



Welcome... to the latest newsletter of the **FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY**. Here you will find information on progress that we have 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 would like information on any other topics. You can keep up-to-date with all FoHPC activities by visiting www.fohpc.org.uk.

2014 GUIDED WALKS

WW1 Walk added to programme

A guided walk to commemorate servicemen who died as a result of the Great War will take place just two weeks after the 100th anniversary of the war's start.

Details of all our Guided Walks for the rest of the summer are shown below. All walks start at the cemetery's Carr Lane entrance (DN4 5AA) and are free of charge, but donations to FoHPC are always very much appreciated.

Saturday 19 July, 9:15pm

'Bat Walk'

Members of the South Yorkshire Bat Group will lead this walk, tracking the cemetery's bat population as they head out on their evening hunt for insects. Please telephone 07777-688438 to reserve your place on this walk and bring a torch along on the night.

Sunday 20 July, 3pm to 4:30pm

Guided Walk: 'Mansion House to Music Hall'

This walk visits the graves and tells the stories of a wide range of people, all linked by the fact that their occupations began with the letter M, including a Musician, a Major and a Music Hall star; a good introduction to the cemetery.

Sunday 17 August, 3pm to 4:30pm

Guided Walk: 'World War 1 Graves'

This walk commemorates the centenary of the start of the Great War. We shall visit the graves and tell the stories of some of the servicemen who fought in WW1 and died as a result.

Sunday 14 September, 3pm to 4:30pm

Guided Walk: 'Railways & Railwaymen'

Part of Heritage Open Days 2014, this marks Doncaster's long association with railways and commemorates men & boys who died on duty.

Restoration of Gateway Completed

Private Donors Pay for Work

The restoration of the Green Dyke Lane entrance took place during May 2014. The work was paid for by a generous donation from a Doncaster couple, who do not wish to be named.

The entrance comprises a pair of wrought iron gates, a full-height pedestrian turnstile and some connecting railings. Contractor E.T. Developments Ltd took away the gates and turnstile to their workshops. They were grit-blasted to remove all the old paint, hot-dip galvanised for long-term protection, and then painted green. The fixed railings were rubbed down on site, a coating of zinc applied, before they too received the green finishing coats.

An original mechanism that allowed the turnstile to be locked to incoming pedestrians but which gave free egress, has been restored to working order.

The turnstile was originally made by W.T. Ellison Ltd of Manchester and is thought to date from the mid-1930s.

Cemetery Lodge Sold at Auction

As part of cost-saving measures, Doncaster Council is disposing of many of the buildings that it owns. As part of this process, the Lodge was sold at an auction in Sheffield on 29 April.

The Lodge, formerly the office and home of many cemetery supervisors, was built in 1855 by Anelay Brothers, in time for the opening of the cemetery. It has been bought by Adrian Welch Glass & Glazing, who occupy another historic building on Carr Lane, opposite the main entrance.

Adrian intends to restore the Lodge to its former glory and to use it as part of his business premises. Work is expected to start shortly.

Trees Taken Down for Safety

Five Black Poplar trees, which are thought to have stood near the New Street boundary wall for a century or more, have had to be taken down.

After several incidents where tree branches fell from the poplars in high winds, an investigation by Doncaster Council's tree specialist found the trees to be at the end of their safe life, and potentially hazardous. An independent expert opinion was sought by the Friends and this merely confirmed the Council's findings.

During a series of temporary highway closures in March the trees were felled, with a help of a large crane. The trunks, some of which were up to 1.5 metres in diameter but hollowed by age, were removed from site a few weeks later.

The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery are in ongoing discussions with Doncaster Council concerning planting of young trees of suitable species, somewhere in or near to the site, as replacements for the Black Poplars.

Boundary Wall Under Scrutiny

Following the removal of the Black Poplar trees, Doncaster Council engineers have been investigating the condition of the New Street boundary wall. Parts of the limestone wall had to be dismantled as a result of the damage caused by ground heave and the effects of the tree roots.

The wall, which dates from 1882 and originally incorporated panels of iron railings, has been in an increasingly poor state for some years. The Friends are hoping to be able to work in partnership with the Council to gradually restore the wall and fix new railings to match those on the Carr House Road boundary.

Promotional Flyer Distributed

Our full-colour, A5-sized, double-sided flyer, to promote Hyde Park Cemetery and the work of the Friends, was printed recently.

Copies of the flyer have been delivered to many homes in the vicinity of the cemetery. They are also available at The Blue Building (Tourist Information Centre), 53-55 High Street, Doncaster and several other locations around town. We hope that these flyers will attract new active members.

Friends Join GreenSpace Network

The Friends have joined the recently-formed Doncaster GreenSpace Network but are finding it difficult to provide representation at their midweek meetings. Please visit :

<http://doncastergsn.wordpress.com>

And if you'd like to be involved please contact us (see below for details).

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:

info@fohpc.org.uk and we shall 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 is happening:

Tel: **07777-688438** (Richard Bell, Chairman)

Email: info@fohpc.org.uk

Web: www.fohpc.org.uk

Twitter: [@HydeParkCem](https://twitter.com/HydeParkCem)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FoHPC

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