



Derbyshire Lane Entrance

The holly and conifer hedges at the main entrance have been removed, mainly because of overcrowding and root invasion. These have been replaced with newly planted borders and together with new fencing has creating a more colourful and open environment.



in a conservation area. If a stone wall and conservatory are considered inappropriate, one has to wonder what they would make of a huge building with out-buildings, accommodation blocks and parking for 120 cars should the St Luke's application to build in the Nursery get to the planning stage!

Forthcoming Events

Woodseats Community Festival
Sunday 13th July 2008, 12.00 onwards. Call Michelle on 0114 2960646 for more info or to get involved. Alternatively visit: www.woodseatsfestival.org.uk for more details.

Sheffield Festival of Transport
Sunday 29th June 2008, 10.30am – 5pm

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held in the Rose Garden Café (in Graves Park) on **Wednesday 11th June 2008**. The meeting will start **promptly** at **7.30pm**. All members are welcome.

Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm.

Vacancies

We have vacancies for trustees and committee members including a secretary and a membership secretary. Anyone who would like to join us or find out more about the level of commitment (in a number of different roles), please contact us.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK

25 Matthews Lane
Sheffield
S8 8JS

Tel. 0114 2747028 or 2556430 (answer phone)
www.gravespark.org
friends@gravespark.org

Chantry Cottage

A further planning application has been submitted for a large boundary wall and conservatory to the rear of the property. This was refused by the local planning authority as inappropriate on a Grade II listed building

Proposed Development on Norton Nurseries Site

This fight continued to rumble on and the Friends of Graves Park are determined to keep up the pressure until this issue is resolved once and for all. We thought that the meeting on 16th March with all involved parties and representatives from the Charity Commission would finally make it clear to everyone, not least management from St. Luke's and the Council, that building on the nurseries site would be extremely difficult if not impossible. Indeed the statement issued to the press by Kate Waring from the Charity Commission was very clear to most of us.

Unfortunately, even this was not enough to discourage St. Luke's managers, who have continued to try to drum up support for their scheme. Any attempts by FOGP to explain the true status of the land seem to be interpreted by these people as our "working with" them, or being "in talks with" them. Many of you are already aware of attempts by St. Luke's management to enrol support from celebrities and those with some standing in Sheffield. You may also be aware that much of what they have publicised regarding this issue is inaccurate and sometimes total fabrication.

In the latest publicity by St. Luke's management, they have made a

great deal of their "success" in getting more than 15,000 signatures on their petition. This is from a mail shot of 33,000 petition forms each with a pre-paid envelope enclosed! Legally the petition is irrelevant, but the poor response suggests that they do not have the support they claim. Since the success of the FOGP letter writing campaign, St. Luke's have decided to copy our response and are now asking all visitors to their website to send letters.

Many thanks to all of you who wrote letters and helped us to campaign in support of Graves Park. Now that the LibDems have taken control of the Council, we are hopeful that the situation will be resolved, although this is not yet guaranteed. We also hope that the solution will include finding St. Luke's an alternative and better site for the new hospice.

The FOGP committee are determined to keep up the pressure until the safety of all Graves Park is confirmed and ensured. We also intend to support a plan to set up a "Friends of Sheffield Parks and Open Spaces", where hopefully we can help to support all Sheffield parks, protect them from development and promote grants and funding.

Nursery Meadows

Work is progressing well on the Wildlife Area within Norton Nurseries which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and promoted through Bill Oddie's Spring Watch Breathing Spaces programme. After initial disruption due to wet weather the removal of defective and dangerous trees has taken place.

New tree stations have been excavated, back-filled with topsoil and a wide selection of tree whips planted, mostly flowering and berrying types to achieve both feed and protective clusters for insects and birds. Bark mulching has been spread around the cluster planting areas.

Large logs have been positioned around the surrounding paths to enable park users to sit and observe the flora and fauna of the site.



A wide variety of Natural British flora seed mixtures have been sown over the meadow and surrounds, some of which will take twelve months to become established. The Wetland Area has been cleared of general debris and is being prepared for planting with rushes and over-sowing with British flora wetland seed mixtures. Additionally an information base is to be established surrounded by large tree trunks for seating.

Numerous types of bird nesting boxes, including Tawny Owl, Insect and Frog boxes have been made by the **Finishing Touches Group Centre**, located at the Cobnar Road Sports Pavilion. The park rangers have now collected the boxes and are currently instructing local Cub groups in both the assembly and installation into trees surrounding the Wildlife Area. A considerable amount of aid to this project has been given by SCC Parks and Countryside Staff, for which we are very grateful.

Mini-Golf Course and Bowling Greens

A new automatic irrigation system has now been installed and is currently waiting commissioning. New artificial tee mats

have been installed throughout the golf course. All fairways have been de-compacted to improve surface drainage.

Cobnar Road Playground

The defective boundary fence around the playground has been replaced and the accumulation of rubbish from the gardens alongside Chesterfield Road has also been removed.

A new safety surface has been installed beneath two sets of swings. Work to landscape the approach and internal sections of the playground however, has yet to be

achieved! Hopefully the change in Council may see this long overdue work be quickly completed.

Woodland Areas

Damaged and diseased trees continue to be removed and tree surgery is ongoing to make the woodlands safe. Replacement trees will be planted as necessary.

A panoramic view of the new Wildlife Area

Norton Woodseats Cricket Club

A big thanks to **Awards for All** who have given us a grant towards the work we are having done on the pavilion. This will include a small extension to the rear of the pavilion to include improved changing facilities including disabled toilets, showers and access.

City Council and specifically the Southern Area Panel for a grant of £2,000 towards the construction of plans for this scheme.



On the cricket front, NWCC are looking forward to the first steps in Division One of the South Yorkshire League and to the progress of the new U13 side.

Anyone who walks regularly in this area of the Park will also know that drainage is a severe issue and last summer didn't help the cricket ground! We are currently looking at a drainage scheme that will bring improvements for all. Thanks go to the Sheffield

Anyone wanting to play cricket, or to help with volunteer work, or who have children that would like to play are more than welcome. Please call Andy Cross on 07800 696008.