

# Easyfundraising

We've registered with easyfundraising and we need your help!

easyfundraising is a great website where you can help Friends of Graves Park raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 3,600 big name retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you' and it's completely free too! We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fograpspark/>

## Thank You for your Support

Thank you to all of you who donated towards our legal action over the past four years. (Yes, it has been that long!) Without your help and support we could not have continued our fight to protect Graves Park. Although our current legal action is at an end, as we can go no further, we still need to raise money to cover our costs. We are duty bound to repay one or two supporters who funded the lion's share of the costs awarded against us at short notice, even if it takes us time. Please

continue to help us in any way you can, so that we can continue our work.



Surveying the North Wall

### Fundraising

The FOGP has a donations account with [JustGiving](#).

Please spread the word!

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

Don't forget help raise funds for Friends of Graves Park whenever you shop online!

Help support us:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fograpspark/>

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# Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Charity no: 1080407

Spring 2019

## Introduction from the Chairman

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

### AGM 2019

Our AGM is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July this year, at 7 for a 7.15 p.m. start. 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 Update

The Friends of Graves Park were devastated by the judgment in court on 15<sup>th</sup> February, that we have lost our legal action to try and protect Graves Park and have had all costs awarded against us.

After much consultation and consideration, the decision was taken to try and appeal the judgment, a course of action supported by our legal team who advised that we should seriously consider this appeal.



Stitchwort

The application for permission to appeal was unfortunately rejected, which means that this is the end of the road for our legal action. The letter of refusal states that this decision is final and there is no right to a review or reconsideration of the decision.

The friends pursued this action in a last-ditch attempt to protect all of Graves Park forever, because of the number of times we have had to oppose sale or disposal of parts of the park over the past 20 years.

Despite SCC's assurances that they have no plans to sell off any of Graves Park, it is difficult to believe them, especially when our members have seen people surveying buildings around the park. There are also rumours that the parks staff, who are

currently based in the Norton Nurseries part of the park and using it as a depot, are moving to the Olive Grove site. Does this mean that the Norton Nurseries site will once again become derelict and unused? Does this mean that the Friends will now be allowed to start the next stage of restoring this area back to parkland? Or is this a warning that once again the council will want to sell it off for development?

**The Friends will be requesting** that the council honours its promise to allow the restoration of the rest of this site to parkland at the earliest opportunity. We will also be watching closely that no more of Graves Park is threatened with sale or disposal, as both the case judgment and the appeal rejection state that SCC has no plans to dispose of any more of Graves Park.

## Finding Lost Norton Park



**Our project continues to make progress** and all the events so far have been well attended. There are four main strands to



Yellow Archangel

our project: Finding Ancient Woodland, Recording and Mapping Park features, Researching Archives and Local Memories of the Past. For details of these, please see our Finding Lost Norton Park leaflet, Spring/Summer 2019, which gives details of all planned events. **You can also find us on Facebook: Friends of Graves Park: Finding Lost Norton Park.**



GPS device

## Finding Ancient Woodland

**Volunteers are already busy** identifying and recording plants which are indicators of ancient woodland. In April, they found wild garlic, dog's mercury, wood anemone and some early bluebells. Another survey in May found yellow archangel. Our intrepid volunteers will have to survey the same area several times during the year to identify plants which flower at different times. All results will be collated and mapped to identify the ancient woodland within Graves Park.

**On 1<sup>st</sup> May our workshop** found out about QGIS mapping using GPS recorders. This is a useful tool which pinpoints precisely

where the device is; later the results can be fed into a computer and put onto a map.

## Recording and Mapping Park Features

**Our field event in May**, where we tried out the GPS devices, helped us to identify land features. Led by Dr Paul Ardron, we discovered how to look at the landscape with a trained eye. Volunteers are going out to look for and identify possible archaeological and historical features. Barbara, Ernest and I went out surveying the perimeter wall of Graves Park. We found and recorded different types of wall, gateposts within walls and measured the entrances on the north side.



Serpentine Wall



Surveying the North Gateway

## Researching Archives

**Volunteers are trawling** through the lists of available material on the internet, before starting visits to the Archives. Once relevant documents are identified, the volunteers arrange a visit to archives at Sheffield, Matlock, Derby or Nottingham. We still need volunteers to do some trawling, so please do join us if this is something in which you are interested.

**We still need** memories, anecdotes and photographs our supporters have which would support our project. Our mission is to record stories of Graves Park for the future. If you can help us out with any of these, please get in touch.