



**Welcome...** to the latest newsletter of the **FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY**. Here you will find reports on progress over the past few months, events involving the Friends and other items of interest.

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) or at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FoHPC](https://www.facebook.com/FoHPC)

## **Notice of AGM**

**Monday 23 January 2017, 7:30pm at  
Club 39, College Rd, Doncaster**

All members as well as guests are invited to our Annual General Meeting on Monday 23rd January, at 7:30pm, in the Meeting Room at Club 39. There will be a talk by members of the Doncaster 1914-18 Project, summarising their varied programme of activities commemorating WW1. Free light refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to help in the future running of FoHPC by joining the Committee, we really would appreciate your help. Please contact us using the details overleaf.

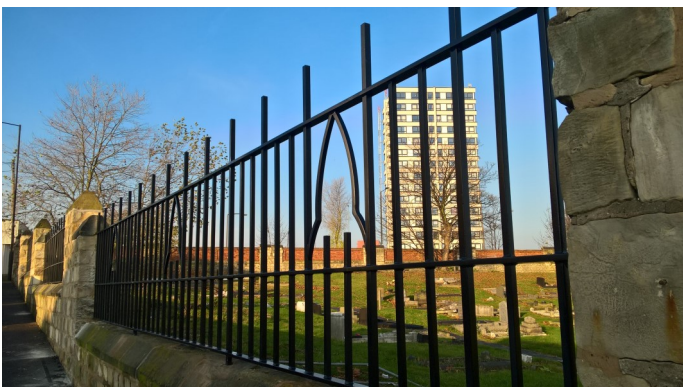
Club 39 can be found at 39 College Road, Doncaster, DN1 3JH and shares its entrance with Sticky Mits Childcare Centre. The entrance is at the junction of College Road and Queensgate. Parking is available in the Civic Quarter multi-storey car park across the road.

## **New Street Wall & Railings**

The Friends' application for planning permission and Listed Building Consent to install railings on the repaired New Street wall was successful.

Following an in-depth procurement process, the Friends placed an order with Thorndell Engineering Ltd, for the manufacture and installation of 8 bays of railings. The work has now been completed and looks fantastic. Funding has come from a very generous private donation from benefactors who do not wish to be named.

More bays of railings will be installed as additional funds become available.



## **2016 Guided Walks**



The Friends have held monthly Guided Walks around the cemetery, from May to September this year. Each walk has had a different theme, with most of them including new subjects whose stories have not been told previously. August was the month for this year's annual Bat Walk, which proved even more popular than in previous years.

It is generally agreed that this year has provided the most well-attended programme of Guided Walks since we began them, in 2005. Watch out for more in 2017.

## **National Citizen Service**

For the past few years, the Friends have provided volunteering opportunities for groups of 15 to 17-year-olds on the Government-backed National Citizen Service scheme. With the success of last year's project to rejuvenate a garden area near the main gates, this year's NCS group was offered an opportunity to do something similar with a much larger plot in the middle of the cemetery.

The NCS group cleared the ground of dead and dying shrubs, cut back the thriving ones, dug over the soil and then put in new plants. Some of the plants were bought by the Friends, while many others were generously donated by Stonecrop Nurseries, Eastlound.





## **Battle of the Somme Remembered**

Hyde Park Cemetery contains the bodies of several soldiers who fought and died in the Battle of the Somme, 100 years ago.

Nevertheless, we were surprised when sculptor Nic Joly chose the cemetery as a location to place one of his 141 miniature soldiers commemorating the battle (which raged for 141 days). Others were placed on memorials all over the country as well as abroad.



The little bronze soldier stood proudly on the Cross of Sacrifice from 1 July to 18 November.

More details at <http://neverforgotten.nicjoly.co.uk>

The photograph on the right shows the Cross of Sacrifice after cleaning by Victoria Cross Trust.

On the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, the Friends were represented at an exhibition and service at Doncaster Minster.

## **Family History Fair**

FoHPC were once again present at the annual Family & Local History Fair, organised by Doncaster & District Family History Society.

This year's event took place on Saturday 24 September and was well attended. Visitors were welcomed to our display by Friends' Secretary, Helen Slade and Treasurer, Margaret Bark.



## **BBC Radio Sheffield interview**

On 9 August, Andy Kershaw, BBC Radio Sheffield reporter, joined Friends committee member Richard Bell to walk around the cemetery. As they chatted about the history of the site and the work of FoHPC, Andy recorded the conversation, which was then broadcast later the same day.

## **War hero's grave restored**

Following an enquiry from the great nephew of Squadron Sergeant Major William George Webb, we located the soldier's grave and found it to be in very poor condition. As a result, members of the Webb family liaised with the Victoria Cross Trust to restore the grave. The family subsequently visited the grave on the centenary of William being awarded the Military Cross at the Battle of the Somme. By a twist of fate, the centenary fell on Remembrance Sunday, 13 November.



## **Lodge Nearing Occupation**

After completing external works earlier this year, fitting out the interior of the former Lodge is now well in hand. Tenants are expected to move into the two newly created apartments early in 2017.

The Lodge was bought by Adrian Welch Glass & Glazing in 2014. Since then, the Grade II Listed Building has been completely restored.

## **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**  
Email: **[info@fohpc.org.uk](mailto:info@fohpc.org.uk)**  
Web: **[www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk)**  
Twitter: **@HydeParkCem**  
Facebook: **[www.facebook.com/FoHPC](http://www.facebook.com/FoHPC)**