



Rose Garden Cafe

Now under new management and the changes are impressive! The interior has been redecorated and the floor carpeted creating an improved ambience which has been well received by customers. There has also been a change of menu. Further improvements are continuing.

New rose bushes are being planted in the garden. These will be new and more colourful cultivars.

Cobnar Road Playground

Plans are now being produced to landscape the children's play area with selected trees, some of which will be surrounded with curved bench seating

The terraced area will be filled with colourful herbaceous plants and this will reduce the dominance of the large tarmac area. Work is planned for late Spring 2010.

Memorial Seats

A further five sponsored memorial seats are to be installed around the park over the coming weeks.

Bowls and Golf

The employment of a new green keeper has brought about a vast improvement to both the golf and bowling greens. A new grass growth retarder has successfully been used resulting in improved grass sward.

As a result both facilities have seen much greater use by the public than in previous years.

Footpaths Around the Dams

Sheffield City Council is continuing with its excellent work improving the footpaths and drives in the park. Repairs are programmed for defective areas around the lower pond and overgrowth of trees will be removed.

Parks staff are edging off all the paths in the park to improve their appearance and restore the width.

Norton Woodseats Community Cricket

Whilst a scheme of improvements to the cricket area has been produced there has been little success in achieving financial support for the works. NWCC has endeavoured to leave no stone unturned in order to acquire funding.

Graves Park Woodland

City Council arboriculturalists are continuing to make safe and remove defective trees in the woodland areas. Some new tree planting is also planned to create a more vibrant woodland.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK
c/o
26 Norton Park View
Sheffield
S8 8GS
Tel. 0114 2749575
www.gravespark.org
friends@gravespark.org
© Friends of Graves Park 2009



Friends of Graves Park *Newsletter*

Winter 2009/10

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the winter edition of FOGP newsletter. The FOGP committee members 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.

As most of you probably know, the planning applications from the owner of Chantrey Cottage were granted, subject to certain conditions being met and our old adversary has started to build his wall. True to form, it is in the wrong place, in his predictable attempts to acquire as much land as possible irrespective of ownership. The Friends of Graves Park are working with the councillors to ensure that the owner of the cottage builds the wall in the right place. We have already warned those involved that if the wall is in the wrong place, it will have to come down. If we need volunteers to help us, we'll let you know. Where appropriate, sledge hammers will be provided free of charge.

Our committee is currently planning to restore the central section of the Norton Nurseries site. Once again this involves trying to get some action from the Council. We have submitted an application to the South Community Assembly, to pay for the plan for our arboretum, incorporating the Greenfingers project and the greenhouses. This should be a very exciting project and we are all looking forward to some very positive results.

Details of our other ventures are in this newsletter. As we move on to new projects, while keeping the established ones

going, the committee wish you all a prosperous and peaceful new year.

Membership

The membership has now been overhauled and brought up to date. We now have around 300 active paid up members which is still one of the largest friends groups in Sheffield.

Website

The Friends of Graves Park website will soon be updated. We are looking for some good content for the site, so any members who would like to contribute articles or photographs are encouraged to forward them to us. Our contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Chantreyland Meadow

No maintenance has taken place in the meadow over the last 6 months due to delays in reaching an agreement with Parks & Countryside to allow Friends of Graves Park sub-committee members to work in the area when rangers are not present.

A proposal by FOGP to provide its own insurance and small tools to enable work in the Wildlife Area as and when able is floundering through lack of decision by Parks Officers. Procrastination seems to be the order of the day once more!





Chantreyland Meadow - Autumn 2009 Update

Nearly 120 species of plants were seen in flower in Chantreyland Meadow in 2009 and the total number of flowering plants recorded there now stands at 145. Most of the 17 new species observed were those introduced as seeds or plug plants, such as: Viper's Bugloss, Foxglove, Meadowsweet and Small Scabious,

Common Spotted Orchid were found this year and show that conditions are more favourable for them now that the meadow is being managed. The recently planted berry producing shrubs and trees: Rowan, Blackthorn, Guelder Rose, Pyracantha, Berberis, Dog Rose and Dogwood, were all surviving and many have fruited this



Carpet of Ribbed Melilot

others such as Brooklime, Hedgerow Crane's-bill and Common Fumitory were likely brought in with the seeds & soils. The best new find was an Early Purple Orchid, flowering not-so-early in June. Two spikes of

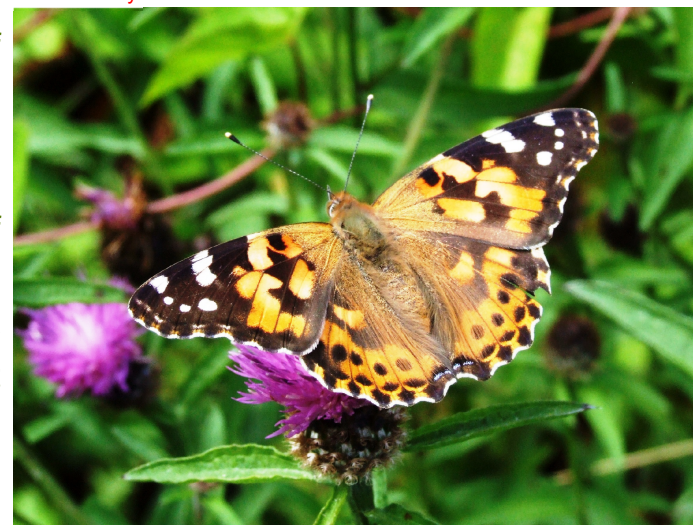
autumn, providing a source of food for birds, particularly the thrush species. From the seed mixes scattered, flowering plants of Purple Loosestrife, Ragged Robin, Teasel and Selfheal did really well in the damper southern

border area. Many of the plug plants introduced in March flowered over the summer but were difficult to see over the carpet of yellow produced by the rampaging perennial, Ribbed Melilot, that had taken a real hold on the central meadow this year. This is mainly due to seed dispersal through the mowing of the meadow last winter together with the ideal growing conditions that came with a dry start and wet summer. If the plant is to be less abundant next summer then selective weeding will need to be carried out when plants start growing in the spring.

Butterfly Species

Fourteen species of butterfly were recorded in Chantreyland Meadow in 2009. Although slightly fewer species were noted, the number of butterflies was up on previous years, in particular the Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) that invaded the British Isles in record numbers during May and stayed through the summer months, favouring the Black Knapweed and Buddleia. July also saw the first record of Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*).

Painted Lady



Bird Records

New bird records were Redpoll and Buzzard (circling overhead) in March and April. A pair of Blackcap that had nested in the area was seen feeding their young in early July.

Other warblers using the area as a stop-off during migration included Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler.

The Pond

The pond has maintained a good level of water throughout the year, even in the driest spell during September. Perhaps not surprisingly more insect species were noted than in previous years. The number of newts has also risen with many young noted in August along with several more secretive adults. The main problem with viewing the pond this year was the abundance of blanket weed that thrived in the nutrient rich

environment obliterating any chance of following anything under the water. It is planned to control the weed next year by the use of Excalibur, a decomposed extract of barley straw. In November the weed was subsiding as the temperatures dropped, revealing more of the creatures living in the pond including clouds of water fleas - food for larger pond dwellers.

