



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

## We Are Back

### (but we've never really been away!)

If you are not on the FoHPC emailing list you've probably noticed that you haven't heard from us for some time. We're sorry about this. Normal email communication has not been affected, but we haven't been able to post out a newsletter since late last year.

In the absence of a Secretary (as reported in the previous newsletter), tasks such as producing the newsletter have to be done by other committee members. FoHPC Chairman, Richard Bell, has previously taken on this duty, but a major commitment to another local history project in the first half of 2012 prevented him from doing so. This situation exposed the Friends' lack of strength in depth and the newsletter suffered as a result.

If you feel you could help in avoiding a repeat of this situation by taking on a committee or officer role with FoHPC, please see the item opposite and the Notice of Annual General Meeting supplied with this newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FAMILY HALLOWEEN WALK

on Wednesday 31st October 2012, 6:30pm -

This is a not-to-be-missed event and it's free of charge! During a twilight walk around the cemetery we'll introduce you to several of the most notable characters who are buried there. But we won't just be talking about them; *you'll actually meet the characters*, dressed in their Victorian splendour!

Children are also invited to take part in competitions for the **Best Halloween Costume** and the **Best Halloween Lantern**. There'll be prizes for the winners.

Children under 15 years-of-age must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a torch with you. Donations to FoHPC are always very welcome.

# Autumn 2012

**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](http://www.fohpc.org.uk)

## INVITATION TO AN OPEN MEETING & AGM

on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 7:30pm

We'd like to encourage everyone, whether a FoHPC member or not, to come along to this meeting at St James' Hall, St Sepulchre Gate West, Doncaster, DN1 3AQ.

We'll have guest speakers Beverley Forrest (of Leeds Trinity University College) and colleague Dave Weldrake talking about "*Stories in Stone*". Bev & Dave encourage lots of Primary Schools to learn from local cemeteries.

And because the event also incorporates the Annual General Meeting of FoHPC, we'd especially like our members to be present. Not only will we be electing the committee for the next year, but this is also where you'll hear about what's been happening since the 2011 AGM. What's more, it's your chance to influence what direction the organisation takes.

\*\*\*\*\*

WORKING MORNINGS on the 2nd  
Saturday of every month (13<sup>th</sup> October, 10<sup>th</sup>  
November, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 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 two-and-a-half years 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.

xxxxxxx

### Follow us on Twitter

You can keep in touch with what's happening by following us @HydeParkCem

P.T.O

## MUSIC HALL STAR COMMEMORATED

We told you previously about the fascinating story of how 19th-century music hall superstar Harriet Vernon came to be buried in an unmarked grave in Hyde Park Cemetery. As a result of featuring her story on our website we brought together several of her descendants. Between them they arranged and paid for a headstone. Five of Harriet's direct descendants travelled up from the south-east in May for a formal blessing and unveiling of the headstone, proving that Harriet's definitely not forgotten.

<<<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

## NEW GUIDED WALKS IN 2012

FoHPC members have researched and led several new guided walks this year. "Mansion House to Music Hall" took the letter 'M' as a theme, including missionaries, millers and musicians. "Doncaster Mayors" told the stories of many of the 30-plus mayors who are to be found in Hyde Park Cemetery. "Doncaster's Industrial Heritage" was a step towards a railway-themed walk. We're looking at the possibility of a Remembrance Day Walk around war graves, too. Other ideas are being progressed for next year.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

## CADEBY MAIN COLLIERY MEMORIAL

The 9th of July this year marked the centenary of one of the worst mining disasters ever in the UK. On that day in 1912, 88 men and boys lost their lives in two explosions. Charles Alderson of Hexthorpe was one of 35 who died in the first explosion. William Henry Pickering, HM Inspector of Mines (of Lawn Road, Doncaster) died when the rescue party he was leading was caught in the second explosion. Both men are buried in Hyde Park Cemetery.

As a result of sterling work by the Cadeby Main Colliery Memorial Group, a superb new memorial carrying all the victims' names was unveiled at Denaby Main Cemetery on 8th July this year. Almost 1000 people attended the ceremony. Richard Bell represented the Friends.

.....

## YORKSHIRE MAIN COMMEMORATIVE TRUST

In a similar vein to the story above, Hyde Park Cemetery is the final resting place of Dennis Kenny, a pit sinker from Co. Mayo, Ireland, who was the first person to die during the construction of Yorkshire Main Colliery, at Edlington, in 1910. The Trust is making good progress in fund-raising for a permanent memorial for all those who died there.

## WINTER BUG HOUSE

Children from Hexthorpe Primary School helped to 'furnish' a winter insect home late last year. It was installed in the cemetery's wildlife area before last winter set in, giving the creepy crawlies a cosy place to hibernate.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HELP FROM THE CUB SCOUTS

A few weeks ago we were contacted by the Cub Scout Leader from 65th St John, Doncaster Scout Group. As a result, several of the Cubs did great work in the cemetery at our August Working Morning, enabling them to be awarded their Environment Badge. The Friends are keen to build on this success and to co-operate on many future ventures.

00000000

## MEMORIAL MEADOW

Sections H and I contain many of the 'public graves' of people who died in poverty and could not pay for their own burial. Therefore, the graves are unmarked. The Friends are developing a natural meadow in this area to commemorate those people. This year has been the first year that the grass has remained uncut through the spring and summer, revealing a wide variety of wildflower species. We are grateful to Doncaster Naturalists for their help in surveying and recording the plants.

.....

## CHAPELS OPENED UP (BRIEFLY!)

Thanks to our partners at Doncaster Council Bereavement Services, several committee members were able to look inside the former chapels a little while ago. Yes, they need a lot of work to make them useable spaces once again, but structurally they seem to be sound. Good news for when we start seeking funding for their restoration.

XXXXXXXX

## Do we have your email address?

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 used to receive your newsletter by email, but this one arrived by post, perhaps you've changed your email address and forgotten to let us know.

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

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

Telephone: 07777- 688438

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

Twitter: @HydeParkCem