

Preserving the past for the future

Friends of Loxley Cemetery

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 21 October 2026

Chair's Report
(1 November 2025 – 20 October 2026)

Brief History

Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group (FoLC) was formed following a public meeting at the Wisewood Inn on Loxley Road on the 18 September 2019.

The FoLC Constitution (C) was agreed & endorsed by the founding members of the Management Committee (MC) on the 9 October 2019. The C allows for 3 Officers & up to 8 members.

The onset of the Covid pandemic in the spring of 2020 thwarted plans to commence operations on the cemetery. This only started in earnest in the summer of 2021 & continue to this day.

At the same time the FoLC have been working on several other initiatives, details of some of these will follow.



Membership

Membership applications were invited from the 1 January 2020. There follows a review of the membership numbers over the succeeding years:

2020 – 57 subscribing members.

2021 – 63 subscribing members.

2022 – 119 subscribing members.

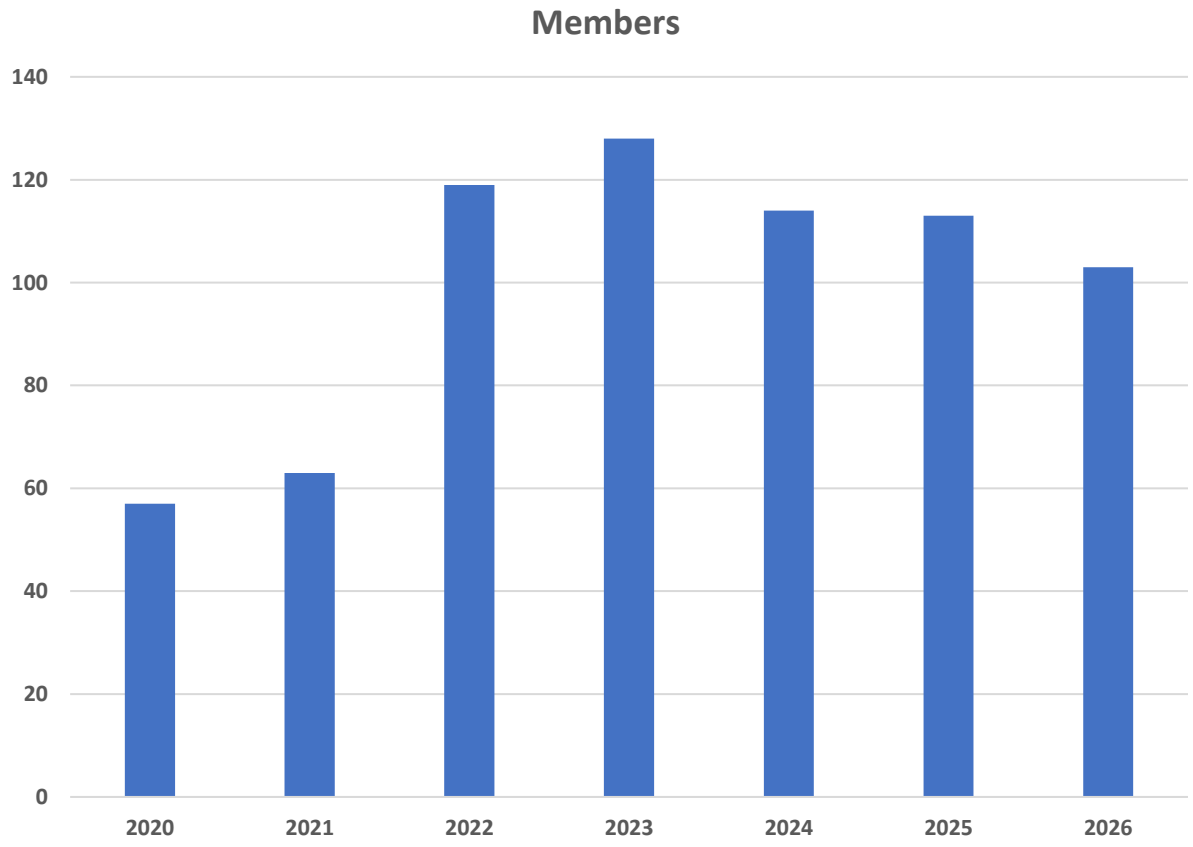
2023 - 128 subscribing members.

2024 - 114 subscribing members.

2025 - 113 subscribing members.

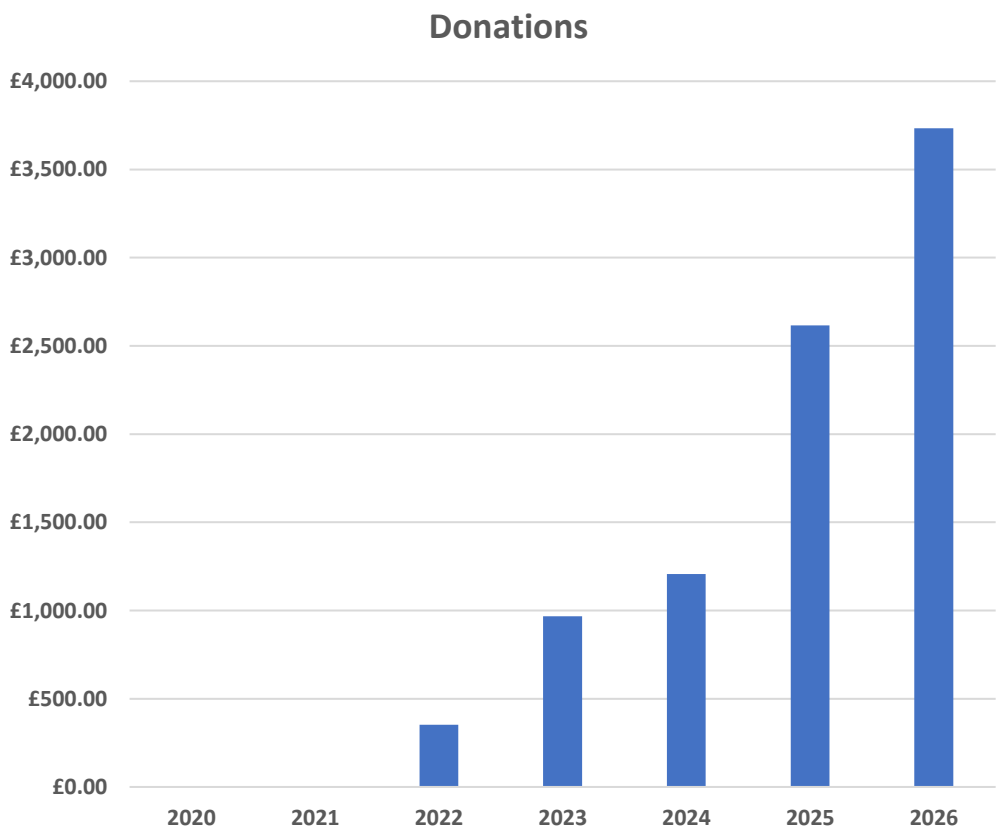
2026 – 103 subscribing members.

Membership fees remain at £5.00 pa, payable on the 1 January. There are no plans to increase this amount in the foreseeable future.



Donations

- Although we have seen a slight downturn in funds raised through membership subscriptions, there has been a dramatic increase in funds received through donations, grants & grave services, as follows:
  - 2020 – £0
  - 2021 – £0
  - 2022 – £352.74
  - 2023 – £966.75
  - 2024 – £1,206.00
  - 2025 – £2,616.44
  - 2026 - £3,733.81.



Donations (Continued)

The donations have arrived in a variety of ways, some of which are as follows:

- From members, incl with their subs.
- From book/CD/magazine sales.
- From families following assistance provided by the FoLC with interments.
- From the landlord re insurance premiums.
- From grants.
- From bequests.
- From members of the public.



Activities

- Clearance & Maintenance of the Cemetery (special thanks to Jane & Peter Pratt).
- Producing database of interments in the Long Lane section of the cemetery (4000 entries). Now being extended to include photos & details of the inscriptions.
- Hosting a stall at this years Sheffield Heritage Fair held in the Sheffield Millenium Gallery (24 & 25 January 2026).
- Open Days (4 May & 20 September 2026), including tours of War Graves by Malcolm Nunn, an examination of Graveyard Symbolism by Verity Brack & a presentation on Notable Monuments around the Chapel building, by Peter Easter.
- Erection of row marker posts in the Long Lane section of the cemetery, following receipt of a grant from Bradfield Parish Council (special thanks to Peter Easter).
- Hosting a stall at Sheffield Hallam University Volunteer Fair on the 24 September 2026.
- Hosting a tour by the Sheffield Victorian Society on the 11 July 2026 (special thanks to Verity Brack).
- Excavation of spoil heap adjacent the Chapel & collation of ‘finds’ (special thanks to Annette Lee).



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Activities (Continued)

- Attendance at a ‘Picnic Meeting’ of local charities & Friends Groups in Loxley on the 30 August 2026 (special thanks to Sue Fisher).
- Launch of the ‘Memory Project’ to harvest a record of oral/written recollections of activities in the Chapel prior to its closure in 1993 (special thanks to Peter Easter & Ron Clayton).
- Hosting a grave tidy session with Year 5 pupils from Loxley Primary School (14 July 2026).
- Holding Funding Working Group meetings.
- Holding Burial Team meetings.
- Holding Management Committee meetings.
- Manning Book/CD/Map stalls at all our events (special thanks to Lyn Cork).
- Production of a first draft of a booklet re the history of the site (special thanks to Mick Drewry).



Other Activities

- Attending bi-monthly meetings of ‘Joined-Up Heritage Sheffield’ (JUHS).
- Attending bi-monthly meetings of ‘Sheffield Green Spaces Forum’ (SGSF).
- Investigations into Burial Law.
- Investigating sale/licensing of burial records.
- Responding to Interment Enquiries.
- Forming links with other Cemetery Friend organisations.
- My attendance at the AGM of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends in London (13 June 2026).
- Submitting grant applications for a pair of Interpretation Boards (September 2026).
- Production of 3 Newsletters per year (special thanks to Mark Pickering & Bob Paterson).



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Internal Matters

Other matters which the membership should be made aware of include:

- Investigating revenue possibilities for sale of burial records to one of the genealogy institutions.
- Maintenance & repair to items donated equipment (lawnmowers, ‘strimmers’ & hand tools).
- Storage & categorisation of donated books, magazines, maps, CD’s etc for sale at our events.
- Arranging talks/visits/presentations to local groups.
- Provision of a ‘fresh flower’ service.



What we've done in 2026…

Chapel 'Finds' Table



Coward Family Grave



What we've done in 2026…

Malcolm Nunn leading a War Graves Tour.



New Marker Post (Long Lane).

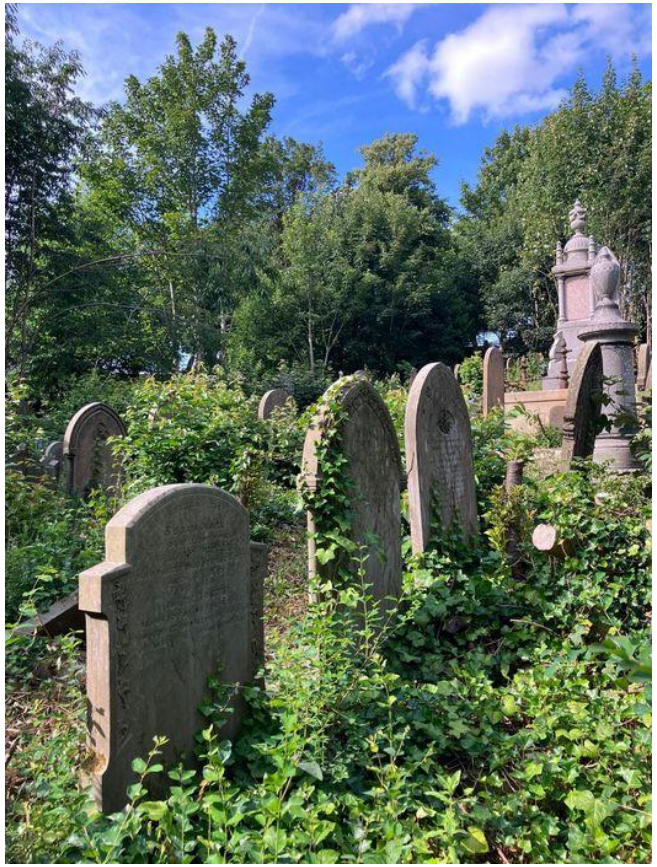


What we've done in 2026 (Continued)

It looked lovely in March



But it keeps growing back



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