

GRAVE OF THE MONTH

Harriet Jane Wasey

(1856 - 1940)



Harriet Jane Wasey came from a well-known local family, being the second daughter of the late Rev. John Spearman Wasey, Vicar of Compton, Berks. She also had six younger siblings. In the 1871 census the family had six servants. With the church upbringing, and a full household, it's not surprising that Harriet became a woman who liked to support both her local community and the people who lived within it.

From the time of its foundation, Harriet was a very generous supporter of Newbury District Hospital, not only helping financially, but working energetically for its welfare.

She was the donor of the original X-ray plant, which served the institution for a long time. She served as a member of the hospital committee for 30 years. Besides regularly attending the meetings, she took a personal interest in the patients treated at the hospital. She was joint donor, together with the late Mr. Malcom Gird, of the Newbury Hospital Football Cup, which, through years of competitions, raised over £500 for the Hospital.

Her generosity and kindness also supported the Newbury churches of St John's and, later, St Mary's, Speenhamland.

Harriet died aged 84 after a two-month illness and was buried beside her sister Mary, a supporter of the Children's Hospital at Cold Ash.

Harriet's gravestone sums her up as "a cheerful giver". The hospital, the churches and the town, were lucky to have her.



More information is available on our website: www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk