

Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve

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Spring Newsletter 2020 looking back and dreaming forwards.

We start 2020 year with our 2 decade of FoLC&NR, we have worked together with Bereavement Services Management to restore and enhance Linthorpe Cemetery for the public so as our 3rd decade starts we look back at 2019.

We had set out our 2019 events calendar; it was a big year 150 years since the cemetery opened something to be celebrated.

In the outdoors work as usual brambles had to be cleared, fallen wood to be tidied, a blower was purchased and we had safety training on it so that we could do some of the jobs that were being left as we do not have a dedicated gardener now; over the year 6 trees have succumbed to the winds, our team have “made safe” then left the removal to Area Care Services. On an open workday 600 cowslips were planted with the help of the public and children from St Edwards local school.

Negotiations with “The Management” gave us 10 acres of wildflower meadow to develop and support, mowing it first year once in the autumn which we will observe and learn. The public response for this has been positively overwhelming great comments from 98% of them.



Bird surveys were carried out and results forwarded to respective parties along with Bat Nights, 3 off (well attended), Children’s Midsummer’s Day event well attended where Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies were sought, caught and observed. On this occasion we were supported by Dr. Sue Antrobus of TVWT and Dr. Mark Fishpool of MEC who gave us their knowledge and guidance so effortless and willingly.



Martin Allen Botanist gave us his unsurpassable wildflower walk/talk and inspired us to strive for better results in our mowing of the wildflower meadow.

Our members had “Days Away,” including two trips to RSPB Saltholme, a very informative and interesting trip to Ushaw Moor College, which used to be a Catholic Seminary. Darlington Tees Cottage Pumping station were having a Gala Day in late August which we attended and were given a huge insight to the provision of Clean Drinking Water in Darlington and Teesside opening in the year 1849. Likewise The Green Howards Museum Richmond have recently finished work on their Medals

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Gallery, a most enjoyable morning was spent there. We had a quick trip to Upper Teesdale to see the orchids, beautiful!

Ian Stubbs gave us talks and walks on many occasions including and most importantly our 150th Centenary Celebrations along with Yorkshire day and Merchant Navy Day plus other occasions including St Georges Day and offers for Middlesbrough History Month and Discover Middlesbrough.

We have been receiving more requests upon internments and grave positions, more people are doing family trees and finding out quite often comes from inscriptions on headstones. Our team of historians, Alison Brown, Eddie Rutherford, Ian Stubbs and John Learoyd are always willing to research any family grave for enquirers, which is proving to be a very welcome service. So if you are doing research on your family it's not a big Ask, we have a dedicated team who may be able to help.

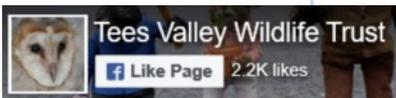
John Learoyd is continuing his work on unearthing and recording inscriptions on long lost graves for our extensive digital records. Alison is involved in digitising the burial records held by Bereavement Services beginning with the records held for Thorntree Cemetery.



Thorntree Cemetery

The Chaplains from James Cook University Hospital held their Baby Memorial Service which we happily supported providing refreshments afterwards.

A group of us took part in a training course for working with blind and partially sighted people, subsequently we have 5 occasions where a number of people have enjoyed a workshop and woodland guided walk in the cemetery led by Steve Ashton of TVWT. We are happy and somewhat proud to be asked to partake in this worthwhile and important venture which was the brainchild of Pam Bennet, Going for Independence.



December started with our Annual Carol Sing-along Service Celebration as usual led by Roger Manley of South Bank Brass Band completely interdenominational an opportunity to belt our hearts out singing carols.



The end of the year for FoLC&NR members was our Bran Tub Christmas Box giving which this year was held on 13th of December after which we had a layover until the 2nd week of January.

This very full and varied programme of events can only be supplied and supported by a robust group of people who enjoy working together, with minimal hierarchy and positive participation, thank you to each and every one of them, not forgetting the strong support given to us by the Bereavement Services Management.

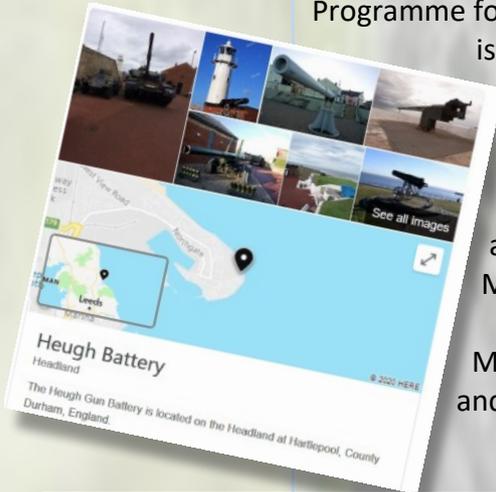
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2020 A new start a new year, a change of leadership Derek Lewis our Chair for the last 8 years has stood down Malcolm Cummins has taken up the baton, Malcolm and Derek transposing roles.

Programme for the first ½ year has been set and published remembering of course it is not like a grave memorial, set in stone. It has to have a modicum of flexibility because life is like that, we are all volunteers!

Planned are visits to the Headland Battery at Hartlepool and are in planning to visit the friends Meeting House in Darlington to learn more about the Quaker faith and the strong connections with the emergent Middlesbrough of the 1820/30s with the Pease family at the forefront.

Martin is coming back, our Children's Midsummer event is scheduled, and off we go that man is blowing his whistle.



We meet every Wednesday 12 noon till 2:00pm (unless we're gallivanting off) Hebrew Prayer House, Ayresome Green Lane. TS5 5DW will get you there, come along a warm welcome awaits.

If anyone wishes to become a member we have a small charge of £5.00 for an individual/£10.00 family membership per year which includes a brochure. Visit our membership page on our website [HERE](#)

Malcolm Cummins, Chair.

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