



THE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK
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President: Marjorie Ziff MBE
Chairperson : Richard Critchley



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This has been another very busy year for the Friends with a number of new initiatives, too many to give great detail here, but all intended to improve both the look of the park and to further enhance the facilities and activities available for visitors. Following on from the great success in the provision of a new children's playground at Lakeside which is proving to be such a huge success, the mothers who now run "Little Friends" are actively raising money to improve the upper playground and are also introducing a number of other initiatives to provide exciting activities for the little ones to help them appreciate the park from an early age. These include the introduction of children's trails, a forest school, craft workshops and a children's garden. They also ran a summer picnic which was well attended.



We are also well advanced with our plans to renew the shelter in Canal Gardens, to provide a defibrillator at Lakeside and also a FoRP noticeboard outside the café there. A copy of the interesting history line boards at the playground has been installed outside Tropical World, and later this year, Mary's Tree will be divided into three sections which will be re-installed in the same place.



All this of course costs money and we have been concerned about declining membership, recently. Membership and subscriptions are the life-blood of Friends.

We cannot do all this work without the money raised through subscriptions. People are surprised, even shocked, at the amount of time spent, and variety of works that are carried out by our members who volunteer to improve the whole area including, planting, cleaning, designing, repairing and litter picking. Without this help and despite the incredible work that the park staff perform, it is acknowledged that the park would soon look in a very sorry state, indeed.

Please encourage new members and do consider joining one of our working parties. They provide recreation and social contact and personal satisfaction.

Finally, on 30th July we arranged a public meeting to raise issues of anti-social behaviour with members of the police and the council. Numbers were overwhelming and the hall we had booked holding up to 100 was soon overflowing and we were forced to move to a much larger venue. This was tremendous, especially considering the foul weather, and that it was holiday season, but it made a point. We have had enough. Issues raised included speeding, dangerous and inconsiderate driving on the roads and on Soldiers Fields. We also discussed quad-bikes, barbecues, drug dealing and especially problems with litter. The police responded well and were well received but there was some disappointment expressed with the responses of the council. We will wait to see, but not let up. But they also need your help to report issues with details, especially car numbers, for them to build up a picture and identify trouble spots.

Finally, to you and to all the many visitors who use the park with consideration, enjoy it. It is a fabulous recreational facility. And remember, it is not just for Roundhay. This is a park for all of Leeds which happens to be located in Roundhay.

Richard Critchley



The Railway that Never Was

In previous newsletters, we have featured items on the history of Roundhay Park including how it came to be opened up to the public in the early 1880s. These accounts included first hand reports from 'a Bradford Man' who provided a detailed analysis of the potential of Roundhay Park as a recreational space for the public. He was full of praise for the beauty and tranquility of the park, but had concerns about the distance between the park and the city centre (more than 4 miles), questioning the extent to which this might deter people from visiting if there was no transport available.

We are grateful to FoRP committee member John Ferguson who sent us a fascinating document proposing the development of an 'elevated single rail railway' to provide transport between the city centre and Roundhay Park. Dated 1887, and drawn up by J Clark Jefferson and J T Pullon, this detailed document set out a comparison with other possible types of railway and tramway, before proposing an elevated single rail railway. As described in Steven Burt's book 'An Illustrated History of Roundhay Park' this would be similar to the 'Tightrope Railway' in Chicago, consisting of a single rail on a lattice girder. The nine ton engine would draw 8 to 10 coaches at a top speed of 25mph.. The following extract quoted from the document provided by John Ferguson will hopefully transport you back to that time:

"The importance of securing the best means of rapid and easy access to Roundhay Park has become so fully impressed on the people of Leeds that no apology is needed for the appearance of this pamphlet. At numerous intervals during the past few years various schemes for railways and tramways have successively appeared, and the interest in this matter, so far from being lessened by repeated failures,

seems to have been strengthened, especially during the last few months.

Early last summer the question of economic railway communication for mountainous and thinly populated countries where only a moderate traffic could be expected, came especially under our notice, and in seeking for a solution of the problem, and in the absence of other satisfactory means, we were led to design an improved form of elevated single rail railway....."

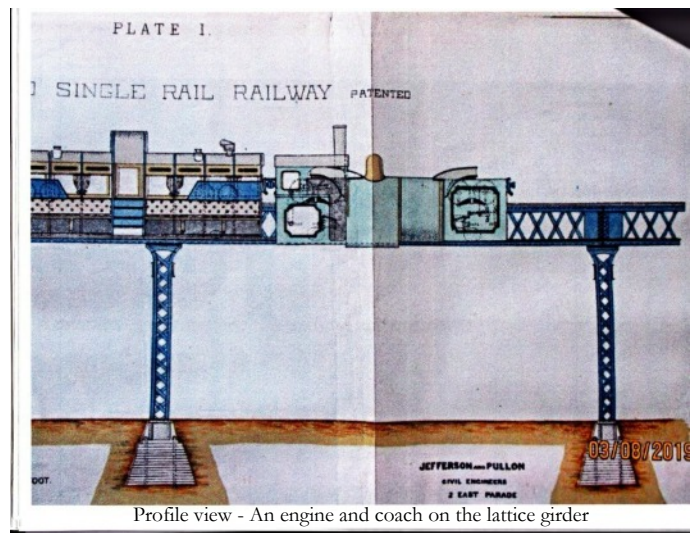
So the proposal began. Given that Roundhay is not notably mountainous, one presumes the proposers were expecting 'only moderate traffic' on the route. (If only they could see it now!). The proposal goes into great detail, listing advantages such as 'moderate capital required', direct, frequent service, low fares, comfortable carriages, perfect safety for everyone, and journey times of 10 to 12 minutes. (If only they could see it now!)

The proposers had a number of ideas about the route, commencing at a station at the junction of North Street and New Briggate, running parallel to Regent Street and Cross Stamford Street. Then it would mainly follow Gipton Beck to near the Park Avenue entrance to the park, continuing to near the 'stables' or Canal Gardens where the Park Station would be placed. Further ideas suggested the railway could be extended all the way round the park and

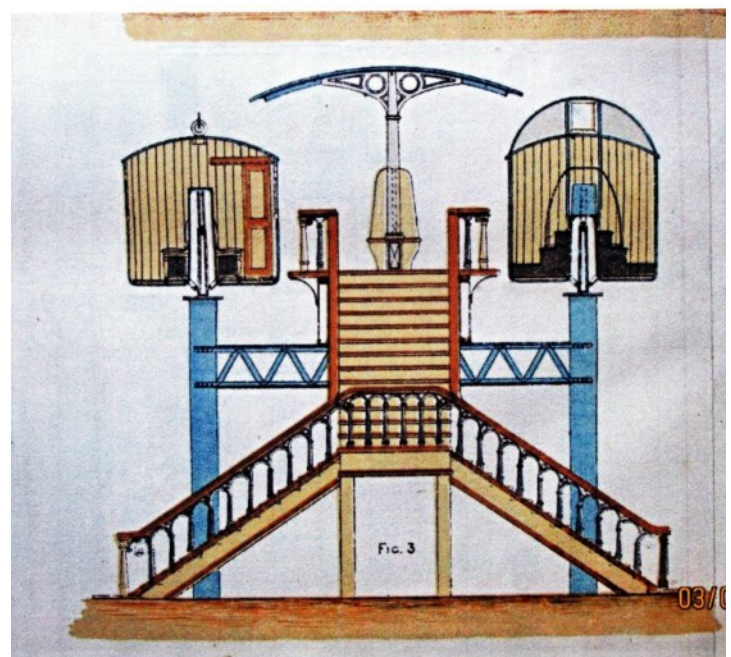
even out to Moortown, Meanwood and Headingley.

Clearly, this remarkable proposal never became a reality. In his book, Steven Burt reports that council members rejected the plans due to concerns about costs, unsightly girders and noise. However, it is a fascinating insight into how planners were thinking about the development of Roundhay Park as a park for the people of Leeds and beyond.

The two illustrations taken from the proposal show drawings of the single rail construction and vehicles in profile and in cross section. We would like to thank The Leeds Library, 18 Commercial Street, Leeds LS1 6AL, for allowing access to the article and if you would like to view the full proposal, please contact them at counter@theleedslibrary.org.uk.



Profile view - An engine and coach on the lattice girder



Cross section view - showing coaches on either rail and steps to the platform

Little FoRP launches children's events in the park

The irrepressible and talented team of volunteers who successfully campaigned for the Lakeside playground, has now launched a trial of 'Little Friends of Roundhay Park', aiming to involve children in caring for the park. We are grateful to Sara Dawson for this article and the photos showing the exciting activities already run by the 'Little Friends' team.



Testing a bow and arrow at the Forest School

The popularity of the Lakeside playground campaign saw FoRP gather a significant following from families in North Leeds. On the back of this, 'Little Friends of Roundhay Park' was born with the aim of inspiring young people to love and protect the park.

In February, FoRP conducted a survey of a thousand local families and the results showed strong support for activities that encouraged children to explore and learn about nature and the great outdoors. A trial program of events called Little Friends was devised to offer families more for their FoRP membership. The programme is led by qualified external providers on behalf of FoRP.

The first event was a family working party in March, where children planted 2000 snowdrops (read Tom Cooper's article for more details about this). It was a huge success and received much press attention.

In May a family litter pick was organised following the May Bank Holiday. Many families donned their scruffs and set about picking litter across the park. The event was well attended and saw councillor Angela Wenham attend to support the cause.



At the picnic, from the left - Laura Webb (one of the founders of Little Friends), with FoRP committee members John Ferguson, Carol Haughton and Richard Critchley, with Councillor Angela Wenham (second from right)

"The best classroom and the richest classroom is roofed only by the sky"
Margaret McMillan

A bumper weekend in June saw children join Roundhay Park estate manager John Roebuck in Coronation Gardens next to Tropical World to plant yellow magnolias and pink petunias. The children planted an impressive number of beds and worked solidly until the flowers were planted, only stopping occasionally to admire a mini beast or two.

The following day saw the launch of the first forest craft workshop lead by Louise, one of the Leeds City Council park rangers. Louise set up a gazebo in the park and enthusiastically hosted a craft session showing 22 children how to make a dreamcatcher out of willow, clay and other foraged materials.

Her enthusiasm was matched by Sally from Grass Roots and Muddy Boots and Siobhan from Treetops Forest School, who held their first forest school in July. It was well attended and one attendee tweeted: "We had an awesome morning @friendsofroundhaypark at the new forest school! We made gruffly character houses with logs, played with dinosaurs, went on a bug hunt, lazed in hammocks and made swords using vegetable peelers. Looking forward to next month already."



The sun shines on the picnic in the park

Little FoRP celebrated the success of their launch at a picnic in Roundhay Park to promote 'Field's in Trust Have a Field Day', an event which celebrated parks across the country. The entertainment was provided by Moo Music and the Residents of Roundhay Association who set up a Roundhay Rocks stall. Delicious cakes were served by the Roundhay WI. A lovely afternoon was had by all.

Chairman of FoRP Richard Critchley said: "‘Little Friends’ has been set up to inspire the next generation to explore, love and protect the park. Our aim is to engage children with Roundhay Park, by facilitating ideas, initiatives and activities to directly benefit FoRP family members. We are working closely with the Leeds City Council’s Parks and Countryside Department and drawing on their expert resources."

"Following the huge success of a trial working party in March, which saw 2,000 snowdrops planted by local children and their families, we have four more working parties scheduled this year."

"Litter continues to be a problem in Roundhay, despite the best efforts of the Parks team and FoRP’s regular litter team led by Martin Child. Families can now join several litter picks this year, where appropriate equipment will be provided."

Little FoRP is running as a trial and it will be reviewed later in the year to assess whether it will become an ongoing programme. Still in the pipeline are the creation of a children’s garden and adventure trails in the park.

The programme of events runs until December. For more information visit <https://forp.org/little-friends> or search for Little Friends of Roundhay Park on Facebook.

Sara Dawson



Planting crocuses - Little Friends join the working party



Making dream catchers at the Forest Craft Workshop



Let every flower bloom

FORP members will receive 20% discount on the price of tickets to the Forest Craft Workshops and the Forest Schools and get access to earlybird tickets. If tickets are still available three weeks prior to any event, bookings will be opened to non-members.





Val Brough - REAP Event Organiser (centre) with REAP colleagues (lt) and Carol Haughton and Jutta Heinen (rt) from FoRP

This year FoRP's Friends Garden took part in the annual Roundhay Open Gardens event. Cecily Jarvis and a regular band of FoRP volunteers work tirelessly to keep Friends Garden looking beautiful. Our thanks go to Cecily for this report, and for reporting on the Wild-flower Meadow, the stonework in Friends Garden and for providing the photographs.

Roundhay Open Gardens – 23rd June

Roundhay Open Gardens is organised by REAP (Roundhay Environmental Action Project) and this year nearly 30 private gardens in Roundhay were open to visitors from 12.00 until 5.00pm. Donations could be made at any garden to the chosen charity, St. Gemma's Hospice.

Following FoRP's success in last year's Yorkshire in Bloom competition we decided to promote Friends Garden through this event in 2019. A surprising number of people who visit Canal Gardens don't know Friends Garden at all. So many told us "I never realised this was here", so this was a first-class opportunity to promote FoRP and the garden.

We prepared a folder with photographs and drawings showing how the garden was originally constructed and even to those of us familiar with the

garden, it is hard to believe the scale of the work undertaken by FoRP volunteers in the early 2000s. This made a good talking point with visitors and gave us the opportunity to hand out membership forms and FoRP's Floral Walk booklet.

The weather was kind, overcast but warm and there was a constant stream of visitors throughout the afternoon. Star of the show on the day was a tree – Cornus kousa 'Norman Haddon' which was in full bloom and attracted much attention.

From all the gardens taking part, a total of £4002.82 was raised for St. Gemma's.

Cecily Jarvis



Cornus kousa in bloom



Letting the Wild Flowers Bloom



Clockwise from top left:
The uncommon Viper's Bugloss
A riot of colour
Corn Marigold
Calendula

After a bit of a lean year last year, we seemed to have double the number of different species normally expected from a single sowing and it seems likely that much of the seed sown in 2018 which failed to germinate because of the hot, dry weather, has sprung into life due to the cool damp conditions in May and June this year.

In addition to the usual meadow species, at the suggestion of Estates Manager, John Roebuck, FoRP members involved with the preparation of the ground sowed seed from their own gardens and brought left over seed from home. We also purchased very cheaply, a couple of boxes of "Easy Wildflower Seed" ready mixed with fertiliser and compost. The result was a riotous mix of colour and height, wild and cultivated – we even managed to sow a few wild oats - literally I mean – which sway airily over the flower heads.

There are old garden favourites like viola and calendula, oriental poppy, and candytuft alongside meadow varieties such as yarrow, dog daisy, corn poppy, cornflower, corn marigold and so many more. All these flowers are of course, attracting a lot of insects. Alongside the many different types of bees and hoverflies, there are spiders, pollen beetles and damsel flies and one knowledgeable visitor reports having counted twelve species of butterfly.

It's good to see that after a couple of difficult years when tall grasses and thistles seemed to be the only things growing well, we have successfully created something beautiful and interesting for people to enjoy.

Stonework in Friends Garden

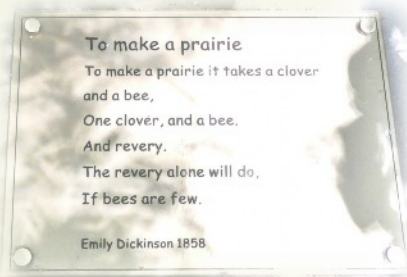
Work on the engraved stones in Friends Garden has now been completed. The carved stone by the Old Park Road entrance was removed for cleaning and was reinstalled in spring. You can now easily read the names of the volunteers and supporters involved in creating the Friends Garden 2000–2005

The “poem stone” however, proved more difficult. In spite of the efforts of two strong stone masons, this stone could not be removed. Its concrete setting is wide and deep. Obviously, FoRP member, Jon Vogler, who many will remember with affection, and who carved these stones, made sure this one would never be moved or indeed fall over!

A re-think was called for and we have therefore had a plaque made and

mounted on a block of York stone, showing the Emily Dickinson poem so that visitors need no longer strain their eyes trying to read the carving which is deteriorating. The new plaque sits at the foot of the original carving.

Thanks to Clarke Memorials of Lawnswood for this work and for their help and advice throughout.



Poem stone



Supporters and volunteers

Our Place in History

Our new history boards are finally in place outside the entrance to Tropical World in Canal Gardens. They needed a little bit of ‘tweaking’ to get them to fit, but it is all worthwhile in the end. Our thanks go to John Roebuck and his team at Leeds Parks for their help with the installation, and to Fastsigns and Anna Wanczyc for reworking the boards to fit the space.



FoRP working parties continue their sterling work, led by Tom Cooper. Tom has provided this update, and all the photos showing the wide variety of their work. Also we thank all the other organisations and individuals who join in alongside our volunteers, including children and families.

A Floral Summer Party in the Park

The Wild Flower Garden has been a big success this year. By July it was a riot of colour and it should flower well into the autumn. Preparations began in April. This year we adopted a low intervention approach. We just dug out lots of the grasses and thistles and scattered a wild flower seed mix over the ground. The “work boot shuffle” got us all laughing and obviously settled the seed well into its new home. The rain that fell in the weeks after will also have helped.



Digging out



Doing the work boot shuffle



Beautiful results

If you have not come across the wild flower garden, take the path from the Lakeside Cafe towards the front of the Mansion. After a short distance you will see the flowers on your right, just in front of a small wood. It lifts the spirits to see it up close. It is not only colourful, but provides a haven

for all kinds of beneficial insects. Cecily Jarvis provides more details on p6 in this newsletter.

There were two corporate working parties in the park at the beginning of the summer. The plan was for them to clean, prepare then paint the shelter between the Mansion and Upper Lake. The first group, from TSYS (the data company Total Systems Services), got all the cleaning and preparation done and some of the painting.



Unfortunately wet weather stopped the second group, from Alliance, from finishing the job. They had to be satisfied rubbish collecting in the far reaches of Ram Wood, and they certainly did find a lot of rubbish. They collected more than 10 sacks of the stuff.

The painting did get finished though, by the next Thursday working party. Darren organised this, while I was sunning myself in Cornwall.

We have also been working in Ram Wood, cleaning the grids that stop branches and even logs from blocking the tunnel that takes the stream under the path by the lake. If this blocks, the stream



Mudlarks- keeping streams clear

floods the path and destroys the surface.

On the subject of water ruining paths, David built a new drainage channel for the bottom of the zig-zag path. During one working party the old one was repaired as much as possible and the shiny new one put in beside it. They enjoyed the work so much, that no-one thought to take pictures during the work.

It would not be summer without the annual Triathlon clean-up. We have to make sure the park looks its best for its yearly appearance on TV. We worked on the areas around the boathouse and Waterloo Lake dam. We cleared the grass from the edges of the path. We also removed the saplings grow-



Cleaning the decks

ing in the dam itself. It is not the most exciting of jobs, but important. In time the roots of what will eventually become ash, sycamore and beech trees, will undermine the dam structure. It is a big dam and a big job. We spent two working parties tackling this, and for both we had help from our friends, the Roundhay Runners.

One event that just missed the Spring newsletter was one we aimed at families.

We were planting yet more snowdrops and felt it would be a suitable one for young children to help out safely. Lots of families turned up, and as Roundhay Runners were with us yet again, nearly 50 workers, of all sizes, got the job done by coffee time. Luckily I had brought plenty of biscuits and well as lashing of coffee and squash! There have been several more FoRP activities aimed at families since then. They have all proved very popular.

You will be pleased to know that the beech saplings that we moved from Fox Wood to fill the gaps in the hedge on Lidgett Park Road have all taken. Some are Copper Beech so it should develop into an interesting hedge.

If you fancy joining our exciting adventures, e-mail me [at \(tomandcath@ntlworld.com\)](mailto:tomandcath@ntlworld.com). We meet 2nd Saturday & 4th Thursday of each month. We meet at the Carriage House behind the Roundhay Fox at 10.00am and are done by 1.00pm.

Tom Cooper



Working on the dam



Many hands.....including some 'Little Friends'

Take Notice

Some people have commented that FoRP has not done enough to 'blow our own trumpet' and show the public what a difference we make to the park through all our efforts and hard work. We now have two new signs in place – at the 'stumpery' and by the wildflower meadow. Credit where it's due – we deserve it!



SUMMER VISITORS TO ROUNDHAY PARK

Once again we are indebted to Dave Johnston for his article and wonderful photographs – this time featuring four birds which are surely the very essence of summer.



*From the top:
House Martin
Sand Martin
Swallow
Swift*



A walk down to Waterloo Lake on May 1st this year did not get off to a promising start. It was chilly, grey and misty. However, sounds coming from the Lakeside Café area increased the pulse rate. Swallows could be heard. In fact swallows, house martins, a few sand martins and swifts were all flying low over Waterloo Lake, looking for the few insects which were there.

The first swallows arrived in Leeds on March 30th this year. They had come from South Africa (a distance of 8,490 miles), flying through the Congo, Sahara desert, Spain and France on the way. They are insect eaters, usually found, and nesting, near water and farms. Their mud nests are built on the side of houses or inside open barns etc. 2 clutches of up to 5 eggs may be laid each year. The parents can be seen feeding the young, often on telegraph wires, until they all migrate back to Africa in September or October. Although often seen above both lakes in Roundhay Park, swallows tend to nest farther away, such as in the Shadwell and Adel areas, and at Temple Newsam.

Swifts, the biggest of these 4 birds, started to arrive in Leeds on April 24th this year. They need a constant supply of flying insects to eat. Most migrate back to the Congo (a distance of 4,200 miles) by the end of July. Their numbers have declined by about 50% in the last 10 years. Swifts can be seen and heard in many parts of Roundhay and Gledhow. They usually nest high on the sides of older buildings. Only one clutch is laid per year, with up to 3 eggs. The Leeds Swift Group is having great success maintaining, and hopefully increasing, swift numbers in our area, particularly in Gledhow, by the use of swift boxes fixed onto local buildings. Thorner is a great place to see and hear swifts flying up and down the main street. There they nest on lower, older buildings in the village.

Less is known about house martin migration, but it is thought to be the same as the swallow. They started to arrive in Leeds on 1st April this year. They prefer to nest on the sides of buildings, having 2 clutches with up to 5 eggs in each. Again, parents feed the young until they migrate back to Africa. Several houses in Roundhay and Gledhow have house martin nests, which is very encouraging as their numbers have declined in recent years, possibly by as much as 65% over the last 10 years. This may be due to several factors: less insects available, poor weather conditions on the migratory route, and lack of nesting places on newer houses. There is a large colony of house martins on the Parkway hotel, near Golden Acre park.

Sand martins are the earliest of these 4 birds to arrive. This year they started to arrive in Leeds on 28th February. Although they can be seen over our lakes from time to time, they usually nest in holes in river banks. Artificial colonies of these birds exist at Rodley nature reserve and at Fairburn Ings. The river Wharfe near Barden Bridge and at Burn-sall has sand martin colonies. One, sometimes two, clutches of 4-5 eggs are laid. Parents catch insects over the water, and feed their young until they return to Africa in September.

Swifts live for up to 19 years, house martins 14 years, swallows 11 years and sand martins 10 years. The distances they fly during their lifetime are amazing. There is concern for all 4 species. Let's hope that schemes such as the Leeds Swift Group, house martin nest box schemes etc., bring us these summer visitors in good numbers for many years to come.

Thanks to Linda Jenkinson (Leeds Swift Group) and Paul Morris for additional information.

Dave Johnston

Not Everything in the Garden is Lovely.....

FoRP members living anywhere near the park cannot fail to have noticed a disturbing increase in various forms of anti-social behaviour in and around the park. In response FoRP set up a public meeting held at St Andrews Church, Roundhay on Tuesday 30th July. Our Chair, Richard Critchley led the meeting and has written about this in his letter to members in this newsletter. Over 100 people attended the meeting, which had to be moved from the church hall into the church, as there was insufficient space, indicating the level of concern in the community.

The problems discussed are listed in Richard's letter on p2. Invitations were sent out to council members and representatives and the police. We were grateful to Councillor Angela Wenham, Sergeant Rothery and PC Halloran from Leeds District NE Police, Neil Bowden (Leeds City Council Anti-Social Behaviour Team) and Kris Nenadic (Operations Manager Leeds Parks and Countryside) for attending and for contributing much to the discussions. However, we were disappointed in that, apart from Angela, no other councillors found the time to attend this important meeting focusing on the future well-being of Roundhay Park and its surrounding area. Roundhay Park is a vital recreational space for Leeds and a major attraction for visitors from all over the region, and we must do all we can to ensure that it is a safe and welcoming environment. FoRP will continue to press for action to reduce anti-social behaviour of all types.



Sign on West Avenue

In the meantime, if you see anything that causes you concern **please do report it (But please – do not place yourself at risk).**

For police matters, contact

nel.npt@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk or go to <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it>

For other anti-social behaviour, contact <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/saferleeds/Anti-social-behaviour>

For issues involving taxis, contact taxiprivaterehire.lic@leeds.gov.uk

Please do not report anti-social behaviour to FoRP – we only have the same contacts!

Also you are welcome to join meetings of PACT (Police and Communities Together) held at the Parochial Hall, Fitzroy Drive, Oakwood at 6pm on the first Tuesday of each month. (Meetings will be held on 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December.)



Barrier on Park Avenue demolished by a car on the night of the public meeting



A Forthcoming Event - Heritage Walk

So you think you know the Park?

Did you know that 'Hey' was the Norman French word for a deer park? - hence the 'Round Hey'.

Or that the park contains what could be the world's first property developer's show house?

Or that the park contains a Georgian gazebo (see photo) and the remains of a fish pond that supplied the Mansion with fish?

Join Membership Secretary John Ferguson as part of the national Heritage Open Days on a walk around "The lesser known areas of Roundhay Park" on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September at 11am or 2pm starting at the Lakeside car park. Well behaved children and well behaved dogs welcome. Please wear suitable footwear for rough paths.

John Ferguson



Notices and Forthcoming Events

FoRP Calendar 2020

Another year is racing by and it's time to think about your calendar for 2020. The FoRP 2020 calendar will be on sale at our stall at the Oakwood Farmers market on 19th October and 16th November, so don't miss out!

A Boost for our Ego

As part of the launch of the Ego restaurant at the refurbished Wellington in Shadwell, two charity evenings took place (16th and 17th July). FoRP was one of the two charities to benefit along with the Shadwell Community Playground Project. These successful events reached their target of raising £2500 of which half comes to FoRP.

Canal Gardens Shelter

The shelter at the Old Park Road end of the canal has been in poor condition. The FoRP committee has approved a budget of £15K for improvements. If the plans are approved by the council, contractors will start on site on 16th September and the project should be finished on 11th October.

Mary's Tree

Mary's Tree, the magnificent sculpture in Canal Gardens which was created in memory of FoRP member Mary Hill had developed a problem. The wood around its base was rotting, and it was becoming dangerous. However the sculpture is being saved by careful separation into 3 sections which will be displayed in the same area. We are grateful to Shane Green, the original sculptor, for helping with this delicate task, free of charge. The result will be different – but still beautiful.

Do you know Wordpress and website design? – Help needed

John Ferguson and Malcolm Jarvis are looking for a third member of the team looking after the FoRP website. If you have some knowledge of websites, or have time available to learn, please contact John at john.ferguson@forp.org

Geology Walk

Did you know that 350 million years ago Roundhay Park was near the equator?

The changes from then till now are written in the rocks. Join Bill Fraser from the Leeds Geological Association while he explains how the landscape has changed. Meet at the former visitors centre by the Mansion on Saturday 14th September for a geology walk lasting about two and a half hours. (Sturdy footwear advisable).

FoRP Open Meeting – Wednesday 9th October at 7pm, the Education Room, the Mansion, Roundhay Park



When Ed Sheeran came to Roundhay Park

On 16th and 17th August over 150,000 people came to Roundhay Park to see Ed Sheeran, supported by Lewis Capaldi and The Darkness in the biggest music event held here in many years. The performances were a great success. The event was a huge challenge for the organisers and for the park staff. For FoRP members, it was anticipated with a range of feelings including excitement and trepidation. The size of the crowds made it inevitable that there would be a massive clean-up job to be done after the event. As this newsletter goes to print, that clean-up is still in progress. However, the contractors and the park staff have done a fantastic job throughout in clearing away litter - so much so, that an emergency litter pick scheduled by FoRP for the following Monday was called off because there was no litter to pick. A bigger challenge would be in helping the ground to recover, especially following the continuous heavy rain that drenched everybody on the Friday, creating a mud bath in many areas. The contractors and park staff have been busy laying straw on the worst affected areas and it is hoped that the grass will not take too long to recover.

FoRP also hopes and expects that some of the considerable income from the event will be re-invested in Roundhay Park.