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APSE Cemeteries and Crematoria Seminar

Caring and Sharing—the changing roles and responsibilities of Bereavement Services Managers



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**Doncaster
Council**



Bringing Biodiversity into Cemeteries

Doncaster Council and The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Adrian Pickersgill - DMBC

Andy Harbon - FOHPC



Bereavement Services - Overview

Apart from 12 close churchyards and a number of war memorials. Bereavement Services is responsible for;

- **13 Cemeteries**
 - **47 hectares (116 acres)**
 - **9 Km (6 miles) of boundaries**

The largest site is Rose Hill, which at just over 19 hectares is almost as big as all the others put together

The second largest is the historic Hyde Park cemetery occupying just over 6 hectares

Bereavement Services - Overview

Corporate Support;

“Doncaster Council declares climate and biodiversity emergency”

A motion setting out ambitious targets putting biodiversity and sustainability at the heart of the Council's agenda has been unanimously supported by councillors.

Our Elected Mayor, Ros Jones supports the work we are doing in Bereavement Service and our Chef Executive, Damian Allen has visited to see for himself the wide diverse range of activities and areas we manage, and is behind the plans we have to take this further.

Bereavement Services

2000-2011 Birds

Some notable activities to date:

- Wildlife Survey
- Wildflower areas
- Meadowland
- Woodland
- Banking
- Hedgehog traps
- Wood piles
- Bird and bat boxes
- Insect houses

	Common name	Latin	Notes
1	Blackbird	Turdus merula	Common resident.
2	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Fairly common summer visitor.
3	Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	Common most of the year around.
4	Blue Tit	Parus Caeruleus	Very common resident.
5	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Uncommon visitor.
6	Canada Geese.		
7	Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	Seen daily with some disruptive habits.
8	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	Common resident
9	Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	Uncommon summer visitor.
10	Coal Tit	Parus ater	Probably resident, though not seen often.
11	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Very common.
12	Common Gull	Larus canus	Occasional in winter with Black-headed Gulls.
13	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Occasionally seen flying overhead.
14	Common Swift	Apus apus	Fairly common in summer.
15	Common Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	Uncommon though regular.
16	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	Very uncommon summer visitor.
17	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	1 bird seen flying overhead
18	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Rare summer visitor.
19	Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Common resident.
20	Feral Pigeon	Columba Livia	Seen but status uncertain.
21	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Winter visitor.
22	Goldcrest	Regulus regulas	May well be resident, though most birds occur in – status changed to breeding 2007
	Goldcrest		Has always been a fairly regular winter visitor, but recently started breeding in Pines near crematorium.
23			
24	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Fairly common visitor, probably resident.
25	Goshawk		1 sighting.
26	Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	Similar to above.
27	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Common resident.
28	Great Tit	Parus major	Very common resident.
29	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Very common resident, seen almost daily.
30	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	Fairly common resident and visitor.
31	Grey Heron	Ardea Cinerea	Several bird seen flying overhead, may be attracted to ornamental pond
	Grey Partridge		1 pair seen for about 1 week, grass was out of control at the time, probably came from nearby estate.
32			
	Greylag Goose	Anser Anser	Often seen in numbers up to 20 flying to nearby Cantley park, rarely seen on the ground.
33			
34	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	As above bird.

35	House Martin	Delichon urbica	Common summer visitor.
36	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	Common along the edge of the site.
37	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	Regular visitor.
38	Jay	Garrulus glandarius	Uncommon visitor / breeding?
39	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	Several records of birds flying across, usually early to mid summer.
	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	Rarely seen on the ground, but do over fly the area in some numbers moving to roost sites.
40	Lesser Whitethroat		1 sighting.
42	Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	Uncommon visitor.
	Little Owl	Athene noctua	Probably nearby resident, seen once in a day time.
43			
44	Long tailed Tit	Aegithalus caudatus	Common resident with winter influx
45	Magpie	Pica pica	Very common
	Mallard	Anas Platyrhynchos	Occasionally encountered in woodland where it has bred successfully.
46			
47	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	Odd birds attached to the open grassland area.
48	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Very common resident with winter influx.
49	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	Common resident, very local throughout the year.
50	Oystercatcher	Haematopus Ostralegus	1 record, seen flying across while calling.
51	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	Rare visitors from adjacent woodland.
52	Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Seen daily throughout year.
53	Redpoll	Carduelis flammea	Very uncommon visitor.
54	Redwing	Turdus iliacus	Winter visitor.
55	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Very common resident.
56	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Fairly regular visitor.
57	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	Uncommon migrant.
58	Shelduck	Tadorna Tadorna	1 seen flying towards Cantley park.
59	Siskin		Feb/March occasionally 2002.
	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	High flying birds from Cantley Park have been heard singing.
60			
61	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	Uncommon resident.
	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Encountered fairly often in open woodland edge.
62			
63	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	Recorded in 2000 and 2001.
64	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Common visitors.
65	Stock Dove	Columba oenas	Probably breeds, but status uncertain.
66	Swallow	Hirundo rustica	Common summer visitor.
	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	One early morning sight record (Mar 2002) / breeding 2009.
67			
	Waxwing	Bombycilla garrulas	This irruptive species occurred in Mar/Apr 2001 / 2002.
68			
69	Willow Tit	Parus montanus	Recorded feeding in mixed flocks.
70	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	Fairly common summer visitor.
71	Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	Common resident and visitor.
72	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Common resident.

Bereavement Services

2000-2011 Butterflies

Some notable activities to date:

- **Wildlife Survey**
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	Common name
1	Brimstone
2	Small Copper
3	Common Blue
4	Holly Blue
5	Green Veined White
6	Large White
7	Small White
8	Small Tortoiseshell
9	Gatekeeper
10	Red Admiral
11	Painted Lady
12	Grayling
13	Comma
14	Spotted Wood

Bereavement Services

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Bereavement Services

Notable areas & activities:

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Stock Photo

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Stock Photo

Bereavement Services

Some of our special visitors:



Bereavement Services

Plans and aspirations (some being Covid limited to date):

- More meadow areas in other cemeteries
- Planting fruiting trees/shrubs
- Engagement with local schools for bird boxes and bug houses
- Encourage other “friends of” groups to form and be involved
- A fresh wildlife survey

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

<http://www.fohpc.org.uk/>

The Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery exist in order to promote and protect the cemetery as a place of historic interest, as well as one of natural beauty.



National Federation of
CEMETERY FRIENDS

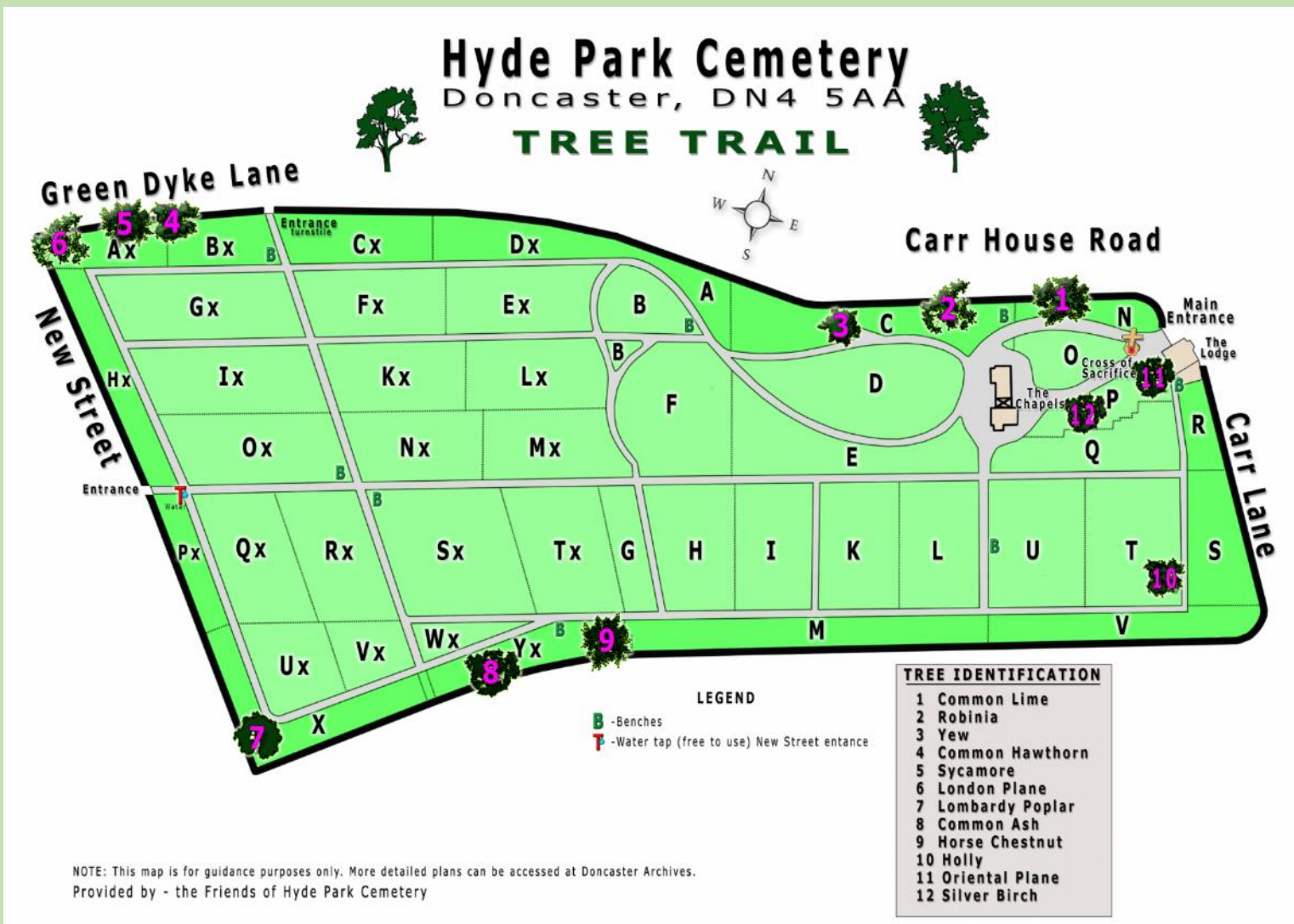


Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

TREE TRAIL

An opportunity to take an educational and leisurely walk around the grounds and learn about 12 of the different tree specimens that we have here at Hyde Park Cemetery.

Learn about the different shapes and sizes, and also the every day uses for the leaves and wood that these trees produce.



Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

270 Trees Planted

A successful application to the Woodland Trust as part of their Big Climate Fight Back campaign resulted in the supply of tree saplings, canes and spiral protectors.

Bereavement Services agree to locations for planting and used mini digger to prepare the ground. 25 volunteers then turned up on a Saturday morning to begin the planting.

Tree species planted include: Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Dog Rose, Hazel, Hawthorn, Oak, Rowan, Silver Birch and Wild Cherry.



Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Wildlife Corner

A successful funding application to the Greggs Foundation



Wildlife Corner Created



At the beginning of 2018 we were delighted to secure an environment grant from the Greggs Foundation.

The funding we received was used to create a 'Wildlife Corner' in the south-western section of the cemetery.

Low value vegetation was removed and existing wildlife-friendly plants were retained.



How to Contact Us

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/FoHPC

Volunteers from The Conservation Volunteers along with members of the committee, helped to complete cultivating the area and then planted hundreds of young plants on the slope, which in 2019 should be covered in wildlife friendly vegetation.

At our January work morning we installed a permanent sign marking our Wildlife Corner project.



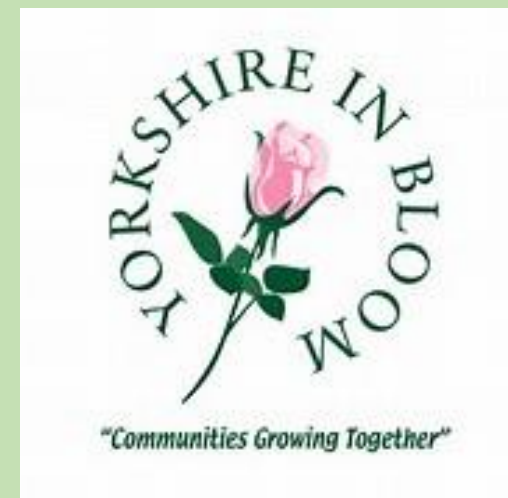
Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Yorkshire in Bloom – Silver Medal

Through the efforts of Doncaster Council's grounds maintenance team supplemented by the wonderful input from our own volunteers, we were able to achieve this prestigious Silver award.

The Yorkshire In Bloom judges, who visited the cemetery recorded the following citation alongside our award.

“Due to its age, this Victorian era cemetery retains a unique charm and value in the area. It is clear the group are extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the site and this shines through in their work. As this is a very long-term project with regards to restoration the group are sensibly doing small projects at a time. It was good to see and hear about the engagement with the National Citizens Service, and the Tree Trail is a nice touch, plus there is useful interpretation for wildlife. It was also encouraging to see efforts in place to create a wildflower meadow.”



Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Annual Bat Walk

“Last night’s fourth annual Bat Walk at the cemetery was attended by about 20 people. Under the expert leadership of Robert Bell, of the [South Yorkshire Bat Group](#), and with help of FoHPC volunteers, electronic detectors were used to locate the bats. But it was not just the gadgets that found bats, as the flying mammals were visible to the naked eye, too. Once again Common Pipistrelle bats were found to be the resident species”



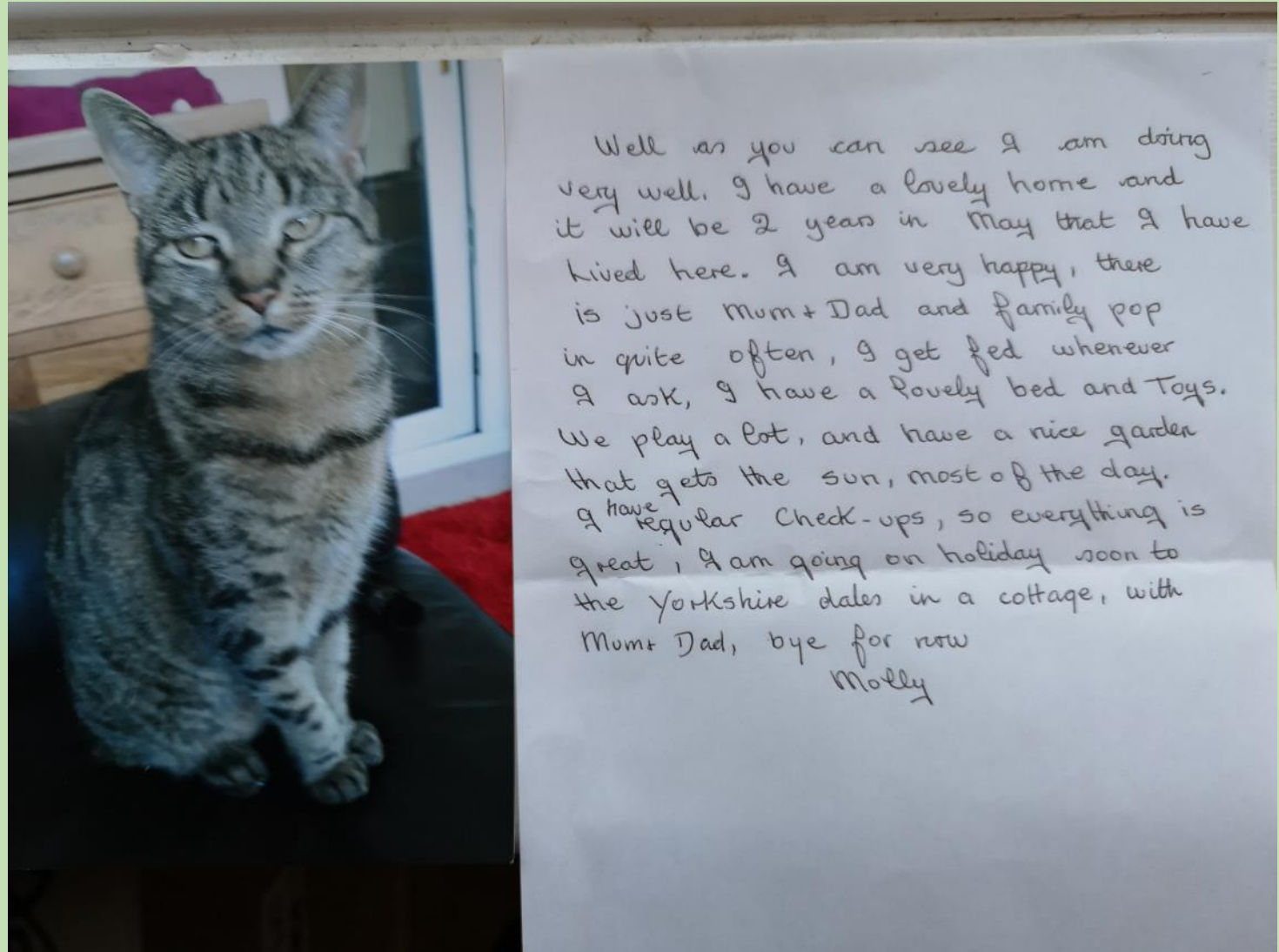
Bereavement Services – on a lighter note

Botanical “diversity”



Bereavement Services – on a lighter note

Mammalian “diversity”



Well as you can see I am doing very well. I have a lovely home and it will be 2 years in May that I have lived here. I am very happy, there is just Mum+Dad and family pop in quite often, I get fed whenever I ask, I have a lovely bed and Toys. We play a lot, and have a nice garden that gets the sun, most of the day. I have regular check-ups, so everything is great, I am going on holiday soon to the Yorkshire dales in a cottage, with Mum+Dad, bye for now
Molly



Doncaster
Council



Bringing Biodiversity into Cemeteries



THE END

Thank you for your time





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