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# Summer 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.

## 'Fitter for Walking' Award for Friends

'Living Streets', the charity that stands up for pedestrians, has awarded the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery a 'Fitter for Walking' award, for improving the local environment and getting more people out walking.

The citation on the plaque, which is proudly displayed at the cemetery, reads "At Hyde Park we have made the Cemetery a more welcoming and attractive place to walk through and spend time in."

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## Heritage Circuit Launched by MP

Rosie Winterton MP launched the cemetery's new Heritage Circuit on Friday 20 May.

Sponsored by 'Living Streets', the Heritage Circuit and its accompanying full-colour leaflet pick out 20 points of interest around the cemetery's perimeter path, with each one being denoted by a marker post. The leaflet is available from several locations, including Doncaster Tourist Information Centre, as well as being downloadable from our website. Why not try out the circuit for yourself?

## Memorial Meadow

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting held on 6th June, members were treated to an excellent illustrated talk by Elizabeth Hardcastle, of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. She explained how many burial grounds and churchyards have become havens for nature, just by taking some fairly simple steps to allow wildflowers, animals and insects to thrive in such places. As a result, the Friends have now embarked upon a project to manage almost the whole of Sections H and I as meadowland, starting at once. The area has been marked out and notices erected to explain what is happening. We are working closely with DMBC's grounds maintenance team to put in place the correct mowing regime so that, over the next few years, we shall see a natural Memorial Meadow become established.

## A Busy Diary Ahead - Forthcoming Events

We have several events coming up in the next few weeks, so please take part if you can.

### Wednesday 31 August, 6pm - TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE WALK (the other one!)

Following on from the success of the recent heritage walk around the northern part of Doncaster town centre, we've now arranged the southern version. Meet at the Tourist Information Centre, 38 - 40 High Street, Doncaster, ready for a prompt start at 6pm. The walk will cost £3 per person and will last about 90 minutes to two hours. If you would like to take part, please advise Richard Bell beforehand. See overleaf for contact details.

### Thursday 8 September, 2pm - 'Notable Doncastrians' GUIDED CEMETERY WALK

This free-of-charge walk, led by the Friends, visits the graves of some of Doncaster's most notable people. Please meet at the Carr Lane entrance for this walk, which is expected to last about 1½ hrs.

### Sunday 11 September, 3pm - 'War Graves' GUIDED CEMETERY WALK

Another free walk led by the Friends, this time on the theme of 'War Graves.' Arrangements are similar to the 8 September, but with a 3pm start time.

### Friday 23 September, 7:30pm - 'RACE NIGHT' at Club 39, College Road, Doncaster

This fund-raising social evening is organised by the Friends of Sandall Park, but FoHPC will benefit too, based on ticket numbers sold. If you'd like tickets for the Race Night, please contact Phil Ayres on 07816-140682.

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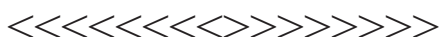
**THANK YOU to Geoff Bennett for copying this newsletter for distribution by post.**

## **GATES & BENCHES INSTALLED**

We've reported in previous newsletters about our project to provide a set of gates at the New Street entrance and also to install extra benches in the cemetery. Well, that's all done!

In mid-May the gates and three new benches were fixed in place, all funded by the 'Fitter for Walking' campaign, which is designed to encourage people to walk more, by improving the environment where they may choose to walk.

The gates' design is based on the Green Dyke Lane entrance and they've already attracted a great deal of positive comment. As for the benches, they've certainly been put into use by many of the local workers taking some fresh air whilst eating lunch!



## **DESIRABLE ACCOMMODATION** **(for our feathered friends)**

In the last few weeks bird boxes, which were put together by the 'Eco Warrior' pupils from Hexthorpe Primary School, have been fixed in place. The copse of trees in Section C is the area of the cemetery, in particular, that we aim to dedicate to wildlife. We think that next year's feathered parents-to-be will find the new accommodation very desirable indeed. More bird boxes, of various designs to suit many species, will be installed through the rest of this year.

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## **MEMORIAL RESTORATION PROJECT**

After the success that the Friends have had with smaller scale projects over the past year or so, we think that it's now time to shift up a gear and start tackling some larger tasks.

We wish to obtain funding to start restoring some of the most notable monuments and memorials in the cemetery, as well as those of some of the most well-known people.

To that end, we have begun exploratory talks with several local firms of memorial masons, with a view to entering into a partnership arrangement. We would like to link the restoration work with the training of one or more people in the necessary skills. It's still early days for this project, but watch out for updates.

## **AGM Minutes Available**

The minutes of the 2011 AGM are available to download from our website ([www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk)). If you would like a copy but don't have internet access, please contact Richard Bell (see opposite).

## **Working Mornings Making Things Better**

The Friends' monthly Working Mornings continue to bring about real improvements to the appearance of Hyde Park Cemetery. It's such a satisfying way of spending the odd Saturday morning, so why not come along and help; you'll enjoy it! Remember, it's the 2nd Saturday of every month, at 9:30am. And there's no need to worry about lack of 'facilities', as the toilets in Adrian Welch's premises across the road are available for our use.

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## **INTERESTING ENQUIRIES**

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Friends' work is in answering enquiries from people looking for a family grave. These approaches can often throw up fascinating stories and snippets of information.

In July we provided information to a descendant of Thomas Hanley, founder of the flour-mill which was a major Doncaster landmark for many decades. Thomas and his wife, Susannah, are buried close to the former chapels, in Section O.

And then there was the telephone call one morning from an Irish lady, who was over in England researching her family's history. From a speculative call to the Friends mid-morning, when she was in Leicestershire, the lady was guided remotely to the exact location of her great-grandfather's unmarked grave in Hyde Park Cemetery by early afternoon. A great result all round.

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## **BANNER SIGN IN PLACE**

To help to spread the word about FoHPC, we have bought a banner sign, displaying our website address. It has been fixed to the railings alongside Carr House Road.

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## **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)**