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'Grave Finder' Service

The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery have recently launched a 'Grave Finder' Service.

With this service, anyone who is trying to find the burial details and grave location of someone who is buried in Hyde Park Cemetery can request this information from the Friends, in return for a modest fee. For people who are unable to visit the cemetery, the 'Grave Finder' Service gives the option of our supplying photographs of the grave in question, in addition to comprehensive details from the burial and grave registers.

For more information either visit our website or contact Richard Bell (see overleaf).

Music Hall Star in the Cemetery

About 3 months ago we were contacted by a couple who were trying to find the burial place of an ancestor who had died in Doncaster in 1923. It soon became clear that this lady was one of the biggest stars of the Music Hall from the late 19th century. Harriet Vernon (real name Harriet Whitehouse) was the leading 'principal boy' of the 1880s and 1890s, with many appearances at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane and all around the country. She also toured abroad extensively, including several visits to the United States, as well as Johannesburg and Berlin. Although in poor health and aged 64, Harriet came out of retirement in 1923 to tour with the 'Old Time Artistes.' On arrival at Doncaster for a week of shows at the Grand Theatre, Harriet's health deteriorated quickly and, on 11 July, she died at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Surprisingly, this huge star of her day lies in an unmarked grave!

The couple who first drew our attention to Harriet Vernon came from London to visit her grave and, since then, three other descendants of Harriet have been in contact with us and, consequently, with each other. We really feel as though we have helped to reunite a family through our work.

Autumn 2011

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 involving 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.

You can keep up-to-date with all FoHPC activities by visiting our website at:

www.fohpc.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

WORKING MORNINGS on the 2nd Saturday of every month (10th December, 14th January, 11th February, etc.) - These sessions

give the opportunity for FoHPC members and visitors to help with improving the cemetery. We've made a real difference in the year-and-a-half since we started, so please come along and help. Meet at the Carr Lane entrance at 9:30am. Toilet and washing facilities are available at Adrian Welch Glass & Glazing, across the road.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL from Monday 6th to Friday 17th February 2012 - The Heritage Festival will be led by DMBC's Local Studies Library, with the support of the Doncaster & District Heritage Association. The Festival will include talks, visits and guided walks, so watch for further details. The Friends will be leading a guided walk around the cemetery as part of the Festival.

LOCAL HISTORY FAIR on Saturday 11th February 2012 (10am to 4pm) - This Fair will be held at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery and will feature a wide range of heritage organisations from the area, covering almost every subject of local history. The Friends will be there with their display, spreading the word about the cemetery!

DOG-WASTE BINS INSTALLED

The Friends have been in discussion with DMBC for some time about having bins installed for dog-walkers to clean up after their pets. We're pleased to be able to report that three such bins were fixed in place in October, one near to each exit. Thanks go to DMBC Bereavement Services for their help in this matter. Our next objective is to re-locate some of the existing litter bins, to put them in places where they will be more convenient to use.

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