

Darwen Cemetery: a brief history

■ The Local Board of Health formed a Burial Board in 1858 to provide a public burial ground. Up to then the only burial grounds were the graveyards of the various places of worship. The long use of these graveyards, their limited area, and the growth of the town made it difficult to find space for new graves.

■ The Burial Board acquired land at Whitehall on the west of the Bolton road. The area was drained, fenced, and laid out into sections for Church of England, Nonconformist and Roman Catholic burials. Mortuary Chapels were erected and the cemetery opened in June 1861. In 1876 further land was obtained, the combined area being about 20 acres. The western cemetery is really two cemeteries – the Old to the south and the New to the north.

■ Towards the end of the Second World War it was becoming obvious that a further burial ground was necessary and land was acquired on the opposite side of the main road. This became known, rather confusingly, as the New Cemetery and then as the Eastern Cemetery. Work was under way by 1945 and the land was consecrated within a year or so. The area was extended in the late 1970s.

Contacts:

Chairman:

Councillor John East, 26 Stanley Drive,
Darwen. BB3 2EL Tel: 01254 771957
Mobile 07885 595189
johneast@darwencemetery.org.uk

Secretary:

Rosemary Jackson, 60 East Park Avenue,
Darwen BB3 2SQ Tel: 01254 708828
Mobile 07751 122384
rosemaryjackson@darwencemetery.org.uk

Website: www.darwencemetery.org.uk
Webmaster: Liam Dargan



The Ashton Memorial

Friends of Darwen Cemetery (FODC)

The Friends of Darwen Cemetery (FODC) was set up in 2010 as a voluntary and charitable body to work for the benefit of the town of Darwen.



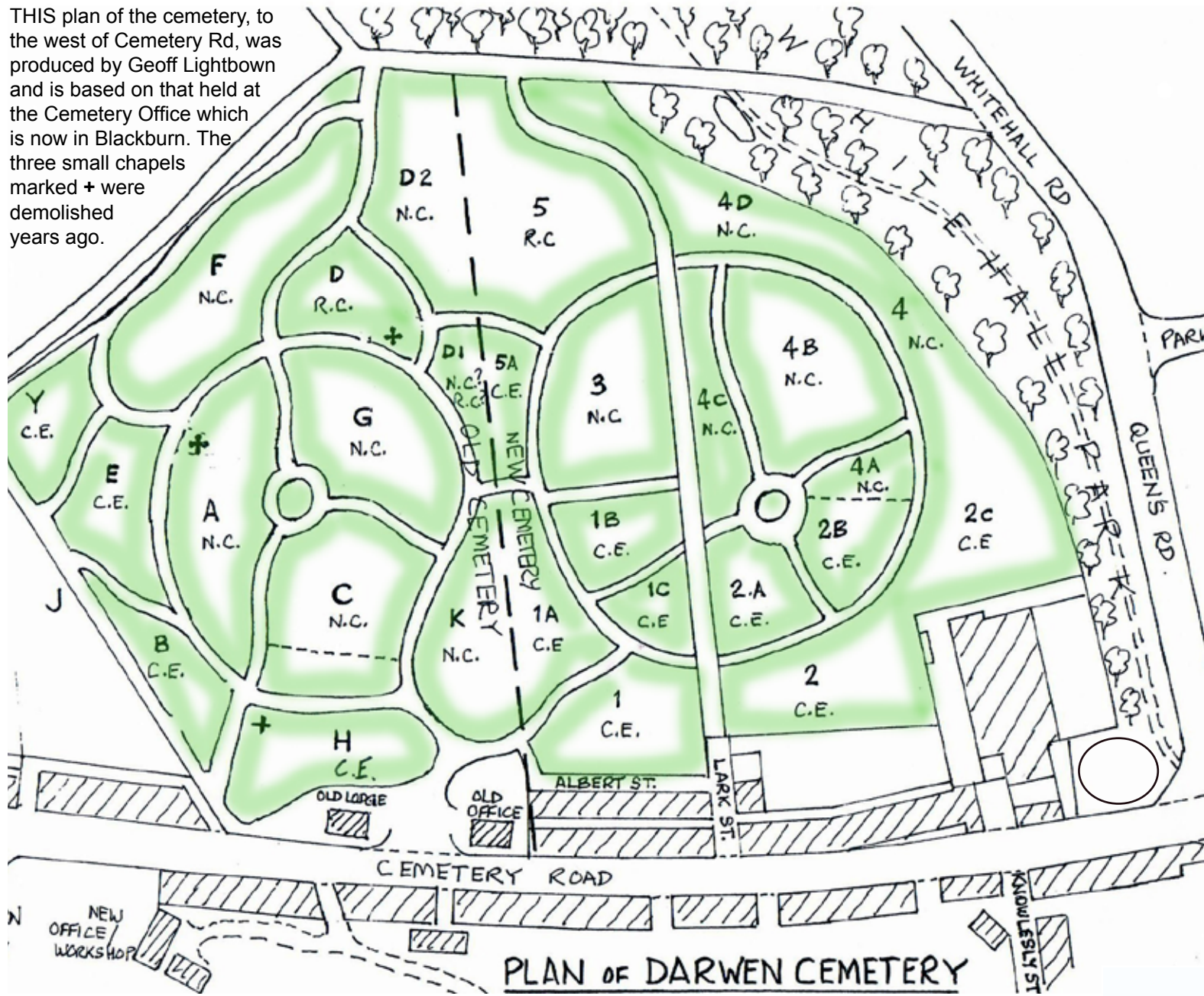
The Friends aim to:

- Provide a forum for Darwen Cemetery visitors to participate in discussions and activities.
- Preserve and improve Darwen Cemetery.
- Promote the historical, environmental and cultural significance.
- Investigate the biodiversity potential for cemeteries.
- Communicate its work to elected members, other agencies and groups and members of the community.
- Encourage community participation in its work, especially by the youth of the town.

Would YOU like to help the Friends?

THERE'S A LOT TO DO ... BUT WE'RE MAKING A START. CAN YOU HELP?

THIS plan of the cemetery, to the west of Cemetery Rd, was produced by Geoff Lightbown and is based on that held at the Cemetery Office which is now in Blackburn. The three small chapels marked + were demolished years ago.



Friends volunteers get the ball rolling



The Payback team work on the strimming



Time for the heavy gang to get to work