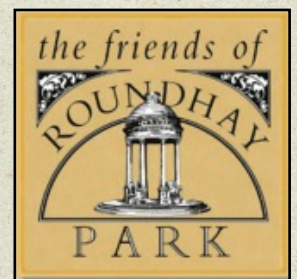


THE NEWSLETTER

THE FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK



- FoRP's Award Winning 'History Trail'
- A Special Guest on Waterloo Lake.
- Healthy Eating for Ducks and Swans

FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK

PO Box 129,

Leeds LS8 1WY

secretary@forp.org

editor@forp.org

www.forp.org

WINTER 2017

President: Marjorie Ziff MBE
Chairperson: Richard Critchley

Chair's Letter



At this time of year, it is customary to review the previous twelve months. And what a year it has been. We started under threat to the peace and access to Ram Wood by the proposal to install Go Ape. Fortunately, with your help and support, we were successful in persuading the council otherwise and the plans were abandoned.

In the spring, the Outdoor Gym was installed which has proved a very popular addition and at long last, work has started to improve the drainage and the footpath around Waterloo Lake. This is a long-term project but we will be watching to ensure that it does not lose momentum. Work has also started by our volunteers to make an extension to our own area of the park, the Friends Garden, with a seating area near to the gate into Old Park Road.

At the end of October, we launched a drive to improve the feeding for the ducks and swans on our lakes. Bread is not good for them and we now prepare and sell packets of balanced food. The tremendous success of this initiative caught us a little by surprise and the demand for our food bags has resulted in volunteers having to start an almost industrial scale packaging operation.

The Chinese lantern festival is currently underway and we are pleased that many lessons have been learned since last year. We trust that they will be as successful and attract more new visitors to the park.

Earlier in the year our efforts were rewarded when "Mary's Tree" won two prestigious architectural awards. A little later the park was awarded 'Green Flag' status 2017. And as recently as this week we won the very first "Snaith Award" presented by the Leeds Civic Trust for our latest project, the History Trail leaflet. The award citation reads, "To demonstrate how it has resulted in an enhancement, or enhanced understanding of the built or natural environment". The leaflet was inspired, researched and devised by our member John Ferguson and its production kindly sponsored by Dine at the Mansion.

But not everything in the garden (or park) is rosy. As we highlighted last year, the children's playground by the Lakeside Cafe is in urgent need of repair and renovation. Together with 'local mums', much field work has been carried out to support our demand for improvements. Some limited progress has been made. We have inspiration, ideas and drive but we are not much nearer finding solutions. As you would expect, money is the stumbling block. Unbelievably, the council have offered no financial support whatsoever, and it is down to us to try and raise the £120,000 – £150,000 needed. Any positive ideas would be most welcome.

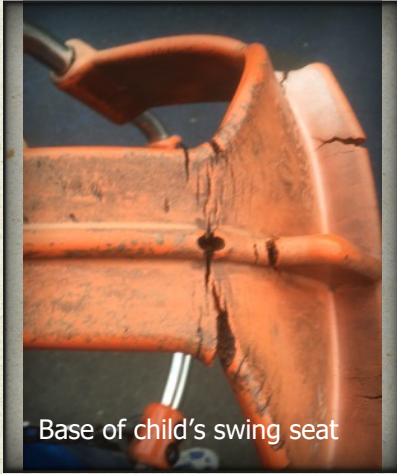
No progress has been made to stem the leak from the canal in Canal Gardens which spoils the lake and the lower meadow where Mary's Tree stands. Friends paid for professional bodies to trace the leak and propose a remedy but, as ever, no council money is available for Roundhay.*

At the beginning of the year we lost Jon Vogler, one of our founders and inspirational leaders. He is sadly missed. Also during the year our long time and stalwart secretary David Binns stood down from office though not from involvement. Recently David has become unwell and we wish him a speedy and full recovery – we need him back. David was succeeded by Carol Haughton who has taken to the job 'like a duck to water' – properly fed, of course. Our long time treasurer, Chris Hill also retired and we are pleased that John Tobin volunteered to take on the role.

Our sincere thanks are due to all our volunteers who are inspired and who contribute so much. Thanks also to the park's gardeners whose sterling efforts are so appreciated by all the park visitors and thanks to those elected councillors who give us much appreciated support. Finally, our thanks to you, the members of FoRP. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and joyous Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you in the park in 2018.

Richard Critchley

*** (Editor's note: As we go to print, a trench has been dug around Mary's Tree attempting to improve drainage. FoRP was not informed beforehand....but let's see what happens.)**



Base of child's swing seat

Lakeside Playground - an update on 'progress'

For at least a couple of years FoRP has been concerned about the poor state of the children's playground by the Lakeside Cafe. Julia Wilson, our former chairperson has been working tirelessly to try to gain support for improving the playground. This has included meeting with the council and others, and

carrying out a survey which clearly showed that parents and carers were very dissatisfied with the quality of the playground and its equipment, and with a number of safety aspects. We owe huge thanks to Julia for all her hard work on this, and for providing this update. Julia writes:

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the recent consultation about our play facilities. Over 1,000 people completed the survey which clearly showed that a

new playground for 0 – 7 year-olds is desperately needed.

The main criticisms of the existing playground at Lakeside which were highlighted in the survey are that it is too small for the level of demand and with insufficient equipment, so there are queues to use the very few popular items in there. Particular issues are;

- Swings (not enough, no flat ones any more).
- Climbing items (unsure how they should be used and by whom, so they are largely unused and simply take up space).
- Slide (difficult to access by children for whom a small slide is appropriate and not big enough for those who are able to access it).
- Not enough equipment for a) toddlers/the very young – this puts pressure on the swings which many say are the only thing they can use; b) slightly older under 7's; c) nothing AT ALL for those with disabilities!

Other key criticisms are that it is run down, boring and unsafe (this applies particularly to the access to the slide, the climbing items and the positioning of the swings). We have had a number of meetings with the council's Parks and Countryside Department since the consultation and they agree that a new playground is well overdue BUT THERE IS NO MONEY!

Those of us working on the playground project (and I'm sure many others) are VERY FRUSTRATED AND UPSET that whilst Roundhay is Europe's largest urban park, attracts visitors from all over the city and beyond, is deemed the flagship park for Leeds and brings revenue to council coffers for hosting events such as the Magic Lantern Festival, World Triathlon Series etc. as well as the income from Tropical World, none of this is taken into consideration when it comes to improving our play facilities.

In the short term, given our concerns about the safety of the playground, Parks and Countryside Department have finally, after repeatedly being asked, shown us the latest safety inspection report, which does reveal some issues, and so have now agreed to carry out various repairs until such time as money is raised to build the new playground.

As far as building a new playground is concerned the current situation is as follows;

1. Planning permission will be required so the playground can be extended slightly – we don't think this will present any problems other than the additional cost of fencing and surfacing for a wider area.
2. Parks and Countryside Department agreed in early November to approach potential suppliers with a view to establishing costs. We should have a clearer idea on this by the time you read this newsletter but anticipate we will need around £150,000.
3. We made an initial application for funding (worth up to £50,000) from the Reaching Communities fund. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful.
4. We had hoped that council funds would cover the fee for consultants at Groundwork (who we worked with to secure funding for the outdoor gym

and other projects) to help us obtain funding from the Postcode Lottery Trust (worth up to £20,000) and Viola (worth up to £50,000) but were told that the money was "already allocated to other projects". Therefore, as agreed at the last FoRP meeting, FoRP will have to cover this fee which is likely to be just over 10% of whatever money they manage to raise for us.

5. We are ready to apply for a number of smaller pots of money but are holding back on this because we're more likely to be successful once we know we have a decent amount of money already in the bag and because some have clear deadlines when the money has to be spent.

6. We are considering other fund-raising options such as sponsorship from businesses and individuals e.g. crowdfunding.

You may share our disappointment and frustrations. You can help by putting pressure on councillors and others for help in improving our playground. It looks like the only way we're going to get anywhere with this is by keeping up the pressure and continuing to fight.

Julia Wilson
November 2017

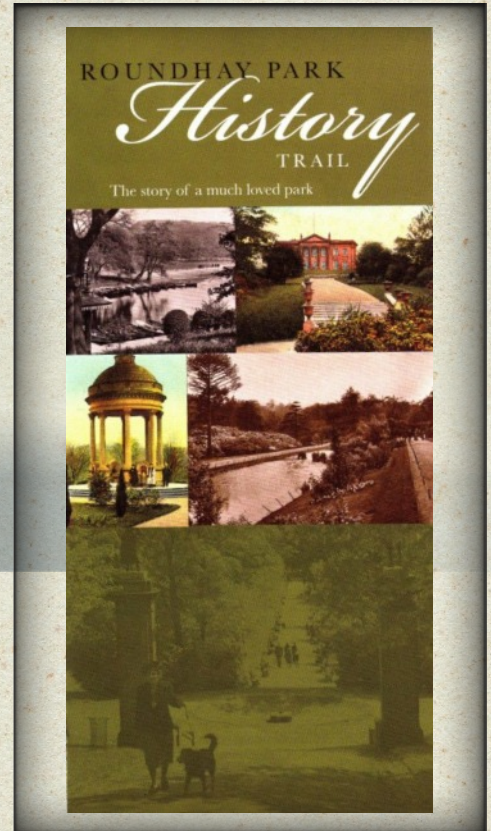
Julia's report speaks for itself. The Lakeside playground is a disgrace. Meanwhile, we understand that £250,000 is to be spent on a new playground in Morley and the council is consulting about work on a playground in Armley through 'Section 106' funding, none of which is available to Roundhay. We have no wish to deny any other areas entitlement to quality facilities – but improvement to the Lakeside playground is long overdue. Please make your voice heard, and tell all your friends as well!

FoRP's Award Winning 'History Trail'

As readers of our newsletter will be aware, Roundhay Park has a long and rich history. FoRP has created a 'History Trail' supported by a leaflet containing a map and information which guides people on a pleasant walk around the park pointing out interesting historical features along the way.

The History Trail leaflet has been available for some time, but thanks to Cecily Jarvis for suggesting that we enter for the Leeds Civic Trust Snaithe Award, and for putting together the necessary application. The Snaithe Award is an annual award which recognises outstanding projects carried out by 'affiliated societies' (like FoRP), resulting in enhanced understanding of the built or natural environment. Our chairperson (Richard Critchley) and secretary (Carol Haughton) attended the Leeds Civic Trust AGM on November 27th where they gave a presentation about the History Trail and were delighted to receive the Snaithe Award on behalf of FoRP, with a cheque for £500 for this excellent project.

Our congratulations and thanks go to John Ferguson who was the driving force and main contributor to the leaflet, and to Lynne Gorner for the design. We are also grateful to Dine at the Mansion who part sponsored the leaflet, with the remainder of the funds coming from FoRP. Well done to all concerned – another feather in the cap for the Friends of Roundhay Park.



Richard Critchley and Carol Haughton (1st & 2nd right) receiving the Snaithe Award on behalf of FoRP



Beautiful photo put on Facebook. Thank you Kelly Robertson for allowing us to use it. Please send any photos you have to editor@forp.org. We often use them in putting the newsletter together and if named we will try to credit them.



Opening Roundhay Park to the Public – A voice from the past

In previous newsletters, thanks to our local historian Neville Hurworth, we have included items on how Roundhay Park came to be acquired by Leeds Corporation and opened up to the public, largely through the efforts of John Barran. Neville has now discovered some fascinating newspaper articles covering the times just before and just after the park was opened to the public. There is so much wonderful material here we cannot include it all in one newsletter, but can feature some extracts for your delight. In this issue we focus on the scene before the park opened to the public. The article in the Leeds Mercury from 21 March 1872 was written by someone only identified as "A Bradford Man" who started out from Briggate to walk to Roundhay Park as part of an assessment of potential of the park for public use, as was Peel Park in Bradford. So, please read on and hear this voice from the past.....

The other day I visited Roundhay Park, with the view of ascertaining whether the place was as beautiful as I had heard it described, and of testing the time it took to walk there, to see the grounds, and to return to Leeds. We left Briggate at one o'clock, taking the route by North-street and Roundhay-road to the Park..... As we advanced up the road, the smoke and tall chimneys of Leeds quickly disappeared, and we emerged at once into an invigorating atmosphere, the very reverse of that we had so recently left behind. The road improved in beauty as we progressed, the woods to the right and left were more numerous, and at Gipton, once celebrated for its mineral spring, and the supposed site of a Saxon encampment, we passed the only public-house on the road, and the last place where refreshments can be procured, no provision of this kind being in existence at Roundhay. With the exception of a few houses at Gipton, there are no cottages by the roadside, and the labouring element seems to have been carefully excluded from this district, which appears to be devoted to the exclusive use of the "aristocracy" of Leeds.

(Our 'Bradford Man' goes on to describe vividly features in the park e.g. the castle, and the hermitage, which has long since disappeared – but we will return to those in future newsletters. The Bradford Man is clearly very impressed by Roundhay Park and supports the idea of opening it to the public, unlike some of the local 'aristocracy'. Please read on.....)

We reached Briggate again in exactly four hours from the time we started, never having sat down from the time we set out. We felt assured that no man with children could take his wife and family to Roundhay with any comfort except in a conveyance. The distance from the Park gates to Briggate is stated to be three miles and there is probably four miles of walking to be done in seeing the grounds, so out and home again means at least ten miles. This is too far to drag a family. Still it would be a great pity if Leeds were to lose the opportunity of acquiring Roundhay Park. The place is exquisitely beautiful, as quiet and retired as if it were fifty miles away instead of three, the air is healthy and bracing, and just such a sanatorium that large towns require. A tramway would probably relieve the difficulty of getting there and back, and the expense thus incurred would be amply repaid in an accession of health to the frequenters of the park..... The Bradford parks are distant twenty minutes' walking from the town, but Roundhay Park is infinitely more superior in beauty and size to anything that Bradford has got in the way of recreation grounds. It would take Shipley Glen, Chellow Dean, and Manningham and Peel Parks rolled into one to come up to anything like Roundhay, and then they would fall short. Regattas could be held on the lake at Roundhay, and no finer place for bathing and skating can be found. A gala at Roundhay for Leeds charities would bring as many thousands of people to the place as now flock at Whitsuntide to Peel Park, Bradford. It is incomprehensible to people at a distance that efforts should be made to keep people out of the sacred precincts of Roundhay. We overheard two substantial-looking old gentlemen talking of the proposed acquisition of Roundhay Park for the people of Leeds, as we left the grounds. One said to the other, "*We are going to keep this road up, and not have it dragged down by an inroad of the mob.*" The experience of Bradford is that the people behave well on the parks, and that pilfering of the plants or flowers, or injury done to the grounds, is extremely rare, even when as many as 120,000 people have been in Peel Park at a two days' gala, and it cannot be supposed that the people of Leeds are more vicious than those of Bradford.

A Bradford Man

Thankfully John Barran succeeded in securing the park for the gentle folk of Leeds, despite the opinions of the 'two substantial-looking old gentlemen'! In the next newsletter we will include our correspondent's vivid description of the Hermitage. Many thanks to Neville Hurworth for all these gems.

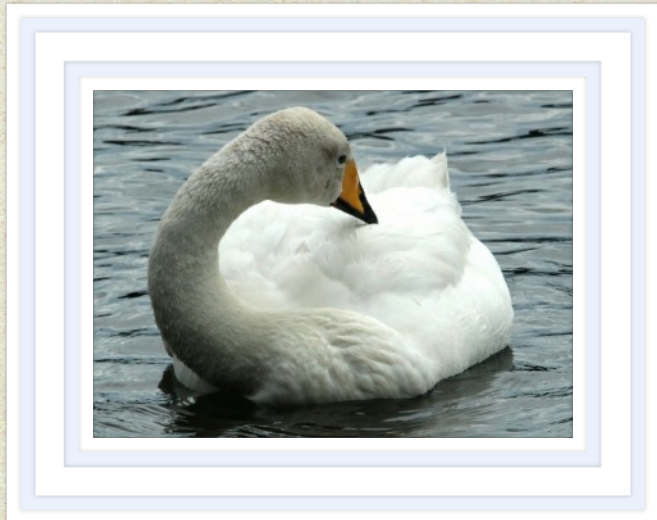
A Special Guest on Waterloo Lake.



Regular visitors to the park over the past few months may have noticed one of the many swans on Waterloo Lake is different to the rest. Once again we are grateful to Dave Johnston, our eagle-eyed wildlife reporter who has not only identified this swan, but was able to discover some of its history by spotting the ring on its leg. Thank you, Dave!

From Iceland to Roundhay Park

There are around 50 mute swans to be seen on both lakes at the park. These are the common and familiar swans seen all over the UK all year round. A single "different" swan appeared on Waterloo Lake this March, and was still present in late November. This is a Whooper swan. Visitors were surprised to see a swan with a bright yellow beak, and not the normal orange coloured beak seen on the familiar mute swan.



There is an interesting story here. This Whooper swan is a female and is now two and a half years old. It hatched in Iceland in spring 2015, where scientists placed a ring on its leg. The letters YGX can easily be seen on this ring when the swan preens itself. This tells us where it hatched.

Whooper swans migrate from Iceland to the UK each autumn, and return to Iceland in the spring. This particular bird became damaged early this year, and was rehabilitated in early spring. It was hoped that it would rejoin the other Whoopers and migrate back to Iceland for the summer. However, it stayed in West Yorkshire, at first in the Wakefield area, and from March onwards at Roundhay Park. It seems completely settled here at the moment. Sometimes it is on its own, and at other times mixing with the mute swans in the Park.



The Whooper is about 140 to 160 cm long, with a wing span of 205 to 235 cm. So it is basically the same size as a mute swan, but the yellow on the beak, once spotted, is an obvious difference. When it is swimming it holds its neck straight and vertical, whereas mute swans tend to curve their necks.

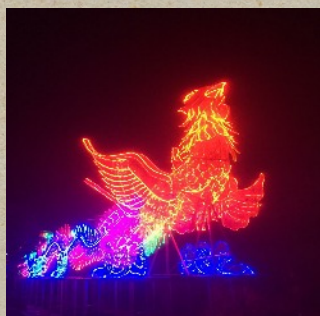
Whooper swans generally feed on water weeds, but migrating birds often feed in fields, taking grain left in the corn stubble. They also feed on potatoes and carrots etc.

Fairburn Ings, near Castleford usually has many Whoopers during the autumn / winter. They can sometimes be seen on Eccup reservoir, Harewood lake and the Washburn Valley reservoirs during a long, cold winter.

Many thanks to the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust for the extra information on our Whooper swan.

Dave Johnston

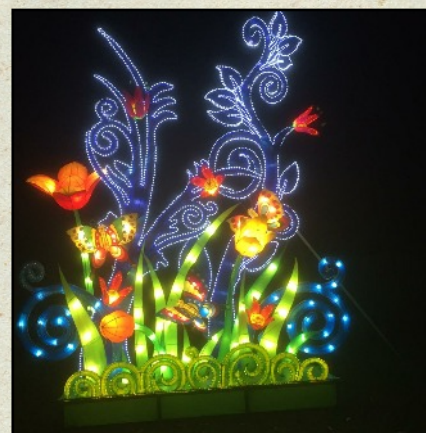
Magic Lantern Festival



Magic Lantern Festival

The spectacular lantern festival has returned to Roundhay Park for a second year, bringing many more visitors to the park. Members of the FoRP committee were invited to a preview event on 23rd November. We were pleased to see that some lessons had been learned from last year in creating a walking route which is less likely to damage garden areas. This year, the display did not extend into Canal Gardens, where last year quite a bit of damage was done to our own Friends Garden, and some other garden areas simply through the sheer numbers of people walking through in all weather conditions.

The festival is open from Wednesday to Sunday (5pm – 10pm) between 24th November 2017 and 1st January 2018 (except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). Tickets can be purchased through the website at <http://www.magicallantern.uk/magical-lantern-festival-yorkshire>



Healthy Eating for Ducks and Swans

In the summer newsletter we featured the problem arising from well-meaning folks over-feeding the ducks and swans on Waterloo Lake with bread and other unsuitable foods. Led by Tom Cooper, an enthusiastic band of FoRP volunteers has taken action trying to improve this situation. Many thanks to Tom for this update.

Problem with Bread Pudding

In the last newsletter, I told you about one of our working parties cleaning up the boathouse area, ready for the Triathlon. There I met Mark Wainwright, a big cheese in White Rose Canoe Club. He showed me the picture featured on the back page of the last issue. It illustrated in graphic detail a problem they have. Here is another shot (rt). I told Mark I would bring this problem up at the next committee meeting. This I duly did and everybody thought that this was right up FoRP's street, but what could we do about it? I was sent away to do some research. John Ferguson was a great help. He is a demon researcher and he found lots of useful internet sites. We discovered that this problem is not confined to Roundhay Park or even just to Leeds. There are sites as far afield as the USA that talk about it.

The cause is obvious, we all love to do it – feeding bread to the birds. Children of all ages love feeding the ducks and the swans on Waterloo Lake, making this an enjoyable family activity.

However bread, especially white bread, is bad for the birds and the lake in several ways:

- It has no nutritional value for water birds.
- It can cause deformation in the growth of the wings of young birds, especially signets – *Valgus Carpal Deformity* more commonly known as "Angel Wings". Look it up – it's bad.
- It encourages the build up of algae.
- It encourages fighting amongst the birds themselves and also encourages rats.
- It creates a nasty 'bread pudding' in the lake, just where the rowers and canoeists are trying to launch their boats, ugh!

At the next FoRP committee meeting it was decided we would put up some signs to discourage people from feeding bread to the

FoRP volunteers with just some of the bread collected

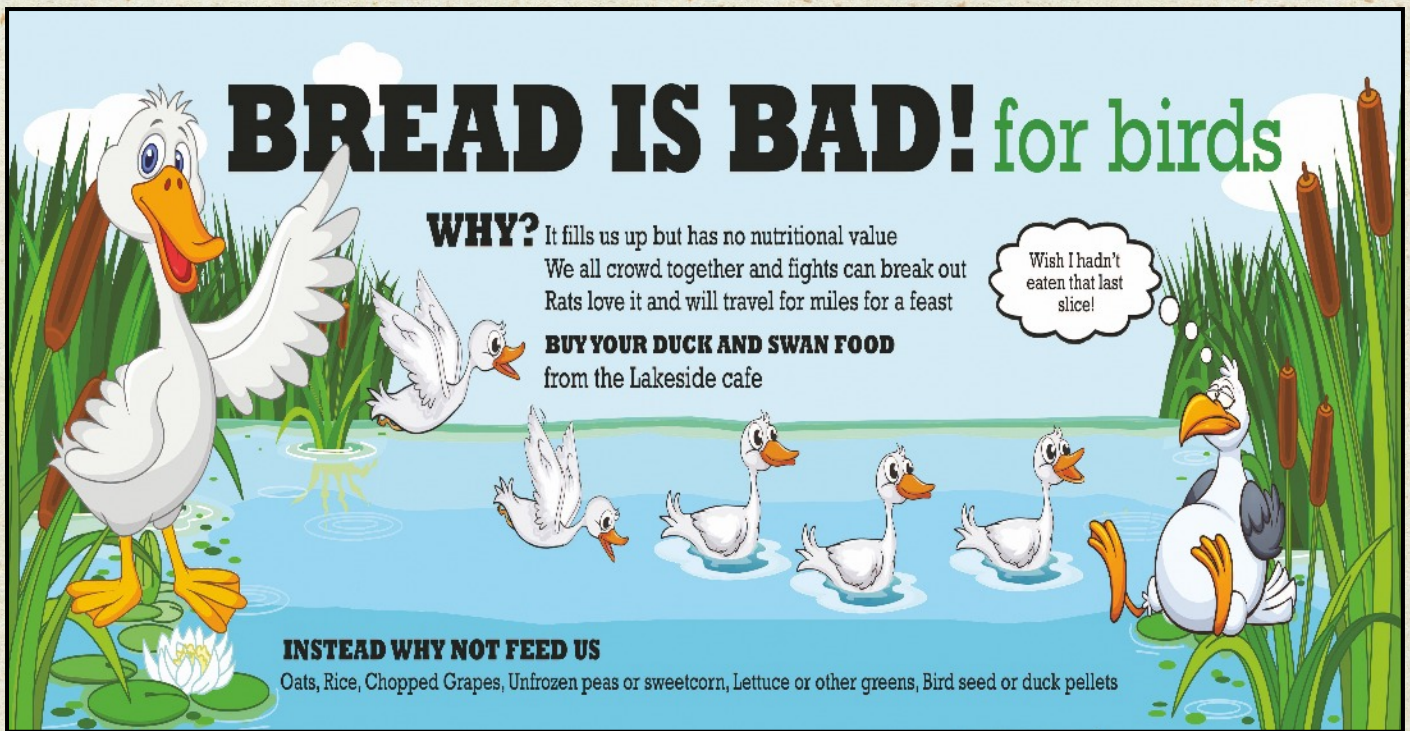


Bread pudding with other unpleasant ingredients



Feeding the swans from one of our brown bags





ducks and swans. Not wanting to appear kill-joys we decided to find a way to make healthy bird food available for children to feed to the birds. Tony Quinn had the idea that the banner ought to appeal to children, hence the design (above).

We launched the scheme on the 28th October with a group of FoRP volunteers staffing a stand at the most popular spot for feeding the birds. We swapped bags of our food (good) for the public's bread (bad) In a two hour period we collected over a dustbin full of that bad stuff, and we had very positive and encouraging support from most park users.

You will see the results of FoRP's work in and around the Lakeside Cafe. There are banners by the main feeding spots on Waterloo Lake and a rack in the entrance of the Lakeside Cafe filled with bags of healthy duck and swan food for a donation of 50p. I say there is a rack 'filled', but much of the time it is empty due to popular demand. To say the scheme has been a success is an understatement. The public's demand for the food has overwhelmed us, and we can't keep the rack stocked during sunny weekends, or cloudy mid-week days to be honest. Our banners must have appealed to somebody as someone pinched one of them! Luckily one of the park staff found

it and handed it in to the Lakeside Cafe who phoned me straight away. (The Lakeside Cafe staff have been involved since the beginning).

Perhaps you have a real interest in the lakeside and the lake birds, and might be able help with this scheme, either filling bags or stocking the rack. If you are interested, you can e-mail the editors at editor@forp.org or me, at tomandcath@ntlworld.com. We really could do with some more hands to help run this project, because run and run is what we want it to do – DOWN WITH BREAD PUDDING, in Waterloo Lake at least!

Tom Cooper

Stop Press! Tom Cooper reported on 23 November that the 'bread pudding' had gone from the water around the boathouse. Let's hope we do not see it again. Also we were delighted that the Yorkshire Evening Post (20th November) ran a piece on FoRP's efforts. They included a quote from a spokesperson from the RSPB who said, **"Bread fills birds up and doesn't have any nutritional value for them, so it's detrimental to a bird's health if they're getting it all the time. We would advise people not to give birds bread, but to give them the food that is being provided at Roundhay Park."**

Just a reminder

Oakwood Farmers Market

Come to the Oakwood Clock on the third Saturday morning in the month and meet up with friends and neighbours and sample produce from our award winning farmers and producers.

Regular stalls include local and organic vegetables, eggs, rapeseed oil, beef, organic meat, pies, bacon, mushrooms, bread, apple juice, soup, plants, cheese, Italian and local delicatessen savouries and sweet treats.

(Photo shows the market on 18th Nov where we sold a record number of calendars. Have you got your's yet?)



Thanks to Malcolm Jarvis for this update on the Friends Garden

Isn't the internet amazing!

A little earlier this year the Friends Garden maintenance team started clearing a neglected and overgrown corner, just opposite the existing garden (see Summer 2017 newsletter). Once some old rhododendrons and untamed

shrubs were removed (plus a sea of ivy) a curious, large cast iron box was revealed. Whilst clearly an example of 'early' street furniture, its provenance, and exact purpose was unknown.

Once the ivy and other detritus were removed, the box appeared to be in reasonable condition. The green paintwork was flaking, but only superficial rusting was found beneath, so it seemed worth restoring. Once completed it would form a 'feature' in the new garden and be accessible as a nice example of 'heritage furniture' of the park. There is indeed another similar example just off Mansion Lane. The box is around 126cms high and has a footprint of 55cms by 37cms. There is one door at the front, held in place by two large knuckle hinges and the lower sides bear the inscription REGD. DESIGN 537813. The door would appear to be both locked and rusted shut.

Amazingly, only a few minutes on the web revealed that our box was a 'feeder pillar' being used in conjunction with the general electrical supply (possibly street lighting) or even early telephone cabling. They were also used for connections to the tram network, although there were no lines near the Canal Gardens or Mansion Lane boxes. In Oxford they were called 'Lucy Boxes', named after the manufacturing company the Lucy Foundry. (there is an 'I Spy Lucy Box' web page...which is even more nerdy than me!)



Before



After

THE ELECTRICAL REVIEW

“QUALITY”
Manufactured in England

FEEDER PILLARS.

N.B.

Please give us your Enquiries for odd sizes whether taller or shorter or

N.B.

with divided up interiors, &c., &c., also for doors and frames for brick chambers.

No. 5326 (Registered Design).
MADE IN SEVENTEEN STANDARD SIZES,
BUT QUOTATIONS ALSO
GIVEN FOR OTHER SIZES.

ARC LAMP PILLARS.	STANDARD SIZES.	INCANDESCENT LAMP PILLARS.
1	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 10 1/2"	1
2	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 12 1/2"	2
3	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 14 1/2"	3
4	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 16 1/2"	4
5	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 18 1/2"	5
6	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 20 1/2"	6
7	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 22 1/2"	7
8	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 24 1/2"	8
9	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 26 1/2"	9
10	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 28 1/2"	10
11	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 30 1/2"	11
12	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 32 1/2"	12
13	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 34 1/2"	13
14	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 36 1/2"	14
15	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 38 1/2"	15
16	10 1/2" x 10 1/2" x 40 1/2"	16

YOUR ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.
HARDY & PADMORE, LIMITED.
ONLY ADDRESS: WORCESTER, ENGLAND.

Our box was manufactured by the Hardy and Padmore Foundry of Worcester, who also made street lighting columns and a range of engines. The illustration is taken from the June 1921 edition of "The Electrical Review" and whilst the design number differs (a two-door version) the general features and the raised moulding are the same. Of course, the item could have been in the catalogue for some years both before and after 1921 but at least we can surmise that the item is possibly around ninety years old.

Several days' worth of scraping, brushing and scratching, then followed by the application of three coats of dark green Hammerite and the project was completed. Perhaps the Mansion Lane example could be looked at next year? I'm not volunteering, though!

Malcolm Jarvis

Once again we are grateful to Tom Cooper for this report on the activities of the working parties

An Autumnal Party in the Park

The last few months have seen us doing a lot of tidying up. It does not sound very exciting, but it has to be done every autumn and it is rewarding to see the results. There has been lots of weeding, sometimes on quite a grand scale. The new fern garden has to be kept weed free, so that the ferns have room to expand. I have to say, they are looking rather forlorn at the moment. Fingers crossed they will come back stronger in the spring. Cowslips were planted in November and they should cheer things up. With lots of man and woman power we edged the plot with old logs and we are very pleased with the results. Roll on spring.

Another big weeding job took place at the top of the serpentine path, where the snowdrops grow. Last year we left it to the spring to clear the area of nettles and "Jack in the Hedge". This meant that we had to remove all the leaves from the surface to get at the weeds. By doing the job in the autumn the leaves will fall on the bare ground and the snowdrops can snuggle through the winter underneath nature's blanket.

A large patch of nettles was cleared in November. It looks like an ideal location for some more snowdrops. We are too late to plant dry bulbs now. We will have to plant "in the green" in the spring. This should not be a problem as I think that snowdrops planted this way do better.

We have been working our way around the Upper Lake, pruning back the ash saplings. We cannot get at the roots to dig them out as the "trees" are growing out of the stonework. We will no doubt be repeating the procedure next year.

If you fancy joining our exciting adventures, e-mail me at tomandcath@ntlworld.com and I will add you to the working party list and let you know what we are planning for each session. We meet 2nd Sat & 4th Thurs of each month. We assemble at the Carriage House behind the Roundhay Fox at 10.00am and are done by 1.00pm.

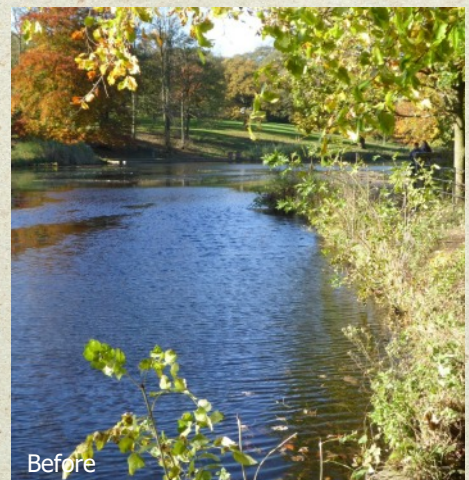
Tom Cooper



Our intrepid working party volunteers



Creating a log border



Before



After

Pruning back ash saplings by the Upper Lake

Notice Board

Looking for volunteers

Please help: FoRP is urgently seeking volunteers for two important roles supporting our activities.

1. A '**Minutes Secretary**' – someone skilled at taking notes to record key points in FoRP meetings. We do take important decisions, and as a charitable organisation we must keep accurate records.
2. A **Public Relations person** – we need someone with PR skills to help us raise our profile and gain even more community support.

Please contact the editors (editor@forp.org) or secretary (secretary@forp.org) if you are interested in either of these roles.

FoRP in the digital age

Hopefully you will already know about our website www.forp.org where you can keep up with what is happening. **But now you can also follow us on Twitter. Go to <http://twitter.com/@ForpLeeds> to get started.**

Forthcoming meetings

FoRP Open Meeting – Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7pm in the Education Room, The Mansion at Roundhay Park

FoRP Trustees and Committee Meeting – Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7pm in the Education Room, The Mansion at Roundhay Park

Don't forget your FoRP calendar!

These are almost sold out! Visit our website www.forp.org to find out how to purchase your copy. Sales have gone really well, including record numbers of calendars being sold at the Oakwood Farmers Market in November.

