The males are armed with spines on the ends of their abdomens and don't hesitate to engage with rival males. They will even 'bump' bumblebees out of the way that are more than twice their size.



Wool carder bee on Lamb's ear ©Vanna Bartlett

From the parched heat of the open cemetery, I moved into one of the shadier ‘rides’ with longer grass and patches of wild flowers either side. Numerous ringlet and meadow brown butterflies danced through the tall savannah like grass, stopping briefly to sup nectar from knapweed flowers. A few skipper butterflies rocketed up and away as I slipped through the stems amongst them.

Small skipper Thymelicus sylvestris ©*Vanna Bartlett*

Up and across the ride two southern hawker dragonflies patrolled ceaselessly while around a corner I surprised a brown hawker hanging vertically between curling tendrils of ivy.

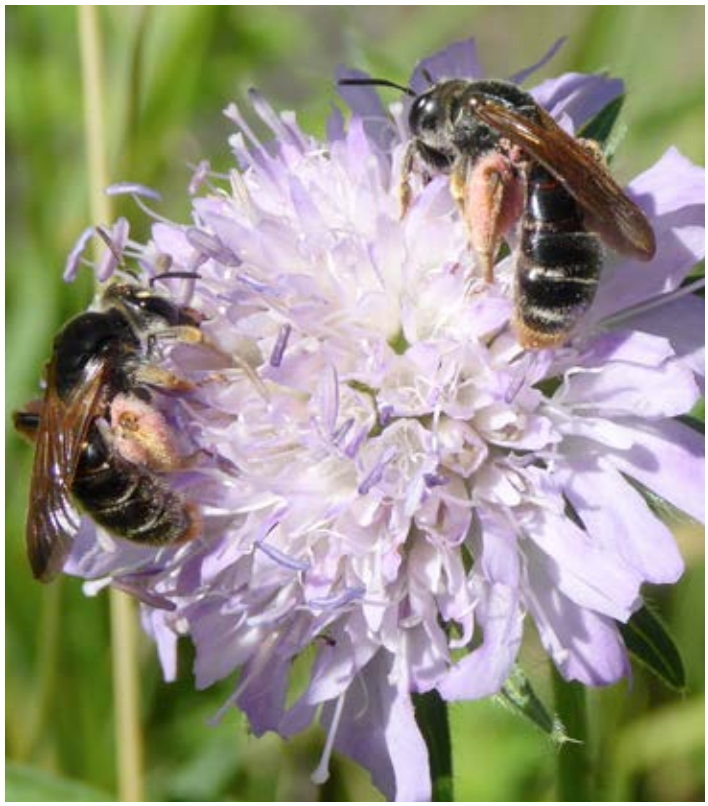
Brown hawker Aeshna grandis ©*Vanna Bartlett*

I found a surprising number of the parasitic fly *Sicus ferrugineus* on my wanderings, including two mating pairs. I hope that their abundance this year shows a healthy population of bees. They sit about on flowers waiting for bees and then literally jump on them and insert an egg into them - hence the English name for these fiendish-looking beasts is the brown bee jumper. This develops into a larva that then eats its way out of its host... lovely.

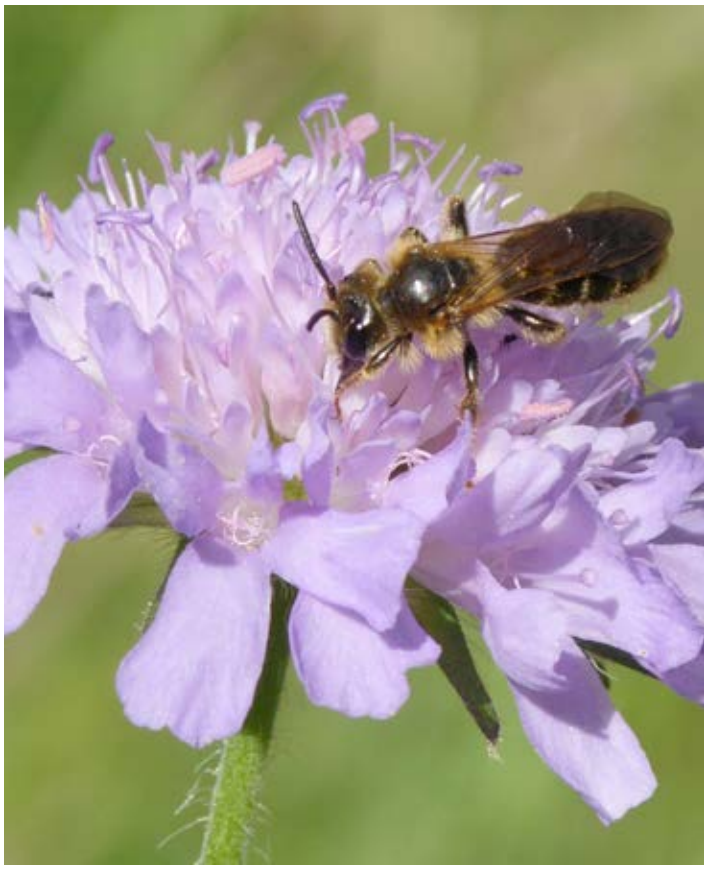
Parasitic fly Sicus ferrugineus ©*Vanna Bartlett*

I stopped at the buddleia bush by South Lodge and watched a splendid red admiral at work probing the blooms for nectar. The heat was energy-sapping, even the butterfly seemed barely able to move.

Deeper shade beckoned and I was briefly drowned in the cascading song of a blackcap before silence stilled the air again. A lone speckled wood flickered through the dappled light under the trees. Bramble bushes had all but finished flowering, the last few pinkish blossoms attracting bumblebees and the odd ringlet. A bright flash of orange and my first gatekeeper of the year alighted for a brief moment in front of me and then was gone, leaving me blinking at the sun-reflecting leaves and wondering if I had really seen one.

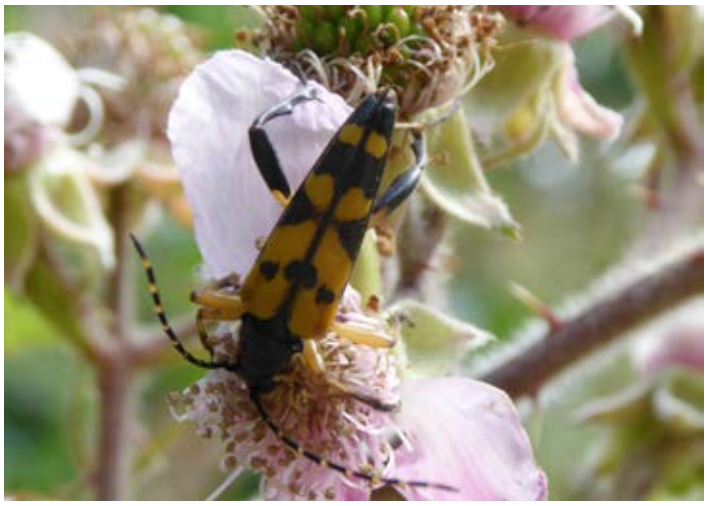


Scabious mining bee Andrena hattorfiana ©*Vanna Bartlett*



Male scabious mining bee Andrena hattorfiana ©*Vanna Bartlett*

Finally I headed off to look for one of the cemetery's particularly special residents - the large scabious mining bee (*Andrena hattorfiana*). They are rather lovely, having a shiny black abdomen with a reddish tip and sparse patches of whitish hairs along the sides.The face has pale hairs alongside the eyes (the fovea) and the females have pale pollen brushes on the hind legs. They are quite large and have darkened wings but the most striking feature is when the females have gathered up a huge load of pink pollen on to her hind legs. As their name suggests, they gather pollen exclusively from field scabious flowers although they will visit a few other plants to gather nectar. I found a good patch of scabious amongst the much more prevalent knapweeds and watched at least four females working over the big mauve flower heads, sweeping up pollen onto their hind legs. For the first time I spotted a lone male too. A much more slender build and without those extravagant looking pink thighs!



Longhorn beetle Rutpela maculata ©*Vanna Bartlett*

The knapweeds were attracting several species of bumblebee, lots of red-tailed *Bombus lapidarius*, *B. terrestris* and *B. pascuorum*. And a real surprise – a large buffish yellow and black male that turned out to be *Bombus campestris*, a cuckoo bee and first record that we know of for the cemetery.

Bombus campestris ©*Vanna Bartlett*

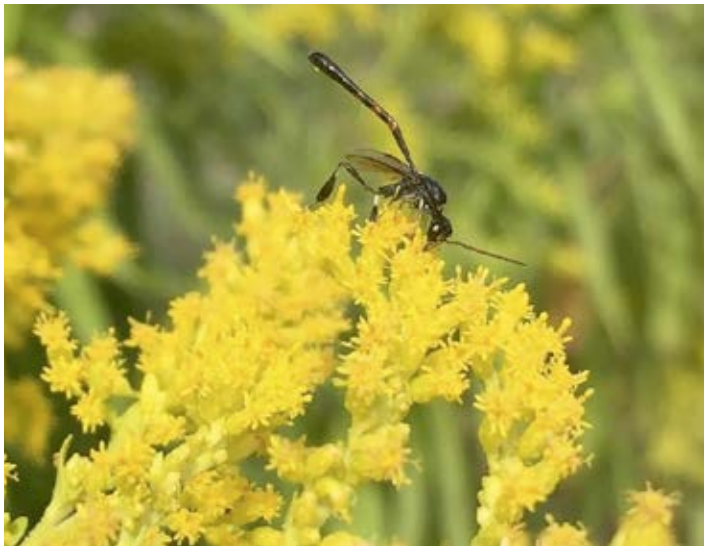
As the day finally began to give up its heat and turn towards evening, I stood poised at the edge of shade and glanced up into the sunlit canopy of a big Turkey oak. Three silvery motes spiralled and danced above the sunlit leaves – the first purple hairstreaks of the year. Too high and remote for my camera to reach them and too flighty even for my sketching skills, they remained tantalisingly there but not. A fitting end to the day.

Vanna Bartlett.

Evergreen Spindle - by *Stuart Paston*

Evergreen Spindle Euonymus japonicus ©*Jeremy Bartlett*

Over the past decade or so, in the early part of August, I have made a point of visiting the cemetery in order to check flowering bushes of evergreen spindle *Euonymus japonicus*. This leathery leaved shrub with pale green flowers is a magnet for hoverflies at this time.



Parasitic wasp, Gasteruption assectator ©*Sandy Lockwood*

Late summer can be a lean time for nectar and pollen sources in the cemetery with bramble and umbellifers having gone over (although this year there has been a plentiful supply of golden rod and ragwort where grass cutting has been delayed south west of the Memorial Garden). The flowers of evergreen spindle are therefore a boon for hoverflies.

Myathropa florea ©*Jeremy Bartlett*

One of the best bushes is situated in the section behind the cemetery office and being south facing attracts large numbers of hoverflies with *Myathropa florea* by far the most numerous. This is a very widespread and common species whose larva usually develop in water filled rot holes containing leaves and woody debris. It can be encouraged to breed in gardens by replicating these conditions in plastic bottles attached to trees.

Volucela zonaria ©*Jeremy Bartlett*

A wide range of other hoverfly species can also be found at *Euonymus* (see Floral sources for hoverflies) and an observation of *Criorhina berberina* I made in August 2009 remains the only cemetery record for a hoverfly that is quite widespread in Norfolk but likely to be under recorded.

Whilst hoverflies are usually the predominant visitors there are other interesting flies to be found at *Euonymus* such as the distinctive tachinid *Phasia hemiptera* which is parasitic on shieldbugs including green and red-legged shieldbug that occur commonly in the cemetery. Greenbottles are also notably numerous.

Another evergreen spindle bush occurs in the north eastern corner of the cemetery near the Commonwealth War Graves Commission lawn - a tall, unkempt specimen standing, part shaded by surrounding trees, at a junction of grass pathways. Here in August 2004 I came upon a vast assembly of hoverflies feasting at flowers. There had recently been a large influx from the continent and there were many individuals of migrant species among the throng. A wren was also in attendance, taking advantage of the insect bounty but it would have been wary about tackling the largest fly present – a female banded general *Stratiomys potamida*, a species of soldierfly, which had clearly strayed from its wetland breeding ground where the aquatic larvae develop in ponds and ditches. Evergreen spindle is a rather short lived floral source but it is clearly important to certain hoverflies and other species of fly.

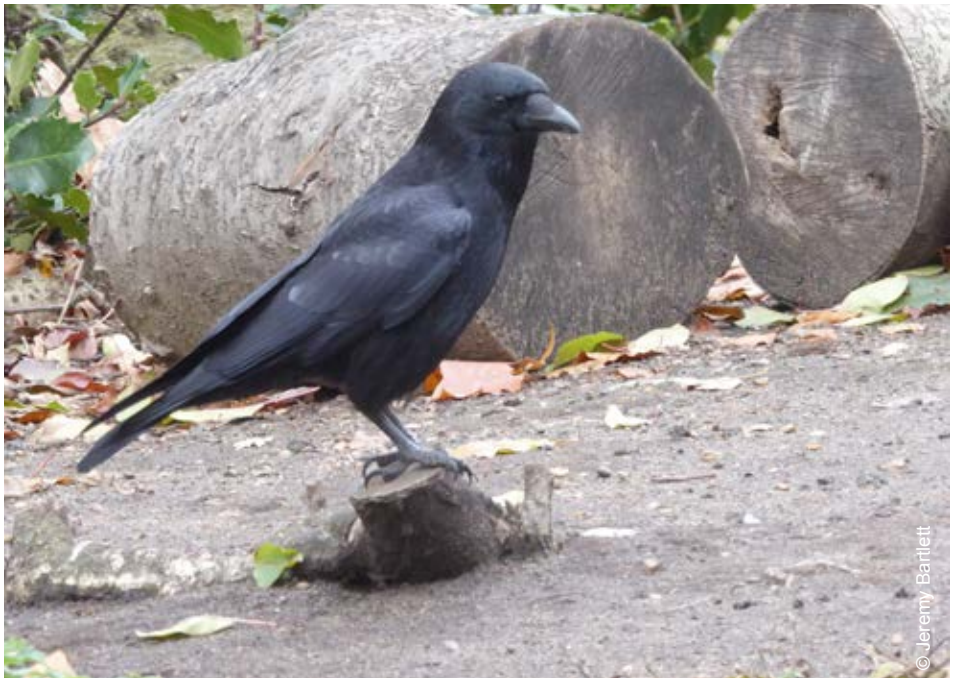
Stuart Paston

In Celebration of crows - by *Thea Nicholls*

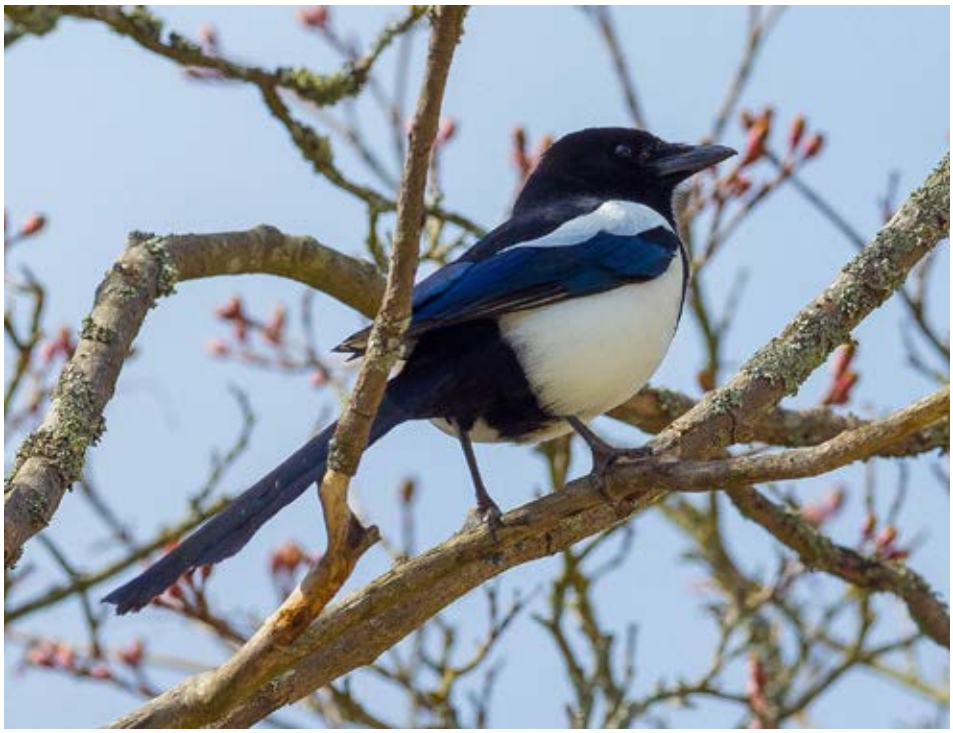
©Ian Kirk, Carrion Crow Corvus corone *(http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons*

Crows (or 'corvids' to use the technical term) are amazing and we are lucky enough to have four species in the cemetery - carrion crow, magpie, jay and jackdaw. Like all corvids, our species make themselves known with a variety of loud caws, rattles, screeches and chacks. You'll never walk alone in the cemetery while there are corvids about! Yet the crow family is much maligned which is a shame because it is a fascinating group of birds. Most of their bad press comes from their habit of raiding song bird nests during the breeding season but if you can look beyond this (to us) unpleasant behaviour you'll discover a family of birds that are good looking, intelligent and playful and who have an important role in ecological terms.

One look at the beak of any member of the crow family will tell you that they are omnivorous. Their stout, heavy bills are designed to eat more or less anything that comes their way whether it is animal or vegetable. It is this multifarious diet, which includes the eggs and nestlings of other birds, that is the cause of many peoples' dislike of corvids. Carrion crows and magpies are seen as the main culprits of this 'unsavoury' behaviour and are often accused of being a cause of the decline of song birds as a result. However, eggs and nestlings account for only a small part of the corvid diet and, as in all these cases, it is the prey that controls the predator numbers and not the other way around. In fact, corvids eat a lot of invertebrates (including pests such as snails, leatherjackets and chafers) and seeds. They also scavenge for food along roadsides and at landfill sites where they act as living waste disposal units clearing up carrion and scraps that would normally just rot where they lay. This 'ick factor' may be another reason that corvids are disliked and some people have even suggested that it harks back to the time that corvids flocked to battlefields to feast on the dead bodies there.



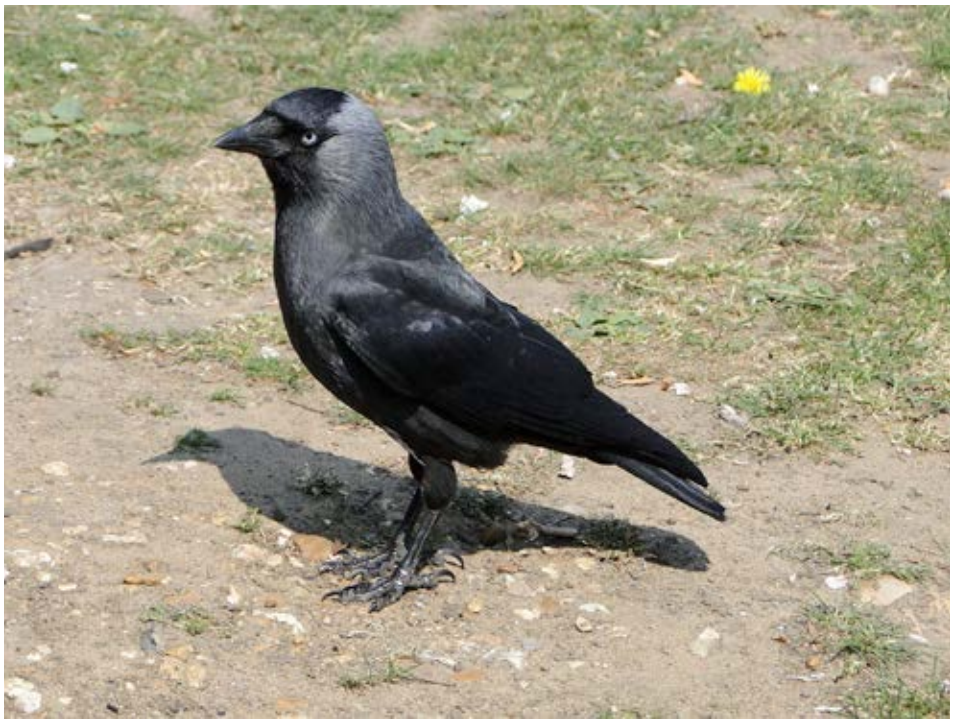
So what is there to like about crows? Well, for starters, there is their appearance. In common with all corvids, the cemetery crows are all very attractive in their looks.



©Bengt Nyman, Magpie Pica pica *(http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons*

The magpie and jay are obviously good-looking. At first glance, the magpie looks smart in the black and white colouring that gives it the 'pie' part of its name but, in the right light, its plumage takes on a lovely blue tinge. Meanwhile, the jay is much more colourful with its pink, black and white feathers and blue and black wing panel. In fact, the jay is so spectacularly colourful that many people seeing one for the first time don't believe it is a British bird (or even a type of crow) but think it is an exotic visitor from abroad instead. The other corvids in the cemetery are more subtle in their beauty needing a closer look to reveal the iridescence of the feathers of the carrion crow and the startling blue eyes and dapper grey head of the jackdaw. All-in-all, our corvids are a well-dressed bunch.

Secondly, crows are incredibly intelligent creatures - some species are right up there with (and, according to some scientists, surpassing) primates. A lot of research has been done on crow intelligence which shows that they are brainy enough to make and use tools to get food. Magpies recognise themselves in a mirror and are apparently the only non-mammal species known to do this. Many corvids collect and store food for the winter displaying excellent memory and recognition skills as they do so. The best known example of this is the jay who can been seen caching acorns during autumn. A single jay can collect about 4,500 acorns and remember where it has buried each one. This can be up to four km from the tree where it got the acorn from in the first place so it's a pretty amazing feat - especially when you consider how many of us have trouble finding our glasses or keys when we only put them down five minutes ago!



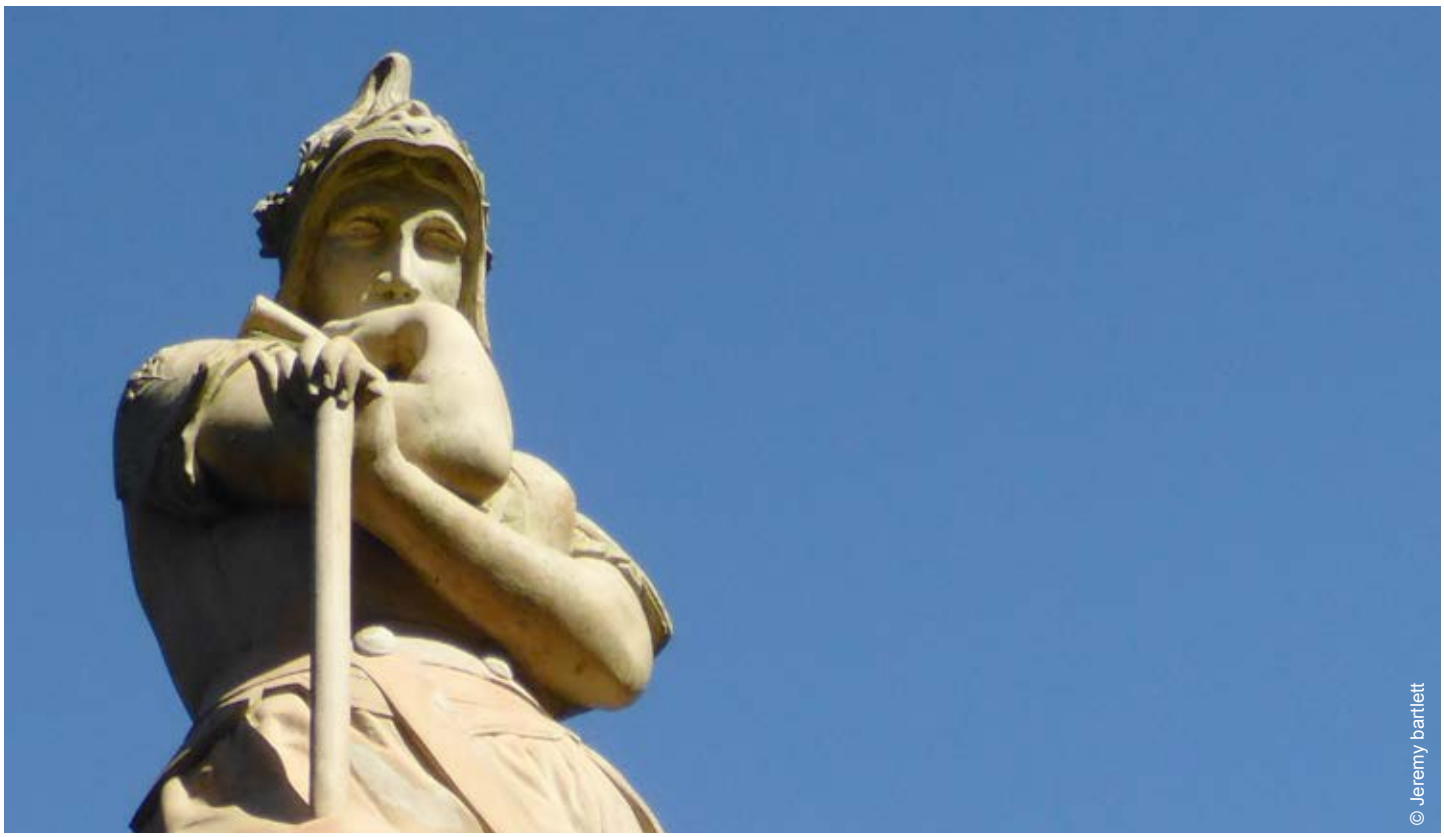
©Maxwell Hamilton, Jackdaw Coloeus monedula *(http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons*

Thirdly, corvids have character. Whether it is magpies strutting about as though they're in charge or young carrion crows playing tag among the tree tops they are hard to ignore and easy to anthropomorphise. Carrion crows stalk around the memorial garden like undertakers - an image helped by their all black colouring - and jackdaws always look like they're up to something (selling each other dodgy watches maybe). Corvids are mischievous, playful, exuberant and thoroughly entertaining.

Finally, if none of the above has convinced you that crows should be celebrated and treasured then try reading Esther Woolfson's marvellous book Corvus: A Life with Birds. It is a chronicle of her life with a rescued rook and should turn us all into corvid-lovers.

This article is adapted from one written by Thea Nicholls for the NWT that appeared in Kitchen Garden magazine.

War and Peace - by *Jeremy Bartlett*



"Jeremy Bartlett writes about the history of the Cemetery's military graves and monuments, from the 1870s until the 1930s."

The Soldiers' Plot and Armed Science

In 1874 Earlham Cemetery was extended when 15 acres were added to the north-east of the site. A new pedestrians' gate was built on Dereham Road. The following July, Mr. J. J. Winter, a local solicitor, wrote to the Burial Board suggesting that a piece of ground in the centre of newly laid out extension should be used for the burial of soldiers. The Burial Board agreed to the suggestion and the area chosen became known as the Soldiers' Plot (or Soldiers' Ground).

In April 1876 Winter suggested that a "large and handsome monument" should be placed on the plot, in memory of soldiers who had died while stationed at Norwich. Winter proposed to raise funds for the memorial by public subscription. The Burial Board had no objection to his proposal, provided a sketch of the monument was submitted for their approval.

In May 1878 a photograph of the proposed Soldiers' Memorial was shown to the Burial Board Committee and approved. The monument was topped by a terracotta sculpture of "Armed Science" by the sculptor John Bell (1811-1895), manufactured by Doulton & Co. (The monument is also referred to as "The Spirit of the Army".)

John Bell was born at Hopton Hall in Suffolk and educated at Catfield Rectory in Norfolk. He then moved to London and studied art at the Henry Sass School of Drawing in Soho in 1827 and the Royal Academy Schools from 1828 to 1832[1].

Bell developed his first version of "Armed Science" in 1855 as a marble statue for the officers' mess at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich[2]. Four terracotta copies of the original sculpture were also commissioned, one by Lord Armstrong and three, including the one in Earlham Cemetery, by Robert Adair, Baron Waveney. One of the other copies commissioned by Baron Waveney[3] can be found, badly weathered, in the Peoples' Park in Ballymena in Northern Ireland, where it was placed in 1882.

[1] Mapping the Practice and Profession of Sculpture in Britain and Ireland 1851-1951 - John Bell: http://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/view/person.php?id=msib5_1216050809 and WIKISOURCE - Bell, John (1811-1895): https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bell,_John_%281811-1895%29_%28DNB01%29. A version of Bell's sculpture "Babes in the Wood" is now in the Castle Museum in Norwich.

[2] The Courtauld Institute's "Art and Architecture" website has photographs of the sculpture: https://www.artandarchitecture.org.uk

The copy of "Armed Science" used in Earlham Cemetery is not an exact copy of the original, differing in its facial features, as the conservators discovered during its recent restoration.

The Recording Archive for Public Sculpture in Norfolk & Suffolk describes the statue:

"The scale of the Earlham Cemetery version, moulded in one piece, is exceptional. The statue is conceived in the round with striking views from the sides and rear, where the figure stands in front of Arum lily leaves, which cover a scroll, presumably recording the names of the youthful dead, with whom Arum lilies had long been associated. ...

The helmet is crowned with laurel capped with a plume to recall the helmets of guardsmen and her hair falls down over the top of her cuirass. This is decorated with a rose on her left and thistle on the right. The cuirass is belted at her waist where it ends over her robes. She holds a staff in one hand to signify command and a scroll, for science, in the other, with a sword hanging down from the belt on her left side. This symbolism was continued in the helmet used for the Norwich version where a lion's head for strength was crowned with a plume brushed up into a peak.[4]*"*

On the bottom plinth of the monument is the inscription:

"THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY SUBSCRIPTION IN MEMORY OF SOLDIERS WHO WERE STATIONED AT NORWICH AS A TOKEN OF REGARD AND RESPECT OF THE COUNTRY OCTOBER 1878

C.W.BOILEAU C.F BUXTON E.K.HARVEY H.P. LESTRANGE D.STEWARD F.H.GURNEY J. J. WINTERS COMMITTEE."

The monument was officially unveiled by Baron Waveney on 17 October 1878.

Names of the soldiers commemorated are carved on each of the four sides of the monument, starting at the south side and moving anti-clockwise around the base. Each set of inscriptions was approved by the Burial Board and noted in the minute books.

[3] Sir Robert Adair was born in 1811 and became Second Baronet in 1869. He was a fellow of the Royal Society and honorary Colonel of Suffolk Artillery Militia and had links with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich. He was M.P. for Cambridge and Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum ("Keeper of the Rolls" – custodian of county records) for County Antrim. He lived at Flixton Hall in Suffolk and in 1870 he had the Bungay to Harleston road re-routed so that traffic no longer passed close to the hall. He died childless in 1886. Flixton Hall was demolished in 1952 and only the shell of part of the ground floor survives today and is used for farm storage. See http://www.aviationmuseum.net/Adairfamily.htm.

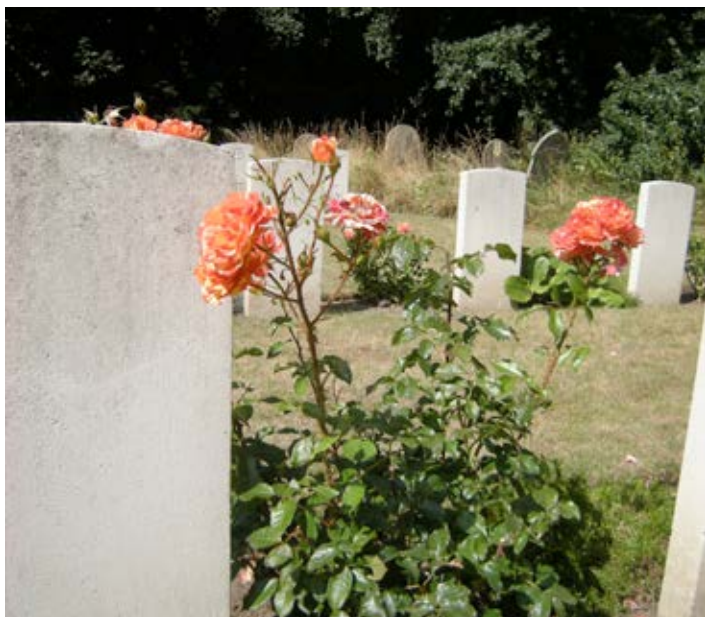
[4] Recording Archive for Public Sculpture in Norfolk & Suffolk: http://racns.co.uk/sculptures.asp?action=getsurvey&id=91

Although some of the soldiers that are commemorated were killed while on active service (such as when the Norfolk Regiment fought in the second Afghan war of 1878-1880), most died while in barracks in Norwich.

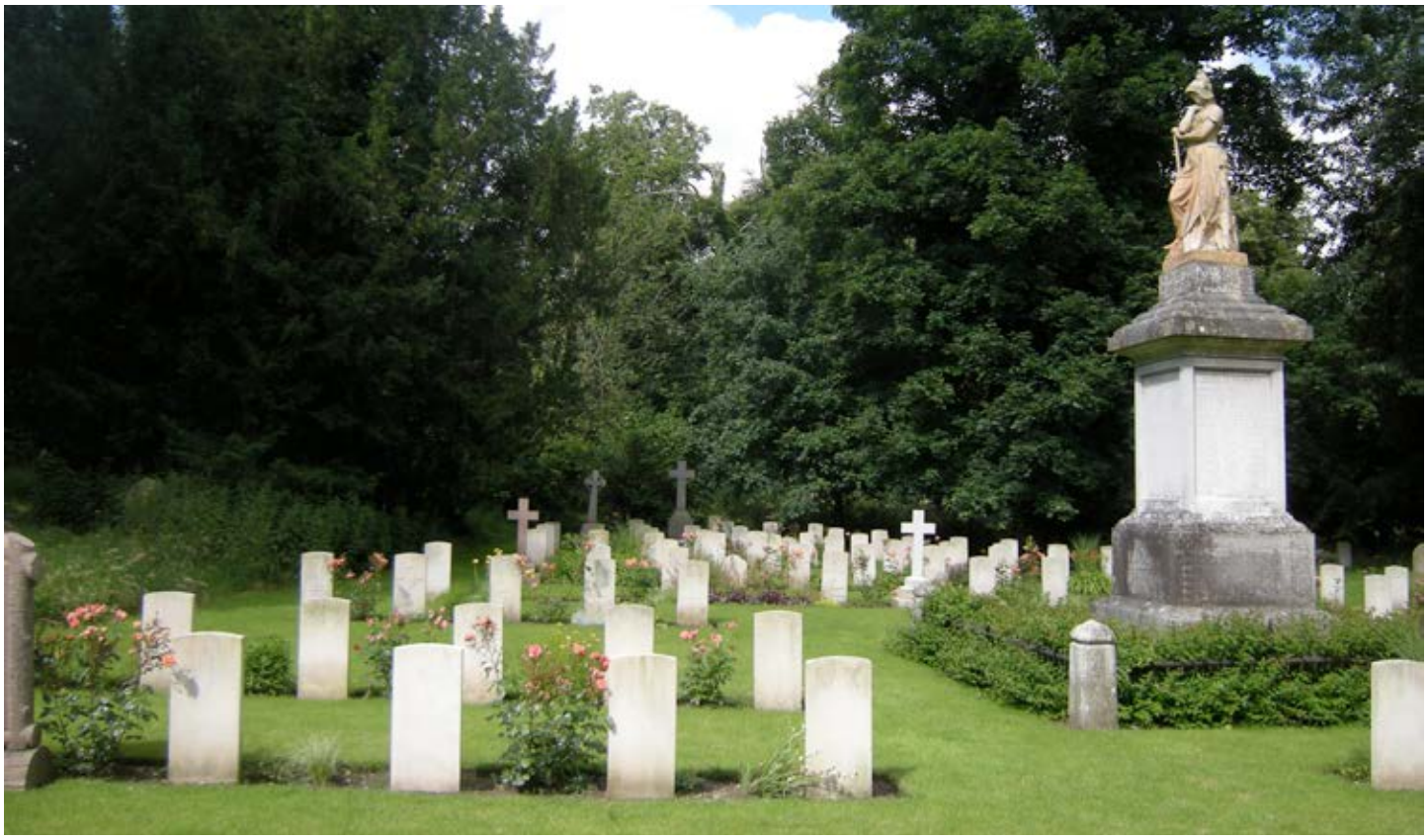
Norwich had two large barracks at the time: the Cavalry Barracks and Britannia Barracks. The red brick Cavalry Barracks were built in 1791 on Barrack Street. Renamed the Nelson Cavalry Barracks in about 1920, they consisted of a south facing central building with large wings on the east and west, forming three sides of a square. There was a training ground in the centre of the square. The barracks could accomodate up to five hundred soldiers and was the home of many regiments over the years, including the 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards[5]. The barracks closed in 1973 and the area is now occupied with housing on Cannell Green, St. James' Close and Pockthorpe Gate.

Britannia Barracks was built between 1885 and 1887 and was home to the Norfolk Regiment[6], later the Royal Norfolk Regiment[7]. The army left the premises in 1959 and in 1970 – 71 part of it was converted into Norwich[8] Prison and the rest into the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum. The Museum was transferred to Norwich's Shirehall in 1988 and the main part of the museum is now based in Norwich Castle.[9]

As well as the Soldiers' Memorial, the lawn cemetery around its base, now looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, contains headstones of other soldiers, including a large group from the First World War. One earlier headstone commemorates the death of a soldier killed in a boating accident while stationed at Britannia Barracks.



Rose bushes on the soldier's Plot ©Jeremy Bartlett



The Soliders' Plot and Armed Science ©Jeremy Bartlett

In November 1880 J. J. Winter asked the Burial Board whether the Heigham Cottagers' Horticultural Society could be allowed to keep the Soldiers' Plot in order and they happily agreed.

Every spring between 1886 and 1893 Winter also arranged for the gate on Dereham Road to be left open until 9pm in dry weather so that the Heigham Horticultural Society (presumably the renamed Heigham Cottagers' Horticultural Society) could water the flower beds in Soldiers' Ground. In 1887 the Society was allowed to make a few more flower beds and to cut the grass.

In 1913 400 bulbs of Narcissus and other species were given by Messrs Tacon and Cowell for the Soldiers' Plot and beds were cut out around the Soldiers' Monument to accommodate them.

By the beginning of the twenty-first century, the terracotta of "Armed Justice" had become cracked and the statue's facial features, helmet and scabbard had become damaged. In 2013 and early 2014 the monument was cleaned and restored by Norfolk Property Services (NPS). The lettering on the plinth is now readable again[10].

[5] http://www.heritagecity.org/research-centre/walls-and-river/barrack-street.htm and http://www.heritagecity.org/research-centre/cultural-superlatives/the-military-in-norwich.htm

[6] History of the Norfolk Regiment https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/276/norfolk-regiment/

[7] http://www.heritagecity.org/research-centre/cultural-superlatives/the-military-in-norwich.htm

[8] Nikolaus Pevsner and Bill Wilson (1997), "The Buildings of England. Norfolk 1: Norwich and North-East", p332.

[9] A History of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum: http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/Visit_Us/Royal_Norfolk_Regimental_Museum/A_History_of_the_Royal_Norfolk_Regimental_Museum/index.htm

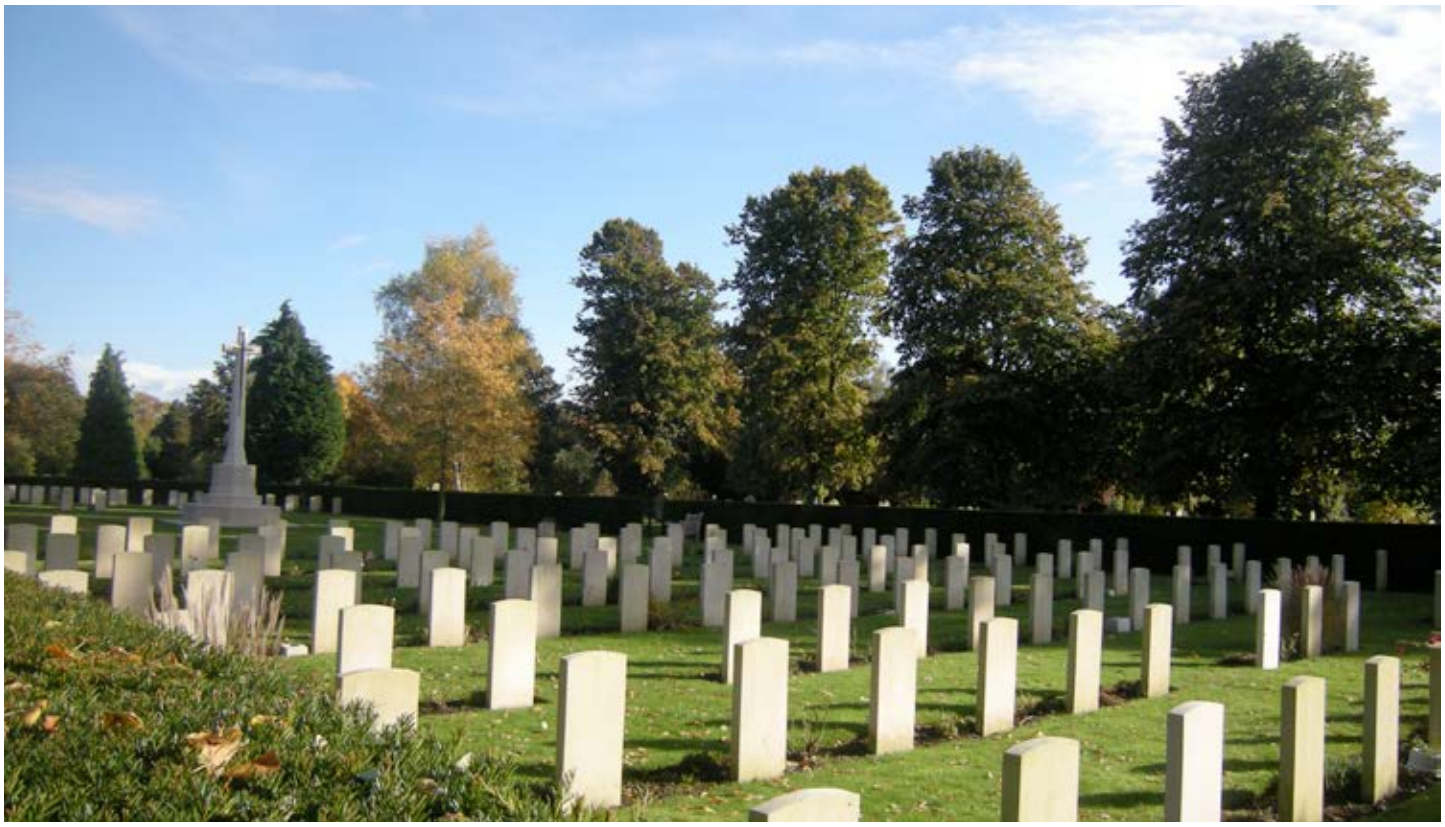
[10] Sculpture for Norwich: Restoration of Norwich War Memorials: http://sculpturefornorwich.co.uk/sculpturenewsitem.php?id=44

First World War

Britain entered the First World War on 4 August 1914. Several cemetery employees were enlisted in the armed forces, including Stephen Laws and J W Canham, who joined the Army on 30 March 1915. By January 1916 there was a shortage of labour in the cemetery and undertakers were asked to give two clear days' notice for burials. In April 1916 the City Engineer was asked to look into increasing the insurance of the cemetery's buildings against fire damage and to try to obtain insurance against damage by aircraft.

By December 1916 the City Engineer had to lend four men to the cemetery staff because of "shortage of labour and high mortality". One of the men who joined the cemetery staff in December that year was Henry Ellis (aged 44), a Labourer on the City Engineer's staff. He transferred permanently to the cemetery staff as a gravedigger in October 1919 and was still working in the cemetery in December 1926.

Charles Webster was appointed as Cemetery Foreman in April 1912 with a salary of 22 shillings per week and accommodation in North Lodge. As supervisor of the cemetery's gravediggers and labourers Webster's job was vital to the smooth running of the cemetery and in May 1916 the Chairman of the Burial Board contacted the Town Clerk to seek his exemption from military service. However, in March 1917 Webster's certificate of exemption was withdrawn by a local tribunal and he joined the Army



Autumn at the New Military Plot ©Jeremy Bartlett

on 1 May 1917. In May 1918 he was a Gunner in the 242nd Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He died from wounds on 30 May 1918 and was buried in Ebblinghem Military Cemetery in northern France[11]. His widow, Mary, was allowed £4 for the greenhouse and rose trees left behind at North Lodge when he joined the Army. His mother, Mrs Presants, was granted permission for a wooden cross over her husband's grave in memory of her son.

J W Canham and Stephen Laws were more fortunate: both survived the War. Canham was discharged from the Army in October 1918 and returned to the cemetery as a gravedigger. He was still working as a gravedigger in December 1926, aged 44. Laws had joined the cemetery staff aged 16 in 1893 as a gravedigger and in February 1925 he became Cemetery Attendant, with a salary of 52s.6d. per week. His new job entitled him to accommodation at North Lodge but the building was still occupied by George Cordy, the former Cemetery Attendant, and his family. Laws was paid an extra 7s.6d. per week, until he was able to move into North Lodge in July 1926. He continued to live there, working as Cemetery Attendant, until his death in 1936.

As the First World War ended, an epidemic of Spanish Influenza caused a large number of deaths throughout Europe. The Burial Board minutes record that there were 80 interments per week in Earlham Cemetery in the eight weeks up to 21 December 1918. Once again, the City Engineer had to supply additional labour.

The first casualties from the First World War were buried in the Soldiers' Plot, starting with Joseph Reford, aged 30, a Private in the Second Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who was killed on 25 August 2014 and buried in Section 26, plot 307. Temporary wooden crosses were placed over the graves.

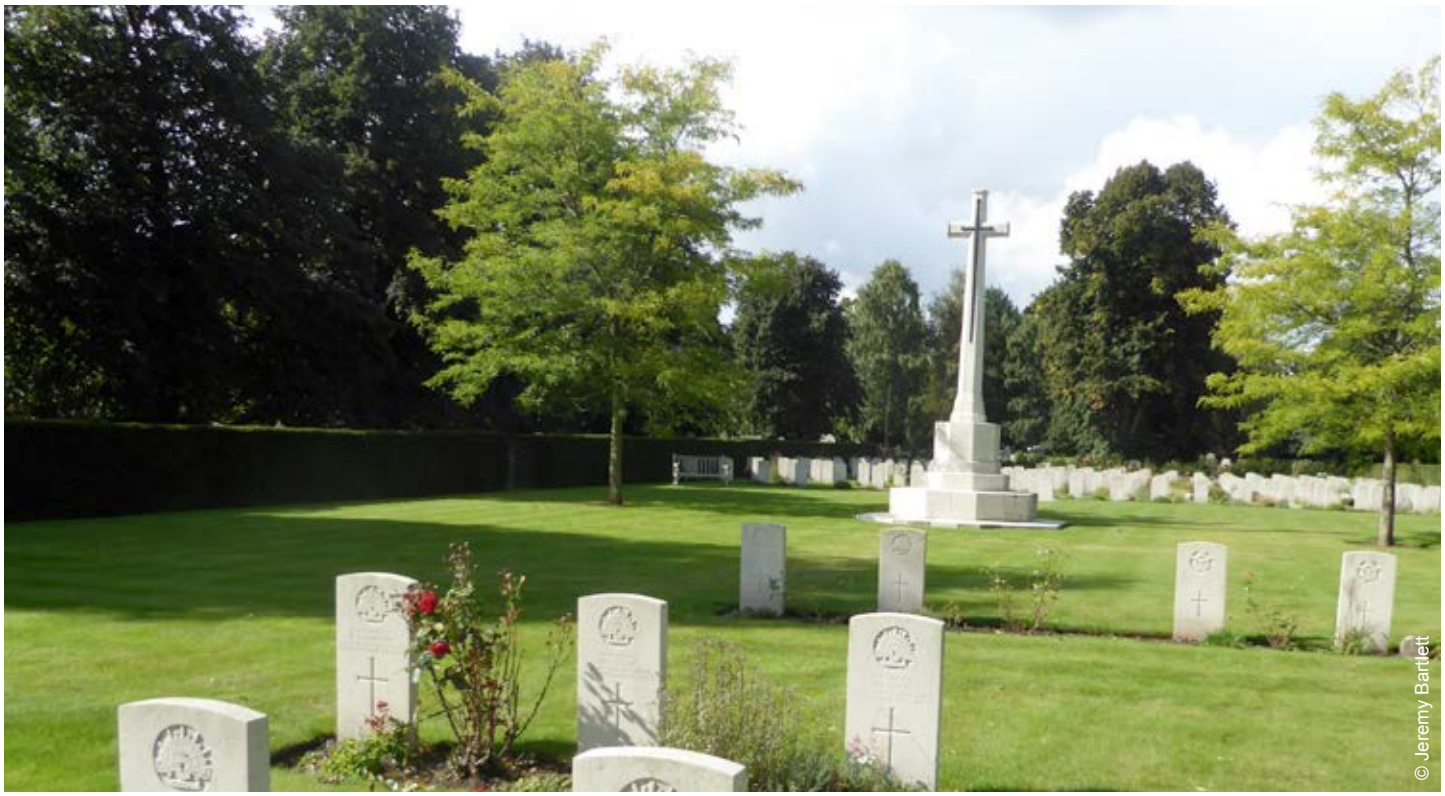
The Soldiers' Plot continued to be used but by April 1915, with the increase in casualties, the Burial Board had decided to reserve another area of the cemetery for military burials in case the Soldiers' Plot became full.

Initially Section 56 was chosen for the new burial area but in October 1918 the Australian Government's proposal to use most of Section 54 of the cemetery for the interment of Australian soldiers was approved and this became the new Military Plot. In October 1918 the remains of several Australian soldiers were moved here from the old Soldiers' Plot (sections 24, 25 and 26). By March 1920 space in the same Section had been purchased for the graves of Canadian servicemen.

In October 1919 Mrs R.J. Colman wrote to the Burial Board to express her concerns about the upkeep of the pre-First World War graves in the old Soldiers' Plot. These were not covered by the newly constituted Imperial War Graves Commission, but the Burial Board agreed to spend £5 to put the graves in order and to spend £5 per annum after that for their upkeep.

In December 1920 the Secretary of the National Federation of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers wrote to the Burial Board complaining that the new military graves had become overgrown and uncared for. The War Department offered to pay 2s.6d. per grave to keep the graves tidy and in March 1921 the Corporation of Norwich and the Secretary of State for War drew up an agreement to look after war graves in the cemetery. Later that year the Imperial War Graves Commission drew up a plan for the new military plot, where a war cross would be erected. The scheme was approved in July 1922.

[11] http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx - C R A Webster



The new military plot ©Jeremy Bartlett

The Imperial War Grave Commission and the New Military Plot

The Imperial War Graves Commission - renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960 - looks after war graves and memorials in 150 different countries across the world, commemorating 1.7 million servicemen and women.

The Imperial War Graves Commission was founded in 1917 by Sir Fabian Ware (1869 – 1949). Ware volunteered for service in France at the outbreak of war in August 1914 but was turned down for the army because he was 45 years old and therefore too old to serve. Instead, he volunteered for the Red Cross, where he commanded a unit of support drivers and vehicles.

As the death toll soared, Ware was struck by both the volume of casualties and the "lack of any plan to mark their final resting places". His unit began to register the deaths on index cards and within months they had 3,000 drawers full of records.[12]

By 1915 the War Office realised the importance of Ware's record keeping and grieving relatives started contacting his unit for more information on the loss of their loved ones.

With the help of the Prince of Wales, Ware submitted a memorandum on the subject to the Imperial War Conference being held in London in March and April 1917 and, as a result, the Imperial War Graves Commission was created by a Royal Charter on 21 May 1917. The Prince of Wales was its President and Ware was its Vice-Chairman, a role that he held until he retired in 1948[13].

From the start, the Commission established several important rules, which are still being followed:

1. Each of the dead should be remembered by name on the headstone or memorial
2. Headstones and memorials should be permanent
3. Headstones should be uniform, the same regardless of military or civil rank, race or creed[14].

Another rule was that servicemen and women were buried where they died, rather than being taken home to their own countries. Thus the war graves in Earlham Cemetery mostly belong to people from abroad who died while stationed here, or locals who died from their wounds or from illness at home, while they were on leave or in training.

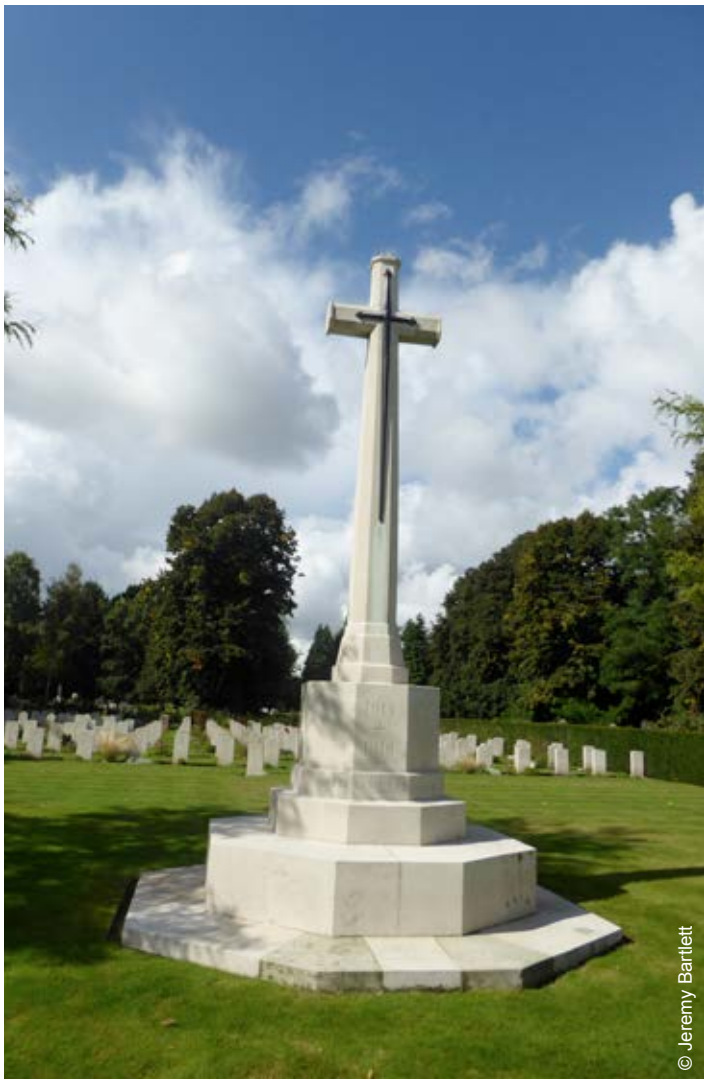
In the UK, Imperial War Graves Commission headstones are made from Portland stone, a white-grey Jurassic limestone from the Island of Portland in Dorset. This can be easily worked but resists weathering, making it ideal for construction.

Cemeteries with more than 40 graves have a Cross of Sacrifice monument. This was made to a standard design by Reginald Blomfield and is made from Portland stone. The monument stands on an octagonal block and on its front has a downwards pointed bronze sword, the cross symbolising Christianity and the sword showing that this is a war cemetery. The monument bears the inscription "THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE."

Larger military cemeteries, with over 400 graves, usually have a Stone of Remembrance[15], built to a design by Edwin Lutyens.

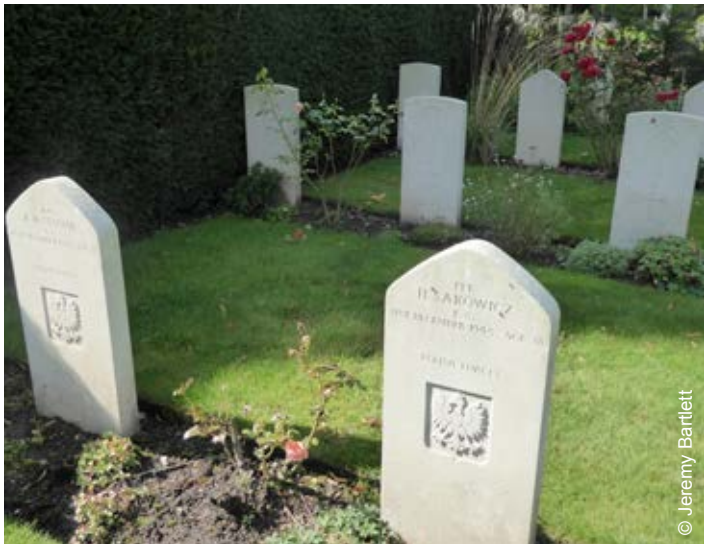
[12] Peter Stanford, "How To Read A Graveyard: Journeys In The Company Of The Dead", Bloomsbury, 2013, pp197 – 191.

[13] Fabian Ware – Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian_Ware



[14] "About the Commonwealth War Graves Commission": http://www.cwgc.org/media/416723/easy_read_about_the_cwgc.pdf

[15] CWGC: "About the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries and memorials" - http://www.cwgc.org/media/416718/easy_read_about_cwgc_cemeteries_and_memorials__2_.pdf.



Earlham Cemetery has 348 First World War graves, so was only eligible for the Cross of Sacrifice.

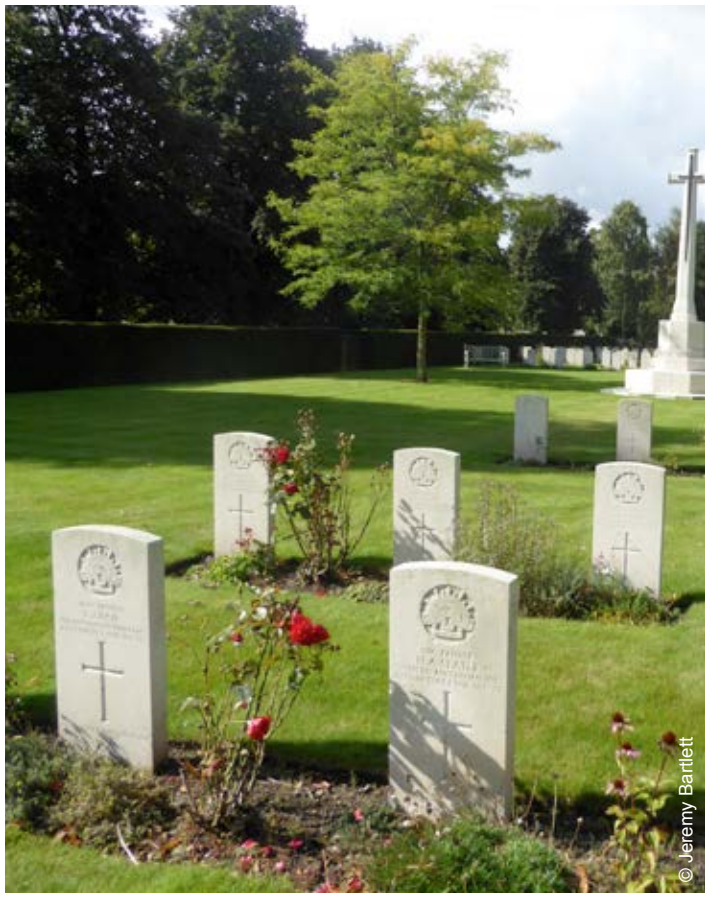
The Stone of Sacrifice had been erected in Section 54 by October 1925, when the Burial Board minutes state that a date had not yet been fixed for its official unveiling.

The Salvation Army held Remembrance Day services at the New Military Plot in the mid 1920s, the last one in 1926.

Two German prisoners of war were originally buried in the New Military Plot in 1918 but the bodies were removed to the new German War Cemetery at Cannock Chase in 1963[16].

In 1920 the remains of two soldiers from the United States, Harold J. Collins and Tracet W. Jacques, were removed from Section 54.

The cemetery now contains twelve war burials from 1914, with 40 from 1915, 58 from 1916, 67 from 1917, 109 from 1918, 35 from 1919, 18 from 1920 and nine from 1921[17].



It took until 1938 for the Imperial war Graves Commission to finish dealing with First World War graves throughout the world, just in time for another global conflict.

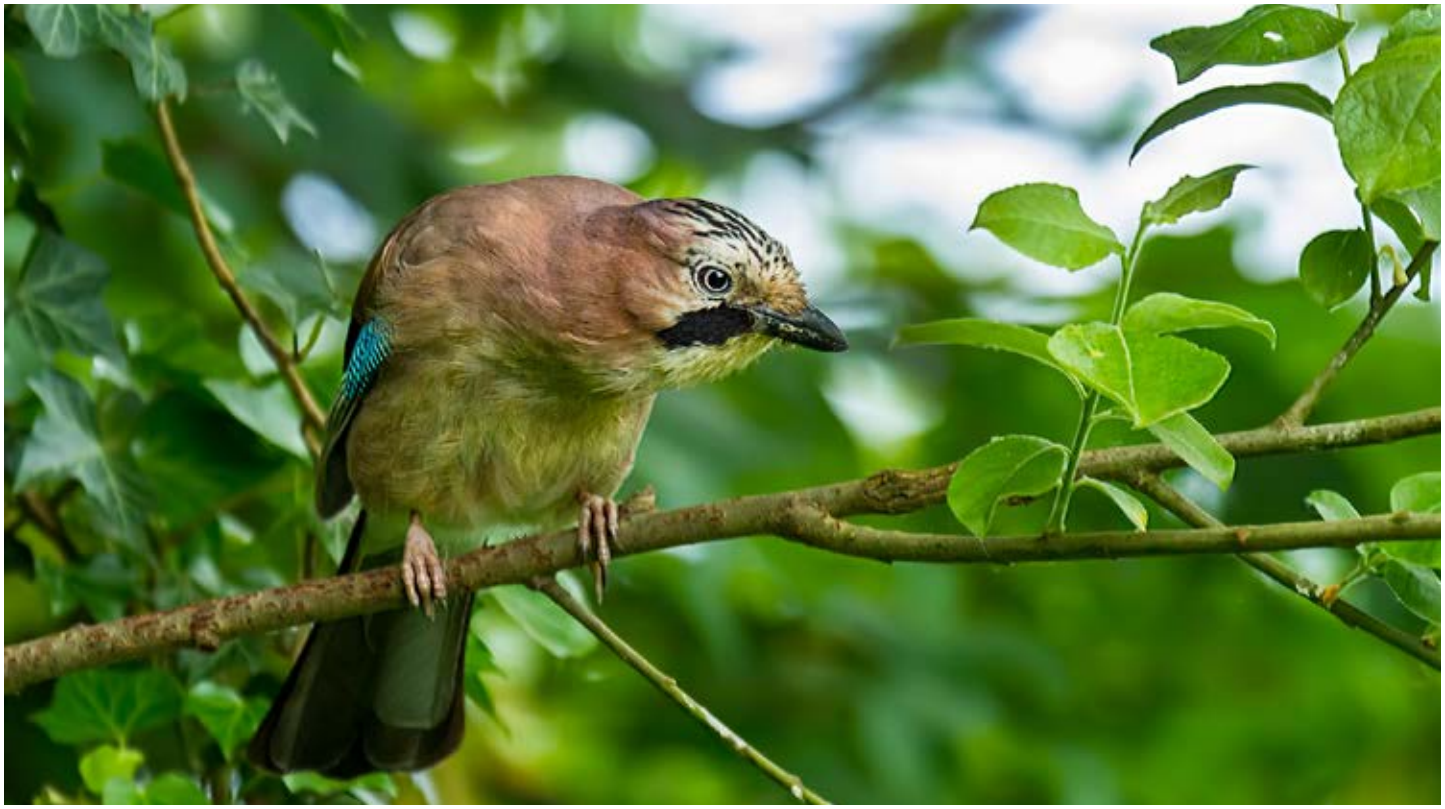
[16] City Committee minutes for 1963 (N/TC 22/8) mentions the removal of the bodies and Imperial War Grave Commission correspondence (N/TC 52/51) includes an overview of Earlham Cemetery war graves, including the two German prisoners of war.

[17] http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx

Jeremy Bartlett.

Part 2 of this article will appear in a future newsletter.

The Jay *Garrulus glandarius* - by *Thea Nicholls*



Jay Garrulus glandarius ©*Phill Luckhurst* www.distinctlyaverage.co.uk

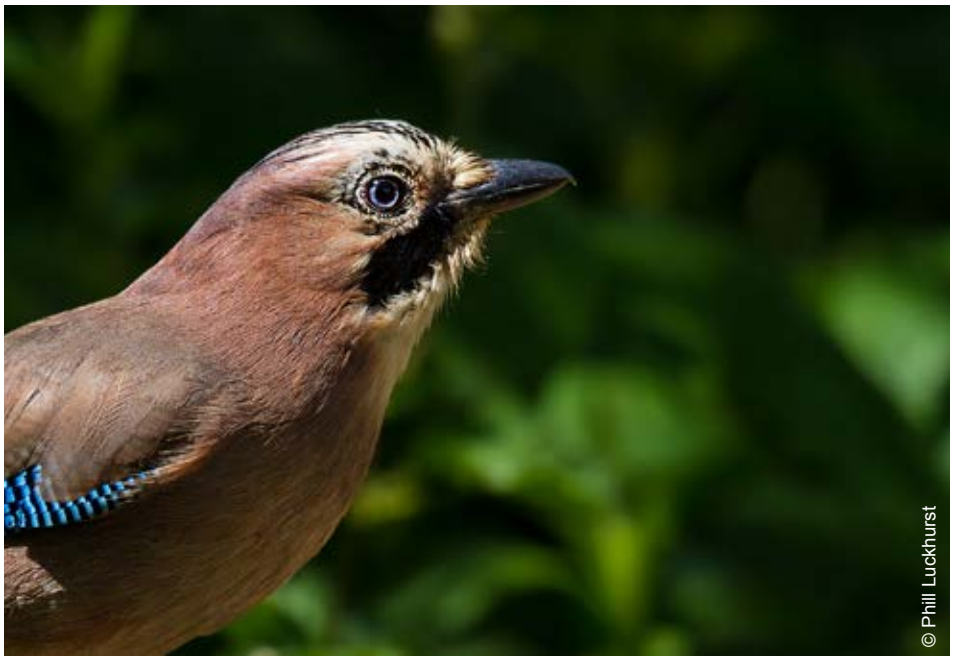
According to fossil evidence, jays have been around for about 500,000 years (the middle Pleistocene) but were first recorded in mediaeval times.[1] WB Lockwood in The Oxford Book of British Bird Names says that the name 'jay' was brought over with the Normans in the recorded form 'gai'. 'Jay' itself first appeared about 1310 and was used by all the old naturalists completely replacing the Old English name 'higera'.

The jay is a bird of open woodland so Earlham Road Cemetery is ideal habitat for them and they can often be seen flying between trees or perching on gravestones before dropping down to hop along the ground hunting for food.

If you don't know whether you've seen a jay or not then you probably haven't. These colourful crows are one of the most distinctive birds in the cemetery.

They have a dusky pinky-brown head, back and breast; white chin, throat, belly and rump; and black tail and moustache. Their best feature by far, though, are their wings which are black white and chestnut with beautiful azure, black and white barred coverts - the feathers that cover the flight feathers. Jays also have a small white crest with black streaks on it. This is raised when the bird is excited - which is often because jays are very excitable birds. Males and females look the same. Juvenile jays are a slighter darker pink than adult birds. According to one book they also have blue eyes while those of adults are light brown 'a fact apparently very little known'[2], however, another author tells us that 'the eyes both in adult and young birds are, usually at any rate, blue grey'.[3] A google image search seems to indicate that blue grey eyes are common in both adult and juvenile birds while in field guides the eye colour is shown as light brown.

Jays are noisy birds a habit which gives them the first part of their scientific name - garrulus from the Latin for 'chattering'. They have a range of calls the most familiar of which is a screeching 'skaaak'. This call becomes much louder and more



frequent during the breeding season - something our conure (a type of mini-macaw) feels she has to compete with.

Other calls include a sub-song (a quiet song that the bird seems to sing to itself) that sounds like a series of gurgling, bubbling and clicking noises. They also have a 'pretty little warbling song, which would be, no doubt, highly praised if uttered by some dingy, insignificant little bird.'[4] Like magpies, jays are very good mimics of other birds and sounds and in captivity can be taught to talk.

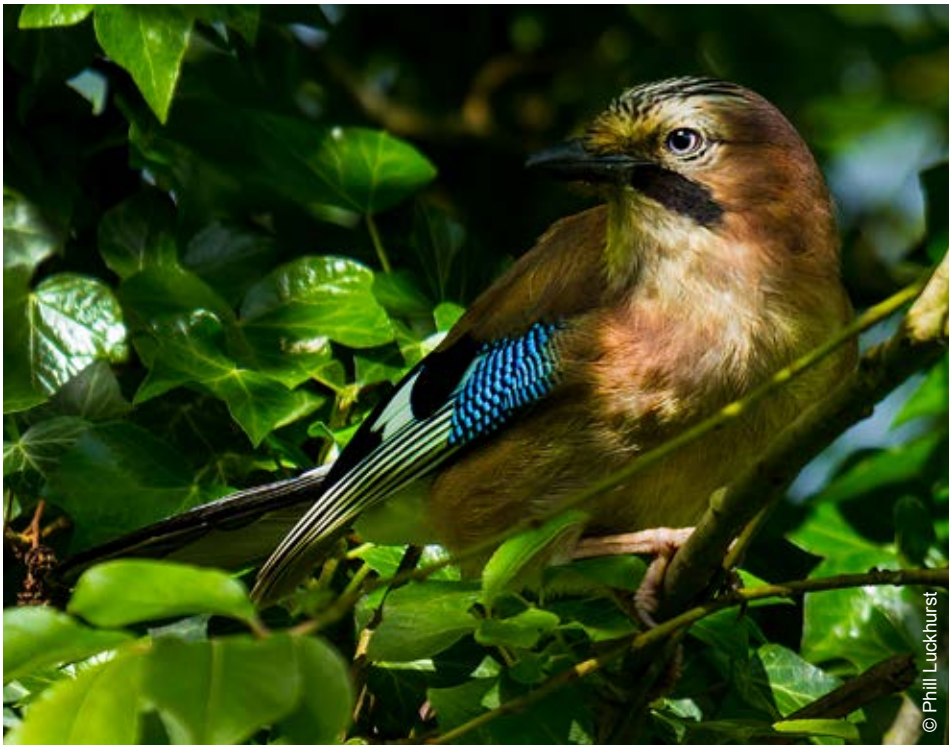
As with all corvids, the jay is omnivorous and its diet consists of invertebrates, especially, beetles and caterpillars, seeds and the eggs and nestlings of small birds, carrion and fruit. I have seen jays eat snails by whacking them on a thick branch to break the shells and then wiping the bits of shell off on the branch before swallowing the 'meat'. Mice and other small mammals are also taken with WH Hudson describing the jay as a 'keen mouser'.[5] Hudson goes on to say that a jay will kill a mouse with 'two or three sharp blows on the head' and then it 'strips the skin off before devouring it'.[6] Several of my bird books also mention peas as a food that jays particularly enjoy which would explain why one kept perching on our pea frame last year. I just thought it was interested in the near-by bird feeders! Jays are best known for eating acorns, however, so much so that the species name of the jay - 'glandarius' is taken from the Latin word for acorn - 'glandaris'.

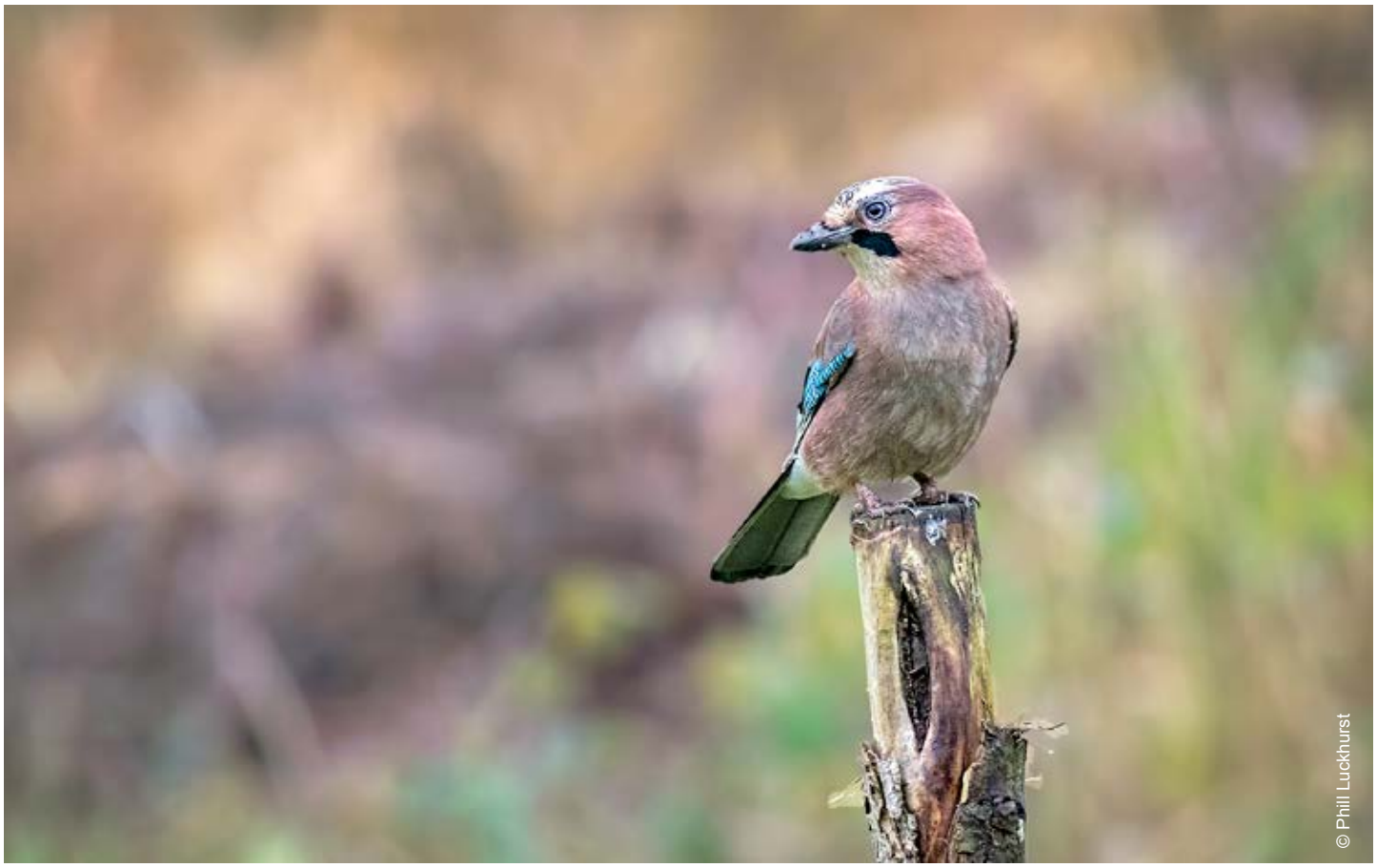
Jays generally breed between March and April and have one brood. The nest is built by both birds low down usually in a small tree although bushes can sometimes be used. The nest is open and consists of sticks, twigs and mud lined with roots and it is very well hidden. The eggs are incubated by both the male and female and hatch after about 18 days. The young are naked at first but grow quickly until they are ready to fledge after about three weeks. Once the young fledge, the family group flies around together 'following one another with noisy screams, which, though really calls or notes of affection, have an angry, often distressful ring; the happy birds sound as if in torture.'[7]

Normally the jay is a secretive bird, shy and wary of humans, which is unsurprising given its persecution over the years. The main perpetrators were, and in many places still are, gamekeepers and milliners. Gamekeepers have always targeted jays for their habit of taking gamebird eggs and chicks and it is still not unusual to see jay carcasses hanging from gamekeepers' gibbets.

Milliners used jay feathers, especially the blue coverts, as decorations in their hats but these tiny feathers were also used in other fashion accessories. In 1880, the Duchess of Edinburgh toured Cannes wearing a muff made entirely from them something that, even then, bought her a lot of criticism.[8] But fashion accessories are not the only things to to have been made from jay wing coverts. They were also prized by anglers for making fly-fishing flies - something that still happens today with jay skins, wings and feathers freely available on eBay or any on-line angling shop.

Apart from humans, the jay's main enemy is the goshawk - a bird of prey that is like a sparrowhawk on steroids. Goshawks will eat jays given half a chance. Fortunately for the jay, its short, broad wings make it agile enough to fly through the trees so it can often evade its predator. Even more fortunately for the jays in the cemetery the nearest goshawks are probably in Thetford Forest!





Although jays are usually heard rather than seen they are more easily spotted during autumn because they are busy collecting and caching acorns ready for winter. Jays bury acorns in holes in the ground dug by their bills and will return to eat them during the colder months when other food is scarce. Often the acorns are actually pulled off the tree with several being collected at once and then being carried in a specially adapted part of the gullet before being hidden. Dead leaves and, sometimes, sticks, pebbles and earth are used to conceal the burial site. Not all acorns are collected like this though with some jays just following the local squirrels and digging up any acorns or nuts they bury and hiding them somewhere else. Jays have a remarkable capacity to remember where they hid their acorns but in summer they can tell that newly germinated oak saplings will have an acorn at their base. Despite this some acorns are forgotten so the jay has role to play in creating oak woodland.

Jay numbers in the cemetery are also boosted by the arrival of jays from further afield especially when acorn crops are poor. If this happens it is thought that resident birds are joined by jays from northern and eastern Europe although this has yet to be confirmed by bird ringing. I think the largest count I've seen in the cemetery is 20-30 jays at once flying between the trees. It was quite odd watching what felt like a never-ending jay convoy having been used to family parties of seven or so birds.

So if you haven't seen a jay, now is the time to spot one. Keep an ear open for lots of screeching and look out for the flash of a white rump against the black of a tail and you may be lucky enough to see a bird that WH Hudson described as 'not altogether unworthy of being called the British Bird of Paradise'.[9]

1. https://app.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob15390.htm
2. Birds of Country and of the Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies, advisory editor David Seth-Smith, Hutchinson. Vol 1, p. 231.
3. Birds of Wayside and Woodland, ed Enid Blyton, Frederick Warne and Co Ltd, 1947. p. 54.
4. Birds of Country and of the Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies, advisory editor David Seth-Smith, Hutchinson. Vol 1, p. 230
5. British Birds, WH Hudson, Longmans,Green and Co. p 160
6. Ibid.
7. Birds of Wayside and Woodland, ed Enid Blyton, Frederick Warne and Co Ltd, 1947. p. 54. (This book is based on The Birds of the British Isles by TA Coward MSc but the fact that it is edited by Enid Blyton explains this description of a jay family group.)
8. Birds Britannica, Mark Cocker and Richard Mabey. p. 398
9. Ibid.

Thea Nicholls

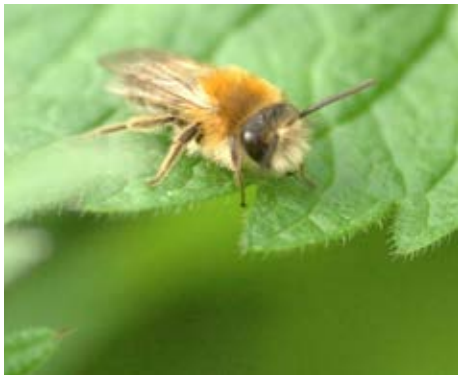
Thanks to Phill Luckhurst for letting us use his fantastic jay photographs.

More Bees in Earlham Cemetery - by *Jeremy Bartlett*

Since I wrote my last article on Earlham Cemetery's bees (in Newsletter no. 8), we have identified several more species of bee, but we're sure our Bee List is still incomplete.

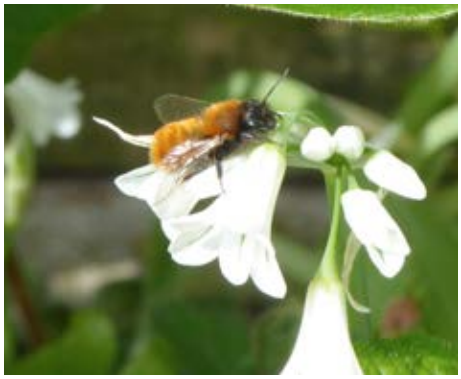
New Mining Bees

The Tawny mining bee, *Andrena fulva*, is a widespread and locally abundant spring species, which can be seen from April until June. It often nests in lawns and the bare soil of flower beds, leaving a "volcano" of earth around its nest hole. (We often find the nest holes in our asparagus bed on the allotment.)



Male tawny mining bee © Ian Senior

Females are very distinctive: they are covered with fox red hair, except for their faces, the sides of the thorax and the tip of the abdomen, where the hair is black.



Female tawny mining bee on three-cornered leek. © Vanna Bartlett

Males are yellower in appearance and are more slender than females.

Sightings in Earlham Cemetery include: 5th April 2017 (IS), 11th April 2017 (JB & VB).

The grey-patched mining bee, *Andrena nitida*, also has (when freshly emerged) bright, foxy-brown hair on its thorax. However, the abdomen has a polished black shine to it. Females have thin apical side-bars of white pubescence on abdominal segments 1 to 3, giving the appearance of grey patches. Males have lots of white facial hair.

Female grey-patched mining bee on dandelion flowers. © Vanna Bartlett

The bee is widespread and quite common, but it is reaching its northern British limit in Norfolk. It too can be found in gardens and nests in short grass but no nest sites have been found in Norfolk yet. It flies from April to June.

Vanna had several sightings of this bee in the cemetery, just west of St. Thomas' Road, on 13th April 2017.

The short-fringed mining bee, *Andrena dorsata*, has two broods each year and flies from March to May and from July to August. We didn't see it in spring but in late July we found several on Canadian goldenrod flowers (22nd and 27th July 2017, VB & JB).

Like the *A. nitida, A. dorsata* is nearly at its northern British limit in Norfolk.

The pale, broken bands on its abdomen contrast with a rusty thorax and it has a red tail. The hairs on its face are pale with no dark hairs around the eye margin.

Red Mason Bee

The red mason bee, *Osmia bicornis*, is also on the wing in spring and early summer, from March to mid July.

When freshly emerged the bees have a lovely orange hue but they soon fade to a silvery-peachy colour. The name "bicornis" refers to two short horns on the female's head, which she uses to push mud into place in her nest hole.

Female short-fringed mining bee on Canadian goldenrod flowers. © Jeremy Bartlett

The Red mason bee is widespread and fairly common and is often one of the first species to use artificial nest sites such as "bee hotels", though the bee will also nest in sandy banks and crumbling mortar in old walls. BWARS have produced a fact sheet about it.

Sightings in Earlham Cemetery include: 11th April 2017 on Green Alkanet flowers just west of St. Thomas' Road TG213087 and 11th May 2017 on buttercup flowers (VB & JB).

Furrow Bees

Twenty-eight species of furrow bees have been recorded in Norfolk, in two genera: *Halictus* **(end-banded furrow bees)** and *Lasioglossum* **(base-banded furrow bees)**. Females of both genera have a groove at the tip of the abdomen, hence the name furrow bees. (The technical name for the groove is the rima.)

Furrow bees are rather small and fairly difficult to tell apart. We have at least a couple of species in Earlham Cemetery, probably more. (We have found six species in our garden – two Halictus and four Lasioglossum.)

The common furrow-bee, *Lasioglossum calceatum*, is a common species in the British Isles and can be found up to the north of Scotland and in parts of Ireland.

Females are on the wing from mid-March to early October and males are seen from late June to end October.

In southern Britain, including Norfolk, the bees are eusocial – i.e. they form small colonies with a queen, males and worker females. However, further north where the weather is colder and the summer is shorter, the bees are solitary.

Female on ragwort flowers. © Vanna Bartlett

Sightings in the cemetery include on Ragwort flowers on 18th July 2017 (VB).

Vanna has also seen a second species of *Lasioglossum* in the cemetery this year, probably the **Common Green Furrow-bee**, *Lasioglossum morio*, but she needs to take a closer look to be certain.

Blood Bees

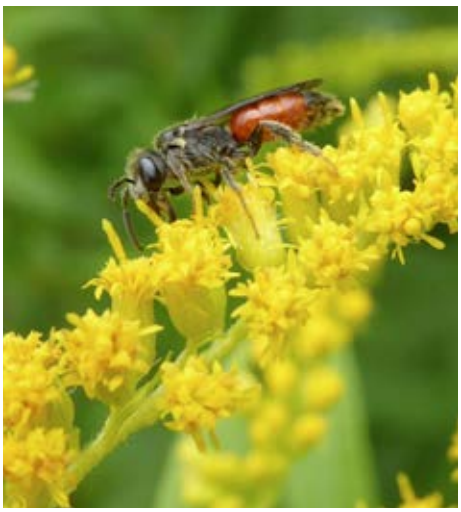
The next species, a type of **blood bee** (*Sphecodes*) led us on a merry dance – so much so that we couldn't determine the species. A small, fast moving bee is very difficult to photograph and many of the species can't be identified from just a photograph. Even if you catch one, the need to kill it to check the details of the genitalia is a step too far for us.

A glimpse of a blood bee. © Vanna Bartlett

Fifteen species of **blood bee** have been recorded in Norfolk, thirteen of them since 2000. They range in size from 3 – 8 millimetres long and the species we saw and just managed to photograph in May was one of the smaller species. The females have a red abdomen with a black tip, while in a few species the males are completely black. There isn't much body hair, so the bees look shiny.

Blood bees are cleptoparasites of other bees: the females lay their eggs in the nests of their hosts and it is a blood bee rather than the host species which emerges.

The individual in the photo was seen by VB & JB on 11th May 2017.

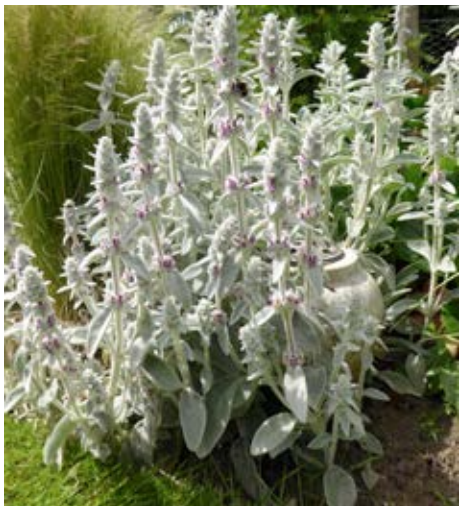


Box-headed blood bee on Canadian goldenrod flowers. © Jeremy Bartlett

In July, we found one of the larger species of blood bee and Vanna was able to identify it as the **box-headed blood bee**, *Sphecodes monilicornis*. It is a cleptoparasite of various **furrow bees** (*Halictus and Lasioglossum*). It was nectaring on Canadian goldenrod flowers. (JB & VB, 22nd July 2017.)

Lamb's Ear by the War Graves

On 5th June 2017, Vanna looked around the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot, south of the Julian Hospital. At the west end of the plot, next to grave of some German airmen who were killed when their bomber was shot down over Poringland in May 1942, there are some lovely clumps of lamb's ear, *Stachys byzantina*. Bees love the flowers, so Vanna took a closer look.



Lamb's ear, Stachys byzantina. © *Vanna Bartlett*

There were several lovely buff-tailed bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*) hard at work on the flowers, but more exciting were two other bees, both new species for Earlham Cemetery.

The first of the new species was a male fork-tailed flower bee, *Anthophora furcata*. This bee visits our back garden and is thought to be quite widespread in Norfolk, in the Norwich area, the Brecks and near Kelling. It flies from late May to early October. It is fast moving with a shrill buzz. Both females and males are covered with ginger-brown hair and have black eyes. The male has forked extension at the tip of his abdomen. It nests in dead wood. BWARS have produced a useful fact sheet about it.

A male fork-tailed flower bee on Stachys byzantina. © *Jeremy Bartlett*

The second species was more spectacular, a female **wool carder bee**, *Anthidium manicatum*.

Both males and females have a distinctive row of yellow spots or bars on the abdomen. The male is larger

than the female (which is unusual in bees) and has a row of spines at the end of his abdomen, which he uses to attack other insects that fly into his territory. The female gathers hairs from plant leaves to line her nest, which is made in a hollow plant stem. *Stachys byzantina* provides just the right sort of hairs.

Wool carder bees are quite scarce in Norfolk. They fly from June to August.

There is a BWARS fact sheet for the species.

A female wool carder bee on Stachys byzantina. © *Vanna Bartlett*

Work in Progress

At the time of writing (mid September 2017), members of the Friends of Earlham Cemetery have identified 28 species of bee in Earlham Cemetery (and we have found 53 species in our own back garden).

These numbers are just a fraction of what we might find. 197 species of bee have been recorded in Norfolk out of a national total of over 270 species.

Lost

Several species have been lost in Norfolk, such as the **long-horned bee**, *Eucera longicornis*, which John Bridgman, a Norwich dentist and keen naturalist, described in 1879 as nesting in "a large colony extending about a quarter of a mile by the roadside at Postwick". Sadly, dual carriageways and business parks are now the main feature of the area.

The **potter flower bee**, *Anthophora retusa*, was recorded as being "very common in gardens" in the Great Yarmouth area in 1834 and "plentiful at Mousehold and neighbourhood" in 1879, but is no longer in the county.

The **long-horned bee** is now confined to a few dozen sites in the south of England and the potter flower bee is just hanging on in Dorset, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and East Sussex.

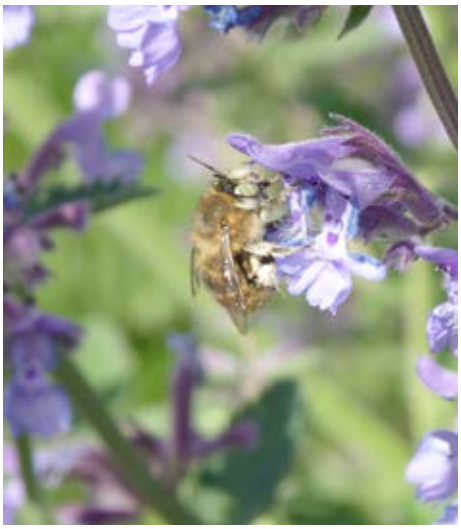
Found

However, amateur naturalists can sometimes rediscover species.

We have been fortunate enough to see small numbers of the **four-banded flower bee**, *Anthophora quadrimaculata* , on catmint flowers in our garden since we moved here in 2013.

The only other Norfolk records have been in a garden on Earlham Road in Norwich in 1982, a north Norwich garden in 2010 and on cliffs at Gorleston in 2015.

However, with the Earlham Road sighting, this is a bee that might even turn up in the cemetery at some point.



A female four-banded flower bee, Anthophora quadrimaculata, *on catmint flowers in our back garden, June 2017. © Vanna Bartlett*

Look for a fast moving bee with green eyes and the shrill buzz typical of *Anthophora bees*. The body of both sexes is covered with light brown hairs with pale bands on the abdominal segments (tergites), but the hairs soon fade to give the bee a greyish, "mousey" appearance. The bee emerged in late May this year, but we usually see it between mid June and late August.

Close-up of a female four-banded flower bee. © Vanna Bartlett

In June 2017, Vanna also rediscovered the **little yellow-face bee**, *Hylaeus pictipes*, in our back garden. It was the only sighting since John Bridgman recorded it in the nineteenth century in the Norwich area. We subsequently saw a second individual in our garden. It is possible that it had been present in Norwich, but overlooked. It pays to take a close look around you!

A female Little yellow-face bee, Hylaeus pictipes, *on Vanna's hand (Jeremy Bartlett). The first seen in Norfolk since the 1870s. © Vanna Bartlett*

What more will we find in the coming years?

Jeremy Bartlett, 14th September 2017