



Friends of
LAWNSWOOD CEMETERY

Newsletter

Summer 2022

SPECIAL EDITION

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

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



This is a short, special edition of our newsletter to remember Kate Vernon, who sadly passed away on 11th June. As a Committee, we are shocked and devastated by the loss of Kate, who was not only a committed member of the Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery, but also a personal friend to us all.

Kate was a founder member of the Friends, and a driving force behind everything we have done and achieved. She was heavily involved in documenting and researching the graves at Lawnswood long before the Friends group was established, wanting to preserve the heritage of the cemetery, and was instrumental along with others in setting the group up in 2011. She was a loyal and enthusiastic member of our committee, our membership secretary and editor of the newsletters, and responded to all enquiries from our email account. She worked tirelessly for the benefit of our organisation. Kate also loved nothing more than being in the cemetery taking photographs, looking for lost graves and helping families to find the graves of ancestors and loved ones as well as highlighting fascinating stories of those buried there. She would leave no stone unturned

to achieve her aims and help those people making enquiries. Kate was passionate about Lawnswood and she spent countless hours on research and work for the Friends. Nothing was too much trouble for her.

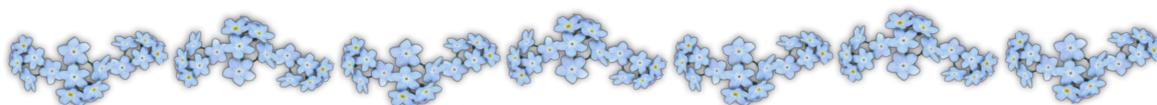
Her illness prevented her from attending the Action Days of late, but she would often call in for the tea break to see everyone, bring her camera and take some lovely group photographs that we all cherish. There are, unfortunately, fewer of Kate as she was usually behind the camera and not in front of it!

She is irreplaceable to The Friends and will be missed more than words can say.

Janice Simpson

Chair
The Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery

July 2022



A poem chosen by Kate

Near the beginning of the year, when we were co-operating on an article for the Friends of Lawnswood newsletter, Kate expressed an interest in including a poem of mine. She had discovered my hobby some years before and often asked me for a poem for the newsletter. I would like to remember her with the poem she had her eye on, just a few months ago. Thank you, Kate, for your kindness and encouragement.

Robert Hill, June 2022

Strictly Spider Ballroom

Wee spider spinning your sofa-wide web
whose silky-fine rhythms run in my head
One-step! Two-step! Strictly Spider Ballroom!

Dark-browed beetle beneath your shell of gloom
lighten your load come step around the room
One-step! Two-step! Strictly Spider Ballroom!

Welcome to your many-legged cousins
insect partners swarming by the dozen
One-step! Two-step! Strictly Spider Ballroom!

Faint whirr of wings far-off distant humming
insect nations to the dance are coming
One-step! Two-step! Strictly Spider Ballroom!

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THE FUTURE

We are still absorbing this awful situation and the implications for the Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery, including how we can cover all the work Kate did, which will not be easy, if not impossible. We have had some offers of help, for which we are extremely grateful, and will be following them up. We have been looking for some time for new committee members who might be willing to take on the Treasurer or Secretary roles to relieve Gladys of having to do both. We have been conscious for a long time of the need for succession planning, as none of us are getting any younger, but it has become more imperative now, having lost such a key member in Kate. So, if you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please get in touch.

You can email us at folc2020@gmail.com or ring us on mobile **07518 735755** and speak to Janice.