

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



WELCOME TO SPRING 2023

Over the last three years we have published nine Newsletters as we try to keep all our members and supporters up to date with what we are doing. All of them were produced by Trisha Childs, and I want to personally thank her for her efforts. I am sure we all agree that the quality has been first class. We start the year with a new editorial team, who I am sure will carry on the good work in their own style.

Since we published our Winter Newsletter, we have been busy...

Sheffield Heritage Fair

This was held over the weekend of the 28/29 January in the Millennium Gardens. As with previous events, it was well attended, with over 1600 visitors over the two days. Thanks to our volunteers who manned our stall and to the current and past members who popped in to say hello. We also welcomed numerous visitors, many of whom became FoLC members.

Drone survey

Thanks to Janet & Barry, both current members, who produced a second aerial survey of the cemetery on a beautiful day in late February. This is now available to view on the internet

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEDbkkcpeB4&t=53s

The progress made from the previous survey,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2c4XXztb3zw&t=5s

which was done in January 2022, is startling.

Well done to all the volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the seasons.

Long Lane electronic burial record

Work on this has continued on a weekly basis through the first months of this year. The team (Sue Fisher, Malcolm Nunn and myself) can report that the project is about 66% complete. In fact, the record of burials/interments in Rows A-K (circa 1920-1945) is already complete. We are

hoping that members will be able to find the plots of their family and friends on the Long Lane section by the Open Day on 1st May (see below).

Future burials/interments

The Working Group set up to consider re-opening the cemetery to burials/interments met a representative from Bradfield Parish Council to discuss their role as a Burial Authority. I want to thank Pam for hosting Linda Brownlow, Malcolm and myself and for the interesting discussion that ensued. A meeting with a representative from a funeral director, is to be held soon.

Burial records

A team including Joy Wright, Verity Brack, Lynda Barnett and Sue Fisher has been set up to formalise research into existing monument inscriptions and provide summaries of the family histories behind them. This work will help genealogists and personalise some of the inhabitants of the cemetery.

Funding Group

We have formed a Working Group to explore funding opportunities. If you know anything about this subject, please get in touch.

Open Day and Tours

We will have another Open Day on 1st May from 10am until 4pm, with tours at 11am and 2pm.

To book on a tour please contact Verity at

Loxley.secretary@yahoo.com or

Mike Ford by phone on 07879 075619

Work days

It would be good to see as many of you as possible on our Volunteer Work Days headed-up by Jane & Peter Pratt, which will continue throughout the year. We update the details regularly on our website.

Mike Ford (*Chair*)

'PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE'

WORK IN PROGRESS

The weather since Christmas may have been variable, to put it kindly, but work at the cemetery has been progressing steadily thanks to the efforts of our volunteer days led by Jane and Peter Pratt.



Spring in the Long Lane section

The Management Committee is conscious that clearing the cemetery is reducing habitat for wildlife, at least temporarily. Policies for reducing the impact of this work are already being discussed, and we have had advice from the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust about how to proceed. Sowing wild-flowers, planting trees and creating a mixed hedge are all being considered.

What we already know is that the work of our volunteers will be essential in making progress. We will be continuing with regular work-days on the afternoons of the first and third Saturdays of each month. Details and updates are posted regularly on our website.



Allowing easy access to the graves is the main purpose of the work, and it is noticeable that many individual graves that were hidden or unreachable two years ago are now being visited and maintained fairly regularly.

Most of the heavy work on the Long Lane section is now complete. Through this spring and summer we need to follow up with fairly regular maintenance to keep the paths open and the graves accessible.

In the original cemetery area around the chapel we have continued to take out the vegetation that is blocking the paths and in many cases damaging headstones and monuments, sometimes quite dramatically.

In both sections of the cemetery, once the vegetation has been cut back it has to be cleared away to one of the now-impressive piles of green waste that we have created.



Work in progress near the chapel

THE DELUGE

The following is an imaginary conversation inspired by the circumstances and characters drawn from documentary evidence of the Sheffield Flood of 1864 written by Joy Wright, a lass from Owlerton – July 2022

It is a cold, dry, last day of the month in April 1864, a Saturday. Ann Birks and Hannah Birks (unrelated) are outside Brick Row on Holme Lane, where they both lived before the night of the Sheffield Flood, 11 and 12 March 1864, and now having bumped into each other and are having a 'nousey and a gossip' discussing the repercussions – the death, destruction, near misses, illness, and what lies ahead.

"Well, hello Ann, I'm reyt glad to see thee, oh and who's this babi, is it Noah thee newborn on 't neet? He looks champion nah. Better than thee both were on neet eh? I heard how you were both trapped in here (Brick Row) until watters subsided enough for 'em to get thee and babi aut."

"Oh aye, Mrs Birks we had an hateful time o'rit he'd only been born two hours afore. We floated ab't on that mattress both covered in mud, an' almost froz'n to death until morning we were. I don't know how this babi survived."

"Any-rooad-up, what are tha doing here nah on Holme Lane, Ann?"

"I whanted to see how t' Row were fairin'. Did ya hear that a Bobby, mi husband and his brother, Elliott, carried me in a chair o'er all that watter, broken trees, and muck, up to Barracks and put us in a cab that took us aut-o'-way o' all this up to Shalesmoor. My friend lent us their cottage, behind t' Wellington Inn, so we've been living in that ever since but I'd like to come houm. Looking at Row nah though I don't think they'll be fit to live in, they're wet through and whant a lot o' work, what do you think Mrs Birks?"



Remains of Brick Row, Holme Lane

"I don't want to freeten thee lass but fever is rife round here nah, after flood watters brought dahn all that filth wi'it and houses are soaked. It's not surprising though, Row took full sweep o' watters and whatever manner o' things it brought wi'it. Everybody's scared off from round here nah and William Haden 'ill be lucky to rent 'em aut agean. I know he's put in a claim to Watter Works for t' damage to 'em. Our Jeremiah and some o' Buckley bairns are badly and they're under t' Surgeon, on St Philip's Rood, Samuel Lawton, for treatment. I told our Jeremiah not to come back here but he wouldn't listen, said he knew best!" I'd moved here wi'em tha 'no's, from Ebenezer Square, to help where I could, well if I can't help mi own brother, it's a rum do. It's been a reyt strain on him since Mary, his wife, past and left him wi' babi, Joel, and t' other eight, besides making shoes all day, and then on top o' all that he and George Burrell (another Boot Maker) 'ad twelve pounds worth of newly made shoes swept away in t' flood any-rooad-up they've put a claim in to Watter Works. Tha never goin' to believe it, t' Bishop o' Honolulu's put in a claim an all for fifty-two pounds for t' repairs and loss o' rents for cottages he owns at Bundekin Road, Pye Bank, who'd 'a thought it!"

"We all should 'a listened to those rumours that t' dam above Bradfield (Dale Dyke) was sure to burst before winter was o'er. Only James Dyson escaped tha 'no's from his brother Joseph's house; Joseph, his wife Mary, a lodger, an apprentice, and all Joseph's bairns except Selina, who was away, deed. If it hadn't been for James having this feeling of foreboding and planning in 'is 'ead what he might do, then a lot o' other folk from t' Row might be deead an all. Did tha know he broke his way through from their garret up to underdrawing under t' slates and then broke through plaster partition walls, and on to roof at one point! 'Ad he not thought o' it others might not 'a done it either and been able to gather together, four or five families the' were tha 'no's, almost froz'n to death, just clad in their night gowns an' some almost naked!"

"James's ordeal didn't finish on that neet either. All except thirteen year old Sophia, tha' nos Joseph's eldest daughter, 'ad been found deead so James set-ab't finding her an all. He'd heard that an unknown lass 'ad been buried at Kilnhurst. He felt sure it was Sophia so 'ad t' grave open'd and identified her from t' burn scarring she got when her night-gown caught fire dahn one side when they'd lived at Hathersage. Nah she's been put to rest wi' rest o' her family, God bless 'em."

"Well, I'll have to be off, it's been reyt nice seeing thee and babi, it's such a shame we're all spread all o'er nah and t' flood 'ant done wi' us yet, it's still t'kin them that it touched! Any-rooad-up, get that babi houn to thee little cottage 'Noah's Ark' and look after tha sen. I'll Sithee.

MANAGING AND CARING FOR THE LOXLEY CEMETERY

How you can contact us...

For general inquiries and volunteering, please contact our secretary:

Verity Brack
loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

For membership and subscription inquiries, please contact our treasurer:

Jane Pratt
loxleytreasurer1@gmail.com

For committee matters, archive information and specific inquiries please contact our chairman:

Mike Ford
mike.ford53@hotmail.com
Tel: 07879 075619

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We would like to give a warm welcome to all our new members. We are thrilled to have you in our group and hope you enjoy your membership. We look forward to seeing you on one of our work days, open days or social events.

We now have around 110 members altogether.

SUBS REMINDER

If you have not already done so, please pay your 2023 subscriptions now, preferably by BACS bank-to-bank transfer.

It's only £5 !

You can find the details on our website.