

Finding Lost Norton Park

Uncovering the history and prehistory of this ancient landscape!



We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a £10,000 grant, from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to explore the history of Graves Park.

We will uncover the history, heritage, and archaeology of the Historic Norton Park Estate and its stately homes, past and present. Join us to find out about: the history and archaeology in Graves Park.

Our initial Lost Norton Park discovery event will introduce you to the project. It is open to everybody to meet, listen to introductory talks and look at initial display material. Dates and workshops will be announced shortly.

The Friends of Graves Park say: "We are very grateful to National Lottery Players, who have made this project possible. We hope that all interested local people will join us in making this project a success."

For up to date bulletins and to join in, contact us (see right).



Possible Iron Age ridge?

Fundraising

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

Please spread the word!

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/fo-gravespark/protectgravespark>

Please send cheques, payable to Friends of Graves Park, to the treasurer at the address below. For updates and to join our charity for just £3 a year, email us at the address below.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

c/o

139 Mount View Road
Sheffield
S8 8PJ

Tel: 0114 2550615

www.gravespark.org
friends@gravespark.org

©Friends of Graves Park 2019

Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Charity no: 1080407

Winter 2019

Fundraiser Special!

High Court Date

12th February 2019!

Our day in court is fast approaching!

As our supporters know, this is our opportunity to protect Graves Park from further sale or disposal **forever**. The Friends of Graves Park Committee have been working hard with our legal team to make sure that your donations work towards getting a legal declaration to support the legal documents which are supposed to keep this charitable parkland in public ownership, as its donor, J. G. Graves, intended.

This is our best chance of sorting this out once and for all. Some of us have been fighting this battle for the past 20 years.



Picture courtesy of V. Phoenix

**We still need donations!
Please help us!**

Successive councils have on previous occasions promised to protect Graves Park in the future, then have reneged on their promises, over and over again.

In case you have forgotten, or are new to our story, here is a timeline of the Friends of Graves Park and its campaigns and battles to protect Graves Park:

1995 Sale of Chantry Cottage (part of J G Graves's gift)

1997 Planning permission and listed building consent granted for extensions to Chantry Cottage

1998 Proposed housing estate on Norton Nurseries site (part of J G Graves's gift)

1998 Hands Off Graves Park group formed from concerned Sheffield people

1999 Planning for the housing estate dropped

1999 Friends of Graves Park formed from members of Hands Off Graves Park group

1999 Owner of Chantry Cottage made submissions to extend the rear garden into Graves Park and applied for planning permission

2000 Friends of Graves Park became registered charity

2000 Sheffield City Council granted planning permission for a garden to the rear of Chantry Cottage

2003-5 Proposals to possibly build on the Woodseats playground and surrounding parkland, because this was not identified as charitable land by SCC

2007 Proposals to build a hospice on the nurseries site (part of J G Graves's gift)

2009 New Scheme to protect all of Graves Park and to amalgamate all of J G Graves's gifts with the council owned animal farm

"We thought our job was done"

2014 Proposals to sell Cobnar Cottage (part of J G Graves's gift) began

2016 Cobnar Cottage sold

2017 Tennis Courts (part of J G Graves's gift) leased to a private company

12th February 2019 Friends of Graves Park v SCC at the High Court in London to ensure future protection of all of Graves Park

Please send any donations to support us, as a matter of urgency, to the contacts on the back of this newsletter.

The Arboretum



During summer and autumn, the new beds of Rudbeckia, Helenium, aster Aida Ballard, Inula Hookeri and Gailardia have provided a wealth of flowers, attracting many insects. The Azalea plantings produced masses of flowers over a long period in spring; the Acer Palmatum Bloodgood is established and colourful.

A new bed of Dogwood and Bergenia is developing well with an anticipated extensive flowering period next spring. The specially constructed water retention bed was planted with red Astilbes, Helibores, Japanese Anemones and Pieris Forrestii at the rear.

Mahonia Bealei was in full flower in December, to be followed through with the other later flowering varieties. The Ginkgo Biloba has made a shaky recovery, now relieved from its waterlogging.

James Baxter proved his worth this year, completing several major tasks to achieve his Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme certificate. Using a written specification and minor instruction, he planted a specimen Thuja Plicata and perennials around the area and bark-mulched a large area of woodland, enabling the newly planted shrub to survive the drought. Currently there is a wealth of berries and much Christmas colour from oaks, beech, hawthorn and cotoneasters, which creates an enjoyable walk through the area.



Purple Loosestrife in the Meadow

Chantreyland Meadow

The early spring displays of yellow cowslips, long periods of orange flowers from Berberis Darwinii, were followed by white flowers of meadow sweet and the blue from black knapweed and geraniums. Purple loosestrife is becoming established near the frog ponds.

Three tree thickets are becoming established and providing a safe haven for increasing numbers of birds, even though large numbers of dog walkers, runners and family groups are using the area. The Parks Department has installed a substantial seat within the area which is being used for people to sit and observe the various finches eating the seeds of the black knapweed flower heads and fly backwards and forwards into the tree thickets.