

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022/23



January 2023

Message from the Chair

Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.

Well, we have had another fine year at the Cemetery.

Our first Open Day in May was attended by over 150 visitors with many of those attending taking the opportunity to undertake one of the 2 tours on offer.

These events were repeated on 2 days during our first foray into the popular Heritage Open Days events across Sheffield in September.

In addition, many visitors were keen to explore the graveyard looking for long hidden graves of family members, now accessible.

Committee members and Volunteers were able to assist many of those attending by locating the graves on a database created by Sheffield Indexers in 2010.

However, this index only covers the 'old' part of the cemetery (i.e. that surrounding the Chapel), whereas the more recent burials (i.e. those in the last 100 years) in the Long Lane section were only accessible via a handwritten register created by our own Malcolm Nunn.

This proved a laborious exercise which often proved inconclusive.

Therefore, Friends of Loxley Cemetery Committee decided to create a database for this section of the cemetery, like the one created in 2010.

As 2022 has drawn to a close and we welcome the New Year, Friends of Loxley Cemetery Committee wish all our members a lovely 2023.

In our small piece of Loxley, we hope you can take time to enjoy the Committee's improvements and care of the cemetery for everyone's benefit, throughout the coming year and beyond!

We welcome your feedback, interesting stories and support. Keep in contact with us!

A REMINDER OF HOW YOU CAN CONTACT US...

For general enquiries & volunteering, please email the

Secretary:

Verity Brack

loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

For membership & subscription enquiries, please contact our

Treasurer: Jane Pratt

loxleytreasurer1@gmail.com

Alternatively, for Committee information, archive and/or specific enquiries, please contact our

Chairman: Mike Ford

mike.ford53@hotmail.com

Tel: 07879 07561



Our team of volunteers continue to bring the graveyard back to its former glory and plan for its future.



Message from the Chair
(continued)

I am pleased to report that, at the time of writing, this is approximately 50% complete and we are looking for completion in the first half of 2023.

On completion, the database will be made available to members.

Our team of volunteers have continued to bring the graveyard back to its former glory.

Any visitor will notice that the Long Lane section is now much more accessible with each plot now clear and most paths navigable.

Attention has therefore turned to the overgrown areas around the Chapel. In doing so, the volunteers uncovered a pathway which circumvents the set of steps to the east of the Chapel and was used in the past as a route for coffin bearers and burial groups.

In addition, a collection of stone outbuildings has been uncovered, which helped service the graveyard.

Well done to all concerned.

Looking to the future, we have registered to attend the ever-popular Heritage Fair to be held in the Millennium Galleries on the 28-29 January 2023.

We hope to see some of you there.

On 4th October 2022, Committee Officers and volunteer organisers, Verity and Jane met with two members of 'Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust' to discuss ideas for sympathetically managing the Loxley cemetery site.

It was a helpful and inspiring meeting, involving a practical tour across all parts of the site and a great opportunity to discuss beneficial ways to maintain and improve the whole of Loxley Cemetery.

The Trust advisors were very knowledgeable, and Jane has created a full report for the committee and Volunteers to use.

In brief, these following aspects were discussed, and suggestions made:

Developing a wildflower area and a wild area - Scything the grass area.

Unfortunately, we do not have scythes or the funds to buy them (scythes cost between £30 and £100). We also only have a couple of volunteers able bodied enough to use them.

If anyone can help with these suggestions, please contact us!

Clearing and long-term management

North terrace area where the original route for the funeral procession from the chapel to Long Lane interments took place

- The **ground ivy** should be left as it provides cover for small mammals.
- The intermediate layer can be developed by cutting back the hawthorn so that the trees become bushes, providing cover for small birds and a food source.
- The tree canopy needs opening up to allow more light.
- All **ash trees** need removing as they all have substantial Ash Dieback so this will manage the disease spread and start to open the canopy.
- All **holly trees** without berries should be removed to open the canopy and improve light. To every berried (female) holly there are approx. 9 male trees. The **holly trees** with berries are good cover and a good source of wildlife food.
- All **sycamore trees** should be removed to open the canopy.
- **Birds Eye cherries** need thinning so keep some as food source and roosting and remove a few to allow light and space for the trees left and wildlife.
- **Elderberry trees** are short-lived, but a good food source so can be managed and left in most cases.
- All **chestnut trees** to be left, they are a slow growing and good for wildlife.
- All **oak trees** to be left, they are slow growing and good for wildlife.

In our last newsletter we asked for your help in creating a catchy strapline for our group.

From several entries, the Committee voted for the entry from FoLC member, Stella Nickolay

'Preserving the Past for the Future'



Message from the Chair (continued)

We are also planning a visit to a sister cemetery in Bristol in the spring to glean ideas about fundraising activities.

A Working Group has been set-up to provide a register of monumental inscriptions, which should prove popular with local and national genealogists.

Lastly, another Working Group has also been formed to examine the possible opening-up of the graveyard to burials, although this is a long-term project.

Mike Ford (Chair).
January 2023

Stella sent this lovely reply when we notified her of winning the competition and the £25 M&S voucher prize.

Dear Mike

What a surprise! I really didn't expect that I would win the competition and I feel really honoured!

As I live in Nottingham, it's not easy to be involved in practical ways, although I do try to visit with my cousin who lives near Barnsley. However, we both feel a strong personal link to the area and the cemetery and chapel. Both our mothers were born on Loxley Road in 1914 & 1916. Our great grandfather George Middlemass was a stonemason, and his name is on several of the gravestones in the cemetery.

My mum went to Sunday School in the Loxley United Reformed Church there and had told me about the gravestones. Our Grandmother, Uncle, who died in infancy, and her husband are all buried in an unmarked grave there – we hope we can mark the grave in the future.

We have undertaken a lot of research into our family history in Loxley and neighbouring areas.

In terms of the £25 voucher, I would like to donate it to FoLC to be used, perhaps for tools or other equipment to help with the clearance/restoration/maintenance of the cemetery and in lieu of practical support.

I hope this is OK!

It is enough of a prize to have my slogan used and to thereby strengthen my connection!

Thank you so much for all your hard work and that of the rest of the "team".

Warm wishes

Stella



**Our volunteers
continue to meet.**

Please consider how and when you may be able to help the friendly group of volunteers - click on the link below or go the webpage where forthcoming sessions are shown and updated

[Events Calendar](#)

Remembrance Day November 11th 2022

Pupils and teacher, Dan Eaton from Loxley Primary School joined Committee members and Reverend Dan to commemorate those buried in war graves at Loxley Cemetery.

2022 is the second year this combined art, history and community project has taken place and FoLC look forward to building on the partnership in future years.



Sheffield Heritage Fair

Sat 28 - Sun 29 January 2023

MILLENNIUM GALLERY

Friends of Loxley Cemetery are one of many groups participating in Sheffield's Heritage Fair at the Millennium Gallery – it is a wonderful opportunity.

We hope you will visit us and explore the whole event!

Join us for a celebration of Sheffield's rich history, as we showcase the work of key heritage groups from around the city in a weekend-long fair at the Millennium Gallery.

Find out about the future of key sites and chat with over 40 local groups who care for and promote Sheffield's heritage.

This event is organised by well-known Sheffield character, author, and provider of Sheffield-based historical walks and talks, Ron Clayton, and historian and speaker, David Templeman.

Event Info

Where

Millennium Gallery

When

28 January 2023 10:00 - 16:00
29 January 2023 11:00 - 16:00

How to Book

£1 suggested donation
Just turn up!

<https://www.sheffieldmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/sheffield-heritage-fair/>

'Preserving the Past for the Future'

Friends of Loxley Cemetery rely on membership subscriptions to carry out our work.

Membership runs from January 1st for one year & costs just £5.

Please show your support of FoLC by becoming a member or renewing your membership for this year.

Membership forms are attached to this email.

Please contact the Treasurer for any further info.

Donations are welcomed and appreciated as they make a significant difference to what we can undertake!



The final part of this newsletter is our regular visit to the historical aspects of Loxley Cemetery – this time, we have a Christmas themed article from Committee member, Joy, who has been researching the Cemetery's interesting past! Thank you, Joy!

Christmas Burials at Loxley Chapel

It may seem strange to us for people to have been buried on Christmas Day, yet Christmas Day may have been one of the very few days they had a 'holiday' away from work together without losing pay, which made it an ideal day to spend with family and friends – and sometimes at a funeral!

At the very beginning of the 19th Century Christmas was hardly celebrated – at least not in a way we would recognise today.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's influence altered all that when in 1848 the 'Illustrated London News' published a drawing of the royal family gathered around a decorated Christmas tree at Windsor Castle, this introduced a set of traditions for celebrating Christmas. Following the death of Prince Albert Queen Victoria also influenced how grief and mourning were expressed.

The Victorians had no illusions about death – child mortality was high and those who did survive childhood did not usually live past the age of 50. An elaborate funeral service was highly prized and considered so important that the middle and lower class families sometimes 'went without', often to their detriment. Children who died young may have had more spent on them in death than spent on them during their lifetime.



Gravestone showing Elizabeth Armitage's burial on Christmas Day 1846

Christmas Burials at Loxley Chapel

Here at Loxley Cemetery, there are several records of Christmas Day burials.

Date of Burial	Name of Deceased	Age	Address	Name of Purchaser	Officiant	Plot Number
25.12.1858	Alice Marsden	20 months	Jackson Houses, Loxley	George Marsden	Thos. France	CSS 1 26
25.12.1885	Harry Burgin	3	Wadsley	Burgin	Mr J Frankish	CSS 4 19
25.12.1861	Arthur Barker	9 months	Owlerton	Peter Priestley	Thos. France	CSS 1 30
25.12.1841	Emma Proctor	1	Owlerton	William Ridall	John Hanson	CSS 2 20
25.12.1867	Henry Bland	42	Sheffield	Henry Bland	Thos. France	CSS 5 21
25.12.1890	Margaret Hilda Trickett	8 months	Rodney Inn	Geo. Trickett	John Lee	CSS 3 11
25.12.1846	Elizabeth Armitage	23	Wisewood	George Armitage	John Hanson	CSS 3 14
25.12.1840	Samuel Thorpe	88	Storrs	Samuel Thorpe	John Hanson	CSS 4 9
25.12.1836	Hannah Maurice	23 months	Stannington	Abraham Ashton	John Hanson	CSS 10 2
25.12.1890	Emily Wilde	61	Sheffield	Joshua Wilde	Ward	CSS 5 9
25.12.1847	Charles Steel	23	-	William Steel	John Raines	CSS 11 17
25.12.1888	Sarah Guy	68	Malin Bridge	George Guy	Thos. France	CWS A 68
25.12.1888	George Lingard	63	Charlotte Street	George Lingard	Thos. France	CWS F 33
25.12.1911	Ada Hinchliffe	46	90 Wellington Street, Sheffield	Mr Hinchliffe	John Lee	CWS F 71
25.12.1892	Sarah Ann Rees	47	Olive Terrace, Loxley	Rees	John Lee	CWS H 50

Mourning clothes were considered an outward expression of a person's inner feelings. Society dictated that women's mourning dress should be of non-reflective, deep black with minimal jewellery. Special jewellery was created for the occasion by including a lock of the deceased's hair or by incorporating Jet, the dark sombre gemstone. After a specified time, a woman moved into half-mourning from deep-mourning and was able to wear grey, purple, violet or mauve. Deep mourning lasted for about one year, half-mourning for six months. For a very recent death, black border handkerchiefs were carried, although it was unseemly to lose control and show outward feelings of emotion at a funeral.

Men wore dark suits with black gloves, cravats and hat bands, the width of the band varied in accordance with the closeness of the relationship to the deceased, i.e. seven inches for a wife down the spectrum to two and a half inches. Children were not expected to wear mourning clothes although black bands could be added to their clothing. If in any doubt Cassell's Household Guide could be consulted.

During the period of mourning, it was usual to use wide, black-edged notepaper and envelopes (the exact width, as with the hat-bands, was dictated by the closeness of the relationship). Black edged invitations were issued for high class funerals. Any letters sent from friends to the grieving family were edged with an extremely narrow black border.

Superstitions were rife -

- If rain falls on the funeral procession, the deceased will go to heaven.
- If you smell roses when none are around, someone is going to die.
- If it rains in an open grave, then someone in the family will die within the year.
- If a bird pecks on your window or crashed into one, it means that there has been a death.
 - If a picture falls off the wall, there will be a death of someone you know.
 - If you spill salt, throw a pinch of the spilt salt over your shoulder to prevent death.
- Having only red and white flowers in a vase (especially in hospital) means death will soon follow.
- A dog howling at night when someone in the house is sick is a bad omen. It can be reversed by reaching under the bed and turning over a shoe.

While Charles Dickens did not invent the Victorian Christmas, his book 'Christmas Carol' helped to popularise and spread the traditions of the festival. Its themes of family, charity, goodwill, peace and happiness encapsulate the spirit of the Victorian Christmas and are very much part of the Christmas we celebrate today.

