



Newsletter no 16

Summer 2021

A member of

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

To enhance, promote and protect Lawnswood Cemetery, including its monuments, buildings, landscape and records.

Hello to all our supporters.

Here we are at summer 2021 and I sincerely hope that everyone is feeling more positive now that many restrictions are lifted, and most adults have either had or been offered their vaccination.

Our Action Days started again on 1st May and everyone is delighted to be back together and working hard once again in the cemetery. We feel that the Council has done a great job of keeping on top of the main gardening areas during the lockdowns, and Lawnswood is looking lovely (and note the new signage outside the main gates as well!) But being back with our volunteers means we can tackle more specific areas, as well as helping every month to keep litter at bay and the main areas by the chapels looking tidy for the people using them. We have worked on the roundabout in the 1910 area and cut back some out-of-control bushes which were threatening to take over some of the graves. In June we started on the vandalised area on the edge of the Victorian and 1910 areas, which already looks so much better. We hope to place our second information lectern there when funds allow. The area looks rather desolate and many of the grave inscriptions cannot be seen; our plan is to prepare a leaflet with the names of all the graves affected by that terrible act of vandalism, and to have the list available on our website.



Our main priority now is a new website which needs to be in place this summer. My special thanks to Paul and Steve for their invaluable help to get it completed. On the subject of websites, we are now registered as a 'Yorkshire Heritage Guardian' with the Yorkshire Society and can be found at the Yorkshire Society website.

The Council has also been working to improve the site which was damaged by the fallen tree in the Victorian section. It is currently still cordoned off but the main tree trunk has now been removed, and when the graves have been tested for safety, we may be able to go in and further tidy up that area as well, as we have done with the vandalised area. We are hopeful that we will eventually be able to improve the look of the site and are grateful to the council for what they are doing there, particularly during these difficult times. We know it will take time but are confident in the Council's determination to do what is feasible in the short term. It is an eyesore at the heart of the beautiful Victorian section, and again some grave inscriptions are now illegible.

My thanks as always to all our supporters. We remain grateful for every membership and every donation, and every volunteer who comes to help in any capacity. I am sorry to say that we have decided not to go ahead for the second year with our annual summer tea party to thank our members, given the uncertainties around the lifting of further restrictions. Let us hope for better times in 2022! Meanwhile take care, stay safe and enjoy the summer.

Janice Simpson Chair.

A word from our Action Day Co-ordinator

Because of Covid -19 we have only been able to have two Action Days since January. On May 1st we returned to Lawnswood to volunteer with safety measures in place. We worked in the 1910 area around the George Corson grave clearing dead leaves and cutting back shrubbery. We tidied the area around the roundabout edging the grass and spread wood chippings. We brought our own refreshments and observed social distancing. It was lovely to be back working and see everyone. We are incredibly lucky to have such dedicated volunteers who range in age from 5 to 80. Hopefully, we will now be able to meet up monthly and continue to carry out our plans for enhancing the cemetery.



June 2021 Action Day

The group of volunteers above worked incredibly hard on the "vandalised area."

Head gardener Chris had already cut back all the overgrown shrubbery so that we could make a start on the graves, and by the end of the session it was totally transformed.

Of course, it still contains smashed gravestones but now at least they look cared for. As always, a great days work, many thanks to everyone.

Sue Harris



Adel Meeting House

Adel Meeting House, where the Friends of Lawnswood hold their Member's Annual Tea Party and their AGM, in the nineteen fifties was home to a branch library. The entrance to the library was by the stone steps, which you pass on your way into the grounds.



The library was open in afternoons and evenings and I used to visit it after school to change my book. There was a notice to remind you to wipe your feet, and an inner door that opened into the library, which was the size of a modest hall.

There were bookshelves along the walls and island stacks for types of fiction such as 'Crime and Mystery', 'Romances', and 'Westerns,' etc.

It was extremely quiet. People kept their voices down when they spoke to the librarian, who replied in a whisper.

The junior library was in an alcove behind the window that looks out on the plant bed. The bookshelves were set around the window and nearby walls and gave the sense of a world of its own.

I would look for a Biggles book by Capt. W. E. Johns. Biggles and his friends were RAF pilots, who, after the war, became 'air detectives.' They had adventures in faraway places that I hadn't heard of before. I would ask permission of the librarian to look them up in the atlas. Thanks to Biggles, I learned where the Gobi Desert is to be found, and likewise the Baltic Sea.

There were other famous books of the era such as the Famous Five and the Secret Seven, the Jennings stories which were set at Linbury Court Prep (quite unlike Ireland Wood Primary), and classic authors in junior editions such as Jules Verne and Robert Louis Stevenson. I struggled through *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Seas* after seeing the film, but there were many unfamiliar words. At night I listened for Blind Pew and his band of desperados, like young Jim Hawkins in *Treasure Island*.

If you wanted to borrow a book, you took it to the librarian who sat at the issue desk. Here your book was stamped with the date of return. The date stamp was an ingenious device which the librarian rotated to set the return date, e. g. FRI 09 APR (the nearest thing to it in today's world would be to set the date on your watch). The stamp was inked on a pad in a small tin (about the size throat pastilles came in).

Inside the book was a card to show that it was on loan. The librarian inserted this card into my reader's ticket. Ticket and card were then filed in a long wooden tray according to the date of return (I used to watch this process with a kind of awe).

There was a notice to remind you of fines that had to be paid if your book was overdue. I was glad to see that junior fines were half what grown-ups paid.

Beyond the issue desk was the adult library which, to a child of the time, was a mysterious place. There was a section marked 'Non-Fiction' that baffled me, but one day I discovered that it included things of interest to grown-ups such as home improvements, flower arranging, car repair manuals, and home doctor books.

There was a 'Recently Returned' shelf, and as the librarian filled it with books off a trolley, people gathered round with their eyes peeled for the latest James Bond. The Bond books were then new and not yet filmed. Once glimpsed, a Bond book gathered no dust.. Authors now forgotten such as Dennis Wheatley (*The Devil Rides Out*) and John Creasey (*The Toff* and *Inspector West*) were also very popular.

The library encouraged my love of reading and I looked forward to my weekly visits. My blue reader's ticket was a passport to the world of books. This must be the reason why the Meeting House library has left an abiding impression on me.

It seems to me that there was a shortage of library buildings after the war and that the Meeting House was a stopgap until around 1960, when the library moved to other premises. I looked on the Society of Friends website to check my recollections but found no mention of the library. Nevertheless, it was a good deed on the part of the Quakers for which I shall be always thankful.

Robert Hill (April 2021)



Dates for your Diary

Sunday 18th July 2021 2pm

A walk around Lawnswood's Victorian/early 20th century links to Leeds University will be led by Ann Lightman.

The walk will take approximately one hour and start outside the waiting room, next to the chapels.

There is a large car park opposite the gates and it is on a bus route.

Booking essential

The group size will be restricted to about a dozen. If oversubscribed another date/time will be offered.

Sunday 12th September 2021 2pm

Heritage weekend walk led by Caroline Vernon taking in some of the Medical Men in the cemetery.

The walk will take approximately 1-1½ hours and starts outside the chapels.

Booking essential

There is a large car park opposite the main gates and it is on a bus route.

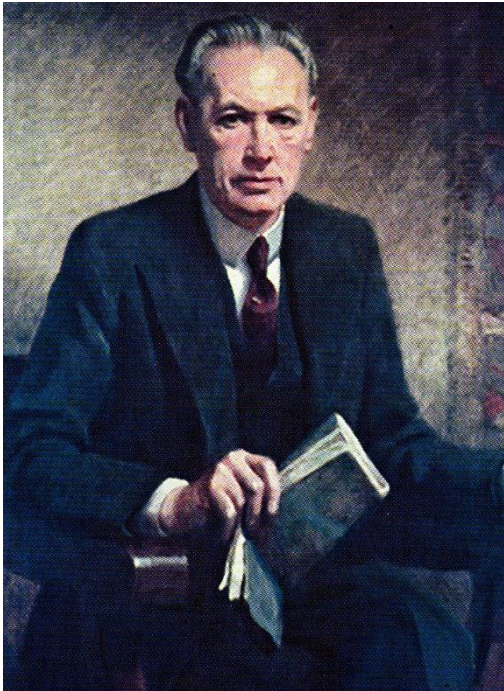
Members Tea Party

As this is an indoor event with not enough space for social distancing (being so well attended), sadly, we will not be holding it this year. Fingers crossed for next year!

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GRAVE SPOTLIGHT on Victor Hugo Watson (1878-1943)

Master printer – the man behind John Waddingtons of Leeds and London



One Friday evening in 1935, at home in Horsforth, Victor Watson suggested to his son Norman that he should try out a new board game from the USA called Monopoly. Norman played it all weekend, enthralled, and on Monday Victor made his first ever transatlantic phone call to acquire the UK rights for Waddingtons. He and his secretary taxied round London and spent hours in a Lyons tearoom at the Angel in Islington choosing London streets for the British version, finishing with the Angel itself. Monopoly was to become one of Britain's favourite board games, its place names and rules etched in family memories: 'Go to jail, go directly to jail, '...!

Victor Watson had joined John Waddington's printing business back in 1908. Founded in the 1890s by printer John Waddington, 'long John', tall and moustachioed, in partnership with the Grand Theatre's flamboyant actor/manager, Wilson Barrett, it specialised in theatrical work – posters, programmes, souvenir albums. But JW was no businessman and the firm was teetering on bankruptcy when Victor Watson joined it as a lithographic printer. Five years later JW retired (under a cloud) and Victor, energetic and ambitious, took over as manager and in 1916 managing director. During the years that followed he transformed it into one of the largest printing companies in the country.

Although born in London, in Brixton, Victor had grown up in Leeds. His father was a commercial traveller, originally from Yorkshire, and after several moves the family settled in Leeds when Victor was about seven. They lived in Little Woodhouse and its narrow streets were Victor's playground – he was a lively, sporty boy. There were eight children to feed so money was tight; Victor had to leave school at 13, starting work as a butcher's boy. But his father insisted he learn a trade and at 16 he was apprenticed to a local printer: printing remained his life's work.

In 1902 he married local girl Ethel Dawson and they moved to Belle Vue Place, where their first son Norman was born in 1903. Their next home was Ebor Place off Royal Park Road, living with in-laws, including Ethel's mother, who worked as a cleaner at the Town Hall. Taking lodgers helped to pay the bills. Victor's printing job was routine and he jumped at the suggestion he should apply to join John Waddington's – the move was to transform his life.

From 1916, under his management, Waddingtons thrived and expanded. A London branch was established in 1919, and in 1921 the firm became a limited company and acquired spacious new premises in Wakefield Road, Hunslet. Victor was dedicated to producing only top-quality work, teaming up with specialist artists and lithographers. The firm still kept its theatrical work, winning a lucrative long-term contract to supply the Moss theatre group, but they also became known for their fine advertising posters, particularly their splendid range of art posters for LNER, in the series *Beautiful Britain* and *It's Quicker by Train* – York, Bridlington; the Yorkshire Coast etc: iconic images now enjoying a revival.

In 1922 Victor saw a new opportunity. Playing cards had become popular during WW1, helping to pass time for men stuck in the trenches. There was only one major supplier. He found ways round the technical problems of sourcing the right materials, precise printing, cutting and edging, and introduced imaginative new designs and marketing methods. With advertising packs like *Beautiful Britain* Waddingtons cornered the market. All this helped the firm survive the

trauma of the 1926 General Strike, when Victor struggled to keep the factory open, and the subsequent depression. An innovative scheme with Wills for miniature playing cards in cigarette packs boosted sales. Card production continued even in WW2, at Churchill's express command.

Then there were the games: Lexicon in 1932, the hugely popular Monopoly and experiments with new ideas for board games. Victor, working now with his son Norman, led the firm into other new areas of production too: packaging, jigsaws, maps, and during WW2 specialist government work, including the secure printing of bank notes. It was in 1943, in the midst of war, that Victor died aged 65, still managing director of the huge Waddington enterprise.

His memorial at Lawnswood celebrates his passion for printing and his love of music – there were regular musical evenings at his home at Clare House, Scotland Lane, Horsforth, where he and Ethel had moved around 1930. Sport was his other love: cricket at Headingley and golf at Horsforth and Sandmoor. He enjoyed a comfortable life – a chauffeur, regular stays at the Waldorf in London – but was known for his care and concern for his employees. His energy, acumen and dedication made Waddingtons of Leeds a household name.

[Waddingtons closed in 1994 – see 'The Waddingtons Story' by Victor's grandson, another Victor Watson. The name still appears on packs of card, made now by a different company.]

Eveleigh Bradford



Memorial to Victor Hugo Watson

A Lockdown Poem

Whilst this world is full of care
I've found the time to sit in a chair,
To read in the morning,
To watch TV,
To ring a friend,
Just "to be".

I've learned to Facetime, WhatsApp and Zoom,
Sometimes I Hoover and dust a room,
No meetings, no rushing, no going away,
I lie in, be lazy,
What day is it today?

I pray for the bereaved,
I pray for the sick,
We'll get through this
But it won't be quick.

And when this virus war is over
And when we're all "unlocked"
Remind us Lord
To stop and stare,
To bring our needs to You in prayer,
To value family and friends, and share,
And know that You are always there,
To love, forgive, and guide and care.

Maureen Macrae - May 2020



JOHN EUSTACE BUCKLEY AND THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND



BUCKLEY, John Eustace, Ordinary Seaman, J 46859 was born in Leeds – 4th July 1893, living at 5, Dyer Street, Leeds (Mr & Mrs Bott).

His father Fred Buckley had served as Sergeant Major with the 18th Hussars. He then became the Superintendent of a Lodging House. By the time John joined the Royal Navy his father was deceased, and his mother Sarah Buckley was living at 112 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds.

When John Eustace Buckley joined the Royal Navy in November 1915, his first commission was aboard HMS Argonaut.



(HMS Argonaut)

On the 15th February 1916 he was transferred to HMS Ardent, on which he served as Ordinary Seaman (J46859)

The Battle of Jutland was seen as the Greatest Naval Battle of the First World War.

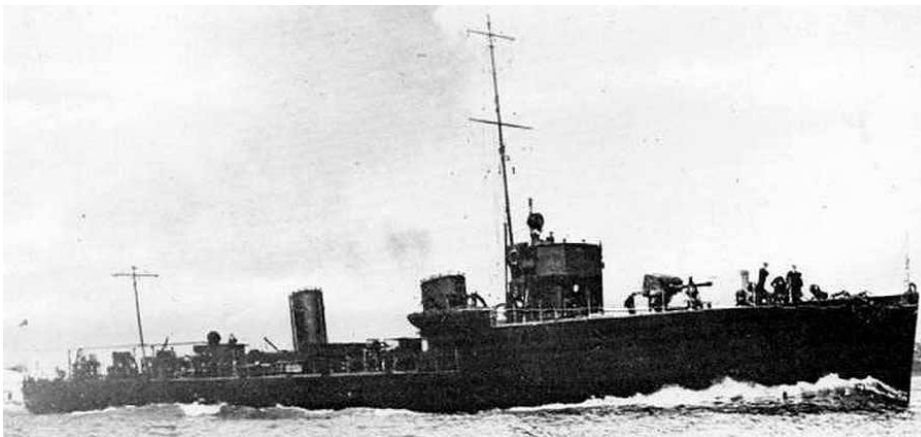


Just before four o'clock on the afternoon of May 31, 1916, a British naval force commanded by Vice Admiral David Beatty confronted a squadron of German ships, led by Admiral Franz von Hipper, some 75 miles off the Danish coast.

The two squadrons opened fire on each other simultaneously, beginning the opening phase of the greatest naval battle of the First World War.

The destroyer **HMS ARDENT** under the command of Lt.Cdr. A. Marsden, was a unit of the 4th Flotilla at Jutland on May 31st, 1916. The flotilla was badly mauled, losing one of its leaders and four of its destroyers. During the day, the ships managed to escape with the loss of one of their number, HMS Shark, but between 11 p.m. and 12 midnight the flotilla, proceeding in line ahead, ran into a squadron of German dreadnoughts and came under a devastating fire.

HMS Sparrowhawk was run down and sunk and HMS Fortune was blown to pieces by gunfire. The flotilla leader HMS Tipperary had been sunk just previously, and so great was the general damage to the flotilla that HMS Ardent was the only ship which could be said to be battle-worthy. At 12.19 a.m., when steaming alone, HMS Ardent saw the smoke caused by the blowing up of HMS Black Prince and, thinking it indicated the presence of the rest of the flotilla, made towards it. What she ran into was the German battle-squadron which had sunk HMS Black Prince and within a few seconds she was the centre of a blaze of searchlights and a target for every gun which the enemy could bring to bear. Nevertheless, she got off two torpedoes before she went down with all her crew, save Lt.Cdr. Marsden and one man.



HMS ARDENT

Many of the crew of HMS Ardent are buried in Kviberg Cemetery, Gothenburg, Sweden. Amongst them, John Eustace Buckley, his grave bearing the inscription –

“Thy Will Be Done”.

Alan Mann

