

Newsletter

Autumn

2021



October 2021

OUR CHAIR, MICK DREWRY GIVES HIS FINAL REPORT

Although this is the Group's first Annual General Meeting, it was constituted almost two years ago.

However, due to the government restrictions in response to the pandemic, the Group's activities have been stymied and meetings were not able to take place, thus preventing an AGM last September.

Much has been achieved since the Group's inauguration but before I report on these achievements, I want to indulge in a bit of personal nostalgia and reflect on the history of the first Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group.

An embryonic group existed as a sub-group of the Hillsborough Community Development Trust when I first volunteered there in 1999. My mum and stepfather, Jean and Don Gregory, regularly tended the grave of my grandparents and I told them of the existence of the Friends Group, which had more aspiration than action at the time.

Jean and Don became associated with the Loxley Cemetery group, including Denise Beaumont and Sue Thompson, who are now members of FoLC.

Notes that my mum kept, show that some 31 people were involved in the group, which first met on 19 November 2002.

Although the group was never constituted, it did much to force the then owners, Hague Farming, to improve the site,

Chair's Report



Chair, Mick Drewry, at the cemetery following the arson attack in 1916 (Photo courtesy *Sheffield Star*)

The inaugural Chair of FoLC, Mick Drewry, has taken the difficult decision to step down from the FoLC Committee at the time of our first AGM. A condensed version of his Chair's Report for the AGM is published here and shows the immense impact he has had on establishing the Friends of Loxley Cemetery. He will be greatly missed and he has our heartfelt gratitude.



Increasing our digital presence

Since joining us, our Secretary, Verity has been raising our profile in various ways.

Please take a moment to explore our new initiatives... communicate with us... & share our details with everyone who may be interested!





Click on the links

Friends of Loxley Cemetery
WEBSITE!

Friends of Loxley Cemetery
EVENTS CALENDAR

About **nextdoor**

Nextdoor is the neighbourhood hub for trusted connections and the exchange of helpful information, goods, and services. Millions use it to connect with neighbours over shared interests, events, and local recommendations.

Friends of Loxley
Cemetery on
nextdoor

National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

Friends of Loxley
Cemetery joins the
national network



Friends of Loxley Cemetery
FIND A GRAVE SERVICE

Friends of Loxley Cemetery
TELEPHONE
07879 075 619



Friends of Loxley Cemetery
EMAIL
loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

enlisting the help of the then member of parliament, Helen Jackson, Sheffield Council Environment and Regulatory Services and the Health and Safety Executive.

However, none of these agencies were able to enforce action or engender any longterm commitment from Hague to maintain the cemetery and as we know, things generally got worse in the intervening years.

Nevertheless, we cannot underestimate the importance of the contribution these pioneers of the Friends of Loxley Cemetery made to where we are today.
We are their legacy.

The story of our current group, FoLC, begins with a change of ownership of the Church and cemetery and the arson attack on the Chapel in August 2016. Once more, the state of the cemetery was raised in the local press but once more there was little action. Pressure was brought to bear on the new owner, Mr. Jameel Ali, by local councillors, Penny and David Baker and Vicky Priestly.

A site meeting was arranged with Mr Ali and interested parties, including myself, Ron Clayton and Malcolm Nunn. A verbal agreement was made to his commitment to the establishment and support of a Friends group to improve the cemetery.

Step forward once more Penny, David and Vicky, who managed to bring the parties together again at a meeting at the Town Hall on 22 May 2019, where Mr. Ali signed an agreement for the Friends group to commence.

One of the four aims of the FoLC constitution is to:

Create and maintain historic records connected to the cemetery.

In this Newsletter we bring you details of Joseph Hoult, as researched by Malcolm Nunn.



Joseph Hoult 1894 – 1916

Records show that Joseph Hoult was baptised on 9th May 1894 at St. Vincent's, his parents being John and Harriet. The 1901 Census has the family living at house 6, Court 11 but on 1911 Census they are living at house 11, Court 11. John's occupation in 1901 is given as a "labourer in steel works". According to the 1911 Census, Joseph was one of 15 children with 11 still living. Their father John died December 1908 aged 48 and was interred at St. Michael's, Rivelin on December 23rd.

Joseph enlisted for WWI duties on September 3rd 1914 with the York & Lancaster Regiment and was given rank of "Private" with Regimental Number 12549. His occupation being given as a labourer and was 5ft-5.3/4" tall, weighing 130lbs with a chest measurement of 34.1/2" and was recorded as being in "good condition" with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.

Joseph was serving with the Expeditionary Force when he was wounded "in action" on July 28th 1916. He was shipped back to England on SS Newhaven and admitted to Woolwich War Hospital on August 5th 1916 with chest injuries before being discharged on August 21st 1916.

Soon after, on November 13th 1916, he was found by Lance Corporal Taylor in the Bog Burn near Hartford and in the inquest to his death it states Joseph Hoult committed suicide by drowning and that he was often depressed and of unsound mind. It appears that he was stationed at Horton Camp, Cramlington, Northumberland at the time.

He is interred at Loxley Cemetery in Grave C 49 in the eastern section of the old graveyard. Originally, his grave was marked only with a wooden cross but following much correspondence from his mother and siblings he eventually had a Commonwealth War Grave headstone erected in recognition of his war effort and service.

Records show that he was awarded three war medals, these being Victory, British and Star.

Penny, David and Vicky arranged a wind-swept awareness-raising event at the Long Lane entrance of the cemetery on Saturday 10 August 2019 (they didn't arrange the wind) and a public meeting for anyone interested in being involved with a Friends group on 18 September at the Wisewood Inn, where a constitution was agreed and a management committee of volunteers established.

The Committee's first meeting on 9 October 2019 formally adopted the Constitution. **It goes without saying that we owe a huge debt of thanks to Penny, David and Vicky.**

During this early period a bank account was set up, membership subs of £5 per year were agreed, a Health & Safety Policy was adopted, we took out public liability insurance, regular newsletters began, a Remembrance Day and a Sheffield Flood anniversary commemoration happened and we attended our first event at the Sheffield Heritage Fair in January 2020. Our first organised activity day at the cemetery was arranged for early March but then the lock-down commenced, putting a stop to all activities and Committee meetings.

The committee was unable to meet until 19 July 2021 when government restrictions were lifted – making up for lost time the committee has now met 4 times since mid-summer.

Friends of Loxley Cemetery AGM 1st September 2021

Our first AGM was held at Bradfield Village Hall.

Reports from the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary showed the strength and development of the FoLC during its first two years – despite covid setbacks! Appreciation for the support and commitment of the whole Committee and volunteers was expressed – many of whom were present.

It was especially significant to have Penny Baker & Vicky Priestly attend – a wonderful testament to their past dedication and Penny's speech was inspiring to those (re) elected to the Committee. The new Chair, Mike Ford and Treasurer, Linda Brownlow were also appointed and Verity Black continues as FoLC Secretary. The future aspirations of FoLC are in safe hands!



So, here we are today at our first AGM and all that remains for me to do now is to thank each and every member of the Management Committee for their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to the Group.

I am confident that two years in, thanks to the committee, the Friends of Loxley Cemetery is now established on sound foundations and its future is assured.

Its profile will be raised locally by its work at the cemetery as the site is gradually transformed back to a picturesque haven of tranquillity.

Its involvement in the local heritage network will continue and we have joined the National Federation of Cemetery Friends Groups, giving us further opportunities for being involved in a national network.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Friends of Loxley Cemetery and I wish my successor and the new Management Committee my best wishes for a successful, secure and sustainable future and look forward to your future projects and achievements.

Mick Drewry
Inaugural Chair FoLC
AGM 1/9/21

Our newsletter cannot be complete without reflecting on the fantastic work taking place in our wonderful part of the world. *Thank you!* The momentum from the volunteers is now supported by the FoLC committee. The transformation of areas of the cemetery means other aims of the constitution are being met both practically and administratively. To join us, please check the [Events page](#) to find a working session. **You will be warmly welcomed!** Further details can be found [here](#).