

Request for photos and memories

The Friends are continuing to expand their historic records of Graves Park and would welcome any memories, anecdotes or photographs our supporters have which would support this work. Please send any copies of photos to our contact details. If you can also confirm that we can reproduce your donations, that would be really helpful. We can then include some of these in future publications.

Plan and drawings



Old Norton Hall 1795

Plans to produce a map of Graves Park, with places of historic interest marked, are in the final stages. A Sheffield artist, Gillian Bathmaker, has kindly produced a series of sketches of structures in Graves Park, many of which are no longer there. We are also in the process of producing a stylised map of the park, based on the plans from the Fairbank Collection (currently in Sheffield Archive), which date from around 1805. The intention is to combine these

with text based on the historic talks about Graves Park, to produce a guide which will help those interested in exploring Graves Park's history when they visit.



The Summer House

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

c/o

139 Mount View Road
Sheffield
S8 8PJ

Tel: 0114 2550615

www.gravespark.org

friends@gravespark.org

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Friends of Graves Park *Newsletter*

Charity no: 1080407

Spring 2018

Introduction from the Chairman

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As usual we have been working hard to protect the park.

AGM 2018

Our AGM is on Tuesday 19th 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.

Legal Action Continues

We have been waiting for a court date to pursue our legal action for over a year now. Our solicitor is pursuing this and we hope we can announce a date soon. The Friends would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone why this action is so crucial to the future of Graves Park.

When SCC, as trustee of Graves Park, decided to sell Cobnar Cottage and the charitable parkland on which it stands, they succeeded in breaking covenants put in place by J. G. Graves when he made his



Rose Garden Café

gift to the citizens of Sheffield. This was the fourth time in the past 20 years that SCC had tried to sell off assets belonging to Graves Park. Before this, they successfully sold off Bole Hill Farm and Chantry Cottage; only when local people proved the charitable status of the park did it come to light that these properties should never have been sold.

After the campaigns to prevent a housing estate (1998) and a hospice (2008) being built on Norton Nurseries were successful, the charitable status of all of Graves Park and its assets was made absolutely clear to SCC and to the Friends. The Scheme of 2009 clarified this, was drawn up and signed by SCC. Yet still they sold the cottage and its land. Our legal action hopes to secure a declaration, to prevent

any further sale or disposal of Graves Park's assets. J. G. Graves made his wishes clear in the documents drawn up to protect all of Graves Park for the people of Sheffield forever.

We must continue our legal action, to protect the park for Sheffield's citizens forever. We still have to pay for our day in court when it arrives, including barrister's fees. **We are very grateful to all our supporters who have so far donated in excess of £10,000. If you can support us, please send donations to our address on the back or visit our page on JustGiving.** If we are successful, we will claim back as much as we can in compensation, which will be spent on improving Graves Park.

Avenues and War Memorials...

Members of the FOGP committee met in Graves Park with Tim Shortland, the Community Forestry Manager and Jez Platts, the Community Tree Officer, to discuss proposals regarding the planting of a memorial avenue. Our email list will know that we asked supporters for their views. Members thought an avenue from the café to the ponds would bisect the events area and was inappropriate for the site. Some supporters did not want to interfere with the historical footprint of the site; others said the trees would be easily damaged and would block the vista. They pointed out that there is already a war memorial in front of St. James' Church

in Norton. After some discussion, Tim agreed that the deer park was not the best site for an avenue. He decided instead to plant a single tree on the Meadowhead side of the park, by the pitch and putt course, between two mature oaks and close to where other trees used to be.

Planting a Lime...

Tim also offered to plant a lime tree by the pond, in the area where other trees have had to be taken down. The Friends were delighted with this proposal, joining Jez (who very kindly organized this) and SCC workers with the planting.



Planting the new Lime tree

Cobnar Road entrance and playground

The electricity company have completed work at the Cobnar Road entrance, which resulted digging up the flowerbed. SCC have confirmed that the electricity company will be reinstating the planting at

their expense. The council officers are currently working on a planting plan for this.



The Cobnar Road Entrance Border

Camping In the park

The Council is promoting a 24 hour fun run in Graves Park, on 1st and 2nd September 2018. The website says: "Camping from Friday through to Sunday is included in the entry fee, and competitors can even bring along their family and supporters for free to enjoy the festival atmosphere." While we have no objections to running in the park, we are opposed to overnight camping, as it is a park, not a campsite. When the Friends made enquiries about the camping and whether the police have been consulted regarding security, the council said it has not yet contacted the police, but will soon, as they do with all events. The camping is for competitors and there will be a curfew on noise. They will use the toilets and showers in the cricket pavilion and "a few extra showers/toilets brought on site". The

organiser will control vehicle access once on site. The Friends will raise our concerns with council officers at our next meeting.

Data protection

Because of changes in the law regarding data protection, the Friends will contact all members about email use and has its own policy regarding data protection. The JustGiving website also has policies to ensure that supporters' information is kept confidential and not abused.

Toilets in the park

The cost of the toilet refurbishment by the tennis courts is £61,000. The Friends have monitored the progress of these "improvements" and are struggling to see why they were so expensive, especially as they are not particularly aesthetically pleasing to look at.



The Refurbished Toilets

The Friends will continue to pursue this, to ensure that the money has been spent properly.