

Restoration of the Rose Garden Cafe



The Pavilion 1940s

The Friends have been told by the park's manager that SCC are doing an estimate for the refurbishment of the Rose Garden Café's exterior, with a view to improving the windows, making the building more secure and possibly restoring the clock and tower. The Friends are keen to support this renovation and are hoping to raise funds to support this. Once we have firm estimates, we can also apply for funding from various places. If you would like to support this restoration, please send us your donations, clearly marked "Rose Garden Café Exterior Refurbishment".

Join us! Become a member of Friends of Graves Park and help us to protect and improve J. G. Graves's generous gift. By

becoming a member, you help us to have a louder voice, especially when we are trying to get things done or applying for funding. In addition, if you want to be a volunteer, we have various roles, for example, helping in Chantreyland Meadow, or joining the committee, where we have several vacancies! For more details, see our heritage website.

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Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Charity no: 1080407

Summer 2022

Introduction from the Chairman

Welcome to the Friends of Graves Park's summer newsletter. As the pandemic situation improves, we try to return to the new normal. I am therefore pleased to invite all paid up members to our AGM for this year, which will be held at the Rose Garden Café in Graves Park on Wednesday 20th July at 6-8 p.m.

The Arboretum Extension

Members of the Friends of Graves Park were able to meet with Councillor Terry Fox in March, when we gave Councillor Fox a tour of Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum, as well as looking at the proposed site of the next section of restoration. We explained to him that this is designated charitable parkland, that it should not be being used as a depot for any parks or open spaces in Sheffield other than Graves



Common Yellow-faced Bee

Park and that the Friends are prepared to raise the money for all the work. Councillor Fox was very receptive to our ideas for the site and listened positively to our concerns and aspirations.

As the meeting went very well, we are hopeful that we are a step closer to getting permission to start work. In the meantime, please keep encouraging people to sign our petition and spread the word. The more Sheffield people we get to sign our petition, the greater our chances of achieving the restoration of this site back to parkland!

Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All

The Friends have submitted a project enquiry for our proposed next project, which has been positively received. We met one of the NLHF team online in April, to glean some extra guidance and find out how to ensure that our application is more likely to succeed.

As you might remember, we intend to include Geo-Phys surveys of Graves Park, explore the fauna and fungi of the ancient woodland and further explore the archaeology of what used to be Norton Park. We are very keen to run this project and if we are successful, will be running a range of walks, talks and activities for local people. We also intend to include local schools, of which several have already expressed an interest and are enthusiastic to be involved. The



Feb 22: Return of the Coach House Pond



Common Spotted Orchids

Friends will be contributing some funding to this project; if you would like to help us with this, please visit our website for details, or send any donations to our treasurer.

We hope to get our application approved in time for us to start the project in September this year, so let's hope we are successful!

Himalayan Balsam

The Friends want to remove the Himalayan Balsam from Waterfall Wood and the Cold Stream down to Woodseats Playground. Professor Ian Rotherham advised the Friends and SCC of the best way to get rid of this invasive species, brought to England in Victorian times as a decorative plant, but now classified as a pest.



Himalayan Balsam in the Park

Unfortunately, the Himalayan Balsam in Graves Park is adversely affecting areas which are highly sensitive and which have rare ancient woodland indicator plants.

Working with a local school and volunteers, the Friends will make a start to clear this year's growth, before the plants can set seed. The **Friends of Woodseats Playground in Graves Park** are helping by clearing the large patch at the bottom of the stream, near the playground. Last year, this area was swamped by the Balsam, stopping any native species from growing. It has very shallow roots, so deeper rooting species, are crowded out, so can't prevent the stream bank erosion.

The Friends are hopeful that this work will improve the watercourse and stream banks, as well as stopping

further seeds from being washed further downstream.

Graves Park Heritage

Norton History Group recently relaunched and Friends of Graves Park are getting involved when we can. The group is sorting and archiving their vast amounts of material, which takes a considerable amount of time.

As we have been tasked with working through the folders marked "Graves Park", we have discovered material which we have never seen before. There is, for example, a memo from Sheffield Museums to Sheffield's Director of Recreation, from 1989 about the discovery and identification of the park pale of the "Old Park", with a reference of 1585. Certainly exploring the material from NHG's coffers should be very interesting!



New Dell Area Construction