



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

## **EVENTS — LOOKING AHEAD**

The Friends are halfway through their 2013 programme of Guided Walks and they are going really well. In fact, we have been asked by Doncaster Tourism to add in an extra walk, as part of the St Leger Festival.

To tie in with world record-breaking steam locomotive Mallard's visit to Doncaster and the related exhibition at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery, the Friends will be hosting their '*Railways & Railwaymen*' walk once again. For details of this and other forthcoming events, please see below.

**Monday 9 September, 3pm:** "*Railways and Railwaymen*"

**Sunday 15 September, 3pm:** "*War Graves: Airmen (on Battle of Britain Day)*"

**Late Oct / early Nov:** Annual General Meeting of FoHPC. Watch out for details.

**Thursday 31 October:** *Hallowe'en Walk*. Once again, we'll be 'bringing to life' some of the cemetery's characters. Details to follow.

**Monday 11 November, 2pm:** "*War Graves (on Armistice Day)*"

## **Two More New Benches Installed**

We thank the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church very much for their kind donation of two bench seats. They not only purchased the benches, but also paid for their installation.

One bench has been positioned near to the Green Dyke Lane gate and the other is right down in the southern, lower part of the cemetery. There's now a good distribution of seating around the site.

## **Please Help at our Working Mornings**

This is one of the best and easiest ways of supporting FoHPC. Volunteers' Working Mornings occur on the 2nd Saturday of every month, starting at 9:30am.



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## **Bats at the Cemetery**

The South Yorkshire Bat Group carried out a bat survey in late July.

In spite of heavy rain arriving as darkness fell, the bat detectors found lots of evidence of activity, especially along the southern boundary, where the trees provided some shelter from the rain. Pipistrelle bats were identified.

Now that we know that bats are active in the cemetery, we intend to organise a Bat Walk in 2014 involving local young people.

## **Coat of Arms set for display**

A cast metal coat of arms of the former Doncaster & District Joint Water Board is set to be displayed at Hyde Park Cemetery. The casting is one of four recovered from the former D&DJWB offices and carefully restored. It is hoped that at least three of them can be displayed at locations around the town, with the cemetery being one such place.

## **Visit to Scarborough Cemetery**

Several members of the FoHPC committee recently made a self-funded visit to Scarborough. They were guests of the Friends of Manor Road and Dean Road Cemetery.

The host group had made a successful bid for Heritage Lottery Fund cash to restore the 'Secret Garden' and a former mortuary chapel. They had also produced really good educational material as part of the project. We wanted to find out more!

The weather relented to provide more or less dry conditions for our walk around the Scarborough cemetery, learning about the experiences of a very similar organisation to ours.

As well as the HLF project, there was a lot of memorial restoration work being done by Community Payback resources, under a joint scheme between the Probation Service and the Borough Council. FoHPC have already started to investigate the potential for a similar scheme at Hyde Park.

This edition of the FoHPC Newsletter has been sponsored by  
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P.T.O.

## **Butterfly Bushes Planted**

In the latest move to improve the cemetery's designated wildlife area, the Friends have planted several Buddleia plants, of different varieties. The Buddleia, commonly known as the 'butterfly bush', is especially attractive to those particular flying insects. We hope that this will encourage even more wildlife to thrive in the cemetery.

## **Black Poplar Trees to be Taken Down**

We are sorry to have to report that several large Black Poplar trees, which stand just inside the western (New Street) boundary, have been deemed to be unsafe and are to be taken down. Following the receipt of this news from Doncaster Council, the Friends obtained an independent assessment of the situation, which confirmed that these trees have reached the end of their safe life. We are in discussion with Bereavement Services regarding planting replacements of a different species.

## **Presentation to Rev. Alan Murray**

Our out-going Treasurer has been presented with a gift from the committee in thanks for his hard work.

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## **Kenny Family's Tribute to Ancestor**

In our previous newsletter we told you about the visit of the Irish Prime Minister's family to the unmarked grave of their ancestor, Denis Kenny. Denis was tragically killed during the sinking of Yorkshire Main Colliery in 1910.

Following their visit, the Kennys arranged for a black granite headstone and kerb-set to be placed on the grave, commemorating Denis's life and acknowledging his County Mayo roots.

## **MORE FLY-TIPPING!**

After an extended period without incident, there has been another case of fly-tipping in Hyde Park Cemetery. This time, the rubbish was tipped inside the wildlife area, where the trees and bushes hid the culprits from view. We are very grateful to Doncaster Council for their quick response in not only clearing up the mess, but also in starting investigations as to who may be responsible, using documents recovered from the site.

## **GRAVE FINDER FORM UPDATED**

Please remember that the Friends provide a Grave Finder Service for anyone who is trying to find details of an interment in Hyde Park Cemetery. The application form has just been updated. Please contact us for more details.

## **Memorial Meadow's Second Summer**

2013 marks the second summer of grasses and wildflowers in Sections H & I being allowed to grow without mowing. The resulting meadow is a fantastic habitat for insects and, in turn, for the birds and bats. Sections H & I contain a large number of public graves, being the final resting place of over 4000 of the poorest members of society in Victorian Doncaster.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com)**

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

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

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