



Sir Henry Newbolt 1862-1938

Sir Henry Newbolt was born in Bilston, Staffordshire on 6th June 1862, the son of Rev. Henry Francis & Emily Newbolt. He was just four years old when his father died. At the age of 10 Henry was sent to a boarding school in Lincolnshire, from where he won a scholarship to Clifton College. He later went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford and began a legal career, practising at the Chancery Bar from 1887 to 1889.

He was a lawyer, novelist, and playwright and wrote many poems. His most famous work was *Vitai Lampada*.

He was employed by the Government during WWI to serve on the War Propaganda Bureau to encourage the public to support the war. He subsequently became Controller of Telecommunications at the Foreign Office. His poems about the war include "The War Films", printed on the leader page of *The Times* on 14 October 1916, which seeks to temper the shock effect on cinema audiences of footage of the Battle of the Somme.

He also wrote a paper in 1921 for the government, which established the foundation for modern English studies and professionalised the forms of teaching English literature.

Sir Henry Newbolt lived for many years at Netherhampton House with his wife Margaret.

His granddaughter Jill Furse married Rex Whistler's brother Laurence.

He was knighted in 1915.

Newbolt died at his home in Campden Hill, Kensington, London, on 19 April 1938, aged 75. A blue plaque there commemorates his residency. He is buried in the churchyard of St Mary's church on an island in the lake on the Orchardleigh Estate of the Duckworth family in Somerset.