

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR MICK DREWRY



Window of Opportunity

Fortunately, the Committee managed to meet recently for the first time since lockdown in March and just before the re-introduction of restrictions. Communication between members had continued but decisions had been 'on hold' and plans for improving the cemetery had had to be postponed. It was extremely positive to meet and be able to take action to move the cemetery forward once again – even in these new, trickier circumstances.



Join us to reclaim the cemetery

In groups of 6, we plan to meet regularly to clear overgrown areas and the access pathways inside the cemetery.

We hope you will join us to start this vital work soon.

Please fill in the attached form to indicate your availability – or reply by email to let us know how you can help us

loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

Anne's taking care of our Health & Safety

Anne has kindly taken on the responsibility of H&S and has made an excellent start. With support from the Chair and committee, the Friends now have a H&S policy and carried out risk assessments. This means some practical work can start at the cemetery – following Covid guidelines and with social distancing - of course!

SYFAB

VIRTUAL LEARNING

During lockdown members attended training on '*Social Media*' & '*Diversifying your Income*' – thank you SYFAB for the useful info

It is around now that I would be writing my Chair's Report for our first Annual General Meeting, which was due in September.

Because of the pandemic and Government restrictions we won't be having an AGM any time soon so I will use this opportunity of a contribution '*From the Chair*' in this, our first newsletter, to update you on what the Friends of Loxley Cemetery have achieved during these challenging times.

The work of the Management Committee is going on in the background despite little in the way of visible activities, due to the circumstances

It was in September 2019 that interested parties called a public meeting at the Wisewood Inn with a view to setting up a 'Friends' group following meetings with the owner, Mr. Ali, and an agreement granting permission for a Friends group to work on the site.

This breakthrough, something never achieved with the previous owners, gave the green light for people to come together and work for the improvements we all want to see.

A Constitution was agreed and a Management Committee of volunteers was appointed to set the ball rolling. Over this first year the Committee have established firm foundations.

Our finances are diligently looked after by our Treasurer, Mike Ford, who has also made other significant contributions to the Group, such as sourcing public liability Insurance for which Mr. Ali agreed to cover the cost.



Situation Vacant

Sadly, Linda is stepping down as Secretary due to personal commitments and will be sorely missed.

However, this opens up an opportunity for someone to step forward to undertake this important role. If you know someone who has the skills and the time to commit to being our Committee Secretary please get in touch by email: Loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

Much research on interesting people from history who have their final resting place in Loxley Cemetery has also been undertaken by members of the Committee. This valuable research, added to the wealth of information that Malcolm Nunn has at hand within his extensive archive, will be shared in due course.

1908 Newspaper article inspires research

Thanks go to Hugh Waterhouse for his keen eye!

INDIAN MUTINY VETERAN INTERRED.

SALUTED BY OLD COMRADES.

Yesterday the grave closed over the remains of one of the small band of Indian Mutiny Veterans in Sheffield, Mr. England Higgins, who passed away at his residence at 42, Hawthorn road, Hillsbro', on Saturday at the age of 81. The funeral took place at Loxley chapel.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Higgins and Miss Higgins were the chief mourners, and besides a number of other relatives and friends, the following members of the Sheffield and Hallamshire Veterans Association accompanied their dead comrade to his last rest, namely:—Messrs. J. C. Bye, R.M., hon. secretary; G. S. Grayson, hon. assistant secretary; R. Sheffield, 13th Hussars; P. Kelly, 5th Foot; J. Jackson, 32nd Foot; G. Birks, 53rd. Foot; T. Maskery, 7th Hussars; A. Hudson, Rifle Brigade; and J. Taylor, 60th Rifles.

On arrival at Loxley the coffin, which was draped with the Union Jack, was preceded to the chapel by the veterans; and after an impressive service, conducted by the Rev. A. McKittrick of the Hillsbro' Gospel Mission, it was borne to the grave between two lines of old soldiers, who saluted the honoured remains.

Our Secretary, Linda Brownlow, has done a professional job in the recording of the work of the Management Committee (minutes of meetings, calling notices, agendas, etc) and has also fulfilled the role of Membership Secretary, establishing a database of all paid-up members.

There has been a proposal that the role of Membership Secretary becomes a separate job so it is likely that this change will be made soon.

Other aspects of the FoLC's work have also found their champions. Trisha Childs has taken on the role of Publicity Officer also establishing a central 'Cloud' information base where the Committee can upload photos, articles, documents, etc. for use in publicity, like this newsletter. Trisha was also responsible for the display stand at the Sheffield Heritage Fair last January; our first public event that was a great success, raising funds, recruiting members and putting the FoLC on the local history circuit.

Every member of the Committee contributed to the two-day event and of course our very own Ron Clayton co-organized the event itself.

The SHF event certainly helped raise our profile and marked a pivotal moment that would, under normal circumstances, have seen the launch of a programme of activity days at the cemetery that would have by now shown great improvements. The first 'Action Day' was arranged for early March but had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour. Then came the lockdown.

Jane Pratt has acted as community ambassador for the Group having meetings with Loxley Primary School.

Lynda Barnett and Sue Fisher complete the list of members of the Management Committee, all of whom have contributed immensely to the establishment of a group that will achieve its aims and objectives once circumstances allow.

I thank each and every one of them for their contributions.



Photo Dan Atkins for the Sheffield Star

In March, the week before lockdown, we organized an event to commemorate the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864 with some members attending and laying flowers on the grave of the Bates family who perished in the Inundation. This was reported in The Star along with a photo of those attending.

Meanwhile,

whilst the wider membership have had to wait patiently to contribute to the work on site, the committee asks you all to be patient a little longer

and to maintain your support by renewing your membership by 1 January 2021.

Your subscription fees are desperately needed for the future.

We are exploring all options for grants but in most cases we will be expected to contribute towards the cost of what we are applying for, be it equipment, project or event.

Many thanks to the Humpage family who donated their proceeds from a Boot Sale in August.
£70 is a welcome addition to our funds!



If anyone else has a fundraising idea ... please let us know!

Mike Ford FoLC Treasurer:
mike.ford53@hotmail.com Tel: 07879 075619

In addition to my fellow committee members I would also like to thank everybody else who helped to establish the Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group and who have supported us since:
Sheffield Councillors Penny and David Baker and Vicky Priestly;
the Wisewood Inn for hosting our committee meetings;
Mike Stacey, volunteer leader;
numerous people who offered advice and support at the Heritage Fair and everyone who has made a donation.

I end on a personal note.

It is around twenty years ago that I first got involved with the Loxley Cemetery initiative when I was manager at the Hillsborough Community Development Trust, which supported the people trying to get the then owners of the cemetery to take responsibility for its upkeep.

Two of those people were my mother and my step father, Jean & Don Gregory. My mum just turned 89 on 1 October 2020 and is destined to join her mother and father in the family grave at Loxley Cemetery when she passes away.

She and a good number of other people put a lot of time and effort into trying to establish a Friends group but they were denied by the then owners. With the passing of those years the task now in hand is far greater than what it would have been had the owners the sense and forethought to support my mother and her cohorts.

However, the knowledge of what has gone before, and my personal connection, drives my motivation to succeed in achieving their aims and objectives, which are now ours.

All I ask of you is to keep the faith and to continue your support and membership of the Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group so that in years to come people visiting Loxley Cemetery will reflect upon what we achieved and thank us for it.