

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025



Hello again

Spring arrived with a bang this year, and we are all hoping for a fine summer. As always, there is plenty to report to Friends and Supporters, and I take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening.

A Tree for Everyone:

This is a scheme for charitable organisations and friends groups in South Yorkshire to plant up to a million trees in the course of this year. The scheme is funded by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and administered by South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF). FoLC will be planting two trees in remembrance of the Sheffield Flood victims in the cemetery and those who are memorialised following both World Wars. The trees chosen were a flowering cherry and a liquidambar. These should each look their best on the anniversaries of the Flood (11 March) and Remembrance Day (11 November) respectively. The trees and appropriate plaques will be unveiled at a ceremony at 1pm on our Open Day (7 June 2025). We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Volunteer Sessions:

These continue to be held on most Saturday afternoons from 1.30 to 4pm. The work is especially important at this time of year when new growth (eg grass) and old enemies (eg bramble) need to be kept in check. This year the Volunteering Team has been supplemented by students from both Sheffield universities, following recruitment drives. Well done to all concerned. If anyone is in need of some fresh air and light duties, feel free to attend any of these sessions which are run by our Treasurer, Jane Pratt.

Scouts and Beavers:

Following the recruitment drives mentioned above, we now also have links with Wadsley Cubs, Scouts and Beavers groups. We will be hosting sessions with the Scouts and Beavers in June and the Cubs in September



to enable them to get their respective badges.

Heritage Fair:

On the 25/26 January 2025 we again attended this annual event. Well done to Peter, Sue, Hannah and Lyn for giving their time. The event was a success with many existing and new members paying us a visit in the Millennium Galleries.

Forthcoming Events:

As mentioned above, our next Open Day will be held on the 7 June 2025, when a visiting specialist (Gerry Firkins) will be undertaking an Ecology Tour at 2pm.

Three members will be attending the AGM of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends on 14 June to learn about the experiences of other similar groups.

We will have a stall at the Hillsborough Park Midsummer Festival on 22 June (11am-2pm) and the Stannington Carnival on 12 July (12-5pm).

In addition, we have applied to host another event under the Heritage Open Day scheme on 13 September 2025. This year's theme is Architecture, and yours truly will be giving a talk about the Chapel.

Mike Ford (Chair)

'PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE'

THE MANSE AND THE SCHOOLHOUSE

In the 1850s, some 60 years after the Chapel was completed, the congregation took the bold decision to build a manse for the Minister and his family, alongside a school for local children.

The manse and school were both completed in 1855. The first Minister in residence was Thomas France, who moved in with his wife, Ruth, and baby daughter (also Ruth). His name is on the 1861 census. Thomas and Ruth later had two daughters and a son.

The last Minister to live in The Manse was Frederick W. Nicholls, who died in 1971 aged 82. He is interred on the east side of the main drive.

Pupils went to the school until they were 10 or 11 years old and then for their remaining school years (one or two) to Stannington National School or Wadsley National School. The school closed in 1911 when the population of Loxley was increasing and a new one at the top of Rodney Hill was built, which is still in use. The Chapel was taken over in 1972 by the United



However, the congregation did not like the idea, and a family was moved in to act on a role similar to a caretaker, although the lady was resident organist for services and funeral services and lived there until the early 1990s, when both the manse and school were sold and are now private residences.



Loxley school group about 1908



Reform Church organisation and became Loxley United Reform Church. The new organisation decided that a Minister should work on a circuit rather than residing on site and proposed selling the manse and the school.

Loxley Cemetery OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 7 JUNE
11am - 4pm

Tree dedication: 1pm

Ecology tour: 2pm

Book sale

Find a grave service

**To book for the tour, email -
loxley.secretary@yahoo.com
or phone 07879 075619**

A dramatic maritime tragedy

In the eastern part of the cemetery, next to the drive, there is an unusual and imposing monument known as a treestone. This monument is for the family of William Henry Wood (1859-1907), who was part of a large and significant local family, including Francis Charles Wood, who lost his life in dramatic circumstances far from home in 1931.

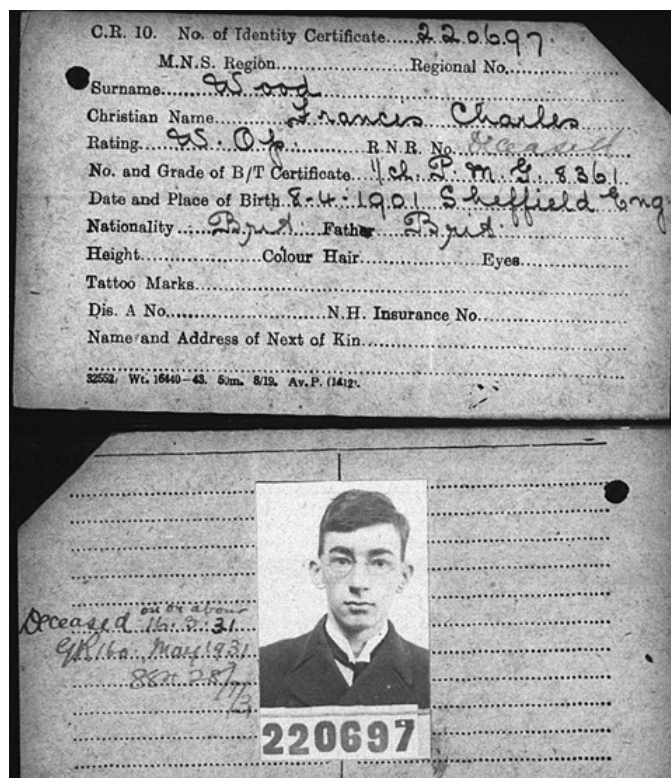
Treestones were of the Victorian Rustic era and were popular from the late 1880s until the early 1930s. They symbolised a back-to-nature, rural cemetery style and were frequently adorned with Victorian symbolism such as the ivy seen here in the picture. Ivy symbolises immortality, remembrance, attachment and



steadfastness. As you can see, the treestone sits on a cairn, which provides sections on which inscriptions can be carved, including one for Francis Charles Wood:

*FRANCIS CHARLES WOOD son of WILLIAM
HENRY WOOD lost at sea off Iceland March 16th
1931 age 29yrs.*

The Wood family were saw manufacturers for many years, but Francis Charles didn't follow his father and grandfather into the business. After leaving Retford Grammar School, he went to work for the Marconi Company, and was then in the British India Service as a purser on ocean liners between India and Britain.



In 1929 he joined the trawling fleet in Grimsby as a wireless operator. In March 1931, he was on board the steam trawler 'North Cape', fishing around the coast of Iceland. The trawler, with a crew of 14, had left Grimsby on 7 March, but contact with the ship was lost after 16 March. The owners, H. Croft Baker & Sons, tried constantly to make contact but were unsuccessful.

The skipper of another trawler, Green Howard, reported it had received a message from the North Cape, saying that the ship was in heavy gales and the weather was too bad for fishing. A sighting of the ship amid storms and blizzards was reported, but no contact could be made, so it was assumed eventually that the ship had gone down with all the crew.

The owners had kept in touch with Francis' mother, but finally she received a message from the Fishery Patrol cruiser HMS Godetia, saying "*I consider the trawler was overcome by seas during the gale on 16 and 17 March, and that she foundered on the south coast or other coast of Iceland*". The search was abandoned.

Verity Brack

A pharmaceutical find . . .

Our cemetery holds thousands of links to the past of various kinds, but a recent discovery by one of our volunteers in the south-west corner of the chapel section was quite a surprise . . .

The item found by Sandra Mellard while clearing ivy and brambles was a glass bottle, just 38 mm in diameter and 95 mm tall. It was clearly designed for a screw top, but this was not found. Once cleaned, the bottle revealed in raised text:

BISURATED MAGNESIA, BISMAG L^{TD} LONDON



It dates from about 1890 to 1920 and was made by BISMAG Limited of Braydon Road, London N16.

Bisurated Magnesia, the forerunner of 'Milk of Magnesia', was commonly used to combat indigestion, ulcers and upset tummies. This bottle most likely contained the liquid rather than tablet form of the medicine. Interestingly, Milk of Magnesia is no longer available in the UK in its historic formulation owing to limits on the sulphates that may be incorporated.

BLOTTER

Early in 1913

the year before the Great War, 'Bisurated' Magnesia, a convenient and effective treatment for stomach disorders, was perfected.

Many changes have taken place since that time, but the use of 'Bisurated' Magnesia, which is now issued in tablet form, has continued to increase year by year, and at the present time many millions of 'Bisurated' Magnesia tablets are made and used.

'Bisurated' Magnesia Tablets contain Bismuth subcarbonate, Magnesium carbonate and Sodium bicarbonate in suitable proportions, and give prompt relief in hyperacid conditions of the stomach.

Sample on request.

BISMAG LIMITED,
Pharmaceutical Laboratories,
BRAYDON ROAD, LONDON, N.16.

Advertisement by BISMAG promoting their product

BISMAG's bisurated magnesia clearly had a market beyond the UK, because on Wednesday 20 October 1920 the Ballarat Star in Victoria, Australia, published the following advertisement:

A LITTLE DOCTOR FOR DYSPEPTICS

If you want quick relief from the pains and distress of indigestion, dyspepsia, food fermentation and acidity, just take two or three little tablets of Bisurated

Magnesia after eating or whenever pain is felt. Bisurated Magnesia tablets are absolutely harmless and enable the dyspeptic to enjoy a good- old-fashioned meal without fear of pain or distress to follow. That's why Bisurated Magnesia is called "The Little Doctor for Dyspeptics." Go to the nearest chemist and get a packet of Bisurated Magnesia tablets to-day; he sells them in handy flasks at small cost, and with every one is included a binding guarantee of satisfaction or refund of money. Thus, unless this "Little Doctor" gives you the benefit you desire, you pay him nothing. Bisurated Magnesia is also obtainable in powder form. Beware of substitutes. Look for the maker's name—BISMAG. Ltd., which appears on every genuine package'.

A BISMAG bottle is held in the Sir Henry Wellcome's collection at the Science Museum in London (reference A664209), and the National Trust also has a bottle like ours that is held at Castle Drogo, Devon (reference 903033). Theirs has a cork stopper rather than our screw top.

Peter Easter



Verity Brack, our secretary, with volunteers from Sheffield Hallam University — Destiny and Nasreen

How to contact us . . .

For general inquiries and volunteering, please email our Secretary, Verity Brack:
loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

For membership and subscription inquiries, please contact our Treasurer, Jane Pratt:
loxleytreasurer1@gmail.com

For archive and committee business, contact our Chairman, Mike Ford:
loxley.chair@gmail.com or Tel: 07879 075619

Our website:
e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery

Burials research: loxley.burials@gmail.com