



Preserving the past for the future

Friends of Loxley Cemetery

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 3 October 2023

**Chair's Report
(October 2022 – September 2023)**

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 & continues to this day.



Membership

- Applications were first invited from 1 January 2020.
- Membership numbers over the succeeding years:
 - 2020 – 57 subscribing members
 - 2021 – 63 subscribing members
 - 2022 – 119 subscribing members
 - 2023 - 128 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.



Activities

- Clearance & Maintenance of the Cemetery.
- Producing database of interments in the Long Lane section of the cemetery (4000 entries).
- Open Days (1 May, 10 & 16 September 2023), including tours of Flood Graves, War Graves & Monumental Inscriptions (MN/VB).
- Drone flyover (February 2023).
- CWGC signage erected to both entrances.
- Lord Mayors & local councillors visit (1 May 2023).
- Remembrance Day event with Loxley Primary School.
- Creation of Memorial Garden for infants.
- Inclusion of QR codes on both noticeboards.
- Meeting with 'Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership' to discuss on-site habitat measures (VB/JP).



MC Activities

Following discussions at the bi-monthly MC meetings, the following Working Sub Groups have been formed over the course of the year:

Burial Research Team – recording monuments & inscriptions in more detail to uncover some of the stories that lay behind the occupants of the graves & their families.

Future Burials – examining the case for opening-up the cemetery for future interments.

Funding Opportunities – looking to source independent funding through grants etc.

In addition, I have made an application to the Community Payback Scheme to assist with clearance & maintenance of the cemetery.



Other Activities

- 'Extra curricular' activities have included:
- Visit to Bolsterstone Cemetery (VB).
- Visit to Boston Cemetery, Rotherham (JP).
- Attending bi-monthly meetings of 'Joined-Up Heritage Sheffield' (VB/MF).
- Attending bi-monthly meetings of 'Sheffield Green Spaces Forum (VB/MF).
- Exhibiting at the annual Heritage Fair, Millennium Galleries, Sheffield (various).
- Composing article re Open Day (1 May 2023), for publication in the National Federation of Cemetery Friends (VB).
- Receiving Recognition Award from Bradfield Parish Council for works to cemetery (various).
- Responding to Burial Enquiries (various).
- Production of Rustic Garden Furniture (PP).

<https://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery/>

Special Recognition Award

This certificate is awarded to

*Friends of Loxley
Cemetery*

For the work they have done to
renovate the cemetery.



Internal Matters

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

Change to editorial team for the seasonal Newsletter (TC – MP/BP).

Donations of equipment (lawnmowers, petrol generator & 'loppers').

Production of Data Protection Policy (AW/VB).

Holding contest for a 'strapline' (Preserving the past for the future).



Burials Research Team

One of the principal objectives of the Friends of Loxley Cemetery is to 'Create and maintain historic records connected to the Cemetery'. A group of Friends spent many hours this year painstakingly researching various sources of information so that we will eventually have comprehensive and accurate records.

The good news is that the end is in sight, with almost 4,000 entries completed to date. The aim is to complete the exercise by the time of the Heritage Open Days. More about Burial Records on page 6.

What we've done in 2023...

Tackled the sycamore



Saplings removed by the chapel



What we've done in 2023...

Removed the undergrowth



Peeled back mats of ivy



What we've done in 2023...

It looked lovely in March



But it keeps growing back

