

Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Charity no: 1080407

Winter 2024-25

Introduction from the Chairman Who We Are!

The Friends of Graves Park is a small charity, **run entirely by volunteers**. We have a supporting membership of over 200, who support us in our work to protect and improve Graves Park.

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, **for only £3 a year**, you help us to have a louder voice. **Contact details are on the back.**

What We Do

Within our membership, we have a committee of trustees and groups of



Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly

volunteers, who maintain selected areas of the park (Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum), raise funds for projects and campaign to protect the park and its many assets. We have a website which displays information about the Friends and the many projects with which we are involved, as well as the park's archaeology, history and ecology. We also have several Facebook pages. We work with the sole trustee of Graves Park, Sheffield City Council, to improve and enhance the park. We attend council meetings, Joined Up Heritage Sheffield meetings and run a stall at local events. All these things are run and supported entirely by volunteers.

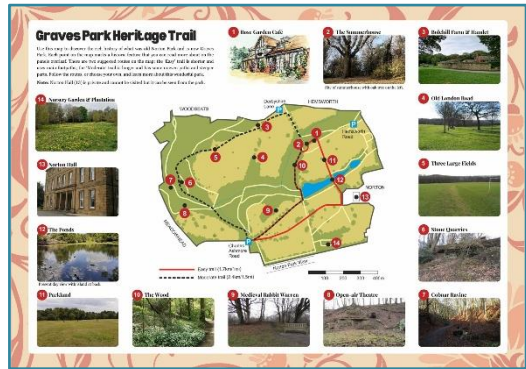


Surveying the Packhorse Bridge

Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All

The results of our recent project, made possible by a grant of £142,770 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, continue to help visitors to Graves Park truly appreciate its heritage and ecology. The FOGP and South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group will keep sharing the information collected via websites and events.

The pocket maps, covering the Heritage, Trees and Wildlife themes within the park, are still available to collect in the Rose Garden Café and the Animal Farm, as well as being available online on our websites. The replacement noticeboards for the park are complete and as of writing this, we



Heritage Pocket Map

are waiting for these to be installed by SCC. These include project information and are a guide to new visitors to the park.

For more information and to explore the results of our project, go here:

<https://friendsofgravespark.org/home-page/digging-deeper-for-all/>

https://www.ukeconet.org/lostonortonpark_2.html

Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum

Autumn Operations

The whole of 2023 and 2024 has been much affected by very wet and windy conditions. All annual growth has been considerable over the whole site and whilst the cowslips produced their usual display, it was reduced in effect due to excessive growth of surrounding foliage of grass and meadowsweet etc. That has been the story; every tree, shrub and perennial has produced masses of annual growth. The group has had great difficulty controlling the growths of unwanted



A Gift from J.G. Graves
Graves Park was gifted to the City of Sheffield by J.G. Graves between 1815 and 1818 and today the ponds have a significant role in the original plan for the park. The ponds are home to many different species of birds and are a popular place for children to visit.

Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All

Graves Park Ponds and Wildlife

Medieval Origins
The three ponds originated as medieval fishponds but have had many uses since then. Users have included a water source for horses, deer and other animals grazing the park, a boating lake, an ice-skating rink, keeping ornamental wildfowl and fishing. The areas around the ponds were landscaped with ornamental plants including medeolaceras and giant hogweed.

The Ponds

 Grey Heron	 Male and Female Mallard	 Coot and Chick	 Moorhen and Chick
 Black-headed Gull Breeding/Non-breeding	 Male and Female Mandarin Duck	 Male and Female Tufted Duck	 Little Grebe Family

Feeding the Birds

Help us keep this area clean and healthy.

PLEASE DO

- ✓ Feed ponds, seeds and duck food.
- ✓ Throw feed directly into the water.

PLEASE DON'T

- ✗ Feed white bread.
- ✗ Feed in spring when chicks are around.
- ✗ Throw food on the banks.



Please **put all litter in the bins** provided.

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Ponds Noticeboard

plants such as bindweed, but by some considerable persistence managed to get things under control. Given the difficulties, all trees, shrubs and perennials have given a good account of themselves and produced masses of flowers and fruit. We have cleared and extended four beds and planted new perennials such as pulmonaria, alstroemeria, echinacea, inula racemosa, betony, helianthus salvia and eupatorium in the Dell. All beds have been dug, manured and finished off with bark mulch. There is still much to do to bring things under control.

The Meadow has now been cleared ready for SCC to bring in their heavy mowers or flails, to cut all the growth down to ground level, to prepare for the 2025 year. What is required now is a dry or frosty period, to enable successful mowing to be achieved. The ground conditions are saturated currently.



Daffodils in Chantreyland Meadow

Increasing numbers of park users walk around the site and are very complimentary to the FOGP volunteers for the works they undertake; the area has quite a calming effect on people.

Chantreyland Meadow/Arboretum Notice

Charity Commission Correspondence Update

The Friends continue to inform the Charity Commission of the actions of SCC as trustee, to try and protect the park from further sale or disposal. We ask questions at the council’s Charity Subcommittee meetings and continue to ask for the next section of the Norton Nurseries site to be released for restoration. We will fund the entire restoration. This section is virtually unused by the unlicensed parks depot which is currently being run from the site. The council has said it needs more time to find an alternative site and is applying for a 12 month temporary licence to run the depot. Until this is resolved, the council will continue to be in breach of trust.

