Friends of Earlham Cemetery

ISSUE 17
S/S 2022

Box Moth (Cydalima perspectalis)
© Vanna Bartlett

In this issue:

Contribute:

If you would like to submit an article, photo or sighting to the newsletter, please send all submissions to **alysia.schuetzle@gmail.com**, with photos at 300 dpi where possible.

You are receiving this newsletter as part of your membership of the Friends of Earlham Cemetery Group. If you wish to cancel your membership, please contact **friendsofearlhamCemetery@yahoo.co.uk**

Hello!

Welcome to issue seventeen of the newsletter for the *Friends of Earlham Cemetery*.

It's been a while since the our last newsletter, and I hope you're all well!

There are some fantastic articles in this issue, including Vanna's summary of interesting insects discovered last year, and Gary's round-up of the results from the Big Garden Birdwatch walk held in May.

Jeremy's detailed article on the first one hundred years of grassland management in the Cemetery is well worth a visit to **page ten.** It's a fascinating insight into how past generations have approached managing a large grassland area like the Cemetery, working with the local community using very different tools to those we have today. I'm hoping to persuade him to write the follow-up installment for a future issue!

Make sure you also don't miss Vanna's profile on one of Earlham Cemetery's newest residents - the divisive Box Moth (**page seven**). They may look beautiful, but as with many invasive species, they have a sinister side...

We had our Annual General Meeting at the beginning of May, which went well. Thank you to all that attended, especially those that volunteered for new roles, or to lead walks.

It would be great to hear your stories about Earlham Cemetery, or about any wildlife you have spotted whilst exploring. Please send editorial and images to **alysia.schuetzle@gmail.com**.

All the best,

Alysia Schuetzle

Dicranopalpus larvatus female

Interesting Invertebrates

Vanna Bartlett

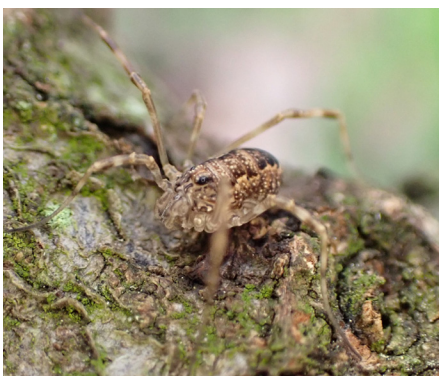
Vanna explores the new and interesting invertebrates she discovered in Earlham Cemetery in 2021.

As in 2020, my visits to the Cemetery were limited, concentrated in spring to look for solitary bees and then again in autumn for ladybird surveys and to look for harvestmen. Nonetheless, a few more new species were added to the ever growing list of invertebrates.

Harvestmen

On the basis of a single male I found in November 2020, *Dicranopalpus larvatus* (above) was reported as not only new to Earlham Cemetery, but new for Norfolk too. At the time of writing it still seems to be the only spot in the county where the species can be found. In October 2021, I went to see if I could find further individuals and was rewarded with a couple of small juveniles in the same area that I had found the previous male. Throughout November and December I made repeated visits and found several adults in three different areas of the Cemetery.

During my surveys for *Dicranopalpus larvatus,* I found quite a few *Platybunus triangularis* harvestmen as well (below): the first time I had seen this species. Like *D. larvatus,* this species becomes adult in the spring. It is also usually found in the ground layer, amongst leaf litter and under wood. I often turned over a fallen branch to find individuals of both species underneath.



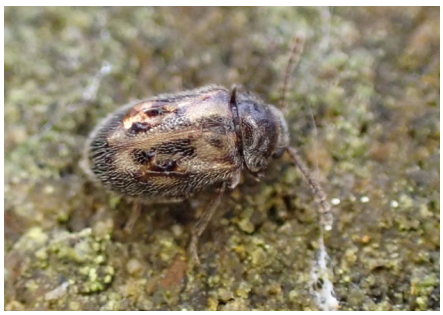
Beetles

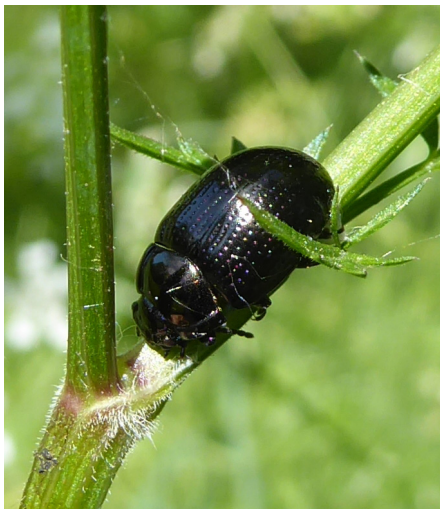
Longhorn beetles are a particular favourite of mine, so it was very nice to find three Lesser Thorn-tipped Longhorns (*Pogonocherus hispidus* - pictured right) in the Cemetery in February. Stuart Paston had previously recorded the very similar Greater Thorn-tipped Longhorn (*Pogonocherus hispidulus*) in 2014. Interestingly, I found more of these beetles at the end of the year in November on the same gravestone.

A short walk through the Cemetery on Christmas Eve was rewarded with the finding of *Phloiophilus edwardsii* on a gravestone. This small beetle (pictured right) is associated with fungoid growth on the decaying branches of oak trees. After the initial find, three others were found in different areas.

Chrysolina oricalcia is a Leaf Beetle that feeds on umbellifers (members of the Apiaceae) like Cow Parsley and Hogweed.

Although widespread, it has only been recorded in the Cemetery on a couple of occasions in 2016: so it was good to find it again on a visit in early June, when three were seen on the same plant.





Right: Chrysolina Oricalcia on Cow Parsley

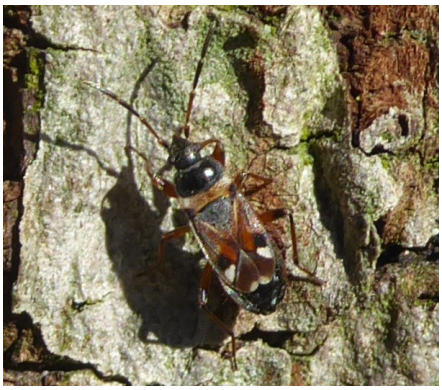
Interesting Invertebrates

Vanna Bartlett

Bugs

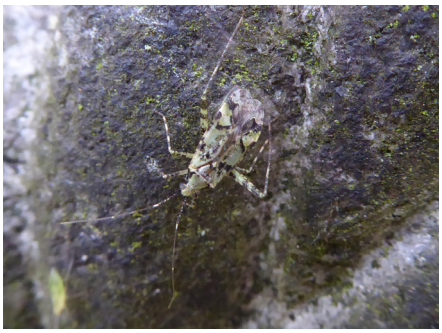
There are several species of shieldbug easily found in the Cemetery, but it's always nice to find another one. The Bordered Shieldbug (*Legnotus limbosus* - pictured right) feeds on bedstraws and is usually found on the ground around these plants, so isn't that easy to find. I was lucky to spot one clambering up plant stems.

Raglius alboacuminatus (right) is a strikingly marked species of groundbug (family Lygaeidae) associated with sparsely vegetated ground where it feeds on Black Horehound. It is a scarce species but I have recorded them on my allotment and in the garden. It was a bit of a surprise to find four at the base of a Lime tree in the Jewish Cemetery in late February. Presumably, they had over-wintered tucked up amidst the leaf litter at the base of the tree.



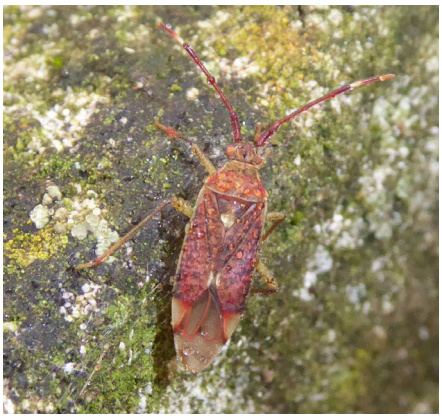
A final instar nymph of the Eared Leafhopper (*Ledra aurita* - pictured right) was an unusual find on a gravestone. This species is on the Cemetery list as a result of one found in our back garden when we lived on Helena Road. They are usually found on lichen-encrusted branches of oak trees, where they are extremely well camouflaged.

Phytocoris tiliae is an attractive Capsid bug, usually found on deciduous trees where it feeds on small insects. I found one on a gravestone under Birch trees that were teeming with aphids. The grey-green and black colouration was pretty effective camouflage on the lichen covered stone.



Right: Phytocoris tiliae hunting aphids on a gravestone.

Pantilius tunicatus (pictured right) is another Capsid bug, distinctive from its large size and reddish colouration (although the amount of red varies and newly emerged adults can be quite green). I have seen them most often on Alder trees by rivers but they also occur on Hazel and Birch. Look for the adults in September and October.



Barkflies

Members of the insect order Psocoptera are little studied or recorded. This is probably due to their small size and perceived difficulty in identification. True, some require dissection to be determined but many of the 68 species on the British list can be recognised from good close-up photographs. It can't have helped much that they were known as Barklice for a long time. In order to generate some more interest in the group they are now known as Barkflies, which sounds much more endearing.

Epicaecilius pilipennis was a late find in December, with several on gravestones under Western Red Cedars. This is considered a nationally scarce species with few other Norfolk records - so a very nice addition to the Cemetery fauna!

Interesting Invertebrates

Vanna Bartlett

Bees

Spring was extremely good for solitary bee records, with nine species of *Andrena* Mining Bee seen on the flowers of Cherry Laurel in one visit.

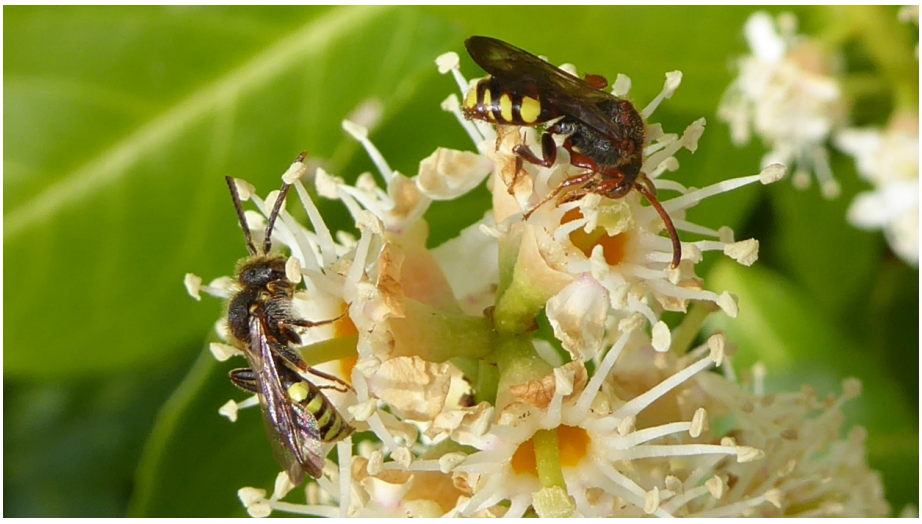
New species for Earlham Cemetery were *Andrena trimmerana* which seems to be expanding its range in Norfolk, and *Andrena synadelpha*. These two brought the number of *Andrena* bees to 16.

A probable *Andrena tibialis* was also spotted in the spring. This is a relatively scarce species, but is frequent in the Norwich area and I hope to be able to confirm its presence in the Cemetery this year.

Above: Male Andrena trimmerana showing the prominent genal spine at the base of the mandibles.

Right: Female Andrena synadelpha

Nomada zonata (the cleptoparasite of *Andrena dorsata*) was also recorded for the first time. This bee was originally restricted to the Channel Islands but then was recorded on the mainland and has spread at a considerable rate, hardly surprising considering how common and widespread the host is (which is double brooded in most parts of the country).



Right: Nomada zonata male (the left bee) and female on Cherry Laurel.

A male *Colletes similis* was found in the War Memorial Garden in July on the only organised visit of the year (a joint event with the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society). The following day on a return visit I found a female which is much easier to confirm the identification of. The Earlham Cemetery bee list is now 64 species.

Right: Male Colletes similis, caught in a specimen tube to determine identity.

Interesting Invertebrates

Vanna Bartlett

Bees

Mention must also be made of *Colletes hederae*. This bee was first recorded in the Cemetery in 2018, when it was found to be nesting in the bank at the bottom of the main driveway by Earlham Road.

In September 2021, there were literally hundreds of males swarming low over the bank and making an audible hum. Staff in the Crematorium Office were worried that they had a large wasp's nest in the bank and put up signs accordingly. Ian Senior pointed out that they were actually bees and I produced an information poster on behalf of Friends of Earlham Cemetery.

By late September, females were starting to emerge and they were immediately 'set upon' by the males in their desperate attempts to mate. 'Mating balls' of several male bees clinging to one poor female were regularly observed and often the female flew off with the lucky male still attached in a mating flight. In October, numbers of males had greatly reduced and females were spending most of their time collecting pollen on Ivy flowers.

Colletes hederae - 'swarming' males

Colletes hederae mating ball

If you have any interesting wildlife sightings to report, especially new additions, please get in touch via the website.

Big Garden Birdwatch

Gary White

Right: Siskin

Each year on the last weekend of January, the RSPB encourages the nation to count the birds in their gardens. This year, nearly 700,000 people took part, counting over 11,000,000 birds in their gardens, local parks, and green areas.

Friends of Earlham Cemetery began taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch in 2020, but were unfortunately unable to do the count in 2021. However, we can still have a look at this year's results from the count completed in May and compare the data collected in 2020. For the Big Garden Birdwatch, the RSPB specifies only counting birds that have landed within the count area, discounting any birds just flying over. At the walk in May, we did this whilst also recording the birds we saw flying for our own separate records. The count is also recommended to last for just one hour, and for this reason our count was split into two parts: the east and west sides of the Cemetery, which each took around one hour to survey.

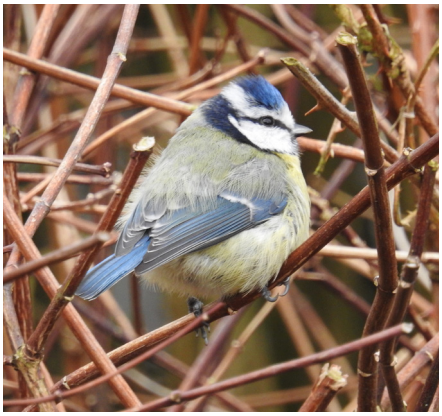
We recorded a total of 21 different species of bird this year, with a total of 143 birds over both the east and west side counts. These numbers are down from our 2020 count, where 25 species and 181 birds were recorded.

The 2021/22 winter was a mild one, with very few frosts and only a handful of snowy showers. This could be a factor as to why we recorded less birds compared to 2020. A milder winter does generally help birds, as food is easier to find and they need to move around less to find food. This may have affected our count as less birds could be moving around. This does not necessarily mean the birds weren't around, just that it was harder to see them!

Out of the 21 species recorded, 20 were also seen in 2020 (Siskin was recorded this year, but not in 2020). Birds not seen this year were Nuthatch, Wren, Chaffinch and Great Spotted Woodpecker though I did spot all of these species in a pre-count walk.

The issue with a snapshot count is that it is all about what you see in the moment, and not always a true reflection of the birds regularly resident at that location. However, the large, national scale of this count has the effect of producing a good average result. The most important part is to have fun, enjoy the birds you have seen, and feel great about taking part in an important citizen science project!

Above: Long-tailed Tit



Above: Blue Tit

Species count

Species	East	West
Black-headed Gull	FO	FO
Herring Gull	FO	1
Feral Pigeon		2
Stock Dove	3	
Woodpigeon	43	15
Jay		3
Magpie	13	1
Jackdaw	1	
Carrion Crow	4	
Coal Tit	2	4
Blue Tit	3	9
Great Tit	2	2
Long-Tailed Tit		3
Goldcrest		4
Treecreeper		1
Starling	FO	
Blackbird	2	1
Robin	3	2
Dunnock		1
Goldfinch	5	3
Siskin	5	5

Note: FO = Flew over

Beauty and the Beast

Vanna Bartlett

Left: Adult Box Moth (Earlham Cemetery, 2020)

Vanna explores the two contrasting sides of a relatively new visitor to Earlham Cemetery: the Box Moth (Cydalima perspectalis).

This attractive moth was first reported in Earlham Cemetery in 2020. Despite its relatively large size it is nevertheless classed as one of the micro moths, being a member of the Crambidae. In Norfolk, adults are on the wing from June through into late October and are at least double-brooded, over-wintering as small caterpillars. The moths are very strong fliers and will zoom off rapidly if disturbed from cover during the day. The usual form is very striking with pearlescent white wings edged with black but there is also a dark brown form with a white spot on each forewing that is occasionally recorded.

Since its arrival in the UK in 2007, it has increased rapidly and is now widespread in the London area and the south-east of England and is continuing to expand northwards. In 2018 it was reported from Fife in Scotland and there are records from Wales. The moth originates from Asia and was no doubt introduced into the UK with imported Box (*Buxus*) plants although as it is also now widespread in Europe it is possible that some have arrived as migrants from the continent, especially those that have turned up in coastal localities in the south and east.

Although Box is native to Britain, many plants are imported via the horticultural trade every year and are then grown on in gardens, usually as ornamental clipped hedges or topiary. It is a hardy, slow-growing evergreen that in the wild will grow into a bush or small tree. It is much more widespread in Europe than in the UK.

Although it is unquestionably an attractive moth, it (or rather its larvae) is a largely unwanted addition to the UK fauna, being the scourge of many a garden with ornamental Box hedging, which is the sole food plant of the species in Britain. In the area of Norwich relatively close to the Cemetery I have seen a number of Box hedges in front gardens that have been severely defoliated by the attentions of numerous Box Moth caterpillars. Several of these denuded bushes have subsequently been dug out and replaced with alternative plants.

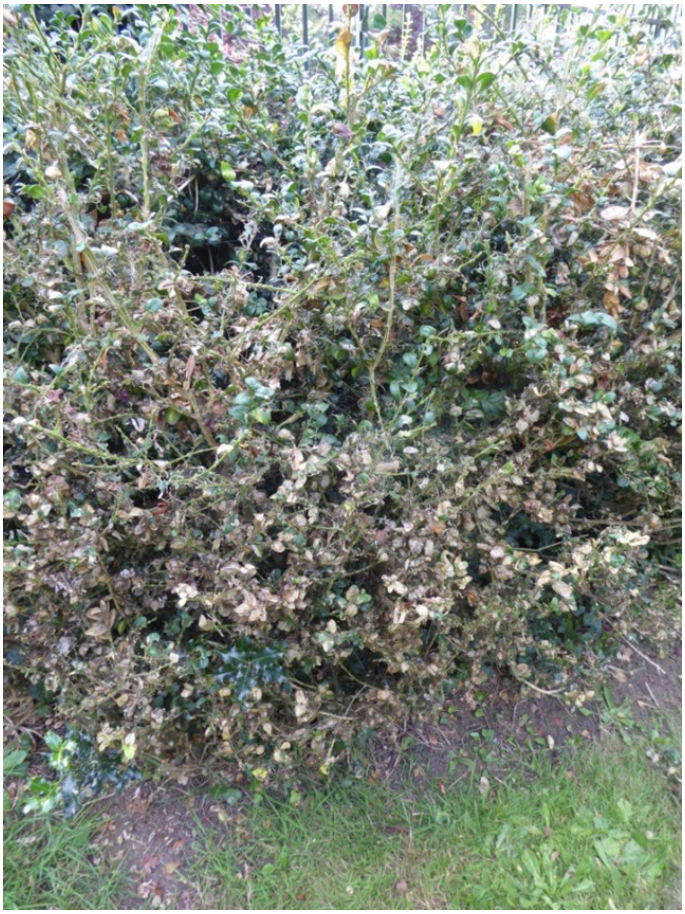
Above: An almost fully grown Box Moth caterpillar chomping on its food plant, Box (Buxus sempervirens). Note the silk strands and frass (caterpillar poo) festooning the bush.

Above: Brown leaves and frass-strewn strands of silk: classic Box Moth infestation (author's garden).

Beauty and the Beast

Vanna Bartlett

Above: Full-grown caterpillars can be surprisingly hard to spot (author's garden).



Above: Box showing signs of caterpillar infestation, Earlham Cemetery by Farrow Road.

The caterpillars feed unobtrusively to begin with, staying well inside the dense foliage. As they get bigger however and as the amount of leaves diminishes the stripy green and black caterpillars are forced out into the open and can then be spotted voraciously chomping away, although even when full grown they can be difficult to spot as they are remarkably well camouflaged. As well as eating the leaves, the caterpillars will also feed on the bark.

In Earlham Cemetery there are numerous Box bushes around the perimeter alongside Farrow Road that have been badly affected by what can only be described as infestations of the caterpillars. From the pavement outside the railings most of the bushes look OK but once inside many show signs of attack – lots of dead brown leaves and/or denuded stems.

In our garden, which is close to the Cemetery, we have a single small topiary Box bush that is supposed to be clipped into the shape of a Wren. When we first found a Box Moth in the garden, I searched in vain for the caterpillars, even going out at night with a torch in case they were nocturnal feeders. The bush at first seemed to barely suffer but in 2021 I finally spotted some larvae, at least 30, all feeding out in the open. By now feeding signs were very evident and there were frass-filled silken webs and cocoons between spun together leaves.

In the Autumn we spotted a Great Tit investigating our Box bush in the garden and watched it winkling out pupae and eating them. Staff at the National Trust's Ham House and Garden have observed Jackdaws taking the caterpillars so perhaps numbers will be naturally controlled as more creatures find them palatable. (In their native Asia there are about ten different species of *Buxus* that are used as food plants and numbers of the moth are held in check by the depredations of several species of parasitic flies and wasps).

Box bushes can become severely defoliated but are able to recover over time, if only given the chance. There are signs both in my garden and the Cemetery of new green shoots on some of the worst effected bushes but Box is naturally slow growing and repeated infestations will hamper any recovery. If a lot of bark is stripped as well as leaves then this will speed up the demise of the plant (at least one small bush in the Cemetery looks like it has had it).

While the loss of a single Box bush from a garden is no big deal in the scheme of things (giving the gardener an opportunity and space to try something else) the potential replacement of large numbers of established hedges in some of the country's well-loved ornamental gardens will not only cost a great deal but will also

Beauty and the Beast

Vanna Bartlett

change the character of these places quite dramatically. All can be overcome to a certain extent with money and time but in the wider countryside where we have large stands of ancient native Box (notably at Box Hill in Surrey but also in Norfolk Breckland) these veteran plants would be a huge irreplaceable loss.

In a garden situation, removing pupae and caterpillars by hand picking coupled with the use of pheromone lures to catch the moths is currently the only solution to saving Box plants without resorting to harmful chemicals that can kill off other insect life and have the potential to harm aquatic life like frogs and toads (not to mention posing a health risk to pets and humans). High pressure water hoses have been tried to 'blast' out the larvae and also remove the unsightly frass.
Loss of plants will impact on the number of moths; at present the moths' caterpillars are in danger of eating themselves out of a food supply. It remains to be seen whether the population will eventually reach an equilibrium where numbers of moths don't impact so greatly on the Box bushes.

In parts of Europe the situation is far worse where native forests of Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) have been severely affected by this alien pest species with the loss of several hectares of woodland. Not only have Box trees died, but their defoliation and loss has led to a change in the understory plants as more light now reaches the forest floor. Who knows what detrimental effects will occur to the native wildlife that depends on the Box forests.

While the introduction of natural predators of the Box Moth in the form of parasitic flies and wasps to control numbers has been talked about, this could well cause further problems. The parasites in question are known to target a number of different moth species as well as the Box Moth so their introduction could well cause the demise of native species (which could already be scarce) with unforeseen knock-on effects within the ecosystem. We don't exactly have a good track record in these matters (the mixed fortunes of Rabbit introductions followed by myxomatosis is a prime example – in parts of Breckland short grassland is now an important habitat requiring a healthy Rabbit population).

Once again humankind has meddled with nature and it remains to be seen what the long term affects will be. Love it or loathe it though, the pretty Box Moth and its very hungry caterpillars look to be here to stay.

Above: Box Moth pupa in between two leaves spun together with silk (Earlham Cemetery).

Above: Box Moth pupa; these have proved to be a tasty morsel for the Great Tits in our garden.

Above: Green shoots of recovery: fresh growth in Earlham Cemetery, spring 2022.

Cutting grass with a scythe
(Avraham Pisarek/Deutsche Fototek)

Grassland Management in Earlham Cemetery: the first 100 years

Jeremy Bartlett

"Churchyards and cemeteries are scenes not only calculated to improve the morals and the taste, and by their botanical riches to cultivate the intellect, but they serve as historical records." John Claudius Loudon, 1843

Nowadays Earlham Cemetery looks rather like parkland. There are tarred and gravel paths, but most of the Cemetery is covered in grass with wild flowers, with trees above.

Earlham Cemetery holds a fine collection of trees and the Friends of Earlham Cemetery have recorded at least eighty different species, including some large and impressive specimens and some rather unusual and exotic varieties. I wrote about the trees back in 2017 in newsletters 7 and 8, and over the years we've had a few walks with a tree-based theme.

This article looks at the Cemetery's grassland and its management.

Where the grass is mown short, plants which form rosettes or grow low to the ground are able to survive and flower. When the grass is allowed to grow taller, a greater range of plants can flower and, if cut at the right time, can form seeds. Some of the older areas are left uncut or only cut occasionally and here taller plants, such as Hogweed and Cow Parsley, can flower and set seed.

Earlham Cemetery's current appearance and the species found in it are a consequence of past and current management practices.

In the beginning

Earlham Cemetery was laid out towards the end of 1855 and opened in April 1856. Before becoming a Cemetery, the area was farmland. At the time of purchase, the land was mostly arable, consisting of wheat and barley stubble and potatoes, clover (cut for hay), and turnips.

The ground work needed to create the Cemetery was split into three separate pieces:

1. Ploughing and clearing the land and sowing grass seeds.
2. Planting with trees and shrubs
3. Laying out and making the roads and pathways.

Contracts for the first two pieces of work were awarded to Jacob Batch, for £70 and £325 respectively. David Browne won the contract for the paths and roads, at a cost of £172 and 18 shillings.

In the first ten months of its opening, 745 burials took place in Earlham Cemetery, but only four headstones were erected. By 1890, burials had increased to 1640 but only 214 (13%) of graves had headstones.[1] Graves without headstones were marked with burial mounds: mounded earth over a grave, covered with turf. As the coffin gradually collapsed and the body decayed, the earth above would sink slightly but the mound would still be a visible marker of the burial spot.[2]

In 1866, Reverend Cyrian J. Rust of 12, The Crescent, Norwich, wrote to the Burial Board to complaining about the inconvenience and loss that he had suffered from the delay in opening the new portion of the Cemetery.[3] He was unimpressed with the burial mounds and remarked that other cemeteries had no such "hillocks over graves" and that a border of stones or pebbles was used to mark the burial place. In his view, these burial grounds were "incomparably more agreeable for this arrangement".

Graves were not the only mounds in the Cemetery in the early years. A mole catcher was employed on several occasions; moles are now no longer present in Earlham Cemetery.

Date	Details
20 February 1857	"Ordered that moles on Cemetery ground be destroyed by Mr. Dye at the charge by him of 7s. 6d. per annum."
16 February 1883	Mole catcher employed for £1 per year.
15 June 1894	Allotment holders (on the 40 acre extension to the Cemetery purchased in 1892, west of Section K) asked for a mole catcher to destroy moles on their allotments.
20 July 1894	Mr Fitzpatrick, Cemetery mole catcher, will be paid 20 shillings per annum to do this.

[1] *http://www.heritagecity.org/research-centre/social-innovation/earlham-road-Cemetery.htm*

[2] *Susan Buckham, "The influence of management on Cemetery landscapes", Context 118, March 2011 - http://www.ihbconline.co.uk/context/118/index.html?p=34. Includes a photograph of Earlham Cemetery in the 1920s showing grave mounds.*

[3] *Sections 1 (NG) to 15 (NG) on the Cemetery map, http://www.friendsofearlhamCemetery.co.uk/images/earlhamrdcem.gif. "NG" stands for "New Ground".*

Grassland Management in Earlham Cemetery: the first 100 years

Jeremy Bartlett

Cutting the grass

From the start, the Cemetery's grass was cut by hand using scythes and used to make hay, which was sold to raise a small amount of revenue. Advertisements were placed in local newspapers, asking for tenders for cutting the hay and removing it from the Cemetery. Here is a typical advertisement from the Eastern Daily Press on Wednesday 4th June 1873:

"NORWICH Cemetery.

THE BURIALS BOARD COMMITTEE being desirous of having the First and Second Crops of GRASS CUT and REMOVED, and the edges of the Walks Trimmed and Cleared from weeds, invite TENDERS for same - Application to be made to the Superintendents, on the Ground.

ARTHUR PRESTON, Clerk."

These advertisements usually appeared at some point from April to early June and the hay was cut to give two crops in a year, the first in late June and early July, and the second later in the summer. However, on several occasions the second cut did not take place until late autumn.

In most years, the advertisement resulted in at least one tender for cutting the grass. In 1862, Mr Armes cut the first crop in June and was paid 12 pounds 10 shillings. He was asked to cut the second crop in November.

In 1863 there were no tenders for grass cutting, so Jacob Batch gave 20 loads of gravel in exchange for the first hay crop.

There followed several years when the grass crop was exchanged for gravel, which was needed to resurface the paths. In 1886 and 1867, the hay was swapped for grass turves, which were used to cover fresh grave mounds.

Several people cut the grass on multiple occasions, including Watts Dickerson, who rented land next to the Cemetery (1869, 1870, 1871, 1876 and 1878), William Thrower (1877 and 1880), James Bussey (1872 and 1873), Henry Newman (1874, 1881, 1882 and 1883), and Edward Sendall (1884, 1886 and 1887). The amount charged for hay varied considerably: in 1869 Watts Dickerson was charged just £4 for the grass, provided he clipped the edges of the paths and removed the hay by the end of June, while 1880's crop fetched £25.
On a number of occasions the hay cutting was not up to the standard required by the Burial Board Committee. In

Horse and cart.
(Howietoun Fishery/Wikimedia Commons)

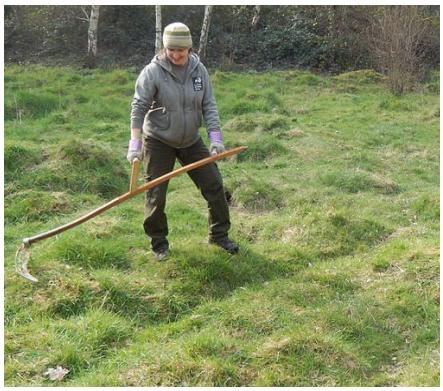
August 1870, the town clerk had to write to Watts Dickerson to ask him to clear away the grass in the Cemetery immediately, and in 1871 Dickerson was given an incentive to remove the grass in time: he would receive a £1 discount if he removed the grass by the end of June, to the satisfaction of the Burial Board Committee. In November 1878 Dickerson applied for payment for that year's work, but it was deferred as the Cemetery superintendent said the work was not properly finished.

In 1888 Mr Henry Fulcher won the tender for grass cutting for £25, but the town clerk had to write to him to complain about the "rough and slovenly way in which grass at the Cemetery is being cut and to request him to properly cut the same in accordance with his contract." The complaint worked and following an inspection, by that October Fulcher was paid for his work.

In 1892 an additional man, Thomas Martin, was employed to cut the grass and paid 20/-, along with some other men (probably some of the gravediggers) who were paid 10/-. In June 1892, 45 loads of cut grass were sold for £2 and 5 shillings, with another 56 loads sold in July for £2 and 16 shillings. The appropriately named Mr Cutting, who rented a portion of the Cemetery land, took the remainder of the crop at 1 shilling per load. In August 1892, two extra men were being employed to cut the grass and a further 34 loads sold for £1 and 14 shillings.

In 1895, grass on the extension to Cemetery adjoining sections A & K was sold to the Council's Executive Committee for £25. That July, a heap of grass was wilfully set on fire and was extinguished by William Large, the deputy superintendent, with help from a young man named Palmer from Old Palace Road, who was subsequently given a reward of 5 shillings.

As Earlham Cemetery expanded in area, there was more and more grass to cut. Extra men were hired each summer to cut the grass with scythes.



Cutting grass with a scythe.
(Ian Alexander/Wikimedia Commons)

Grassland Management in Earlham Cemetery: the first 100 years

Jeremy Bartlett

The following table gives an idea of some of the numbers involved in grass cutting:

Year	Extra men employed	Number of weeks
1911		-
1912	7	-
1916	4 (June), 6 (July)	-
1920	3	-
1923	3	-
1924	6	-
1930	5 (including cutting hedges)	6-8
1931	4	8
1934	4	10
1935	6	10
1936	6	7
1937	8	7
1938	8	8
1939	8	10
1940	6	10
	6	

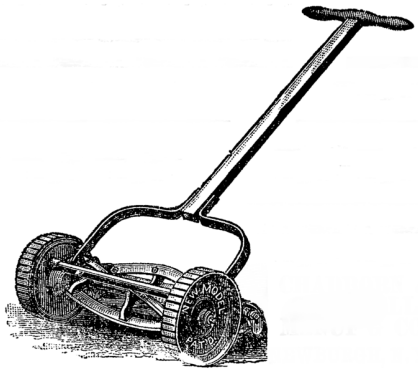
There are no figures for 1940 onwards, but following call up of some of the Cemetery staff into the armed forces, it must have been difficult to find men to cut the grass during the Second World War.

By the 1930s, it was becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of the grass crop. In 1937, loads of hay were given free of charge to anyone willing to remove them. The following year, the crop was offered to the Council's Markets Committee for use at Harford Hall Farm, but they turned the offer down. The Cemetery superintendent, Alan Jewell, reported that in the previous six years, sale of the hay crop had only fetched £12 in total. In 1938, the situation improved slightly when the hay was sold for £8, but Jewell reported that the decline in the number of horses would make it increasingly difficult to dispose of the crop.

1946 was a wet summer and this made it impossible to sell any of the particularly heavy hay crop. The superintendent hired a horse, cart, and driver for nine days to remove the hay from the Cemetery, and the services of temporary scythe men were retained until early autumn. A large proportion of the grass cut was offered to Hellesdon Hospital, but there was a shortage of staff and their farm staff were already occupied. Jewell noted that a decrease in the number of livestock meant that disposal of the hay was becoming more difficult each year.

Lawn mowing

July 1901 saw the first mention of a lawn mower for the Cemetery, when the superintendent was authorised to purchase one; provided it cost no more than 30 shillings.



An early lawn mower.
(Garden and Forest, February 29, 1888 issue
Unknown artist)

The military plots were the first parts of Earlham Cemetery to be maintained as a lawn Cemetery, with flat turf cut by a lawn mower rather than a scythe. There were flower borders at the head of each row of graves, "after the style of the war cemeteries in France". Alan Jewell described the borders: masses of daffodils in spring, followed by roses in summer, chiefly polyantha or hybrid polyantha[4] varieties. Dwarf perennials such as *Aubrieta, Arabis, Alyssum* and heaths were used as ground cover. Flowering shrubs, trees and standard roses were used to give height.[5]

As early as September 1914, the then Cemetery superintendent James Everitt was authorised to level grave mounds that were not being kept in order.

In July 1925 Alan Jewell reported to the Burial Board on levelling grave spaces, to reduce the cost of general maintenance.

[4] *Polyantha roses were the predecessors of modern floribunda roses. They share their characteristic of producing small semi-double blooms in large clusters, more or less continuously all season: http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/plants/plant_finder/plant_pages/736.shtml*

[5] *Described in "The War Graves of Norwich City Cemetery". Typed report, probably dating from 1949. N/TC 52/51.*

Grassland Management in Earlham Cemetery: the first 100 years

Jeremy Bartlett

Graves with headstones or memorials "in an insecure condition, out of the perpendicular or much damaged" would be placed in a recumbent position flat on their respective grave spaces. Iron railings that had rusted or broken away from their supports would be removed and the grave space levelled as far as possible. Old slightly raised mounds could be made quite flat and a portion of the ground so treated would require a minimum of labour for upkeep.

Nothing would be done to graves "with erection in proper order". Graves that had been levelled would not be marked with stones. Jewell reported that "in fact it is the practice of many cemeteries to entirely level old and neglected graves and form a well kept lawn from the space obtained, cutting at intervals flower beds in the turf." Jewell likened this approach to that used in the Imperial War Graves Commission's war cemeteries.

Jewell reported that he had checked with the Parks and Gardens Department, who could supply stocks of plants, including herbaceous varieties for borders, for the new flower beds. There were, however, one or two species for planting on grave spaces that the Parks and Gardens Department didn't grow.

By the end of the 1930s, Jewell reported that this new style of planting had changed the appearance of the Cemetery. Early planting, from 1855 to 1925, had added many evergreen shrubs and trees, such as yew, laurel, and *Euonymus*. From the mid 1920s onwards these were partly replaced by roses, perennials and annual bedding plants, especially at the corner of burial sections, bringing a lot more colour to the Cemetery, especially in the summer months.

Late 1930s onwards

The majority of grass cutting was still being done by scythe, but a couple more areas of lawn Cemetery were created in the late 1930s.

The first was a small area near to South Lodge, which was extended during the year ending 31st March 1939. Jewell reported that "judging by the number of requests for graves in that portion, it would seem that this style of layout appeals to citizens." Maintenance was certainly easier: "it is, of course, easier to keep the grass short in this portion, than in the rest of the Cemetery, with its mounds, iron railings and memorials".

In November 1936 a second area was selected, west of the burial chapels, in sections G and H, either side of the road leading west towards the Isolation Hospital. Here, raised burial mounds were to be levelled and stone kerbs of graves not being maintained were to be buried, to allow the use of a mowing machine. The work would take six men twenty weeks, at a cost of £322 5s., plus £54 5s. for tools. The purchase of a motor mower would cost £35 and fuel and additional labour would cost £143 per annum.

In 1938 a motor scythe was used to cut long grass for the first time, in an attempt to reduce labour costs, but grave mounds, iron railings and kerbs limited its use.

When the Air Raid Victims' Plot was created in the late 1940s, it too was a lawn Cemetery.

Gardening became more and more central to the Cemetery's activities and as the gardening work increased, so did the number of manual staff at the Cemetery - from 21 in 1926 to 26 in 1939. Labourers became "gardening labourers".

Cemetery manual staff

Year	Gravediggers	Foreman	Gardeners & gardening labourers
1926	8	1	4
1939	8	1	13
1954	8	1	15-16
1983	6	1	12

Year	Labourers	Attendants	Patrol men	Total manual
1926	5	2	0	**26** [6]
1939	0	2	1	**27** [7]
1954	0	0	2	**27-28** [8]
1983	0	0	1	**20** [9]

[6] *N/TC 5/6 - December 1926. Total includes one charwoman.*
[7] *N/TC 6/19 - May 1939. Annual report ending 31 March 1939. Total includes one woman cleaner.*
[8] *N/TC 22/6 - July 1954. Report to Parks Committee. Total does not include any cleaning staff.*
[9] *N/TC 83/1 - July 1983 - Minutes of the Environmental Health Committee. Total includes one gravedigger/chargehand and one assistant gardener at the Rosary Cemetery.*

Grassland Management in Earlham Cemetery: the first 100 years

Jeremy Bartlett

In 1938 the Cemetery paid a guinea to join the Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society and entered their annual Chrysanthemum Show for the first time, winning a special prize. When the Society resumed its activities in 1946, after the Second World War, the Cemetery rejoined and won an Award of Merit in the Chrysanthemum Show, although they relinquished the Challenge Cup for Chrysanthemums held since 1939, due to "our inability to compete this time through shortages". In the 1948 the Cemetery won a Silver Medal in the Spring Show for an exhibit of flowering plants and ferns, a Silver-gilt Medal in the Early Autumn Show for a display of Begonias and Second prize in Class 10 ("Large exhibition cut blooms") at the Chrysanthemum Show. 1949 saw awards for displays of flowers and foliage of greenhouse plants- a Silver-gilt Medal in the Spring Show and a Silver Medal in the Early Autumn Show. In 1951 and 1952 the Cemetery won Certificates of Cultural Merit and Silver-gilt Medals in the NNHS Spring Show. In 1953 the Cemetery won a Silver-gilt Medal and two First Prizes at the Chrysanthemum Show.

In 1926 there was one greenhouse at South Lodge. In 1948 three cold frames were built at South Lodge at a cost of £120. The greenhouse was extended in April 1950.

Eventually there were four greenhouses at South Lodge, heated by solid fuel boilers. By 1962, 43,150 plants were raised from seeds and cuttings at a cost of £910 per annum. These were mostly for bedding, planted out in the Cemetery grounds for summer displays.

For more about this period in Earlham Cemetery's history, see my article "Heyday" in Newsletter 3, 2014.

Right: Chrysanthemums
(Jebulon/Wikimedia Commons)