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# Autumn 2010

**Welcome...** to the latest newsletter of the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery. Here you'll find information on the progress that we've made over the past few months and on events organised by the Friends, along with news items that, we hope, will interest you.

Do please let us know if you'd like information on any other topics.

## Funding Secured for Heritage Circuit

Following a series of meetings with the national charity that stands up for pedestrians,

**LIVING STREETS**

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

we're delighted to announce that Living Streets' local representative, Jim Shaw, has confirmed that the charity will provide funding to the Friends to establish a heritage circuit around Hyde Park Cemetery.

The circuit will be marked on site by numbered posts and an accompanying leaflet will describe about twenty points of interest around the cemetery. The aim is not only to encourage visitors to take exercise in the cemetery, but also to provide them with information to make their visit even more enjoyable. Work has started on drafting the leaflets: we'll keep you informed of progress.

## On the Right Path

### **Long-awaited Re-surfacing Carried Out**

The Friends have been lobbying Doncaster MBC, the cemetery's owner / operator, for a considerable period, requesting that many of the paths be re-surfaced. Their condition was very poor and, in some locations, the existing surface had broken up completely, presenting a very real risk to the many pedestrians who either visit the cemetery or use it as a thoroughfare.

We are extremely pleased to be able to report that a substantial amount of re-surfacing has recently been carried out, not only addressing the safety risks but also adding to the increasingly held view that Hyde Park Cemetery really is being cared for.

Our thanks go to Amanda Carr at DMBC Bereavement Services for making this work happen.

## Working Mornings:

### Your Chance to Make a Difference

**Our regular Working Mornings, held on the second Saturday of each month, have been running for over six months now and they are making real improvements to the appearance of Hyde Park Cemetery.** The area around the Lodge, in particular, has been transformed, with the removal of weeds, undergrowth and accumulated litter, and it now presents a much better first impression for visitors arriving at the Carr Lane entrance. We are beginning to receive really positive comments about the condition of the cemetery, thanks to a combination of the regular maintenance work being done by DMBC's Grounds team and the efforts of the Friends on these Working Mornings.

Anyone can take part. There's no shortage of things to be done and you don't need any specific skills: your time and enthusiasm are enough! Volunteers so far have found it to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience, so **please give it a go** and come along.

### *When & What?*

The **2nd Saturday of every month, between 9:30 am and 12 noon**, to undertake tasks such as litter-picking, gardening duties and other general good-housekeeping activities. Please wear clothes that you might wear for gardening, including sturdy footwear and bring your own gardening gloves, if you have some.

We are grateful to Adrian Welch, of Adrian Welch Glass & Glazing Ltd, for permitting us to use the toilet and washing facilities in his premises during these Working Mornings.

**See you on the 2nd Saturday!**

### Next Working Morning:

**Saturday 11 December, 09:30**

P.T.O

## Summer Walks

The Friends hosted a total of four guided walks this summer, with great success, attracting almost 100 visitors. The War Graves walk was particularly well-received and we'll certainly be repeating that in future, as well as developing other themes.

### Children Plant 'Memorial Meadow'

A year ago, pupils from Hexthorpe Primary School sowed wildflower seeds in order to grow seedlings to be planted out in the cemetery. Well, earlier this summer the seedlings were planted out by members of the school's Allotment Club to form the beginnings of a 'Memorial Meadow', commemorating those unfortunate people who were buried in unmarked, 'Public' graves. The Friends will develop this wildflower area over the coming years.

### You could be the Friends' next Secretary

Do you have a little time that you could give to help the Friends with some of its secretarial tasks? The duties are not onerous, but if you fancy taking on the Secretary's role, please let us know. You can develop your own skills whilst helping to improve the cemetery.

### Illustrated Talk on Hyde Park Cemetery

If you are a member of a group that would like to hear a talk on '*Hyde Park Cemetery - A Biography of Doncaster*', please get in touch with Richard Bell. At the Local History Fair in Doncaster in September Richard was asked to step in to deliver this talk at only a few minutes notice, after the booked speaker failed to show! It seemed to work out alright!

### Doncaster & District Heritage Association

The DDHA compiles a list of forthcoming events to be held by its member organisations (of which FoHPC is one), in the form of the '*Heritage Herald*'. Copies of the *Heritage Herald* can be found in Doncaster Archives and the Local Studies Library, as well as online at [www.ddha.org.uk](http://www.ddha.org.uk).

### Do You Have Spare Gardening Tools?

If so, would you like to donate them to the Friends? We'd be very grateful. Please get in touch with us (See 'Keeping in Touch')

Our thanks go to Geoff Bennett for copying this newsletter for postal distribution.

### Website ([www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk))

Our website is on course to receive almost 2000 'hits' in the year since we started tracking visitors in December 2009. Keep up-to-date with developments at [www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk).

### On the Tourism Trail

The Friends' Chairman recently showed Colin Joy, DMBC's Tourism & Visitor Economy Manager around Hyde Park Cemetery. Colin is a relatively newcomer to Doncaster and is already raising the town's tourism profile significantly. The cemetery has much to offer and we shall be exploring how best we can harness its potential over the coming months.

### Recognition for Fellow Friends

The destination for our 2010 summer visit was Sandall Park, where the *Friends of Sandall Park* have worked wonders in improving the site in recent times. Their efforts have been rewarded by receiving the Pride in the Community Environment Award at this year's ceremony. Congratulations go to FoSP for a well-deserved achievement.

### A Spooky Coincidence!

We were joined on one of this year's Guided Walks by Canadian Patrick Hodgson, who was visiting relatives in Doncaster. He thought, but was by no means sure, that he was connected with the co-founder of Hodgson & Hepworth's stores, which were major retailers in the town from the late 19th century onwards and who are both buried at Hyde Park Cemetery. During his stay he was able to confirm that he is the great-great-grandson of Richard Henry and Rose Elizabeth Hodgson. Entirely by coincidence, Patrick's children had been named Patrick Richard and Elizabeth Rosemary Hodgson!

### Keeping In Touch

#### Are We Addressing You Correctly?

To keep our administration costs down, we would like to send out newsletters by email to as many of our members as possible. If you received this newsletter by post but would be happy for us to use email in future, please send your email address to:

[richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com](mailto:richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com)

If you wish to continue to receive newsletters by post, but we haven't got your address quite right, please let us know.

For any matter related to the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery, you can contact Richard Bell by the following means:

Telephone: **07777-688438**

Email: [richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com](mailto:richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com)