

# GREAT YARMOUTH CEMETERIES PROJECT

HERITAGE LOTTERY GRANT

Ref. No. YH-11-05016

Grant awarded: £50,000

Start date: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Grant expiry date: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## FINAL REPORT

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## FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

1.0 This report has been completed by Bridget Heriz-Smith, Cemeteries Project Co-ordinator

2.0 Notable dates

Description	Start	Completion
Princes Trust, clearance in churchyard	May 201	June 2012
TCV Green Gym of P Plot, Old Cemetery	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2012	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
Friends of GY Cemeteries founded	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2012	ongoing
Norfolk Wildlife Trust ecological survey		6 <sup>th</sup> March 2013
Conservation Training Programme	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
Summer Cemetery Watch	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2013	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
Heritage Angels Award		21 <sup>st</sup> October 2013
Great Yarmouth College activities	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
Animation Project	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
Final Estonian students visit	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2014	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
Anglia in Bloom Award		9 <sup>th</sup> September 2014

3.0 Project criteria as stated in the grant application:

- To repair and conserve up to 15 of the most important monuments (82 repaired)
- Engage with young people and the community in training activities centred around the conservation of the built and natural environment (over 200 people engaged in training)
- Clean large areas which have become overgrown with elder, sycamore and brambles to encourage a broader biodiversity. (The whole of P Plot cleared (19.6 tonnes) in Autumn 2012 and further clearance continuing since.)
- Increase the range of volunteering and participation and facilitate the formation of a Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries group to maintain the site. (321 people engaged in various activities, including training, and Friends Group established Nov 2012)
- Provide interpretation and a long term plan for management. (4 interpretation panels installed, and a Service Level Agreement signed for the Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries Group activities with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and GYB Services)
- Encourage greater biodiversity through management. (Ecological Survey completed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Wild Flower Survey completed by The Conservation Volunteers resulting in a new mowing regime agreed with GYB Services)

## 4.0 Financial Summary

### Funds

	Original Budget	Final
Heritage Lottery Fund	50,000	50,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	30,000	
Pilgrim Trust	25,000	20,000
Broads Authority SDF		10,000
TCHC Community Fund		12,000
TCHC Capacity Building Grant		581
TCV Chestnut Grant		442
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	10,000	12,000
Gt. Yarmouth Minster Preservation Trust	500	500
Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust	1,600	12,000
	<b>117,100</b>	<b>117,523</b>

### Expenditure

Description	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Actual expenditure	Discrepancy
Staff	9,600	15,000	15,197	-197
Equipment	1,500	4,000	3,474	526
Conservation	55,000	55,000	62,584*	-7,584
Mentor	30,000	25,253	21,993	3,260
Overheads	1,500	1,500	1,544	-44
NWT Professional fees	1,800	1,813	1,813	0
Printing, flyers	1,500	1,661	1,311	350
Promotion, panels, animation	6,500	5,623	4,362	1,261**
Evaluation	800	1,000	841	159
Volunteer expenses	3,200	3,200	3,981	-781
Contingency	5,700	3,050	0	3,050
	<b>117,100</b>	<b>117,100</b>	<b>117,100</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Invoices still due but included in figure: Conservation of Mills Memorial Railings and contract for final finishing of a number of repaired monuments.

#### In Kind support:

Manufacture and installation of panels supplied by GYB Services\*\*

Bricks supplied by Carter Builders Ltd.

Accommodation for training, meetings and exhibitions provided by Great Yarmouth Minster

Storage space provided by Great Yarmouth Minster for 2013

Non-conformist chapel in New Cemetery made available for storage 2014

Accommodation provided by St. Nicholas Priory Junior School for animation workshops

Manufacture and installation of peregrine platform provided by Norfolk Hawk and Owl Trust

10,376 volunteer hours

## 5.0 Overview

### Description of project

- 5.1 The Great Yarmouth Cemeteries Project has been working with trainees and volunteers for two years in the Old and New Cemeteries either side of Kitchener Road and the churchyard surrounding Great Yarmouth Minster, clearing and repairing significant monuments and graves which had suffered neglect for many years or been vandalised.

### Achievements

- 5.2 It was originally envisaged that 15 monuments would be repaired with the help of trainees. 82 graves had been cleared and conserved/repared by September 2014 with some finishing work on a few of these contracted to two of the trainees for completion post programme term. 7 listed monuments were conserved, some requiring structural repair. 29 chest tombs were fully reconstructed and 7 crosses reinstated. Extensive repointing was undertaken on further significant monuments, urns and headstones reset, railings repaired. A list of graves attended to is provided in *Appendix 1*.
- 5.3 The project has delivered 8,340 training hours to date. A full description of the various training strands is provided below, along with an outline of the legacy of this training programme. Please see also the evaluation report submitted to TCHC on completion of our conservation training programme with a cohort of unemployed and economically inactive local residents. (Appendix 1) The project was nominated for the Heritage Angels Award in 2013, based on the success of this training programme.
- 5.4 The trainees contributed to a booklet "Among the Stones" which includes articles for which they undertook research on different aspects of the cemeteries and churchyard, drawings, poems, information about nature conservation, a record of listed monuments and plans.
- 5.5 320 volunteers have been engaged with the project to date, including the trainees. Some of the volunteers were recruited through the local press which has been very supportive, and some through our website, but the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust has also worked with the following organisations:
- The Jobcentre
  - Ageless Opportunities, Great Yarmouth Community Trust
  - The Conservation Volunteers, Green Gym and later Great Yarmouth Green Gym
  - The Prince's Trust
  - Great Yarmouth College
  - St. Nicholas Priory Junior School
  - East Norfolk Sixth Form College
  - Hiumaa Vocational College, Estonia
  - Norfolk Wildlife Trust
  - Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind
  - Great Yarmouth Library and The Records Office
  - The Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries
  - Great Yarmouth Minster Preservation Trust
  - Great Yarmouth Borough Council
  - GYB Services
  - Heritage Open Days
- 5.6 Pupils in Year 5, St. Nicholas Priory Junior School worked with artist Matthew Harrison to produce an animation about the history behind some of the graves in the churchyard and cemeteries. This was showcased at Great Yarmouth Arts Festival in June 2014 and can be accessed on Youtube by a link on the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust website.
- 5.7 A record of the graves in the churchyard is almost complete. This was undertaken with the initial training cohort and with a group from Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind. It will be completed by the Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries.

- 5.8 A flower survey was undertaken and a new mowing regime agreed with GYB Services which will encourage wild flowers to flourish in selected areas to the benefit of biodiversity of this area of special nature conservation interest. Four interpretation panels have been designed and erected to inform the public.

#### Legacy

- 5.9 The Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries has been established as part of the project and is now a fully independent voluntary organisation with 26 members. The Great Yarmouth Cemeteries were offered the the best cemetery award in the 2014 Anglia in Bloom Awards. Further details below.
- 5.10 We accumulated a waiting list of volunteer trainees during this project, and these are now employed on our Hopton Ruined Church Project, which has benefited from the experience gained on the Cemeteries Project. The Hopton Ruined Church Project has been funded by HLF, English Heritage and the Pilgrim Trust.

#### **6.0 Lessons Learnt**

It was very useful working with TCHC who contributed £12,000 funding towards the conservation training programme. The Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust had not delivered training on this scale prior to this project and TCHC guidance ensured that we had a good provision of support for individual learners and that we put adequate monitoring procedures in place. Consequently we were able to respond to individual learner needs promptly and efficiently. This experience has been taken forward to the Hopton Ruined Church Project.

It proved very important to learners to have clear schedules right down to lesson plans and that they were felt ownership of their learning. This was not difficult to achieve as was beneficial to all concerned.

Lessons were learnt during the training partnership with Great Yarmouth College as they wished to provide work experience across the full student cohort on Entry Level Construction. This however was too great a number for us to manage plus a few students did not demonstrate enough interest in the work offered and were disruptive. The consequence was a disciplinary challenge for our instructors who needed to concentrate on providing skills transfer. It was possible however to discuss this problem with the Great Yarmouth College staff and come to a mutually agreeable working arrangement. Numbers were halved and from that point on huge progress was made and a number of the students have benefited enormously from their engagement with the project (see GYC feedback). Any future partnership with Great Yarmouth College will need to be more specific at the beginning about the role the Trust is prepared to take in managing students.

The main lesson learnt from this project is that there is a huge appetite in the region at grass roots level for accessible practical conservation skills learning and that there is a huge amount of pride in local heritage which can be harnessed.

## **A Training**

### **1. GYPT Conservation training module**

*No. of training hours: 1,854 hours*

**1<sup>st</sup> Module 14th January – 22nd March 2013** 24 trainees were recruited (initial expected number 20), 22 started and 16 completed (2 left because they found employment) training programme. Recruitment was mainly from the JobCentre, our website, the local media and Ageless Opportunities, all recruits were unemployed or economically inactive.

The group was divided into two groups, each working one day a week throughout the period of the module.

Training was delivered by Paul Davies, local historian with support from volunteers at the Local Record Office; John Briggs, stonemason; Katie Langridge, conservation specialist; Darren Barker, Principal Conservation Officer (GYBC); Ian Hardy (Design, Conservation and Access Officer GYBC); Jonathan Tooke, writer; Bridget Heriz and Penny Larson (Learning Support and IT training).

A training assistant was also employed: Danielle Lefevre

**2<sup>nd</sup> Module 25<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013** 14 trainees were recruited and 12 completed Module 2 (initial expected number was 10) The group was divided into two groups each working one day a week, though many of the trainees elected to work both days.

Three specialists were employed to deliver training: John Briggs, stonemason; Katie Langridge, conservation specialist; Nigel Barnet, Fransham Forge, blacksmith. Training was supervised by Darren Barker, supported by Ian Hardy.

### **Outputs**

1. The expectation was 15 monuments repaired, but the actual number was 35 (note, this was just in this module, a further 47 have been repaired since)
2. "Among the Stones" booklet was produced with a history and plan of the cemeteries and churchyard, a guide to listed monuments and other materials researched and written by trainees and volunteers.

Please see the accompanying full evaluation report on this training module submitted to TCHC who provided Community Fund support for this training module. This includes trainee statements and feedback. [Appendix 1](#)

### **Jobs created**

Six of the trainees, William Wallace, Cathy Mijatovic, Rachel Harrison, Andrew Stebbings, David Harwood and Peter Laxton, were retained on the Cemeteries Project after the initial conservation training module to continue conservation work in the Cemeteries and complete the repair of any monuments which had been begun but not finished. They were employed on a freelance basis, paid by the hour for an agreed number of hours.

Peter Laxton and David Harwood went on to begin a 2yr apprenticeship with Wellington Construction Ltd. and Great Yarmouth College.

Rachel Harrison, William Wallace and Cathy Mijatovic were further employed on the Cemeteries Project as mentors on further training initiatives and to continue monument repair.

Rachel Harrison was later appointed to work as Assistant Co-Ordinator on the Hopton Ruined Church Project.

### **Further development**

*Post training programme volunteer hours: 704*

Many of the trainees continued to work in the Cemeteries on a voluntary basis. Tom Rowley, the youngest trainee, who had learning difficulties, eventually found employment thanks to his experience on the cemeteries project. Dee Bracewell, trainee on the 1<sup>st</sup> Module and training support assistant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Module, continues with graduate studies in Conservation. Giles Evans went on to work on an archeological dig and conservation project in Italy. A number of the trainees went on to volunteer for further training on the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust Hopton Ruined Church project.

## **2. Great Yarmouth College Entry Level Construction Course**

*No. of training hours: 3,758 hours*

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Initially 25 students signed up to work at the cemeteries one day per week as a work experience and conservation training initiative. The number of students was too great to control effectively and from 1<sup>st</sup> April was cut down to 16 students. A Great Yarmouth College staff member attended each session along with two GYC support assistants. Training was delivered by William Wallace, Cathy Mijatovic, Darren Barker, Ian Hardy and John Briggs. A number of students offered additional days volunteering and one has stayed on to work with Cathy Mijatovic and William Wallace on a voluntary basis until the project end.

Please refer to student and instructor feedback forms

[Appendix 2](#)

Exchange programme with Hiiumaa Vocational College, Estonia

*No. of training hours: 234 hours.*

Leonardo da Vinci Mobility project Nr 22-3.2/470 "Enhancing the Vocational Training by Apprenticeship in Europe"

By the end of the project there will have been three group visits to Great Yarmouth to undertake conservation training.

Five students 25<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Training was provided to enable the students to repair one listed chest tomb in the churchyard under the supervision of Darren Barker and Katie Langridge. The students were also offered visits to Cambridge and Norwich etc.

Four students 31<sup>st</sup> May – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Training was provided to enable the students to complete the repair of the Palmer Monument in the churchyard under the supervision of Darren Barker and William Wallace and to undertake conservation work on original medieval fabric of the Minster South doorway.

Two students 14<sup>th</sup> August – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Training provided to enable students to work three days a week in the Cemeteries on the repair of two major chest tombs under the supervision of Darren Barker and Cathy Mijatovic.

### 3. Great Yarmouth Green Gym

*No. of training hours: 1,140 hours*

A group of 15 local volunteers from The Conservation Volunteers worked in the cemeteries one day a week throughout the autumn 2012, clearing 17 tonnes of vegetation from the monuments in P Plot in the Old Cemetery. This had been left untouched for many years, having been allocated a long time ago as a nature conservation area thanks to the monuments being so closely packed. The whole area was completely overgrown. The volunteers were trained and supervised by Mark Webster, with particular emphasis on understanding the biodiversity of the site and what plants and mini-environments were to be preserved. The Conservation Volunteers charged the Cemeteries Project for the management and training of this group.

This group of volunteers was able to establish itself as an autonomous voluntary organisation in 2013 and worked in the Cemeteries one session per month from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 continuing to undertake valuable clearance work and some tree planting. The group is trained and supervised by Sue Holmes on a voluntary basis and charges a minimum fee to cover insurance etc. It has progressed on to further projects with the Council, including work around the boating lake on the waterways, Great Yarmouth seafront.

### 4. Prince's Trust

*No. of training hours: 300 hours*

A group of 12 young people worked in the cemeteries for five days in the Summer 2012, clearing monuments in the churchyard and preparing the entrance gates for painting. They were accompanied by two Prince's Trust officers and supervised by Bridget Heriz.

### 5. Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind

*No. of training hours: 60 hours*

A group of eight young people from Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind worked one day a week for five weeks during the summer 2013, clearing and recording graves in the churchyard, accompanied by one Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind Youth Worker. They were trained and supervised by Bridget Heriz, with support from Rachel Harrison and Cathy Mijatovic.

### 6. St. Nicholas Priory Junior School

*No. of training hours: 290 hours*

Over four weeks in January to February 2014 the four classes of Year 5 pupils at St. Nicholas Priory made bird nesting boxes with Mark Webster, The Conservation Volunteers. The four 2 hour sessions included a walk in the cemeteries exploring suitable sites to locate the completed boxes and to learn about the history and ecology of the site.

Eleven selected pupils then worked with film-maker Matthew Harrison to create an animation film "The Great Graves of Yarmouth". Matthew was assisted by Paul Davies (history), Cathy Mijatovic (tomb construction) and Lauren Lonergan. The animation was shown as part of a young people's animation screening during the Great Yarmouth Arts Festival and has now been uploaded to Youtube <http://youtu.be/azsXOrCztfc>

**Total training hours: 8,340 hours**



## 7. Summer Cemetery Watch

Community workshops were delivered during the summer 2013 to engage the public in work being carried out on this project. These included two wild flower identification workshops and one on lichens, delivered by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. There was also a guided walk on the trees in the cemeteries led by GYB Services Tree Officer, a drawing session delivered by a local artist and a guided walk by Paul Davies, local historian.

An exhibition of paintings and drawings of monuments and churchyard scenes was held in the Minster and advertised broadly. All activities were free to the general public and were well attended. Altogether there were 269 attendees on Summer Cemetery Watch events.

## 8. East Norfolk Sixth Form College

56 students spent a day in the cemeteries learning about the ecology of the site and studying the growth of ivy. The teachers expressed an interest in working with the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust again in the future.

## B Volunteering

All the training was undertaken on a voluntary basis and a lot of training support was also provided voluntarily, such as by volunteer staff working in the record office at the library during the 1<sup>st</sup> module of the conservation training programme. The trainees themselves delivered a further total of 704 voluntary hours post training.

### The Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries

This is a voluntary organisation established in November 2012 with the support of Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust Cemeteries Project which provided initial nature conservation training, funded by The Conservation Volunteers.

It now has 26 members and has a Service Level Agreement with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and GYB Services offering permission for members to work in the cemeteries and some practical support, such as providing litter bins during litter pick days. The group has agreed a new mowing regime with GYB Services that will allow flower meadows to flourish in selected areas of the site (based on a comprehensive flower survey undertaken as part of the project).

A working party in the group meets every first Saturday of the month and has appointed two foremen to co-ordinate the work. Plans are currently being discussed to meet more frequently than one day a month.

The Friends has a constitution and a full committee that meets on a quarterly basis. It has joined the National Federation of Cemetery Friends and is a member of the Conservation Volunteers. Exchange visits have been made with the Rosary Cemetery in Norwich.

### Volunteering Statistics

The total number of people offering volunteer time and in-kind support to the Cemeteries Project is 320 and total volunteer and in-kind hours including trainees is 10,376. This does not include Norfolk Hawk and Owl Trust input (Peregrine Platform), GYB Services groundsmen and GY Minster caretaker support and similar contributions.

## **C Conservation and repair of graves and monuments**

It was initially proposed to repair 15 monuments, but 82 have been repaired. All the listed monuments have been attended to.

(See list of graves repaired in Appendix 1)

## **D Recording**

A record of the graves in the churchyard has been undertaken, just two plots on the eastern end remaining to be completed, a task the Friends plan to undertake Autumn 2014. The recording has been collated on a database which is available to the general public making enquiries.

Thanks to the clearing of P Plot and a number of slab tombs in the churchyard, Paul Davies, a local historian has been able create an extensive appendix to his research of the graves in the cemeteries "Stories behind the Stones".

## **E Nature Conservation**

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust was commissioned to provide an updated ecological survey of the Cemeteries site which enabled a plan to be drawn up for nature conservation working with GYB Services who manage the site on behalf of the Borough Council.

A detailed flower survey was carried out and based on this survey a new mowing regime was agreed with GYB Services and the Borough Council, whereby selected sites were left unmown as spring and summer flowering meadows. The sites were strimmed at the appropriate time and the Friends undertook to rake the cut grass.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust delivered a series of free community workshops on different aspects of the biodiversity on the site and the Friends organised guided walks as part of their Summer Watch programme in 2013.

Four interpretation panels were designed to inform the public about the conservation which has taken place in the Cemeteries and the plans for nature conservation, two each for the Old and New Cemeteries. *(Design included in Appendix 3)*

To attract interest in the site as a natural resource, arrangements have been made with the Norfolk Hawk and Owl Trust to install a peregrine platform on the tower of the Minster.

Extensive media coverage has been achieved for actions taken to conserve biodiversity and to promote the Cemeteries as an extensive and beautiful green space in the centre of the town.

The work undertaken to improve biodiversity in Great Yarmouth Cemeteries was acknowledged in the 2014 Anglia in Bloom Awards.

## **F Publicity and Public engagement**

The following have been delivered:

Booklet "Among the Stones", for sale in the Minster.

4 Interpretation Panels in the Cemeteries

Guided walks delivered regularly (Heritage Open Days, Local History and Archeological Society, Heritage Walks)

Animation film "The Great Graves of Yarmouth", showcased at Great Yarmouth Arts Festival.

Press coverage in local media relating to training, Summer Watch events, Friends etc.

Press coverage and film distributed by English Heritage, Heritage Angels Award.

Press and radio coverage and public event, Anglia in Bloom Award.

Dedicated page on Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust website.

Facebook page for Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries.

Article in National Federation of Friends newsletter.

Association of Preservation Trust Annual Conference held in Great Yarmouth, 2012

There is a large footfall through the cemeteries as people walk through the site from north Yarmouth to the town centre. Trainees and volunteers engaged with passers by when asked about activities taking place.

Press cuttings, interpretation panel designs, flower survey.

*Appendix 3*

### Awards

Heritage Angels Award 2013 – shortlisted in category, of 5 out of 900 projects nationwide.

Anglia in Bloom 2014 – Winners of the Churchyard and Cemeteries category and a Silver Gilt certificate presented at the Ocean Rooms, Gorleston, September 2014.

## **G Legacy**

1. The Cemeteries Project has achieved the aim of establishing a precedent for building up a pool of conservation skills within the Borough. Further initiatives can be developed from this base.
2. Thanks to the success of the Conservation Training Module, discussion has taken place with Great Yarmouth College with a view to designing and delivering a course to be delivered when the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust takes possession of St. John's in Yarmouth where the intention is to set up a training centre for heritage skills. Up to this time, none of the building or construction courses delivered by the college allowed for any conservation or heritage training. In the meantime it was agreed to offer work experience to current students as described below.
3. The Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries will continue engaging the community with maintenance of the site and working with GYB Services and the Council on an ongoing management plan which will protect the biodiversity of the site and help to keep the site attractive to visitors.
4. The Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust and the Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries have been given use of the Non-Conformist Chapel in the New Cemetery on a permanent basis. This has and will continue to serve as a base for work in the Cemeteries and further training activity.
5. A guidebook and four interpretation panels have been produced to provide visitors with information about the cemeteries, the listed monuments and nature conservation.

