



NEWSLETTER



Spring '26

Chairman's Chat

Hello again,

Well, what a glorious spring, following a dismal winter. I hope that all our members and supporters are able to enjoy this promising period of the year. As always, I take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening since the issue of our Winter Newsletter (5 January 2026).

Heritage Fair

We were fortunate to have been allocated a stand, for the fifth year running, at this annual event held in the Millennium Galleries in Sheffield, over the weekend of 24 and 25 January 2026. As always, the event was well attended with approaching 50 exhibitors and several hundred visitors. Our stand was 'manned' by Sue Fisher, Malcolm Nunn, Peter Easter, and myself on a rotational basis. For the first time we had our new Sail Banner in attendance as well.



Oral Histories

Peter Easter is looking to record memories of the Cemetery and Chapel. This would be done by interviewing members and the public who have recollections which could be recorded and then transcribed. We believe this should provide personal first-hand accounts of memorable events in the recent past and possibly stories passed down from previous generations. Further info to follow.

Loxley FC

Malcolm Nunn and I have been researching this early football club which is said to have been formed in 1866 (that's the year previous to Sheffield Wednesday). We have a photo of them outside the former Schoolhouse, next to the Manse, on Loxley Road, but little else. If anyone has any information to impart please pass it on.



The team outside the old school building

University Volunteer Fairs

For the second year running we attended these events held at Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield University on the 9th and 10th February 2026. It was hard work for the FoLC volunteers in attendance (Peter Easter, Annette Lee, Sue Fisher and myself) over the consecutive days. However, we were rewarded with a number of students expressing an interest in carrying out works at the Cemetery on the scheduled Saturday afternoons. A number of these students have already attended and we hope to see them continue.

Booklet

Due the success of other similar organisations producing booklets for sale to members, organisations and the general public, we

have decided to produce such a document ourselves. Our founding Chair, Mick Drewry, volunteered to produce one. Mick is an established author with five published titles to his name. We look forward to receiving the draft, and hopefully, publication later this year (no pressure Mick).

Volunteer Sessions

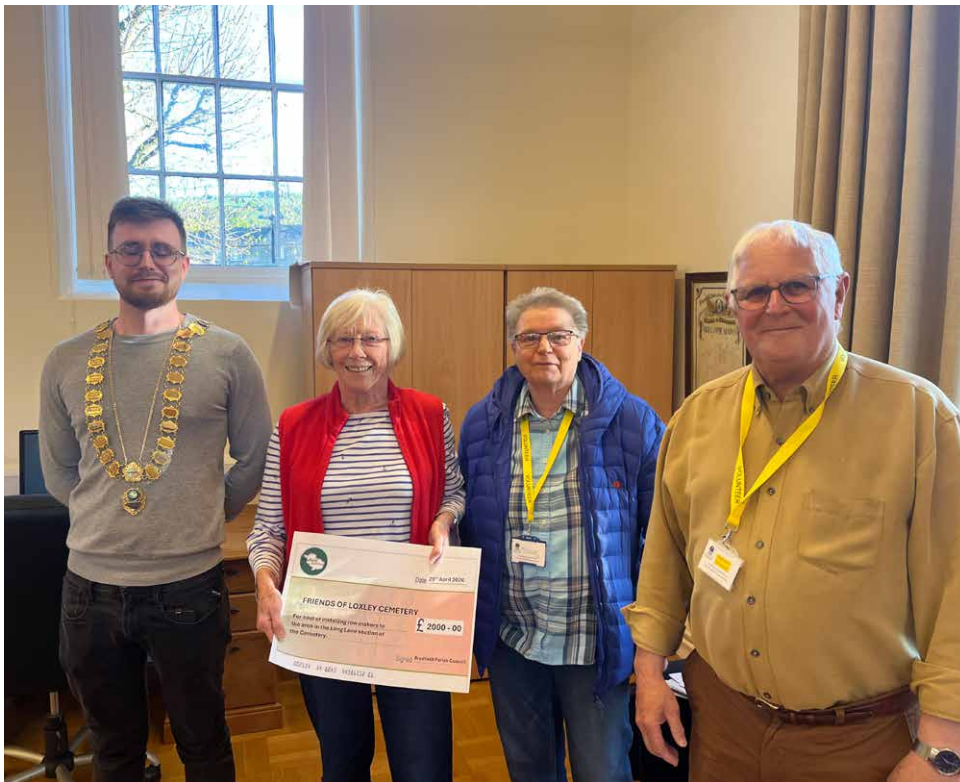
Last but by no means least, is an update on the work of the fantastic team of Volunteers, led by Jane Pratt, who have been giving up their Saturday afternoons (13:30-16:00), through most of the winter months. As well as the usual maintenance programme, Peter Easter and Annette Lee have been excavating a mound of earth beside the Chapel, with some interesting results (watch this space)

Mike Ford - Chair

Grant for Row Markers

We are delighted to advise you that we have been awarded a grant of £2,000.00 by Bradfield Parish Council for the purchase of row markers for the Long Lane section. At a presentation at the Council offices on April 29th, Peter, Sue and Verity, as members of our Funding Working Group, accepted a special cheque from Chair of the Parish Council, Tom Vickers.

New row markers are essential as now that volunteers have cleared the overgrown Long Lane section of the Cemetery, those families, looking for the graves of relatives, can now do so more easily. However, the orientation of the plots is very confusing as they do not follow a logical sequence. To assist visitors, temporary wooden markers were installed to provide an indication of where plots are but these have now come to the end of their life. Our intention was always to replace these with bespoke galvanised steel ones – the grant from Bradfield Parish Council will allow us to do this.



Open Day – Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May



The weather was kind to us on our Spring Open Day when we welcomed a slow but steady stream of FoLC members and visitors. As before there were stalls at the Long Lane entrance where visitors were able to find information on the historic Graveyard, talk to volunteers to help find specific grave plots and to study burial records, baptisms

and marriages that took place in the Chapel. There was also a second hand book stall.

We offered two tours: a Gravestone Symbols tour led by Verity Brack and a War Memorials tour led by Malcolm Nunn. On this tour visitors were shown graves where a person had died in war but not buried at

Loxley - there are memorial inscriptions on the gravestones instead.

Thank you to all FoLC members who attended at some point during the day and a special thank you to our volunteers for giving up their bank holiday to set up and run the day.

Volunteering 2026

This spring we have welcomed a number of student volunteers from the University of Sheffield. We attended the Volunteering Fair in February and as a result, we have had visits to our work sessions by individual volunteers and by a group from the University of Sheffield Conservation Society. We are hoping to see them all again before exams intervene.

Luckily, we had warm and dry weather for their visits in March and the students made excellent progress on clearing the bramble and ivy roots from the Chapel West section. These roots are plentiful in this area and are a potential trip hazard so we are very grateful for the work the students have done.

The visit by the Conservation Society students coincided with a chat with Gerry Firkins, a local ecologist, who has been advising us on management of the Cemetery now that we have cleared most of the vegetation from the graves.

We are also looking forward to visits this summer by the Wadsley Church Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who also help to keep the graves tidy, and also Y5 from Loxley Primary School who have adopted the Chapel East section as their own to look after.

Probably our youngest recruit is Will Barnett. Will is working towards his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award, which requires him to complete four sections over at least six months: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and a two-day, one-night expedition.

Will chose to volunteer with FoLC and worked tirelessly (with his dad) over several sessions. In recognition of his efforts, Peter Pratt presented Will with a special trophy which he had turned from a piece of sycamore cut from the trunk of a tree cleared from one of the graves in the Cemetery.



Below: Students and FoLC volunteers enjoy a tea break.



Dates for your Diary



On Saturday, June 6, at 1:00 pm as part of Sheffield Environment Weeks, our Secretary, Verity, will be giving a short presentation on our work at the Cemetery. The Venue is The Carpenter Room in Sheffield Central Library on Surrey Street.

As well as supporting Verity you will be able to enjoy an afternoon of short talks from people actively involved in protecting and improving Sheffield's environment and green spaces.

Other speakers include representatives from: Darnall Allotment Project & Green City Action, Friends of Parkwood Springs, Moorland Monitors - Reclaim the Moors, Sheffield Action on Plastic and Hidden Walks Sheffield. For further information log on to sheffieldenvironment.org.

We are also planning an Open Day as part of Sheffield's Heritage Open Days scheme in September - we haven't set a date yet, but please keep an eye on our website for further details.

For King and Country – Andrew Burns MC

A recent discovery in Loxley Cemetery is the grave of Andrew Burns who received the Military Cross (MC) in World War One. The MC is the third highest level award for all ranks of the British Armed Forces for "exemplary gallantry".

Research reveals that he was born in Kelso, Roxburghshire in 1874, his parents being Peter & Mary Burns. Andrew appears on the 1881 and 1891 Census as living with his parents at Sprouston, Roxburghshire but there is no trace of him on the 1901 or 1911 Census.

We know Andrew married Jane Greig on July 1905 at Caxton, Cambridgeshire (On some records Jane is named as Jeannie but her birth, marriage and death records are given as Jane). They had three children, Cecily Edith born June 1906 in Cambridge, Freda May born April 1909 in Bicester and Dorothy Gautry born December 1912 in Edinburgh.

The first record of the family being in Sheffield is on the 1921 Census when all five of them lived at 457 Jenkin Road, Wincobank. Andrew died on July 4th 1937, aged 63 and was buried at Loxley in Long Lane grave number 132, his wife being interred in the same grave on April 1940 aged 87. At that time, she was living in Regent Court Flats on Bradfield Road.

I have contacted the Black Watch Regiment Museum who gave me quite a lot of

information in regard to his service career. Andrew enlisted in The Black Watch/Royal Highlanders Regiment in February 1896 in the 3rd/1st Battalion and was given Regimental Number 6286. He was assigned in India in October 1896 until December 1901.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal in April 1898 then to Corporal in February 1908. He served in the South Africa Wars

from December 1901 to September 1902 and was awarded the Queen's South Africa medal with clasps Transvaal, Orange Free State and South Africa 1901. Medal clasps or bars were awarded to military personnel to signify participation in specific battles or campaigns.

Andrew was promoted to Transport Sergeant at Fort George in September 1904 where he is listed as an Instructor - Highland Cyclist Battalion in 1911. In 1912 he was promoted to Colour Sergeant then to Company Sergeant Major in October 1913 and at the outbreak of the first world war he served in France - receiving the Military Cross in 1916 along with a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

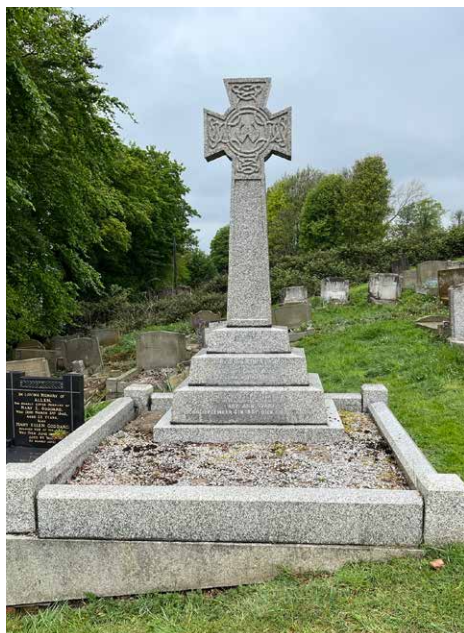
His citation for the Military Cross was: *For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of ammunition in keeping up supply under heavy fire. His conduct throughout has been gallant, personal coolness and a fine example.* He lost a leg during a daring reconnaissance of the enemy position.

Andrew took his discharge in February 1918 after 22 years' service and became employed as a caretaker at the Midland Bank in Sheffield.

Malcolm Nunn



Reunited Again



The family grave of Joseph and Arthur Ward

Anybody born and bred in Sheffield will be familiar with the company Thos.W. Ward (always known locally as Tommy Wards) and its massive Albion Works headquarters on Saville Street. Founded in Sheffield some 150 years ago, Thomas William Ward, with the help of his brothers Joseph and Arthur built up a massive conglomerate with worldwide activities covering scrap metal, large scale industrial works dismantling, ship breaking and machine tools sales. By the mid-1950s the company employed 11,500 people.



The family grave of Herbert Ward

Although Thomas Ward, who passed away in 1926, is buried in Crookes Cemetery, his brothers Joseph and Arthur and his nephew Herbert are buried in adjacent plots at Loxley. Until recently the magnificent graves were overgrown and the headstone of Herbert's grave had collapsed. Now thanks to the work of our volunteers and particularly Peter Pratt – who was able to put Herbert's headstone upright again - the impressive graves of this notable Sheffield family can now be fully appreciated.

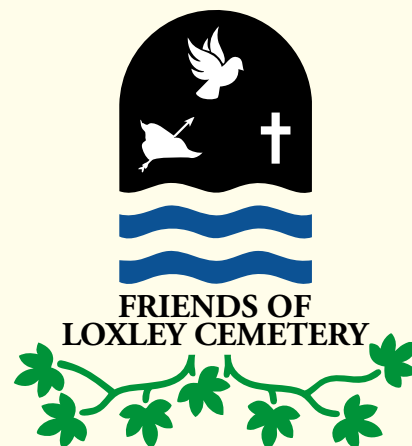
New Brochure Spreads the Word

We have recently produced a new trifold brochure aimed at spreading the word about our work, emphasising that the Cemetery is as a tranquil green space and the fact that it has been an important part of the local community's heritage for over 200 years.

The brochure includes a brief history of Loxley Cemetery and Chapel, the background to the formation of FoLC and a call for action for volunteers to join in the maintenance and conservation of the site.

There's also a map showing paths to the various sections as well as images highlighting specific themes such as war graves, the graves of prominent Sheffield families, victims of the Sheffield flood and unique architectural monuments. For those seeking further information, there's a QR code link to our website.

The brochure is distributed at the various heritage fairs we attend and to visitors at our open days and the aim is to display it at local libraries, garden centres and cafes.



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 on 07879 075619 or at loxley.chair@gmail.com

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

Burials research:
loxley.burials@gmail.com