

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025



Hi again,

Season's greetings to all. I hope that all our members and supporters had a Happy Christmas and I send them my best wishes for the New Year. Here is an update on what has been happening since our Summer/Autumn Newsletter (September 2025).

The AGM

Held this year on 30 October 2025 at the Burton Street Foundation, the meeting was quorate with several others 'tuning-in' through the Zoom facility set up by our Secretary Verity Brack. We did encounter problems with this and will look to alternatives for the next AGM. Before the meeting proper I did a Power Point presentation on the history of the Chapel. This is now available on-line at our website (e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery).

The meeting noted the retirement of Lynda Barnett from the Management Committee (MC). Lynda was a founder member of the MC and will be much missed. Thank you for your service, Lynda. A new MC member (Annette Lee) and a returning member (Ron Clayton) were proposed and seconded. Welcome to both.

A proposed change to our Constitution, whereby we are obliged to enter into a dialogue with the owner (Mr Ali) rather than 'help' him with any renovation/re-use of the Chapel, was voted through (Clause 2d refers). A revised copy of the Constitution is on our website.

Our Treasurer (Jane Pratt) presented the accounts for the year and gave my annual Chair's Report.

For the first time we allowed members to cast their votes electronically, and this proved a success which we propose to repeat at future AGMs.

Remembrance Day Event

We were planning to welcome pupils of Year 10 from Loxley Primary School, together with their Year Tutor, Dan Eaton, on 11 November 2025. Unfortunately the weather intervened, and Dan was obliged to cancel, but



Volunteers at work — Peter, Annette, Stuart and Sandra on a Saturday afternoon. Why not join them?

we hope to meet up again this year. We value the relationship with the school greatly.

Long Lane Burial Register

Work continues on a regular basis on this project, which involves Sue Fisher, Malcolm Nunn and myself typing 'desk-top' entries from the existing Register plus 'field work' by Peter Easter and myself. We aim to populate the existing Register with details of the inscriptions on headstones, footstones, side plinths and funeral urns etc. We also plan to provide a link to photos of the field work sessions. We are now about 40% through the operation, so any members wanting details of the completed plots (Rows J-P) should contact me direct at loxley.chair@gmail.com.

Volunteer Sessions

Last but by no means least is the work of the fantastic team of volunteers who have been giving up their Saturday afternoons (13:30-16:00) through most of the autumn. If anyone feels in need of some fresh air and light duties over the winter, please join one (or more) of the sessions which are run by our Treasurer, Jane Pratt. I believe you might get a hot drink and a mince pie!

Best wishes for 2026

Mike Ford (Chair)

'PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE'

THREE TAYLORS AT THE CEMETERY . . .

In an unmarked grave on the terrace above the chapel in plot reference CNT Row 4, Plot 3 lie the remains of Thomas Taylor, a police constable with West Riding Constabulary who died on 26 March 1862. With him is his wife and an infant child.

The Sheffield Independent newspaper report from Saturday 29 March 1862 reads:

“Funeral of a Policeman. On Tuesday, the remains of the late Police-constable Thomas Taylor, of Loxley, were interred in the burying ground adjoining the Loxley Independent Chapel. Mr. Superintendent Gillett, Mr. Inspector Croft, six sergeants, and thirty-four constables of the West Riding Constabulary showed their respect to the deceased by attending his funeral. The deceased was much respected by his brother constables. He was an honest and a faithful servant, and we are sorry to hear that he has left a wife and five small children to lament their loss. With the exception of a small sum that the widow received from a club and from the widows and orphans' fund in connection with the constabulary, they are totally unprovided for”.

Thomas was most likely born in Boltby, North Yorkshire, in 1811. The census of 1841 reports him living with his parents in Kirkburton, which is between Huddersfield and Barnsley. He married Alice Johnson in Penistone, probably in April or May 1847. Alice had been born in Ashley in Cheshire.

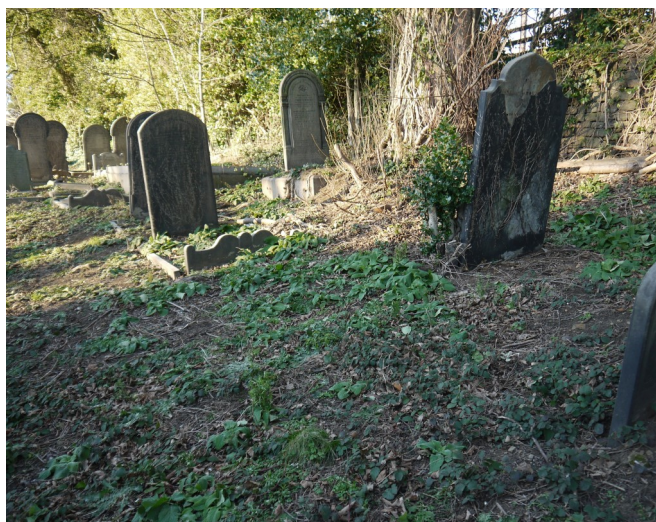
By the time of the 1851 census they were living in the Saltersford area of Thurlstone and Thomas was recorded as being a publican. They had had their first child, Elizabeth, who was aged one in the census.

By 1861 the family was now living at Wadsley Bottom and had grown considerably. In addition to Elizabeth (now with Ann recorded as a middle name) who was 11 years old, there was Sarah Alice aged 8, Ann aged 7, John aged 4, and finally William aged 1. All the children apart from William were born in Penistone. William was recorded as being born in Ecclesfield (Wadsley was in the parish of Ecclesfield at that time).

Thomas was now employed as a Police Constable with the West Riding force. He had joined the force some time after 1851, and this may have been the reason for the family's move to Wadsley.

March 1862 saw Thomas's untimely death. I have not been able to identify the cause, but he must have created a very good impression, based on the turnout from his colleagues at his funeral.

The newspaper report makes reference to the financial impact on the family of his death and that probably



In this ground on the north terrace above the chapel is the unmarked grave of Thomas and Alice Taylor and the young Thomas W Taylor

explains why there is not a headstone on the grave. There would not have been sufficient money to provide for such a luxury!

By the 1871 census Alice, a police constable's widow, and Sarah Alice, recorded as being employed as a charwoman, were living in Wisewood near a grocer's shop. The census also names a daughter called Harriet, aged 9 years old, born in Ecclesfield. She was the sixth child of the marriage and was born in 1862 either just before or just after her father, Thomas's, death.

In 1881 the family was living in Fowler Street, Hillsborough. Alice was 60 years old and recorded as being a charwoman. Living at home was Ann aged 27, a domestic servant, John aged 24 and a furnaceman, and Harriet aged 19 years old and recorded as being a housemaid. There was also a granddaughter called Alice aged 7 months.

By the time of the 1891 census Alice, now 70 years old, was a lodger in the home of her daughter Harriet and her husband Fred Elliot, who was 30 years old and a spring knife cutler. They were living at 24 Fowler Street in Hillsborough. Fowler Street ran between Dykes Lane and Dykes Hall Road. It was renamed as Findon Street in 1903.

Alice died on 12 June 1891 aged 70 and was the final person to be interred. She had been widowed for 29 years, during which time she had brought up the family's six children, a testament to her endurance.

But who was Thomas W(illiam?) Taylor, who died on

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Three Taylors continued . . .

25 June 1885 aged 15 months and interred in this grave? He had been born around March 1884, hence between the 1881 and the 1891 censuses. It is safe to assume he was a family member with the internment being arranged by Alice. If that is the case, it must have been the son of either John or William.



24 Fowler (Findon) Street

William would be the more obvious with the W being included in his name. However he seems to have married Mary Ann Cutts on 25 December 1886, which was after the birth of the child!

John had been born in 1857, and the 1881 census records him being unmarried and living at home. He was still employed as a furnaceman. He married Ann Godbehere on the 18th of April 1881, and the 1891 census records

that the couple had two daughters, aged 9 and 4.

So it seems more likely that the infant Thomas interred in this grave was the first-born child of John and Ann and the grandson of Alice.

Peter Easter

Sheffield Heritage Fair 2026

The Sheffield Heritage Fair is being held on 24 and 25 January at the Millennium Gallery. As well as ourselves, there will be a lot of other heritage-related organisations and Friends groups to talk to and gather information from.

We need help to run our stand — so please contact our secretary if you could spare the time.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

Your Friends membership is due for renewal in January. It only costs £5 a year!

You can pay by bank transfer, standing order or cheque — details are at <https://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery/join-us/membership/>.

Donations are also very welcome!

However you pay, please tell us you have done so by completing the renewal form on the website. All data is completely secure. Confirming your payment is very helpful for our volunteer admin people.

Sheffield Flood Ancestry Newsletter

For many years Karen Lightowler has been researching the lives of the people who died in, and after, the Sheffield Flood on the night of 11th / 12th March 1864. When the embankment of the Dale Dyke Dam collapsed, around 690 million imperial gallons of water rushed down into the Loxley Valley and then into the River Don and through the centre of Sheffield.

Officially 240 people were drowned, but Karen has since proved that many others died in the aftermath from injury and disease. We have 22 victims of the Flood buried in Loxley Cemetery (e-voice.org.uk/friendsofloxleycemetery/graves/sheffield-flood/).

Karen Lightowler is a member of the Friends of Loxley Cemetery, and she has very kindly donated paper copies of her research to us. These are lists of the victims according to where they are buried, along with details and photographs of their burial records, plots and memorials, any available information from newspapers of the time, and also information from the Flood Claims Archive at Sheffield Hallam University (sheffieldfloodclaimsarchive.shu.ac.uk/).

Burial places range from Loxley Cemetery, Wardsend Cemetery, Wadsley Church, Sheffield General Cemetery and Burngreave Cemetery through to those further afield in Penistone, Rotherham, Kimberworth and Doncaster.

If you are interested in viewing any of these records please contact our secretary, Verity Brack, at loxley.secretary@yahoo.com.

Karen produces a regular newsletter relating to her research, which is always an interesting read. Contact her at KarenL823@aol.com if you would like to receive the newsletter or if you have any queries about the Flood victims.

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