MILITARY HEROES TOUR - MARCH 2019

In poor weather conditions, Undercliffe held a Military Heroes tour on Saturday 9th March. Despite the weather, the attendance was very good and we enjoyed sharing the stories of 22 Bradford military men who'd fought in wars from the Crimea to World War 2, amongst them were 2 Victoria Cross recipients, a young man whose military overseas service was just 5 days and a Bradford Pal very close to the front of the first recruitment queue. The event was co-hosted by Andy Tyne and David Whithorn; Bradford born Great War expert who travelled up from his home in Bromsgrove and made his presentation suitably attired in his Bradford Pals replica kit. For those with facebook access, please have a look on the ‘Undercliffe Cemetery Charity’ for an emotional clip of David and his whistle, bought in Bradford many years ago and blown for the first time in Bradford at our event.

Many people have contacted us regretting they couldn't make the event due to the weather, we're planning a repeat in July when hopefully the sun will be shining, details to be advised on our website or on request.

Undercliffe Cemetery on the Telly!

Many of you will have seen a short BBC film as part of the ‘We Are Bradford’ event on Undercliffe and its volunteers. It really is a good little watch if you've not seen it, still available on BBC Catch Up and BBC online.

Just type in 'Undercliffe'.
Another very successful tour was held on Saturday 6th April - centred on 'Photographers, Artists and Entertainers' in much more pleasant weather conditions and hosted by our research volunteers, sharing the stories of some of Bradford’s most creative individuals who are remembered here. Amongst them were Walter Calver; traveller and showman who established a marionette show and travelling theatre seating 1000 people and the Appletons, probably the most popular Victorian photographers in Bradford. Richard James Appleton designed and built film making and projection equipment culminating in him filming Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London on 22nd June 1897, processing the film on the train on his way back to Bradford and showing it the very same day to tens of thousands of Bradfordians in Bradford City Centre – technology!! Steve told us as the tour ended, he and his fellow historians are working on a series of ‘Bradford Wor-thies’, of which there are dozens and promises lots of fascinating information and entertainment to come in future tours.

More events are planned through the second quarter including one on Cudworth's Bradford, see our website or call cemetery on 01274 642276 for details.

Land Re-furbishment - Cathedral Burial Plot - APRIL 2019

We've just finished a 3 day project re-furbishing an area of land that had become very over-grown that holds the remains of over 1600 bodies re-interred from the Cathedral burial plots on Church Bank. They were re-interred at Undercliffe as Bradford’s thriving economy from the wool trade in the late 1890’s demanded new roads and transport links. We are very grateful for the £750 gift Bradford Cathedral provided to fund the re-furbishment. The final act will be at 3pm on Sunday 25th August when the Dean of Bradford Cathedral will perform a formal re-dedication ceremony at the site, all are welcome.

Huge thanks all the volunteers who gave their time, some using work holiday entitlement... true dedication to the cause, and to volunteer Ann who provided hot lunches and sustenance!
Thanks should also be given to the following supporters of the Cemetery: Paul Adcock-ALM Knaresborough who for many years have provided roll after roll of strimmer line to help the volunteers control the rampant grass growth. Huws Gray/Moulsons & Manningham Housing who helped finance and supply the gravel regarding the land reclamation and W. Ellis, Bradford who provided replacement chains and locks following a break in last year. Sincere thanks to all the above, financing our efforts isn’t easy and each and every gesture of support is gratefully accepted!

**VOLUNTEER PROFILE - MARJORIE HOPKINSON**

I first became involved with Undercliffe Cemetery about six years ago when doing family history research. In Bradford local studies library there is a book called ‘In Loving Memory’ which contained a photo of a grave stone being repaired. The grave belonged to my great great grandfather. Soon after I visited the cemetery and volunteered to do research, my dream job! After about a year I helped on a tour of the cemetery which was fascinating and I was encouraged to try one on my own which really enjoyed.

Sometimes I work with other volunteers researching subjects like WW1 soldiers who are buried or remembered in the cemetery.

My latest tour is about Funerary Art which is about the meaning of the art work in the cemetery and with the help of another one of the volunteers you will be able to see them on the Web site.

**BLASTS FROM THE PAST!**

The remains of Mr. William Sharp, of Richardstreet, Leeds-road, Bradford, better known as “Billy Sharp,” were interred on Tuesday at Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford. Mr. Sharp had signified to his executor that he wished to be buried in the clothes and the boots in which he died. He was a widower, without next of kin, but some years ago he bought a vault containing chambers for 16 bodies. Several thousands of people were attracted by the interment. At the dead man’s residence the service was read by a “Captain” of the Salvation Army, in which organisation he had taken great interest.

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To the Editor of the Bradford Observer.

Sir,—I attended the ceremony (usually called consecration) on Friday last at the new Cemetery, Undercliffe; and never was I better pleased either with a service, or with the site as a place of sepulture. My heart rejoiced that such a decent provision had been made for the reception of the dead. And I cannot but express my thanks in this public way to the parties who have been the means of establishing it, viz., first to the originators and promoters, secondly to the shareholders, who found the ways and means, and lastly to the gentlemen who have had the charge of carrying it out. I thank them all from my very heart, for when death invades our families, it is a great relief to know we can deposit their earthly remains in such an appropriate place as the one I refer to, with the assurance that they will not be rudely disturbed. This is a great consolation, and one which I feel to prize very much, and for which I beg to give expression to in this public way. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Horton, near Bradford, Aug. 28th, 1854.

OXONIUS.

Thanks to Andrew Bolt for providing us with the newspaper cuttings - more to follow in our future Newsletters.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday • May 18th

'Stories from Stone: Tales of Darkness and Light from Undercliffe Cemetery'

An entertaining evening with dramatic interpretations of the Cemetery's history and landscape by Irene Lofthouse and Jacqui Ambler in aid of MANORLANDS HOSPICE.

The event starts at 7pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Moorhead Lane, Saltaire.

Tickets are £10 to include cheese and wine. Email for tickets: jacquia3@jacquia3.plus.com

Saturday • June 1st

Cudworth’s Bradford

William Cudworth wrote many books on Victorian Bradford. The research that he undertook was invaluable, and his written words, recorded for posterity the history of a great Victorian City. One of Cudworth’s books written in 1881 was ‘Historical notes on the Bradford Corporation.’ Many of the people written about in this book were laid to rest at Undercliffe Cemetery; the photographer, the illustrators, Cudworth himself, and many of the Mayors who feature in this publication, telling a story about the community that built Bradford and will be referred to throughout the tour.

Tour starts at 11:00am. Lodge open from 10:30am for refreshments.

Saturday 4th August • 11am - 4pm Family Open Day & Family History Day.

Open day and family history day at the Cemetery. Call at any time between 11am and 4pm and stay as long as you like. A chance to trace your ancestors with help from our volunteers. Find out if your ancestors are buried at Undercliffe, the location of the plot and any memorial inscriptions. Demonstrations on using Ancestry and the website British Newspaper Archives.

Find out more about what our volunteers do in maintaining the cemetery and the research program. Learn more about the cemetery itself, its history, the famous people that are buried there. Bring your old family photos taken during Victorian times and see if we can reveal more details about them. Stroll around the cemetery at your leisure. Try out our QR codes to reveal more details about the families behind the six listed monuments.

Sunday 25th August • Re-dedication Service for those whose remains were transferred from Bradford Cathedral. For more details of above event - Please check our website.

Volunteer Tuesdays... come and speak to us about volunteering opportunities at Undercliffe Cemetery, from keeping the cemetery looking it’s best to researching its many occupants or helping out with events.