

Our trail starts at the chapel (in front of the 1st World War memorial) and will take about an hour to walk the route. The ground is level suitable for wheel chairs although a few of the paths are narrow.

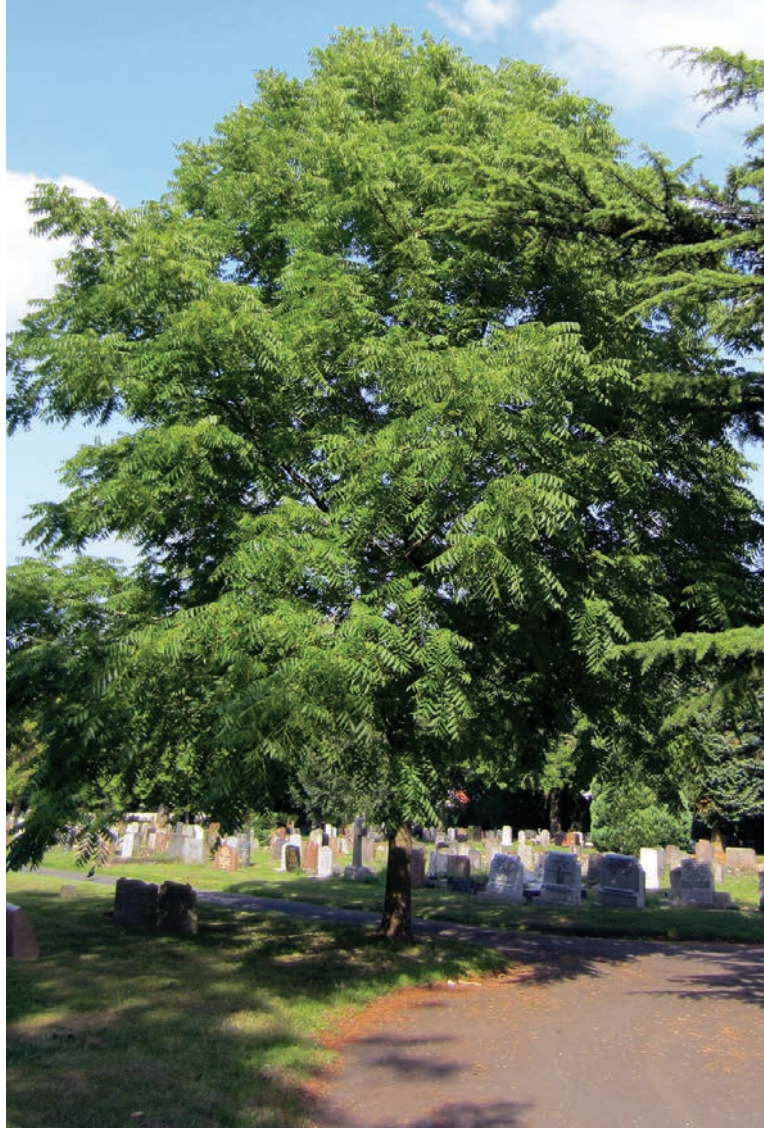
Several trees were planted in 'pairs' either side of the walkways and indeed, many species are repeated throughout the walk. It is not known how many of the trees originally planted by Robert Veitch have survived but the cemetery contains a rich mix of native, non-native and naturalised trees. We have selected just a few of the many fine varieties found here.

Robert established his own nursery business in 1864 at New North Road, Exeter, which became Robert Veitch and Son and he landscaped many parks including Higher Cemetery. He is buried here in the old St Leonards section of the cemetery.

It was a member of the renowned local family of horticulturists. He was the grandson of the founder, John Veitch, who originally came to Devon at the bequest of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland (7th Bart) to landscape the grounds of Killerton.

Friends of Higher Cemetery

HIGHER CEMETERY TREE TRAIL



Friends of Higher Cemetery (FoHC) was formed in 2011, to promote Exeter's Higher Cemetery as a place of remembrance and as a public amenity. Meetings are held approximately once a month, except in winter, for talks by guest speakers and guided walks around the cemetery. The talks cover subjects relevant to the cemetery such as flora and fauna of the cemetery, the Theatre Royal fire of 1887, The Titanic, World War II and the cemetery buildings.

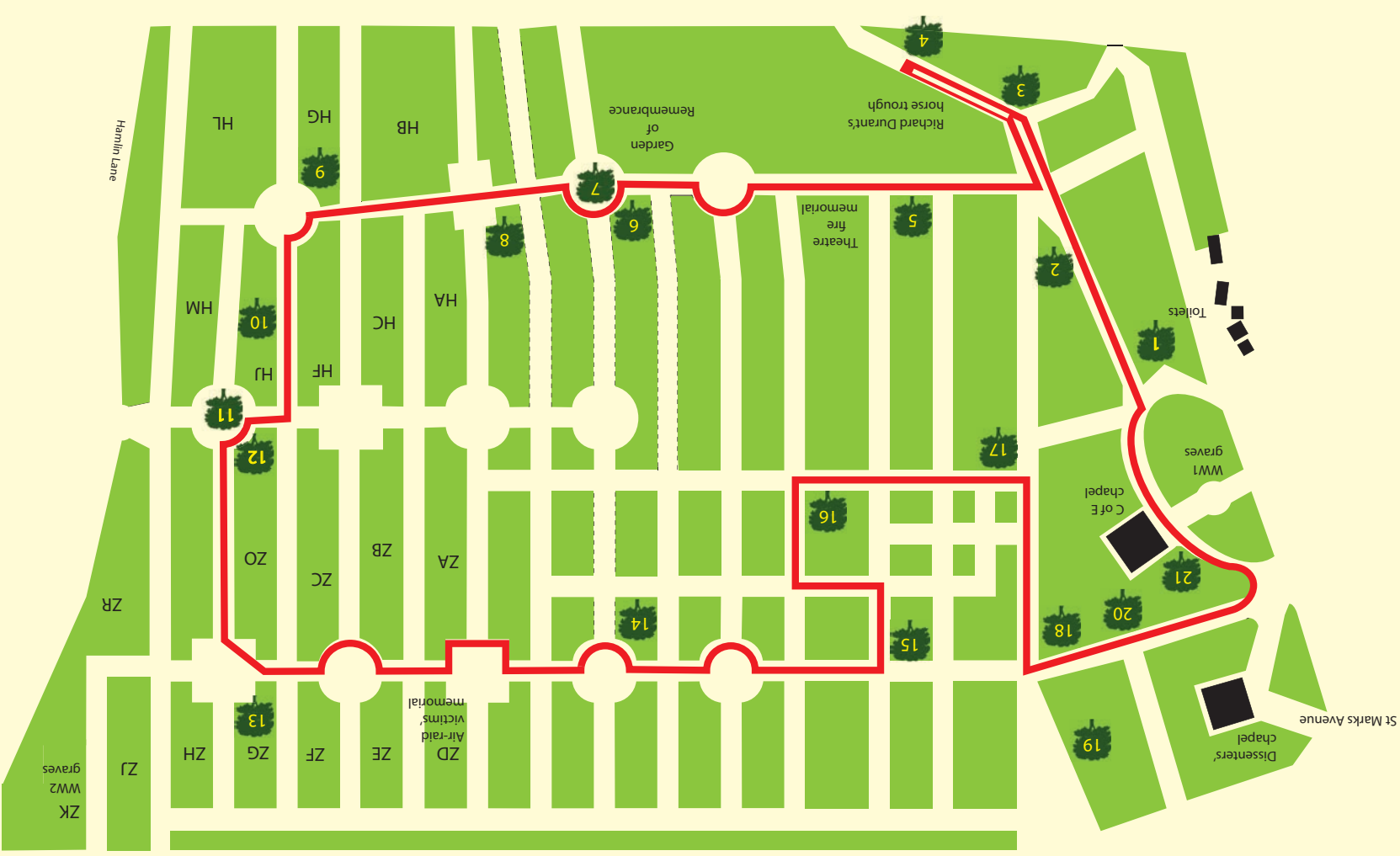
In May 2012 a memorial panel was erected in the cemetery, by FoHC, in memory of the civilian victims of the blitz. In 2013 FoHC restored a 136 year old horse trough as a garden feature.

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in this beautiful and important cemetery and costs £5 per person, or £8 for a family, per year (subject to change).



For more information contact the secretary by email at fohcexeter@gmail.com

St Marks Avenue Exeter EX1 2PX



19. Monkey Puzzle (Araucaria araucana)

This easily identifiable tree is native to Chile and may be one of the oldest trees in the cemetery. Trying to climb it would even puzzle a monkey!



20. Indian Horse Chestnut (Aesculus Indica)

The Indian Horse Chestnut is from the Himalayas and it is a spectacular early summer flowering tree. Unlike the common horse chestnut, the 'conker' shells are smooth.



21. Hornbeam (Carpinus betulus)

Hornbeam means 'hard tree' and such was used as chopping blocks. It is commonly used as a street tree with a neat dense 'ace of spades' shape. The leaves are similar to the beech.



1. Western Red Cedar
(*Thuja plicata*)

This huge tree, with a dark red bark, was introduced from North America by William Lobb in 1853. When growing in an open space, it develops a crown of branches which may eventually reach the ground. It is long lived and can live for 1000 years.



7. London Plane
(*Platanus X hispanica*)

This tree first appeared in Britain in the 17th century and was planted extensively in London when it became apparent that it was able to survive the pollution of the city. The bark flakes away which allows the tree to remove the dirt it collects.



13. Horse Chestnut
(*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

The common name of ‘horse chestnut’ is reported to have originated from the belief that the tree was a kind of chestnut. It was also thought that eating the fruit cured horses of chest complaints, despite the tree being poisonous to horses.



2. Liquidamber
(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

This large tree is so named due to the fragrant gum resembling ‘liquid amber’ which it produces when the bark is damaged. Also called the American sweetgum, this deciduous tree is native to warm temperate areas of eastern North America and Central America. It is easily recognizable by its five-pointed star-shaped leaves and its autumn colour.



8. Sweet Chestnut
(*Castanea sativa*)

Also known as the Spanish Chestnut, it has distinctive flowers which mature into shiny brown nuts which are good to eat when roasted. Sadly, our British climate is too cool for the nuts to ripen to full size except in Kent.



14. Monterey Pine
(*Pinus radiata*)

This species, native to the central coast of California, is the most widely planted pine in the world, valued for the rapid growth and lumber qualities. Needles are in clusters of 3 and up to 15cm long. The cones can remain on the tree for 20 – 30 years and will only open in forest fires.



3. Persian Ironwood
(*Parrotia persica*)

This small tree is native to Northern Iran and it is named after the naturalist F W Parrot (who made the first ascent of Mount Ararat in 1829). The wood of this small tree is very hard with mottled grey bark and it often forks low with the branches twisting up and outwards. The leaves are glossy green which turn rich purple to a brilliant red in autumn.



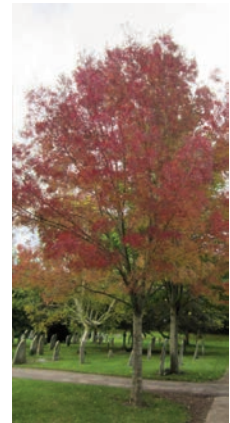
9. Whitebeam
(*Sorbus aria*)

The leaves develop early in spring in bunches with very pale undersides which look like flower petals. It has clusters of white flowers in Spring followed by speckled red berries in Autumn.



15. Claret Ash
(*Fraxinus angustifolia*)

This tree originates from South Australia and introduced here in 1928. Throughout the summer, the narrow leaves are dark green and glossy, providing dappled shade below. They really come into their own in autumn when they turn brilliant hues of purple and wine-red.



4. Lucombe Oak
(*Quercus X hispanica* ‘*Lucombeana*’)

This huge evergreen oak is a cross between a turkey oak and a cork oak, and it is was one of the first saplings raised by William Lucombe in his Exeter nursery in 1762. It is reported that he was so taken with the tree that he later felled the original specimen to provide wood for his own coffin and kept the boards under his bed until he died.



10. Maidenhair Tree
(*Ginkgo biloba*)

This tree is native to China. It has distinctive shaped leaves and unusually, it is non-flowering. It has various uses in traditional medicine and as a food. It is classed as a living fossil and was around in pre historic times.



16. Locust Tree
(*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

A popular tree in gardens, it is named after Jean Robin, royal gardener to the kings of France, who introduced the tree to Europe in 1601. The name, locust, is said to have been given to the tree by Jesuit missionaries who mistakenly thought that it was the ‘locust tree’ referred to in the Bible.



5. Tulip Tree
(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

These beautiful trees are widely known by the common name ‘tulip tree’ as the large flowers superficially resemble tulips. The Latin *Liriodendron* actually means lily tree.



11. Cedar of Lebanon
(*Cedrus libani*)

Introduced to Britain in 1638, its fame was already assured by the numerous references to it in the Bible. It is named after the trees found on the slopes of Mount Lebanon in Syria but it also grows in the country of Lebanon, which has a picture of the cedar on its flag.



17. Paper Bark Birch
(*Betula papyrifera*)

Another native from North America, this tree is notable for its peeling white bark. It is also called the Canoe Birch as the Native North Americans used the wood for canoes.



6. Rowan
(*Sorbus aucuparia*)

This pretty tree is commonly called the mountain ash because the leaves resemble those of the ash and it will grow higher up the mountain than other native trees. It was once widely planted near houses as protection against witches.



12. Black Walnut
(*Juglans nigra*)

Native to North America where it is grown for its timber as well as its nuts, it was introduced to Europe in the early 17th century and is now widely cultivated as an ornamental tree for open spaces.



18. Balm of Gilead
(*Populus candicans aurora*)

A columnar fast growing tree or shrub with leaves conspicuously marked white, cream and pink. It has catkins in early spring.

