

purchased. A new informative notice board with illustrations is required.

### REQUEST FOR FUNDING!

The estimated cost of a new display board would be £1,400.00. A donation sent to Parks and Countryside, Meersbrook Park, Brook Road, S8 9FL (Marked Water Fowl Display Board) would certainly be well received.

### Derbyshire Lane Entrance

The newly refurbished entrance to Graves Park appears to have received favourable comment from park users. Parks and Countryside put a considerable amount of work and expense into the scheme and it certainly gives a more open, refreshing and colourful appearance now.

### Norton Woodseats Cricket Club

Whilst a comprehensive scheme of improvements has been prepared with general agreement reached between the club, Parks and Countryside and Friends of Graves Park to upgrade the square and drain the outfield, the great stumbling block of securing funding has been reached. Veolia, which had been approached, has placed a moratorium on its available finance; other sources are being explored but the current difficult financial situation has not helped.

The club goes from strength to strength in its endeavours to promote, encourage and train young cricket players from the local community. The changing pavilion has been extended and now provides provision for disabled persons.

### Bowls Pavilion

Improvements to the pavilion on Charles Ashmore Road are imminent, to facilitate access and install toilet provision for disabled persons.

### Cobnar Road Playaround

Friends of Graves Park have been in touch with Parks and Countryside in respect of finishing off the refurbished playground landscaping. A new Development Officer has it on her list to undertake.

### Control of Car Parking

Parks and Countryside have organized for all car park gates to be locked at dusk and this has brought about some better control to misuse.

However, as a result of a car being locked in and a dispute ensuing as to what determines "dusk", noticeboards are now being installed showing closing times, which are:-

May, June, July, August: 9:30 p.m.

Sept, Oct: 8:30 p.m.

Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb: 5:30 p.m.

March, April: 8:30 p.m.

Gates will be opened by 7:30 a.m. each morning.

**F**RIENDS OF GRAVES PARK  
c/o

26 Norton Park View  
Sheffield  
S8 8GS

Tel. 0114 2749575  
[www.gravespark.org](http://www.gravespark.org)  
[friends@gravespark.org](mailto:friends@gravespark.org)

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# Friends of Graves Park *Newsletter*

Spring 2009

### Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Friends of Graves Park newsletter. The committee would like to thank all of you for your continued support. Together we are continuing to protect, improve and develop the park as a permanent leisure facility for the people of Sheffield.

Thanks to all of you who responded to our request for support regarding the planning applications from the owner of Chantrey Cottage. We will let you know the outcome of this application as soon as we can, although if you submitted a comment, the planning department will be in touch with you.

### AGM

Please find enclosed notice of the next AGM meeting, which will once again be at the Rose Garden Café in Graves Park on **Wednesday 24th June 2009 commencing promptly at 7:15p.m.**

We hope to see as many of you there as possible. We shall also be collecting renewed memberships at the meeting, however, you may decide to renew by standing order and/or pay by direct transfer. Details are on a renewal form with this newsletter together with an Agenda for the AGM.

There is also a request for new members of the committee. If you have a little free time in the evenings, or if you have any skills with which you could support us, then please do let us know. The more of us that we can share the jobs between, the better it is for all of us.

### MEMBERSHIP

It is now time for memberships to be renewed. This year we want to try to bring our membership database up to date, so we would ask all members to renew their memberships. Details of the different ways to renew are on the enclosed membership renewal form. **No more reminders will be made and if you do not renew now you will be removed from the membership list!**

Membership of the Friends of Graves Park provides you with 2 newsletters every year keeping you up to date with what is happening in the park. Most of the membership fee is to cover these costs and any surplus will be used to support development of the park which it would otherwise not receive.

If there are any urgent matters relating to Graves Park we will contact you as we have done in the past, so it is vital that we keep a large membership in order to protect our park.



## Chantreyland Meadow - Spring 2009 Update

The Friends of Graves Park have continued to work with the Sheffield Rangers in the development of Chantreyland Meadow, attracting both visitors and wildlife to the area. The rangers helped in the heavy duty work of distributing logs, created from the felling of the large *Leylandii* by the pond, to define the shrub islands in the meadow and in the spreading of bark chippings.

elderberry, rowan and blackthorn were planted behind brambles on west side of the area. All the plants had been bought last year but not planted due to the very wet start to 2008 (over 380 mm in the first 4 months). Fortunately this year has been a lot drier (190 mm to the end of April 2009) and this has allowed a much better start for both plants and animals. All the signs are there for a much better



The central meadow was mown in late December to allow the planting of nearly 300 plug plants of assorted British flora in March. Areas of the meadow were then over-sown with traditional meadow and annual mixes of seeds. In addition, berry trees such as

year for wildlife than 2008 with many more flowering plant species, butterflies and bees already noted. One of the highlights this year has been the abundance of cowslips – from the original 5 plants in 2006, there are now over 250 cowslip plants in the meadow.

The pond has been a popular feature, with a good level of water maintained by the improved drainage links created. This, and added pond vegetation, have allowed tadpoles to hatch in great numbers for the first time in many years. These, in turn, have provided food for common backswimmers, diving beetles and at least 1 newt that has been all too elusive in the murky waters. New vegetation planted around the pond includes blue bog iris, bulrush and arrowhead and these will grow to provide a more enriched pond margin habitat. Please take a walk around the meadow to see how the site has improved using the generous support of the Breathing Places Grant in association with the Big Lottery.

## Meadow Invitation

Friends of Graves Park and the Park Rangers invite you all to visit the reclaimed meadow on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 5:00 p.m.** to view the developing scene. The Ranger service has promised a cup of tea will be provided! Members of the FOGP sub-committee will be on site to explain how the “Bill Oddie” Breathing Spaces Big Lottery Grant has been spent.

Easy access to the site is from the Norton Park View entrance to Graves Park, just follow the first path to the right.

## Naturalised Areas of Graves Park

Parks and Countryside is working with Friends of Graves Park to improve sections of the park which were set-aside from regular mowing to naturalise.

All these areas have become unkempt and self-set trees established. Several ideas are under consideration. Potential, selected summer grazing for the Animal Farm would involve fencing, or a more practical approach would be to develop British Wild Flower areas which would be mown once each year in January.

The many and varied uses of Graves Park need to be taken into consideration and any changes made have to be thought through keeping in mind the “will and wish” of J. G. Graves.

## Norton Nurseries Restoration to Parkland

Now the matter of amalgamation of land documentation and the St. Luke’s issue appears to be settled, Parks and Countryside in conjunction with Friends of Graves Park will begin to look objectively at progressing and restoring the site to parkland, developing a small Arboretum, links with the animal park and improving the Green Fingers project.

A sketch plan is being produced based upon ideas currently gleaned from a wide range of park users, Parks Officers and Friends of Graves Park. We are open to any constructive comments on this exciting new project.

## The Ponds and Wild Fowl Reserve

Parks and Countryside have resurfaced the footpath on the southern side of the ponds and as part of the improvements re-fenced the top pond surrounds with a fox-proof fence.

The wild fowl have become depleted over the years due mainly to foxes. Additional water fowl have been