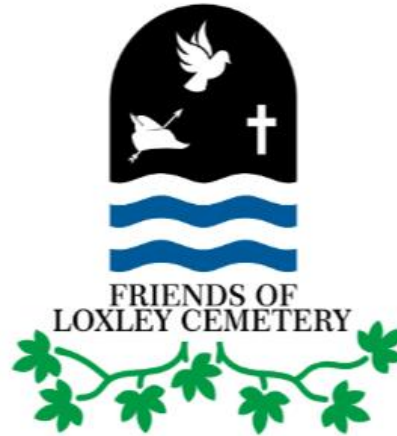


October 2022

SUMMER & AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022



As the Committee members and volunteers have had a busy summer carrying out activities and events to promote and support Loxley Cemetery – this newsletter updates you with news covering the six-month period since the Spring newsletter... we hope you enjoy this edition!



And there is always cake & a hot brew on offer !!



Our volunteers continue to meet regularly to maintain the quality of cemetery for families with connections to the site and for the local community as well as recognising it as an important and beautiful part of Loxley. Please consider how and when you may be able to help the friendly group of volunteers - click on the link below to go the webpage where forthcoming sessions are shown and updated

[Events Calendar](#)

Request from the Chair

Hello – I am writing to you because the Committee needs your help.

Under our Constitution we are required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each Autumn. The Constitution also states that we must have a minimum of 20% of our membership at the AGM. If this figure is not met, the AGM cannot go ahead.

Currently, we have 116 subscribing members which is great and shows how far we have come in a relative short time and through difficult circumstances, in respect of the Covid pandemic.

However, this means we must have at least 23 members in attendance at the AGM.

The AGM will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 26 October 2022:

Burton Conference Room (BU10)
The Burton Street Foundation
57 Burton Street S6 2HH
This venue is accessible by bus, tram and car, with free parking available.

The Committee are looking for a new Treasurer and Health & safety Officer.

However, we will not be able to vote on proposals or welcome new committee members unless we receive a minimum of 23 members at the AGM.

Therefore, please make every effort to attend. The consequences of not being able to hold an AGM, and continue the good works undertaken to date, makes our future uncertain.

Loxley Cemetery OPEN DAY

*The cemetery looks great now. I went a couple of years ago when the volunteers had just started tidying up. It looked just like a field from the road. Verity showed me around the 'field cemetery' and then down to the Chapel. Who would have known it was there?
A lovely gem on the edge of the city.
Brilliant work from all those involved and thank you.*



Wow... I have quite a few family members buried here. The last time I went it was impossible to find the graves. I'm coming back to Sheffield for a few days tomorrow so may have a drive over to look around.

We've just been in to see my husband's parents' grave; it's looking lovely now.

*Thank you volunteers x
Well done everyone. It was a shame to see it neglected.*



People came from near and far to find their loved one's graves and to show they appreciated being able to access the committee's help, research and archives.



May Day Bank Holiday Monday 2022 saw the cemetery hold its first Open Day. The response was wonderful and exceeded our expectations. Here are a few photos and messages from people who came along – showing that the cemetery is meaningful to so many and across the generations.

That must have been such hard work. Visited last summer trying to find 'Tricketts' graves post Sheffield Flood. It was impossible as so overgrown and dangerous under foot. Drove past last week and the cemetery was visible from the road. Amazing transformation. Well done.



Well done everyone involved. What would we do without the great British volunteer!



Message from the Chair

Hello to all our members and supporters.

Well summer certainly arrived with a bang this year, with record temperatures and hose-pipe bans. The cemetery coped a lot better with these conditions than my garden and this is testament to the hard work put in by our volunteers.

Since our last Newsletter, they have uncovered a set of outbuildings consisting of 2 WC's, 2 small storerooms and a cistern for retaining water, to the east of the Chapel.

However, as all these facilities are dry, we continue to search for a source of water, which the Landlord (Mr Ali), assures us, exists on the site. The volunteers have also uncovered the outline of a road/track from the area of the outbuildings up to the Long Lane section of the cemetery. All members are invited to attend the volunteer sessions, which take place on Saturday afternoons (see website for details). Come-on down, you never know what you might uncover.

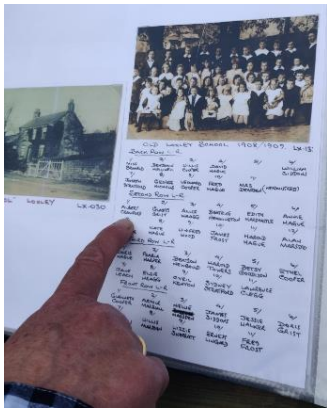
Since our last Newsletter, we had our first and very successful 'Open Day' at the Cemetery on 2nd May, which attracted in the region of 200 visitors. The tours of our Flood and War graves proved particularly popular, and thanks go to our Secretary (Verity) and committee member (Malcolm) for organising and leading them.

The Open Day was also in The Star newspaper on 14th May.

Visitors see progress as gates opened at historic cemetery



Committee members organised and led tours of the cemetery on the Open Days in May and September. As well as being able to share general information about the Cemetery, our knowledge of the War Graves and Flood Graves gave a focus to each tour.



Heritage Open Days in September 2022

Archive records from Loxley Chapel relating to the cemetery graves - ready for adding electronically to the Committee's database.



Attending Sheffield & District Family & Local History Fair May 14th 2022



Particular thanks must be given to committee member Jane and her husband (Peter), who put so much effort into making the event a success.

Soon after the Open Day, we took a Stand at the Sheffield Family History Fair which was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel on 14th May.

Thanks to committee members Trisha and Ron who ably assisted me in a worthwhile interaction with representatives from local groups and members of the public who all shared an interest in local and family history.

We also offered a free grave search at our Open Day. However, this proved slightly problematic as only the old areas of the cemetery, around the Chapel, were available electronically.

Therefore, anyone seeking information concerning burials in the Long Lane section had to manually wade through a set of handwritten records.

We are now taking steps to electronically record these burials onto a fully searchable database.

Thanks to help from committee members Sue and Malcolm for assisting me in this task, which meant we already had a partial record available for our events at the Heritage Open Days which took place on 13th and 17th September.

Time to get creative!!!

The committee would like a 'strapline' or 'slogan' which outlines what the Friends of Loxley Cemetery embodies – *in as few words as possible!*

And we are hoping you can help!



We are asking for entries to be emailed by **November 30th** to loxley.secretary@yahoo.com or uploaded to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Loxley-Cemetery-111655668312730/> or messaged to our 'Nextdoor' community page <https://nextdoor.co.uk/g/liat6xbce/> or text your suggestions to our Chair on **0787 907 5619**.

There is a prize for the winner!!!

We will be holding our AGM on 26th October at 7pm where we will be seeking to replace our current Treasurer (Linda), together with a committee member (Ron), both of whom will be retiring.

If anyone needs further information concerning either post, please feel free to give me a call

(0787 907 5619)

or forward me an email mike.ford53@hotmail.com

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Mike Ford (Chair).

We are delighted to be included in the Heritage List – click on the link to see our entry.

<https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/south-yorkshire/asset/5927>



Welcome to the South Yorkshire Local Heritage List

The places we live and work in have been subject to all kinds of changes throughout their histories; this is displayed in the landscapes and townscapes around us. Whether it's remains of a prehistoric burial mound, an 18th century iron works or a Second World War memorial, there are remnants of the past everywhere, although they are not always well known or sometimes even very visible. The Local Heritage List reflects the importance of these places and structures to their communities' local historic environment and illustrates their significance to the wider world.



The Lord Mayor's visit to the cemetery

"If you are among those people making Sheffield the brilliant place that we're proud to call home, then I can't wait to meet you."

<https://sheffnews.com/news/sioned-mair-richards-becomes-the-new-right-worshipful-lord-mayor-of-sheffield>

These are the words of Sioned-Mair Richards, the recently appointed Lord Mayor of Sheffield, who visited for a tour of Loxley Cemetery on 26th September 2022.



This time, our Chair, Mike Ford, provides the historical contribution to our Newsletter.

SUBJECT – ENGLAND HIGGINS

Introduction:

Many thanks to one of our members, for bringing it to our attention that a survivor of the Indian Mutiny (1857), is buried in Loxley Cemetery. He discovered a local newspaper cutting from 1908, which was reproduced in our first Newsletter (September/October 2020). The writer has carried out further research on England Higgins (England), a summary of which appears here.

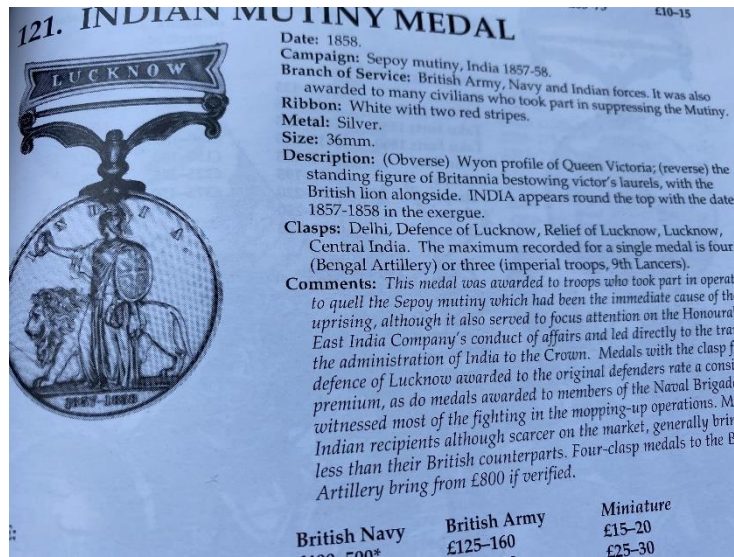
Early Life:

England was born in Chippenham, Wiltshire in 1828/9. I have tracked down an entry in a Baptismal Register for England of 18 January 1829 (mandatory registration by way of Birth Certificates did not come into force until 1875), which gives us an actual date of birth in late 1828 or early January 1829. England was born to England & Sarah Higgins (nee Light), who were married in 1812, in Chippenham. England senior had also been a soldier but was listed as a Weaver on the Baptismal record. England junior was the third of four children. It would appear that England junior remained in Chippenham, working at first in a clothing factory at the age of 12 and later as an Agricultural Labourer, until the age of 23, when he enlisted with the 8th Foot (Kings Regiment of Foot) on 27 September 1852.

Military Life:

On his Attestation Record, England stated that he was 19 years of age and that he had been born in 1833, which of course is incorrect. One possible reason for stating same is that he could have thought that he was too old to be a new recruit. He spent his early military career in the Regimental Barracks at Gosport in Hampshire. However, in 1846, the regiment had commenced a 14-year posting to India, stationed in a cantonment (camp) in Jullundur in the Punjab, which was in north-western India. England joined them in 1857. The Indian Mutiny began in the spring of that year. The reasons for the mutiny of local regiments,

with British officers, are many and varied. Suffice to say that the instruction to use rifle cartridges that were rumoured to have been greased in pork and beef fat, for protection, was paramount for both local Muslims and Hindus. Muslims abhor any contact with the pig and the cow is sacred to the Hindu. It is difficult to say whether England 'saw much action' in the 2-year long conflict. His Army Record shows that he was not at either the infamous sieges of Lucknow, nor Cawnpore. Neither was he involved in the relief of Delhi. However, he was involved in the defence of the camp at Jullundur and received injuries which resulted in him being declared 'invalided-out'. He subsequently appeared in the Chatham Invalid Depot in Chatham, Kent in 1861. England received the Indian Mutiny Medal. England served a further 6 years in the Army and was discharged in 1864. He also received a Service Pension, from that date until his death.



India Mutiny Medal (1857-9)

Civvy Life:

It is not known why England Higgins moved to Sheffield following his discharge from the Army. His regiment was never garrisoned at Hillsborough Barracks, nor do we know of any association with the city. However, we find him getting married near there, at the since demolished St Philips Church in Shalesmoor, on the 5 June 1865. His bride was Eliza Rawlins (29), who was born in Sutton-in-Ashfield in Nottinghamshire, and England was circa 36 at the time. The 1871 Census has the family living at the locally famous Wadsley Cave House, which was a primitive cottage (now demolished), built into a disused cave on Wadsley Common, near the top of Long Lane.



Wadsley Cave House (taken 1900-1919)

At the time, the Higgins had 2 children (John and Mary), together with a daughter from Eliza's previous marriage (Lydia). England is listed as a Quarry Labourer, which would fit with the number of ganister mines & stone quarries then prevalent in the area. It was probably here that the Higgins began their association with Loxley Chapel. The 1881 Census finds the family in 'Hillsboro' (no other details given). The family has another 3 children (Anne E, Bertha E and Mabel), but there is no mention of John and Mary which probably means that they are deceased. Thus, the family has a total of 3 daughters and a son (William). The stepdaughter (Lydia) is not mentioned. England's occupation is given as a General Labourer.

The 1891 Census has the family at 5 Woodland Street, Hillsborough (where I spent my formative years). By this time there are no additions to the family, and they seem to have re-connected with the stepdaughter (Lydia Rawlings). England is still working at the age of 63.

The family move again and in the 1901 Census are living at 42 Hawthorn Road, Hillsborough. By this time England has lost his wife (Eliza) and is only accompanied by his son (William) and youngest daughter (Mabel). He is still listed as a General Labourer, but I find this hard to believe taking cognisance of the life he has led and the times that he has lived through.



42, Hawthorn Road, Hillsborough (2021)

End of Life:

In 1908 England Higgins died at the age of 81. He was interred in Loxley Cemetery on 13 October 1908 (plot H1 on CWS). This plot has yet to be cleared by our team of volunteers, so we cannot say whether England has a headstone. As is evident from the press cutting included in Newsletter No 1, his family were well supported at the funeral, by the local branch of Indian Mutiny Veterans. He died at 42 Hawthorn Road, Hillsborough. The house still stands to this day.

Future:

I propose to put together a presentation on England and present this at the AGM on the 26 October 2022. If any members have any comments, queries or further contributions, I would be pleased to receive these, preferably before same. You can email me on mike.ford53@hotmail.com or telephone on

0787 9075619.

Mike Ford (Chair).