



Finding Lost Norton Park

Since the conclusion of our project in October 2019, Professor Ian Rotherham has published his report earlier this year and is applying to get the park listed as a Heritage park and of being of significant interest and importance to the country, for which we are currently awaiting the results. This application started just before lock-down, so we might have to wait some time. We hope that the results of our project will help to give further protection to Graves Park in the future.

Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper

The Friends were well on the way to preparing a submission for a grant of £85,000, to fund our in depth project looking into the history, archaeology and ecology of Graves Park and had already received a favourable response to our project enquiry from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, when the Covid-19 pandemic took off. Sadly, the NLHF have said that at the moment we are unable to submit our bid, as the funds are being redirected to support charities directly affected by the pandemic. The NLHF have, however, encouraged us to continue preparing our bid for when the situation changes. Ever hopeful, we are going to

continue with our planning, with a view to submitting our bid whenever the NLHF restore their submission criteria. This might be some time away, so this gives us a window of time to raise as much funding as we can to support this and other projects in Graves Park.



Outcrop in the Woods

Funding Future Projects

We are always in need of funds, in particular for our next "Digging Deeper" project and for the Arboretum part 2. Please donate whatever you can, whenever you can, to help us continue.

FRIENDS OF GRAVES PARK
c/o
139 Mount View Road
Sheffield
S8 8PJ
Tel: 0114 2550615
www.gravespark.org
<https://friendsofgravespark.org/>
friends@gravespark.org
©Friends of Graves Park 2020



Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Charity no: 1080407

Summer 2020

Introduction from the Chairman

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As always we have been working hard to protect the park. Usually, I would be welcoming you to a meeting in the Rose Garden Café. The effects of Covid-19 have unfortunately meant that this is not



View from "Old Park" to Derbyshire

possible this year, so we will have to wait for a double celebration next year instead. Whether that will count as the 20th anniversary meeting for our charity, I will have to check. I have been in touch with the Charity Commission regarding the postponement of our AGM and they have explained that they will not be taking

regulatory action. In the meantime, we will, as requested by the Charity Commission, review our decision when we as trustees believe it is safe to do so. If the situation changes and we can hold a safe AGM before next summer, we will let you know, otherwise we will plan to hold our AGM next summer.

The recent Covid-19 lockdown has also meant that we have not been able to raise funds in the usual way. Thankfully, JustGiving asked us to take part in the 2.6 Challenge fundraising activity, which raised over £300 for our charity. Thank you to everyone who donated. Any further donations and membership subs will be gratefully received.

Heritage Website

The Friends have recently launched an additional website, which will focus on the heritage of Graves Park and which will eventually have all the information and research from our "Finding Lost Norton Park" project, as well as the results of ongoing surveys and studies. The site will also display some of our other items, until the main website can be updated.

Arboretum 2019-2020

Trees: The collection of mountain ash has developed and increased in size due mainly to the very wet autumn and winter period. The previous summer growth produced good quality flowering wood for the 2020 spring, meaning masses of blossom.

These conditions stimulated the crab apples, hawthorn and whitebeam giving all an abundance of flowers turning into fruit for the autumn.

Shrubs: a similar response occurred here especially the pyracanthas and cotoneasters. The azaleas performed in a similar pattern but the feast of flowers was devastated by a late frost, which also damaged the Inula hookeri herbaceous plants, however the phlomis fruticosa (Jerusalem Sage) survived the effects and has produced masses of flower heads.

Water Holding Bed: This has proved successful with the hellebores, astilbes and Japanese anemones, however the



Jerusalem Sage in the Arboretum

pieris forrestii were all dug out by animals searching for worms; a larger subject is to be planted this autumn.



Blossom in the Arboretum

Dogwood Beds: Proved very successful with good quality colourful leaves and stems. Part of the new bed was planted with bergenias which proved very colourful in early spring.

Plants Gifted: A walnut tree, a rowan and a memorial gift of six azalea mollis will be added this year.

The whole arboretum is growing and expanding its canopy and we are in need of more area now!

A New Project: This began last year as a result of losing a tree from the southern embankment above the serpentine stream, due to high winds, which exposed a mass of debris within the whole site.

Just as it was decided to begin to clear the area, Covid-19 spread its influence and FOGP could no longer work as a team, so, Gavin and James Baxter made a decision to start to clear the accumulation of

rubbish and overgrown tree branches and develop the area as a feature; the work goes on!

Much work has been done whilst lockdown has controlled what we are able to do together as a group, by coming out during evenings as individuals complete with pruning tackle and thus keeping topside of unwanted herbage growths, in both the arboretum and the meadow. Much credit is due to the Baxter family for undertaking this endeavour.

Chantreyland Meadow

A clearance was made of overgrowths from the bird thicket surrounds. The Parks Department flail mowed the site at the end of January which enabled the FOGP to remove unwanted willow self-sets from the area. Cowslips emerged as if by magic from a wet boggy grassland site and festooned the area in a display of yellow flowers.

This continues with blue geraniums, meadowsweet and black knapweed (recovering from a devastation of beetle larvae).

The gorse, berberis Darwinii and cotoneasters produced a wealth of flowers; five additional berberis Darwinii were planted and we attempt to control the mare's tail!

Frog Ponds: These filled to overflowing and flooded during the wet period, frogs laid their eggs and the ponds dried out.

FOGP will need to seal the bases if the frog scheme is to be successful.

The outlet land drains and manhole chambers are blocked with root and silt but this is a major undertaking and may be beyond the capacity of FOGP!

Generally the both areas have proved successful and many more people are finding their way round to see and admire.

Certificate for Voluntary Work

The second of our volunteers, James Baxter, has been awarded a certificate, in recognition of over 2,880 hours of voluntary work in Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum. This included a piece of work undertaken as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award and represented work done at Level 3.



Chantreyland Meadow April 2020