

## Norton Nursery Rationalisation

The working party has met numerous times to begin formulating an action plan for the site.

- A survey and plan of the whole site including an assessment of the condition of the surrounding trees has been completed.
- 3 special trees from the climate change programme will be planted within the nursery site, the start of a planned programme of planting.
- Scrap machinery has been identified and removed from site.
- Much of the building material has been removed.
- The brick built potting shed store is to be demolished.

- A compensation flower store is to be refurbished.
- Quotations are being sought for moving the poly-tunnels, installing new fencing across the site and part of a paddock to enable construction of the linking footpath from Chantreyland Meadow to the animal farm.
- The nursery continues to function as a holding area for new trees and for summer and spring bedding plants.
- A start to a composting procedure is in progress using part of an adjacent animal paddock.
- SCC Parks and Countryside have undertaken some horticultural training for the Green Fingers staff to improve production for their sales outlet.



# Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Winter 2010

## Chairman's Introduction

Season's Greetings FOGP members! It is a real pleasure for me to bring you generally good news of further progress in our challenge to improve Graves Park's facilities.

The plans to restore the Norton Nurseries back into parkland are well underway and we should see real differences by the spring. Hedges are being planted to mark boundaries and new trees will be planted ready for next year. This includes planting the Ginkgo Biloba to the rear of Chantrey Cottage, to replace the one cut down by the current owner. We'll let you know when we have our tree planting ceremony!

The play area in front of the Rose Garden Café is getting a revamp over the winter. The results should be very impressive; the Council officers have listened to people's comments about access, seating and shade and have put these ideas into their plans, we think very successfully.

It looks like Cobnar Road playground is finally going to be finished too! Once the landscaping is properly done, hopefully this very popular playground will be restored to its former glory.

The Friends of Graves Park Committee members are continuing to work towards improving the park and protecting it for the benefit of the people of Sheffield. This is a time consuming job and many of us have full time jobs in addition to our roles on the committee; we therefore look for any ways to streamline what we do to concentrate on the important jobs at hand. With that in mind, we have decided that membership of the Friends

of Graves Park is confirmed by receipt of this newsletter by post. Once again I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support and interest.

## Chantrey Cottage

The stone wall defining the boundary of the cottage and the historical brick wall of the garden have been constructed satisfactorily. With some help from the Green Fingers a border has been prepared on the nursery side ready to receive the Ginkgo Biloba tree and flowering shrubs; these will be planted in January 2011.

The border has also been planted with daffodils.

Green Fingers Group have tidied up their working space and now after years of neglect the whole area looks more "ship shape and Bristol fashion".

## Cobnar Road Children's Play Area

The long awaited landscaping of the play area is taking place. New flowering trees, some from the climate programme, including additional planting on the Cobnar Road embankment will take place. More colourful subjects such as the red leaved liquidambar will be included to achieve some lift to the area.

More colourful shrubs, herbaceous plants combined with new seating and floor markings for games of hop scotch and snakes and ladders are part of the package.

Some careful thought has gone into the design by SCC Regeneration Officers and most of the works will be achieved by Graves Park staff.

## Cross Country Races

A very successful year of events has taken place with lots of effort and enthusiasm by all involved including stewards. The Northern Athletes Cross Country Relay Championships incorporating Cutlers Relay, South Yorkshire Relay and the Yorkshire Veterans AA Relay. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield Councillor Allan Law JP attended and started off the final competition, which all added considerably to the quality of the event.

Over 1000 runners took part and the competition was to a very high standard. Friends of Graves Park monitored the event to assess the degree of disruption the event caused to regular park users where racers cross footpaths. Marshals did an excellent job with a combination of diplomacy and co-operation from the public disruption was kept to a minimum. It worked well, so thanks to all involved. Sheffield Open Cross Country Relay will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011 (5 courses).



Sheep being well looked after, December 2010

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# Rose Garden Playground

During 2011 the Council's Parks and Countryside department will upgrade the existing playground.

Committee members from the Friends of Graves Park met with Councilors and representatives from the Council's Parks and Countryside department at the playground to discuss the proposals and contribute to the design. Many issues were covered including assessing how the new design would work in practice and improve areas of the playground which currently did not provide good function.

New equipment for special needs children will be installed, existing equipment will be refurbished, the sand pit will be moved and replaced with an improved type and new seating both inside and outside the play area will be installed. The access to the café will be improved and new trees will be planted to create shade.

The play area will be enlarged and be more contoured with new fencing. Considerable work has gone into the design of the new concept of play aided by generous funding from Sheffield City Council Aiming High for disabled children.



Proposed new layout of Rose Garden playground

# Set Aside Grassland Review

This is the initiative by SCC Parks and Countryside in conjunction with Friends of Graves Park, to improve the quality of 7 areas within the park which have been set aside to naturalise many years ago.

Proposals to upgrade the herbage, remove some self set trees, cut down overgrown grass and over sow with wildflower and grass species to create a more colourful and bio diverse effect are shortly to be implemented.

Involvement by rangers with local school children is planned, to sow seeds and undertake harvesting procedures.

Whilst FOGP are in full agreement with the wildflower proposals, Parks & Countryside wish to fence off 2 large areas, to summer graze highland cattle at Charles Ashmore and Bole Hill Farm. Friends of Graves Park HAVE SAID NO! to any thoughts of fencing of areas of the park. Note that J G Graves wish and will states: "The park if there for all users to roam and not to be restricted".

Should you have a view, please contact FOGP. We may need your support in this matter. E-mails or letters please not telephone calls.

Highland Cattle Area, December 2010

Rose Garden Cafe, December 2010



# Climate Change Tree Planting Programme

A successful application has been achieved for funding from the South Community Assembly, part of the Climate Change Programme.

Thirty one heavy standard trees will be planted at various locations within Graves Park.

A careful selection of a more diverse mix of trees has been undertaken by Sheffield City Council's Arboricultural Team. All the trees are now in stock in the nursery and planting has already been started. Planting will continue, weather permitting, throughout the winter months and should be completed by the spring.

