

Rose Garden Café Renovation Project: Partnership Update (continued)

2. Fundraising Achievements

- Donations and Just Giving - Just Giving online and offline donations = £26,659 + £2,586 gift aid = £29,245. This includes coffee RGC donations, walks, talks, events such as a pie and pea supper and quiz, as well as individual donations. The goal is £37,500 which will unlock funding for the first restoration phase.
- Grants - The combined total so far is £23,000 - Grants generously awarded so far from: The Hugh Neill Charity, The Freshgate Trust Foundation, The J G Graves Charitable Trust, The Sheffield Town Trust.
- SCC Contributions - Essential Compliance and Maintenance fund. £150,000. Donations from local area committees: £25,000.
- Other Community Support – “Gifts in kind” for outside terracing, work/materials up to £30,000. Expenditure to date - Partnership has spent or committed £106,996.79; some of this is included in the £738,760 Phase 1a spend (front wall restoration etc).

3. Public Engagement & Community Support

- A public meeting was held on 10th February, aimed at sharing plans and gathering feedback.
- Easter craft stalls and other community-led initiatives helped maintain momentum and visibility for the project.
- A public meeting is planned for early 2026.

4. Funding Applications & Strategic Partnerships

- In September, discussions with the National Lottery Heritage Fund began, focusing on a pipeline of funding applications for SCC projects, including Rose Garden Café.
- By November, the Partnership secured its first two grant pots, a major milestone proving that the project is worthy of grant support.

5. Governance & Reporting

- Regular updates were provided to the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee, with progress papers scheduled for March and ongoing collaboration across task groups.



6. Key Meetings & Milestones

- Partnership meetings were held throughout the year (January, April, June, September, November), each focusing on design reviews, funding strategies, and community engagement.
- Task and finish groups continued to meet during the year to deliver work on fundraising, grant applications and design phases.

The members would like to thank all our supporters for their efforts in 2025...here's to 2026!

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

Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to the Friends of Graves Park's winter newsletter. As we start another year, the Friends are continuing our work to protect and enhance Graves Park. We are still working with the Rose Garden Café Partnership. The autumn auction was a great success, raising £710 from the painting and embroideries. We are continuing to make applications for grant funding on behalf of the Partnership; please see the article inside for details.

Throughout 2025, the Friends have attended SCC Charity Subcommittee meetings, asking questions about the Norton Nurseries site. We have also written to the Charity Commission many times, letting them know what is or isn't happening. The Charity Commission told the Council they were in breach of trust. They were given an ultimatum to resolve



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the issue. Since then, the Friends have continued to press for the release of the next section of the nurseries site and in December, we met with council officers on site, to discuss the clearing of the few items that are still there. The Charity Subcommittee have asked for a public consultation. We hope that this can be done swiftly, so that our restoration of the next section can go ahead. As soon as the consultation starts, we will spread the word. **We need your support!**

Graves Park Centenary

2026 is the centenary of the opening to the public of Graves Park and we intend to celebrate by working with the local history and reminiscences group to organise some events during the weekend of 30th/31st May 2026, possibly with walks and talks, along with some summer activities. We hope you will be able to join us for this celebration!

Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All Project

The results of our recent project, made possible by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, continue to help visitors to Graves Park truly appreciate its heritage and ecology.

The pocket maps, covering the Heritage, Trees and Wildlife themes within the park, are still available online on our websites. The replacement noticeboards for the park are in place. 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

The SCC parks department cut down 2 dangerous forest trees located alongside the serpentine wall, adjacent to the frog pond, which has enabled FOGP to make a woodland walk through the fernery. A dry hedge has been constructed to prevent access into the frog pond. There is a considerable amount of work yet to do and lots of brambles yet to grub out. It is intended to bark mulch the path surface once it's made safe from the trip hazard of the brambles.



It should make an interesting woodland walk, as a continuation of the one recently installed.

The new noticeboard has been installed alongside the main path through the meadow. Whilst its position is higher than requested, it has proved to be clear of recent vandalism, which is once again appearing in the park and the area.

FOGP has made a start in cutting down overgrowths of brambles from the thickets, to allow the tractor flail to access and cut down the herbaceous growth in the meadow in January.

The daffodil area at the access from Norton Park View has been trimmed and the daffodil bulbs fed to encourage some better quality blooms for the spring.

Arboretum: The bank of Berberis Darwinii has put on some good growth this year despite the dry season.

A considerable amount of summer pruning has taken place to counteract the massive growth which has occurred. FOGP purchased a new mower, a stronger machine than previous.

Vandals gained access to the large greenhouse, cut off the locks to our barrow store and stole most of our pruning equipment; which we found later scattered within the large greenhouse, having been used to cut down many plants.

FOGP purchased a new deadlock and strengthened the door to the barrow store;

recent vandalism has currently centred within the glasshouse, but our store was left undamaged, this time.

A recent meeting was held between FOGP, councillors and the park manager to discuss moving tractor trailers and attachments to tractors, to enable FOGP to begin their restoration in the despoiled area. With the councillors supporting us, we are hopeful that permission will be given soon.

FOGP have written to the Charity Commission for some help on this matter.

The park manager suggested the 2 skips containing litter and dog waste could be moved from the area requested for the arboretum extension, which is a forward movement.

Given all the difficulties generally, it has been a successful year in the meadow and arboretum, with some excellent praise from the public using the area.

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Sharing with you our progress this year
Reflections on the year by Chris Hallam – Chair

"The Partnership has had an extremely busy and productive year in 2025. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with such a willing and capable group of volunteers and professionals that make up our group. "Whether this be in terms of Grant applications, expertly martialled by Caroline



Dewar, fundraising under the creative eyes of Liz Hnat and Andy Kershaw and our wider fundraising team, events in the park generously supported by Catherine McDougall and Simon Ross, the huge support of Julie Collins and her team at Dukes, the heritage walks led by David Hartlebury, the operation and maintenance of the café today led by Nathan Rodgers or the design of the restored Café itself led by Rebecca Nixon, Chris Hill and Alan Nock, we have in each group a mixture of Partnership members, professionals and other committed volunteers. It really does show what can be achieved when people work towards a common cause.

"Next year will see us look to get planning approval as we corral the funds to get started on the building work! Personally, I can't wait to see what we can achieve!"

1. Restoration & Design Progress

- The Partnership advanced through RIBA Stage 1 and Stage 2 design reviews, with detailed reports shared in January and February. These included multiple design options and cost plans for the café's restoration and refurbishment. We are now ready to seek planning consent for the Café restoration.