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**Cemetery History - Hyde Park Cemetery,** originally known as Doncaster Cemetery and also occasionally referred to as Carr Grange Cemetery, was opened on 1st January 1856. It was one of the first municipal cemeteries outside of London and was made possible by the passing of the Doncaster Cemetery Act on 3rd July 1854. The majority of burials within the cemetery were carried out during the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, and are of people who helped transform Doncaster from a busy market town into a modest industrial one. Covering the whole range of society, they form a biography of 150 years of Doncaster's history.

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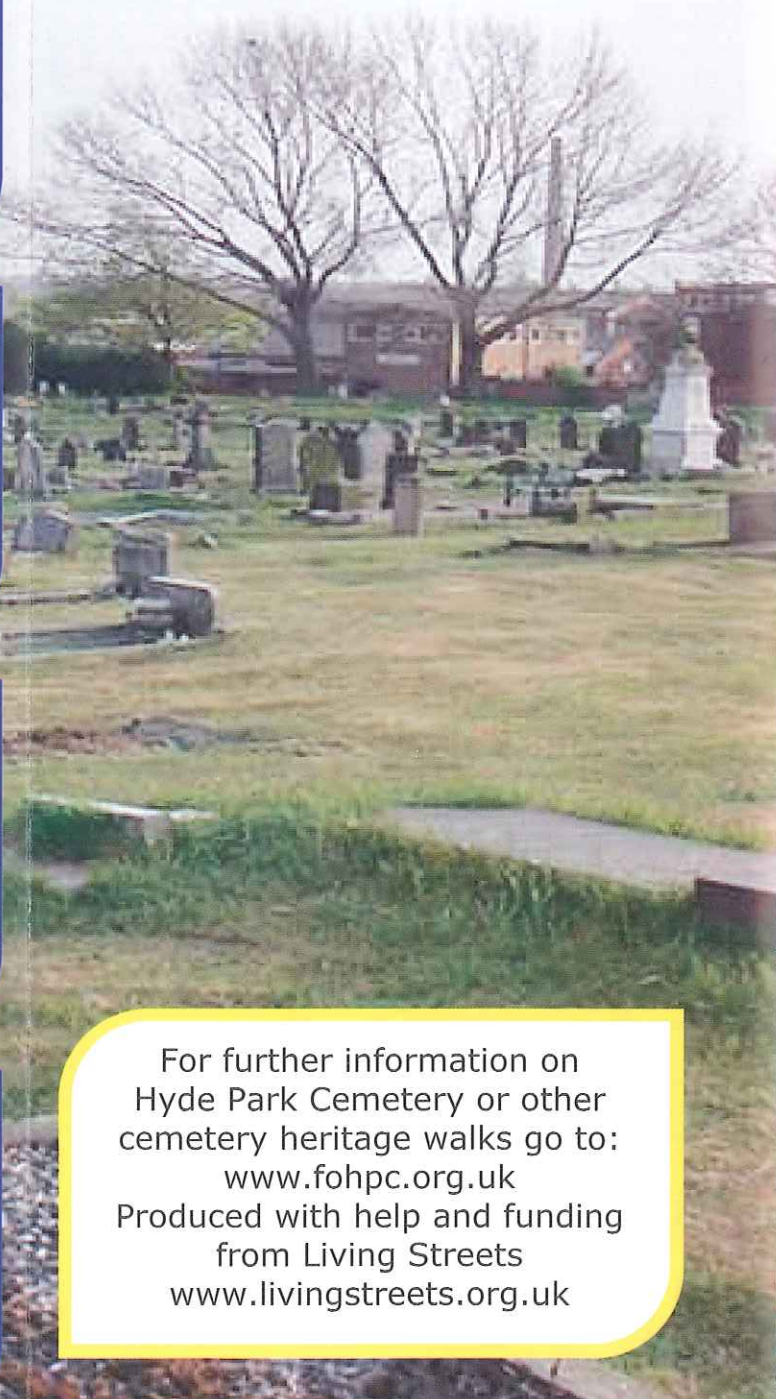
**Chapels -** Two mortuary chapels were built, at right angles to each other and linked by an arch under which a horse-drawn hearse could pass. Above the arch is a square tower surmounted by an octagonal bell chamber and a spire. The stone came from nearby quarries at Levitt Hagg and Brodsworth. The northernmost chapel (on the uphill side) was designated for use by members of the 'Established Church' and the other for 'Dissenters.' These buildings and, indeed, the entire cemetery layout, was designed by a young Newcastle-based architect, Robert James Johnson, a favourite of George Gilbert Scott, whom he beat in gaining this commission.

**3**

**Senior Family Grave - Henry Senior (1825 - 1900)** was the man responsible for creating Doncaster's unique Sand House, a large, ten-roomed dwelling which was carved from a single, solid block of sandstone. This unique house came into existence in 1857 and survived until the Second World War. It stood only a stone's throw from the cemetery's Green Dyke Lane gateway and only about three hundred metres from Henry's final resting place. This double plot was used to inter a total of fourteen members of the Senior family over a seventy one year period.

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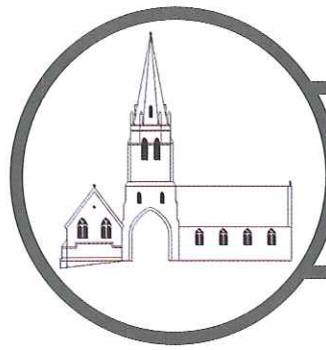
**William Henry Pickering Grave -** William was Chief Inspector of Mines in charge of the Yorkshire and North Midlands District. On the 9th July 1912 an explosion took place in Cadeby Colliery. A rescue party, led by William, went underground and began recovering bodies, but a second explosion occurred, killing him and many others. All this happened on the day when William had been invited to lunch with King George V and Queen Mary, who were visiting the area at the time, but when the first explosion took place he decided that his duty lay with the rescue party. He is commemorated on a brass plaque inside Doncaster's Minster Church of St George.



For further information on Hyde Park Cemetery or other cemetery heritage walks go to:  
[www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk)  
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[www.livingstreets.org.uk](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk)

# LIVING STREETS

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



Friends of  
Hyde Park  
Cemetery

## Heritage Circuit

*Doncaster's oldest municipal cemetery*



**5** **Wildlife Area** - The area of trees located near to the high retaining wall is being developed as a wildlife-friendly habitat. Children from Hexthorpe Primary School were involved in deciding what facilities need to be provided and where they should be located. Hyde Park Cemetery is a significant green space, sandwiched between the town centre and the industrial and commercial developments of southern Doncaster, and so is an important area for a wide variety of species. By providing nesting boxes and other facilities within the copse it is hoped to attract even more birds, insects and mammals to the site.

**6** **Sir Isaac Morley Grave** - This imposing tomb is the place of burial of one of only 2 titled persons in the Cemetery, and the only grave to have Sir on the inscription. Isaac Morley became Mayor in 1839 being re-elected the following year. Queen Victoria's first child was born in 1840 and Doncaster Corporation resolved to 'present congratulatory addresses' to the Queen, Prince Albert & the Queen's mother, The Duchess of Kent. The Queen was 'graciously pleased to show her appreciation of the Borough by offering the honour of a knighthood' to the Mayor, who became a Knight Bachelor on 28th April 1841.

**7** **View of Doncaster Carr** - From opening in 1856, until the late-20th century, the view south from here was virtually uninterrupted, with only a few trees breaking the vista of Doncaster Carr, the low-lying marshy land to the south of the town. At the far side of this path-locked section of the cemetery lies the grave of Patrick Stirling, world-famous Locomotive Engineer of the Great Northern Railway. He held this position, based at Doncaster Plant Works, from 1866 until dying in office in 1895. It is said that he chose this particular final resting place as the loco sheds (known as 'Carr Loco') could be seen from here.

**8** **Original Boundary of Cemetery** - When the Cemetery opened it occupied an area of 7½ acres, the site previously being 2 fields, known as Carr-side Close and Dial Stone Close. By the late-1870s, burial space was already in short supply, so the cemetery was extended westwards in 1882, virtually doubling its size. This marker post lies on the original western boundary. It is interesting to note that all the curved footpaths lie in the original half of the cemetery, whereas a more rigid grid pattern is followed in the extension, reflecting changes in design philosophy.

**9** **Tunnel Beneath** - Beneath the line of the footpath that leads down the hill from the gateway lies a tunnel, cut through solid sandstone, dug to construct a main drain in 1853, made necessary by rapid growth following the arrival of the railway. At the gateway the tunnel roof is about 8m below ground. The tunnel runs beneath the path for almost 80 metres, coming to a dead end. At a similar distance outside the cemetery stood the famous Sand House. It was this tunnel, combined with the Senior family's house-building business, which inspired the creation of the Sand House that now lies under Silverwood House.

**10** **Trees** - From this corner of the cemetery, the variety of tree species on the site can be appreciated. As was usual in Victorian cemeteries, many of the trees that were originally planted were weeping varieties, representing sadness and mourning. Because there has been limited human intervention since the trees were planted, many of them now are amongst the best examples in the Borough of Doncaster. Along the western boundary are several Black Poplars, these being some of the largest in the town.

**11** **New Street** - This road, which lies immediately outside the boundary, was only created when the cemetery was extended to its present size in 1882. The extension was created by the purchase of two fields. An 1880 plan of the land proposed to be added to the cemetery shows a 6.5m wide strip at the edge of the additional fields, to be set out as a 'New Road' and later appropriately named 'New Street.' At the far side of New Street were terraced houses, until the 1960s redevelopment of the area created the commercial and industrial units that we now see.

**12** **Panoramic View** - The landscape sloping down to the south makes this corner of the cemetery an ideal location from which to view the site. Being in the 1882 extension, it is noticeable that hardly any of the later monuments are much more than 1m tall, reflecting the changes in taste in the late 19th century. Until the 1980s, outside the southern boundary was a large number of allotments, which provided veg, fruit and flowers, not to mention exercise, for the occupants of the terraced houses that until recently stood adjacent.

**13** **War Graves** - This is the final resting place of 108 service personnel whose graves are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. 82 such graves date from WW1, with the remainder from WWII. CWGC graves are easily identified by their uniform headstones, differentiated only by their inscriptions: the national emblem or regimental badge, rank, name, unit, date of death and age of each. The 3 nearby war graves contain the remains of Corp L. Wilcock (King's Own Scottish Borderers), Private W. C. Gray (W. Yorkshire Regiment) and Gunner T. F. Wadley (Royal Field Artillery), all from WW1.

**14** **Ellis Grave** - The unusually-shaped headstone is the site of the first 2 burials to take place in Hyde Park Cemetery, just 1 day after its opening. Mary Ellis, wife of Henry, died on the 29th December 1855 aged 74. Her granddaughter, Mary Ann, died 3 days later on New Years Day and was buried with her on 2nd January 1856. A licence from the Archbishop of York had to be obtained for the burial as the cemetery had not yet been consecrated. The grave was consecrated by the Vicar Of Christ Church. The plot was designated as 3rd class ground as it was almost as far away from the chapel entrance as it was possible to get.

**15** **Public Graves & Wildflowers** - The area around the four large trees in 'Section I' may appear not to have been used for burials but it contains a lot of unmarked graves of the poorer members of society. The cost of a funeral was beyond the means of many families and, in these cases, the deceased were laid to rest in Public Graves, with the costs being met from the public purse. In memory of the many people buried in these Public Graves, the Friends have worked with staff & pupils from Hexthorpe Primary School to establish a wildflower area, the 'Memorial Meadow.'

**16** **Tuby Grave** - For over a century, the Tuby family have been leading showmen in Doncaster. George Thomas - 'Tom', was known as 'the Prince of Showmen'. He was elected to the town Council in 1896, becoming an Alderman in 1913 & Mayor in 1922. Tom was described at various times as 'proprietor of steam horses', 'showman' and 'amusement caterer.' A generous man he regularly gave the proceeds of his fairs to causes such as orphanages, infirmaries, nursing homes and workhouses. He also treated inmates of the Workhouse to seaside day-trips by train. Tom's portrait hangs in Doncaster Mansion House.

**17** **Dissenters' Area** - When the cemetery was originally laid out, this point stood on the boundary between the Consecrated Ground (A to M) and Unconsecrated Ground (N to V), the former being used for members of the Established Church and the latter for Dissenters (Nonconformists). The division between the areas began at the southern boundary wall and ran uphill along the right-hand edge of the path, as far as the chapels. It then passed through the archway between the two chapels before heading on up to the north boundary.

**18** **Carr Lane** - The road outside the eastern boundary wall is a long-established route towards Carr Grange, Decoy Bank, Black Bank and Doncaster Carr. The former Corporation schools, which stand across the road from the cemetery, were erected in 1895 and are now commercial and Council offices. A plaque on the nearer building carries the name of Frederick Brightmore, the then Mayor of Doncaster, who is buried in Section C. This corner is the point from which the earliest located photograph of the cemetery was taken, by Eleph George Bisat, in approx 1890.

**19** **Lodge** - The residence of the cemetery supervisor for over 130 years. Grave-digging and general day-to-day upkeep of the cemetery was managed from the Lodge and the building also contained a secure room, where the many grave and burial registers were kept in a safe. R. J. Johnson adapted the architectural style of Decorated Gothic to match that of the chapels. The cemetery's last on-site supervisor, Mr Alan Drinkall, ceased his employment in 1989, but continued to live in the Lodge as a tenant, carrying out 'gate duties', until the early 90's.

**20** **Cross of Sacrifice** - In 1923, the Doncaster Cemetery Committee received a letter from the Imperial War Graves Commission requesting, amongst other things, permission to construct a war cross on a prominent site, in accordance with the drawings that they had submitted. The committee readily granted permission and a location near to the main entrance was suggested. The inscription at the base of the cross commemorates all the sailors and soldiers who gave their lives for their country during the Great War and who lie buried in Hyde Park Cemetery.

