

Rose Garden Café Renovation Update (continued)

Café bookshelf: The group have set up a second-hand bookshelf in the Rose Garden Café. People are donating books, which can be purchased from the bookshelf, £1 for a hard-back and 50p for a paperback. This is really helping our fundraising activities. If you have any spare books you want to donate, please get in touch. The first total from the book sales was £120.19 (presumably the 19p was an extra donation!).

Planned fundraising activities and events:

David's walks: David, our deputy chair, will be leading a series of sponsored walks, starting from and finishing at the Rose Garden Cafe in Graves Park. There are 3 different walks, with a choice of participation on a Saturday or Sunday in each case. These will be sponsored walks and participants are asked either to collect sponsors or ask sponsors to donate via this Just Giving page. Alternatively, walkers can pay a minimum donation of £10. For more details on how to register and take part, please visit the Rose Garden Café page on our website.

Food Fair 2026: The group are taking part in the Food Fair during the August Bank Holiday this year, where you can find out the latest information about the restoration project, as well as supporting us with donations or purchases. The team will be there from Saturday to Monday.

Quiz night in September: The Group are also organising another quiz night, for Friday 25th September, building on the



David: Planning 2026 Walks

success of the previous quiz night last year, which raised over £1,000. We are hopeful for a similar success this year. For more details and information of how to book, please visit our websites or social media. Posters and flyers will be available later in the year, once booking goes live.

For regular updates on progress, visit the SCC website:

[Rose Garden Café Restoration & Refurbishment](#) | [Have Your Say Sheffield](#)

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 us using the details below.

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Charity no: 1080407

Graves Park 1926 2026 Centenary Special

Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to the Friends of Graves Park's summer newsletter. I am pleased to invite all **members** to our AGM for this year, which will be held at the Rose Garden Café on **Wednesday 22nd July, 6.30-8.30 p.m.**

As usual, we have been very busy. Read on for updates on the Rose Garden Café Restoration, the Campaign to restore Norton Nurseries back to parkland and our celebrations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Graves Park. As part of the celebrations, the Friends have produced a centenary commemorative leaflet. Make sure you pick up your own personal copy!



Display J G Graves Pocket Watch

Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Summer 2026



The Centenary Volunteer Team

Graves Park Centenary

2026 is the centenary of the opening to the public of Graves Park. We celebrated by working with the local history and reminiscences group, South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group and Sheffield City Council, to organise some events during the weekend of 30th/31st May 2026, with walks and talks, along with some summer activities. Despite some concerns about the weather forecast, the weekend proved to be dry and sunny for our events on both days.

On Saturday 30th May, local people and visitors to Graves Park were treated to a



Lord and Lady Mayoress

range of activities and entertainment, to celebrate 100 years of Graves Park. The new Lord Mayor, Andrew Sangar, and Lady Mayoress attended. Family groups enjoyed a picnic in the very pleasant sunshine. The choirs: "The Sheffield Cancer Choir", "Nether Edge Voices" and "The Night Chorus", as well as the Charleston-a-Go-Go dancers, provided a good show. Local children contributed to the centenary collage, while intrepid boat-makers constructed some very pretty boats. Those made by the children were impressive; the new Lord Mayor tried his best, but couldn't match the creative skills of the children! Professor Ian Rotherham led a well-attended walk within the

boundaries of the original 1925 gift, with some very interesting guidance to the park's ecology.

On Sunday 31st May the centenary walk, led by FOGP's David Hartlebury, followed a history walk, again within the original boundaries. This was inspired by J G Graves's observation that he could take a 5 mile walk around Graves Park, using the paths laid out by Sheffield Corporation, without having to use the same path twice. The walk was again well attended and participants said how much they enjoyed it and how much they had learnt.



Ken's Centenary J G Graves talk

On the centenary anniversary date, 3rd June 2026, an evening presentation took place in the Rose Garden Café, with a presentation by the Graves Youth theatre, a video presentation about Graves Park and a talk about J G Graves from Norton History Group's Chair, Ken Beaumont. Once again, a good time was had by all.

Norton Nurseries Restoration Update

The Friends of Graves Park have continued to write to the Charity Commission about the trusteeship of Graves Park and the continued abuse of the Norton Nurseries area as an



Centenary Information Boards

unauthorised depot and rubbish tip by SCC. We were promised that the next section of the Arboretum would be released for restoration and that a public consultation would take place in the early part of 2026, yet it is now June and despite regular requests and reminders from FOGP, nothing has happened yet. In the meantime, SCC has been commissioning independent legal advice to try and justify continuing to abuse the site, with no sign of the site being released for restoration. **We are attending every Council** Charity Trustee Committee meeting to keep this issue before the councillors and will continue to push for this restoration, until the Friends are permitted to start work. FOGP will continue to tell the Charity Commission what is going on. We are determined to restore this section back to parkland and will not rest until it is done.

Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum

The Friends continue to maintain and improve the Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum site and are now becoming desperate to make a start on the next section. Let's hope that the council finally accepts its responsibility as trustee and supports this restoration.

Rose Garden Café Restoration Update Fundraising Achievements

Donations and Just Giving - Just Giving online and offline donations = £31,464.52+ £2,869.54 gift aid = £34,334.06. The goal is £37,500; we are nearly there!

Planning permission for Phase I of the restoration scheme was submitted in May. Discussions are ongoing for the restoration project to be part of the council's agreed strategy for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In the meantime, the Partnership will continue to apply to other external funders for grants.

Fundraising activities

The Save the Rose Garden Café Campaign Group have been very busy organising a range of different fundraising events:

Dora and the Explorers: A massive total of £1480.61 was raised at the "Dora and the Explorers" evening (an evening of jazz music and a pie and pea supper) on 13th March 2026 – thanks everyone who helped, joined in and donated!

Easter Fair: This year's Easter Fair, on 28th March, was another resounding success, again thanks to all for their support.



Chantreyland Meadow Arboretum



Ian's Centenary Walk