

the park. Substantial damage was done when the large dumper truck short-cut the corner and drove through the cowslips, crushing the new growths of black knapweed. Remonstrations with the contractor brought no apology, but no further damage was sustained; a FOGP volunteer explained it has taken 7 years to make plants grow on the clay based site and 20 minutes for them to trash it!



Peter Pan in the Rose Garden

## Graves Park History Talk 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The Friends are giving a talk on the history of Graves Park, at 7.30 p.m. at Mount View Methodist church hall. Tickets are £4 and include refreshments. Please join us to celebrate the historic legacy of Graves Park. For tickets write, e-mail or ring 0114 2589562.

### Fundraising

The FOGP has a donations account with **JustGiving**.

**Please spread the word!**

Donate to campaigns via mobile phone, choose the code for your campaign and text code + £2 (OR £1, £5, £10) to 70070

Protect Graves Park: Text FOGP42 £5

Cobnar Road Playground: Text FOGP22 £2

Animal Farm: Text FOGP02 £1

### FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

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# Friends of Graves Park *Newsletter*

Charity no: 1080407

Spring 2017

## Introduction from the Chairman

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Events are unfolding apace; we have been very busy working in the park and on our legal action to support its preservation.

The Charity Commission has finally agreed to us taking the legal action forward. We recently agreed the paperwork to go to court. If successful, we should get a legal declaration as to the meaning of the documents which are supposed to protect Graves Park from sale or disposal, which hopefully will enable us to keep all of it as parkland forever. It has taken us a long time to get to this stage; we are confident that we will achieve our objective.

### AGM 2017

Our AGM is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June this year, at 7 p.m. Once again, the management of the Rose Garden Café are kindly letting us hold our AGM in the café; all those attending will receive a free hot drink. Please join us for the latest news and to support us in our work.

### 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017: The Great Whit Walk!

After the extremely successful historic walk last year, which finished with the opening of the arboretum, Friends of Graves Park are joining with Greenhill Village History Group to walk and talk the route of the old London Road within the park. The walk will start at 2.15 p.m. at the Derbyshire Lane entrance, follow the road across to Charles Ashmore Road, then go across to Chantreyland Meadow and the arboretum, before heading back to the Rose Garden Café. All are welcome and the event is free. A supporting leaflet will be on sale for £1 and all funds raised will be used to protect and support the park.



Rose Garden Cafe

## Highland Fling 2017

Once again, the Highland Fling was a great success on May Day Bank Holiday. Crowds gathered and clouds parted, to make a great day out for the visitors. Events included the annual highland cattle show, events for dogs, birds of prey, bagpipe bands and ferret racing, to name just a few. As one of the highlights of the year, we hope that this will continue: well done Graves Park Animal Farm!

## Park Surveying

**Planning details for the development** of the former Hallam University playing fields have been published. FOGP have checked these for details of drainage of the site; Graves Park is mentioned as being unsuitable as a route for surface water “at this time”. The application refers to Graves Park as “local authority owned”, which we know is incorrect; however it states that currently they propose to take the water and sewage via Hemsworth Road. These will have to be pumped from the site. Once again the Friends would like to thank those supporters who reported surveying taking place in the park; without their support we could not have raised issues regarding drainage through the park with the developers and the council. We would also like to thank Councillor Steve Ayris, who followed up our concerns, contacting the developers on our behalf and passing on details of who to contact. We shall continue to monitor the situation, in case the plans change.

## New paths in the park

**Many of our supporters are pleased to see** the improvements taking place in the park. The most popular one is the path repairs; many footpaths have been resurfaced, greatly improving various routes through the park. Supporters are surprised, however, when we explain that

these improvements are **not** from the sale of Cobnar Cottage, but from a separate pot of money exclusively for resurfacing paths in Sheffield parks.



The Old London Road with new tree planting

## Historical Preservation?

**During our inspection walks** around the park, we are monitoring any work being carried out and have asked Sheffield City Council for details of how and on what the proceeds from the sale of Cobnar Cottage are being spent. We will include any information we receive in future newsletters.

**When planning the walk for 4<sup>th</sup> June**, we were disappointed to find that SCC Parks and Countryside have planted a tree right in the middle of the old London Road, at the northern end. This spoils the vista looking north. We contacted SCC about this; they referred to a map of 1875 (50+ years after the road closed) and claim it is planted to preserve historical accuracy. We shall continue to pursue this, as we too

wish to preserve historical accuracy. We will find out which historians SCC consulted on this issue and why nobody with or without any historical knowledge has actually been out to look at it. We have forwarded our photos to SCC.



The Old London Road before the tree planting

## The Arboretum

**All recent purchases of shrubs** etc. have been planted and are regularly watered, due to dry conditions over the winter and spring periods. With new buds about to break, the combination of cold easterly wind over a period of weeks and hot sun has caused delays in exposed planting and progress to those planted in sheltered areas.

A recent cold spell damaged tender leaf and flower buds. Some azaleas about to flower have been destroyed, leaf buds and new leaves have also been damaged, the montbretia leaves have died; it's quite alarming to note the extent of the damage, most of which will recover.

Where the mature flowering trees have delayed the new growths, e.g. apple,

rowan and of course the trusty oaks, these will survive without a problem.

Cowslips have successfully spread into the arboretum and are giving a good display; the bluebell planting is making progress. Lavender and other herbaceous plants are surviving the extremes successfully.

The green walks have only been mowed twice since December due to the dry ground conditions and the centre path is becoming denuded of herbage due to increased foot traffic; more people are using the area generally.

## Chantreyland Meadow

**The whole area was mown by SCC Parks and Countryside** and the detritus raked off by FOGP, allowing a very successful crop of cowslips to flourish.

FOGP have reorganised the approach into the meadow from Norton Park View, cutting down dog rose overgrowths around the bird sanctuary thickets.

Ground around the notice board which had become a dog mess location will become bark mulch clad and surrounded by logs. The notice board will be cleared and re-varnished shortly.

Recent use of the footpath through the meadow has been allowed by SCC parks and countryside to a contractor constructing an artificial cricket wicket in