



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

# Spring 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 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.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery will take place on Monday 6 June at St James' Church Hall, St Sepulchre Gate West, Doncaster, DN1 3AQ. It will commence at 7pm.

**Nominations are invited** for the Executive Officers' and other Committee positions for 2011/12. If you wish to nominate yourself for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or one of the other Committee places please contact Richard Bell (see overleaf) by no later than Monday 23 May.

In particular, we would very much welcome nominations for the position of Secretary, which has remained vacant throughout the past year. The role doesn't involve committing a great deal of time, but filling this role would very much help the Committee to meet its objectives and aspirations. As well as the usual reports and elections, the meeting will include a presentation by Elizabeth Hardcastle, Yorkshire Living Churchyards Project Officer from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting, whether a member of the Friends or not, but only members will be permitted to vote in the elections.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Heritage Circuit Launch by MP

Rosie Winterton MP has very kindly accepted the Friends' invitation to launch their new Heritage Circuit at **2pm on Friday 20 May**. Sponsored by 'Living Streets', the Heritage Circuit picks out 20 points of interest around the cemetery's perimeter path, with each one being denoted by a marker post. A full-colour leaflet allows visitors to learn about the cemetery's fascinating past and present whilst strolling around the site and enjoying some fresh air and exercise. Please come along.

## Join Us on the Doncaster Town Centre Heritage Walk

Arrangements have been confirmed for a guided Heritage Walk, for members and non-members alike, around the northern part of Doncaster town centre on **Wednesday 20 July**, starting at **6pm**.

Meet at the Tourist Information Centre, 38 - 40 High Street, Doncaster ready for a prompt start at 6pm. Members of the TIC staff will lead us through an exploration of the fascinating history of the town, which was home to the great majority of Hyde Park Cemetery's occupants.

The walk will cost £3 per person and will last about 90 minutes to two hours. Attendees will then have the option to stay on afterwards for an informal social gathering at a town centre hostelry.

If you would like to take part, please advise Richard Bell at least 5 days beforehand. See overleaf for Richard's contact details.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Press Coverage

A Doncaster Free Press photographer came along to the Friends' first anniversary Working Morning on 9 April to record the event for posterity. The newspaper ran a short article about the Friends alongside the photograph five days later. Great publicity, although the newspaper's reference to the cemetery having "*more than 50 plots*" was something of an understatement. In fact, there have been over 50,000 burials!

\*\*\*\*\*

**THANK YOU to Geoff Bennett for copying this newsletter for distribution by post.**

P.T.O

## **BIRD BOXES BUILT**

The 'Eco Warrior' pupils from Hexthorpe Primary School have assembled the first batch of bird-nesting boxes, ready to be installed in the cemetery. There is a copse in Section C, which will be home to the boxes and, hopefully, to many new broods of birds over the next few years.

Even though the boxes may not be used for nesting this year, by fixing them in the spring the birds will become accustomed to them and may explore them in readiness for the next breeding season.

.....

## **Guided Walks in the Cemetery in Summer 2011**

Following the success of the Guided Walks which the Friends have led in Hyde Park Cemetery for the past few years, we have planned a series of four walks for this summer.

Whilst the subject matter of each walk is yet to be finalised, it is likely that they will include at least one on the theme of 'War Graves' and another on 'Memorials and Symbolism'.

The dates and times for this year's Guided Walks are as follows:

**Saturday 23 July, 2pm**

**Sunday 21 August, 3pm**

**Thursday 8 September, 2pm**

**Sunday 11 September, 3pm**

The final two dates have been planned to coincide with Heritage Open Days 2011.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Geocaching in the Cemetery**

In case you haven't heard of geocaching, it's a high-tech treasure hunting game using GPS devices. It appears that at least one local hunt relies on clues located on headstones in the cemetery, although the 'treasure' is not within the site. This is a rather novel approach to encouraging more visitors, although it wasn't at the Friends' instigation.

### **Tombola at Walkers'**

The Friends were invited to run a tombola stall at a recent Craft Fair at Walkers' Nurseries, Blaxton. In spite of the weather being cool and overcast, visitors came in sufficient numbers to help swell the Friends' coffers by a tidy sum. Our thanks go to Committee members Margaret and Josie for organising and running the stall.

## **A Year of Working Mornings**

The Friends' monthly Working Mornings began in April 2010 and, in the course of their first year, have made a very real difference to conditions within the cemetery. By tackling those little jobs that the DMBC Grounds team is unable or not funded to carry out, we are making very noticeable improvements to the site. In the first year of our Working Mornings, 26 different people have taken part, contributing a total of around 200 man hours. Why not come along and help; you'll enjoy it! Remember, the 2nd Saturday of every month, at 9:30am.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NEW GATES & BENCHES**

We mentioned in the previous newsletter that the Friends were seeking funding under the 'Fitter for Walking' programme to install gates at the New Street entrance to the cemetery and to provide additional benches. Well, we're delighted to be able to report that we were successful with that funding bid and orders have been placed for the gates and the benches.

'Fitter for Walking' is designed to encourage people to walk more, by improving the environment where they may choose to walk. The bid was facilitated by 'Living Streets' but the funding comes from Doncaster MBC.

The design for the gates is based very closely on the Green Dyke Lane entrance to the cemetery. At the time of writing, they have been fabricated and about to go to a specialist company for galvanising and powder coating, before bringing them to site to be fixed.

It is planned to have the gates and three new benches installed and completed by the time of the Heritage Circuit launch, on Friday 20 May.

000000000

## **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.

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.

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)**