

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



Hello again!

We are entering our fifth Spring in what promises to be another busy year at the Cemetery. I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening since our last Newsletter in December.

Heritage Weekend (January 2024)

The Friends manned a stall at this annual event. We had a busy and productive Saturday with over 1,000 members of the public through the doors at the Millennium Galleries. We were able to meet and greet a number of members and field questions about the Cemetery, Chapel and our organisation. Unfortunately the venue suffered technical problems on the Sunday and all stallholders had to abort within an hour of opening to the public.

We extend our apologies to anyone who might have attended on the day but were unable to do so due to these problems.

Funding Group

The Funding Group has held a couple of meetings this year, both of which were productive. We are now receiving a Newsletter from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and have made tentative enquiries re a funding application for a number of projects at the Cemetery. It is still early days in this process, but we will keep members informed of developments.

Burial Records

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the work to transcribe the handwritten records for the Long Lane section of the cemetery into an electronic format is now complete. There is more detail about this work in a separate article on page 4.

Burial Research

Linked to the work on the burial records, a separate group continues to expand our knowledge about the burial plots and the individuals lying in them. This work has produced some interesting information. The group can do research on any plots and individuals, and a basic search is free of charge for members. We



ask for a donation from non-members and for more in-depth inquiries. Details are on our website.

Future Burials

Following several inquiries from Funeral Directors (FD), we have now produced a Guidance Note for those seeking to carry out interments in existing grave plots. This sets out the procedure which should be followed at the Cemetery and will hopefully clarify the situation for families, FDs and FoLC officers.

Volunteer Sessions

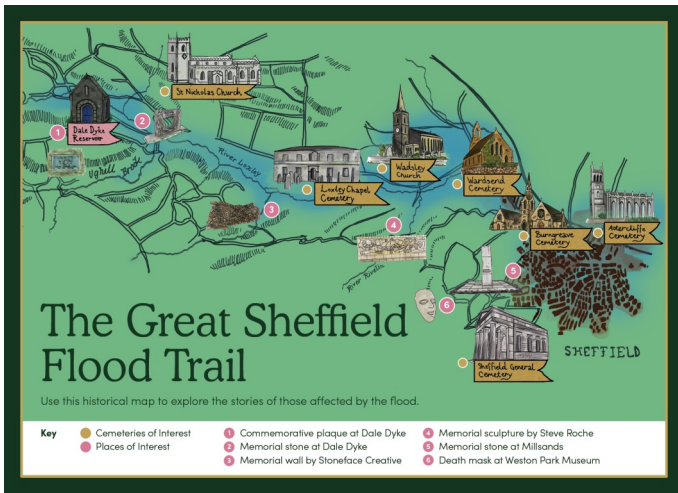
Last but by no means least is an update on the work of the fantastic team of volunteers who have been giving up their Saturday afternoons (13:30-16:00) and at other times through most of the Winter. With the onset of Spring, the Cemetery is now looking at its best and I would advise all that can to pay a visit.

But we do need more help. Please consider joining us on our Saturday afternoon work sessions. There is a mix of work to be done to suit all ages and abilities.

May Day Open Day

We will be hosting an Open Day on May Day Monday again this year from 11 until 4pm. There will be guided tours, lots of information, books and CDs to buy.

Mike Ford
Chairman



NEW FRESH FLOWERS SERVICE

We know that some people are unable to visit their loved one's grave but would still like to remember them with flowers on special occasions.

One of our volunteers has kindly offered to help anyone who is unable to visit the cemetery by collecting plants from the local garden centre and placing them on the grave. She will also send you an email with a photograph of the flowers on the grave.

The cost of the flowers would be agreed with you in advance. We do not intend to add a service charge, but we would ask you to consider making a donation. This helps with the costs of maintaining the cemetery.

Below are examples of flowers that may be available.

If you would like to make use of this service, please email our treasurer at loxleytreasurer1@gmail.com and include the information below. You can discuss prices with her by email.

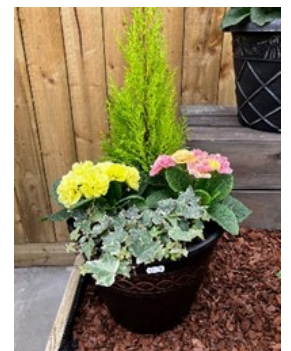
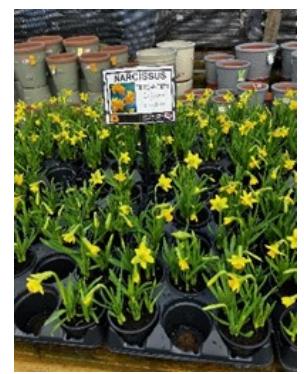
- 1. Details of flowers required.*
- 2. Name(s) of the person you would like remembered, and the special date.*
- 3. Plot number and location of their grave and any message you would like adding to the flowers*
- 4. Complete the donation form at <https://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery/join-us/donate/> and then send the money via bank transfer using the bank details on the website.*
- 5. We will purchase the flowers on receipt of the payment, so please ensure that you leave enough time for the transfer to go through.*

The 11th of March 2024 was the 160th anniversary of the Great Sheffield Flood, which caused the deaths of at least 240 people as the water swept through Low Bradfield, the Loxley Valley, Malin Bridge, Hillsborough, Wicker and the city centre towards Rotherham in 1864.

Loxley Cemetery played a significant part in a week of events around the anniversary by hosting a tour of the victims' graves on Sunday 10th March and being part of a new Flood Trail. Despite bad weather, the visitors were able to learn about the tragic events that led to 22 victims being buried at the cemetery, including where they lived, what their jobs were and the circumstances in which they died.

The Great Sheffield Flood Trail is a collaborative project that connects some of the cemeteries where the victims are buried — Loxley, Wadsley, Wardsend, Burngreave, Attercliffe and the Sheffield General Cemetery. It is an audio walking trail that can be followed in one 15-mile session starting at Dale Dyke Reservoir, or each site can be visited on separate occasions. The organisers recommend using the izi.travel app (<https://izi.travel/en>) for the best experience.

Karen Lightowler has researched the Great Sheffield Flood for many years and produces a newsletter — KarenL823@aol.com — if you want to learn more.



LOXLEY CHAPEL MINISTERS AT REST

Following its construction in 1787 as a Chapel of Ease for the Church of St Nicholas at High Bradfield, the Loxley Chapel had 12 Ministers until its closure in 1993. Seven of them are buried in the cemetery.

At the beginning two Ministers served as Church of England clergymen, and then in 1802 the congregation changed its name to the Loxley Independent Church and appointed its first Minister – **Daniel Dunkerley**.

Reverend Dunkerley is one of the seven former Ministers who are buried in the churchyard. He served for 18 years until 1820, when he died at the age of 68 and was interred in the south section near the chapel. His wife Alice joined him in the same grave two years afterwards.

Daniel Dunkerley was succeeded by David Dunkerley (no relation) from 1820 until 1830 and then Reverend Cullen (first name not known) until 1833. Both were buried elsewhere.

Sheffield Independent, 24 November 1898

FUNERAL OF THE REV. T. FRANCE, OF MILL-HOUSES.—In the quiet burial ground at Loxley Chapel, on Tuesday afternoon, amidst every token of respect, there was laid to rest in the family vault, with his wife and daughter, who are buried there, the remains of the late Rev. Thomas France, who for 35 years was the beloved minister of this place of worship. The blinds were drawn at most of the houses on the route, the shops and the public house closed, so that the respect of the villagers might be complete. Upon the coffin, which was covered with beautiful wreaths, arriving at the chapel gates, the bearers, Messrs. Buckley, Lingard, Taylor, and Palmer, carried it into the chapel, where a large number of friends had gathered. The pulpit was draped with black, and the organ pealed forth its strains in keeping with the solemn occasion. The ministers and clergy present were the Revs. T. W. Holmes, W. K. Burford, Lewis Pearce, James Haigh, J. Lee, W. Lanwood, H. Robertshaw (Stocksbridge), W. Fordham (Wesleyan), S. H. Trevethick (Dore Union Church), J. Parkes (Vicar of Stannington), and Iden Payne (Unitarian), and Messrs. Joseph Wragg, Chas. Constantine, P. Gambling, J. Evans, and R. Gaunt. The service in the chapel and at the grave was conducted by the Revs. J. Lee, T. W. Holmes, H. Robertshaw, and W. K. Burford. The coffin was of pitch-pine, with brass mountings, and the plate was engraved:—"Rev. Thomas France. Born January 14, 1815; died November 19, 1898." Upon leaving the chapel, the organist, Mr. J. T. Wood, played the "Dead March" in Saul. Wreaths were sent by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wragg (Sheffield), Mr. Furness (Mill-houses), Miss Ravenhill (Chesterfield), and Councillor Francis Wood and Misses Wood (Birkendale), and others.

John Hanson was Minister from 1833 for 18 years until his death in 1851 at the age of 72. He was a prominent figure in the area and known as the 'Vicar of Loxley'. His grave is also on the south side of the chapel, near that of Daniel Dunkerley.

Reverend Hanson's successor, **Thomas France**, served as the Minister for fully 35 years, not stepping down until 1889. He died in 1898 and is buried on the west side of the chapel close to the north boundary wall. A fine headstone (*below*) refers to several members of his family. His parishioners marked their appreciation of him with a memorial tablet in the church.

His tenure saw some significant events, including the building of a new school room and Minister's house in 1855 and the Sheffield Flood disaster in 1864. The Sheffield Independent published an obituary in its issue of 24 November 1898. Note the details about the funeral and those attending.



Rev. John Lee succeeded Thomas France and was one of the clergymen who conducted Rev. France's funeral service, as described in the obituary.

In a future newsletter we will include more information about Reverend Lee and the three Ministers who succeeded him and are buried in the graveyard.

OUR BURIAL RECORDS GO DIGITAL!

Back in 2021 our landlord (Mr Ali) kindly donated a set of handwritten records of burials in the Long Lane section of the cemetery. The Management Committee decided to form a Working Group to transcribe these records on to an electronic database in a format similar to that created by The Sheffield Indexers in 2010 for the areas around the Chapel. The team (Sue Fisher, Malcolm Nunn and Mike Ford) met frequently throughout 2023 to undertake this daunting exercise, which was completed last November.

The record for the Long Lane section has 4262 entries. Some are highlighted to show public graves, infant deaths (indicated below by the yellow bands), war memorials, exhumations and interment of ashes. With the existing data for the original cemetery, we now have a database with all 9196 burials.

We have since produced two print-outs of the database — one centred on the grave plot numbers and the other on the surnames of the persons interred. These will be available at any events we hold. Information can also be obtained from our Secretary, Verity Brack (loxley.secretary@yahoo.com), or the Chairman (loxley.chair@gmail.com).

We have asked some Family History organisations if they would be interested in using our databases. This would benefit our funding situation and introduce the Cemetery to a national and international audience.

Extracts from the handwritten records and the first page of the electronic transcription.

GRAVE	DATE	NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	BY WHOM INTERRED
115					
1					
Sharman					
	Jan 27 th 1943	Fred Sharman	44	117 Low Rd. Mearns	Robert T. West
	Feb. 18 th 1972	Harry Slingsby	58	63 Deer Park Rd	H. T. Morgan
	Oct 29 th 1982	Ada Slingsby	84	Hawthorn Hill Home	Daniel Padden
Hart					
1A	Feb. 12 1943	Myrtle Dorothy Hart	50	18 Sated Avenue	The Jones
	27 August 1970	Ernest Norman Hart	75	2 Park Avenue Dudley	W. G. Giddings
3					
Stilling					
	Feb 15 th 1943	14 Taplin Rd Clara Stilling	71	14 Taplin Rd	Robert T. West
	2 nd October 1953	Frederick Stilling	90	14 Taplin Road.	W. G. Giddings
	14 th July 1965	Mary Ann Thompson	73	51 Dorothy Road.	Alfred Bowers
5					
Wickerley, Captain Sarah (Care of 126 Ashberry Rd)					
7					
Smith Ephraim					
	March 11 th 1943	Joan Elsie Smith	20	396 Loxley Rd.	Robert T. West
	25 th March 1959	Ephraim Smith	74	246 Loxley Road.	W. G. Giddings
	26 th July 1979	Bonnie Smith	89	310 Loxley Rd. Sheffield	Clive Loxley

Line No.	Grave No.	Purchaser's Surname	Ashes	Date	Month	Year	Interred's Surname	Interred's Forenames	Age	Residence	Minister's Surname	Minister's Forenames
A	1	Watchorn		17	4	1934	Watchorn	John	76	110 Wentworth Street, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	1	Watchorn		2	10	1937	Watchorn	Mary Elizabeth	80	110 Wentworth Street, Sheffield	West	Robert T.
A	2	Marshall		27	3	1934	Marshall	Harry	57	Mosley Arms, West Bar, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	3	Selwood		13	3	1934	Selwood	Frederick	74	8 Tresswell Crescent, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	3	Selwood		30	1	1936	Selwood	Clara	84	67 Everingham Road, Sheffield	Sidell	H.C.J.
A	4	King		7	8	1933	King	Frederick John Norman	46	16 Cox Place, Wisewood, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	4	King		26	7	1947	King	Mary Ann	61	16 Cox Place, Wisewood, Sheffield	Mares	Fred
A	5	Dixon		18	8	1928	Dixon	Selina	61	12 Coupe Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	5	Dixon		7	4	1941	Dixon	Albert Edward	78	4 Mallin Road, Sheffield	Fulljames	C.W.
A	6	Eggerton		4	4	1933	Craig	Sarah Ann	86	1 Watery Street, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	6	Eggerton		25	9	1935	Eggerton	Constance	54	Flat 43 Lambert Street, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	6	Eggerton		28	12	1942	Eggerton	Thomas	66	Back 112 Brerton Avenue, Grimsby	West	Robert T.
A	7	Ashton		23	6	1925	Ashton	Dorothy	32	48 Vere Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	7	Ashton		17	3	1947	Ledger	Dorothy Vernon	26	48 Vere Road, Sheffield	Mares	Fred
A	7	Ashton		13	12	1951	Ashton	Abraham	59	223 Stannington Road, Sheffield	Nicholls	J.W.
A	8	NOT USED										
A	9	Nettleton		12	6	1928	Nettleton	Archie	37	Worrall	Shepherd	H.S.
A	9	Nettleton		19	2	1929	Spriggs	William	74	26 Vere Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	10	NOT USED										
A	11	Dawson		3	5	1928	Dawson	Samuel	70	123 Allen Street, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	11	Dawson		1	10	1935	Dawson	Hannah Elizabeth	71	71 Langsett Avenue, Sheffield	Davies	Henry
A	12	Everson		19	5	1933	Everson	William Talbot	71	30 Warner Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	12	Everson		15	6	1937	Hunter	Robert	63	8 Avondale Road, Sheffield	West	Robert T.
A	12	Everson		19	6	1937	Everson	Annie Wilde	77	31 Warner Road, Sheffield	West	Robert T.
A	12	Everson		15	10	1960	Hunter	Cicely Maud	75	8 Avondale Road, Sheffield	Nicholls	J.W.
A	13	Public Grave (not used)										
A	14	Hadfield		8	5	1933	Hadfield	Benjamin	51	Land Society, Loxley, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	14	Hadfield		1	4	1982	Hadfield	Florence	93	Thornies, 400 Middlewood Road, Sheffield	Jeffries	Paul
A	15	Public Grave		29	12	1923	Burgin	George	84	2 Smithies Lane, Sheffield	McKittick	A.M.
A	15	Public Grave		4	10	1924	Dawson	Stillborn	0	282 Loxley Road, Sheffield	McKittick	A.M.
A	15	Public Grave		31	12	1924	Dewsnap	Edwin	82	Holme Close, Sheffield	McKittick	A.M.
A	15	Public Grave		27	5	1925	Hague	Mary	24	23 Wisewood Cottages, Sheffield	Powell	J.W.
A	15	Public Grave		7	8	1926	Kay	Stillborn	0	44 Lowe Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	15	Public Grave		31	1	1937	Gregory	Jack	47	64 Loxley New Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	15	Public Grave		12	12	1927	Barnstock	Stuart	1 d	11 Stannington Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	15	Stocks		29	4	1933	Stocks	Richard	68	13 Leader Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	16	Stocks		16	3	1935	Stocks	Ann Illingworth	70	13 Leader Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	17	Brookes		20	9	1927	Brookes	Sidney Taylor	24	324 Loxley Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	17	Brookes		24	8	1936	Brookes	Jane Ann	65	324 Loxley Road, Sheffield	West	Robert T.
A	17	Brookes		28	5	1937	Brookes	Frederick Jepson	70	324 Loxley Road, Sheffield	Froggat	J.
A	17	Brookes		3	7	1964	Brookes	Cyril Richardson	64	324 Loxley Road, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	17	Brookes		12	4	1933	Clark	Mary Ann	75	67 Rural Lane, Sheffield	West	Robert T.
A	18	Clark		9	3	1940	Clark	William	75	145 Worrall Road, Sheffield	Nicholls	J.W.
A	18	Clark		3	9	1965	Clark	Robert Edward	81	145 Worrall Road, Sheffield	Cundy	C.
A	18	Clark		28	2	1979	Thompson	Doris Mary Pretoria	78	17 Loxley Court, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	18	Clark		7	3	1927	Smalley	Julia	63	Townend, Stannington, Sheffield	Shepherd	H.S.
A	19	Smalley										

The symbols at the heart of the cemetery

Five years ago when the Friends group was formed, only a handful of gravestones and memorials were visible and the graveyard was a mysterious place. The history, beliefs and conventions over the last 200 years are gradually coming to light now as vegetation is cleared and headstones and monuments are fully revealed.

Below are examples of the symbols that are features of the cemetery and have been uncovered as the volunteers make progress on the renovation.

Ivy represents friendship, fidelity and immortality

The draped urn symbolises death, sorrow and mourning

The treestone represents the combination of strength, longevity, attachment and steadfastness

The circle at the centre of the Celtic cross denotes eternity and the unending love of Christ

Clasped hands represent farewell but also unity

The flight of the soul from the body upward to heaven is symbolised by the cherubim



Loxley Cemetery OPEN DAY

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

6 MAY 2024

11am - 4pm

- **Tours: Significant graves - 1pm**
War graves - 1.45pm
- **Find a grave service**
- **Help and advice from the Friends**

Please book ahead for the tours:

Email Loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

Phone: 07879075619

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 committee information, archive and specific inquiries, contact our chairman, Mike Ford:

loxley.chair@gmail.com or

Tel: 07879 075619

Our website:

e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery