



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

## **REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Fascinating talk by local speaker**

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery took place on Monday 18 November,

There was a good turn-out of members and they were treated to a very informative talk by an accomplished speaker. Pat McLaughlin, whose aim is to present history and heritage with humour, gave a presentation entitled "*Green Men, Gargoyles and Other Grotesques*". Accompanied by many excellent photographs, mainly of carvings on South Yorkshire churches, Pat's talk was very well received indeed.

### **Changes to FoHPC committee**

At the AGM a number of changes to the Friends' committee were accepted. Richard Bell and Margaret Herbert retain the positions of Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Margaret Bark, who was formerly a Joint Secretary, takes over as Treasurer from Rev. Alan Murray, who resigned last year due to moving to a new parish in West Yorkshire. Robert Wise becomes Secretary (moving from Joint Secretary).

A new member, Helen Slade, was welcomed and Bill Brinkley, former Chair of the organisation, returns to the committee too. Andria Johns and Sheila North retain their positions. Val Moate is no longer a member of the committee.

The full minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting are available to download from our website. For members receiving this newsletter by post, because you do not have internet access, a hard copy can be requested. See overleaf for how to contact us.

## **2014 Guided Walks to commemorate WW1**

Another extensive programme of themed guided walks around Hyde Park Cemetery is planned for this year. 2013 saw the largest annual number of such walks since the Friends were founded. We hope to match or exceed that figure this year.

In line with the nationwide commemoration of the start of the First World War one hundred years ago, the Friends intend to tell the stories of servicemen from that conflict during the guided walks.

Hyde Park Cemetery contains 86 WW1 graves that are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. In addition, there are many more family graves that include the remains of military personnel who died during that war. Research for the walks is well under way and already several fascinating tales have been uncovered, which we would like to share with you.

As well as the WW1 theme, we shall be re-running other popular walks.

Please watch out for full details of the guided walks programme in the next newsletter or by visiting [www.fohpc.org.uk/events.html](http://www.fohpc.org.uk/events.html).

### **Poppy Wreath**

Still on the theme of fallen service personnel, the Friends once again laid a poppy wreath to mark Remembrance Day. It was placed on the Cross of Sacrifice just inside the cemetery's main entrance. This cross was erected in 1923 at the request of the then Imperial War Graves Commission.

We are pleased to report that the poppy wreath still sits proudly on the cross, as a mark of respect to the servicemen buried in the cemetery.

## Damaged Notice Case Repaired and Marker Post Replaced

We reported in the previous newsletter that one of the notice cases that the Friends installed a year ago had been vandalised. The clear plastic pane had been broken, exposing the information in the case to the elements.

The Friends acted quickly to have the case repaired, using polycarbonate material that is virtually indestructible. We are very grateful to Adrian Welch Glass & Glazing for carrying out this repair for the cost of the materials only.

Just before Christmas it was realised that post No.11 out of the 20 posts that mark the cemetery's Heritage Circuit had been stolen. A search failed to find the missing post, so a replacement was ordered. It was subsequently installed during the February Working Morning.

We are very keen not to give the impression of neglect, potentially leading to more damage, so matters of this type are dealt with quickly. However, paying for repairs reduces what we can spend on genuine improvements.

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## Doncaster Local History Fair

The Doncaster & District Heritage Association's 2014 Local History Fair will take place on Saturday 17th May, from 11am to 4pm, at Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster, DN1 2AE.

The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery will be exhibiting, along with many other local heritage groups. There is always lots of really interesting material on display, so why not pop along to take a look?

## Promotional Leaflet Finalised

The design has been completed for a full-colour, A5-sized, double-sided flyer to promote Hyde Park Cemetery and the work of the Friends. Copies will be printed in the near future, after which you can expect to see them in many locations around the town. We hope that these flyers will attract new active members.

## Working Mornings Continue

Please do not forget about the Friends' Working Mornings, which take place on the second Saturday of every month. They start at 09:30 and finish at 12 noon. These sessions give you an opportunity to make a really positive contribution to the upkeep and improvement of the cemetery. You can do as much or as little as you like, but every little helps. If you would like to join in, please wear stout footwear and clothing that you might have for gardening.

## 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](mailto:info@fohpc.org.uk)** and we shall add your details to our list.

Note that this is a [new email address](mailto:info@fohpc.org.uk).

## 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](mailto:info@fohpc.org.uk)**

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

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

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