

FRIENDS OF ZION GRAVEYARD ATTERCLIFFE

England & Wales · Charity number 1188411

Details

Other names FOZGA

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-03-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Chapel House
132 Wincobank Avenue
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S5 6BB

Phone 07980143776

Email ziongraveyard@gmail.com

Website <https://ziongraveyard.chessck.co.uk>

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT: (A) TO UPKEEP AND MAINTAIN THE CEMETERY KNOWN AS ZION GRAVEYARD, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD; (B) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND OTHERS IN THE HISTORY OF THE GRAVEYARD AND THOSE BURIED IN IT, INCLUDING MARY ANNE RAWSON; AND (C) THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY OF ZION GRAVEYARD, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD.

Activities: Upkeep and maintenance of the historic non-conformist burial ground known as Zion Graveyard in Attercliffe, Sheffield. Gardening and nurturing of wildlife, access improvements and preservation of the memorials. Also to inform and educate children and adults about the significance of the site, the area and those buried there, especially anti-slavery campaigner and philanthropist Mary Anne Rawson.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Sheffield City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-31	£832	£1,356	-	-
2023-10-31	£647	£2,943	-	-
2022-10-31	£1,378	£1,396	-	-
2021-10-31	£1,645	£3,285	-	-
2020-10-31	£2,226	£557	-	-

Trustees

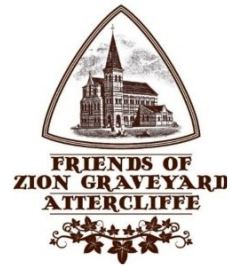
Name	Role	Appointed
Penelope Rea	Chair	2017-10-17
Amanda Appleby		2023-11-28
Dr Jean Hine		2019-10-17
Michael Bruin		2017-10-17
Peter Hurman		2017-10-17
Samantha Jayne Hurman		2017-10-17

FRIENDS OF ZION GRAVEYARD ATTERCLIFFE

England & Wales - Charity number 1188411

Accounts

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe



Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1188411

Registered Office 132 Wincobank Avenue, Sheffield S5 6 BB

Trustees Annual Report for the period from 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024

Trustees:

Penny Rea (Chair), Samantha Hurman (Secretary), Jean Hine (Treasurer), Peter Hurman, Mick Bruin, Amanda Appleby

Organising Committee: Alison Davies, Sylvia Jones, Bridget Ingle, all Trustees

Additional Volunteers: Chris Bullock, Mike Higginbottom, Paul Newman, Angela Muircroft, Carolyn Gowar, Jo Ward.

Governance

The committee, which includes trustees, meets every quarter usually by Zoom, to plan developments and organise activities. Any enthusiastic volunteer is welcome to join the committee.

Decisions are made by consensus, with trustees having ultimate responsibility.

The trustees appoint new trustees, usually from the committee. The trustees meet in person at least once a year.

Objects of the Trust

For the public benefit:

- (a) to upkeep and maintain the cemetery known as Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Sheffield;
- (b) to advance the education of the local community and others in the history of the graveyard and those buried in it, including Mary Anne Rawson; and
- (c) the preservation and conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

Annual Report

Object 1. Upkeep and maintenance

An important aim is to improve the paths especially access from Lawrence Street. We are grateful to Ian Prior who has assisted us by drawing a formal plan and Sylvia Jones who found a potential contractor. So far, we have been unable to obtain quotes for this work as contractors seem unwilling to engage with such a

small and unusual site especially as access is limited. We have raised some funding towards this work from our raffle and will apply for grant funding to make up the balance once quotes can be obtained and the overall cost is established.

We have purchased a storage container and three folding tables for use at events. The container has been erected on a part of the graveyard where no gravestones have been found.

Zion Graveyard has been nominated for inclusion on the South Yorkshire Heritage List and is awaiting a final decision. Thanks to Bridget Ingle for working on the submission and tracking its progress.

Object 2. Advancing education

The graveyard is also always open 2 – 4pm on the second Sunday afternoon of every month for visitors. We aim to share information about the heritage of the site with all visitors and our detailed interpretation panels and booklets are well received. This year we have updated and reprinted the leaflets and membership forms.

We have taken our information boards and literature about Zion Graveyard to

The Millennium Galleries for the Sheffield Heritage Fair on 20th January.

Wincobank Chapel for the July Garden Party and September Heritage Open Day

On 6th September Mike Higginbottom brought a large group of new visitors to the graveyard on his Heritage Open Day Walking Tour of Old Attercliffe.

Events and Open Days

28th November – Talk by Michelle Rawlins “Women of Steel” and AGM at the Library Venue, Attercliffe.

11th March – Demolished Sheffield – an illustrated talk by Mike Higginbottom at Wincobank Chapel, raising funds for Zion Graveyard.

Open Afternoons: were cancelled on 10th December 2023 and 10th March 2024 due to bad weather making the site potentially unsafe.

Further Open Afternoons were held 11th February, 15th April (7 years since we first entered Zion Graveyard),

12th May

9th June 2024 National Cemeteries Week Open Day

14th July – Summer Celebration at the graveyard with tombola, book stall, bric-a-brac

8th September – Zion Graveyard Heritage Open Day

13th October - Ron Eales Memorial Day. We welcomed the family to unveil a plaque and plant daffodils to commemorate Ron’s important contribution to the preservation of the graveyard.

We have held two family learning activity sessions this year. Zion Graveyard is a validated Learning Destination for Sheffield Children’s University (CU), a council run initiative which encourages children to participate in voluntary learning activities in their own time. Children are awarded CU Learning Credits towards CU Certificates and Badges for the time they are engaged in learning activities in their own time. Our aim is to engage families in activities that explore both the biodiversity and history of the graveyard.

31st July – Urban Wildlife – This session was funded by Sheffield Children’s University which enabled us to engage art tutor Mia Parry to deliver art activities, supported by volunteers.

31st October - Happy Halloween art – craft, traditional games and history.

Children and young people are also encouraged to help with appropriate maintenance tasks on open days for which they can claim CU Learning Credits.

In addition

8th July - Friends of Bishop’s House - Jean Hine’s talk about Mary Anne Rawson

Object 3. The preservation and conservation of natural heritage.

Sylvia Jones has kindly produced a very useful leaflet for volunteers with suggestions for easy gardening tasks and we have had some new volunteers this year who have been working with trustees month to keep the graves clear and to try and contain and reduce the ground ivy. This has allowed a greater variety of wildflowers to grow which we have been photographing and identifying. An increasing mixture of native wild flowers and garden plants attract plenty of insect life.

The graveyard continues to be used as a feeding station for goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, long-tailed tit, crow, magpie, blackbird, song thrush and robin with great tit, blue tit and wren nesting.

Pipistrelle bats also continue to visit though none appear to have yet made use of our bat box. The Alder Buckthorn, planted as part of the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Brimstone butterfly project are established but slow-growing so we're hoping of seeing some results in the not too distant future.

4. Membership and support

There is no membership fee and members do not have voting rights under our constitution.

We have

There are currently 616 followers of our Facebook page: Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe.

Our monthly email updates go out to 295 addresses. This year we have asked for confirmation that people wish to continue to receive emails and so far 78 people have confirmed. We have deleted 22 email addresses on request or because they were undeliverable. We are still checking the remaining 200 names.

We are currently reviewing and updating our original membership list which was compiled from the membership forms that were returned to us.

There are a number of additional supporters with only a postal address.

We also have a Twitter (X) account which is not currently in use.

There are a number of volunteers in addition to the committee who help in different ways and for whom we are very appreciative.

Our summer raffle was well supported with prizes were donated by the Library Venue, David Slater, Marie Gilman and Steve Randall. The raffle was drawn at the Chapel Heritage Open Day.

5. Finance

Draft accounts show funds in hand at the end of the financial year of £1,270, which is £523.82 less than at the beginning of the year.

We have held several fund-raising events which have generated £832.42 whilst spending, including basic running costs and volunteer costs was £1356.29. We will be focussing on increasing our income in the next financial year.

To support the events which we run we purchased three foldable weatherproof tables and a storage chest and a reprint of our leaflets and membership forms.

The first event of the year, Mike Higginbottom's talk about *Demolished Sheffield* drew a large crowd and raised over £200 through donations and a small raffle: we do very much appreciate his support.

Over the summer we held a raffle with a range of prizes, including a signed George Cunningham print of the old Sheffield markets. Taking account of the costs of the raffle this raised £108.

A talk about the life of Mary Ann Rawson by Jean Hine to the Friends of Bishop's House raised £50.

A summer children's event was funded by Sheffield Children's University, though unfortunately this funding did not arrive during the financial year.

We ran our Halloween event differently this year, asking parents to make a contribution of £2.50 for each child. The £37.50 raised here covered the costs of materials, prizes, decorations and refreshments.

We have sold 71 copies of our booklet "*The Story of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe*", copies of which are available for purchase at a cost of £5 plus p&p if posted.

The accounts have been checked by Steve Randall, who we would like to thank for his support.

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe
Annual Account 2023-2024

Funds @ 1 November 2023	£1,757.93	
Total Spending		£1,356.29 ***
Administration		
Insurance	£143.07	
Website fees	£106.37	
Bank Charges	£60.00	
National Federation Cemetery Friends	£20.00	
Other admin	£11.60	
	£341.04	
Event costs		
Halloween	£31.59	
Eales plaque	£78.99	
Raffle tickets and licence	£57.80	
Other events	£110.58	
	£278.96	
Other costs		
Leaflets and inserts	£207.69	
Folding Tables	£138.96	
Storage box and keys	£174.00	
Volunteer expenses	£157.45	
Square card reader	£22.80	
Seat covers	£11.20	
Refreshments	£24.19	
	£736.29	
Total Income		£832.47
Donations	£230.78	
Booklet Sales (inc P&P)	£174.46	
Event admission	£167.50	
Raffle tickets	£131.92	
Other	£127.81	
	£832.47	
Funds @ 31 October 2023		£1,234.11 ***
***	01-Nov-23	31-Oct-24
HSBC	£1,616.54	£730.51
Co-Op Bank		£76.00
Cash in hand	£141.39	£427.60
	£1,757.93	£1,234.11

I have examined the records and accounts of Friends of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe for the year ending 31st October 2023 and confirm that they accurately reflect the activities of that organisation



Stephen Randall 14.6.2025

FRIENDS OF ZION GRAVEYARD ATTERCLIFFE

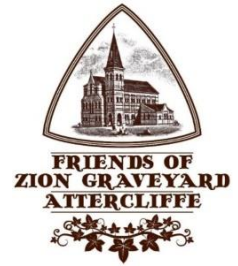
England & Wales - Charity number 1188411

Accounts

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1188411

Registered Office 132 Wincobank Avenue, Sheffield S5 6 BB



Trustees Annual Report for the period from 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023

Trustees:

Penny Rea (Chair), Samantha Hurman (Secretary), Jean Hine (Treasurer), Peter Hurman, Mick Bruin.

Organising Committee: Alison Davies, Amanda Appleby, Sylvia Jones, Bridget Ingle, all Trustees

Governance

The committee, which includes trustees, meets every two months usually by Zoom to plan developments and organise activities. Decisions are made by consensus with trustees having ultimate responsibility.

Any enthusiastic volunteer is welcome to join the committee. The trustees appoint new trustees, usually from the committee. The trustees meet in person at least once a year.

Objects of the Trust

For the public benefit:

- (a) to upkeep and maintain the cemetery known as Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Sheffield;
- (b) to advance the education of the local community and others in the history of the graveyard and those buried in it, including Mary Anne Rawson; and
- (c) the preservation and conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

Annual Report

1. Legal

We have finally completed the process to close the original Private Limited Company and transfer the assets to the newly transformed Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

We have added a further object, this being “the preservation and conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Sheffield”.

After considerable correspondence we have confirmation that the Land Registry has transferred ownership from the company to the Charity.

2.Upkeep and maintenance

Trustees and volunteers have been visiting the graveyard at least twice a month to check the site, to keep the graves clear and to try and contain and reduce the ground ivy. A major project is to level and improve the paths especially access from Lawrence Street. We are trying to obtain quotes for this work but has been difficult to find contractors willing to engage with such a small and awkward project especially as access is limited. We have some funding towards this work and will apply for grant funding to make up the balance once the overall cost is established.

We are also considering the purchase of a small shed for the storage of folding tables for events as currently these are borrowed from Wincobank Chapel and need transportation.

There is a constant build up of litter outside the rear access in in Ferguson Street. Much of this seems to blow in from the nearby skip recycling centres. Many thanks to Bridget Ingle and others for their work liking this up and reporting or removing it.

3. Advancing education

The graveyard is always open 2 – 4pm on the second Sunday afternoon of every month for visitors and usually on the Wednesday afternoon before these days. We aim to share information about the heritage of the site with all visitors and our detailed interpretation panels and new booklets are very helpful.

Zion Graveyard is a validated Learning Destination for Sheffield Children’s University (CU), a council run initiative which encourages children to participate in voluntary learning activities in their own time. Children are awarded CU Learning Credits towards CU Certificates and Badges for the time they are engaged in learning activities in their own time.

Children and young people are also encouraged to help with appropriate maintenance tasks. Particular recognition is due to Abel Appleby for his enthusiastic help.

We hold family learning activities in some school holidays some of which are funded by Sheffield CU. This means we can engage art tutor Mia Parry to devise and deliver high quality art sessions which volunteers supplement with other activities. These sessions relate to the biodiversity or history of the graveyard.

Children are also encouraged to help with appropriate maintenance tasks and especial credit should be given to Abel Appleby for his enthusiastic help. Children are awarded CU Learning Credits towards CU Certificates and Badges for the time they are engaged in learning activities in their own time.

The site is also often opened for visits by for groups and individuals.

March 13th: students from Sheaf Training helped with litter clearing and also designed and made resources for a children’s bug hunting activity.

March 25th We opened the graveyard for Christopher Brooks and a friend who was visiting Sheffield.

4th April: Easter: CU Family Activity “Spring in the Secret Garden”: Printing activity: birds, bees and spring flowers, printing, bug hunting, wild flower identification and drawing.

18th June: Mike Higginbottom’s bus tour of Old Attercliffe included a visit to Zion Graveyard

18th August: CU Family Activity: “Georgian Life: what was life like for a child Mary Ann Rawson was young?” Collage costumes, sampler stitching, traditional games and writing with a quill pen.

10th September: Heritage Open Day – Sunday: for the theme “Creativity Unwrapped” Mia ran an art activity for adults using motifs from the graveyard to print a design on Zion Graveyard tote bags.

11th September: Mike Higginbottom’s Heritage Open Day Walking Tour of Attercliffe visited.

12th September: Grenoside History Group met at Upper Wincobank Chapel for a Powerpoint talk about Zion Graveyard followed by a visit to the graveyard in the pouring rain.

29th October: CU Family Activity “Happy Halloween” A chance for children to learn that graveyards aren’t scary, even at Halloween. Activities included creating Lunar Landscapes, lantern making, traditional games, a creepy crawly bug hunt and a chance to deliver the ghost post to the residents of different graves.

We were delighted to be able to announce the publication of our first information booklet “The Story of Zion Graveyard” which was based on the research material collated for the interpretation panels. This booklet is now on sale for £5 per copy. We are extremely grateful to Mike Higginbottom and Ann Beedham for their help with this project.

4. The preservation and conservation of natural heritage.

Before Friends of Zion graveyard acquired the site in 2017 it had been locked up and neglected for 20 years. We have tried to be sensitive in clearing the graves, leaving as much of the natural habitat as possible whilst clearing the ground ivy and invasive weeds such as cleaver and bindweed, to allow other wild plants to grow.

Through the year we have photographed and labelled the wildflowers and have only introduced British Native Species plants. It is a small site and there is not a lot of space, but we have re-established a woodpile and left some areas wild for insect loving plants such as nettles and buttercup.

We would appreciate help from volunteers sympathetic to this approach who are willing to research and help identify plants and nurture the wildlife.

It is always a delight to see the spring flowers appear and observe changes through the seasons of the year.

5. Membership and support

There is no membership fee and members do not have voting rights under our constitution. There are currently 616 followers of our Facebook page: Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe. Our monthly email updates go out to 295 addresses. There are a number of additional supporters with only a postal address who we aim send information once a year. We also have a Twitter (X) account which is not currently in use. There are a number of volunteers in addition to the committee who help in different ways and for whom we are very appreciative.

The Trustees would also like to thank the management of Library by Lounge for their hospitality in accommodating our AGM meeting this year and our guest speaker Michelle Rawlins for freely giving her time to talk about her research and books about Sheffield's Women of Steel.

6. Finance

Expenditure

The largest items of expenditure this year were the essential legal costs of £1,050 for the transition from Registered Charity to Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the closure of the original Private Limited Company. This will make the organisation easier to administer and less daunting for volunteer trustees.

We also invested in the printing of 500 booklets about the history of the graveyard at a total cost of £1,150 including artwork. This outlay will be recouped over time through donations. We see this as an important action to address Object C education.

The payment of £120 for "Office Address" was made to Upper Wincobank Chapel House, 132 Wincobank Avenue, S5 6BB. This is our Registered Address and will be our office and base once renovations are complete. The current charge is £5 per month and the payment covers two years.

Income

We received a grant of £400 from Sheffield City Council for family activities registered with Sheffield Children's University. This enabled us to employ a professional artist and to cover the cost of resources.

Donations from visitors included a contribution from local historian Mike Higginbottom who brought a bus tour of 40 visitors to the graveyard and donations made towards the cost of the booklets.

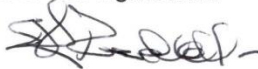
Please see overleaf for a full breakdown of costs that has been checked and verified by Steve Randall. Our thanks to him for this voluntary service.

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe
Annual Account 2022-2023

Funds @ 1 November 2022		£4,053.71	
Total Spending		£2,942.68	
Administration			
Legal fees	£1,050.00		
Insurance	£117.31		
Website fees	£108.72		
National Federation Cemetery Friends	£20.00		
Office address	£120.00		
Bank Charges	£60.00		
	£1,476.03		
Event costs			
Halloween	£12.15		
Artist fees	£250.00		
Refreshments	£26.86		
	£289.01		
Booklet costs			
Printing	£1,100.00		
Art work	£50.00		
Envelopes	£13.49		
Postage	£14.15		
	£1,177.64		
Total Income			
		£646.90	
Donations	£96.80		
Booklet Sales (inc P&P)	£125.10		
Children University Grant	£400.00		
MH walk	£25.00		
Funds @ 31 October 2023		£1,757.93	
	01-Nov-22	31-Oct-23	
HSBC	£3,917.57	£1,616.54	
Cash in hand	£136.14	£141.39	
	£4,053.71	£1,757.93	

I have examined the records and accounts of Friends of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe for the year ending 31st October 2023 and can confirm that they accurately reflect the activities of that organisation

Stephen Randall 29.07.24



FRIENDS OF ZION GRAVEYARD ATTERCLIFFE

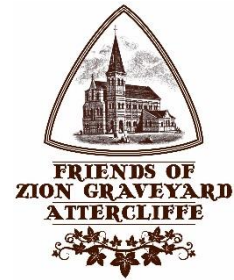
England & Wales - Charity number 1188411

Accounts

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe

A Community Interest Organisation: No 1188411

Registered Office: 132 Wincobank Avenue, Sheffield S5 6BB



Annual Report

For the period 1st November 2021 to 31 October 2022

This report has been adapted from the presentation made to the Annual General Meeting held at Upper Wincobank Chapel, Wincobank Avenue 7pm on Monday 12th December 2023

Background Information

The graveyard

Originally established in 1805 as the burial ground of the Zion Congregational Chapel and later a larger church, the graveyard became neglected after the church building was demolished in 1976 and then forgotten following housing clearance. The local area became dominated by scrapyards, vehicle compounds and sex shops which discouraged visitors. The site of the church was purchased by a local firm and the graveyard was fenced in and locked for 20 years. It was advertised for sale in 2017 when it was described as “a closed graveyard, irregular in shape and measuring 584 square yards”.

The organisation

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe (FoZGA) was originally formed as a constituted group on 1 July 2017 with the main objective of saving the graveyard from redevelopment as a car compound and in particular, the grave of anti-slavery campaigner Mary Anne Rawson and her family.

A Charitable Private Limited Company registered in England & Wales No 11016737 was incorporated on 17th October 2017 and after a fundraising campaign and successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund the graveyard was purchased on 25 January 2018. Charity Registration No 1188411 was granted on 9th March 2020.

Objects of the Trust

For the Public Benefit:

- (A) To upkeep and maintain the cemetery known as Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe Sheffield
- (B) To advance the education of the local community and others in the history of the graveyard and those buried in it, including Mary Anne Rawson

November 2021 – October 2022 Progress Report

The Organisation was converted from Registered Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 22 June 2022 with the same Charity Number of 1188411. The Charitable Private Limited Company 11016737 is now closed and the Land Registry has been informed of the changes.

We were supported in this process by Ms Shahida Siddique of Faithstar LLP Ltd.

The Trustees are Mick Bruin, Peter Hurman, Samantha Hurman (Secretary), Jean Hine (Treasurer), and Penny Rea (Chair). The Trustees have ultimate responsibility but planning and decision-making is made taking into account the views and experience of other key volunteers who contribute through regular committee meetings and practical sessions: Amanda Appleby, Alison Davies, Alanna Hurman, Sylvia Jones.

Other supporters make a contribution in different ways and we are especially grateful to the support of Ann Beedham, Mike Higginbottom, Bridget Ingle and Ian Prior whose efforts will be mentioned below.

There are no paid staff. We rely entirely on the commitment and hard work of volunteers.

Many other people have signed up as supporters and have made a financial donation towards the purchase and upkeep of the graveyard. We refer to these supporters as “members”. Most have opted to remain on our email circulation list receiving monthly emails on events and activities. We try to keep in touch with those who do not use email at least once a year. Frequent updates are also posted on our Facebook page and Twitter feed “Zion Graveyard Attercliffe”.

At the end of the year our supporters and followers numbered as follows:

Members: 337 Email: circulation list 293 Facebook: 580 Twitter: 150

We undertake to open the graveyard on the second Sunday of the month for visitors, at other times for gardening and maintenance sessions, and for occasional family activities during school holidays.

Gardening & Maintenance Volunteers

After the initial effort to clear, map and research the graves, the number of regular volunteers has settled at a core group of 10. The graveyard is usually locked due to its isolated location and previous anti-social behaviour, also to protect the wildlife. After purchase, the site was surveyed by Wildscapes (Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust) and a management plan was drawn up. The site is termed a “stopping off place” for birds flying across the industrial Don Valley. Having been undisturbed for so long it is a haven for insects and fungi and there are also some interesting wildflowers coming through as the ivy is cleared back.

Now that we better understand the site’s significance and importance for biodiversity the Trustees have applied to the Charity Commission to add an additional object:

“To support the preservation and conservation of the natural heritage and biodiversity of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe.”

Events & Activities

We were invited to book an information stand at the Sheffield Heritage Fair held at the Millennium Galleries on 29th & 30th January 2022. This gave volunteers an opportunity to network with other organisations and share information with many members of the public.

During the year the U3A Visiting History Group came to Zion Graveyard. Illustrated talks were given about Zion Graveyard for Grenoside History Group and about Mary Anne Rawson to Friends of Wincobank Hill, Manor Lodge and the Victorian Society.

Local historian Mike Higginbottom gave a well-attended talk “A Look Round Attercliffe” at the Library Café and kindly donated proceeds to FoZGA. He made a further donation when his bus tour of the Don Valley visited the graveyard.

Mike is working with Ann Beedham and committee members to produce a booklet about Zion Graveyard using the information collated for the interpretation panels. We hope this will be available for sale in 2023.

The Heritage Open Days theme in 2022 was Industry. We were able to provide a summary of known occupations of persons buried in Zion Graveyard and an information display about The Sheffield Smelting Company, founded by Mary Anne Rawson's grandfather and of which the family were directors until 1966. FoZGA was also represented at the Heritage Open Day at Upper Wincobank Chapel a building which was founded as a school by Mary Anne Rawson.

In May, local author Michelle Rawlins visited the graveyard to talk about her new book *The Buffer Girls* and sign copies. As this drew on the lives of Attercliffe women, it attracted a small crowd who stayed for refreshments and to look around the graveyard.

We continued our education work through family activities funded by Sheffield Children's University providing opportunities for children to engage with the wildlife in Zion, and explore aspects of history through art, craft and drama. We also held a fun "Halloween" session for families to encourage children to feel comfortable and be respectful in the graveyard whilst enjoying traditional games and craft activities.

As the graveyard came back to life after the winter we have tried to identify and log the wildflowers that appear through the year and have invested in a hand-held labelling machine. Thanks to some additional funding from the Soroptimists (Hallamshire Branch), we have been able to more British Native plants into the spaces which have been reclaimed from the ground ivy.

We have continued to monitor wildlife with a remote camera catching a great spotted woodpecker as well as our regular birds. Also, of interest this year is the giant willow aphid evidenced by puddles of honeydew liquid beneath the goat willow trees above Mary Anne's grave.

The Canadian fleabane was another new discovery this year. It was unknown in Britain until 200 years ago when a consignment of goods from North America was unloaded in London. Since then, it has gradually been spreading northwards.

Pathway Improvements are planned to improve access. We are grateful to Ian Prior for his help in drawing up a formal ground plan which can be circulated to obtain quotes. The raffle drawn at the 2021 AGM raised £264 towards this work.

In the never-ending effort to keep removing the vast amounts of litter that accumulate in Ferguson Street we have been assisted by many volunteers especially Bridget Ingle, who not only collects the litter from the wider area but also reports it to the Council and follows up until it is removed. Much of the litter blows in from the uncovered waste skips nearby and we need to keep monitoring the situation.

Trustees are represented on a working group to steer the renovation of the old schoolhouse at Wincobank Chapel with a view to basing our office and resources there. Our Registered Address is now 132 Wincobank Avenue S5 6BB which is the chapel and house address.

We would like to thank all our members and volunteers for their ongoing support.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at Attercliffe Old Library, 10 Leeds Road, S9 3TY. Michelle Rawlins will also be talking about her new book about the Sheffield Blitz.

The verified Annual Accounts are below. Thanks go to Steve Randall for the external finance check.

**Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe
Finance Report November 2021-October 2022**

Bank @ 31 oct 2021	£4,072.63
Expenditure	£1,396.46
Income banked	£1,377.54
Bank @ 31 Oct 2022	£3,917.57
Income not banked	£136.14
Total Funds @ 31 Oct 2022	£4,053.71
Income Summary	
General Donations	£354.04
Mr Mumby donation	£200.00
Raffle Income	£322.00
Mike Higginbottom Talk	£251.50
Children's University Grant	£250.00
TOTAL	£1,377.54
Spend Summary	
Administration	
Bank charges	£53.34
Meeting room	£50.00
Memberships	£40.00
Website host	£86.41
Insurance	£98.25
Events	
Artist fees and expenses	£175.00
Raffle licence	£20.00
Raffle tickets	£37.80
Heritage parking	£8.50
Refreshments	£43.82
Flask	£21.59
Graveyard	
Labeller and labels	£43.87
Graveyard keys	£77.40
Tools and gloves	£261.24
Pebbles and pens	£29.00
Storage box	£45.00
Bench	£124.69
Notice board	£180.55
TOTAL	£1,396.46

I have examined the records and accounts of Friends of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe for the year ending 31st October 2022 and can confirm that they accurately reflect the activities of that organisation

Stephen Randall 21.5.2023



FRIENDS OF ZION GRAVEYARD ATTERCLIFFE

England & Wales - Charity number 1188411

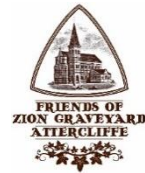
Accounts

Friends of Zion Graveyard Attercliffe

132 Wincobank Avenue, Sheffield S5 6BB

Private Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England & Wales

Company No: 11016737 Registered Charity: 1188411



2020 -21 Trustees :

Michael Bruin, Jean Hine , Samantha & Peter Hurman , Stephen Randall, Penelope Rea

Annual Report for 1st Nov 2020 – 31st Oct 2021

What a year! Certainly, it was one that will be remembered however hard we try to forget some of the bleaker moments. It was some consolation that while we were all confined to quarters during the seemingly endless lockdowns the wildlife was able to flourish in the peace and quiet.

IN THE GRAVEYARD

1. **LOCKDOWN ZION** When possible, Mick Bruin visited the graveyard to check on the remote cameras and ensure the birds had sufficient food. During the year he reported seeing green finches, goldfinches, chaffinches, wrens, blackbirds a thrush, long-tailed tit, collared dove, great spotted woodpecker, our usual robins, magpies and woodpigeons as well as nesting blue tits and great tits. The tree camera even caught wood mice stealing from the birdfeeders and the ground level camera has caught a fox, a cat and a rat. We have been identifying the wildflowers as they come through and were very interested to find new species now some of the more invasive plants have been cleared back.
2. **SPRING CLEAN** Nature had done its best to reassert control and in addition to a carpet of catkins and a resurgence of ivy we found a lot of broken branches from the high winds. Our neighbour had cut back overhanging branches and returned them to us resulting in a dangerously high woodpile. Bradwell's Skip Hire kindly provided two skips for the removal of this and at the same time we took the opportunity to clear unwanted topsoil and leaf litter that had been removed from the graves.
3. **VOLUNTEERS** Our volunteers worked hard to finish painting the palisade fencing from grey to green, clearing the catkins from the graves and pulling up bracken and brambles. We were particularly impressed by the earnest endeavour of young Abel Appleby and were really pleased to welcome him and his mum Amanda as regular volunteers. With some much-appreciated funding from Sheffield Town Trust we were able to purchase new tools, a storage bench and tool bunker.



Our youngest volunteer Abel, sweeping up the catkins from Mary Ann Rawson's memorial stone.

We are aware that, in order to improve accessibility, some sensitive work is required to level off the sloping paths and make the drains safe so it was decided that the proceeds from this year's raffle should go towards this project. We have had some beautiful art prizes donated as well as hampers of drink and cosmetics. Thanks to Jean, Sylvia and Sam for organising our first online raffle and to our supporters who bought the tickets.

The winning numbers were 1st 0196, 2nd 0027, 3rd 0270, 4th 0257, 5th 0048. All prizes were claimed. The raffle raised a total of £400.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

4 INTERPRETATION



Two of the ten new interpretation panels telling the story of Zion chapel, church, institute and graveyard.

We were pleased to be able to reopen the graveyard in May with the launch of the wonderful interpretation panels that had been funded by J G Graves Charitable Trust. Local historian Mike Higginbottom and graphic designer Ann Beedham had worked with us to produce a set of ten panels that tell the history of Zion Congregational Chapel and Church, the graveyard and the local area. Many more people contributed fascinating images. We are particularly grateful to staff from Picture Sheffield at the City Archives for their help.

5 AN EXTRA PANEL The launch event was very well attended. We were particularly pleased to welcome a group from the Hallamshire branch of Soroptimists International who had funded an additional interpretation panel about the life and work of Mary Anne Rawson and also provided funds to purchase some plants for the graveyard. We were also delighted to meet Mr James Tear, Director of Thessco, who came along with his wife Jo. Thessco, (The Sheffield Smelting Company), was founded by Mary Anne Rawson's grandfather in 1760, and is now one of the world's largest manufacturers of silver alloys.

6 FERGUSON STREET

Socially distanced refreshments served in Ferguson Street were very welcome and our thanks go to Kinder Kalsi and his group the Attercliffe Angel and Darnall Diamonds for helping clear the enormous amount of litter that had accumulated there during the lockdown. This is a problematic wind-trap and we have been liaising with Streets Ahead to try and improve this area which is our most accessible entrance.

7 CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY FAMILY DAYS

Zion Graveyard is a validated Children's University Learning Destination accredited by Sheffield City Council.

We were pleased to be able to welcome families for two activity days in the summer holidays to explore firstly the Zion Wildlife Day when the children were encouraged to explore the graveyard to identify flora and fauna. They found some huge spiders sunbathing on the wall and with tuition from Mia, the children produced some beautiful wildlife inspired print work and made mobiles.



Nature themed printing with Mia

8 HISTORY DAY



Victorian History Day activities

Our second family day was themed around the life of Victorian children with much talk about how different life was in past times. The children enthusiastically played marbles and drafts, and made spoon dolls. Once again Mia came up with a truly impressive activity to create Victorian hats from paper collage. It was wonderful to see so many new families who had heard about the event through Sheffield Children's University publicity. We were followed this up with a Happy Halloween afternoon on 31st October.

9. HERITAGE

For Heritage Open Days this year, our good friend Mike Higginbottom was able to bring his Attercliffe Walking Tour back to the graveyard and we also had good attendance on our own Open Sunday. The interpretation panels relieved us of the need for a guided tour and it was much more interesting to be able to talk to small groups. During the lock down Penny gave several talks by Zoom for different groups including one from Sheffield Libraries that attracted an audience of 200.

10 DISCOVERING DEAKINS

Sam and Peter Hurman have done some fascinating research into the Deakin family who were prominent in Zion Chapel's history. Amanda has been uploading information on to the Find-a-Grave website. Margaret Hemmings has been in touch to pass on her father's memories of the Attercliffe Theatre and Roy Bragger has sent us his memoir of growing up in Attercliffe. Peter has acquired some very special historic books about Attercliffe including a Bible from Zion Church.

11 FAMILIES

It is always heartening to hear from living relatives of those interred in the graveyard and this year we have made contact with more relatives including Richard Grindrod, a descendent of Rev Joseph Brown Jefferson and his brother Rev John Jefferson, both Ministers at Zion Chapel. Members of two different branches of the family of Mark Oakes: Richard Denby and Rhonda Wells, have been in touch to share information about the family. Jose Bosworth, whose Great Great Grandparents were Jonathan Wood and Catharine Wood, has also sent fascinating details of her family. Her mother Helena and grandparents, Thomas and Lucy Hague lived at 70 Ferguson Street until about 1945. Thomas was the son of Nancy Wood.



Richard Grindrod at the grave of the Jefferson family

12 WILSONS

Another exciting contact made this year is Mr Ashley Irons, descendant of the Read family and nephew of Ronald E Wilson, descendant of the Read family, who wrote “Two Hundred Precious metal Years”, the History of the Sheffield Smelting Company. After an initial contact through a neighbour of Ronald Wilson’s now deceased son, Ashley has promised to get back in touch to share more information about his extraordinary ancestors.

THE ORGANISATION

13 SUPPORTERS

We currently have 540 followers on our Facebook page. 255 addresses on our gmail circulation list, 151 followers on Twitter and 247 fully signed up members on our database. It’s a full-time job keeping up with it all and consequently we don’t always manage to keep on top of it. We hope to build our team of regular volunteers this year and welcome all offers of practical help.

We were very sorry to hear about the death of Alison’s mother, Mrs Ann Cathels, earlier in the year. Ann had been a keen supporter and had donated the green chairs in the graveyard. We miss her very much but are honoured to have received some of her gardening tools which is a lovely memento and a reminder of her encouragement and support.

14 STRUCTURE

A key decision made by the trustees has been to work towards closing down the Limited Company that was set up to purchase the graveyard within a tight deadline. We achieved Charitable Status in February 2020 and are working with Faithstar LLP to transform the organisation to a Charitable Incorporated organisation. We are now waiting for approval of our new constitution from the Charity Commission. The new structure will not make a material difference apart from relieving the need to report to Companies House and HMRC.

We are sorry to lose our Treasure Steve Randall who has resigned for personal reasons. He was a founder member of the organisation, having raised the alert in the first place after having seen the notice that the graveyard was for sale. He has been a mainstay over the past five years and we thank him for his support. Jean Hine has agreed to take over as treasurer.

The trustees meet regularly with an advisory group of volunteers. If any members would like to join this group we would really appreciate your input, especially in the area of biodiversity and conservation. We aim to keep a balance between safe access to the historic memorials and preserving a safe habitat for wildlife and it is essential that all interests are represented.

14 OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, WINCOBANK

We have now changed our registered office address to 132 Wincobank Avenue, S5 6BB. This is the address of Upper Wincobank Chapel and the Old School House, next door. Friends of Zion Graveyard are represented in the group working to raise funds and renovate the School House so that it can be used as a community and a base for local heritage groups. It is expected that renovation work will start in March so that the building will be open for use by July.



The Old School House, 132 Wincobank Avenue, S5 6BB

15 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

We are looking forward to a good start to the New Year and look forward to welcoming visitors on our monthly Open Afternoons every second Sunday from 2 – 4pm and volunteers for work sessions on the Wednesday before the open days and at other times as arranged.

I would like to finish by thanking my fellow trustees Sam, Peter, Mick, Jean and Steve, our advisors Alison, Sylvia, Amanda and Alanna and all our other volunteers for their hard work and commitment turning out throughout the year to look after the graveyard and dealing with research, administration and fund-raising despite their busy private lives.

16 ACCOUNTS

Thanks to our treasurers Steve Randall and Jean Hine, and to Peter Foyle for his help in checking the accounts.

Friends of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe

Accounts for the year ending 31 October 2021

Income

Donations	£385.50	✓
Grant	£1,250.00	✓
Raffle	£10.00	✓

Total £1,645.50

Expenditure

Graveyard maintenance and improvement	£2,958.50	✓
Membership Services	£245.07	✓
Administration costs	£26.00	✓
Other	£55.38	✓

Total £3,284.95

Deficit -£1,639.45

Balance Sheet

Opening Balance	£5,712.08	✓
Less deficit	-£1,639.45	✓
	£4,072.63	✓

Represented by

Current Account £4,072.63

£4,072.63