

Since FOSC's last newsletter was published in March 2021, as we were emerging from lockdown, the group's committee have continued to meet regularly.

Meetings are now held at the Labour Club on the A6 and more information is available on our web site.

[www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk](http://www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk)

Please note that all the group's data are now held on this website and that [www.willowgrove.org.uk](http://www.willowgrove.org.uk) has been deleted.



Service in Willow Grove Cemetery

## Remembrance Sunday 2024

Held in conjunction with St Mary's Church and the Stockport Sea Cadets, our annual remembrance services took place at the Cenotaph on Reddish Road and at Willow Grove Cemetery on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Mayor of Stockport, MP for Stockport, local councillors, representatives from the local community, the police, and members of the public laid wreaths at both the Cenotaph, and the Cross of Sacrifice in Cemetery.

We are grateful to the Rev Helen Scanlon, Area Dean, for conducting the services both this year and last year.

Our thanks also go to; Stockport Sea Cadets for their vital contribution to the remembrance services

Mike Greaves and his son, who have played the 'Last Post' over the years at this event; Stockport Silver band who came along this year and accompanied hymns; all the volunteers, stewards, and to the employees of Stockport Council who helped to organise the event.

## Funding News

The group secured funding for two projects last year.

Firstly, 'Forever Manchester' approved our application for funds to buy tools, including hedge trimmers and strimmers, to enable us to continue our maintenance work in Stockport's cemeteries. Secondly, BUPA provided funds to enable us to plant bulbs and enhance the wild flower meadow at Willow Grove.

## Cemetery News

### Brunswick Cemetery

Our first visit to the site was in February 2016, with staff and cadets from AFC Manchester, to clear the site of debris and overgrown saplings and to generally tidy the area up.

We then received funding to restore the paved area and install two interpretation boards. A plaque was made and donated by Seeta to commemorate the six soldiers buried within the cemetery.

Unfortunately, there hasn't been much input on the site since 2022-- but we hope to resume the work soon. With the help of local resident Dave Shearman and Stockport AFC Cadets, our aim is to have task days either every month or every two months. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help on these task days, please contact [sheilaarobins@outlook.com](mailto:sheilaarobins@outlook.com)

## Highfield Cemetery

Jeanette, a member of FOSC who has an affinity with Highfield Cemetery, organised two task sessions there in 2024 a litter picking session in the early part of the year, followed by a bulb planting session in November.

Bulbs supplied by Stockport Council and donated by a member of the FOSC were planted by members, local councillors and members of the local community.

Jeannette is looking for volunteers who have an interest in Highfield Cemetery to come along to help on a regular basis. Please contact Jeanette by email [jeanettequinn15@icloud.com](mailto:jeanettequinn15@icloud.com)



Jeanette with Cllr Angie Clark and volunteers.

## DATA PROTECTION

As a group we hold data from newsletters, mailings, events etc. If you no longer wish to receive information from the group, please send an email to; [sheilaarobins@outlook.com](mailto:sheilaarobins@outlook.com)

## Willow Grove Cemetery

A new bench for Willow Grove Cemetery.



Thanks to the Heaton and Reddish Area Committee ward flexibility fund, FOSC were able to purchase a new bench, which has been installed in the cemetery between W and Y sections.

The bench has been placed here so that people can sit and look at the snowdrops in Y section in the winter months and the meadow in T section later in the year.

Thank you to all the members of Heaton and Reddish Area Committee for supporting FOSC and so enabling us to purchase this bench. Thanks also go to Cemetery Services for their advice, help, support, and the installation of the bench by the cemetery team.



The new bench being tested by Lindsay and Sheila.

**Thank you.**

### **EMR extending the life cycle**

FOSC relies on donations and funding to keep the group sustainable and make improvements to the cemeteries in which we work.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank EMR, a recycling company, who over the years have given us so much support.

In the spirit of their logo **'EMR extending the life cycle'** they have certainly extended the life of the Friends of Stockport Cemeteries

**Finally**, updates on meetings, task days, events etc will be provided on our web site

[www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk](http://www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk)

*Newsletter by S Robins edited by Mo Fahey*