



**SOUTH YORKSHIRE BRANCH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL
SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM GROUP**

Website: <http://www.syretfirefighters.uk>

Chair: Nigel Kind; **Treasurer and Temp Secretary:** Ted Mullins

Group Meeting Minutes 21st October 2025

Fire Service Headquarters, 197 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 3FG

1. Welcome by Chair and Valedictions:

The Chairman sent his sincere apologies for not attending the Group Meeting, and Mick Hurst stood in as temporary Chairman.

Members were asked to stand for 1 minute in remembrance of:

Retired Area Manager Mr. Robert "Bob" David Rowland, aged 67, on 11 August 2025.

Retired Leading Firefighter, Mr William 'Bill' Marshall Ashforth, aged 82 years, on 28 August 2025.

2. Members Present:

Douglas Binnington, John Bower, Bev Bridge, Mick Hurst (Temp Chair), Stuart Hobson, Arthur Levick, and Ted Mullins (Sec/Treasurer).

3. Apologies for Absence:

Peter Cawthorne, Nigel Kind, Brian Marsden, Michael Mottram, and Harry Wright.

4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2025 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: John Bower

Seconded: Bev Bridge

(Carried Unanimously)

5. Secretary's Resignation:

Arthur explained that he had been forced to resign because of failing health and loss of hearing.

The meeting thanked Arthur for all his past work, and wished him well for the future.

All present hoped that his health would start to improve.

7. New Members:

The meeting acknowledged the following members who have recently joined the NARF Sheffield and Rotherham Group, and wished them a happy and fulfilling retirement

Grant Morrow (14/08/25)

Lucy Holmes (30/05/25)

Sean Marsden (16/09/25)

6. Membership

As of 21/10/2025 the Sheffield and Rotherham Group has **268** paying members.

7. Donations:

Robert David Rowland, £30 St Luke's Hospice

Bill Ashforth, £30 Fire Fighters Charity

8. Finances:

Group Subscription Balance as of 21 January 2025	£1,827.41
Bereavement Donations Since 1 st January 2025	£240.00
Virgin Money Bank Charges	£29.70
Branch Balance as of 13 October 2025	1,557.71

9. Plaque Dedication Ceremonies:

9.1 Frank Mallinson

At 1:00pm on 7th August 2025, at Brown's Bar, Norfolk Street, a memorial plaque dedication ceremony hosted by the Fire Brigades Union to remember the sacrifice made Fireman Frank Mallinson of Sheffield Fire Brigade took place on Norfolk Street, Sheffield City Centre.

The ceremony was well attended but the most important attendees were Frank's son and daughter Darren and Paula, and their families. Also present were Frank's retired colleagues who were at that fatal incident 57 years ago.

9.2 Sheffield Blitz:

A FBU plaque dedication ceremony in remembrance of the eight firefighters who lost their lives on the night of the Sheffield Blitz, 12th December 1940, will be held at Pound Park, Sheffield on 12th December 2025 at 1200 hrs. All are welcome.

9.3 Colin Hill:

A site has been identified, in a small garden at Heeley City Farm, for the plaque for Colin Hill who died at a special service incident, whilst attempting to rescue a cat from a tree, at the rear of 88 Albert Road, Sheffield on June 5th, 1950. Details of the plaque unveiling will be arranged once the plinth is in situ.

9.4 David Jackson

The suitable position for David's plaque was discussed at length.

10. Website Renewal:

In 2024 the total cost of the website was £83.87p, whereas this year it has increased to £148.02p. This amounts to a 70% increase. Please note all management of the website, editing, and entries are carried out free of charge.

At present the cost of the website is shared between the two South Yorkshire Groups on a membership weighted basis.

Talks are ongoing with the website hosting service provider to reduce the cost of the website. However, it was thought by all present the website was too valuable an asset to lose.

11. Any Other Business:

National Fire Service Memorial, Rettendon, Essex (<https://www.fireservicememorial.org/>)

The National Fire Service Memorial inaugurated in 2024 is a poignant tribute to the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities.

Whilst this memorial is impressive, and well thought out, there is a serious mistake in the matter of the South Yorkshire area remembrance plaques where the deceased firefighters from the South Yorkshire area simply carry the badge of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue instead of the badges of the brigades that personnel were serving in at the time of their death.

The Brigade Badges of the deceased should be:

- Dennis Thompson – Rotherham County Borough Fire Brigade
- Ronald Brewer – Doncaster Fire Brigade
- Paul Parkin – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- Colin Hill – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- Frank Mallinson – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- Robert Smith – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- John Pollard – Rotherham Police Fire Service
- Paul Crookes – South Yorkshire County Fire Service
- Norman Elliott – Auxiliary Fire Service
- David Jackson – (Recorded correctly as South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue)

At the time the minutes were recorded the status of the following on the memorial wall was unknown:

- Archie Cornish – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- Charles William Busby – Rotherham Auxiliary Fire Service
- Stanley Slack – Auxiliary Fire Service
- Fredrick Parkes Spencer – Sheffield Fire Brigade
- John William Swaby – Sheffield Auxiliary Fire Service
- Arthur Moore – Auxiliary Fire Service
- Tom Stacy – Auxiliary Fire Service
- Alfred Garlick – Auxiliary Fire Service
- Albert Wallace – Auxiliary Fire Service
- Jack Hazard – National Fire Service
- Harold Parkinson – National Fire Service
- Harold Gannon – National Fire Service
- Joseph Pardon – National Fire Service
- Malcolm Rawnsley – National Fire Service
- Patrick Dalton – Rotherham County Borough Fire Brigade
- Bernard Ward – West Riding County Fire Service

Two unknowns on the memorial wall are:

- Stanley Williams – Sheffield Auxiliary Fire Service
- Enoch Leadbetter – Rotherham Division, National Fire Service

Nigel Kind the Chair of NARF Sheffield and Rotherham group is working hard to rectify the mistakes, and add any missing names of firefighters who served in the South Yorkshire Area.

12. Date, time and venue of the next meeting:

The next group meeting will be held at South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Eyre Street, Sheffield, on Tuesday 20th January 2026, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Please Note: *Owing to the number of matters discussed above The Chairman's and Secretary's meeting with the Barnsley and Doncaster Group was not discussed. This matter will be carried over to the next meeting.*