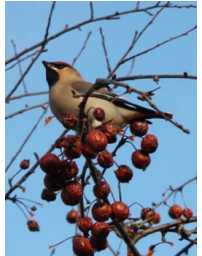


Chantrey Cottage

The replacement Gingko Biloba tree was planted with due ceremony by FOGP accompanied by Councillor Ian Auckland, amongst a host of golden daffodils set in the border alongside the stone boundary wall with the cottage. The gingko is now in full leaf.



Planting of the Gingko Biloba at the end of March 2011



Friends of Graves Park *Newsletter*

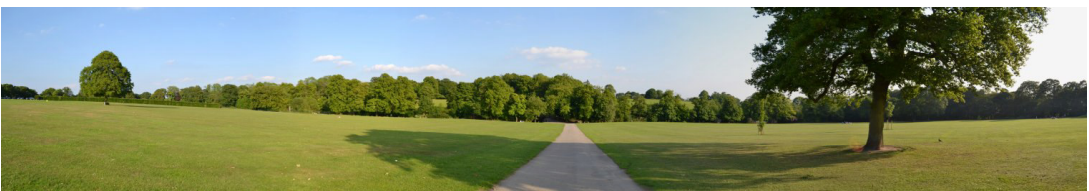
Summer 2011

AGM Graves Park Café

The Friends of Graves Park Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 29th June 2011 at 7p.m. for a 7:15p.m. start. Members attending may have a free cup of tea or coffee. The Rose Garden Café proprietors are providing the facility free of charge again; FOGP thank Craig the manager for his support.

Cobnar Road Children's Play Area

Landscaping sections of the area has started, with flowering trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants planted. Seating under the trees will be installed and the pathway finished. Climate Tree planting, now in full leaf, has taken place in the surrounding grass embankments.



A random panoramic view of the park, June 2011

Rose Garden Children's Playground

Sheffield Parent and Carer Forum, Sheffield Town Trust, J G Graves Trust and FOGP together produced a scheme to redevelop the existing Children's

Playground. The area is open and contains an enlarged sandpit, wheelchair accessible roundabout and raised areas, refurbished equipment, new pathway link to the café, seating and an exciting zip-wire which has proved very popular with older children, youth and parents!

Composting (recycling programme)

The initiative from SCC Parks & Countryside (Peter Fletcher) in conjunction with FOGP to compost animal manure, bark mulch and autumn leaves from the city streets is in progress. Part of one animal paddock is set-aside for this with Highland cattle being used a composting instruments and over-wintering upon a deep bed of straw and mulch – to their contentment and benefit.

The beginnings of the compost has been turned into windrows to aid bacterial decomposition, these windrows will be turned again and depending on quality, will be recycled for use. Hopefully [Green Fingers] will take part by bagging up the compost. Further finance is required to contain the finished product and progress the scheme.

Derbyshire Lane Entrance

The re-landscaped approach into the park, of new turf, herbaceous plants and shrubs, is maturing. Maintenance is of a high standard, the whole approach to the park is enhanced. Well done to SCC Parks and Countryside staff!

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Newly planted shrub beds, trees and turfed areas have suffered from the dry conditions; some will have to be replaced. The damaged turf across the deer park, (result of the access track-way to the playground) will be reinstated during the early autumn.

Chantreyland Meadow

Chantreyland Meadow is expanding! A working party is developing and implementing plans for the Norton Nurseries Rationalisation Project and major advances are being made. Just before the deepest snow and coldest December on record, the FOGP began work on a new area of parkland between the existing meadow boundary and the Norton Nursery complex. Three trees; a Cornelian Cherry, a Himalayan Cherry and a Copper Beech were planted behind the boundary fence, marking the beginning of plans to increase the area of parkland accessible to the public.

By mid-January, the three disused poly-tunnels were dismantled. A



The Chantreyland Meadow before landscaping

JCB was hired to landscape the new area, removing the pile of bark chippings, clearing undergrowth, covering the old manure heap with top soil, taking out an unstable brick wall and replacing it with sections of tree trunk. The area was covered, graded with top soil and a path through the new area was created using old road chippings. This path goes from the south east corner, across the new area and north through the cow paddocks, joining the path linking to Norton Church. A new green fence



The Chantreyland Meadow landscaping in progress

forms the new boundary with Norton Nurseries; with gated vehicle access to the barn, now in its own compound. A new matching animal fence, alongside the path through the paddocks, was



The Chantreyland Meadow landscaping and tree planting completed

completed by the end of March, including gates for farm animals.

As April 2011 was the warmest and one of the driest since records began in 1659, sadly, the pond dried up, however, a record 650 cowslip put on a superb display in the meadow. Throughout April FOGP continued the makeover; clearing rubbish and planting clusters of trees. This is the start of our arboretum, returning this area closer to the Norton Hall woodland that occupied

it before the nursery development. Trees include Paperbark Maple, Rowan and Crab Apple, Cleveland Select Pear and Young's weeping birch, lime, Spanish chestnut and chestnut trees. Groups planted in the paddocks are protected with cow barriers. Trees were kept watered during the dry spell. By early May, the trees were in leaf and growing well and plans for the next stage of planting were afoot.

The next stages in the transformation are to plant berry producing shrubs like holly and pyracantha along the new east boundary fence. The trees will be under-planted with other wildlife friendly shrubs such as broom, mahonia, dogwood and buddleia. After allowing it to go to fallow, the area will ultimately be sown with wildflower seeds with traditional meadow, annual and bee/butterfly mixes. Eventually the black fences that currently stop access will be removed when the plants are established. This will firmly place and protect the area for the use and enjoyment of the people of Sheffield as originally intended by J.G. Graves.

Highland Fling

The highland cattle show reached higher standards the much groomed and attractive animals especially the calves, all very contented and calm, kept people's attention for long periods. Demonstrations of sheep shearing, of owls and falcons and angling training for children, proved very popular. The new Rose Garden playground was swamped with users and the zip wire equipment proved very popular. The fun fair, market stalls, steam railway and Shire horse cart ride continued to be popular. The Rose Garden Café was totally congested with patrons. Some for the event was provided by FOGP and also St. Luke's Hospice.

Climate Change Tree Planting Programme

The "Parks and Countryside" arboriculturalist, SCC South Area Assembly and FOGP, together have achieved finance for two tree planting



Tree planting in the Chantreyland Meadow

schemes totalling £7,560: including general park-wide planting of 23 heavy standard and 8 feathered trees and Graves Park Nature Reserve Extension (Arboretum) of 46 feathered trees and 20 ecological hedging subjects.

Bee Keeping Initiative

SCC Parks and Countryside and FOGP have been approached and in conjunction with Peter Fletcher Farm Manager, a small parcel of land has been allocated for Sheffield Beekeepers' Association to set up new hives and provide training. This should enable the bees to take advantage of the developing wild flower areas in Chantreyland Meadow.

