

# FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK

PRESIDENT: MARJORIE ZIFF MBE

CHAIRPERSON: JULIA WILSON



Friends of Roundhay Park, PO Box 129, Leeds LS8 1WY

website: [www.forp.co.uk](http://www.forp.co.uk) Email: [news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk)

Emails to the Editors: [editor@forp.co.uk](mailto:editor@forp.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2013

### OAKWOOD CLOCK – AN UPDATE

In the last newsletter, we highlighted the urgent need for action to save and restore the Oakwood Clock. Margaret Cliff is a member of the Clock Sub-group of the Oakwood Traders and Residents' Association, and has provided the following update.

The Oakwood Traders and Residents' Association (OTRA) have been raising funds for restoration of the clock. The raffle raised £3600 and other donations or commitments to donate from individuals and companies have raised the funds to over £20,000. OTRA has applied for charitable status and when this is obtained, major effort will be put into fund raising in the local community and publicising mechanisms for donating.

In February members of the OTRA Clock subcommittee met Keith Young, a representative of Cumbria Clocks, who have previously maintained the Clock for Leeds City Council, with Matt Bentley (Leeds CC, Heritage), Graham Ward (Oakwood village caretaker) and Councillor Ghulam Hussain.



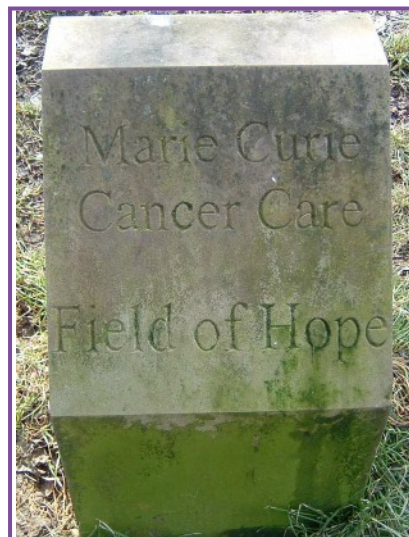
Keith Young inspected the Clock and said the biggest items needing attention were the leaking roof and the internal structural steelwork. Repairs to the clock mechanism, cast iron paint work, gold leaf and re-glazing the faces were also needed. Whilst an upper cost for repairs of £120,000 has previously been stated, other quotes are being sought and it is considered that with use of local skilled volunteers and sympathetic companies, lower costs could be found. The committee is keeping in regular touch with Leeds City Council through the Councillors and officers.

Thanks to Margaret for keeping us up to date. We all want to do everything we can to ensure the future of the Oakwood Clock.



### SPRING BRINGS NEW HOPE

The Marie Curie Field of Hope between the upper lake and Lakeside Cafe area is complete, and as this newsletter went to press many clumps of daffodils, though not yet open, were showing through in the planted areas of the field. By the time you read this, we hope you will have enjoyed the full glory of the daffodils through the spring, and we look forward to their return every spring. Our thanks go to all the many FoRP volunteers and others, including children from Kerr Mackie Primary School who helped with the planting in the Field of Hope.





## CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER MARCH 2013

I can't believe I've now been Chairperson for over 3 years and that this is the tenth newsletter I've introduced! The time has flown. Yes, there have been times when I've been frustrated because things haven't happened as quickly as I'd have liked e.g. tennis court improvements, new skatepark etc but I can honestly say I enjoy my role.

For me, some of the highlights of the last 3 years have been the official openings of our Chelsea Gardens and visits from "In Bloom" judges. Occasions like these are reminders that our Park is one of the largest and most prestigious in Europe. I'd love to think that Leeds will enter Chelsea again in the future and that I'll have another opportunity to attend a grand opening in the Park.

I'm also looking forward to our next visits from the "In Bloom" judges who come to Roundhay as part of their tour of Leeds. In April they'll pay us a brief visit but in June they will walk round with us and look at some of the areas we've been working in, especially The Friends Garden.

If your only involvement with FoRP is to receive your newsletter and email updates from us, please remember that you are vital to our success. Your membership fee allows us to do our work in the Park. But if you'd like to get more involved or have ideas you think we should be exploring, we'd love to hear from you. Simply turn up to meetings or working parties or get in touch via [news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk).

PS. Many thanks to all who bought or sold raffle tickets for the Oakwood Clock Restoration Campaign. The raffle raised over £3,500, and so far over £20,000 has been raised. OTRA are now obtaining fresh quotes for the work, looking at other fund raising activities and possible sources of funding.

Julia Wilson



The Lord Mayor, Councillor Ann Castle at the Farmers' Market 5th Birthday

## OAKWOOD FARMERS' MARKET CELEBRATES ITS 5<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

The skies might have been a bit dull on Saturday 16 March but the rain held off and there was still lots to enjoy down at the Oakwood Clock as the ever-popular Farmers' Market celebrated its 5th birthday in style.

The market was busier than ever and the regular stalls were all offering their usual wide selection of meat, fish, bread, eggs, vegetables, pies, cheese, chocolate, cakes, preserves etc – plus a first appearance for Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil from Thixendale, the Sunshine Bakery from Chapel Allerton and Paganum Yorkshire Chorizo from Kirkby Malham. We also had a visit from Clucking Hens and the chance to find out all you needed to know to set yourself up with a supply of laying hens and fresh eggs. One regular shopper commented:

"It is great to see such an array of fresh locally sourced goods and produce and not to worry about how far it has travelled. The market goes from strength to strength and for me is more than just a place to shop. I enjoy meeting friends here and there is always something new and different going on."

The day was made extra special by a visit from Lord Mayor, Councillor Ann Castle who praised the market's staying power, the great quality of the goods and produce on offer and the market's success as a focal point for the local community. Shoppers were entertained by the Bandits Steel Band and like all good birthday parties there was face painting, balloons and a competition for children – plus a spectacular birthday cake made by regular stall holder Mark Shipway, with the opportunity to win a hamper of delicious goods generously donated by the traders.

The market was set up five years ago by a group of local volunteers who thought that a farmers' market was just what the area needed. It is run as the trading arm of the Roundhay Environmental Action Project (REAP) – a charity with a number of activities aimed at promoting practical local action on carbon reduction and the environment. The birthday market included information on the confusing array of low-energy light bulbs and how to find the right ones for you.

Still run entirely by volunteers, the market has gained accreditation from the National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association (FARMA) in recognition of its links with farmers and producers which encourage communication with shoppers about food sources and the provenance of ingredients. The organising committee hopes that, with support from both existing and new customers, the market will continue to evolve and offer an addition to the area – as well as a real alternative to mass produced fare. Market dates for the rest of the year – always the third Saturday of the month – are 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November and 21 December. For information see our website:

[www.oakwoodfarmersmarket.com](http://www.oakwoodfarmersmarket.com) – or follow us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/oakwoodfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/oakwoodfarmersmarket) or on twitter @oakwoodmarket.

# ROWING ON WATERLOO LAKE

There has been intermittent rowing on Waterloo Lake for many decades. Leeds Rowing Club was founded in May 2006 by a small group of Leeds residents who had rowed in the past and regretted the absence of a rowing club in Leeds. We inherited some old boats from the Leeds Schools' Rowing Association and the City Council agreed to lease some space under the café where we built our own racks for the boats. Before this Leeds was the largest city in the country with no rowing club.

From small beginnings the club has grown rapidly and the boats are now a familiar sight in the park. Many of our members are from Roundhay and NE Leeds but we have rowers who come from as far as Halifax, Wakefield and Harrogate. We currently have about 110 members including a thriving junior section of about 25 youngsters. Rowing is a sport for all ages; we have an active 'Masters' squad and our oldest regular oarsman is 69!

The club is also successful in competition. Racing in 2012 was very disrupted by rain and flooded rivers but we still won 21 races. The year before we won 42 events including 9 races, two event course records and the Victor Ludorum trophy for the most successful visiting club at Peterborough Regatta – not bad for a club that had only been going for 5 years!

Sadly we are the victims of our own success. We have had a regular stream of enquiries about membership since starting and we run regular Learn to Row (L2R) courses; about 50% of current members learnt to row at Leeds. However we have a limited number of stable training boats and so can only teach 4 people at a time. Rowing is a technical sport and it takes at least 12 one hour lessons to acquire basic competence. We had to close our waiting list for L2R enquiries in the summer of 2011, at which stage we had nearly 150 people on the waiting list. We are still working our way through that backlog but hope to be able to re-open the waiting list before the end of this year.

Rowing was one of the most successful sports for Team GB in the 2012 Olympics - we won 9 medals including 4 Golds. Despite our web site stating clearly that the waiting list was closed we had 130 enquiries in the weeks after the Olympics, all of whom had to be turned down. We are determined to grow the club and be able to introduce more people to rowing, but to do that we need more boats and the boathouse at the lake is already full. We also want to win more races and perhaps have Leeds members rowing for team GB in the future. We have therefore started discussions with the Canals and Rivers Trust and the City Council to build

a new, bigger boat-house on the canal near Thwaites Mill. In 5 years time we hope to have more than 300 members. Despite these necessary plans we do not want to leave Waterloo Lake. We intend to maintain two bases and hope that rowing on the lake is now a permanent fixture. We know from the many comments we get from walkers on the path around the lake that the rowing is seen as an asset to the park – we want to keep it that way for many years yet!

Leeds RC know that there have been rowing clubs on the lake in the past. If readers of the FoRP newsletter have any information about, or pictures of rowing on Waterloo Lake in past years please get in touch. We would love to hear from you – contact us at [rowing@leedsrowing.org.uk](mailto:rowing@leedsrowing.org.uk)

David Cottrell



## TENNIS COACHING RESUMES ON ROUNDHAY PARK COURTS



*Mini nets for the very young.*

We are delighted that the Lawn Tennis Association is providing tennis coaching in 2013 at the courts by Roundhay Park. This offers:

- Free coaching on the last Saturday of each month between 2 and 4pm – open to anyone from Leeds, for all ages (from 5 years upwards) and all abilities including absolute beginners
- Racquets and balls provided, including special balls (cardio tennis) for beginners
- Additional weekly paid coaching (May-July) is being planned for those interested. Details to be confirmed



**On Tuesday 15 January 2013 - Steve Burt gave us a really interesting lecture:  
*Roundhay Park – from private to public space***

It traced the development of the park from a private estate. **Steven Burt** is a well-respected historian, educationalist and author, whose publications include *The Illustrated History of Roundhay Park*. For those of you unable to get to this sold out lecture here is the story!

Roundhay Park was created at the end of the eleventh century as a hunting park for the Norman elite. A perimeter bank and ditch, stretching almost six miles, was created by slave labour. The bank was topped by oak paling that kept the deer trapped within the bounds of the 'round hay' and deterred poachers. Over the centuries the area suffered deforestation as unscrupulous tenants sold the wood at vast profit so that by the end of the eighteenth century it was left a relatively unprofitable estate of 1300 acres. In 1797, Charles Philip, the 17<sup>th</sup> Baron of Stourton, the current owner, decided to sell but struggled to find a buyer. Roundhay remained an isolated place and could only be reached along centuries old cart tracks. No single purchaser was forthcoming. However, on 4 August 1803, the estate was purchased by two Leeds born Quakers, Samuel Elam and Thomas Nicholson, for the princely sum of £58,000. They subdivided the land, Samuel taking the southern half, now 'Oakwood', and Thomas the northern section, which today comprises Roundhay Park and the surrounding streets. Elam wished to subdivide his parcel of land into smaller plots that could be sold for the construction of elegant villas. Unlike his co-purchaser, Nicholson wished to beautify his estate, build an elegant mansion house and create one of the finest residences in the West Riding. Unfortunately Elam ran out of money and was declared bankrupt, dying shortly afterwards, at the age of 37. Nicholson purchased some

additional land on which to construct Waterloo Lake but the rest of Samuel's holdings were disposed of at a very slow pace.

Thomas Nicholson was born at Chapel Allerton in 1765 and made a fortune in London as an insurance broker. He delighted at the prospect of returning to his roots with all the trappings of a successful businessman. Quite when he moved into 'The Mansion' is unclear but he certainly occupied the building in 1819. Unfortunately Thomas and his wife, Elizabeth, failed to have any children and so the estate passed to Stephen, his half-brother. He too failed to produce an heir and so Stephen's nephew, William Nicholson Philips, at the age of 23, became sole heir to the estate. In 1827 William married Martha Rhodes, who went on to bear him thirteen children. By the terms of Thomas's will the eldest child should always inherit the entire estate but William's eldest, Thomas, named in honour of his uncle, turned out to be a dissolute young man who squandered a fortune, paying for his pleasure with money borrowed on the back of his future inheritance. The second son, the Reverend Rhodes Nicholson, disgraced himself by migrating to New Zealand, marrying a Maori beauty, and then later abandoning her and their two beautiful children. William's fourth son, Albert Henry, was sent to establish the plight of these children. He fell in love with his brother's wife and embarked on a steamy affair that eventually resulted in the birth of another child! The disgraceful behaviour of these sons is difficult to reconcile with the moral standards expected by their Christian father. William decided that the best way to deal with this was to gain permission

to overturn the terms of Thomas Nicholson senior's will, so, upon his death, his property was to be sold and the proceeds divided between all his children, except Rhodes, who was totally excluded.

When William died in 1868 his executors behaved appallingly, keeping rental income for themselves and delaying the sale of the real estate. Martha had to take them to Court, which speedily ruled in her favour, and in 1871 all the property came on to the market. The Mayor of Leeds, John Barron, believed that Roundhay would make an ideal park for the town and, despite it being outside the bounds of Leeds, managed to secure Lots 19 and 20 for its citizens. Unfortunately it lay too far out of town for the majority of people to visit and it soon became known as 'The White Elephant'. Eventually, in 1889, a new revolutionary tramway system was introduced which ensured that all citizens could now enjoy the delights of 'The People's Park.'

Steve Burt



## REFLECTIONS ON THE HISTORY AND FUTURE OF THE OLD PARK ROAD

‘Thirty years ago we moved to Old Park Road, and this was the last time I saw the deeds to our house. So it seemed a good idea to look at them again for the historical reasons of celebrating our residence here. Our stone house is old and confused, semi-detached, part 1920s, but the main part is from a much older age, and there has been a building on our site, the western edge of the Roundhay deer park, on the earliest maps I have looked at. Until the mid 1930s there was a farm and dairy next to the site, (Hartley's Homestead) and cows were grazed on the park on the western side of Princes Avenue until after the Second World War.

What is really interesting from the deeds is that in 1872, when the very forward thinking of the purchase of the park by the Leeds City Council took place, the drains had already been put in for Connaught Road, with a view to building villas on the western side of the park. You can easily see the road's alignment from the top of the allotments, south to the bend in Old Park Road towards Oakwood Clock, passing the sports changing rooms. When it rains heavily you can hear the water in the drains below. Some of the fields had been put up for sale, undoubtedly some with hedges and fences, and my deeds show some of the field boundaries that ran across the park. Lot 23 was for Hartley's Homestead, some 10,756 square yards, whilst the very large Lot 20 was most of the eastern side of that area. At

that time Princes Avenue had not been constructed. This context is why I would propose that FoRP takes on an historically important task and persuades the park management to reinstate a few of the field boundary trees that existed in the mid 19th century on the park, and still survive today in diminishing condition. Walkers today on the western side of the park will know and have seen the six or so great and grand oak trees, isolated and ageing fast, which represent the remaining patterns of the old field boundaries. Yes, some of them have a location that is a bit of a nuisance to more tidy-minded park keepers, being within a cricket pitch or getting in the way of the straight lines that mower drivers prefer. And they need pruning and looking after. There are hundreds of users of the park, particularly the footballers whose needs are for open, flat spaces, who see these trees possibly without noticing them. But the park is a bit of a prairie, and when these 200 year old oaks start to die in the next few years, their loss will be very noticeable.

Now is the time, despite ‘austerity’, to plant some new trees on the park, single or in small groups (even a little copse?) to remind us of the deer park and its origins as a wooded hunting area. FoRP could contribute towards the cost of these trees and leave a very permanent and visible reminder of what we stand for as ‘Friends’.

Peter R Smith,  
Resident of Old Park Road

## CALENDAR NEWS

### 2014 ALREADY?

It seems like that to me as I take on board the responsibility for production of the 2014 calendar following a very successful 2013 production courtesy of the previous team of Cecily, John, and Bob.

I am Mike Farnham and I joined FoRP in January this year on the recommendation of a friend who promised me that membership would bring me many enjoyable times; he didn't mention all the hard work on Thursdays and Saturdays!

Although the tea breaks with biscuits and knock about banter more than make up for the effort expended with shovels and brushes.

I volunteered to produce the 2014 calendar, as Cecily was stepping down from the role, thinking that this would be a good opportunity for me to get to know the organisation and integrate with other members of FoRP. The role has certainly achieved that objective and I really do feel to be part of a great and friendly organisation.

The calendar production is a very challenging role but the first objective has been achieved in that all sponsors have been secured to assist with the initial production costs. The sponsors I have met and spoken to have been very supportive of FoRP and it has been refreshing to hear their positive comments with regard to our activities in the Park. We will endeavour to reciprocate their support in any way we can. I am also looking to attract new sponsors to ensure that this support for production has continuity. I will report next time on the photography competition and production but in the meantime enjoy the rest of 2014! Sorry still in 2013 aren't we?

**The deadline for entries to the Photo Competition for the 2014 calendar has been extended to the end of June 2013, and judging will take place by mid July**

**Mike Farnham**







Photograph - Ian Lawrie

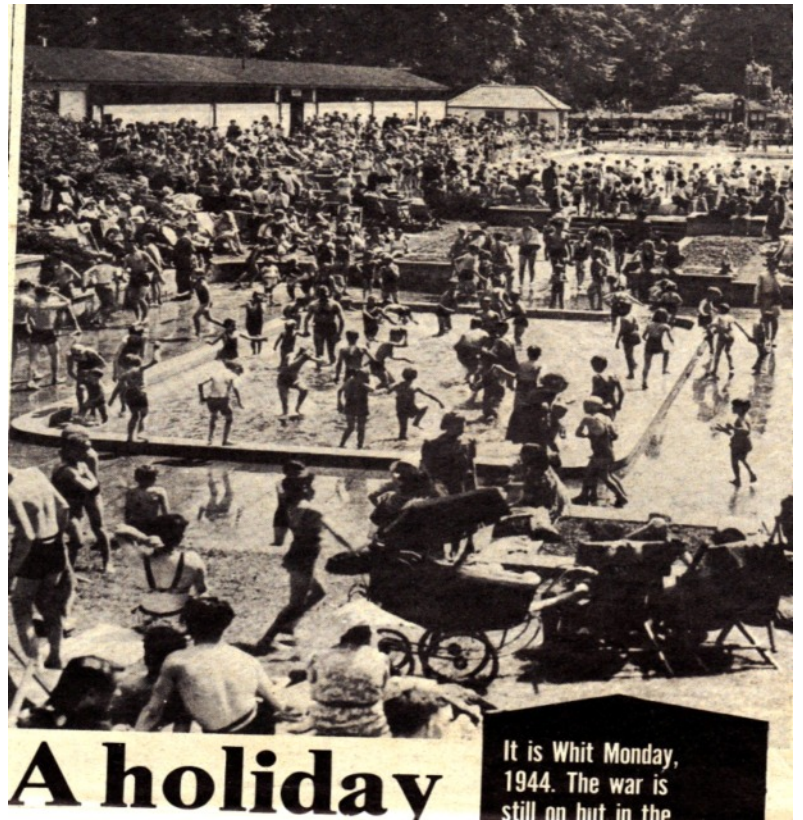
## LOOKING BACK IN TIME

In 1972 Roundhay Park celebrated its centenary as a public park. The editors would like to thank the FoRP member who passed us a copy of the Yorkshire Evening Post special supplement printed that year, containing photographs and articles looking back over the history of the park. Here are a few to enjoy. Sorry about the quality -but feel the history.

### A wash-out brings those golden days to an end



*A Children's Day event (those white dots in the arena are children) The final year of these events in 1963 was spoilt by the rain*



*The packed swimming pool in the park – 1944*

A frosting of ice clouds the surface of Waterloo Lake but the ducks still have room to move — thanks to hours spent swimming in circles. Not everyone wants to keep the ice at bay. Skaters by the score are enjoying themselves on the lake during the hard winter of 1908. The formal hats worn by almost everyone and the cumbersome long skirts of the women may look out of place on the ice but the old-timers still knew how to enjoy themselves.



*Skaters on Waterloo Lake in 1908*

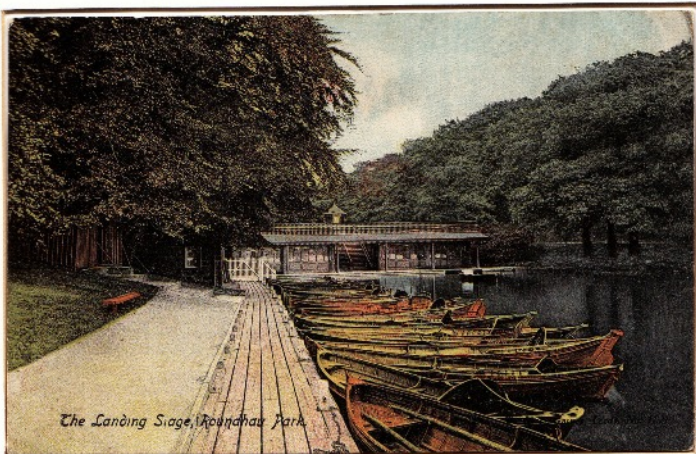


*The pleasure boat Mayflower takes visitors on a cruise round Waterloo Lake*

(Sorry this is a little grainy but we hope you can identify where it is)



## PAST POSTCARDS



## THE LANDING STAGE ROUNDHAY PARK

Following on with our theme of sharing postcards from the past, which relate to the park, this one shows an area you will all recognise and which still looks pretty much the same. These old postcards are such a wonderful glimpse of how the park must have looked over a hundred years ago. This card is addressed to Mr and Mrs Furniss of 12 Wiltshire Place, Pepper Lane, Hunslet, Leeds. A quick 'google' shows plenty of history attached to this area but I don't know if this road still exists. The date of posting is difficult to see on the scan to the left but closer inspection of the postcard itself shows it was stamped at 11.45pm on February 24<sup>th</sup> in 1905 and was sent from Leeds 15. Did they work at night then? The card says:

*Dear Cousins*

*I expect that you have spent many an hour on this seat under the tree. It must have been grand. Yours.*

It is not clear who it is from as I cannot read the last line but *Florrie* is mentioned and in bold it says *From Ma.*

If you have a postcard to share please let us have it to scan. Postcards from more recent decades would also be welcome.

This was a gift to me but it seems it may have been in the possession of a collector who wanted £3 for it!

## MORE DUCKS

There are two types of ducks on the lakes - dabbling ducks and diving ducks. The male duck is called a drake, whereas the name duck can refer to either sex.

### Dabbling Ducks

"Dabblers" are ducks that tip up in order to feed, dabbling through shallow water and mud in search of plants and insects for food.

**Mallard** - This is the most common dabbling duck you will see on the lake. The male has a dark green head, and a yellow bill, the female has mainly brown-speckled plumage. They will frequently leave the water to feed. The name Mallard is derived from old French 'mallart' meaning wild drake.

More about diving ducks next time.....



With thanks our contributor:



Poet  
Marmalade



**CHUTNEY HUT** - A group of entrepreneurial Sixth Form students from Roundhay School who, as you can guess from the name sell chutneys, jams and sauces!



In the picture from the left: Jack Payne (Sales Director), Albert Gibbs (Product Development and Co marketing Director) and George Richardson (Marketing Director). A representative from LEAP is presenting the team with a prize for coming in second in the Merrion Centre competition.

Max Rostron (Managing Director) of CHUTNEY HUT sent me details of their company.

We originally started in September 2012 as part of a competition run by LEAP (Leeds Entrepreneurial Advisory Programme) which helps inspire young adults to start and run their own business with the incentive to make as much profit as possible!

After much debate over ideas of selling clothing and soaps we landed on 'Yorkshire'. All that seemed to be coming to our heads were Yorkshire puddings and pie. With hunger paining us we needed to make a decision. Influenced by our

stomachs we started to think about food; everyone loves and needs food! By throwing forward random ideas we landed on jams. However, still not satisfied, we felt as if we needed a larger market so branched into chutneys and sauces as well. It was no trouble coming up with the name Chutney Hut as it clicked instantly for us. We believed it was fresh, unique and the way forward!

When deciding on the products and flavours we ensured they were all sourced from local farmers within Yorkshire. That means that every single ingredient in the jar comes from the local region! By doing this it ensures that all transactions involved stay within our economy and do not go to a large monopoly corporation! It is also a good unique selling point and it would help hit our audiences nicely!

In the run up to Christmas we sold at multiple small trade fairs such as Roundhay School, Roundhay Methodist Church, Chapel Allerton Tennis Club and even the Merrion Centre in Leeds in which we achieved 2nd place in our competition out of the other smaller businesses! We're very happy with how sales have gone and have recently launched our own website which in the first week has had over 1,200 unique page views and attracted attention from numerous shops! We also had another selling date in the Merrion Centre, Leeds on the 9th February.

In the future we hope to keep the business running after the competition has ended and continue to expand it as much as possible. We have already created a fairly accurate business plan consisting of the various steps in the lead up to our chutney world domination which you can view on the blog page of our website!

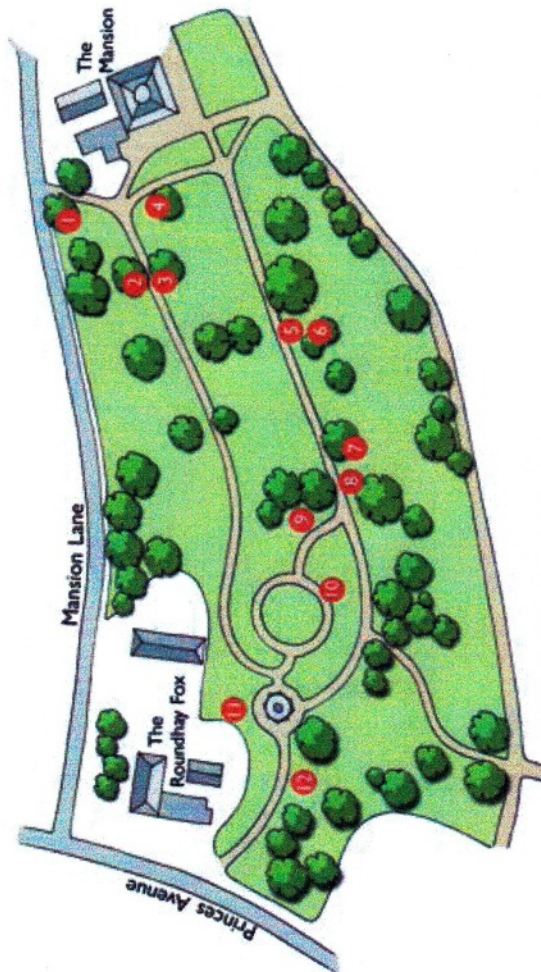
If you would like to get your hands on some of our products then visit [www.chutneyhut.co.uk](http://www.chutneyhut.co.uk) or you can contact us through twitter (@ChutneyHut), Facebook (/ChutneyHut) or drop us an email [chutneyhut@hotmail.com](mailto:chutneyhut@hotmail.com) Thank you and Spread the Love of Chutney with the hash tag #chutneystotheworld.





# SETTING OUT ON THE TREE TRAIL

## Friends of Roundhay Park *Tree trail* Part one



As you stand at the entrance opening in the wall, the tree immediately on your right is....

### No. 1 *Sycamore* *Acer pseudoplatanus*

A member of the Maple family and a native of central and southern Europe, the Sycamore is well naturalised in the UK. Typical of others in this family, the leaves are usually 5 lobed with toothed edges. The Sycamore is widely planted in city streets as it copes well with pollution and in full leaf, the tree forms a tall dome shape. It supports a big insect population which in turn attracts birdlife.



The fruits of the sycamore are winged and carried in bunches on the twigs. They are produced in such numbers that they can form a thick layer on hard surfaces and even block street drains. The seeds germinate prolifically and seedlings are something of a weed in places although most will not survive.



The leaves of sycamore are often covered in black spots by mid-summer. This is a fungal infection called Tar Spot, however it does not appear to cause the tree any harm.

The Roundhay Park Tree Trail booklets were launched at the FoRP lecture on 19 March. These are now available from Tropical World and the Visitors' Centre Shop priced at £2. Anyone wishing to order by post can do so by sending a cheque for £2.50 per copy (includes postage and packing) to FoRP, PO Box 129, Leeds LS8 1WY.

Orders can also be sent by email to [news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk) with a payment of £2.75 made via the PayPal link on the FoRP website (price includes obligatory commission charged by PayPal).

Our thanks go to Cecily Jarvis for the creation of this beautiful booklet. A sample page is shown above – just to whet your appetite.





We had an exciting day in November when a crane (with a very long arm) positioned three huge stumps in the stumpery beside the Ram Beck, to make it more imposing. Now we wait to see how the ferns respond during the spring and summer and also to see the ivy grow over the ugly wall. In case



you are puzzled by the silver structure upstream of the stumpery, it is a special grill we have had made to catch any branches that are swept down the beck, to prevent blockage of the grid over the culvert by the footpath, which in the past has led to the footpath flooding and the stumps floating around and squashing the ferns.

For years we have fretted about litter in the stagnant areas of both lakes. We managed to clean out the Upper Lake using long-handled tools but the North end of Waterloo Lake defeated us. The water is very shallow, the bottom is covered with silt swept down the Great Heads Beck, and tree trunks and branches get stuck in the silt and trap litter. At the lake margins, trees both overhang and grow in the water, creating more litter traps. Long-handled tools could not reach and our friendly canoeist ran aground on the silt or got stuck in among the trees. At last

we have found a solution! We have purchased fishermen's chest waders and one chilly November day a couple of us waded in (with a supporter on the bank ready to sound the alarm if we disappeared beneath the surface). We could reach every piece of litter and in a couple of hours the lake was cleaner than it has been in

living memory. Recently we have been approached by the local angling association who have offered to help us. If you too would like to help, in a very simple way, then please carry out a citizen's arrest on any piece of litter you see near either lake, and send it to gaol in the nearest litter bin. And of course you can do the same for litter you see anywhere.

The margins of the meadow below the castle had become very overgrown and fallen tree branches had accumulated a mass of leaves. As a result the Park's big mowers have been steering clear, in case they might be damaged by rocks or logs. Normally the area is

very wet and boggy but, miraculously, February had three weeks of dry, windy weather which dried everything out. So we have had a blitz and used our own, small mower, to get it into better shape. If the weather is kind we shall do some more, and clear close up around the castle, and we hope that the Park mower driver will then feel able to keep it cut short. It is a splendid space for picnics and family games, with a lovely view across the lake and shelter in the castle if needed, so it would be great if we could really open up the margins.

Have you noticed the snowdrops at the top of the squiggly path down into the ravine? We have placed branches to protect them (from those cyclists who are incapable of steering down the path) and the result is spectacular. Now watch out for the daffs. Last October, with splendid help from

school children from Kerr Mackie School, we virtually completed the Field of Hope walk that we began four years earlier with Marie Curie Cancer Care. So now, starting from the south end of the Upper Lake, you should be able to hop, skip or jump from one gleaming yellow cluster to another, in a circular walk down to Waterloo Lake, along the west shore to the Lakeside Café and then back up the hill. You may also notice, near the start, a new copper beech tree, planted in memory of FoRP member Donald Nicholson. A second tree, a Dawn Redwood, is at the bottom of the steps down into the ravine. It will shortly be marked by a slate monolith bearing an explanation of Donald's important scientific achievements and why they are particularly relevant to trees. This tree is an unusual deciduous conifer so watch out for its first leaves this spring – and warn your grandchildren that, during their lifetimes, it will reach a height of over 30 metres. There are other exotic and unusual trees in the ravine and we hope to restore some of its former arboreal glory. If you would like to donate a specimen tree to commemorate a loved one, we are clearing brush from the ravine to create planting sites and would love to hear from you. And don't forget – trees absorb that threatening carbon dioxide!

Thank you to all who have laboured on our working parties and on the working parties that keep the Friends' Garden so trim and serene. There is a huge amount to do, specially when the park staff are suffering further cuts and economies and our work sessions are friendly, sociable and good for both body and spirit. So, why not join us at 10am on the second Saturday or fourth Thursday in the month, meeting in the Mansion car park. Email me at [jon@vogler.demon.co.uk](mailto:jon@vogler.demon.co.uk) or ring me on 0113-2661885 for more information.

Jon Vogler



## ROUNDHAY GARDENS IDEAS TRAIL

Following the success of this event last year, a diverse range of Roundhay gardens will once again be open to visitors on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 from 1pm to 5pm.

### Gardens wanted

Do you love your garden, be it large, small or very tiny? We want to include some new gardens in the trail this year. We are definitely not looking for immaculate 'show' plots, just ideas, experience, work in progress and even mistakes that you would like to share with others. If you would like to take part and open

your garden to visitors please contact Sue Tuffin on 0113 266 2533 or by email to [sue@suetuffin.co.uk](mailto:sue@suetuffin.co.uk) to find out more about what is involved.

### Visitors wanted

If you are new to gardening or want some fresh ideas to inspire you, put the date in your diary now! Come and see what your neighbours are growing! There will also be activities for children, refreshments, plant sales, advice and chat.

Guides and maps will be available from Oakwood Farmers' Market in May and June and other community locations. There is no charge for entry to the gardens and donations can be made to St Gemma's



## A WORKING PARTY VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE

In early 2012 I decided that I had some free time and wanted to look for volunteering opportunities that would allow me to give something back to the community. I did not really know what I wanted to do but something to do with the environment appealed to me. I started my search with the Leeds City Council do-it intranet site and I was absolutely delighted when I saw that there was an opportunity to work with the Friends of Roundhay Park (FoRP).

I live in North Leeds and regularly visit Roundhay Park, I have always felt so fortunate to live near to such a wonderful well maintained open space. So I quickly provided my details to FoRP and in no time at all I was nervously attending my first working party wondering what I might have let myself in for with people I had never met before.

I need not have worried as I was made very welcome, but I also quickly realised this was no easy volunteering option with our wonderful leader Jon Vogler setting out our tasks and keeping us working hard and organised, but kindly providing the much appreciated coffee and others providing cake and biscuits. The people I have met are a kind, friendly and interesting

bunch and as a bonus I have learnt a lot about the history of the park including most recently how Hill 60 got its name – maybe that is a story for another day.

Since joining the Saturday working party I have learnt how to use a scythe, which we used to cut down the wild flower meadow, although I have to say that was not a day where I should have either washed my hair or applied make up. I have helped plant ferns and ivy in the stumpery, which led to lots of midge bites, done lots of weeding and the highlight for me, helping to plant daffodils.

I so look forward to the monthly call up e-mail from Jon Vogler that lists our tasks for the day and confirms our meeting times. As always I love visiting the park but now I feel such pride when I can look at the fruits of our labours and

know that I have played a small part in the up keep of this wonderful open space. A particular highlight recently was seeing that the daffodils we planted in the autumn have now started to flower and knowing that so many people are going to get so much pleasure from the work that the working parties have done.

I would recommend to anyone who has 2 or 3 hours spare once a month to come down to the park and join one of the working parties.

**Janet Wilkinson**





# OPEN MEETING 30 JANUARY 2013 – EDUCATION CENTRE, THE MANSION

The meeting held on 30 January was chaired by Julia Wilson and attended by 26 people. The items covered included:

- Park Management Report, including reference to work in progress at Tropical World (Phase 1 due for completion by 28 March 2013), Roundhay Park resuming responsibility for the Visitors' Centre Shop, and the possibility of large concerts returning to the Park from 2014.
- Activities of the working parties, including the completion of the Marie Curie 'Field of Hope' from near the waterfall at the upper lake to Waterloo Lake and the Lakeside

Cafe, turning back toward the Mansion. Also the Donald Nicholson Memorial Trees – a Copper Beech and a Redwood – have been planted, and the dedicated band of volunteers, led by Judith Rothenberg continue to develop and maintain the Friends' Garden

- An update on the Oakwood Clock from the Oakwood Traders and Residents' Association. £120,000 needs to be raised to restore the clock

- Thanks to new member Mike Farnham who has volunteered to take on the production of the 2014 FoRP calendar. Of the 2013 calendars, only 44 out of the 825 printed were left by the

end of January. The remainder would be given away to local care homes

- Thanks to Deborah Wall who has volunteered to take on publicity and promotions for FoRP

- Thanks to Louisa Mitchell who has begun cataloguing books from the Lester Library, and will develop an archive for documents, photos etc forming a Roundhay Park legacy.

## Dates of future meetings:

**Trustees' and Committee Meeting - Wednesday 10 April 2013 at 7.30pm**

**Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 12 June 2013 at 7.30pm**

- Fund raising ideas are always welcome - please send in your ideas.
- Facebook: Keep up to date with happenings at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Roundhay-Park/198960453469787>
- FoRP sell a selection of cards and a quality prints by local artist Val Bell – see <http://www.forp.co.uk/newsletter-mar-2010/mar10web.pdf> for images and/or write/send an email with all your requirements to one of the FoRP addresses giving your contact details.

## Your contributions

We welcome your articles of up to 800 words accompanied by photographs wherever possible. Copy due date for the next publication 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

We also welcome your bite sized items. Please send contributions to [editor@forp.co.uk](mailto:editor@forp.co.uk)

Please note that photographs are normally reproduced here with the permission of those concerned. However, on some occasions photographs are taken from FoRP archives of previous events.

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Address labels