

**FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2017**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Andria Johns (committee member) welcomed everyone to the meeting and then summarised the format of the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Sheila Dilks, Phil Dilks, Amanda Carr, Glyn Jones, Neil Marshall, Margaret Bark and Tony Sockett.

**3. GUEST SPEAKER**

Victoria Ryves and Vicky Siviter, from the Doncaster 1914-18, At Home, At War project spoke about the role of the organisation and on what they hope to achieve in the future. A presentation was shown and some fascinating stories were shared about WW1 personnel and also locations that were important during this time. The talk was well received by all who had attended.

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT (2016)**

Read by Helen Slade and is attached at the end of these notes.

**5 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were circulated at the meeting and are attached hereto. A signed and bound copy examined by our accountants was available.

**6 COMMITTEE 2017**

The positions for 2017 are as follows:

Chair – Andria Johns

Vice chair – Vacant

Treasurer – Margaret Bark

Secretary – Helen Slade

Committee Members – Richard Bell, Sheila Dilks, Phil Dilks.

Individuals are welcome to join the committee, subject to approval, throughout the year.

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2016/17**

Ashworth Bailey Limited, Chartered Accountants appointed to examine the accounts.

Action - APPROVED

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTIONS**

No further questions.

**MEETING CLOSED**

**Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery**  
**Secretary's Report for 2016**

2016 has been an interesting and successful year for the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery.

We began the year with the world wide news that David Bowie had passed away but through this, discovered that his relatives are buried in Hyde Park Cemetery. David's father was born and lived in Doncaster before moving to London, where David was born in 1947. John's mother, Zillah Hannah Jones, nee Blackburn (the star's grandmother) and at least three other family members are all buried in Hyde Park Cemetery. When we received this news, the interest in the cemetery was increased and resulted in the friends group having the most facebook views in our history!

In January Doncaster Council carried out resurfacing work on many of the footpaths in the Cemetery. Some paths were not only in very poor condition, but were also used very little. In a bid to reduce future maintenance costs, Doncaster Council decided to remove some of those paths and to soil and seed them instead. The Friends agreed with and approved the decision. However, one section of perimeter footpath was removed against our recommendation. We were pleased to report that following representations to Doncaster Council, this key section of footpath in the cemetery was reinstated. The Friends considered it to be vital, as it formed part of the most heavily used route within the cemetery and it was also a key element of both the Heritage Circuit and the Tree Trail. We are grateful to Doncaster Council for reconsidering the situation and reinstating it.

Throughout the year it has been very pleasing to see more families taking care of the graves within the cemetery. Some of these have been totally rebuilt and in doing this, helps to make the cemetery a more appealing place to visit. One of the first graves in 2016 to be restored had been previously broken and untidy. It was restored by a local monumental mason, on behalf of the grave owner. The same owner arranged for a headstone to be erected on the previously unmarked family grave on the left.

Other graves have also been successfully restored including a grave of William Webb MC MM who received the Military Cross for gallantry during the latter days of the

Battle of the Somme. Members of his family paid tribute to him at his graveside in November and the grave was recently restored by the Victoria Cross Trust at the family's instigation.

Following the successful restoration to Patrick Stirling's grave the previous year, the friends are keen on potentially getting other prominent graves restored. Hopefully through the media and public support, potentially projects could be achieved and will again help improve the cemetery as a whole.

At the beginning of the year also, it was noted that the stone and brick wall at the western end of the cemetery was in need of repair. This damage was mainly from the Black Poplar trees that were removed in 2014. Doncaster Council wanted to rebuild parts of the wall and repair the rest, where necessary. In parallel with that scheme, the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery intended to install some new sections of railings through funding from private donations. Prior to the Friends beginning to install new railings, Westmoreland Group repaired the wall on behalf of Doncaster Council along with subcontractor Peter Moore who did an excellent job.

Due to generous donations, the friends were able to fund the installation of new railings. Thorndell Engineering Ltd finished the installation of the eight bays of railings in December and we hopefully will be able to complete the five other empty bays when funding becomes available.

Another successful transformation this year was made to the lodge which Adrian Welch acquired in 2014. Adrian has made a fantastic job in restoring The Lodge and when complete will soon provide high quality domestic accommodation, in the form of two apartments. This will then give the cemetery much needed 24 hour on-site presence. The Friends of Hyde Park would like to thank Adrian for his continued support in our organisation.

The walks that we hold in the cemetery throughout the year have been well attended and are a great way of getting people interested in their local family history. Throughout 2016 we held many such walks but it was while holding the WW1 walk in July that our volunteers notice an addition to the Cross of Sacrifice. To mark the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme, British sculptor Nic Joly placed 141 bronze figures holding poppies on chosen memorials all over the country and abroad. The polished bronze figures holding a poppy, simply stood somewhere on the memorials looking out at the world to remind us that every life lost was a golden

one. The idea was to raise awareness and making people stop, remember, and think about what happened 100 years ago.

We were very proud that Hyde Park Cemetery had been chosen as one of the 141 memorials to host one of Nic Joly's figures and poignantly, after the 141 days had passed, the sculpture disappeared!

Another walk which proves to be enjoyed since it first was held, is the bat walk. Almost immediately after the walk began, Common Pipistrelle bats were seen and detected, using the special bat detectors brought along by the South Yorkshire Bat Group. There detectors picked up evidence of what may be another bat species, too which is great news for the cemetery and shows that the environment is idea for them to be in. A special thank you to Robert and his wife from the South Yorkshire Bat Group, for providing the expertise and the detection equipment.

Over the years we have continued to gain the support of many organisations including the National Citizen Service Scheme. One of the young groups had the task of converting one of the unloved planted areas into a colourful, attractive and well-kept garden. They began by clearing the weeds and dead plants from the area in question and transformed it into a lovely garden. The friends would like to say thank you to the youngsters who volunteered to do this work and also to Stonecrop Nurseries for donating the plants.

For the last few years we have had the privilege to work with the 14/18 team on various projects relating to the WW1 personnel whom are buried in the cemetery. More recently the team have been working on a new trail App which will let people have the opportunity to take themselves on a guided WW1 walk around the cemetery. Also through the team a possible link has been found with some of the personnel in the cemetery and a connection with Hall Cross School. The school is very keen in getting their pupils involved with the cemetery and other projects relating to the war. Although in the early stages, this potentially could be another way of connecting the cemetery to the younger generation. We would like to thank the 14/18 team for their continued support of the friends group.

A great asset to our organisation is the website which we were pleased to have re-launched at the end of May. The website is now more user friendly and appealing and has made our services such as the grave finder, easier to use. We would like to thank Mirata for their help with the friends on this project.

The friends have still been actively getting involved in local events such as the Family History Fair and Local Fairs held throughout the year. These events are a great way of speaking to the public about the cemetery and in some cases finding out new pieces of information previously not known. This year the friends have been actively involved in promoting ourselves through social media and by doing talks either on local radio stations or at events. These opportunities are vital in letting the community on a whole know that we are a friendly organisation that is very much active and importantly, making a difference!

As we can see, this year has been a very full and positive time for the cemetery. Even though we have not many active members, we have been able to achieve a great many things and it's through the history fairs, talks, work mornings and guided walks that you realise how much the local population appreciates what is being done. But it is also important to say a thank you to all the organisations who work alongside with us including the Bereavement Services department and especially Amanda Carr, whom without their support, many of these objectives would not be achieved.

I am proud to be a member of a dedicated team and hope that in 2017 we will be able to attract more members which will then enable us to take on more challenging projects in the future.

**FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016**

**Accountant's Report to Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

In accordance with your instructions we have examined the books and records and other information supplied by you and using these we have prepared the financial statements set out on pages 2 to 4.

Our examination does not constitute an audit and we therefore do not express any opinions with regard to these financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared solely for your benefit and in accordance with your instructions and to the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for the work performed in relation to these financial statements.

16<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
20a Racecommon Road  
Barnsley  
S70 1BH

Ashworth Bailey Limited  
Chartered Accountants



# **Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery**

## **Income and Expenditure Account**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

### **Unrestricted Funds**

		<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Donations			
Weldricks	132		
Flowers	75		
General	<u>262</u>		
		469	565
Events			
Talks	120		
Stirling Graves Rededication Service	20		
Tree Trail launch	14		
Tree Trail woodcarving demonstration	90		
LiberTeas	24		
DDHA and DDFHS fairs	<u>24</u>		
		292	336
Fairyhouse wood sculpture		25	-
Walks		71	168
Gravefinder		<u>370</u>	<u>230</u>
		1,227	1,299
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Meeting expenses – speaker		37	-
Memberships			
DDHA	10		
NFCF	20		
TCV	<u>38</u>		
		68	39
Insurance		109	197
General office expenses		96	31
Hospitality and refreshments		42	-
Newsletter		-	295
Web hosting		58	-
Stand at fair		16	10
Repairs – wheelbarrow tyre and inner tube		7	-
Plants and wildflower seed		363	-
Flowers		35	38
Halloween event		-	306
Tree Trail woodcarving and plaque		102	-
DMBC Helping Hands grant overspend		4	-
Donation		20	20
Paypal fees		42	-
Accountancy		<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
		1,059	1,164
Income over Expenditure		<u>168</u>	<u>135</u>

**Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery**

**Income and Expenditure Account**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

**Restricted Funds**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Donations		
New Street railings	5,000	-
Former Woodfield TARA	-	1,826
Community Development Foundation Grant	-	1,974
DMBC Helping Hands Grant	379	-
Stirling Graves Restoration Appeal	<u>799</u>	<u>1,156</u>
	<b>6,274</b>	<b>4,956</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Gates – Green Dyke Lane	-	2,700
New Street railings O.S map for planning	25	-
Community Development Foundation Grant	-	1,912
Community Development Foundation Grant – refund	-	62
DMBC Helping Hands Grant	379	-
Stirling Graves Restoration Appeal – C A Marlor	<u>1,620</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b><u>2,024</u></b>	<b><u>4,674</u></b>
<b>Income over Expenditure</b>	<b><u>4,250</u></b>	<b><u>282</u></b>

# **Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery**

## **Balance Sheet**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank	8,278	3,540
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accruals	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>8,218</u>	<u>3,480</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Accumulated Restricted Funds	7,136	2,700
Accumulated Unrestricted Funds	<u>1,082</u>	<u>780</u>
	<u>8,218</u>	<u>3,480</u>