

FOSC's work on display in Stockport Museum

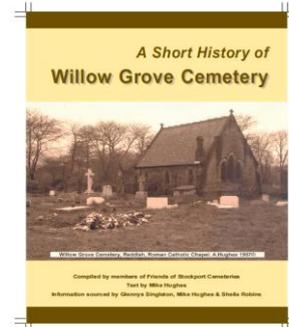
The Mayor and Mayoress visited the new display in Stockport Museum, on the theme of death and burial, showcasing the work of FOSC.



In 2013, the group attracted Heritage Lottery funding to restore the Susannah Bogg memorial.

Through this project, information was collated about Susannah herself and other discoveries were made, eg. large numbers of people having been buried in public graves (communal graves without a grave marker).

In one such grave there were 28 children and 6 adults buried in a six month period. We hope that you will take the time to visit the exhibition, which paints a picture of life when many children died very young and some families struggled to afford the cost of a funeral.

Publications – Paperback***“A Short History of Willow Grove Cemetery”******“From Shrouds to Shrines; The Social Class Divide in Willow Grove Cemetery”***

Both these publications will soon be available at Stockport Museum, which is open on;

Tue – Sat 10am-5pm,
Sun & Bank Holidays 11am -5pm.
Admission is free.
For more information,
call 0161474 4444 or visit

[Stockport Council - Stockport Museum](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/staircasehouse)

www.stockport.gov.uk/staircasehouse

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Tim Webb's Visit to Willow Grove



The recently restored memorial to former Stockport Mayor Thomas Webb has had a family visitor from California.

Thomas Webb's son, Thomas Frank Webb, died in Ceylon in 1926 and is commemorated on his father's headstone, but the wording had been hidden from view when the council buried it.

Having first resurrected and restored the headstone, Thomas Webb's great grand daughter Sarah traced the descendants of his son, Thomas Frank Webb, in California and so great grandson Timothy Webb became the first member of the American branch of the family to visit Stockport when he made the journey to see the restored memorial in June last year.

Thomas returned to America feeling justifiably proud of his great grandfather and was impressed with the work carried out by FOSC.

Reddish Army Cadets Work at Brunswick Cemetery

In the centre of Portwood roundabout in Stockport are the walls of Brunswick Wesleyan Chapel, which stood on this site from 1848 to 1955.

Some time ago, FOSC asked the Reddish Army Cadets to work with FOSC to clean up and restore the site.

The work began in early March. On the first visit to the site, the cadets collected around 10 bags of rubbish and on two more recent visits they restored the pathway, removed saplings and cut the grass.

There is still a lot to be done, so more dates have been arranged to continue with the project. At the end of this clean up we hope to erect an interpretation board to provide visitors with information about the chapel and those who were buried within the graveyard.

A **huge thanks** goes to SSI Mark Woodward, his colleague and cadets for all working so hard with this project.



Cllr Maureen Rowles at Brunswick Cemetery

For more about this story see <https://armycadets.com/.../reddish-cadets-stage-clean-up-of-brunswick-cemetery>

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Stockport's Mayor visits Willow Grove Cemetery



On a visit to Willow Grove Cemetery in March, the Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Andrew Verdeille, honoured a promise he made to a Belgian soldier's family the previous November.

He passed on a message of thanks from the family to those who help to maintain the cemetery as part of the community payback team.

Jill Edsar, community payback officer, said: "I was delighted that the mayor took time out of his busy schedule to visit the team and publicly thank each and every offender for the work they have done at the cemetery. It has shown to them that the work they are doing means a lot".

Community payback got involved at the cemetery after being contacted by the group.

A Tribute to Allen Whittaker

Sadly and quite unexpectedly in April this year we lost a great supporter and participant in the commemoration events we have held in Willow Grove since 2014.



Thank you Allen Whittaker on behalf of FOOSC; you will be missed.

Task Days at Willow Grove

An application has been submitted to Stockport Council for the following dates.

14th August 2016 – Sunday
21st August 2016 - Sunday
4th September 2016 - Sunday

Start at 10.00am and finish 12.00noon.

A task day to weed the columbarium at Highfield Cemetery will be arranged soon.

Contact Sec Sheila Robins for more details if you can help on any of the above dates. Contact sheilaarobins@outlook.com

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**Remembrance Weekend
Saturday 12th November 2016
Sunday 13th November 2016**

Work has already started for this year's event. The Lancashire Hussars re enactment group are attending again this year and will be bringing along two horses. We will have a replica of WW1 MK1 tank scaled down to a third of its original size.

Research is being carried out on our theme this year the Battle of the Somme and the soldier's story.

Please get the dates in your diary **NOW!**

More information will be put on our web site nearer the time.

**The Centennial Commemoration of
the Great War 1914 -1918
Saturday 12th November 2016
Willow Grove Cemetery**

Central Drive, South Reddish

10.00 Stockport Silver Band

10.30. Arrival of Mayor of Stockport

10.40 Arrival of Deputy Lord
Lieutenant

10.50. Parade
by serving, ex service and cadet forces

11.00 Last post – reveille – blessing

Mayor's Speech

11.20 Military Trail Walk

11.45. Refreshments at the Cadets'
Headquarters

**Remembrance Sunday Service
13th November 2016**

10.30 St Mary's Church – Service

12. 30 A parade will be led by
Belle Vue Brass Band to the
Cenotaph and on to Willow Grove

12.30 Parade leaves St Mary's Church
for Cenotaph

12.50 Service at Cenotaph

1.00pm Proceed to Willow
Grove Cemetery

1.05pm Service at Cross of Sacrifice

Park Road Cemetery – Cheadle

FOSC have been approached by Mary Robinson MP for Cheadle to work with cemetery services and Stockport MBC on a project to be set in the future for Park Road Cemetery in her constituency.

We are therefore seeking volunteers, both existing and new, who would be interested in taking part.

For more information contact FOSC's sec Sheila Robins or Mary Robinson's office in Cheadle Hulme.

Future meetings



Monday 15th August 2016 at 7pm
Contact Secretary for details of venue
for the above meeting
sheilaarobins@outlook.com

Monday 17th October 2016 at 7pm
Offerton Fire Station.
Lisburne Lane Stockport SK2 5N