Norwich Lives

A wealthy French aristocrat, a workhouse inmate and a famous architect may seem unlikely bedfellows. But they are among a diverse collection of characters whose stories are brought to life in a new book about Earlham Cemetery in Norwich



While the city's Rosary Cemetery has received a good deal of attention over the years, far less has been written, until now, about the occupants of the 34-acre municipal cemetery at Earlham. Intrigued by graves spotted during her regular walks through the site, author Françoise Donovan weaves the lives of some of those buried there into the wider context of the social history of Norwich and beyond over the past 150 years.

But you don't need to be steeped in local history to enjoy the book. The people and the lives it reveals are fascinating from a human perspective and after reading most of their stories, the reader may breathe a sigh of relief at living in twenty first century Britain.

The book, Norwich Lives, containing 112 illustrations, takes you on a journey of discovery through the many alleyways of the cemetery, bringing back to life a diverse group of people who span the whole 157 years of the cemetery's existence.

Norwich Lives: Selected graves from Earlham Cemetery by Françoise Donovan will be available from early November 2013 in most city bookshops (£12).