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Halloween Walk Success

An estimated 200 people of all ages came along to the Friends' Halloween Walk on 31 October last year.

In spite of the heavy rain that began to fall part way through the event, the vast majority of visitors stayed to complete the walk. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

To make this Halloween Walk as interesting as possible we obtained the assistance of several local amateur actors. Each actor dressed in period costume and stood at the grave of the person that they represented, to tell that person's tale.

We heard the stories of Richard Hodgson and Richard Hepworth, founders of Doncaster's famous but sadly now defunct chain of grocery stores. Then there was Carmino Masserella, son of the Italian immigrant family that founded the ice cream empire. He was followed by Harriet Vernon, world-famous music hall star of the late 19th century, who died in Doncaster whilst on tour.

Harriet was followed by William Nuttall, the man who created Mintoes and who was a great benefactor to the town. Next we met Patrick Stirling, steam locomotive designer. Finally, there was Henry Senior, creator of the unique Sand House, carved from solid sandstone just a short distance from Hyde Park Cemetery.

Many of the younger visitors (and some of the more mature ones) came along in Halloween costume. Prizes were awarded to all the children who had dressed in spooky fashion for the evening.

The 2012 Family Halloween Walk attracted publicity in many quarters, including an interview on BBC Radio Sheffield. It was also filmed by members of the Doncaster Movie Makers Camcorder Club, who overcame the very poor weather conditions to produce a great little film, which can be viewed on the 2012 News page of [our website](http://www.fohpc.org.uk).

The Friends intend to hold another Family Halloween Walk, in 2013. We believe that there are various aspects that we can improve upon, to make for an even better experience for our visitors.

Winter 2013

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 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 our website at:

www.fohpc.org.uk

GREAT IDEAS FROM AGM GUEST SPEAKERS

Beverley Forrest and Dave Weldrake (of Leeds Trinity University College) were our guest speakers at the 2012 AGM, held on 29 October. "*Stories in Stone*" was the name of their presentation. It explained a project that they have been working on for some time, aimed at encouraging primary schools to make use of the wide range of educational possibilities provided by local cemeteries.

As a result of what we learnt from Bev and Dave, we are seeking to enter into partnerships with some local schools to put these ideas into practice. If you have connections with a local primary school, which may be interested in pursuing this matter, please get in touch (see overleaf for details).

COMMITTEE CHANGES

New Vice Chair takes office

At the AGM the committee for 2012/13 was elected. Richard Bell and Rev. Alan Murray remain as Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Margaret Herbert was elected to the role of Vice Chair, defeating Val Moate in a secret ballot. Margaret Bark and Robert Wise will jointly fulfil the Secretary's post. Phil Ayres, Andria Johns, Val Moate and Sheila North were re-elected to serve on the committee, although Phil has recently resigned from his position due to his work commitments. AGM minutes can be [downloaded](http://www.fohpc.org.uk) from our website.

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Follow us on Facebook

You can now keep in touch with what's happening by following us at www.facebook.com/FoHPC. We're also on Twitter [@HydeParkCem](https://twitter.com/HydeParkCem)

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YORKSHIRE POST ARTICLE

The Yorkshire Post published a detailed article about the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery in its Saturday magazine on 13 October 2012. Written by local journalist and broadcaster, Phil Penfold, the article provided great publicity for the cemetery and for the Friends group. A copy is available via the 2012 News page of our [website](#).

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GUIDED WALKS STILL POPULAR

As part of the two-week long Doncaster Local Heritage Festival 2013, arranged by the Central Library's Local Studies team, FoHPC re-ran its guided walk on the theme of 'Doncaster Mayors'. A walk around a cemetery on a cold February morning may not be everyone's idea of a good time, but the event attracted 20 visitors. They were very interested in the brief life stories told by FoHPC guides Helen and Andria, covering about half of the 30+ mayors who are buried at the site. We are grateful for the generous donations from visitors. The finishing touches are currently being put to a new guided walk, on the theme of 'Railways and Railwaymen', which we hope will prove just as interesting as the other walks. Watch out for details of its first outing later this year [via our website](#).

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LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

The Doncaster & District Heritage Association, of which FoHPC is a member, holds an annual Local History Fair at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery. This year's Fair took place on Saturday 9 February and, as usual, the Friends were well represented. Television, radio and press coverage helped to make this year's event the best one so far. As with other exhibitors, the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery were able to publicise their aims and activities to a large number of visitors.

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NEW NOTICE CASES INSTALLED

Thanks to a successful funding bid prepared by Rev. Alan Murray, our Treasurer, we have obtained funding from Wilkinson Stores and installed three notice cases, one adjacent to each of the entrances to the cemetery. These cases will allow us to display posters, leaflets, etc. in a professional manner, rather than relying merely upon fixing laminated sheets to the gates themselves.

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COLOURFUL CHRISTMAS

Christmas 2012 saw many graves adorned with colourful wreaths and floral displays. It was great to see them.

FLY-TIPPING INCIDENTS

Hyde Park Cemetery hasn't suffered any significant problems with fly-tipping for some years, thanks to the combined efforts of Doncaster Council, local resident and the Friends. However, in October and November 2012 incidents occurred when a disgusting mess of food and packaging was deposited under the holly tree in the corner of Section T. The timing coincided with break-ins to commercial bins at nearby businesses.

We have liaised closely with the Council's Enforcement Officer to address this problem. Improved security measures have been taken with the commercial bins. Also, Bereavement Services' tree team has lifted the crowns of both holly trees in the cemetery, giving much better sight lines and removing the hiding places previously formed by the low-hanging branches. So far so good.

WORKING MORNINGS KEEP ON BRINGING IMPROVEMENTS

Our Working Mornings, between 09:30 am and 12 noon on the second Saturday of each month, continue to help in making the cemetery a better place for everyone to enjoy. They are also a great opportunity for volunteer members and others to give some of their time to a good cause. During these sessions recently we have installed many more bird nesting boxes, as well as clearing litter, fallen leaves and general tidying. Forthcoming dates are 13 April, 11 May, 8 June and so on.

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GRAVE-FINDER SERVICE HELPING FAMILY HISTORIANS AND OTHERS

The FoHPC Grave Finder Service enables people from all over the world to request and obtain details of burials for a small fee. Please [see our website](#).

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Do we have your email address?

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

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.

If you wish to continue to receive newsletters by post, but we haven't got your address quite right, please tell us.

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

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