

FRIENDS OF  
LAWNSWOOD  
CEMETERY



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NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the very first issue of our Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery Newsletter.

As Chair I want to welcome you all to the group and give you a summary of what we have achieved so far and our plans for the forthcoming year.

We officially came into existence on 5 October 2011 at a public meeting at Lawnswood. It was great to see so many people attend and we are especially pleased that we have continued to see most of you at all of our events since. We elected our officers and a committee and we were finally up and running.

So what have we achieved in the first few months?

We'll have our own facebook page which has proved very popular

[www.facebook.com/friendsoflawnswoodcemetery](http://www.facebook.com/friendsoflawnswoodcemetery)

and we now have our very own email address

[friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk)

## Action Days



We also started our Action Days with the assistance of Dave Blackham from Leeds City Council's Countryside Rangers. We had no idea if anyone would turn up at our first one in October and it was fantastic to see more than 20 people waiting in the car park at 10am. Everyone worked really hard and we made a significant difference to the appearance of the 1910 extension in just a few hours. I will never forget that day as it was one of the most satisfying day's work I have ever done - even though I was fast asleep on the sofa at 4pm!

For those of you who haven't managed to attend an action day yet I would really encourage you to do so. Hot drinks (and usually cake!) are provided, the atmosphere is brilliant, and you are welcome to stay for as long or as short a period as you can spare. Everyone who has attended has told us how much they have enjoyed it, so don't miss out on the fun!

## Walks



We had our first guided walk on Remembrance Weekend which was so well attended we had to run it twice! For those who came along, I hope you enjoyed it - those of you who missed out, check out our programme of walks planned for the summer.

## Update

Of course, it's not all about what we can physically do as members to improve the cemetery. Leeds City Council have ultimate responsibility for Lawnswood and we have been working to encourage them to make the changes we all want to see. We have had two meetings with the officers responsible for the cemetery and submitted a "wishlist" of improvements. This will undoubtedly be a long process, but we have seen some positive action already – for example, contractors have now been employed to keep the glass clean in the chapels.

## Thanks

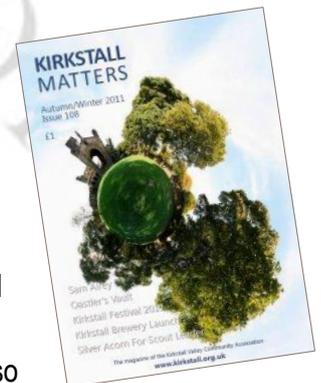
I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank some of the staff members at Lawnswood who have been very encouraging and supportive. Chris Raines, Andy Storr, John Hadland and Stewart Binge have all given up their time to help us out in various ways and I hope will continue to do so.

Emma Trickett's help was invaluable in setting us up. We also want to thank Lynne Gorner for our new logo.

## Media coverage



We have had a lot of good publicity from the Yorkshire Evening Post and have also had articles in Kirkstall Matters, Adel Bells, North Leeds Life and [www.holtparktoday.org.uk](http://www.holtparktoday.org.uk) to name but a few. We also had a feature on BBC Radio Leeds recently.



## The year ahead

So, what of the forthcoming year? Well, our Action Days will continue until September at least - see the last page of this newsletter for details. We have the summer walks and are also hoping to organize trips to other cemeteries - Undercliffe in Bradford, for example.

We have lots of plans and dreams for Lawnswood but now need money to realise them, so fundraising will be a major theme this year. Feel free to make a donation at any time!

Thank you for your interest and your hard work.  
Andrea Hetherington, Chair



If you enjoy the outdoors, being active and learning new skills then why not join us?

All activities will run from 10am but finishing times may vary. Meet in the car park on Otley Road opposite the Cemetery's main entrance. Come along for as long as you like! **Bring sturdy footwear, gloves and waterproofs if necessary**, materials, and hot drinks will be provided. Children are welcome but under-16's must be accompanied by an adult.

## Come along and help

### April 2012 - September 2012

We volunteer on the 1st Saturday of each month, start at 10am and finish around 2:30pm, but any time you can spare will be most appreciated.

#### Saturday 7 April, 10am - 2.30pm, General Maintenance

Help tidy up the cemetery by carrying out tasks such as cleaning up and painting benches, litter picking and general gardening work.

#### Saturday 5 May, 10am - 2.30pm, Footpath Maintenance

Help maintain Lawnswood Cemetery's vast network of footpaths and help keep them in good order.

#### Saturday 2 June, 10am - 2.30pm, Woodland Management

Generally if invasive non-native species are left alone they will soon take over the wood. Help us control them.

#### Saturday 7 July, 10am - 2.30pm, General Gardening

Help us carry out gardening work around the cemetery. We generally trim back shrubs, tidy up overgrown graves, cut and remove soil and grass encroaching onto the footpaths.



For further information please contact Dave Blackham, Countryside Ranger on 07891 277 108 or email

[friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk)

Pictures by the RSPB

## Note from the Vice Chair

The committee have been actively promoting the cemetery to various interested parties.

Politicians, Council officials, historians, ecologists have all been given tours.

Representatives from the English Heritage, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, the Civic Trust, the Thoresby Society and the Victorian Society have been shown around.

Janice Simpson

## Summer Walks Programme

We have a number of themed walks around Lawnswood planned for this summer. All walks leave from the Waiting Room and take approximately one hour.

Walks are free for members, and £3 per person for non members.

### Sunday 1 July, 2pm The Leeds Pals

Today is the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Andrea Hetherington will lead a walk around the cemetery to tell the story of the Leeds Pals Battalion

### Date TBA Lord Mayors of Leeds

There are at least 14 Lord Mayors buried at Lawnswood and AnnLightman will tell you all about them on this walk.

### Date TBA Medical Men

Lawnswood has a number of doctors commemorated in its grounds, some of whom are internationally reknowned. Kate Vernon will lead this walk to tell you more.

### Date TBA Leeds – City of a Thousand Trades

Victorian Leeds was known as the City of a Thousand Trades and most of those trades are represented at Lawnswood. Andrea Hetherington will explain more on this walk.

All walks need to be booked via e mail or phone so we know how many are coming.

## Subscriptions

Membership of the Friends is £5 per year for individuals. Membership entitles you to two newsletters a year, an invite to the AGM and any other events we run, and free places on any of our walks. Please make any cheques payable to “Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery” at the address below. Subscriptions are due on 30th September each year.

## Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery Committee

Andrea Hetherington – Chair  
Ann Lightman – Secretary  
Mike Simpson – Treasurer  
Janice Simpson – Vice Chair  
Committee Members – Maria Kwater, Alan Mann, Stewart Shaw, Kate Vernon

## Contact us

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