



A HIGH IDEAL, a book about Leeds Grammar School and the Great War by John Davies

The Centenary of the Great War has seen the production of many books about the history of that conflict. This new book, by John Davies, released in December 2015, is the story of how one great northern School was affected by the Great War. It traces the story from the beginning of the School Officer Training Corps; the preparations for the war; the outbreak of war and the effect that the war had on the school, including the formation of the Old Leodiensian Association. It contains biographies of all the Old Leodiensians who were killed during the conflict and the details of all those OLs who served. Many interesting stories emerge – the Calvert family who lost three out of four sons; the high number of teenage soldiers, including two (G A Denny and G C Benton) of the youngest casualties from any of the public schools; the contribution by one of the nation’s most senior officers (Field Marshal Lord Nicholson) who was an Old Boy; the impact of one of the most well-known and popular figures, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, better known as “Woodbine Willie”.

There is also a separate section outlining the contribution of the School’s sister school, Leeds Girls’ High School.

John Davies taught history at Leeds Grammar School from 1976 until 1992 before becoming Headmaster of the Junior School. In 2006 he moved to become Headmaster of Moorlands School in Leeds and returned to GSAL in 2013 following retirement to be the Honorary School Archivist.

Approximately 235 pages and the text is enhanced by over 100 photographs, some of them in colour. Size: 245cm x 170cm

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