

Newsletter no 10

June 2018

a member of

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS



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



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION- June 2018

Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter! We have all been enjoying the recent lovely spring weather which has been great for our volunteers at the Action Days. The guided walk to mark National Cemeteries Week on 13th May also benefited from a glorious day and the cemetery was looking at its absolute 'blooming' best. Thank you, Caroline Vernon, for leading the walk, which was much appreciated by the people who attended.

Easter weekend brought the shock discovery of the terrible vandalism of the Books of Remembrance, when the April, May and June books were destroyed. No one can understand the motivation behind such a mindless, callous action. Everybody I spoke to was shocked and saddened by it.

So many people offered to help with the cost of restoration that we have set up a "justgiving" fundraising account. This currently stands at £1615 which includes the High Farm donation and represents 80% of our target. Many thanks for your generosity. The account will remain open until August.

My grateful thanks also go to the High Farm public house at Holt Park. They organised a family fun event on 7th May which some of the Committee went along to support and help with the fundraising. The overall amount raised through the events they organised is £615, which is just fantastic !....All donations will go towards the Council's costs of restoring the Books and digitising them for future protection.

There was also an anonymous gift of beautiful flowers left in the Waiting Room *"to comfort all those who have been hurt by the recent act of vandalism"*. Such acts of kindness and generosity help to restore our faith in human nature in the face of such mindless destruction. It is a positive reinforcement of the support of individuals and the local community.

On behalf of our Committee I would like to thank all our members and volunteers for your on-going support and generosity and hope you enjoy the coming summer months.

Should you wish to donate online, go to [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/folcremembrance](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/folcremembrance). If you wish to donate in other ways contact us by email at friendsoflawnwoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk and we will advise you how to do so.

Janice Simpson

Chair

Action Day Report

We have had another very successful year of Action Days led by ranger Pete Banks and head gardener Chris Raines. We have been delighted to welcome new volunteers and of course the group of stalwarts who religiously attend every month and enthusiastically involve themselves in any appointed tasks. We are also lucky to have two students who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The camaraderie is wonderful and not just at coffee time!

The chipper has been used extensively during the winter months when trees and bushes have been removed. Graves have been cleared and weeded leaving space for them to be covered in stone chips. Paths have been edged and benches preserved.

Since the callous vandalism at Easter of The Books of Remembrance, the area behind the chapel has been opened up to make it less secluded.....

We meet on the first Saturday of every month at 10am in the car park opposite the main gate. If you would like to join our group and make a difference to the cemetery or perhaps just give it a try, please email us at friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk

Sue Harris



Sir William Richard Gowers (1845-1915)

By Christopher J. Boes, M.D., Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

Grave Spotlight

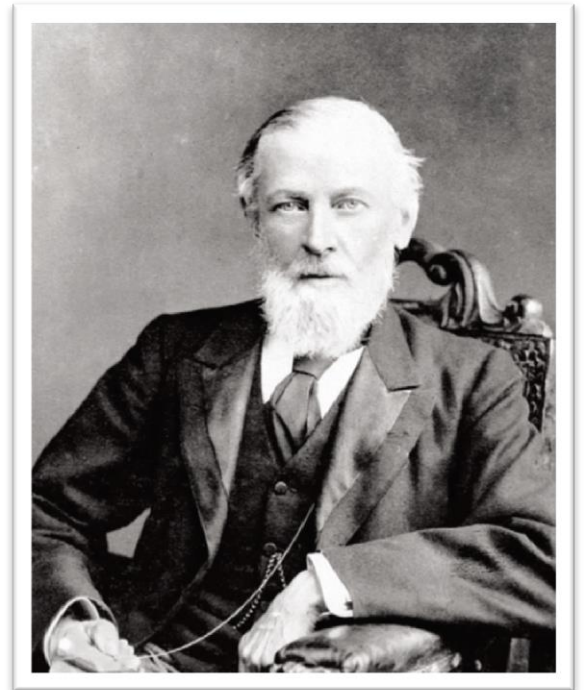
William Richard Gowers was born in Hackney, London on March 20, 1845. His father (a ladies' boot-maker) died in 1856, and young William was raised by his mother Ann (Venable) Gowers. William would later state that "not one of my ancestors or collaterals has been or is in any degree noteworthy . . . On both sides I come from the lower middle classes in which all other members of the family have consistently and wisely remained."

From age 11-15, he was a day scholar at Christ Church College in Oxford. Gowers was apprenticed to a country practitioner for two years starting at age 16, and began his formal medical training at University College Hospital in 1863. He was raised a strict Congregationalist, which was one of the reasons he went to University College London/University College Hospital. His teachers included William Jenner, John Russell Reynolds, and Charlton Bastian.

Gowers did well in medical school and his first post-graduate position was as house physician to Sir William Jenner, who at the time was President of the Royal College of Physicians and physician to Queen Victoria. William served as Jenner's secretary-assistant and received the post partly because of his shorthand ability. He qualified M.R.C.S. in 1867, took his M.B. degree in 1869 and his M.D. in 1870. He became the first medical registrar at the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic (the National Hospital) at Queen Square, London in 1870 and was appointed to its active staff in 1872.

William married Mary Baines in 1875. Mary's father Frederick was a partner in the *Leeds Mercury* Newspaper and the Baines family were well-known Nonconformist liberals. The couple had four children. Their son Ernest had a long career in the British civil service and wrote the book *Plain Words*. Son William Frederick was a British colonial administrator who was Governor of Uganda. Daughters Edith and Evelyn developed a genetic eye disease (retinitis pigmentosa) as young adults which left them almost totally blind.

Gowers published several important books on neurology, including *Manual and Atlas of Medical Ophthalmoscopy* (1879), *Pseudohypertrophic Muscular Paralysis* (1879), *The Diagnosis of Diseases of the Spinal Cord* (1880), and *Epilepsy and Other Chronic Convulsive Disorders* (1881). In his book on pseudohypertrophic muscular paralysis (now called Duchenne muscular dystrophy), he described and illustrated the peculiar way that patients with muscular dystrophy rise from the floor, which was later termed "Gowers' sign." In his book on the spinal cord, he illustrated for the first time the anterior spinocerebellar tract in the spinal cord, which others called "Gowers' tract." The second edition of his book on the spinal cord introduced the term "knee-jerk." Gowers published volume one of *A Manual of Diseases of the Nervous System* in 1886, followed by volume two in 1888. This book was referred to as the "Bible of neurology." It was a personal compilation of his experience with neurological disorders. Gowers' mastery of shorthand allowed him to keep detailed notes on patients, and the book benefitted greatly from this. The text was illustrated with Gowers' own drawings (Gowers was a talented artist, and his work hung in the Royal Academy in 1897). William Osler wrote a book review of the *Manual*, and commented that "as a text book on the subject [it] stands unrivalled in any language." Osler would later state that Gowers was "the most brilliant British exponent of the complex science of neurology." Macdonald Critchley noted that "anyone who thinks he has stumbled upon something new or obscure should not neglect to search the *Manual* before claiming originality." Gowers was a master clinician. Based on Gowers' diagnosis, Victor Horsley was the first to surgically remove a spinal cord tumor in 1887.



William Gowers was knighted in 1897 and resigned from the active staff of the National Hospital in 1910 because of ill health. In 1913, William and his wife Mary developed pneumonia, and she died on January 18, 1913. Sir William Richard Gowers died on May 4, 1915 and the causes of death were listed as “arteriosclerosis” and “coma.” His funeral was May 6, 1915 at St. Peter’s Church on Vere Street in London and his body was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium on the same day. Ernest Gowers collected the ashes on September 4, 1915 for burial in Yorkshire. William Richard Gowers, his wife, and several other Baines family members were buried in a double vaulted grave owned by Frederick Baines and Sarah Edith Baines (a sister of Mary Gowers) in the consecrated Victorian section of Lawnswood Cemetery in Leeds.

Sir William Gowers, arguably the greatest clinical neurologist of all time, rests permanently under a beautiful cross at Lawnswood.



* Our last Newsletter highlighted Christopher J. Boes’ search for the grave of Sir William Richard Gowers. We thank him for kindly agreeing to write our ‘Grave Spotlight’ biography of a great neurologist.

Kate Vernon

Remembrance

**How have we chosen to remember
those close to us in the past?
Abbey House Museum, Leeds**



How important are objects, places and actions in helping us tell personal stories today about those we have lost?

This new display, co-curated with Abbey House Museum and the University of Leeds, reflects on how commemoration has changed since the Victorian era and features contributions from people in contemporary Leeds.



Events

All take place at Abbey House Museum except where specified. Some events are bookable and carry a charge.

Thursday 14 June, 11.00-15.00

Study Day, Death and Remembrance,
with Dr Patrick Bourne and Dr Jessica Hammett,
£10, book in advance

Tuesday 17 July, 14.45-16.15:

Dr David Selway,
Death Underground: Memories of Mining Accidents
£5, book in advance

Saturday 28 July, 12.30-14.30:

Children's Event,
Making a Time Capsule

Friday 24 August, 11.00-12.00:

Death Café at Kirkstall Abbey Visitor Centre,
Colonel North Room

Saturday 15 September, 13.30-15.30:

Family Workshop:
The Gypsies Under The Bed
with Amanda Reed
Free, book in advance

Tuesday 18 September, 14.45-16.15:

Dr Katie McClymont,
**Deathscapes and Diversity:
Planning for Death and Remembrance in
Multicultural England and Wales**
£5, book in advance

Tuesday 16 October, 11.00-12.00:

Death Café in the Gate House Café,
Abbey House Museum

Thursday 15 November, 14.45-16.15:

Lucy Moore,
**Memorials and Memories: Different Ways of
Remembering the First World War**
£5, book in advance

Saturday 1 December, 14.00-15.30:

Professor Matt Cook,
**Archives of Feeling: AIDS in the UK c.1987.
Event for World AIDS Day,**
Kirkstall Abbey Visitor Centre
Free, book in advance

For more details on the events see our
website: [https://livingwithdying.leeds.ac.uk/
remembrance-exhibition/](https://livingwithdying.leeds.ac.uk/remembrance-exhibition/)

You can also contact Patrick Bourne on

0113 3784079 or Patrick.Bourne@leeds.gov.uk.

What is a death café?

At death cafés friends and strangers meet to discuss death over tea and cake. There is no agenda, objectives or themes, other than to increase awareness and openness about death.

It is a discussion group and not a grief support or counselling session. The intention is not to reach a conclusion or a plan a course of action. We aim to create a comfortable, respectful, and confidential space.

You can find out more at www.deathcafe.com.

Recycling comes in many forms...

Jane Robinson | Manager, Leeds Bereavement Forum

Most people don't spend a lot of time thinking about what happens when they die. What is definitely not discussed is what happens to the metal in people's bodies when they are cremated? The titanium knee replacements, prosthetic hip joints and gold fillings – where do they all go?



OrthoMetals, a company based in the Netherlands has the answer. Founded in 1997 they started a business to recycle all the remaining metals after a cremation – they now operate in over 700 crematoria worldwide.¹ OrthoMetals give each crematorium free wheelie bins or boxes to store the metals which are retrieved following a cremation. OrthoMetals then collect these boxes and take the metals away to recycle. According to their website: 'Our recycling solution is completely free of charge for all crematoria that want to participate.' It is important to point out that the recycling of metals resulting from cremation is only carried out with the written consent of each bereaved family – this information is normally passed on through the family's funeral director.

Now OrthoMetals is not a charity, they are a business with an annual turnover of four million euros per year.² According to their website after deduction of their costs, most of the proceeds from the recycling are returned to the crematoria. They encourage crematoria to support charity with the money they receive from recycling metals remaining after cremation.

The History of ICCM and OrthoMetals

In 2005-6, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) embarked on the first national recycling of metals scheme with OrthoMetals and the first collection yielded a return of £14,993. This was presented in early 2007, to five different charities after ten nominations were received from scheme members. The scheme was launched and money from recycled metal, which couldn't be disposed of in another effective, clean or friendly way, had been awarded – effectively money from waste. The need for a national charity to be nominated was relaxed in 2011 and this resulted in a massive increase in nominations.³ The ICCM announced, in September 2015, that the Recycling of Metals scheme in partnership with OrthoMetals, had now donated in excess of £2m to bereavement charities in the United Kingdom.⁴

What happens in Leeds?

Last year, in 2017 for the first time in Leeds, a group of bereavement charities – Leeds Citywide Bereavement Services Forum, chaired by Leeds Bereavement Forum worked together to nominate a charity who worked in bereavement to be the nominee for receipt of the OrthoMetals fund in Leeds. The group of charities nominated Carers Leeds who were successful in their application and last May a cheque for £5,000 was presented to Carers Leeds on behalf of Leeds Crematoria at Lawnswood, Rawdon and Cottingley.

Val Hewison, Chief Executive of Carers Leeds said: "We are thrilled to be receiving this cheque which will help us support the small service we run for carers who have been actively caring for a person who has died. Carers become very socially isolated when they are providing around the clock care for a loved one who is nearing the end of life. When the cared for person dies, the carer has limited social networks, has often lost touch with friends and family

¹ <https://orthometals.com/about-orthometals/>

² <https://www.rnw.org/archive/new-life-artificial-body-parts-after-cremation>

³ <https://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/library/Press%20Release.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/library/Example%20Press%20Release%20after%20donation%20to%20a%20charity.pdf>



Pictured above - Chris Simpson, Bereavement Services Manager;
Val Hewison, Chief Executive Carers Leeds and Cllr Lucinda Yeadon

and there is great potential for the development of complex and entrenched grief issues leading to depression and physical health problems associated with social isolation.”⁵

This year initial funding from the OrthoMetals/ICCM fund was directed to the Leeds Lord Mayor’s Charity, Candlelighters, who support families facing children’s cancer in Yorkshire. However, in May this year Leeds Citywide Bereavement Services Forum were approached again by Leeds Crematoria and asked to nominate another charity – this year as a group we nominated the Leeds branch of Cruse Bereavement Care and we should know shortly if they have been successful in their nomination. Fingers very crossed.

So now you know what happens to all those replacement knee and hip joints!

About Jane Robinson, Manager of Leeds Bereavement Forum. Jane has worked for over twenty years in the voluntary sector in Leeds for both local and national charities with a background in voluntary sector communications and campaigning. Leeds Bereavement Forum is a small charity which works to develop and improve bereavement services in the city. They signpost individuals to the most appropriate bereavement service either locally or nationally, provide training, information, events and conferences to people who work in the area of bereavement to support their professional development and work in partnership with organisations across the city to improve the provision of bereavement services. The Forum also campaign to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement and to make plans for the end of life, work in partnership with Dying Matters nationally and locally.

For more information, visit <http://lbforum.org.uk/>

¹ <https://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/library/CARERSLeedsCityCouncilMay2017.pdf>

Christ in Flanders

During the commemoration of World War One, we have decided to highlight this poem which appeared in "The Spectator" on 11 September 1915 with initials only. It achieved great fame at the time with 50,000 copies being printed in leaflet form and it was quoted in sermons by the Bishop of London, the Archbishop of York and no doubt by many others.

We had forgotten You, or very nearly —
You did not seem to touch us very nearly—
Of course we thought about You now and then;
Especially in any time of trouble —
We knew that You were good in time of trouble—
But we are very ordinary men.

And there were always other things to think of —
There's lots of things a man has got to think of—
His work, his home, his pleasure, and his wife ;
And so we only thought of You on Sunday —
Sometimes, perhaps, not even on a Sunday —
Because there's always lots to fill one's life.

And, all the while, in street or lane or byway —
In country lane, in city street, or byway —
You walked among us, and we did not see.
Your feet were bleeding as You walked our pavements —
How *did* we miss Your footprints on our pavements? —
Can there be other folk as blind as we?

Now we remember; over here in Flanders —
(It isn't strange to think of You in Flanders) —
This hideous warfare seems to make things clear.
We never thought about You much in England —
But now that we are far away from England,
We have no doubts, we know that You are here.

You helped us pass the jest along the trenches —
Where, in cold blood, we waited in the trenches —
You touched its ribaldry and made it fine.
You stood beside us in our pain and weakness —
We're glad to think You understand our weakness —
Somehow it seems to help us not to whine.

We think about You kneeling in the Garden —
Ah! God! the agony of that dread Garden —
We know You prayed for us upon the cross.
If anything could make us glad to bear it —
'Twould be the knowledge that You willed to bear it —
Pain — death — the uttermost of human loss.

Though we forgot You — You will not forget us —
We feel so sure that You will not forget us —
But stay with us until this dream is past.
And so we ask for courage, strength, and pardon —
Especially, I think, we ask for pardon —
And that You'll stand beside us to the last.

The author of this poem, Lucy Whitmell (1869 – 1917) is buried in Lawnswood Cemetery...facing the damaged section. Lucy's monument identifies her as daughter of Sir William Foster and wife of Charles T. Whitmell (B.Sc., M.A.) a school inspector and the burial records identify their home as Invermay, Hyde Park, Leeds. Oddly neither deaths (he died in 1919) are recorded in local papers, but the Spectator carries a tribute to Lucy.

Lucy's paternal grandfather another William, a Norwich solicitor and prominent local politician, was awarded the baronetcy in 1838. It is now extinct having died out in 1960. His son, Lucy's father, had been in the military in India at the time of his first marriage and both his wives were of military families. After Sir William retired from the military he set up home at Hardingham Grove in the village of that name, in Norfolk....an impressive, if rented (not unusual at the time) home and became a farmer of a moderate sized acreage (154) on which six men and a boy worked. He was also a director of the Norwich Union insurance company, a J.P and a Deputy Lieutenant for Norfolk.

Lucy was the eighth of nine children, the product of his second marriage. One of her two brothers entered the Army and, like his father, married a daughter of a military family. I feel her poem, as far as we are aware her only published work, shows an awareness of and sympathy with military life. We know about her thanks to her monument which has, tucked away on the side, "Author of Christ in Flanders".

Ann Lightman



AGM 12th April 2018

Our AGM took place on the 12th April, and many thanks to those who attended for your support. It is always good to see members there to make their views known. The minutes of the last AGM were agreed, the accounts accepted, as was the annual report.

Professor Mark Seaward was elected as the independent Examiner for the forthcoming year, and the Committee was elected. At the first meeting of the Committee the following positions were agreed: -

Chair – Janice Simpson
Secretary – Gladys Strawbridge
Treasurer- Gladys Strawbridge

Membership Secretary – Kate Vernon
Volunteer co-ordinator- Sue Harris
Social Media – Alan Mann
Committee member – Steve Miller

Many thanks to everyone for agreeing to continue to serve on the committee for another year. We could not continue without your invaluable support.

There was a lively and informative discussion about the state of the Ethel Preston monument and whether or not it should be cleaned again. There were mixed views, with some feeling that it should be left to weather naturally in keeping with the cemetery; there was also a view that it should not be left to look neglected. Professor Seaward offered to visit the monument and give his professional view about its condition and report back to the committee.

We are still looking for a Treasurer as Gladys is currently fulfilling both roles of Treasurer and Secretary. If you might be interested, or know of someone who might be willing to take on the role, please email us at friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk or ring Janice on 07971 396931

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

June 30th Saturday 2pm- Visit to Leeds General Cemetery, organised by Bev.

This is fully booked and Bev will shortly be in touch with those of you who are attending.

July 7th Saturday 10 a.m. Action Day

August 4th Saturday - Family Action Day

August 18th Saturday - Members only Summer Tea Party.. details TBA

September 1st Saturday 10a.m. Action Day

September 9th Sunday 2p.m. Heritage Open Weekend, Walk - The Angels at Lawnswood, led by Caroline Vernon.

September 16th Sunday 2p.m. Weetwood Hall - The Women at Lawnswood Cemetery – Talk by Ann Lightman

October 6th Saturday 10a.m. Action Day

November 3rd Saturday 10a.m. Action Day

December 1st Saturday 10a.m. Action Day

Membership

At the close of our financial year (31st Dec) Membership stood at 101. It is now 99.

Thanks to all who have renewed, and a big welcome to the new members who have joined us for the first time. Your support keeps us going. Thank you.

Please don't forget to visit our web site <http://lawnswoodcemetery.org.uk> and our Facebook page.

If you would like to contact us with any queries or suggestions please email
friendsoflawnswoodcemetery@yahoo.co.uk

