



Welcome... to the latest newsletter of the **FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY**. Here you'll find information on 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. 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 www.fohpc.org.uk.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 18 November, 7:15pm at St James' Community Hall

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery will take place at the usual venue of St James' Community Hall, Saint Sepulchre Gate West, Doncaster, DN1 3AQ. The date is set for Monday 18 November, with a 7:15pm start time.

As well as the formal business of the AGM, there will be a fascinating illustrated talk by an excellent local speaker (see opposite). Non-members are very welcome to come along for the talk and then to stay on and hear about the Friends' achievements over the past year.

Committee Nominations invited

One of the main purposes of the Annual General Meeting is to elect the officers and committee members for the coming year.

The committee comprises a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, plus up to six general members. The Treasurer's role is being vacated by Rev. Alan Murray, following his move away from Doncaster. One nomination has been received for a replacement, but that does not preclude anyone else from submitting a nomination.

Of the six general members' places, only three are currently filled, so regardless of existing members seeking re-election, there are opportunities for new people to serve on the committee. If you have a keen desire to see the recent improvements to Hyde Park Cemetery continue and if you can afford a few hours of your time, please nominate yourself for the committee (see overleaf for contact details). **The deadline for nominations is Friday 15 November, 2013.**

"Green Men, Gargoyles and Other Grotesques"

"Green Men, Gargoyles and Other Grotesques" is the fascinating title of the illustrated talk that will be given at the Friends' Annual General Meeting on 18 November. It is open to non-members and members alike.

Renowned local speaker, Pat McLaughlin, whose aim is to present history and heritage with humour, has gained a reputation as one of the best speakers in the area, making this talk one not to be missed.

With a particular interest in churches, Pat has a range of talks available, but the title of the one chosen for the AGM is, perhaps, the most intriguing. It is sure to be worth coming along to learn more.

Family Halloween Walk attracts crowd of 150 of all ages

The Friends' second annual Family Halloween Walk proved just as popular as last year's... and this year it didn't rain!

With the theme *"Horrible Ends"*, the walk visited the graves of local people who had met untimely deaths. Actors played seven characters, whose demise had come, for example, from bare-knuckle fighting, being struck on the head by a firework and being blown up in a gunpowder explosion in central Doncaster!

The event started with the younger visitors parading in their Halloween costumes and being given treats by the FoHPC volunteers. The walk itself then began, and met with a great deal of interest and positive comments. Thank you to everyone who helped organise it.

More details at www.fohpc.org.uk/news.



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P.T.O.

ARMISTICE DAY GUIDED WALK

For the first time, a Guided Walk around the cemetery has been planned to take place on Armistice Day (**Monday 11 November, 2013**), visiting the graves of servicemen who died as a result of serving their country in wartime. The walk starts at **2pm**, from the main Carr Lane gate.

The theme of the walk will be "*War Graves of Airmen*", a repeat of a successful walk held in September (see below).

Guided Walks in September

The Friends' extended programme of Guided Walks continued with two events in September. The first linked into the town's St Leger Festival, with another outing for the "*Railways and Railwaymen*" walk.

The second walk, six days later, was part of Heritage Open Days 2013. As it took place on Battle of Britain Day, a theme of "*War Graves of Airmen*" was chosen.

Both walks were very well attended and we received really encouraging feedback.

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New Notice Case Damaged

One of the three notice cases that the Friends had installed at the cemetery in March this year has been vandalised.

The notice case near the main Carr Lane gate was first attacked during the summer, when one of the locks was tampered with, although it remained in working order. However, in late October the clear plastic 'window' was broken and a piece knocked out, opening the contents of the case up to the weather.

Arrangements are in hand to have the case repaired, but the cost involved is so unnecessary and the money could be spent on many other things to improve the cemetery for all.

Promotional Leaflet Out Soon

A full-colour, A5-sized, double-sided flyer is in the process of being designed. Its aim is to promote Hyde Park Cemetery and the work of the Friends group.

Designed by one of our members, the flyer sets out to explain why the cemetery is important and what the Friends have achieved in recent years. It also aims to attract new members, explaining the wide range of activities that we carry out and how you can help. Finally, of course, it includes details of how to contact us.

The intention is that, once the flyer has been finalised and printed, we shall distribute copies widely at the places where potential new members can see them and take one.

You May Be Missing Out

If you receive your newsletter by Royal Mail then you are missing out on the regular updates and event reminders that we send by email. If you have an email account and are happy for us to send you news by that method, please send a message to:

richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com
and we'll add your details to our list.

How to Contact Us

There are many ways that you can contact the Friends and keep in touch with what's happening:

Tel: **07777-688438** (Richard Bell, Chairman)
Email: **richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com**
Web: **www.fohpc.org.uk**
Twitter: **[@HydeParkCem](https://twitter.com/HydeParkCem)**
Facebook: **www.facebook.com/FoHPC**