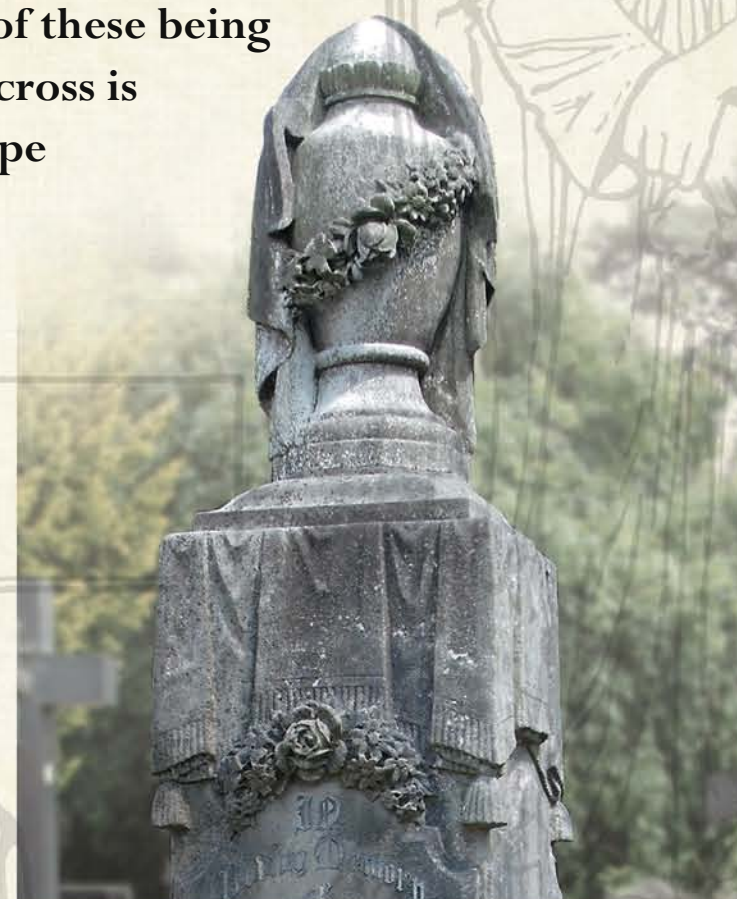


Iconography & Symbolism

The majority of the grave monuments in the cemetery are typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; the most popular of these being the cross of which several can be seen of varying sizes. The cross is usually mounted on three graduated steps representing 'faith, hope and charity'



The Urn, symbolising mortality, is one of the most common of funereal monuments, though there is only one example in the cemetery. This takes the form of a draped urn covered with a tasselled cloth signifying the last partition between life and death.



Doves are the most common birds to be found on gravestones symbolising 'peace' or a messenger of God.



Clasped Hands are symbolic of a farewell or last goodbye.

An unusual memorial depicting a cross can be seen on the grave of Thomas Rhodes. This takes the form of *an anchor set against rocks surmounted by a cross with a broken chain*. The anchor represents 'hope' or 'at rest', the rocks are a symbol of everlasting strength and the broken chain stands for cessation of life.



There are several graves adorned with *angel monuments*, representing the angel of God guarding the dead or carrying the deceased to heaven.

A *broken column*, often entwined with ivy, represents the break from earthly to heavenly life.

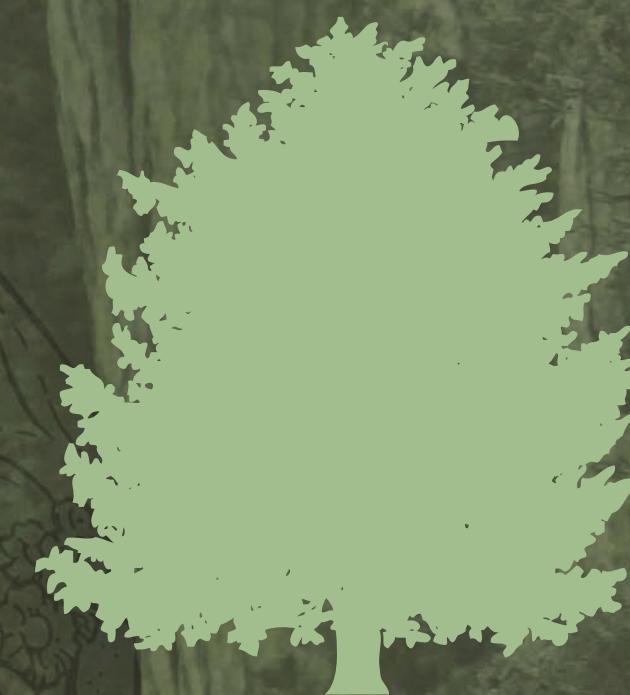


HISTORY in the
HEADSTONES
The Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Trail

Tree Planting

The Lye & Wollescote Cemetery is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century garden cemetery' with its mixed planting of trees, some of which have their own symbolism.

Yew trees are a symbol of everlasting life and have a pagan meaning sacred to the goddess of magic and the underworld. They were a common tree for planting in graveyards as their leaves are unpalatable to animals.



The Scots Pine was a popular species for planting in cemeteries and many of those planted originally still exist today.



Monkey-puzzle trees, of which there are male and female species in the cemetery, were also popular in Victorian times. Their sparse foliage was believed to deprive the devil of a hiding place from where to observe funerals and steal the souls of the departed.