

Newsletter Winter 2021



**Friends of Loxley Cemetery Committee
Hoping this newsletter brings some
seasonal cheer and shows the many ways
the Committee's work is having an
impact... enjoy!**



We have two new noticeboards – one is positioned at the Long Lane entrance and the other is placed at the Loxley Road entrance. Thanking Bradfield Parish Council for their support.



We have found a more suitable bank account – please consider using this method when renewing your membership or donating to FoLC.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR MIKE FORD

Season's Greetings to all our members, supporters & their families.

Well, what a year we've had. Thanks to the efforts of our teams of volunteers the cemetery is looking a whole lot better than it did at this time last year.

Although I don't usually single out individuals, I think Mark Pickering deserves a special mention for kick-starting the whole thing off. Around a year ago Mark rang me to ask if he could make a start at clearing the cemetery as part of his exercise routine.

I told him that due to the Covid 19 restrictions in place at the time that, as a group, we were unable to organise such gatherings, but as an individual there was nothing to stop him attending as and when he was able. I also had to tell him that we could not offer support either through our insurance policy (as these would not be official sessions) or financially, due to our depleted funds.



Memberships run from January 1st each year – we ask you to renew as soon as you can using the form attached to this email.

Your support is vital to the work continuing.

Any queries, comments or suggestions please contact

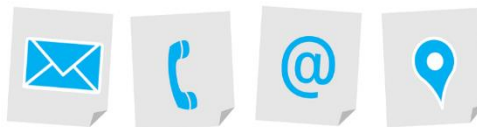
FoLC on

loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

07879075619

Or visit our website

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



This did not deter Mark.

I believe he commenced in the spring and has also been an ever-present at our Official Activity Days (OAD), which commenced on the 3 August.

Please see our website for details of future OAD's.

The situation with our funding has improved noticeably in the last few months with the arrival of a 'start-up' grant, courtesy of Bradfield Parish Council and a donation from the owner of the site (Mr Jameel Ali) towards running costs.

I will be formally thanking both these parties in due course, on receipt of our recently ordered letterheads.

In addition, I must thank all our members for their continued/new subscriptions and donations, without which we would not be here.

Although it has been a great year, we have also had our problems with the Chapel & the question marks regarding the use of power tools. I have made mention of same in the 2 'Messages from the Chair' issued in October and December.



Friends of Loxley Cemetery



Our Secretary, Verity has been making our presence felt in the wider locality by contacting and gaining support from...

Karen Lightowler who kindly included Verity's article about FoLC in their December Newsletter.



In her November newsletter, Olivia said 'Last week I met with Friends of Loxley Cemetery to hear about their work restoring the area to provide safe access for visitors, maintaining the local environment and ensuring access to historical records. You can find out about their future activities and how to get involved [here](#).

OLIVIA BLAKE
MP for SHEFFIELD HALLAM

November Newsletter
Olivia Blake MP for Sheffield Hallam



FoLC have made connections in our community too.

Friends of Loxley Cemetery join Loxley Primary School for special remembrance day event honoring local war heroes

The Friends of Loxley Cemetery joined together with Loxley Primary School to honour local war heroes in their first ever event.



Together in Remembrance

A community joining together to pay their respects on Remembrance Day 2021



Friends of Loxley Cemetery (FoLC) have hosted their first ever event at the cemetery.

Building valuable community links, the committee was delighted to have shared this special moment with Loxley Primary School. Year 5 children were invited to visit Loxley Cemetery to complete a history and research project carried out with their teacher, Dan Eaton. FoLC provided British Legion crosses and the pupils had created wreaths with mini biographies of the fallen.

Using the committee members knowledge, the children were able to locate the graves and lay their wreaths and crosses in person.



This event was reported in The Star - to see the full article

[Click here](#)

or follow this link

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/politics/friends-of-loxley-cemetery-join-loxley-primary-school-for-special-remembrance-day-event-honoring-local-war-heroes-3470645>

At the time of writing, we have cordoned-off the Chapel, in an effort to prevent injury to members & visitors.

We have also now received the green light to re-commence clean-up works with automated power tools, with the exception of Chainsaws and Chippers. A revised Risk Assessment has been produced, together with a Guidance Note. These have been included on the website.

Looking back to last year's Xmas Newsletter, we can report that the 'Find A Grave' service launched in same has been a big success with both new and existing members.

Next year we hope to launch two new services involving gravestone cleaning and tree lopping/felling. These will be issued through 'partners' with a percentage of the fees involved payable to the FoLC, to cover admin costs etc. We will provide further details when available.

I close with thanks to all members of the Management Committee, who through these testing times, have given both me and the previous Chair, Mick Drewry, the support necessary to achieve what we have.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.
Mike Ford (Chair).



Our newsletter must also reflect on the fantastic work taking place in Loxley Cemetery

Here are two photos to show the transformations taking place

– all thanks to the regular hard work of our volunteers.

Please visit the FoLC website for further details

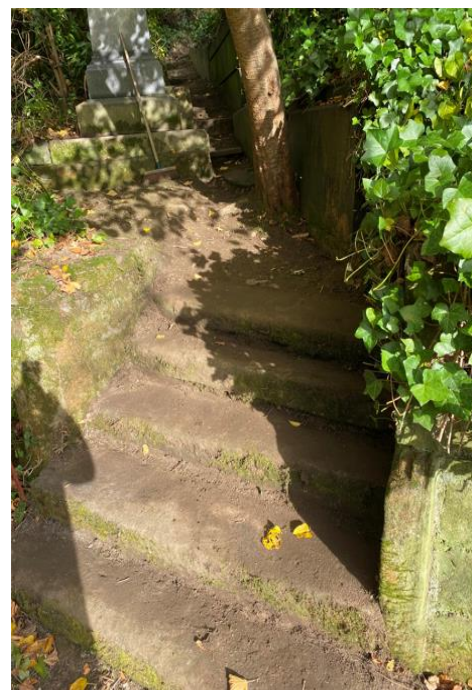
<https://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery/volunteering>



Photograph taken in February 2021 before clearance work. Photograph taken in November 2021 after the clearance.

Notice the red coloured headstone in both pictures – it is the same one!!

The volunteers also found a water tank hidden under years of overgrowth, brambles, weeds and ivy. It is now in working condition again. Please take care when navigating the pathways – although many areas are looking safer and offering better access to the cemetery.





GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

In keeping with our historical aim: Last Christmas, we brought you an historical treat in the form of a local carol 'Fern Bank'. This Christmas, we follow in the footsteps of Charles Dickens, with our own local 'Ghost of Christmas past'.

Thanks to Ron Clayton & pals for digging this out for us!

THE WOMAN IN WHITE

Worrall Ghost Layers and the "Elusive Lady."

Unusual interest has been aroused by the Worrall ghost story, which under the heading of "The Woman in White," appeared in the "Independent" on Thursday last. Several more residents in Wadsley and Worrall districts declare that they have seen the "strange visitor," who, according to the stories current, haunts the Worrall to Loxley road at the end of Wadsley Common.

Hundreds of people have since journeyed to the spot at night to gratify curiosity or to take part in ghost hunting. Not a few of them were townfolk. Much amusement has been aroused, and, among the villagers of those lonely parts, not a little misgiving.

Several theories are advanced for the origin of the ghost—or the story! One, which is very popular, is that somebody has been masquerading as a ghost; and not a few persons are inclined to believe a story current that men who have been using a hut (or outbuilding) for gambling purposes are guilty of conjuring up a ghost in the district to keep away intruders. Not least amusing of all is the assertion that a farmer has shot a white owl, which is supposed to be responsible for creating fear and apparitions in the minds of timid folk. But the white owl theory is very ancient, and has accounted for too many ghosts.

Meanwhile a "live" interest in ghosts and spirits is being maintained in those parts, and the number of men who are anxious to lay "the woman in white" with ashplants is increasing daily.



WOMAN IN WHITE.

Stories of a Ghost on Wadsley Common.

VILLAGERS A-TALKING.

Another ghost has walked. As a sequel, many country folk in Worrall and the adjacent districts of Wadsley and Loxley are more or less excited. The mystic visitor, so the story goes, is a woman in white who glides about silently and now and again raises her arms in lament or imprecations. Some people say she occasionally moans as if in trouble.

According to the villagers the ghost appears to have its home on Wadsley Common—a wild, hilly, crag-strewn waste, overgrown with bracken and heather, and clothed with trees in parts—and haunts the vicinity of the Worrall to Loxley road near the old pit workings. Folk who claim to have encountered the ghost state that it was first seen on Sunday week last, and that it walks abroad between the hours of 9 and 11 o' nights.





On the Track of the Ghost.

An "Independent" representative who made investigations yesterday into the "manifestations" (!) was told the story by a man named Clarence Swain, who is employed on a farm in that part of the country. He was accompanied by his sister, who was a nurse in Rotherham prior to the war, and had been paying him a visit, as she was just demobbed after serving on the Rhine.

"We were making our way for Hillsbro' when we saw it," he said. "When we got against the lane end that comes from the field road to Bradfield she clutched at my arm, and, upset-like, screamed: 'Oh, look, Clar!' And when I looked there was something white coming across, like a woman, maybe, holding her arms up. Then it vanished across by the old pit. It scared me right, and my sister couldn't talk for a bit, as she was very 'feared.'"

To the suggestion that they were nervous in the darkness and loneliness, he replied: "Me nervous! I was never 'feared' before of man or spirits, but if that wasn't a spirit I'm beat." "Or a white cow," I added, but he was not out for joking, and replied: "Cows don't glide over walls."

A gannister miner named John Grayson, who lives in a cottage on the hillside, also claims to have seen the ghost walk a few days ago near the same spot waving its arms as if in despair. Villagers interviewed gave varied versions of the story, without being able to explain why the ghost was supposed to be a woman; and one learnt that these "strange happenings" had been much discussed at the Shoulder of Mutton and the Blue Ball.



Fearn's Gibbet and the Goblins.

A farmer who discussed the subject with me said that he had a good talk with two men who worked at Fox's, Stocksbridge, who were in the Ball, and, said he, they knew some of the folk who had seen the ghost. "I hears that several who live down Loxley and Wadsley has seen it," he commented, "and so I expect we'll get famed like now; but Worrall's a old place for ghosts and goblins, an' they never bother me much."

Other people to whom I talked suggested that country folk read so much about "spirit rappings" these days that some are nearly afraid to go out at night, and are ready victims of imagination. But others talked seriously about the ghost, and believe there is "something in it."

One learnt, by the way, that near this particular corner of Wadsley Common the gibbet of Frank Fearn used to hang and creak in the wind; and that at one time this fact was responsible for weird stories about his unhappy soul haunting those parts. There is another old story, too, of a mysterious murder on the Common; but nobody seems exactly to know the yarn. Meanwhile the superstitious are alarmed, and brawny colliers have sworn a bad time for any "ghost" they may chance to meet.



Sheffield Heritage Fair
Sat 29 & Sun 30 Jan 2022

Friends of Loxley Cemetery

*Wish you a very Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year.*

We hope to start 2022 by taking part in the
Heritage Fair... come along if you can!
Just turn up on either day 10 – 4pm

