

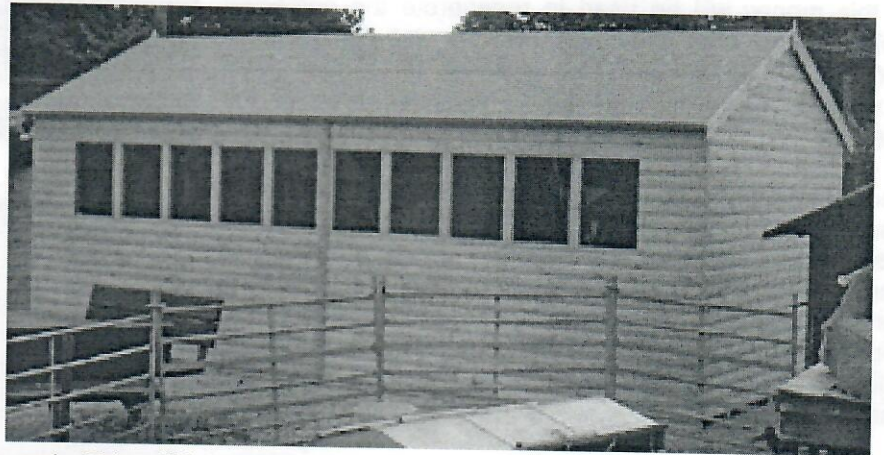
Friends of Graves Park Newsletter September 2003

CHANTRY COTTAGE

At the end of July we received some welcome news. The City Council informed us that they were no longer attempting to persuade the Charity Commission to grant a scheme for the sale of land at Chantry Cottage. This is not an act of generosity by the council, merely a realisation that their attempts have reached the end of the road. We just wonder how much money has been spent in the attempt to sell off charitable status land, and why. However, this is not the end of the matter. People attending our AGM over the last few years will remember councillors promising imminent legal action to reclaim the unlawfully occupied areas. The time for that action is long overdue and FOGP will be campaigning for its implementation.

NEW VISITOR CENTRE

By now (2nd September 2003) visitors to the animal farm will have noticed a new building 20ft by 10ft having been erected. No, it is not for a new herd of elephants or other large animals but is to be made into a visitor centre. This has been purchased by funds from the FOGP raffles. This particular project is one that was specifically requested by the farm manager Peter Fletcher. It will enable them to provide a map of the park and identify what is in each area with some detail of the particular beast or bird. It will also enable a better display of leaflets of the various



activities that take place in and around the park. This will be particularly useful for school groups visiting the farm and of course will be under cover. We will also be able to have our Friends membership information and newsletters on display and help to gain more support. Thanks to ALL members for your support, which has enabled this to happen.

FUNDING AND MEMBERSHIP

FOGP have received a generous cash donation from an anonymous source, who appreciates the efforts being made to protect the park. We would like to thank the donor. The money will be put to very good use. Also the recent shows and an Article in Active8 magazine have led to a large increase in membership.

GENERAL NEWS

As often happens at this time of year, we have been receiving complaints about anti social activities taking place in the park. These range from driving golf balls in areas open to the general public to riding motor cycles. In one instance 2 youths were arrested and their motor cycle impounded. The police inform us that they will prosecute and have powers to put confiscated motorbikes through a crusher.

Quite a bit of work has been carried out in the park in recent weeks. In the new section of parkland in Norton Nurseries, a wooden seat has been built alongside the water feature. Some work has also been carried out on the pond itself. Hopefully it will be excavated sufficiently to prevent it drying out to the detriment of the tadpoles that appear each spring. Work has also been done to clear the drainage ditch that runs parallel to the Serpentine walk. The Parks Department has also installed 2 removable bollards at the entrance to Charles Ashmore Road to prevent cars gaining entry during the night. These bollards will be removed at 7.45 each morning.



We have been reminded by Miss Florence Holland, of Florence Nightingale's connection with Graves Park. She was related to the Shore family who were long standing residents at Norton Hall and visited along with her parents and sister before she set off for the battlefields of the Crimea.

A large fountain has been operating in the lakes throughout the summer. The idea is to aerate the water reducing the smells that have risen in recent years. The results appear encouraging. Hopefully a permanent solution will be found to the lack of water running into the lakes.

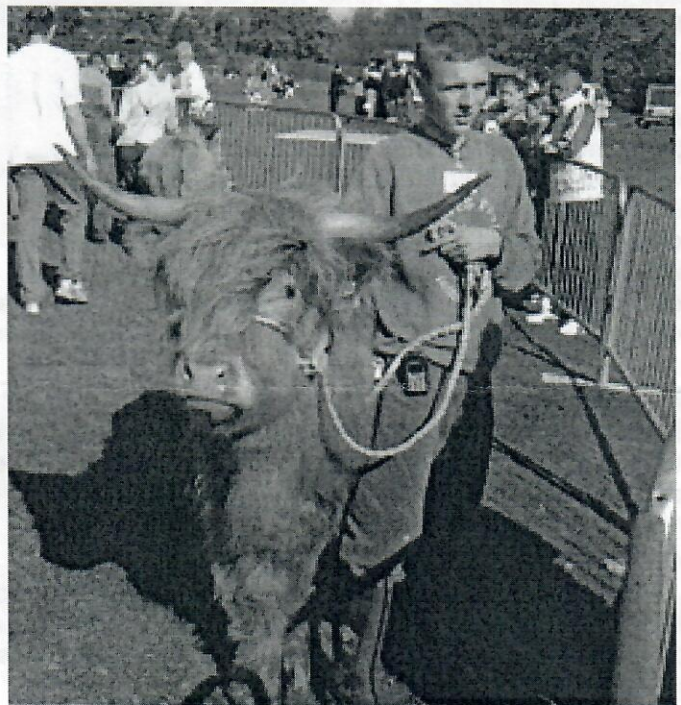
New housing developments in the Woodseats area should generate around £90,000 in section 106 funds for providing recreation facilities for the area. Hopefully much of this money will be used to regenerate the neglected Cobnar Road area of Graves Park as was discussed at our last AGM. We are also applying for further grant money to regenerate this badly neglected area of the park.

The summer saw several events taking place in Graves Park. The Highland Fling and Transport Extravaganza were well received, but the Balloon Festival and Sheffield Show brought many complaints from local residents. The complaints mainly concerned traffic problems and the commercial nature of the events: particularly the noise from the £30 helicopter rides operating from within the park.

Both the latter events had late night fairgrounds causing loud noise close to the animal enclosures. Rubbish and fast food was thrown into the pens to the detriment of the animals.

These complaints have been forwarded to the council, and we have asked if such purely commercial operations should be allowed in the park, particularly when they cause such inconvenience to local residents.

Rose Café is closing soon for refurbishment but will be re-opening next year. Hopefully the café and in particular the toilets will be greatly improved as a reflection of the increasing number of people visiting the park.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friends of Graves Park AGM will be held on Monday, 20 October 2003 in the Youth Hall, Norton Lane. The start time will be 8.00pm as the hall is in use prior to our meeting.

Please bring your renewal notice and fee to the meeting.

Several vacancies are available to be filled on the committee. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Kay at: -

Friends of Graves Park
25 Matthews Lane
Sheffield S8 8JS

tel. 0114 2747028
e-mail friends@gravespark.org
www.gravespark.org