

Lance-Sergeant Harry Blanshard Wood (Blanchard) VC MM – Memorial Plinth



Born into a Newton upon Derwent family on 21st June 1882, Harry Wood won both the Military Medal and Victoria Cross for two acts of exceptional gallantry in the closing weeks of the war*. He returned home a hero and was chosen, as one of Britain's bravest men, to be part of the guard of honour for the burial of the unknown warrior in Westminster Abbey in 1920. Harry died on 15th August 1924 at Bristol Mental Hospital, following a minor car incident in Devon that caused him trauma. He is buried at Arnos Vale Commonwealth Graves site in Bristol. Harry was the only person in the East Riding of Yorkshire to receive a Victoria Cross.

One of our residents, Mrs Horsley, heard about a Government campaign to honour all Victoria Cross recipients from the First World War, by laying commemorative paving stones on the 100th anniversary of their awards. After providing information that Harry was born in Newton upon Derwent the village was excited to hear that they had successfully applied for and would receive a government commemorative paving stone.



The Parish Council, as support to the Local History Group, commissioned a plinth and arranged for a matching paver with more detailed information and a picture of Harry to be placed alongside the Govt. paver. The Local History Group, led by Mrs Horsley, set about collating all the information they could find about Harry and produced some banners on his life.

With thanks to Phil Gilbank for information provided.

With thanks to Chris Barrand for building the Plinth.



Parade on 13th October 2018

On the 100th anniversary of Harry Wood becoming World War One's only Victoria Cross winner born in the rural East Riding, dignitaries from state, church and armed services joined Newton villagers and members of his family to unveil the plinth**

The parade was lead by, HM Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, The Hon. Mrs. Susan Cunliffe-Lister and Archbishop of York, The Most Reverend and Rt. Hon. Dr. John Sentamu



* information on how Harry Blanchard Wood won his VC can be found on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Blanshard_Wood

** a full list of dignitaries can be found on separate document