

Norton Woodseats Community Cricket

Recent attempts to achieve finance for the cricket development and drainage scheme have proved unsuccessful once more.

Derbyshire Lane Entrance

The hollies return! Thirty-seven new variegated holly bushes have been planted in the refurbished borders, replacing those previously removed. It is hoped to encourage the holly blue butterfly.

Tree Replanting Programme

Six new quality forest trees have been planted throughout the park during 2009.

Cross Country Races

There is an increasingly active interest in cross country running events with enthusiasts travelling great distances to take part. During 2009-2010 there were four major meetings comprising:

- (July) Weston Park Hospital: 10K 500 adults/ Fun Run 3K children
- (Oct) Cutler's Relay – all local running clubs: 500 adults/ 11-17 children & youths, 18-35 Ladies' & men's & veteran ladies' & men's
- (Christmas/New Year) Open cross country relay with similar participants
- (March) Sheffield Schools Championships

This year the Cutlers Relay will also involve Northern Cross Country with up to 1000 runners. Friends of Graves Park will monitor this event. Some disruption to regular park users occurs where races cross footpaths; marshals cover all footpath crossing points. Cobnar Road pavilion is where all races start and finish.

Footpaths Around the Dams

The footpath located between the animal paddock and the bottom dam has been resurfaced with limestone which has made a vast improvement. The path alongside the dam is to be resurfaced during 2010 with tarmac.

Bunting Nook Car Park

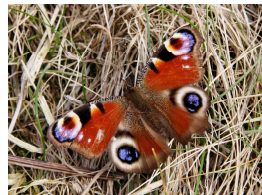
SCC Parks & Countryside has arranged for the car park to be marked out in parking bays and traffic flow directions, however, car parking still takes place on the no parking zones demarked with double yellow lines.

Charles Ashmore Bowls Pavilion

The new toilet facility for disabled has now been installed.

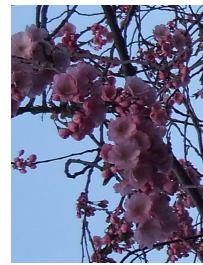
Cobnar Road Playground

The landscaping of the playground has not been achieved as promised due to the loss of the regeneration officer who was preparing a scheme (casualty of departmental cuts). It is hoped 2010 will bring a completion of the scheme.



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Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Spring 2010

Chairman's Introduction

Hello FOGP members! Here we are at the SPRING 2010 edition of FOGP newsletter; finally things are really moving on several fronts.

Plans are afoot to restore the Norton Nurseries back into parkland. We have been granted a total of £22,000 for this purpose, a committee incorporating representation from interested parties has been set up and we are finally in the process of moving forward.

After considerable pressure from a FOGP committee, the council has officially surveyed the rear of Chantry Cottage. The boundaries have been confirmed and the owner has been given a time limit by which the wall must be built and the historic wall must be restored, if he wishes to purchase the land to the north for access to his garage. We all await the 30th June to see if the owner can meet this deadline.

The wildlife area is thriving and members of the committee continue to care for this first part of the restoration. Let's hope the next section of our restoration project will be as successful as this one!

Membership

It is now time for memberships to be renewed. Details of the different ways to renew are on the enclosed membership renewal form.

Membership of the Friends of Graves Park provides you with two 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.

AGM at Graves Park Café

The Friends of Graves Park Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 23rd June at 7p.m. for a 7.15p.m. start.** A cup of tea or coffee is offered free of charge to all attendees.

The Rose Garden Café proprietors are providing the facility free of charge once again, FOGP offer many thanks to Craig the manager for his support.

Chantry Cottage

After 10 years of problems associated with defining the boundary of Chantry Cottage and numerous meetings with SCC Parks and Countryside, Legal & Admin and Councillors, Friends of Graves Park are able to say an agreement has been reached with the owner, resulting from which a stone wall will be constructed on the western boundary between the Norton Nursery site and the cottage boundary. The historical brick wall which formed the containment of the walled nursery garden to Norton Hall is to be reconstructed where it has been demolished, by the owner of the

cottage. Once the works are achieved to the satisfaction of SCC and Friends of Graves Park, it is planned to plant a replacement Ginkgo Biloba tree as close to the position of the previous tree, which was wantonly removed by the owner of the cottage during his development



Highland Fling

The event this year was held over one day and was free to all apart from car parking. The Highland Cattle Show, Shire horse cart rides, displays of falcons and owls, demonstrations of angling for children, bike time trials and the miniature steam railway rides all proved very successful. Extra attractions were provided by the fun fair and numerous diverse stalls.

Sheep shearing followed by a demonstration of the use of sheep dogs to control four chilly sheep added to the many events taking place.

The Friends of Graves Park were pleased to provide some sponsorship for the show and the return to a free and more traditional event was welcomed by all and encouraged a large number of visitors. All being well the event

will continue to grow in popularity. Pricing for food and snacks appeared to be on the high side though!

You Choose Events

Friends of Graves Park recently attended the South Community Assembly, searching for finance to help contribute to a site investigation into the rationalisation of the remaining section of Norton Nursery. FOGP are pleased to announce they were successful in their bid and were awarded £2,000.

It was very positive to note how many local residents were so enthusiastic about the proposals to resolve the Norton Nursery situation and FOGP were appreciative of the support received.



Chantreyland Meadow - Spring 2010 Update

Signs of spring have been late in arriving this year due to the most prolonged winter in a generation. The temperature fell as low as -6°C and didn't rise above 7°C in the first two months of 2010. One of the first flowers to appear was the cowslip – now with nearly 470 flowering plants across the meadow and border areas, this is an encouraging start to spring 2010.

Past years' growth in the central meadow was mown in February, a little delayed from the practice over the last few years due to the vast amount of lying snow. Already this spring considerable pruning and clearing of undergrowth has been carried out to improve the border areas and increase the biodiversity. Additionally, a new covering of bark chippings has been made to continue to define and develop the shrub islands at either end of the meadow and around the information base area.

Overhanging branches on trees around the pond were pruned back and the undergrowth is slowly being cleared as appropriate. The work carried out has been supported by the Sheffield Rangers who will continue to work with us on selected days throughout the year.

In March the pond was treated with Excalibur, a decomposed extract of barley straw, to see how effective it is on controlling the blanket weed that had been so abundant last year. In early April, a pair of

Mallard took temporary residence and actively fed in the pond. Hundreds of frogspawn and, for the first time, thousands of toadspawn were noted in the pond - proof that the wildlife in the area is benefiting from our efforts.

Birds of note included a large flock of Redwing during the cold spell in January and a kestrel, seen hunting in the area on several occasions in the early months. The area has two singing blackcap and a willow warbler this spring



along with the more usual finches, robins, dunnocks and wrens. Insect life has been slow to emerge but the first butterflies and bees were starting to move through the area in April.

Norton Nursery Site

Friends of Graves Park will work in conjunction with SCC Parks & Countryside officials, councillors, Greenfingers and current users of the site and form a working party to examine in great depth the potential of the area.