



# *The Joe Duddington Grave Appeal*



**Friends *of***  
**Hyde Park Cemetery**



FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY, DONCASTER

# JOE DUDDINGTON GRAVE MARKING APPEAL 2021

Help us to remember an important  
figure in railway history

In July 1938, the Mallard A4 Pacific Class steam locomotive set a new steam locomotive world speed record reaching 126 miles per hour. This record remains unbroken.

The driver of the Doncaster-built Mallard was **Joseph Duddington**, an experienced driver of the LNER. He was hand-chosen by the Mallard's designer, Sir Nigel Gresley. Joe lived with his family in the Hyde Park area of Doncaster and worked for the LNER until his retirement in 1944. When Joe died in 1953, he was buried in an unmarked grave in Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster.

**We want to mark his grave and give him the headstone he deserves. We need to raise over £2000 to make this a reality. We need your help.**

**You can donate by..**

#### **Cheque**

Made payable to Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery, marked 'Duddington Project' and sent to

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery  
c/o 36 Furnival Road  
Balby  
Doncaster  
DN4 0PJ

#### **Online**

Visit [www.fohpc.org.uk/duddington](http://www.fohpc.org.uk/duddington) to donate via PayPal

#### **Bank Transfer**

Email [info@fohpc.org.uk](mailto:info@fohpc.org.uk) for more information

Find out more at [www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk)



National Railway Museum/Science and Society Picture Library

In early 2021, the  
Friends of Hyde Park  
Cemetery launched our  
Joe Duddington Grave  
Marking Appeal.

Joseph (Joe) Duddington was born in Doncaster in 1876. His father Thomas worked as a railway fireman and Joe followed him into the railway industry. Joe married Mary Alice Lane in December 1900 at Christ Church, Doncaster. The couple lived together with their children in Doncaster. Mary Alice died in 1921 at 103 Catherine Street, the family home. She was 41. Joe married Florence Goodlad in 1935.



On the 3rd of July 1938, Joe drove Mallard on its locomotive world speed record breaking run, with fireman Tommy Bray. Joe worked for the LNER until his retirement in 1944. In his later years he lived in Dunsville, Doncaster.

Joe died on the 3rd of April 1953, aged 76. He was buried at Hyde Park Cemetery and his grave was unmarked, until 2021.








Our initial target was £2000, enough to get a basic headstone for Joe and Mary Alice's grave. As the donations started rolling in we realised the appeal had become something very special. We not only hit but far exceeded our target.

Donations were made by supporters of our work, railway history enthusiasts, fans of the band Big Big Train, local organisations, trade unions and more.





The response on social media was amazing..

**Julie Watlow**

Excellent. I am so pleased Joe Duddington will be remembered by all for his fantastic achievement in history. Recognition to an ordinary man who was just doing a job he  loved. I am proud to have donated to such a fantastic appeal

**Patricia Newton-Carline**

Brilliant! Just shows that every little donation makes for something fantastic!  



## Big Big Train

Fans of the band Big Big Train, known as Passengers, came across the appeal on social media and donated generously, sharing the appeal among the bands considerable fan base.



**Big Big Train**  
@bigbigtrain



An appeal for a headstone for the currently unmarked grave of Joe Duddington (Joe features in the Big Big Train song East Coast Racer). The support of BBT listeners would be greatly appreciated.



**Hyde Park Cemetery** @HydeParkCem · Feb 12

The @DonnyFreePress is supporting our Joe Duddington grave appeal.

Check out the article and visit our website to find out more..

#DoncasterIsGreat

[doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/people/sp...](https://doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/people/sp...)

4:13 PM · Feb 13, 2021 · Twitter Web App



**Tobbe Janson**

As the band and so many Passengers have said already it really was a no-brainer to take part in this beautiful appeal since we love this song so much and that it has meant the world for many of us!! This is by the way what **Greg** wrote about the song in his blog way back in January 2013 just a couple of weeks before the release of English Electric Part Two! <http://bigbigtrain.blogspot.com/.../01/east-coast-racer.html>

**Sara Bridgeman**

I hope to come up for the dedication ceremony. So proud to be part of this.



**Geoffrey Griffiths**

Donation sent via paypal. Would be great to see this man and his achievements remembered.



**Christian Drewsen**

Done, great bit of history, that needs to be marked with dignity





'Gone but never  
forgotten'



Sarah Ewing artist  
@sarahewingart



What a lovely end to this story. Perhaps Joe's circle can now be closed. Gone but never forgotten by [@bigbigtrain](#) and their fans. Also thanks to [@ProgMagazineUK](#) for supporting this appeal to remember a true British hero.



Hyde Park Cemetery @HydeParkCem · Feb 15

The combination of press coverage, our dedicated followers, and the tireless efforts of the railway community and the dedicated fans of the band [@bigbigtrain](#) has been amazing. We look forward to sharing the exciting next steps of this project with you all!

[Show this thread](#)



*FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY*

JOE DUDDINGTON  
GRAVE MARKING  
APPEAL 2021

**TARGET EXCEEDED!**

[WWW.FOHPC.ORG.UK/DUDDINGTON](http://WWW.FOHPC.ORG.UK/DUDDINGTON)

10:06 PM · Feb 15, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone





## Big Big Train



### Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Thank you all for your generous support of our appeal! We've been inundated with donations this weekend which we are currently tallying. Hoping to be able to share an update tomorrow evening after our committee meeting. Thank you all!



Carol Rogers [Admin](#)

**Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery** So happy to help out with such a worthwhile endeavor. Thanks for helping Joe be memorialized properly!





**Hyde Park Cemetery**  
@HydeParkCem



Did you spot us in today's [@yorkshirepost](#) ? Fantastic write up about our Joe Duddington project.  
[#DoncasterIsGreat](#)



Campaign to honour Joe Duddington - Mallard's driver when it set a new steam...  
When the re-modelling of Kings Cross station started in 2007, it produced – among many other things – a stunning new Western Concourse, with a fan-like ...  
[yorkshirepost.co.uk](https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk)

3:26 PM · Feb 27, 2021 · Twitter for Android

## Press Coverage

We received amazing support from the Doncaster Free Press, The Yorkshire Post and BBC Look North



Tom Ingall from Look North visiting the cemetery with Matthew Delaney, Joe's great-grandson.







Matthew with Helen, Secretary of Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery.  
*By kind permission of Doncaster Free Press*



ProgMagazineUK  
@ProgMagazineUK



. @bigbigtrain highlight appeal for train driver immortalised in their song East Coast Racer...



Big Big Train highlight appeal for train driver immortalised in song  
Appeal for East Coast Racer Joe Duddington to be honoured with an appropriate  
headstone highlighted by Big Big Train  
[loudersound.com](https://loudersound.com)

4:00 PM · Feb 14, 2021 · Twitter Web App

The appeal even  
reached music  
publications thanks to  
the support from the  
band Big Big Train and  
their fans..







## Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

15 February 2021 · 🌐



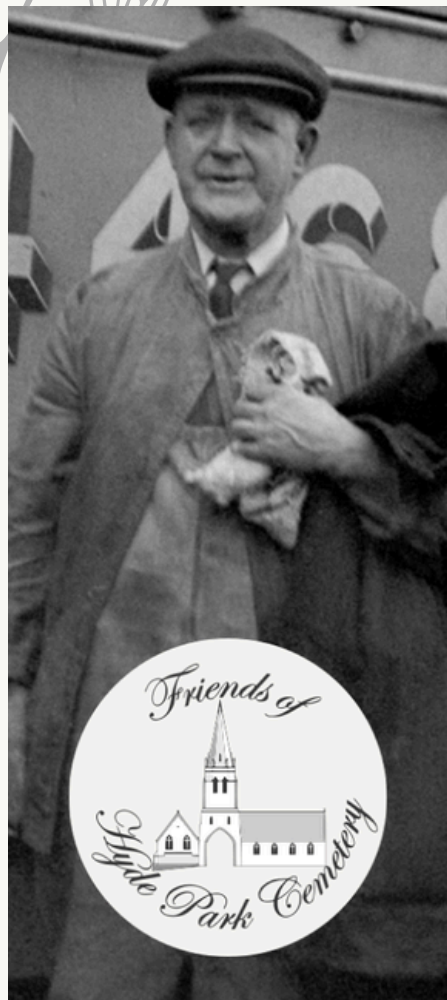
We have been absolutely blown away by the support for Joe's appeal. The combination of press coverage, our dedicated followers, and the tireless efforts of the railway community and the dedicated fans of the band [Big Big Train](#) has been amazing.

Over the weekend we not only hit but then exceeded our target and we have raised just over £5000 towards Joe's appeal. This means we can not only put a headstone on his grave, but also kerbing, decorative stones, a memorial plaque acknowledging the importance of the record breaking run, and have money put aside to hold a dedication ceremony (COVID permitting) and have a restricted fund for any maintenance going forward.

We are no longer actively taking donations for this appeal. Anything that comes in from this point forward specifically for Duddington will go into the fund for the event and future maintenance.

If you would like to make a general donation to the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery for our other activities, please visit [www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk), go down to the bottom and click 'donate', and select 'general donation'.

Thank you so much for your support. We look forward to sharing the next steps on this exciting journey with you all!



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*FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY*

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JOE DUDDINGTON  
GRAVE MARKING  
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***TARGET EXCEEDED!***

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[WWW.FOHPC.ORG.UK/DUDDINGTON](http://WWW.FOHPC.ORG.UK/DUDDINGTON)



## The Headstone

We began the long process of developing the headstone with J&M Memorials. This initial mock-up gave us an idea of what the final headstone would look like..

**MARY ALICE DUDDINGTON**

BORN 26th MAY 1879

DIED 20th FEBRUARY 1921

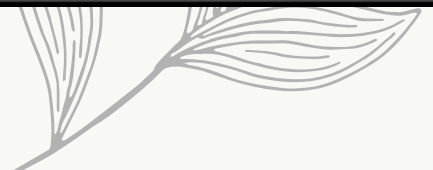
AGED 41 YEARS

**JOSEPH (JOE) DUDDINGTON**

BORN 6th AUGUST 1876

DIED 3rd APRIL 1953

AGED 76 YEARS







*Before..*







*After..*







On Saturday the 2nd of October we were joined at the cemetery by members of the extended Duddington family, railway enthusiasts, local historians, representatives of the LNER, ASLEF and The GNR Society, a band member of Big Big Train, and many many more in remembrance of a railway hero.



We were absolutely blown away by how many people joined us, through the rain, to remember Joe Duddington and his wife Mary Alice.



The new headstone was dedicated by Rev. Cpt. McCarthy of St James Church, with speeches from Rt Hon Dame Rosie Winterton MP and Councillor Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor.

Many branches of the extended Duddington family were in attendance, some of whom had never met!

















## The Bench

As our fundraising appeal was so successful, we were also able to install a memorial bench for Joe in the cemetery.

The bench was created to a bespoke design by local company Solid Oak Designs and was also unveiled at the same event.







Members of the Duddington family with the bench









## The Guided Walk

After the dedication event, the Friends held a guided walk around other railway related burials in the cemetery





It is difficult for us to articulate just how overwhelmed we have been by the response to Joe's appeal and how bursting with pride we are to now see him remembered.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project.

Remembering Joe Duddington, Tommy Bray, and all the railwaymen of Doncaster.







To find out more about the Friends  
of Hyde Park Cemetery, the history  
of the cemetery itself and to make  
a donation please visit  
[www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk)