

Wishing All Our Members a Very Happy Christmas



Newsletter no 7

December 2016

FRIENDS OF
LAWNSWOOD CEMETERY

a member of

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

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

Message from the Committee

There have been some committee changes. Mary Mills has moved to Essex and Janice has taken over her role as Treasurer. We are also delighted to welcome Sue Harris to our number – she has long been one of the “bench team” on our Action Days and is responsible for the lovely home-made cakes we enjoy in the break!

Those of you who attended our Annual Summer Tea Party met our committee informally – we all enjoyed a very pleasant, social afternoon which also enabled us to learn more about our cemetery. Dr Patrick Bourne, Assistant Social History Curator, Leeds City Museums, gave an interesting and enjoyable talk featuring some of the many eminent “residents” of our cemetery under his heading “Monuments and Museums: preserving our past”.



Patrick Bourne delivering his talk.



Gladys, Sue and Janice preparing for the tea party.

As this newsletter is produced shortly after our 5th birthday on 4th October it seems a good time to reflect on our objectives which are given above. Several **enhancements** to the cemetery are reported elsewhere in this newsletter...a magnificent bench, a “Leeds Pals” interpretation board and the work of our stalwart Action Day team. Do use your connections to organisations to suggest the cemetery as a venue for a team-building day out. Barclays Bank PLC sent a team who worked on the paths - a day can make such a difference! We will of course continue to keep open the lines of communication with the Bereavement Service Team for the benefit of the cemetery.

We have been busy **promoting** the cemetery and the Friends – our Facebook page is constantly updated and our new website (lawnswoodcemetery.org.uk) is work in progress. We have a new recruitment leaflet and continue to make sure our walks leaflets and WW1 book are available locally. The Memorial building at the cemetery houses our noticeboard and a stock of leaflets. Ann has led history walks - an open one for Heritage Weekend/National Cemeteries Week. The Leeds Civic Trust had a walk, a write-up appeared in their newsletter and we have become one of their affiliated societies. An industrial walk was requested by the Industrial History section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Trust which added to our knowledge. Other local groups and individuals have been taken around. A new departure – a ‘fungus foray’ this October was a wonderful addition to the range of walks offered...we very

much hope this is repeated next year! A bird-song walk is arranged for next spring and a medical walk is promised. Now that autumn/winter is here, talks are replacing walks.

On the subject of **protection** we are much less active – it is the Bereavement Services of Leeds City Council who have introduced CCTV in the cemetery, ensure the gates are locked, though their installation of bollards to deter cars from areas not designed for them (and where they cause damage to grave kerbs) was requested by the Friends. However, just by existing, we realise that we are helping to protect the stories, artefacts etc. connected to the cemetery. We have been given two promotional booklets produced by the cemetery in 1950 & 1960 – thanks to Edith Cheeseborough and Michael Meadowcroft. A set of professional photographs of the Columbarium taken in the mid-1940s was donated by Judy Brantner. In addition we have access to photographs of the cemetery held by the Leeds Museum (and hopefully destined to appear on the Leodis website). We are also the recipients of information on people buried in the cemetery, some from their descendants – some notable ones appearing in our Grave Spotlight feature.

We would like to thank all our 95 members for your continued support.

Committee:

Ann Lightman (Chair)

Gladys Strawbridge (Secretary)

Janice Simpson (Treasurer)

Kate Vernon (Membership etc.)

Bev. Forrest (Visits)

Sue Harris (Action Day Co-ordinator)

Steve Miller (Website)



The garden plant quiz went down very well at the tea party!

Remembering the Battle of the Somme (1 July – 18 Nov 1914)



Our main commemoration took the form of a display of Somme victims either buried or remembered in family graves in the cemetery. First seen at our E.G.M in April, revised for the Local History Fayre at the City Museum in May, displayed in the cemetery waiting room from mid-June to early July, and then in the Local and Family History Section of the Leeds City Library until the end of August.

The display was shaped by information from several sources, one being “Lawnswood’s Great War Stories” by Andrea Hetherington which is still available. (Contact us if you would like a copy!) Another was the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s “Living Memory” project

package, receipt of which coincided with our visit to the War Graves within Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate.

Finally acknowledgement must be made of the Yorkshire indexers site, Kate Vernon's photo collection and the Local and Family history section of Leeds City Library.

As a result of this and associated activities, our group has been named as a CWGC Ambassador. The “Living Memory” project was run by the CWGC to raise awareness of their care for graves in this country. They want to encourage people to commemorate the victims of war buried here just as those who died in battle are commemorated abroad. We sent a little background material on those buried in Lawnswood as a result of the Somme offensive to CWGC for their project of choosing 141 names (one per day) to represent those buried in Britain and two from Lawnswood, Sgt Albert Guttridge, West Yorkshire Regiment, Prince of Wales Own, 15th Battalion (the Leeds Pals) and Private Horace Sago of the Australian infantry were chosen.

One disappointingly unsuccessful venture was that all local schools were contacted via our local Councillors Anderson and Bentley to offer staff a copy of Lawnswood’s Great War Stores and an introductory tour of the cemetery – only one school expressed an interest! However, Horsforth School –which was outside our target area, did much to remember The Leeds Pals. The story of Horace Iles, an under-age recruit and the youngest to die at the Somme, was the subject of a play –‘The Pals’ written by teacher and FoLC member James Bovington and performed by Year 10 boys. They also put on an evening of Remembrance.

We really would like to build awareness amongst schools of the historical resources of our cemetery ...not just for war graves, but for Leeds and indeed history in general.

We also brought Lucy Whitmell to the attention of the Local and Family History section of the City Library who held a WW1 poetry event. Lucy, who wrote “Christ in Flanders” which was extremely popular, is buried in Lawnswood.

As a result of the work done we received some rather special invitations – to a Civic Reception and the “Lest we forget” concert at the Town Hall, to the opening of the “In Their Footsteps” exhibition at the City Museum and to a celebratory party at the end of the Nidderdale AONB project at the Discovery Centre. See page 10.

Ann Lightman

The committee would like to thank Ann Lightman for all the hard work she has put into the many guided walks, talks and presentations she has undertaken this year.

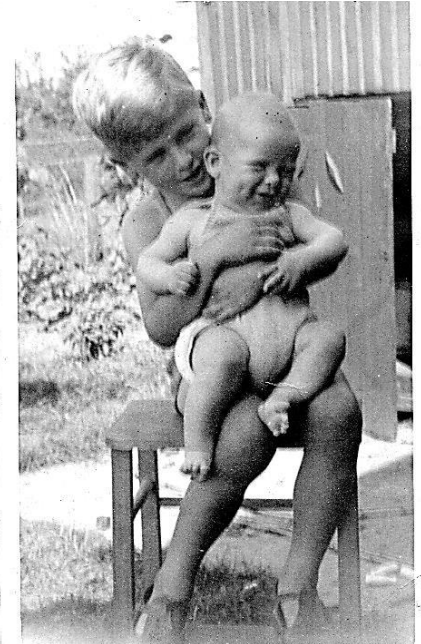
Memorial to Hugh Sibbring at Lawnswood Columbarium



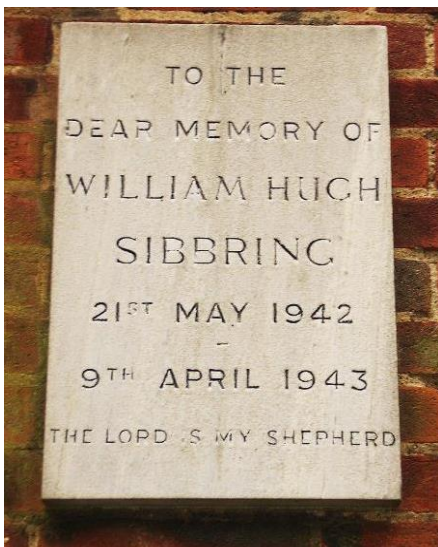
In 1942 my father was called up for war service with the army and it was decided that my mother and I and my infant brother (William) Hugh should move away from London for safety and go and live with my grandparents on my mother's side. They were William and Meg Lockwood of Dover House, Holmfirth. Dover House was large, cold and draughty, and living there was not made easier by the rather choleric nature of my grandfather – recently retired from India and used to a retinue of servants who were conspicuously absent in Holmfirth! I started school in the town; not a very happy experience as I stood out like a sore thumb being the only 'southerner' there as far as I remember. Things went from bad to worse in 1943. It was a low point in the war, rationing was severe, news of my father was very limited, and to cap it all I went down with whooping cough as, a little later, did my infant brother. I recovered. Sadly Hugh did not and died in April 1943 aged only 11 months.

The effect of his death on my mother was severe. Although my father had been granted compassionate leave and was able to return for two weeks to support her, she was inconsolable and became ever more depressed as the day of Hugh's funeral and cremation at Lawnswood drew nearer. Sadness and gloom permeated Dover House in that period and, although it is now 73 years ago, I remember to this day the awfulness of our journey from Holmfirth to Lawnswood and the despair of the service as we said goodbye to Hugh. My mother was so upset by Hugh's death that she felt she could no longer live with her parents and we began a difficult and unsettling period as she and I became peripatetic living in rented accommodation in Menston and then Otley before moving back down South in 1944. I ended up attending seven different schools between the ages of 5 and 18.

Soon after the war ended my Lockwood grandparents died and Dover House was sold, so I no longer had a base in Holmfirth. Fortunately an aunt lived in Idle near Bradford and as soon as I was old enough I used to travel up from London to spend a few days with her. On each occasion I made a point of travelling to Lawnswood to pay my respects to my late brother and I got to know the cemetery and the columbarium quite well. Although my Bradford aunt died many years ago, my visits to Leeds have continued every few years throughout my life. Before retirement this was aided by being employed by the Ministry of Defence for 34 years. Work-related trips to York (Army) and Harrogate (RAF) allowed visits to Lawnswood with ease, and after retirement rail travel from London to Leeds in a little over two hours has made a day visit from Hampshire to Lawnswood possible.



The author (now 80) with his infant brother in 1942



However, it is those early visits that I remember best in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Leeds imposing Victorian buildings a uniform soot-black, trams in City Square where I boarded for the Lawnswood terminus and dark blue Samuel Ledgard buses on the Otley route.

I no longer have any Yorkshire relations and although I have a son, Hugh, and a daughter, Ruth, both married and with children of their own, it is likely that on my death any visits to Lawnswood will cease. I am therefore particularly glad to have discovered the Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery and to know that there is a group of people committed to safeguarding the best interests of a place which has touched so many. I am one of those whom Lawnswood has touched.

Ralph Sibbring

GRAVE SPOTLIGHT: Thomas Scattergood.

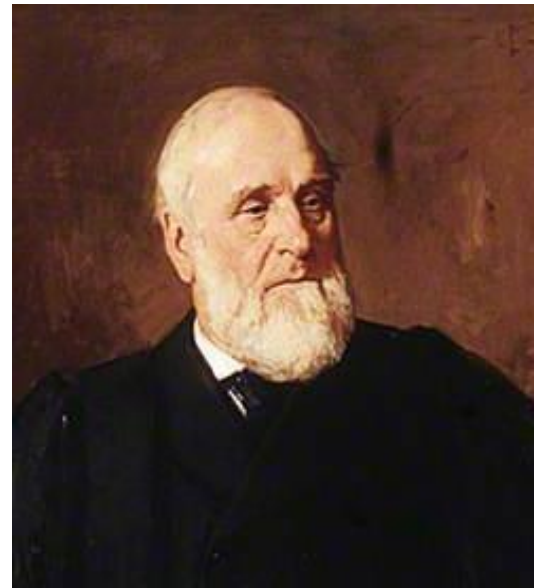
**“Mary Ann Cotton, gone but not forgotten
She’s lying in her coffin with her eyes wide open”**

ITV’s latest miniseries “Dark Angel” has thrown the spotlight on one of the most infamous murderers of the 19th Century, Mary Ann Cotton. Cotton’s story is less well known outside of the North East of England where the above rhyme was familiar in the playgrounds of my childhood, but the case has a Lawnswood connection in the form of Thomas Scattergood, one of the most important figures in the development of forensic science in 19th Century England.

Scattergood’s grave can be found in the Victorian section at Lawnswood. During his career he was a surgeon, lecturer, toxicologist and an expert in obstetric medicine. He was also the first Dean of Medicine at the Yorkshire College, now known as Leeds University. Born in Huddersfield in 1826, the son of a vicar, at the age of 20 he joined the Leeds General Infirmary as an assistant apothecary. After five years in the service of the hospital he qualified as a surgeon and started lecturing at the Leeds School of Medicine.

His national fame came from his expertise in toxicology – a fledgling science but one which became very important in a number of high profile murder trials. He kept a notebook of medicolegal cases for 50 years which is still held at the University of Leeds. The notebook was one of the first exhibits in the recent opening of the Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery and is a fascinating read. Scattergood obviously liked a bit of publicity and kept newspaper cuttings from cases in which he was involved.

Scattergood was recognised as an expert in poisonings and people sent him samples from all over the North of England. His notebook details poisonings by opium, strychnine, arsenic, potassium and any number of dubious 19th century “preparations” with fantastic names like Dr Coffin’s Composition, Battle’s Vermin Powder etc. Poisons were incredibly easy to obtain in the 19th century and were also used in everyday household items like wallpaper, clothing, and paint as their dangers were little understood at the time.



Thomas Scattergood

Mary Ann Cotton was a woman with an unfortunate history of losing family members. Between 1865 and 1872, 21 people related to her died in suspicious circumstances. Her first husband died in 1865 and she was paid £35 by his insurance company, then a significant sum of money. A number of the couple’s children had already perished, but Mary Ann still had two daughters, until one died and she sent the other to live with her mother.

Securing a job at Sunderland Hospital, she married a patient who died the following year from a mystery illness. Moving onwards and upwards, Mary Ann took a job as a housekeeper with the Robinsons - a middle class family consisting of a widower with five children. In fairly short order, three out of the five children died. Pregnant with Mr Robinson’s child, Mary Ann married him. Another child was born who died very quickly and Mary Ann eventually left, taking her surviving son with her.

She moved to Northumberland and bigamously married a miner called Frederick Cotton, by whose surname she is remembered. Mary Ann met him because she was friendly with his sister, who died a short time into the relationship. The unsuspecting Mr Cotton had two sons and the couple then had a boy of their own. The family

moved to West Auckland in County Durham where in just over a year Mary Ann allegedly killed another five people – Frederick, the three sons and a lover called Joseph Nattrass.

Her murderous career was brought to a halt in 1872 when a Poor Law official found her description of her stepson Charles Cotton to be a bit worrying. Though the boy seemed perfectly healthy, Mary Ann referred to the seven year old as “sickly” and when he died six days later, the official raised the alarm. The insurance company this time refused to pay out and an inquest was held. As there was no evidence of wrongdoing the jury returned a verdict of death by natural causes. Four days after the inquest, the doctor tested the remains of Charles Cotton and to his horror found traces of arsenic.

Four of the five bodies from West Auckland were exhumed and parts sent to Thomas Scattergood. He examined remains belonging to Charles Cotton, Joseph Nattrass (whose remains arrived in a hamper!), and the other two Cotton boys, finding arsenic in them all. He counted 17 grains of arsenic in Joseph Nattrass – an astonishing amount which either suggests he had superhuman strength, or that he was taking arsenic voluntarily, as it was sometimes used as an aphrodisiac by Victorian men.

In 1873, Mary Ann stood trial for the murder of Charles Cotton. The Judge decided that one murder was enough, as if convicted of that one she could only be hanged once! Her defence was that the arsenic could have been accidentally ingested by young Charles from the wallpaper rather than by direct poisoning. Thomas Scattergood



disagreed, saying that this would not have explained the grains of arsenic in the boy’s stomach. With no defence toxicologist to contradict him, Mary Ann Cotton was convicted of murder and was hung at Durham Gaol, the first woman to face this fate there in 75 years.

Mary Ann Cotton’s motives appear to have been financial. Most of her victims had life insurance of which she was the beneficiary. The unusual frequency with which she was paid wasn’t detected due to the different surnames she used and the various locations in which she lived. The symptoms of arsenic poisoning were remarkably similar to those of cholera, of which there were a number of outbreaks during the 19th century. All manner of other fatal diseases abounded, especially in children. Deaths were often attributed to “typhoid fever” or “gastric fever” with doctors rarely seeing the victims until they were already dead.

The Mary Ann Cotton case keeps its notoriety because she was long believed to be Britain’s most prolific serial killer, though she has now been surpassed by a number of others, most notably Harold Shipman. However, Mary Ann was significant for another reason, as her case prompted the tightening up of the rules relating to the registration of births and deaths. In 1874 registration was made compulsory and deaths had to be registered within five days, accompanied by a doctor’s certificate.

Strangely, Thomas Scattergood did not keep any newspaper cuttings about his most famous case in his notebook. Despite the fact that the trial took place in County Durham, it was of national significance and papers across the country carried detailed accounts, so he would not have been short of sources. He did, however, write an article for the British Medical Journal on the appearance of the remains of two of the alleged victims.

Scattergood died in 1900 at his home in Park Square following a bout of influenza. None of his obituaries recalled his involvement in the Mary Ann Cotton case. Unfortunately he did not make an appearance in ITV’s version of the story.

Andrea Hetherington

Poet Simon Hunt



We are delighted that local writer Simon Hunt has written a poem about Lawnswood and feel that it captures the essence of the cemetery so well in its miniature stanzas.

When asked about the themes and meaning of the poem, Simon commented that he felt its denseness and brevity was appropriate for the solemnity of the cemetery, as well as the brief candle of each human life reflected within. He noted that he saw in the poem themes of nature and art, transience and permanence, wisdom and folly, and beauty in all its forms - from the magnificent bronze works, through nature's wealth, and to the simple, elegant tokens of loss and grief that visitors strew around the cemetery.

He has asked me to extend his thanks to Ann for accompanying him and providing such a vivid account of the graveyard's history, and to Kate for her enthusiasm and editorial support.

Simon has another poem which is exhibiting at the Leeds Industrial Museum from 8th December.

Any memories of York Gate?

My name is Juliet Parkinson and I am a volunteer for the charity Perennial which owns and runs York Gate Garden in Adel. We have recently started a project to compile an archive of the garden's history. We would like to contact anyone who has any memories of the garden and of the Spencer family (Sybil, Frederick and their son Robin) who designed and developed it. For further details please email us at yorkgateheritage@gmail.com or ring us on 0113 267 8240. We would love to hear from you.

If there is no answer, please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Lawnswood Elegies

I

Two wrens' eggs
In the wan clay,
Ethel's sightless eyes.

II

The tablet graves
Of Portland stone,
Warriors' plainsong.

III

Tinsel streamers
Deck the saplings,
Angel sash-cords.

IV

Cinerary urn
Draped in stone,
Obadiah's brevity.

V

Lichen blooms
Glow a phosphor hue,
Benches smile.

VI

The greening bronze
Torch aloft a skull,
Faith's agon mask.

VII

Card 'to mum'
In cellophane wrap,
Grief in aspic, leaking.

VIII

City magnates
Vie for glory bronze.
Worms plough the loam.

IX

Vast statuary looming -
And paper angels
Stapled to the bark.

X

The sculptor's stone
Exiled to an unmarked plot.
Soil rich, leaf sovereigns

Memories of Lawnswood

by Peter Bollard, former Deputy Superintendent at Lawnswood Cemetery



The Authority governing Lawnswood was 'The Headingly-cum-Burley Burial Board' which was founded in 1874 for the purpose of providing the area with burial facilities. The crematorium was installed in 1905.

I arrived at Lawnswood in November 1968 as Deputy to the Superintendent who at that time was Jean Mary Batley (later Ramsden) and hereafter referred to as JMB. The superintendent before her was Walter Pearson (he had a memorial tree along the path from the then office). He was a leading member of the cremation movement and worked with the North Eastern Gas Company in the development of cremation design, prototypes being used at Lawnswood. JMB was still Superintendent when I left in June 1971.

The office was situated on the left of the main entrance and had a total of seven staff, JMB, me, the secretary, the cashier and three clerks/telephone girls. We were always busy. The outside staff had a Head Gardener who reported during the day to the Superintendent to discuss the day's work - he had I think seven or eight gardeners. Three men worked in the two chapels (two in the crematorium and one in the chapels). The head attendant lived in the lodge which was situated at the side entrance on New Adel Lane and I lived in the lodge at the main entrance at 369 Otley Road. I looked after the keys for all the buildings. They were collected from me at 7.30 every morning by one of the outside staff. His name was Horace Tesseman. He was a lovely man and he became a favourite of my three year old daughter who called him "Mr. Tess".

The lodge where I lived with my family served as the meeting point for the Board. One of the rooms was the Board Room and we were expected to keep it clean and tidy even to the extent of polishing the large brass plate and handle on the entrance door! The Board met monthly and was chaired by a Mr. Darby and four or five Members. JMB and I were (of course) required to attend.

In my day there was a canteen in the grounds which was in the charge of a lady cook. Hot meals were provided but I am sorry to say, it did not last. The costs became too much so it was closed down and the cook dismissed.

As Lawnswood was self-supporting, money had to be found from wherever. Memorials of every kind were used, so a stone-mason was employed full-time. He had his workshop in the grounds and was kept quite busy. JMB always prepared an estimate to give to any Funeral Director conducting a burial in the cemetery to present to the bereaved family. If this was acceptable the work would be put in hand and the money paid into Lawnswood's coffers. It was part of my job to place orders for the many bronze plaques which used to be affixed along the pathways as near to the spot where the deceased's cremated remains were strewn. Between 1968 and 1971 the area of New Adel Lane Avenue was used most of the time (this was north of the then floral display area). This was the duty of the head crematorium technician

Money was always a problem for Lawnswood. The staff wages had to be paid out of the "takings". The cashier had to make up the pay-packets every Thursday. Sometimes in the summer months there would not be enough for everybody! JMB and I sometimes had to wait until there was enough to pay us (how things have changed!). JMB was not just the Superintendent she was a business manager trying to keep the ship afloat. Publicity was an important part of her thinking. She would send by post, a form certifying that the deceased had been cremated according to the Code of Cremation Practice. This code had no legality in the strictest meaning but regulated as to how Cremation Authorities behaved! It was supported by all local councils operating crematoria who were Members of the Federation of Cremation Authorities.

Along with this certificate would be an order form to request an entry of two or five lines in the Book of Remembrance. This would be permanent, not subject to a time limit. The entries were done by a firm of professional

calligraphers (there were only two firms at this time). It was an inexpensive form of memorial, needed no maintenance but brought in much needed cash. The only drawback was it was only on view on the anniversary of the date of death. Along with the above would be an invitation to attend the next Memorial Service which was held in the chapels. The walk-way between the burial and the cremation chapel would be enclosed with seats installed. The Service was conducted by invited clergymen and was always well attended. They were held at fortnightly intervals and JMB and I took it in turn to supervise the proceedings. It was great publicity.

At the time I was leaving to come to London, I heard that Leeds City Council was about to take over at Lawnswood and JMB put in charge of burial facilities in Leeds. I do not know whether this turned out to be the case.

Peter Bollard left Lawnswood in 1971 to become Superintendent of Enfield Cemeteries and Crematorium. He is now retired.

Memorial Seat to Mike Simpson

Mike Simpson was chair of the Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery when he died suddenly and unexpectedly in October last year. There is now a seat at the cemetery as a lasting memorial to him.

The Council's Bereavement Services have facilitated the placing of this beautiful seat to commemorate Mike and it is positioned between the chapels and the waiting room, a prime site in the cemetery where it will hopefully be well used by visitors.

As you sit on it and look down towards the main gates, you can consider how the cemetery has improved over the time the Friends have been active. The Council and the Friends have over the last five years worked hard together to bring about these significant improvements.



There is also a commemorative plate in Mike's memory on the new "Barbican Tower" near the flower display area. I greatly appreciate all the support I have received from Bereavement Services to ensure there are such beautiful tributes to Mike at Lawnswood.



I am very proud of what Mike and the Friends have achieved and also of this wonderful commemorative seat to keep his memory alive. It means so much to me. I hope that members will call by to see and use the seat when they visit Lawnswood.

Janice Simpson

Research on Leeds Pals Recognised



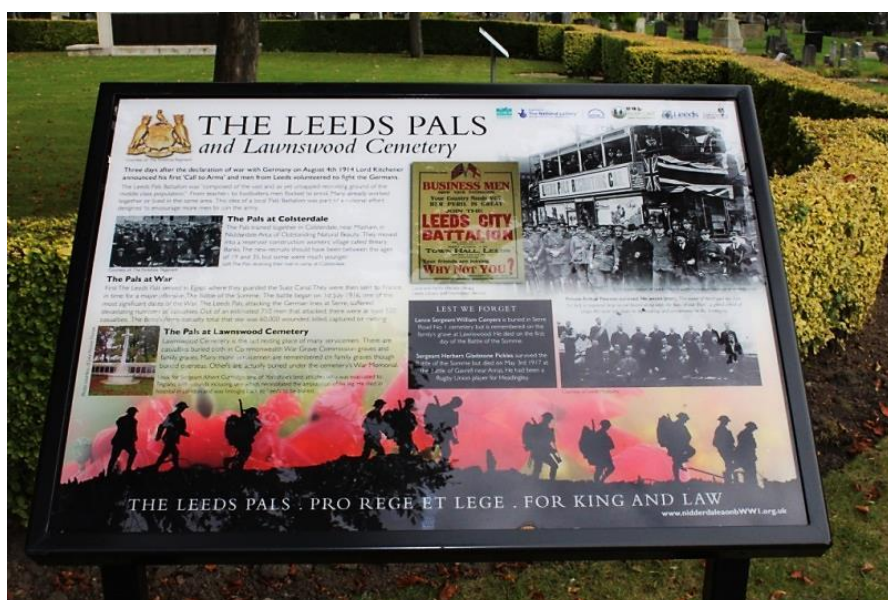
FoLC member Mrs Jane Luxton (left) after the presentation of a certificate to researchers of The Leeds Pals by Heather Garnett (right) at Leeds Museums Discovery Centre on July 18th. Heather is Chair of the Project Steering Group and also Chair of the Friends of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Amanda Walters (centre) is WW1 Heritage Officer at Nidderdale AONB and leader of the project “The First World War and Nidderdale AONB: Leeds Pals, POWs and the Home Front.

FoLC Member and WW1 expert Andrea Hetherington led a walk for the group in 2015 and supplied information and feedback on the board contents.

Details of their research can be found on www.nidderdaleaonbWW1.org.uk
<https://leedspalsvolunteerresearchers.wordpress.com>

www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk/wp/

Another result of their work is the interpretation board now situated by the War Memorial.



Hamo Thornycroft's Memorial to Arthur Currey Briggs

William Hamo Thornycroft (1850–1925) was a key sculptor in the late nineteenth century and a leading figure in the New Sculpture Movement. New Sculpture was a term coined by art critic Edmund Gosse in an 1894 article in the *Art Journal*. The essay gave definition to this new movement which was characterised by a shift from Neo-classicism to a greater degree of physical realism and the use of symbolism. Thornycroft was working amongst a group of artists including Alfred Gilbert and Frederick Leighton, whose 'An Athlete Wrestling With a Python' (1877) is often cited as exemplifying the genre.

Depicting the figure of a well-muscled young farm labourer casting seeds, Thornycroft's Memorial to Arthur Currey Briggs (1908) exemplifies the artist's commitment to New Sculpture. The attributes of this movement are particularly notable in the realistic treatment of the clothing, and in Briggs' muscular forearms.

The depiction of the worker was a recurring theme in Thornycroft's sculpture. He had spent nine years from 1854 living on his uncle's farm where he gained insights into farm labour. Yet to consider Thornycroft's Memorial to Arthur Currey Briggs only in light of its agrarian content would disregard its radicalism. Thornycroft had married Agatha Cox in 1884, a woman who held strong socialist views during a period when the plight of the poor was a compelling issue for the new middle-classes. In 1884, Thornycroft noted that his own, previously middle-class opinions has 'undergone a change'. He claimed 'I am become a radical...every workman's face I meet in the street interests me, and I feel sympathy with the hard-handed toilers'. This change was reflected in his sculptural practice, which saw a marked turn towards rendering realistic imagery.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus says to his disciples 'the sower soweth the word'. Thornycroft's depiction of the sower speaks of an affinity with workers. As the first mine-owner to employ profit-sharing for employees, Briggs' values were reflected in his work. Thornycroft's Memorial is then perhaps an appropriate remembrance for this Leeds Lord Mayor.

Dr. Leanne Green, Henry Moore Institute.



Dates for your diary

Our Action Days take place on the first Saturday of each month, the next being 7th January 2017 at 10 am.

Leeds City Museum has a display entitled "Dying Matters" which will run from 16th December until 30th July 2017.

Our AGM is on Thursday 27th April, 7pm at The Friends Meeting House, New Adel Lane. The guest speaker is Prof Mark Seaward and his subject is "Life after death: graveyard lichens".

Sunday 14th May- we have a stall at the Leeds History Fayre in Leeds City Museum and also a Bird Song Walk at Lawnswood.

Full details of forthcoming events will be available with AGM mailing in early Spring.

Actions Speak Louder than Words

A huge "Thank You" to our Action Day Volunteers, you make such a difference!

