

# FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK

PRESIDENT: MARJORIE ZIFF MBE

CHAIRPERSON: JULIA WILSON



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## NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013

# FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK GOING BACK TO OUR ROOTS

**In days gone by, when Leeds United were in the Premier League, two Roundhay residents who walked regularly in the Park agreed that, instead of grumbling about its general condition and litter, something should be done about it.**

Tony Kessler and Harry Hurst arranged a public meeting to sound out whether enough people could be tempted out of their armchairs to get their hands dirty in the Park. 75 people attended this meeting and the "Friends of Roundhay Park" was born on 12 April 1994.

Almost to the day nineteen years later, at a 'Trustees' and Committee Meeting, it was proposed that we should set up a group which would concentrate solely on litter picking in the Park. The response was such that we now have a band of 49 members who are able to turn out, which allows us to field a team of around 20 for each session.

Our first foray was the 7 May, the day following the Bank Holiday and the Dragon Boat Races – so there was an abundance of litter to go at. We set off at 10am and, when we re-assembled for coffee and hobnobs at around 12 noon, we had collected in excess of 45 bags of litter and the air of achievement at having done something worthwhile was obvious.

Since then, we have done three further sessions (one per month) and, although the litter haul did not compare with the first, our total must now be more than 100 bags. A

further session is planned for the 27 August (the day after Bank Holiday!).

Several of the litter pickers have enjoyed doing this so much that they have now "adopted" areas of the Park which they will clear on a regular basis. This is much needed with so much going on in the park and the continued good weather.

Although we are delighted by the apparent success of this exercise, we must also thank the Park staff, who do a sterling job in keeping the main areas free of litter on a regular basis. However, as they say, every little helps!

David Binns



The litter pickers - 24 June session

## CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER AUGUST 2013

FoRP seems to be going from strength to strength. Not only do we have a steadily growing membership (over 600) but we also have increased numbers of people actively involved. Litter picks, working parties and special weed busting parties in the more formal areas of the Park have been really well attended and, of course, the more Park users who see us out and about, the more success we have in attracting new members.

It's thanks to one of our newer members, Louisa Mitchell, that the contents of The Lester Library have now been fully catalogued. Louisa's hard work means that if you want to know exactly what is in the library, we can email you the catalogue. If there's anything you would like to look at or borrow this will be arranged. All you need to do is email [news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk) or contact David Binns.

The catalogue itself makes interesting reading – particularly the list of press cuttings which act as a vivid reminder of past Park related events.

If you've any suitable Park related books or other information you would like to donate to the library, we will be happy to receive them and these will be added to our catalogue.

The number of people visiting and “liking” our Facebook page also continues to grow and some wonderful pictures of the Park have been posted on it by a very wide variety of contributors. Malcolm Jarvis has posted some particularly lovely pictures of our resident (and visiting) wildlife. If you've not already visited our page, please have a look.

Julia Wilson



We often put out an appeal in the newsletter for members to take on various roles with FoRP and there are two main reasons for this. Firstly, we need to reduce the workload of some of our administrators and, secondly, some of us are approaching the “creaking gate” stage!

We also desperately need some young blood to ensure the longevity of FoRP and, this year, we have been joined by Carol and Peter Stagg (newsletter), Mike Farnham (calendar) and Deborah Wall (PR and publicity) for whom we are very thankful.

In previous appeals, we have always asked, “Would anyone like to volunteer to take on the role of \*\*\*\*\* - Please let us know”.

This time, we are not asking for a final commitment, but, if you think that you might be interested in taking on a specific role or

## TROPICAL WORLD

### Phase 1 of Re-Development Complete

On 5 June a formal ceremony marked the completion of Phase 1 of the re-development of Tropical World. The main features are a new shop, additional function space and a crocodile enclosure.

A plaque marking the occasion was unveiled by the President of the Friends of Roundhay Park, Marjorie Ziff, pictured below with Michael and Edward Ziff, and Councillor Mark Dobson.

Phase 2 of the re-development will include new cafe facilities and the aquarium.



## ***YOUR PARK NEEDS YOU!*** **OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED**

just giving a hand in areas which would suit your skills, please get in touch and arrange to meet up for an informal chat with Julia and myself.

The roles for which we need help are:

- Meeting and Minutes' Secretary (6 meetings per annum)
- Newsletter deliveries (local)
- Promotional stands / Meeting the public
- And some about which we have not yet thought!

Being at the sharp end of FoRP is (we are told!) very gratifying and we are apparently a friendly, good-humoured bunch.

The only stipulation we have is that anybody who takes on a role has access to email, as this is the only way in which we can communicate efficiently and economically.

So, if you would like to join us for a chat, a coffee and a bun at the Mansion, please contact Julia Wilson or David Binns at [news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk)



# OAKWOOD CLOCK UPDATE

The Oakwood Traders and Residents Association (OTRA) provides regular updates on progress of the campaign to raise funds for restoration of the clock. Important recent developments include:

- On 19 June, OTRA was given charitable status by the Charities Commission. This will enable OTRA to bid for major grants, allow tax relief on donations and should provide a substantial boost to the fund raising effort
- A very successful 'Rescue Concert' was held at the Parochial Hall on 22 June, raising about £900
- A very well attended 'Rescue Dinner' was held at the Mansion on 5 July, raising money through tickets, auctioning a painting of the clock and a ticketless raffle. The Mansion also donated £10 for every diner. The total sum raised was £2130 (£590 from The Mansion, £800 from the painting, and £740 from the raffle).

The Friends of Roundhay Park continue to do everything we can to support the campaign to restore the clock. In previous issues of the newsletter, we have included contributions on the history of the clock. We are grateful to Martin Plimley (a member of the clock rescue committee) for sending us a very interesting article called 'How Oakwood got its Clock' published in Part Seven of Oak Leaves (Autumn 2007). The authors were John and Cynthia Harrison. (If you would like to see the full article, electronic copies are available from the editors ([editor@forp.co.uk](mailto:editor@forp.co.uk)). From this article, it seems there was considerable controversy when the city council announced the relocation of the clock from Leeds Market to its current site in Oakwood. One resident (Mr Angry of Oakwood?) did not like the idea at all. On 8 July 1913, he wrote to the North Leeds News saying:

*"May I point out what seems to me to be a waste of time and labour which is going on at Oakwood where the erection of a clock with a number of etceteras is in progress? What advantage this structure will be goodness only knows, for if they want a clock up there, why not erect it on the Parks Departments buildings? The truth of the matter seems to be that the Parks Committee wants to get the clock off their hands. Hence, as the antiquarian timepiece has to be put up somewhere, Oakwood residents are to have a permanent eyesore inflicted on them"*

A lively debate ensued, with one resident asking if the first strong wind would blow the clock down, and a range of witty comments about 'high time' this business was 'wound up' and more. The article goes on to report a happy outcome completing the location of the clock we all know and love.

*"Well, Leeds City Council got there in the end, and the North Leeds News of 17 October 1913 announced that the work had*

*been "completed at last, and Roundhay residents are agreeably surprised to find that, contrary to expectations the structure is quite a pleasing and ornamental one".*

The Parks Department building was demolished shortly before WW2.

The Oakwood and District Historical Society has pledged £1000 from the sale of Oak Leaves to the restoration fund.

Thanks to John and Cynthia Harrison for allowing us to quote from their article.



Springtime Oakwood by Mark Sofilas  
[mark@marksofilasart.com](mailto:mark@marksofilasart.com)  
(Auctioned at the 'Rescue Dinner')



# ROUNDHAY SCHOOLS FUN RUN

**On Saturday 8 June the Park was the venue for some 1500 children and their parents taking part in either the 1km short course or the 5km long course fun runs through the park.**

Children from some nine local schools in Roundhay and the surrounding area took part, together with parents, brothers and sisters, some in push chairs. They could choose to run, stroll or walk either course, or in some cases both, as the short course run took place first and the long course run later.

supposed to encourage participation rather than competition, although not all participants seem to agree, being naturally competitive.

Entry fees are kept as low as possible to encourage participation but these have to cover the running costs such as a medal for

every entrant, a subsidised T shirt, first aid support, runners' numbers etc. The event ran without a sponsor this year, but sponsorship will always be welcome in the future to help cover costs.

As you can imagine an event of this size does not just happen but requires an immense amount of organisation. Planning starts in January with a group of two teachers from each of the participating schools meeting at least once a month to ensure everything runs (pun intended) smoothly on the day.

One of the organisers' biggest problems, and an area where FoRP members could help with future events, is in providing marshals around the two courses. As most parents want to run (or walk) with their children, and most teachers are involved with other aspects of the organisation, extra bodies to assist in this area would be very welcome.

It would also provide an excellent opportunity to publicise the work of the Friends and possibly to recruit a few more members.

John Ferguson, with thanks to Helen Nurse



Started some six or seven years ago by a small group of mothers and childminders with the aim of encouraging fun physical activity and bringing local schools together, it was and is

## 2014 CALENDAR UPDATE

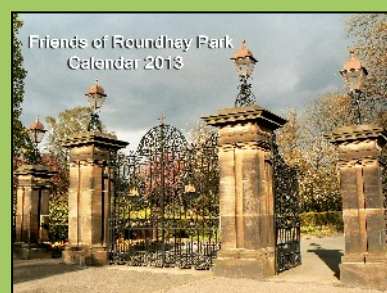
Progress is continuing on the production of the 2014 calendar which we hope to have ready for sale in the retail outlets from sometime in August. If this date seems early just remember that there are only around 120 shopping days to Xmas! Now there's a thought- And we are in line with all other distributors in terms of timing and somewhat behind a famous national bookstore who had 2014 calendars for sale in April!! We have now selected the photos which will be published for the various months and as always with photographic competitions the selection of the winning entries wasn't easy. We believe however that we will produce a calendar that will truly represent the Park and all its attractions.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people who took the effort to submit photos of their particular aspect and view of Roundhay Park. Without your efforts the calendar would not be a success. Particular thanks to the winning entrants who I will contact shortly to confirm details.

One thing that has struck a chord with the judges is the diversity of activities and images represented and seen by each individual entry. This more than anything demonstrates the attractions of the Park to all the people who have visited this premier Leeds facility.

I will provide an update once we go to production but in the meantime thanks again.

Mike Farnham





# PICK ME!

## THE EDIBLE BED AT OAKWOOD

Growing your own fruit and vegetables is good for your health, good for the environment and it's great fun!

The REAP gardening group edible bed at the Oakwood Clock is there to show how easy it is to get started, and to encourage people to join in and have a go. Anyone can come and help us to look after the bed and enjoy the produce!

Vegetables and herbs that are ready to harvest are marked with a 'pick me' sign so that people know what they can help themselves to. The first of the harvesting began on 15 June when Councillor Bill Urry officially opened the bed.



Councillor Bill Urry  
harvests a red lettuce



Considering that the bed was only started on 20 April, the plants have grown wonderfully well and many of the varieties were chosen for their good looks, so our bed looks as lovely as it tastes. The choice of seed varieties available is much larger than the choice of vegetables to buy in the shops so growing your own is a wonderful way to try new flavours. Look out for unusual crops in the bed including Mizuna, Tree Spinach and Rainbow Chard.

When Leeds City Council gave us the opportunity to go ahead, we began work immediately by preparing the soil and starting to plant seeds and seedlings.

Most of the work takes place at the monthly Farmers' Market, so come along to help us weed, water and plant!

It is a great way to learn and make some new friends, because like most gardeners we are a very friendly bunch.

The REAP gardening group are at each Farmers' Market throughout Spring, Summer and Autumn offering advice and activities which vary every month.

For more information visit our website <http://www.reap-leeds.org.uk/Gardening.html> Or look for the REAP gardening group Facebook page.

You can join our mailing list by emailing [gardening@reap-leeds.org.uk](mailto:gardening@reap-leeds.org.uk)

Tracy Foster



# DID I INHERIT MY GARDENING GENE FROM MY GREAT GRANDFATHER?

CHRISTINE FARRAR RECOUNTS SOME COLOURFUL FAMILY HISTORY LINKED TO THE PARK

My great grandfather was Charles Edward Smith and he worked all his life in Roundhay Park. When I started tracing my family history, I couldn't understand how an illegitimate child of a servant girl went on to become head park ranger. I couldn't track down where his mother was a servant in Roundhay and assumed some rich master had impregnated her and given his illegitimate child a helping hand to compensate. However, despite scrutinising the portraits of the various dignitaries of Leeds in the Civic Hall, I couldn't detect any family likeness! Maybe he was just a very good gardener.

His mother, Mary Jane Smith, was the only girl of 8 children born to a "labourer on the high road" from Lincolnshire (John Smith and his wife Sarah). They lived at Rosemary Cottages in Roundhay and Mary Jane was born there in 1840. She was 21 and unmarried when she gave birth to her son in 1862 and he was baptised at St John's Church next to Roundhay Park. The father is not named on the baptism record although, several years later, his mother Mary Jane married Francis Campey a local stonemason. Later I found Charles Edward did give his father's name as Frank Campey on his wedding certificate. However, he never lived with his mother and was brought up by his grandparents, John and Sarah Smith, at Dibb Lane Cottages.

In 1885, aged 23, he married Caroline Royce Beebe who was a domestic servant from Rutland who also was brought up by her grandparents after her mother died in a workhouse. They lived at the New Entrance (Oakwood) Lodge at Roundhay Park and had three daughters including my grandmother Sarah Jane. This lodge apparently had the gentlemen's and ladies public toilets as part of the building on each side. His occupation was given as gardener in St John's Baptism Register when his first daughter was born and later in the census as Park Ranger.

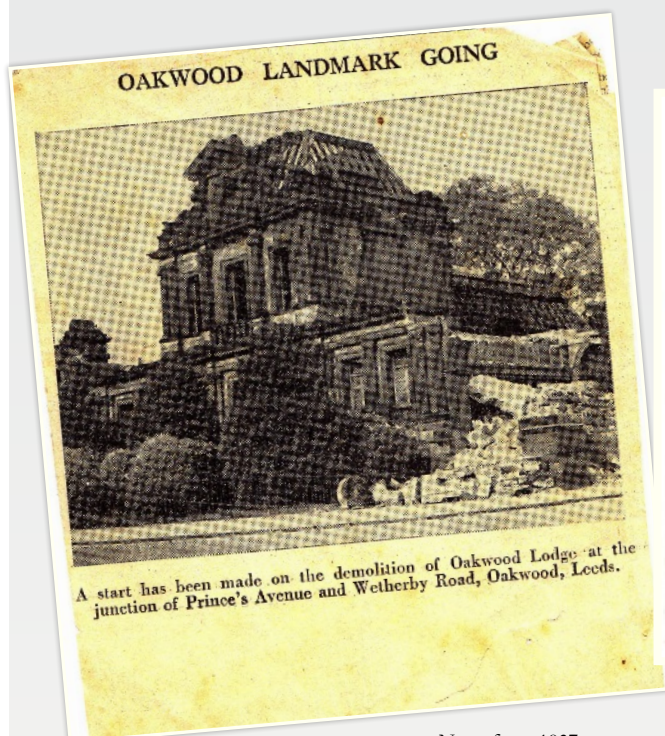


Christine's grandparents' wedding photo taken at the rear of the Oakwood Lodge in 1910. Charles Edward Smith (father of the bride) is second from the right on the front row.

He died at the age of 76 in 1939, at which time he was widowed and living in Church Cottages on the Wetherby Road. He is buried at St John's with his wife.

My grandparents married in 1910 and, when I used to visit them as a child, they lived in West Park Crescent. I remember visiting Roundhay Park especially for the boats on the lake, firework displays and the outdoor swimming pool. I am now retired from the NHS after 34 years; a keen gardener and gained my garden design qualification when I was 50. I would be interested in where I could find further information on workers and conditions of Roundhay Park estate at the time when my great grandfather worked there. Please feel free to contact me if you can help ([cpfarrar@ntlworld.com](mailto:cpfarrar@ntlworld.com)).

Christine Farrar  
May 2013



Oakwood Lodge which stood at the junction of Princes Avenue and Wetherby Road



# PERSONAL MEMORIES OF ROUNDHAY PARK

Contributed by Jean McCulloch

**Roundhay Park has played a part in the lives of my family since the year I was born in 1938. I do not remember my first visit to the park but keep a photo of me with my mother taken just below the mansion house in 1938.**

My earliest memories are of visits to the park for picnics and to see Children's Day galas which took place every year. These were colourful occasions with many displays and exhibitions of expertise by the armed forces, athletics clubs and schools. The day started with a grand parade around the arena with The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and the Children's Day Queen. Arriving at the grand stand, suitably decorated for the occasion, the Queen would be crowned by a visiting dignitary. I remember taking part in a display of Hungarian dancing performed by the children from Leeds primary schools. My mother made me a dirndl skirt from blackout material decorated with different coloured rik rak braid and, wearing a white blouse and the decorated skirt, I was very proud. I was also entered by my primary school when the Children's Day Queen was chosen but was unsuccessful. I was disappointed but would have been very nervous if I had been chosen.

On other occasions we usually sat on hill sixty but very often it was so congested we would have to find another space with enough room for us all to sit down and still see the action in the



Jean with her mother and family in Roundhay Park

arena. Mum would have packed a flask and sandwiches, squashed tomato sandwiches were my favourite, along with egg and cress with homemade cake or tarts. When my brother was born my father bought an old Jowett car, so we probably arrived in the car but trams and then buses were readily available so we may have travelled to the park by either transport.

I remember battles fought on the big lake, between model battle ships, with firing cannon. I think this may have been on the evening of Children's Day. Bonfire night was another event looked forward to. Wrapped up warmly, we would see the bonfire and then when evening descended watch the fireworks presented at the far end of the big lake.

Over the years we have continued to visit Roundhay Park, my husband and I would take our children with relatives and friends to play in the Park in all seasons of the year. In the winter we would take a sledge and our daughters would enjoy sledging down the slopes. Sam, our border collie long passed, enjoyed walking on the frozen small lake. All our dogs enjoyed regular walks in the woods and our daughter's dogs are still taken to the Park when she visits.

Leeds flower show was held annually on the field adjacent to Princess Avenue. Magnificent flowers and enormous vegetables were on display and, after the judging, we looked forward to buying the flowers, plants and vegetables left at the end of the show. Nowadays we visit the Mansion for lunch or afternoon tea, and our beloved Monet Gardens to see the seasons' beautiful flowers and Leeds' entry to the Chelsea Flower Show in London brought back to Leeds to be on proud display, usually after winning a coveted medal. We take visitors, especially if they have children to see Canal Gardens and Tropical World, the last visit was to take our Norwegian godson and his family. His little daughter was enchanted by the butterflies and small animals.

There must be many people who over the years have enjoyed the Park as much as I and my family have. So on behalf of all of us may I say a big thank you to all the people, council gardeners and volunteers alike for continuing to keep Roundhay Park in the immaculate and colourful condition we always find it.

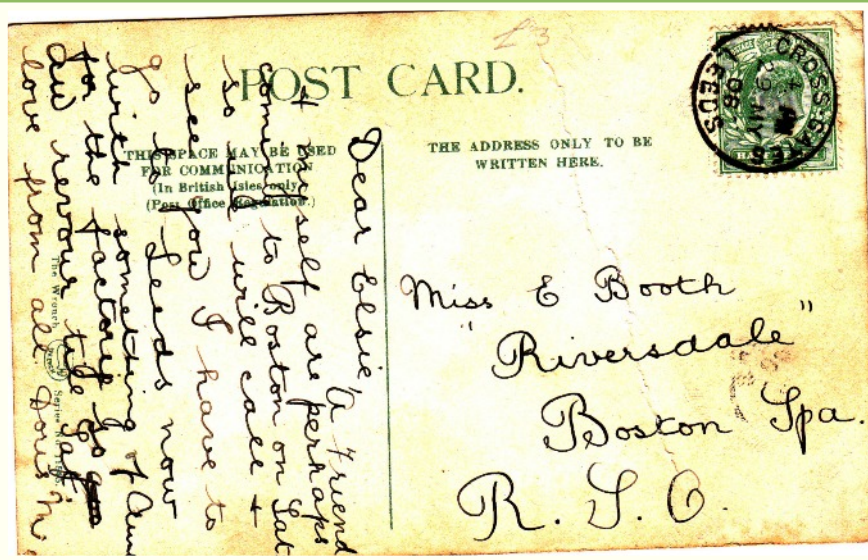
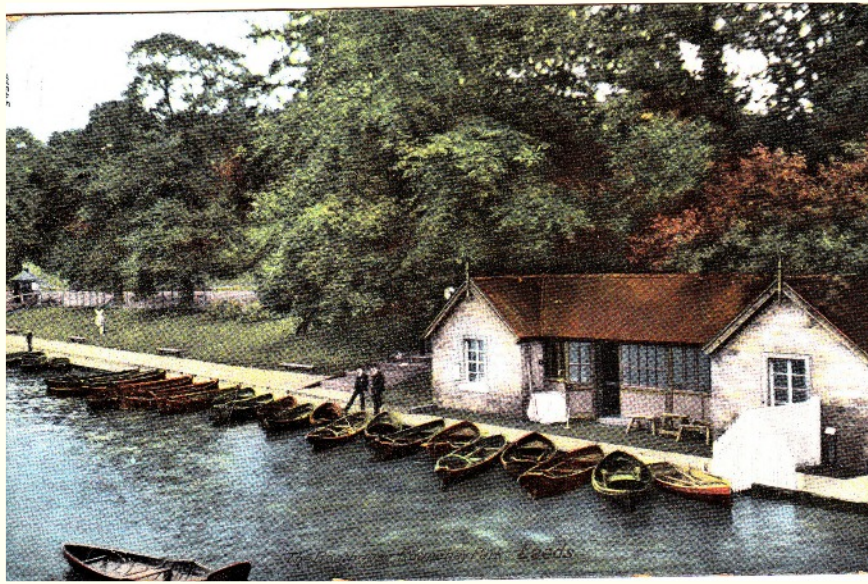
Jean McCulloch. March 2013

*The editors thank Jean McCulloch for sharing her memories and writing this article, and her neighbour Tom Cooper for passing this to us.*





## PAST POSTCARDS



## THE BOAT HOUSE ROUNDHAY PARK

Apologies for this grainy picture of the Boathouse. It was posted from Crossgates on the 29 May 1906 and addressed to Miss E Booth, of Riversdale, Boston Spa. It seems that simply a name was adequate then to ensure a letter would get to its rightful owner!

I wonder if that house still exists, and whereabouts in Boston Spa it is?

Postage was a half penny.

The words on the card are quite difficult to read and certainly the writer did not seem to be interested in passing on any information about the Park. As far as we can see it says the following:

*Dear Elsie*

*A friend and myself are perhaps coming to Boston Spa so we will call and see you. I have to go to Leeds now with something of ...? (We cannot read this word unfortunately) for the factory so au revour (her spelling not ours) till Sat. Love from all Doris M.*

Intriguing - we wonder what she had to take to the factory?

**WE ARE RUNNING SHORT OF POSTCARDS FOR THIS REGULAR FEATURE WHICH WE HEAR YOU LIKE. IF YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING POSTCARD WITH A CONNECTION TO THE PARK OR ROUNDHAY DO LET US BORROW IT AND TELL THE STORY**

## AND MORE DUCKS....

### TUFTED DUCKS

The Tufted Duck is an example of a 'diving duck', diving right beneath the surface of the water to feed and showing excellent underwater swimming skills. Tufted Ducks can often be seen on the lakes in Roundhay Park, especially on the upper lake. These charming little birds are a classic rounded 'bath duck' shape. As pictured, the male has striking black and white plumage, while the female is brownish. The yellow colour of the eyes can sometimes be seen and the tuft on the back of the head is often visible.





## TENNIS COACHING THE NEXT ANDY MURRAY?

Free tennis coaching continues on the Roundhay Park courts on the last Saturday of each month. FoRP member Gail Sandeman recommended this to a friend whose son wanted to play more tennis. 11 year old Ethan Biscombe is pictured enjoying the coaching on Saturday 25 May.



INTERESTED IN TREE  
SPOTTING?

TREE TRAIL BOOKLET  
NOW AVAILABLE

## REAP GARDENING GROUP - ROUNDHAY GARDENS IDEAS TRAIL

On Sunday 23 June, 26 enthusiastic gardeners opened their gardens to the public.. The day was a resounding success, with several gardens counting more than 500 visitors. REAP raised £2540 for St Gemma's Hospice from donations and refreshment sales, with a further £377.37 for other causes.

The gardens stretched through Roundhay and Oakwood from West Park Drive West in the north to Springwood Road in the south.. They included community gardens at St Andrews Church, North Leeds Bowling Club and the REAP edible bed at Oakwood as well as gardens developed by individuals and families. There was a diverse range of gardens for visitors to get ideas for their own plots. The designs demonstrated different ways to use space and varied planting styles from native wild flowers to tropical species. Many of the gardeners grew fruit and vegetables and several kept chickens. Others encouraged wild life and displayed sculptures and art work. In addition there were activities for children, a performance by the Roundhay Ukelele Band and guided tours of St Andrews Church garden. Tea and cakes were served in five locations.

*"There was a great sense of community, a happy, fun occasion"* (a gardener)

Sue Tuffin REAP

Gardens on display included Nick Wilson's remarkable 'tropical' garden (as featured in the Daily Mail) in Gledhow - a 25 year labour of love inspired by Roundhay Park's own Tropical World..



## NORTH LEEDS GREEN FAIR PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR GREENER LIVING IN LEEDS

Do you want to reduce your bills as well as your carbon footprint? Then this event is for you.

**When:** 28 September 2013 from 10 am to 3pm

**Where:** St Edmunds Church Hall, Lidgett Park Road, Roundhay, LS8 1JN

**Why?** Have you ever thought using electric/hybrid cars, electric bikes or car – sharing to travel more sustainably? Do you want to learn more about growing fruit and vegetables or riding and maintaining your bike? Would you like to warm your home with insulation, a condensing boiler or log fires? You will be able to see displays, get expert advice and talk to local residents about their experiences of these products and activities and much more. Put the date in your diary now.



# NOTICEBOARD - WORKING PARTY REPORT AUGUST 2013

## There have been three important developments.

First, litter picking has been set up as a separate project, with its own organiser and large team – see Bob's report in this issue. This has left us more time to concentrate on heavier work. Second, we have started serious planning for the Ravine project, and consulted with all the expertise around, to develop a plan for the next several years. It has three principal strands: to create vistas by removing brushwood, to liberate large specimen trees by clearing space around them and to create spaces in which new specimens can flourish. And, third, we have increased the involvement of corporate groups in our work; so far

However there are still big infestations elsewhere in the woods and we have spent most of June attacking these. Thank you everyone who has reported growths of Japanese knotweed; these are being identified to the Park management for spraying, the only treatment with any chance of success. Please do not attempt to remove these plants by hand as you can seriously spread them!

We did a thorough clean of the wooden bridges in the Ravine and in the Gorge. This will save them from rotting and from becoming slippery.

A group from First Direct scoured the Ravine Beck of fallen timber (while preserving the important ecology of lichen-covered rocks and stones) and cleared out a rocky cove just below the

lower bridge, revealing an impressive sheer rock face that has been hidden for a decade.

The daffodils from the Field of Hope eventually emerged, a month late in April, and we were disappointed that many came up "blind" (ie with no flower). Our bulb supplier has promised

a couple of free sacks for next October. We shall plant these on the bank that borders the Carriage Drive and, next March, will survey the Field of Hope and decide whether this was a one-season blip or whether additional planting is required.

During the rest of the summer, we have been challenged to tackle the sudden eruption of weeds and saplings around the margins of the Upper Lake and plan to experiment with an all-day working party and also to involve more volunteers with a special session on Saturday 3 August as part of the national Love Parks Week.

I am grateful to all who have joined in. You will note that our record of NEVER BEING RAINED OFF has held. So, forget about Provence or the Algarve this summer, instead join us, at 10am on the second Saturday or fourth Thursday in the month,



Volunteers from First Direct at work with FoRP (21 June)

including Lloyds Bank, First Direct and Halifax. We give their employees the pleasure of working with nature while we get help from younger, stronger folk than our regular volunteers. Win-win!

The first fruits of the Ravine project can be seen, just off the path to the Castle. A magnificent Western Hemlock, some 30 metres in height, and a mighty adjacent Sweet Chestnut (recognize it by its spiral bark) have been liberated and can now be admired without hacking your way through jungle.

We completed a grand clearance around the Castle, uprooting a massive bramble patch. This paid dividends when a dozen lively children from Kerr Mackie school helped us uproot Himalayan balsam weeds; they (the weeds, not the children!) had nowhere to hide and we hope they will feel sufficiently discouraged not to return next year.



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

*Thanks to John Ferguson for the photographs*





The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Roundhay Park took place on Wednesday 12 June 2013 at the Education Centre. This was very well attended (41 people present), and was chaired by Julia Wilson. Some key points include:

- Changes to the Executive Committee, with Mike Farnham (Calendar) and Carol and Peter Stagg (Newsletter) being voted on to the committee. Thanks were given to Bob Reid, who has resigned from the committee, but continues as an active FoRP member.
- In the past year membership subscriptions have increased by over 70 to 389. Since this number includes member 'households' it is likely there are around 600 individuals involved.
- Chris Hill (Treasurer) provided a very detailed report on the finances with the conclusion that *'the finances of the Friends are in good shape'*. The accounts were unanimously approved and Ford Campbell Freedman LLP were re-appointed as accountants for FoRP for 2013-14.
- Ian MacNiven (OTRA) provided an update on the Oakwood Clock, confirming that OTRA had just gained charitable status. The current estimate for repairs is £120,000, but could be more if the structure has to be removed to carry out the work. Two major grant applications have been made to Caird Bardon and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Many other important items were discussed. Full copies of the minutes from the meeting are available from [news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk).

## FROM OLD STAR TO FIELD OF HOPE

### HOW THE FIELD OF HOPE BEGAN

A few years ago, I was searching for some small daffodils as part of spring themed table gifts for a fund-raising event I was running at The Old Star in Collingham, but without success. A helpful officer in the City Council Adult Health and Social Care Department said 'Why not ask Marie Curie?', so I did.

A few days later I found myself in the basement of a converted chapel off Headingley Lane, collecting a sack of their promotional badges, more than enough for the 70 or so guests I was expecting.

Believing that one good turn deserves another, though not being sure what I could offer to advance the Marie Curie cause in Roundhay, I agreed to meet up with the Leeds organisers, two very enthusiastic and charming ladies. Before the first round of Timoney's excellent lattes had been consumed, we'd established that what was wanted was a place for a Field of Hope in the north of the city. Of course, Roundhay Park came to mind and equally obviously the land sweeping down to the small lake suggested itself. So, as so often when problem-solving in the ward, I spoke to the people who could translate the idea into reality if they could be convinced to support it. The Marie Curie ladies were quick to set up meetings with park officers and equally quickly followed up the possible sponsors I was able to suggest plus other contacts of their own.

The outcome was the first bulb-planting session round a specially-commissioned marker stone by Jon Vogler. In the spring, a photo-shoot was set up only to find that, of the several chosen varieties, that round the sculpture had flowered and were dying back while the others were still in full golden bloom!

Each year since, that first fairly tentative planting has expanded, until the area now fulfils that famous vision of a poet local to where I now live. Wordsworth would surely be at home in *'...a host of golden daffodils; beside the lake.....fluttering and dancing in the breeze.'*

**Hon. Alderman Valerie Kendall**  
**Roundhay Councillor (2004 - 2011)**





FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK INVITE YOU TO THEIR  
ILLUSTRATED LECTURE SERIES  
ALL WELCOME, NO NEED TO BOOK.

Tuesday 17 September 2013

**“Early Aviation at Roundhay Park”.**

We'll hear stories of pre-WW1 aviators, their passengers and some problems with the weather!

**Helen Hodgart** has been researching Leeds' archives again and has come up with this fascinating topic. She's an active member of the Friends and a volunteer with Leeds Museums service.

Tuesday 19 November 2013

**“Atkinson Grimshaw: our talented townsman”**

A look at the life and work of this ever-popular artist from Leeds, including his connection with the Park. Known as ‘the painter of moonlight’, his distinctive paintings are held in private and city museums throughout the country.

**Eveleigh Bradford** has researched, published articles and a book about various aspects of Leeds. She is an active member of The Thorsby Society, Leeds' historical society.

Tuesday 21 January 2014

**“George Corson in Roundhay”**

One of Leeds' most prominent architects (Leeds Grand Theatre, Central Library and Art Gallery) he won the competition to landscape the Park in 1873. He later designed several villas on the edges, but....how many were built...?

**Susan Wrathmell** is an architectural historian and conservation consultant, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park's senior Listed Buildings Officer. She was commissioned to revise Pevsner's Architectural Guide to Leeds, including a page about Roundhay Park.

Tuesday 18 March 2014

**“John Barran's final resting place”**

We've heard about John Barran's role in the purchase of the Park, but what about the man himself? He is buried in Beckett Street Cemetery, (opposite the Thackray Museum) with a fine headstone yet modest inscription. We'll hear more about him and the historic cemetery.

**Alun Pugh** is Chairman of the Friends of Beckett Street Cemetery and a Blue-badge Guide for Leeds.

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All lectures will be held in the **Education Centre**, adjoining the Mansion (free parking along Mansion Lane) starting at **7pm**.

**Admission:** £3 for Friends of Roundhay Park, £5 for non-Friends

Net proceeds will go to Friends' funds, enabling us to continue our work within the Park.

Promoted by Friends of Roundhay Park with support from Leeds City Council

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**Your contributions**

We welcome your articles of up to 800 words accompanied by photographs wherever possible. Copy due date for the next publication 15 November 2013.

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