

## Hidden in Plain Sight!

More than ten years ago, local historian Sue Templeman produced a small leaflet which listed the various memorial inscriptions on donated items and plaques in Quorn St Bartholomew's Church - but one passed her by. This was pointed out by an eagle eyed member of the Church, who found it when they were polishing the church brasses.

In the chancel, in front of the altar is a brass hanging lamp that once held a candle. In tiny lettering (as indicated by the red arrow) is an inscription saying: "IN MEMORIAM J. A. LE M. HAYWARD 1922"

### Who was J. A. Le M. Hayward?

John Alfred Le Mesurier Hayward was born on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1857 in Grandborough, Buckinghamshire where his father was the vicar. His second middle name came from his maternal grandmother's maiden name which was Le Mesurier. She was born on the Channel Islands (Alderney). Both his parents came from wealthy families and throughout his life, John was recorded as 'living on own means'. He went to a minor public school and on to Trinity College Cambridge.

### Moving to Quorn

In 1889 John was living in Shepton Mallet in Somerset and from there, at the age of 32, he married 44 year old Caroline Fillingham from Syerston Hall in Nottinghamshire. It is not known why the couple moved to Quorn, but the 1891 census finds them living at the substantial 'Quorn Place' which they rented from John Davys Cradock of Quorn Court. Quorn Place is better known to us today as the Quorndon Fox.



John A Le M Hayward  
aged 17



By coincidence, a few years ago Sue had come across two photographs of John and purchased them for Quorn Village On-line Museum.

### Memories of John Hayward

In the 1930s Thomas Dexter of Quorn wrote down his memories of the Haywards from the 1890s:

*"Mr J A Le M Hayward who lived at Quorn Place was tall and distinguished in appearance, a staunch churchman who always read the lesson at the Sunday morning service. He was the Sunday School Superintendent who did his best to ensure that the scholars had a good grounding in church doctrine. He also instituted the annual Sunday school prize giving service which I think was held in the church in the afternoon of Epiphany Sunday and took the form of the carol service for which he trained the children for some weeks beforehand. He was quite a musician. In addition to the children, the full church choir took a full part. I received in two years a framed certificate for full attendances at the Sunday school, morning and*



John A Le Mesurier Hayward  
in 1891, aged about 34

*afternoon. The afternoon service was held in the church and conducted by the vicar. The Haywards had no family and Mrs Hayward was very much the lady, splendidly dressed and we used to wonder whether she ever wore the same bonnet twice."*

The vicar described John Hayward:  
*"He was connected with the*

*aristocracy of the Channel Islands and was for over 20 years an ardent worker in the church, holding the office of*

*vicar's warden for some time; he was also a Sunday School superintendent. He was amongst other things a genius in the matter of mechanical construction."*



Quorn Place (now the Quorndon Fox) in the early 1900s when the Haywards lived there

### **The death of Caroline Hayward**

On 24th April 1913 Caroline Hayward died aged 68 and was buried in Quorn Churchyard with an impressive and unusual gravestone. John Hayward continued to live at Quorn Place until in 1918 he married Lillian Holland Buddicom. Her family owned Ticklerton Court in Church Stretton, Shropshire and this is where the couple settled.

### **The death of John Hayward**

Sadly John Hayward died in 1922, just 2 ½ years after his marriage. Strangely the Vicar of Quorn reported that he had died on the Channel Islands, but records show that he died in his new home county of Shropshire. It is not known who specifically paid for the memorial lamp; it may have been his wife or possibly his friends in Quorn, but it is not mentioned in his will. The lamp was designed to take a candle as electricity was not installed in the Church until 1929. It pulls down for cleaning and replacement of the candle, by means of a counterbalanced chain system.



### **A connection with John Le Mesurier?**

It was impossible not to wonder if our John Alfred Le Mesurier may be related to John Le Mesurier the actor! The Wikipedia entry for John Le Mesurier reveals that he was born John Elton Le Mesurier Halliley and that his mother Amy's family were from Alderney in the Channel Islands. Her maiden name was Le Mesurier. It transpired that both men were descended from the Le Mesurier hereditary governors of Alderney and were third cousins once removed!

This article was produced by Sue Templeman in 2024 on behalf of Quorn Village On-line Museum ([www.quornmuseum.com](http://www.quornmuseum.com)).