

# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013

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)

## FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK

### PARK RUN

Since April 2011 Roundhay Park has hosted a weekly parkrun every Saturday morning.

This is a free, timed 5km run starting in the Park at 9am to which everyone is welcome. Runners register in advance and print off a barcode which they bring with them to the run. At the finish this is scanned, linked to their time and posted on the Roundhay parkrun website along with lots of interesting statistics about the runners and their previous run times. The statistics include an age-grading score which tells you how you are doing compared to others for your age and gender. This means that as you get older, all you need to do is

keep running at the same speed and your score will improve - as easy as that! What makes parkrun so loved by those who participate, (apart from the fact it is free!) is that it really does cater for everybody regardless of their fitness, age or ability. We have children as young as 7 running with their parents or grandparents, and plenty of older people who are running because they still can and just enjoy it. Others are training for races elsewhere or are trying to keep the middle-age spread in check. You can make parkrun what you want it to be, make new friendships and renew existing ones at the same time.

Roundhay Park made history in November 2013 with the first weekly junior parkrun starting here. This is a free 2km timed run every Sunday at 9am for children aged from 4 to 14. Again it is aimed at people of all abilities and meant to be a fun experience rather than a competitive race. Feedback has been really positive and numbers are starting to grow. You can find us on [www.parkrun.org.uk/roundhay-juniors](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/roundhay-juniors) or [www.parkrun.org.uk/roundhay](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/roundhay). No article about parkrun would be complete without a mention of the volunteers that make it work. Everyone who is there at the



run on a Saturday or Sunday is a volunteer, as are all of the people who work behind the scenes at a local level, to keep the organisation going. This enables us to keep the runs free, but also gives people the opportunity to get involved, putting something back into their community. For volunteers this can be the most rewarding aspect of the parkrun experience, giving the parkrun community a sense of ownership of the event.

Parkrun is a national organisation which started in London in 2004 and came first to Leeds, to Woodhouse Moor, in 2007. It currently organises over 300 weekly runs and has had nearly 500,000 runners participate since its inception. Each week sees a new event start somewhere in the world. Parkrun has taken a hold in Australia, Poland and Denmark and will no doubt spring up elsewhere in the world before long. Back here in Roundhay we are fortunate to have a lovely park on our doorstep and look forward to another weekend of 'parkrunning'.

**Graham Pawley**



## CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER DECEMBER 2013

Each November since 2009, when we produced our first Action Plan, about 20 of us attend a one day workshop to review, update and revise the plan.

Although most of you will never have actually looked at our Action Plan, it is a crucial document setting out, and making us focus on our goals and how we intend to achieve them. It is shared with Park Management, Councillors and Council officials and forms the agenda for all our meetings.

One of the nicest bits about our annual review is identifying everything we've achieved in the previous 12 months (and patting ourselves on the back). Just a few of our achievements this year include;

- We have encouraged Park users to be more responsible and at the same time have improved the Park itself by setting up our LITTER PICKING GROUP. I don't think any of us could have imagined that when David Binns asked for volunteers for litter picking, we would get over 50 coming forward and that so many would go on to "adopt" areas they look after on a regular basis. Thank you so much to everyone involved in this initiative.
- We have improved Park user experience (and at the same time made a little money!) by launching the TREE TRAIL booklet – thanks to the hard work of Cecily Jarvis and her team.
- After undertaking 2 user surveys/consultations and working with Leeds City Council Tennis Development Team to introduce and promote free tennis coaching, we have, at last, SECURED AGREEMENT THAT OUR TENNIS COURTS WILL BE REFURBISHED. We understand work will begin very shortly so that by the spring, our courts will be looking wonderful and the Park will be greatly improved as a result.
- In a project led by Oakwood Traders and Residents Association, we have begun taking active steps to secure refurbishment of OAKWOOD CLOCK, which so proudly marks the entrance to our Park.
- Our MEMBERSHIP has continued to increase and we have been successful in terms of attracting younger people – thus securing our future as an organisation and increasing our income through Membership fees.

In this day and age I suppose we should also count it as an achievement that we remain financially sound – thanks to such things as our talks programme and sales of greetings cards, books and calendar!

Whilst we've achieved a great deal over the last 12 months, we still have a lot to do and we are all looking forward to another wonderful year ahead – including, amongst other things, a brand new wild flower meadow!

Thanks to everyone for all their hard work and support. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Julia Wilson

**Some spectacular photographs of bonfire night at the Park this year.  
Courtesy of John Ferguson**





# CLOCK ROCK AND TWO EMPTY BARRELS ROCKS THE OAKWOOD CLOCK

By Alexis Keech

The Clock Rock and Two Empty Barrels festival was dreamt up in the pub on a dreary March evening by some locals wanting to help raise funds to save the Oakwood equivalent of the tower of Big Ben, the 101 year-old Oakwood Clock. The Clock Rock and Two Empty Barrels festival was kicked off by the Lord Mayor in Oakwood situated on the edge of Roundhay Park on the 7 September 2013.



The Lord Mayor, Tom Murray, opening the event

The local crowd rocked to the eclectic mix of local bands and solo artists including The Casinos, The Moonshine Five featuring the Lilies, Peter Stagg, the Blue Sharks, Will Booth, Dave Pilla, stars of the All Star Live, the internationally famous but local banjo player, Mutton Chops and the rock group Kamelfut.

The event hosted 20 stalls with products from local artists including stained glass, ceramics, vintage furniture, cards, music orientated jewellery and painters. Local groups like FoRP, REAP, OTRA and the Roundhay Methodist and Roundhay St John Churches also chipped in to raise funds for the day. Raffle Prizes were donated by Michael Lewin Solicitors, the Leeds author Tony Quinn, the simulation

company Hydraulic Analysis, the bespoke jewellery designer Andrew Geogheghan as well as many of the stallholders including a wonderful clock hat knitted by Sew Crafty.

Food stalls included cake makers, brownies, sweeties, nachos, curry supplied by Oakwood Health and delicious pulled pork sandwiches supplied by Tasty! as well dog biscuits that dogs were literally drooling over! Stilt walkers dressed as chefs made the kids howl with laughter as

they dusted the clock and the gingerbread lady helped children to decorate their gingerbread biscuits. Flashing t shirts were sported by Clock Rockers later in the day as the sun set over the rocking stage.

The Clock Rock festival was a free community event that was funded

through grants from the local councillors and the Inner East North East Leeds team with help from the Roundhay Park Estates team, helping to ensure the smooth running of the day. All the volunteer stewards wandering around in yellow jackets sporting summer trilbys helped to enhance the family atmosphere and managed to keep everyone safe on the day.

Event co-ordinator, Alexis Keech said: *'The Clock Rock and two empty barrels event has been a resounding success, with such a great turn out from the local community to work together to support the restoration of such a well-loved local landmark. The Clock Rock team have pulled in over £3000 worth of donations to date, but we are expecting it to hit £4000 in the next few days.'*

The beer suppliers, Wharfebank Brewery were overwhelmed by the support of locals who wanted to indulge in their delicious beer, so much so, that extra beer had to be brought in from Otley to supply the thirsty Clock Rockers. The success of the event meant that it should be renamed Clock Rock and Nine Empty Barrels!

*The editors thank Alexis for letting us use this article, and for all the hard work in making the event happen. **The event was so successful that we understand there are plans to run another Oakwood Clock festival in 2014, with a provisional date set for 2 August. We will watch out for further news!***



Mid afternoon at the Oakwood Clock Rock

# THE WHITEHEAD FAMILY AT ROUNDHAY PARK

The editors are indebted to Nigel Cussans who (via John Roebuck, the Park Estate Officer) has kindly shared the following fascinating piece of family history. Nigel has been collecting his mother's memories about her grandparents and their children who lived and worked in Roundhay Park at the turn of the 20th Century. The account provided includes a dramatic and tragic event in 1902, though we have not been able, so far, to discover any further information. Perhaps some of our readers may know more?

The memories passed on to Nigel by his mother, beginning with John and Elizabeth Whitehead are as follow:

Elizabeth Whitehead (nee Tebbs) and John Alfred Whitehead were married and lived at 4 Park Cottages, Mansion Lane, with their 5 children in the years leading up to 1900. Elizabeth was the head cook at the Mansion kitchens, working for the Gilpin family (who also had a restaurant in Boar Lane, Leeds) and she had cooked meals for many dignitaries, including King Edward VII when he once visited the Masons in

Leeds). Elizabeth and John Alfred's children (and their jobs) were: Phyllis, the eldest; Louisa (worked in the laundry behind the Mansion, with Mrs Pimblock); Maud (planted bulbs at the park and at weekends and worked to hire out boats on the upper lake, with Mr Tommy Tindell); Johnny, who was John Alfred Jr. (worked for Mac Fisheries and later Newbys, both on Street Lane); Charlotte Hannah, who was the youngest sibling and my grandmother, was born 9 February 1900 (she worked for Caress's, ladies outfitters, also on Street Lane).

John Alfred Whitehead was grandfather to my mother Margaret Elizabeth (currently aged 91) and her 4 siblings (Nora, Robert Alan, Joan and Sheila). He worked for the Forestry Commission based at Roundhay Park. In the cold winter of 1902 he volunteered to test the safety of the ice-covered Waterloo Lake ahead of proposed public ice-skating. This involved him trying to traverse the ice on a horse-drawn cart. Tragically, the cart and horse fell through the ice. The horse died (was shot to end its pain) and though John Alfred survived the immediate accident he developed pneumonia and died only a few days later, leaving 5 young children to be brought up by Elizabeth.

The remaining Whitehead family continued to work at the park and lived at Park Cottages for at least another 28 years (Margaret was born in 1922 and was 8 years old in 1930 when Elizabeth took Louisa, Maud and Johnny to live at 10 Lowther Street, Harehills, and Margaret's mother Charlotte Hannah and her children went to live at No. 20 in the same street, with her husband Cyril Clark). Charlotte Hannah Clark lived to the age of 96, and died on 23 October 1996.

Margaret Elizabeth married Charles Cussans on 22 June 1946, and moved to her own home in Lincoln Green, Leeds, and is currently aged 91 (born 19-Mar-1922). Margaret and Charles had 2 children - myself (Nigel John) and my sister Gloria Denise.

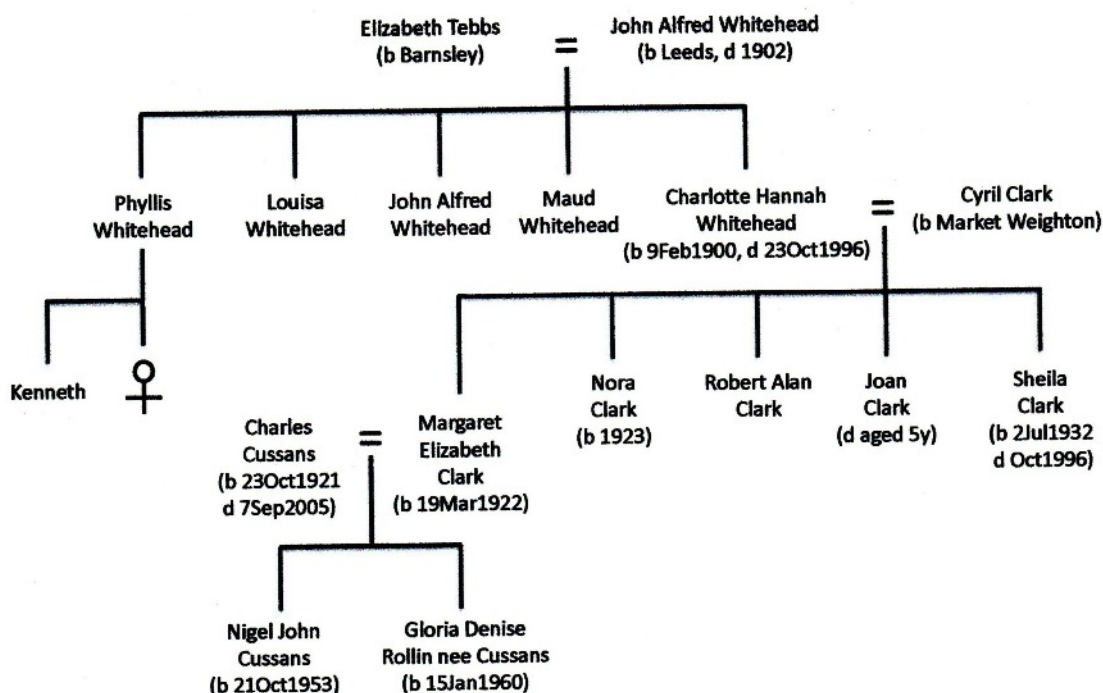
We hope you have found this family history of interest, especially the era of Elizabeth and John Alfred Whitehead and their association with The Mansion and Roundhay Park.

**Nigel Cussans (Dr)**

Nigel also sent us a copy of the Whitehead Family Tree.

Thanks again to Nigel and his mother, Margaret for so many memories. Have these jogged any other memories for our readers? Please do let us know.

## The Whitehead Family & Descendants





# ***YOUR CALENDAR NEEDS YOU !!!***

## ***Friends of Roundhay Park 2014 Calendar now available***



Thanks to Mike Farnham for taking the lead in developing and promoting what looks to be the most amazing calendar. If you haven't got one yet we advise you to hurry. They are going fast!

### **Calendar 2014**

The Friends of Roundhay Park 2014 calendar is now available (price £6.99). This edition marks the 20th Anniversary of the organization and is packed with stunning photographs representing all aspects of the Park.

The calendar can be purchased via our website ([www.forp.co.uk](http://www.forp.co.uk)) or from the following outlets.

- With Love
- Timoney's Cafe
- City Stationers
- Headrow Galleries, Harrogate Road, Alwoodley
- Lakeside Café
- Mansion Shop and Tropical World
- Philip Howard Bookshop

Full details of how you can buy your calendars are shown on the back page of this newsletter.

## **HILL 60 – HOW DID IT GET ITS NAME ?**

The tongue-in cheek answer is that this is the speed you reach when tobogganing down it in the snow. However the correct answer, which is given in the panel in the Visitors Centre (shown below) is that it was named in memory of the Yorkshire soldiers lost in the First World War.

The original Hill 60 to the south east of the Belgian town of Ypres was in fact a spoil heap of excavated soil from an adjacent railway cutting which formed the highest point in the largely flat landscape, so was of great strategic importance, changing hands a number of times. On the 7th of June 1917 it was captured by the 11th Battalion of the West Yorkshires as part of the Battle of Messines.

Actually what they captured should perhaps have been described as HOLE 60, as on the morning of the battle the 53,000 pounds of explosives placed in tunnels under the hill dug by the 1st Australian Tunnelling Group (a fascinating story told in the film / DVD "Beneath Hill 60") was detonated, along with 17 other large mines, in an explosion supposedly so massive that it was heard in Dover or even London.

However this does not get us any closer to how our Hill 60 was named. Does "The City of Leeds" mean that this was a decision of the City Council? Was it a proposal of one or more people? Was it the result of a proposal by the editor or readers of the Yorkshire Post and / or the Evening Post? If you can shed any light on this we would love to hear from you.

John Ferguson

The Zonnebeke Stone has a special link with Roundhay Park due to its proximity to a Belgium historic war site called Hill 60.

During World War I Hill 60 was strategically important to both sides, and all efforts by the British to take it failed until June 7th 1917. On that day the men of the 69th and 70th Brigades, Yorkshire Battalions, attacked and took control of Hill 60.

The City of Leeds commemorated the Yorkshire Battalion's loss and courage by naming an area of Roundhay Park Hill 60. It still exists today and stands to the front of the cricket pavilion.



# SKATING ON THE LAKES AT ROUNDHAY PARK.

By Neville Hurworth

The Lakes at Roundhay Park were an important place of recreation for the people of Leeds in winter during the few decades after the Park was acquired by Leeds Corporation. In those days the winters were often severe, causing unemployment especially in the building trade and in general there was plenty of hardship and unpleasantness. On those occasions ice formed on the Park lakes up to nine inches thick and skating at the Park gave the people of Leeds and surrounding districts a welcome break. At the weekends thousands came from all parts of the borough especially on Saturday afternoons after work was over.

Soon after the Park became public property, a management committee was formed under the chairmanship of Alderman John Barran and one of the first matters to be considered was the skating. They believed the Upper Lake was 'perfectly safe' because of the shallow water but ladders, ropes and life buoys were still to be made available for use in case of emergency. However, since the Waterloo Lake was much bigger and deeper in places skating was prohibited. It soon became clear that enforcement of this ban was not going to be easy.

In December 1874, for the first time since the Park became public, conditions were right for the people of Leeds to skate on the Upper Lake. A rather concerned Park manager, Joseph Clark, reported back to the management committee. There had been between five and six thousand people on and around the Upper Lake on the Saturday. He and his staff had kept the public off the Waterloo Lake until the following Monday afternoon when some hundreds of them forcibly went on and several dangerous cracks appeared in the ice.

An advertisement was put in the Leeds Mercury in December 1878 saying that the Upper Lake in the Park was safe enough 'for any number of people'. The ice was nine inches thick and the snow was being carted off the surface. The Lake would be illuminated by torchlight on Saturday night. The Waterloo Lake was not mentioned at all.

Skating on the Waterloo Lake, and also the safety equipment, continued to be of concern during the years that followed. In 1887 'A Non-Skater' wrote to the Leeds Mercury. During a

walk round the two lakes he complained of seeing 'only two short ladders with some yards of thin cord attached .....' and he also went on to say

*'It would appear that the committee have withdrawn their prohibition as to skating on the lower lake, as one of their representatives .... was watching the efforts of intending skaters to fasten on their skates ....'*

Later that year there was a discussion about the skating at Roundhay Park in the Council chambers. Alderman Scarr, who was then the chairman of the Park management committee, mentioned his concern about skating on the Waterloo Lake. The Leeds Mercury reported *'It was with great misgiving that he had seen thousands of people on that lake, and he had been tormented time after time by people to get Mr. Beilby [the Park manager in effect, though I believe his title was the head gardener] to certify that the lake was safe. He was afraid that 150 or 200 people would have been drowned there last winter.'* In the end the Council agreed to spend £100 on the Upper Lake to make it safe for the skaters 'with a view to drawing them away from the Waterloo Lake.'

The Leeds Mercury explained ... *'the Council felt that only by providing a safe sheet of water could they remove the onus of responsibility in case of an accident on the lower lake. It was eventually decided that the best plan to adopt would be to fill up the bottom of the upper lake until the depth of water left was only three feet .... Having obtained the authority of the Corporation, Mr. Beilby, the energetic manager of the Park, lost no time in commencing operations, and by last night the water had been reduced to a considerable extent, and in the course of a week or so the lake will be empty, except in the deepest parts.... Mr. Beilby proposes to use the resources he has at hand and fill the bed of the lake by cutting away the embankment on the north side of it ...'*

In those days there was a Leeds Caledonian Curling Club composed mainly of ex-pat Scots who were very active in the Park when skating was possible. They used the Upper Lake for their 'home' matches. Falls of snow on the ice were a nuisance to the skaters and often spaces would be cleared where serious skaters shared the amenity with those less skilful. Sometimes too, there were people on the ice kicking a football about, as well as people generally larking about.

All this would have been far from ideal conditions for the dedicated curlers. The Curling Club longed for access to the large expanse of the Waterloo Lake and there are accounts of some of their members having to be turned off the ice there and 'having their names taken'. They were keen too. It is recorded that they played on in all weather, snow storms, fog, and even when there was a couple of inches of standing water on the ice!

After the work had been done in 1887 on the Upper Lake it seems that the winters passed by without any serious skating incidents until December 1892. It was a Monday, at midday. There were about a hundred skaters on the Upper



Skaters on Waterloo Lake in 1908  
Courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Post

Lake when suddenly the ice broke at the waterfall end and a few skaters found themselves in the water. To their surprise and dismay they found themselves well out of their depth. More skaters fell through the ice as they rushed to help. Most of those in the water were rescued or got themselves out but with so many people thrashing about in the water in a comparatively small space, a young man became trapped beneath the ice and it was twenty minutes before his body was recovered and taken to the Mansion.

The inquest took place over two days and it was reported extensively in the Leeds Mercury. Mr Beilby was down on the Waterloo Lake at the time of the accident posting notices 'cautions to the skaters' and the complete absence of Park staff on the Upper Lake was explained away as being due to their lunch break. Mr Beilby had warned skaters that the ice on the Upper Lake was unsafe. Many heeded his advice and stayed off it but a large number did not. The Upper Lake was shallow and the worst that could happen if the ice broke beneath them was they would just get a cold soaking – or so they thought.

The jury passed a verdict of accidental drowning. The Leeds Mercury reported the full proceedings which make very interesting reading. The newspaper account of the inquest proceedings ended as follows:

*'The jury consider the park authorities are guilty of great negligence upon the following grounds, viz., (1) for allowing the public to skate on the top lake, when upon the admission of the manager, it was known to be unsafe; (2) on account of the fact that no park official was on duty at or near the scene of the accident to use and direct the inadequate life saving appliances which were at hand. The jury further consider that a grave responsibility rests upon the Roundhay Park Committee in allowing the public to be lulled into a sense of false security, they (the public) believing that the whole of the top lake had been filled up and made a uniform depth of three feet, when according to the evidence, the depth varies from three to nine feet.'*

The following December (1893) the Roundhay Park management committee decided again to reduce the depth of the Upper Lake. This time the Borough Engineer was directed to carry out the work and they instructed him to take the soil required from the hill on the south side of the lake. Preference was to be given to employing men resident in Leeds for the work. After the £250 set aside for this had been spent, unemployed workers were used for a few weeks to complete the work. The Leeds Mercury reported:

*'It had been intended to discontinue the work on Saturday next but in consequence of the large numbers of unemployed in the city the [Park] subcommittee decided to carry it on for several weeks longer.'*

As soon as the work on the Upper Lake had been completed the management committee once again banned skating on the Waterloo Lake and notices were posted to this effect. The following winter there was a letter in Leeds Mercury complaining bitterly ....

*'As far as my knowledge goes, no accident resulting in loss of life has occurred through skating on this lake (no thanks to our city fathers), while, on the upper lake, through their forethought and wisdom, a life was lost .... They had given it out, the upper lake was safe, and if any did get in [the water] there would be no danger. To debar skating on such a splendid sheet of water as the Waterloo Lake, when thick enough, is truly ridiculous. The park is maintained by the people of Leeds, who pay the rates, and when skating is*

*possible they make more use of it than they do in the summer time, when it is principally used by people of the outlying districts. An expert should be appointed to pronounce when skating on this ice is safe, similar to the action of the London County Council. The Roundhay Park Committee should set the unemployed to sweep the lake, and keep it in fair condition .... I trust the chairman will see his way to give instructions to have the ice tested for today (Saturday), and thus give permission for skating, and relieve the crowding on the upper lake.'*

Not long after this letter had been published, a deputation from the Leeds Caledonian Curling Club formally requested the ban to be lifted for a match to be played out on the Waterloo Lake. The ice there was known to be ten to twelve inches thick and, they believed it to be perfectly safe for skating. A special meeting of the sub committee was hastily convened but when their discussions ended they reaffirmed their policy. The ban remained in force and the curlers played their match on the Upper Lake as usual.

The Park committee did, however, yield to pressure to keep the ice clear for skating on the Upper Lake. Apparently this was being carried out by 'a few casual tip earning sweepers'. There were calls for the ice to be swept by the park gardeners who were thought to be largely unoccupied during the severe weather. In the end, the committee authorised the employment of a few sweepers to be paid by the Corporation.

As the years passed by into the new century the winters became milder and the problems of managing skating in the Park became less and less. In these days of global warming it seems unlikely we shall see much skating on the lakes at Roundhay Park in our life times. Hopefully the dangers of skating at Roundhay Park will remain just a feature of those early winters in the new public park.



Upper lake 21 December 2009 Beware! Thin ice



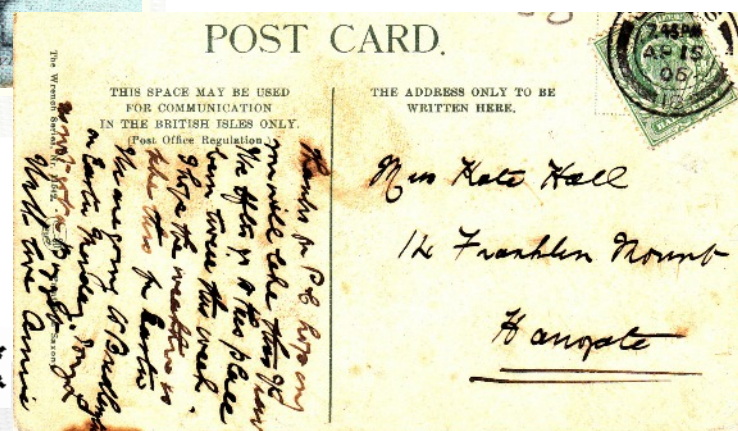
# PAST POSTCARDS

# THE UPPER LAKE



Sincere thanks to John Brook for sending us several postcards and photos of the park. Here is one showing a beautiful picture of the upper lake. The card has a Leeds postmark dated (we think) 15 April 1906. The card is addressed to a Mrs Kate Hall, 14 Franklin Mount, Harrogate. The text on the card reads:

*"Thanks for PC (presumably "postcard").  
Hoping you will like this view. We often go to this place- been twice this week. I hope the weather is like this for Easter. We are going to Bridlington on Easter Monday. (?Not legible?)  
With Love, Annie*



## MORE DUCKS?

In fact, not a duck this time.....

## THE COOT

The coot belongs not to the family of birds that include ducks, but to a different family – the Rails (Rallidae). With its glossy all-black plumage and distinctive white forehead and bill, the coot is always to be seen on the lakes in the Park, usually quite close to the water's edge. Coots dive frequently.

## AN UNUSUAL TASK – THE SAD TALE OF THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK BIRDS

We are indebted to Ruth Sterne for the following account of an unusual task she recalls in the Park. Ruth writes:

"A number of years ago when we had some very frosty nights during the winter, we had a phone call from Gillian Granger, a fellow birdwatcher in Roundhay Park, to tell us that a number of large black birds had been found in a small area of open water on the upper lake. She thought they were cormorants or shags. Cormorants usually occur on large stretches of water, such as at Fairburn Ings, whilst shags normally live near the sea. Both birds seem unlikely to be visiting the small lake in Roundhay Park.

A few days later we had a call from the Leeds Birdwatchers Club to inspect the dead shags – their identity had been established – and to remove any rings from their legs. So, on a cold winter's morning, we went to a yard near the Roundhay Fox where we found a table covered with about 20 frozen dead birds. It took us some time to open up the rings on their legs with very cold fingers. The rings were sent to the British Trust for Ornithology for identification of their original location and ringing. However we never did hear where these shags had come from."

Clearly these birds were identified by experts. The birdwatchers' book 'Birds of Britain and Europe' says that the shag is 'exclusively marine.....rarely wandering inland'. So this was indeed an unusual event. (The editor is almost certain he has seen cormorants on Waterloo Lake.....any other sightings?)



# A SPECIAL LECTURE EVENT – THE BLACKBURN AIRCRAFT COMPANY

Those of you who attended Helen Hodgart's lecture in September will be aware of the Blackburn Aircraft Company based at the site of Tesco supermarket in Roundhay- and that many test flights were carried out at Roundhay Park, which was also the take off site of the first scheduled flight between Leeds and Bradford. The founder of the company, Robert Blackburn, designed monoplanes before and during the First World War.

We are very pleased to announce that his grandson, Professor Robert Blackburn, has agreed to give a talk at **7pm on Monday 12th May 2014**. As the Education Centre has a limited capacity we have booked St Andrews Church, Roundhay for this occasion. Please make a note in your recently purchased FoRP calendar!

## OTHER FORTHCOMING LECTURES

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.

-----oOo-----  
All lectures (except 12 May - see above) 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

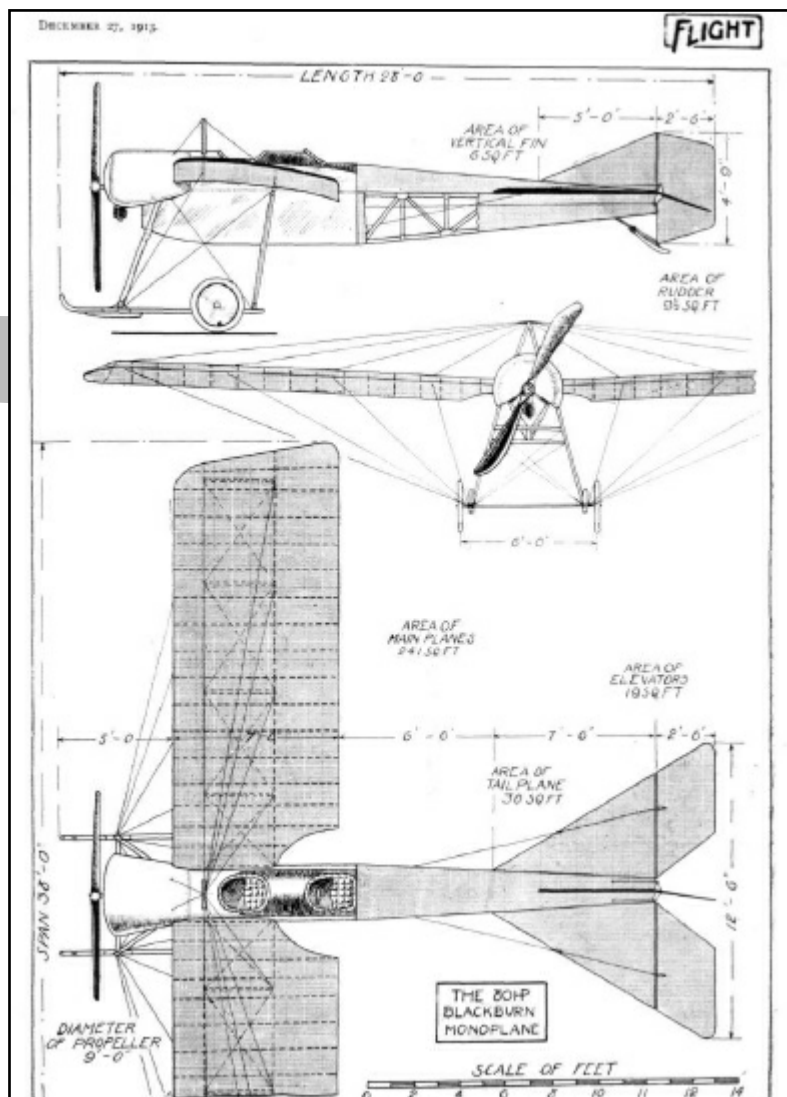
Net proceeds will go to Friends' funds, enabling us to continue our work within the Park.

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday 20th - Totally Tropical Christmas Tropical World 5 -8pm  
Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd - Listen to a steel band and meet the meercats whilst viewing the animals.  
Admission £3.75 (Concessions available)



### FRIENDS EVENTS (Open to non members)

Saturday 14th Dec - Working party Mansion car park 10.00

### REGULAR EVENTS

Leeds Rowing Club

Saturday and Sunday mornings - Waterloo Lake

[www.leedsrowing.org.uk](http://www.leedsrowing.org.uk) [rowing@leedsrowing.org.uk](mailto:rowing@leedsrowing.org.uk)

British Military Fitness Training

Monday and Wednesday evenings, Friday and Saturday mornings

Princes Avenue Car Park

[www.britmilfit.com](http://www.britmilfit.com) tel 0870 241 2517

outFIT Fitness Training

Monday and Wednesday evenings, Saturday morning

Lakeside Cafe Car Park

[www.outfit-uk.com](http://www.outfit-uk.com) [info@outfit-uk.com](mailto:info@outfit-uk.com)

Roundhay Parkrun - Saturday morning

Warm up 08.45 Start 09.00 - By the Monument

[www.parkrun.org.uk/roundhay/home](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/roundhay/home) [fb803@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fb803@hotmail.co.uk)

Carnegie Brazilian Soccer Schools - Saturday morning

Soldiers Field

[www.icfds.com/leeds](http://www.icfds.com/leeds) tel: 0113 244 1970

Leeds Cycling Action Group - Saturday mornings

Start Princes Avenue Car Park

[www.leedscyclists.org.uk](http://www.leedscyclists.org.uk) tel: Alan 0113 262 2328 10 – 10.30



# "THEN & NOW....."

## (PRINCES AVENUE)

PHOTO COURTESY OF 'THE CHIEF ENGINEER'



### Your contributions

We welcome your articles of up to 800 words accompanied by photographs wherever possible. Copy due date for the next publication 1st March 2014.

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.

## NOTICEBOARD .

### TENNIS COURTS GREAT NEWS!

All the persistent work has finally paid off! All 16 courts will be resurfaced, so pools of water following rain will be only a bad memory! All old posts will be removed with new fencing to the top and down the middle. Line marking of all courts will be renewed, with provision for mini nets for the very young beginners.(see right). It is hoped that this work will be completed early in the New Year.

There will be no free coaching while the work is carried out, but this is planned to resume on Saturday 22nd February, assuming that the work has been completed by then and the weather is fine. Coaching, provided through the Lawn Tennis Association, will take place on the last Saturday of succeeding months from 2 to 4 pm.



Mini Nets - A great way for the very young to learn and enjoy playing tennis



# NOTICEBOARD

## FoRP Working Party Report - from Jon Vogler

Last year we were disappointed that so many daffodil bulbs came up 'blind' (with no flower). We grumbled to our supplier who responded by giving us five free sacks of bulbs. We have planted these far more carefully in various sites including the sloping bank opposite the Lakeside Cafe which, though good for the bulbs, proved very slippery for the diggers. So we planted more in the flatter grass beside the lake, assisted by a dozen lively children from Kerr Mackie School. Other bulbs were passed to the Tuesday Friends Garden group, and to the Cricket Club.

Earlier in the Autumn a good crowd of volunteers tidied up the area beneath the Lakeside Cafe, a space which had been neglected for years. The results were a big improvement, and we are pleased to hear from the cafe management of their plans to decorate the area and, perhaps, create a children's play area.

We have continued our long term project to rejuvenate the ravine, with help of volunteers from a number of corporate groups. The results are already gratifying, with clearings round some magnificent large trees and vistas opening up.

As always, there is great pleasure to be had working with congenial companions in some of the loveliest woodland areas in England. So why not liberate your spirit and join us at 10am on the second Saturday or fourth Thursday of 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 266 1885 for more information.

**The Friends of Roundhay Park Committee meeting** held on 9 October received reports and updates on a range of issues, including:

**Working Party Report** - items in addition to those covered above included:

- Clearing a wildlife pond at Kerr Mackie School, as a 'thankyou' to the children for helping us with working parties in the Park
- Agreement of plans with John Roebuck to upgrade the existing wildflower meadow and also create a new one on the west and south edges of the copse near Barran's Fountain - work to start in the New Year

**The Park Management Report** included the following information:

- Preparation for new construction work at Tropical World should begin before Christmas, and it is hoped that the project to link Traders' Cafe with Tropical World will be completed by Easter 2014
- Tropical World will close for 4 weeks, possibly from 7 January 2014 for essential electrical upgrades.
- Radical improvements planned for the aquarium have been moved to 2015, due to the extent and technical nature of the work
- Tenders for a land train and a launch on Waterloo Lake had been received, and a decision was expected soon
- The leak in the canal at Canal Gardens remains a problem and could cost £50,000 to repair. Parks and Countyside are investigating options
- The party area in Tropical World would be available for hire in the next few weeks

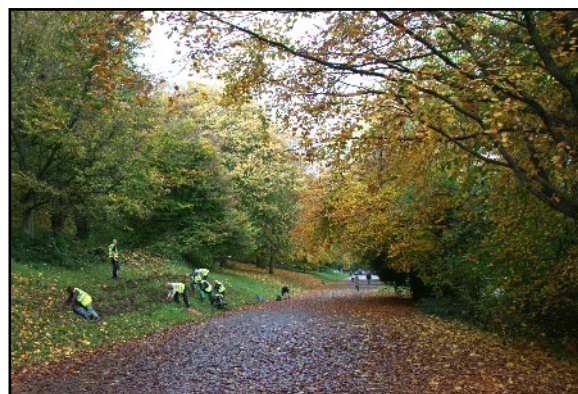
**Oakwood Clock** - Ian Macniven gave an update of the situation. The original estimate of £120,000 for restoration of the clock was now thought to be too low. A revised estimate was expected soon. At the time of the meeting £35,000 had been raised.

## FoRP Membership

In the period between April 2012 and April 2013 membership had increased from 597 to 652. FoRP continues to welcome volunteers to maximise our effectiveness in supporting and developing our beautiful park.

Looking forward to next Spring -

The FoRP working party hard at work, planting bulbs for all to enjoy in the future





Thanks to Michèle Jackson for a timely reminder for everyone - when ordering Christmas gifts (or New Year sales purchases) online from sites like Amazon, to do so via Easyfundraising so that FoRP can benefit.

Register first at [www.Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.Easyfundraising.org.uk) nominating FoRP, and then always use the link to Easyfundraising who will donate a percentage to us at no extra cost to the purchaser.



*Merry Christmas!*

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Address labels**

A REMINDER

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**OR** contact David Binns 0113 293 2893 ([news@forp.co.uk](mailto:news@forp.co.uk))

**Deliveries** are free within postcode areas LS7, LS8, LS16 and LS17

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