

**Centennial Commemoration Event
at Willow Grove Cemetery,
4th November 2017**

Since 2014, we have been highlighting the lives of soldiers who served in the Great War of 1914 -1918 and who lie buried at Willow Grove Cemetery in Reddish. At our 2017 event, we commemorated Joseph Lister V.C., who was born in Salford in 1866 but moved to Reddish when he was ten years old.

Joseph enlisted in the Lancashire Fusiliers and was posted to the 1st Battalion, which had fought in Gallipoli Campaign in 1915. The following year, the Battalion was engaged in the Battle of the Somme, at which Joseph was wounded, re-joining his unit in October 1917 in Belgium, where the Fusiliers were preparing for the Third Battle of Ypres, known as Passchendaele.

Sergeant Lister's "most conspicuous bravery under attack" won him the Victoria Cross when, on 9th October, 1917, his company came under enemy fire. Bravely running ahead of his men, Joseph swiftly despatched two of the German gunners and ordered the rest to surrender. All but one of the enemy soldiers conceded defeat, the lone dissenter then also being shot by Joseph, whose actions that day brought about the surrender of a further hundred or so Germans, thereby enabling the Fusiliers to advance and maintain the barrage. Back in Reddish after the war, Joseph Lister became a postman and later, a watchman at Cravens Engineering on Greg Street. After retiring from

Cravens, he went to become a school crossing warden and he died in 1963 aged 76.

The 2017 Commemorative Event at Willow Grove opened at 10am, to a medley of tunes from the era of the First World War, played by Stockport Silver Band and shortly afterwards, Councillor Linda Holt (The Mayor of Stockport) and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester arrived.

Leading the parade there were representatives of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, serving and ex-serving members of our forces with local cadet forces.

As the parade marched passed Joseph Lister's grave Col Mike Glover Area Secretary of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (who honour traditions of the Lancashire Fusiliers) took the salute.

Finally, Geoff Baines, of the Royal Regiment of the Lancashire Fusiliers Band, played "The Last Post" in honour of Joseph Lister and all those who gave their lives in the Great War.



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Picture of Government's Paving Stone unveiled by Cllr Linda Holt, Mayor of Stockport, at Willow Grove

At 1pm, Andrew Gwynne MP unveiled a blue heritage plaque at Joseph's former home on David Street, Reddish and further tributes to this local hero were paid at Houldsworth working men's club, of which he had been a life member.



Preparing for the unveiling of the blue plaque at David Street. Reddish



Col Mike Glover Andrew Gwynne MP at the Houldsworth Working Men's Club

An earlier commemorative service had also been held in September in Belgium at the site of Sergeant Lister's heroic actions and also in his home town of Salford in October.



Michael Handley, relative of Joseph Lister at the site of the pill box in Belgium.

See more pictures of the event on our web

www.friendsofstockportcemeteries.co.uk

www.willowgrove.org.uk

Please see the link below to go on youtube which shows the whole event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RJny7leyFo>

A GREAT BIG thank you once again to Forever Manchester for funding the event.

Thanks also go to Heaton and Reddish Area Committee for funding which helped FOSC purchase a blue heritage plaque and a copy of the Governments commemorative paving stone for Joseph Lister, recognising all those who received a VC in the Great War.

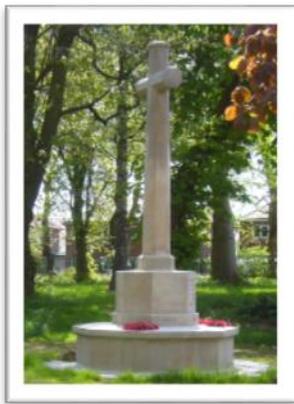
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Remembrance Sunday

A parade led by Belle Vue Brass Band left St Mary's Church in Reddish to lay wreaths and hold services at the Cenotaph at Reddish Road and the Cross of Sacrifice at Willow Grove Cemetery.

Following the band were the Deputy Mayor of Stockport, local councillors, members of the police force, the 1804 Air Cadets, the SS Hawkins Sea & Marine Cadets and members of the Royal British Legion. Also in the parade were representatives of FOOSC, members of St. Mary's congregation and the Reverends Jeanette Young and Angie Stanton, who read the services.

Thank you to all the volunteers/stewards, the employees of Stockport Council, and especially the emergency services, who also came along to participate and to help with the parade.



Future meetings FOOSC



Monday 26th March 2018
Monday 7th May 2018
At Offerton Fire Station,
Lisburne Lane, Offerton, Stockport
starts 7pm.

Park Road Cemetery Cheadle

The bench funded by Cheadle & Gatley Area Committee is now in place on the main pathway at the Brookside Road end of the cemetery.



Following the success of the council's experimental planting scheme, further planting has now been carried out, which will provide an attractive year-round focal point.



FOOSC hope to have another task day in Park Road to help with general maintenance. Anyone wishing to join and help please contact me on sheilaarobins@outlook.com

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Greenspace Forums Hero's Award

Stockport's Greenspace Forum gives friends groups like ours an opportunity to give additional recognition to the many individuals and groups who work hard alongside us.

FOSC nominated the Reddish Army cadets for 2017 Greenspace Hero's Award for their help with the restoration of Brunswick Cemetery situated in the centre of Portwood roundabout in Stockport.

This project started in February 2015, since which time these young cadets have worked hard in all weathers, clearing debris and weeds to reveal the footprint of the old chapel. The work is still in progress and we hope to have an interpretation board on site later this year.



Tribute to Rev Jeanette Young

Sadly, in December 2017, we lost the Rev. Jeanette Young who was a friend to FOSC. We shall miss her and the help and support she has given to the group during her short time at St. Marys.

Jan was a little lady with a big heart. She brought a new light into St Marys which is now sadly extinguished but she will always be remembered for her spirit and enthusiasm. May God bless her. *Cyril Heap*

Bits and Bobs

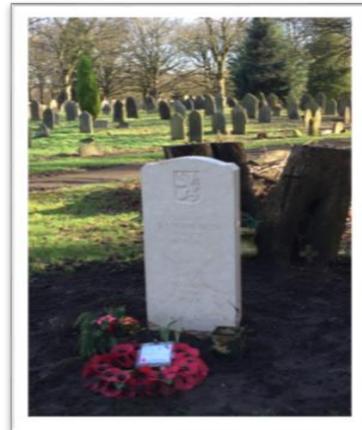
Data Protection

Revised legislation is updating the Data Protection Act this comes into force in May 2018. As a group we hold data on members for newsletters, mailings, events etc. After May 2018 we cannot send out information about our events or other 'marketing' without having asked for consent.

Willow Grove Cemetery

Frequent visitors to Willow Grove will know that the main pathway frequently becomes waterlogged. Inspection and testing work has been carried out to establish how best to divert and drain the surface water.

A new Commonwealth War Grave Stone (CWGC) for 59694 Private Soldat Jean Francois Vermeulen. This will be unveiled at the Centennial event on Saturday 10th November 2018.



On behalf of FOSC – Thank you to the Belgium consulate of Greater Manchester John Meesus and the CWGC for all their help.

Newsletter by S Robins edited by Mo Fahey