

THE NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014

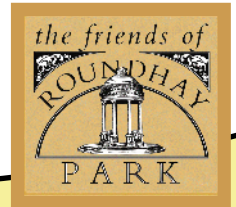
PRESIDENT: MARJORIE ZIFF MBE

CHAIRPERSON: JULIA WILSON

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

website: www.forp.co.uk Email: news@forp.co.uk

Emails to the Editors: editor@forp.co.uk



FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK 2015 CALENDAR

FORP'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

SAVING ST JOHN'S CHURCH

WHITE ROSE CANOE CLUB

TREES OF ROUNDHAY PARK

FRIENDS OF ROUNDHAY PARK
CALENDAR 2015



CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER SUMMER 2014

The summer has brought a number of new things to the Park. The bright red and yellow land train arrived at the beginning of summer and is now chugging up and down between Lakeside and the main park gate – to the delight of many children as well as those who struggle walking up the hill. Many of you will remember the land train we had several years ago, as well as the little train that ran on “proper” rails in the woodland and had its own little engine shed there.

We now have our new wildflower meadow which gives a splash of colour when you glance to the right as you walk up from the Lakeside playground towards the Mansion or zoom up there on the land train. We all expected our meadow to include a wonderful display of red poppies and were disappointed when they never emerged. We can only conclude that they were missed out of the seed mix.. See our short article on page 5.

Our newly refurbished and colourful tennis courts opened only just in time for Wimbledon but are proving really popular. On their first weekend (19th July) 92 adults had prebooked for the free coaching session! Sadly the weather was awful but many continued to play on despite torrential rain! We are hoping that the Lawn Tennis Association will provide additional funding so that the courts can be even better, with more of them being coloured, additional fencing etc. And now that they drain well, it is intended that free tennis coaching will continue throughout the year. Some photos are on page 8.

Some new pieces of equipment have been added to our skatepark which has made it a more interesting place for young visitors and adds to the already very popular playground next to the tramways car park.

I'm anticipating that by this time next year we will be celebrating having a newly refurbished Oakwood Clock, together with the area it stands in. I wonder who will have their name or the names of those they love recorded there for all time on the paving stones? (If you want yours to be included you can arrange this by visiting:
<http://mydonate.bt.com/event/nameintime>).

I wonder if we will also be rid of the derelict toilet block at Oakwood by then?

Thank you to all who have come to working parties and litter picks. Your work has made the Park a better place. Thanks also to all our members – your support is invaluable.

Julia Wilson

HOW ABOUT “A WALK IN THE PARK”?

John Ferguson has proposed the idea of guided walks in the Park, and has kindly offered to lead some himself. Other volunteer leaders would always be welcome! John wrote:

As an organisation FoRP is committed to hard work. We have working parties on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Thursday every month. We have a group who work regularly in the Friends Garden. We have litter picking at least monthly and we regularly work with corporate groups. However unlike many other park and open space friends groups we rarely hold any social or non-working ‘get togethers’.

Earlier this year at the request of the RSPB I twice led groups around different areas of the Park, hopefully increasing their enjoyment of it by explaining some of the history and pointing out special features. This led me to propose at our recent AGM that FoRP should arrange occasional walks, mainly for members, but open to all, led by someone with knowledge of the area of the walk. Of course this led to me being volunteered to do something about it, so a trial walk took place on Sunday 27 July. The attendance was small but select and we explored some of the lesser known parts of the park including the gazebo (see picture). Some possible walks are suggested below, but I am sure there are other possibilities.

The lesser known areas of the park. This would include the high level path on the east of Waterloo Lake up to the Gazebo and returning via the ravine.

The Tree Trail. Building on the information in the leaflet and clearly identifying the listed trees.

The Gardens of Roundhay Park. This would include Canal Gardens, the Friends Garden, the Rose Garden and the Specialist Gardens.

The history of Roundhay Park. This might include the Mansion, Barran's fountain, Hill 60, the Arena (Children's Day), Waterloo Lake and the Lido site.

If you would like any of these, or other walks, to be organised, or especially if you would be prepared to lead a walk, please contact me by email (john.ferguson@pandamarket.com) and I will try my best to accommodate your request.

John Ferguson

The Gazebo



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, FoRP - 20 YEARS!!!

The editors learned from David Binns that 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the Friends of Roundhay Park. Our thanks go to former chairman Robert Henderson for sending us some of his memories.

When Peter and Carol contacted me and asked me if I could write a few words for this anniversary edition I was delighted to accept and this has given me a chance to reflect back on those early years and the issues and activities in which FoRP got involved.

1997 saw the start of our first working parties, with litter picking, gorge clearing and bulb planting the priorities. Litter in particular was a perennial problem with insufficient bins fit for purpose.

In response to our request, Leeds City Council provided three 'non-destructible' ones. Unfortunately they didn't last very long as some vandals soon realised that they weren't fireproof! So we managed to persuade Birds Eye Walls to donate money which enabled Keith Roberts, then park manager, to manufacture 14 new more robust bins, which lasted quite some time.

From then onwards we became involved in identifying and raising other important issues, these included a leaking Waterloo Lake, siting of a new skate park, repair and maintenance of the tennis courts, a new children's playground, SOS (Save Our Shelters), tree planting and the future development of the Mansion.

In 2000 we had to deal with the aftermath of the Love Parade. After an initial estimate of attendees of 50,000 to 60,000 the actual number of people who turned up was thought to be between 200,000 and 250,000! Although the event was a huge success, unfortunately the end result was that Soldiers Field was left, as what could be best described, as a 'land fill site'. It was only after long periods of painstaking work by the park staff, picking up by hand every piece of broken glass and litter, that the area was once again suitable for use as a playing field.

In around 2001, we were very sad to see the demise of the miniature railway. The family, who had worked so hard maintaining and running the railway for many years and had just completed the laying of the final length of track, one morning found that some mindless vandals had set fire to the engine shed and all its contents. This put a sad end to what had been one of the Park's great attractions.



The miniature train - sadly no longer seen in Roundhay Park

In 2003 FoRP was successful in obtaining charitable status, so enabling it to raise its profile, obtain more credibility and to increase its fund raising opportunities.

However, during all this time the main focus was our involvement with the Park Restoration Consultative Group. The group was responsible for putting plans to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding. Consultations and meetings started in January 1998. Initially a draft scheme was prepared and drawn up. Once approved it was then converted to a full detailed Restoration Management Plan.

There followed many meetings, consultations and discussions including the formation of close ties with Central Park in New York. Central Park is roughly the same size as Roundhay Park, and in the late 1990s a great deal of work was done to return their park to its original state. Their park plan became a model for many restoration plans around the world. In 2002, I had the opportunity to visit Central Park with other FoRP representatives to learn first-hand about their approach to park restoration. Eventually, after times when we were often wondering 'would it ever happen', in Spring 2002 we were eventually awarded just over £6 million for the restoration of Roundhay Park. Work finally started in 2003!



Robert Henderson presenting a framed photograph of Roundhay Park to Rick Lipkowski, Central Park Manager in 2002.

Although I am no longer actively involved with FoRP, I am pleased to still receive copies of the excellent newsletter which keeps me up to date. The working parties are still doing great work, litter picking continues, along with discussion about the Oakwood Clock and toilets.

I am proud to have been involved with Harry Hurst and Tony Kessler, the real inspiration for the start of 'the Friends', and all the various park management and staff who over the years have worked hard to try to maintain and to keep the Park looking so splendid. I believe that FoRP, which was recognised as one of the country's leading friends groups, has played and will continue to play a key role, along with the park management in the stewardship of this wonderful park.

Robert Henderson

Chairman 1997 to 2000 and 2003 to 2004

SAVING ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Many members may be aware of St John's Church and its remarkable churchyard located off Wetherby Road beside Roundhay Park. Members may also be aware that both church and churchyard have fallen into serious disrepair. The editors have been contacted by Sue Edwards on behalf of 'The Friends of Roundhay St John's'. Sue wrote:

In your December 2011 issue (FoRP newsletter), the late Alan Jackson published a letter from a lady in the USA. She has been on a quest to save (or at least renovate) St John's Church Roundhay - the building and its two very significant churchyards. On her annual trip to visit family and friends in the Leeds area, a number of us have joined her in setting up a new group to take action to restore St John's north churchyard on Wetherby Road. That lady, Caroline Freeman, is now Chairman of our group.

I have volunteered to act as joint publicity officer for this group formed at what was my family church. On the edge of the park and towering over the site of the former outdoor swimming pool, it is a beautiful church with connections to the Middleton, Nicholson and Lupton families. Many members of our group have relatives resting in the churchyards, including my family plot occupied by both parents and my younger sister.

The church was sold in 2010 and has since fallen into total disrepair. The St John's church community combined with the local Methodists and now forms part of Oakwood Church, and for some time nothing was done to prevent the continuing lack of maintenance and repair. Our group has recently met with a representative from the Diocese dealing with redundant churches and the Senior Conservation Officer for Leeds Council; we are concentrating initially on the north churchyard but take an overview of everything to do with the church building and both graveyards.

As part of our publicity campaign, which has generated some interest from those who actually visit the churchyards, we hope that FoRP might help us spread the word further.



Improvements to the North churchyard are well underway thanks to the "Friends of Roundhay St John's", who continue to maintain the grounds and tend to graves and surrounding walkways.

Please consider how you might support us. If you have a relative or friend laid to rest here, could you make a donation towards equipment costs? (all volunteer time is given freely). Perhaps you can spare time to join a working party in the churchyard? – you would be very welcome.

Anyone who would like to become more involved with the "Friends" may like to attend a future meeting of the group.

For further information about all of the above please contact annemuers@gmail.com

Sue Edwards
Friends of Roundhay St John's

SWANS

Many members will have enjoyed watching a family of swans flourishing on the lakes in Roundhay Park. We are grateful to Bob Reid for sending us some of his own notes and photographs shown below. Bob wrote:

"For most of the autumn and winter a single swan desolately patrolled the upper lake after his/ her mate died, but happily he/ she was joined by a new model in the spring.

Better still, the pair built a very tall and imposing nest tight up against the wall on the north east side of the lake. About six weeks later (12th of May) I caught sight of the head of a day old cygnet peeping out to view its new world. Two days later 5 cygnets were confidently accompanying the parents around the lake. The nest now revealed 1 egg which had failed to hatch and I was told that there had been one dead cygnet which quickly disappeared. The nest also revealed ten large clam shells. and, on consulting the ever faithful Wikipedia, I was able to identify



Swans' Nest

the large fresh water bivalves as Swan Mussels (Anodonta Cygnea)-how appropriately named!

I did wonder if the clams had been brought to the sitting member (apparently it is a shared activity) as sustenance and I did find reference that, while swans are predominately vegetarian, they do occasionally eat insects, snails and molluscs. But other than that I can find no reason for the name of Swan Mussels. But perhaps they just wanted to be one up on the Joneses."

The swan family migrated from the upper lake to Waterloo Lake sometime in June, and continued to flourish as the juveniles grow towards adulthood.

Footnote - In mid August Bob Reid noted a group of about 7 adults at Waterloo Lake in the region near the Café where people feed swans, geese and seagulls. Closer inspection revealed that each was holding a Swan - the 2 Swans and 5 Cygnets, which had hatched at the Upper Lake. They had just finished tagging them (and presumably weighing and measuring them) and the release followed in a perfectly orderly manner- Hissing Sid being the only exception! They were a volunteer group from Yorkshire Wildlife (or was it Wildfowl) Trust. The Cygnets are almost as big as the adults - not bad going since the 12th May! So each has now got a number!



Cygnets feeding

WILDFLOWER MEADOW

The Friends of Roundhay Park Working Party volunteers have created a wildflower meadow, enhancing and adding variety to our beautiful park. The meadow is up the road from the Lakeside car park towards Barran's fountain. Almost opposite the fountain is a



large group of trees, and the meadow reaches round the south west border of the trees. It was chosen so that it would be visible from the car park area and from both roads from there towards the Mansion. The meadow has already produced a colourful crop of wild flowers (see photographs provided by Bob Reid). There is one mystery, however. What happened to the poppies? (lots of seeds sown). Maybe next year?

MORE FISHING IN ROUNDHAY PARK

The editors thank Bob Bury for providing the following personal memories of fishing in Roundhay Park. Bob writes:

I was interested to read Neville Hurworth's piece on fishing in the recent issue of the newsletter. It dealt with the early days of the park, in the 19th and early 20th centuries, but it got me thinking about my slightly more recent experiences.

We've lived within a couple of rods' lengths of the dam for 25 years, and when our boys were younger, I'd take them across from time to time to do a bit of fishing. I well remember the time when the work on the dam was in progress and new retaining wall and outflow were being constructed – we'd stroll out to the edge of the admittedly large puddle that remained, and we did OK, catching enough to keep them interested.

When the lake was full, it was a popular angling venue, and hosted a lot of matches. I even remember one European event, and seeing all the French and Belgian fishermen there with their roach poles, which were quite a novelty in the UK at the time, whereas these days, carp fishermen think nothing of spending £2000 on a 15 metre carbon fibre version.

Anyway, the point is that the lake was full of fish, and it was a great resource for anglers. After the boys grew up, I didn't really do any fishing for a number of years, and it was only after I retired that I took it up again. I joined the Bradford No 1 Angling Association, and have rediscovered the pleasures of coarse and fly fishing on their many waters around Yorkshire. But it strikes me that I seldom see people fishing in the lake when I walk in the park, and on the couple of occasions I have wandered across on the off-chance with my rods, I haven't caught very much.

The angling used to be run by the Leeds ASA, but they relinquished their rights some time ago, and fishing is now free, which you would think would increase the popularity of the venue (were it not for the fact that no-one used to bother paying for a ticket even when charges *were* in place!). The roach that the lake used to be famous for don't show up so much these days, or so I'm told, but then roach stocks have been in decline across the country for some time, and there are still large numbers of bream present, not to mention perch and large pike and carp up to 20 lb or more.

So the fish are still there, and angling remains the UK's most popular participant sport, so why isn't the lake being fished more often? Well, it's not easy fishing, especially in the summer when the lake is choked with weed around much of its circumference, and there was a time in the past when anglers expressed concern about interference from gangs of youths who would steal expensive kit – there was even the story of an elderly fisherman being pushed into the water, although that may be apocryphal. But I'm not sure that's such an issue now. I spend a lot of time in the park, and see little evidence of that sort of behaviour – in the early morning and late into the evenings there are solitary joggers of both sexes enjoying an unimpeded run around the lake, and I've never had any problems from passers-by when fishing there (apart from repeated queries as to whether I've had any 'luck', usually when I haven't).

I can't help thinking that the council are missing a trick here. Anglers are prepared to pay for their fishing, and if a bit of cash was invested in keeping the weed under control and providing a bailiff to patrol the banks a couple of times a day to sell day tickets and check rod licences, I reckon it could easily pay for itself, as well as increasing the amenity value of the lake. More ambitiously, they could install fishing platforms around parts of the bank and perhaps indulge in a bit of judicious re-stocking from time to time.

It's true that for many of us the real joys of fishing come from finding an idyllic spot out in the country far from the crowds, but that's not always achievable, and there's a lot to be said for having an accessible stretch of water close at hand. There are plenty of examples of public parks where fishermen co-exist harmoniously with walkers, and dogs and rowing boats, just as they used to at Roundhay in the not so distant past.

I wonder what other members think?

Bob Bury

LITTER PICKING

We didn't get too wet on Tuesday 12th August and there was a good turn-out (15), collecting some 20 bags of litter. The more open areas were fairly litter-free. As always, the worst areas were where cars park (the majority probably never leaving the cars) and the wooded long grass areas.

Our next sessions will be both on Mondays 8 September and 6th October.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact news@forp.co.uk. All necessary materials are provided and sessions are only an hour and a half. Sadly it is amazing how many bags of rubbish we manage to pick up in that short time.

WHITE ROSE CANOE CLUB

Visitors to Roundhay Park, particularly those who walk around Waterloo Lake or frequent the Lakeside Café, will have noticed the increased activities of White Rose Canoe Club over the past few years. Club members have been out paddling the waters of the lake in a range of kayaks and canoes, adding to the scene of varied recreational facilities that distinguish this popular locality. The position that the club occupies today in Roundhay Park has its origins in plans first formulated many years ago for the club to lease part of the building beneath Lakeside Café as a storage area for boats. We then held a license from Leeds City Council which allowed us to paddle on the lake on a very limited basis. It was extremely fortunate for us that around this time grant applications were invited for the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP), designed to invest in local club facilities and sports development strategies. The programme was an innovative partnership between Sport England, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and the national governing bodies - in our case, the British Canoe Union (BCU). The club duly applied for support to develop the building as a boathouse.

The whole procedure took about 15 months but we were delighted to eventually be awarded £40,000 for the purpose of refurbishing the interior of the building and fitting it out as a boathouse. We now have wonderful premises and a full range of equipment and have been able to negotiate an amended license for much more extensive use of the lake. During this period we have had a great deal of help from Leeds City Council and the Roundhay Park estate, who have been very supportive of our project. The boathouse was officially opened in June 2005 by the Deputy Lord Mayor at a ceremony attended by representatives from Sport England, the BCU, Leeds City Council, club members and members of the public.

Since then, the club has enjoyed to the full the opportunity to paddle in idyllic surroundings in such a convenient city location. Club membership has increased significantly over the past 2 years and currently is in excess of 150; new members are always welcome. White Rose first received the accolade of 'Top Club' from our national governing body in 2004, emphasising the ethical nature of the club's activities in terms of equity and access. We have maintained this accreditation continuously ever since. Our expanded use of Waterloo Lake will enable the club to develop its activities in relation to increasing general interest in the sport of canoeing and promoting participation within the wider community.

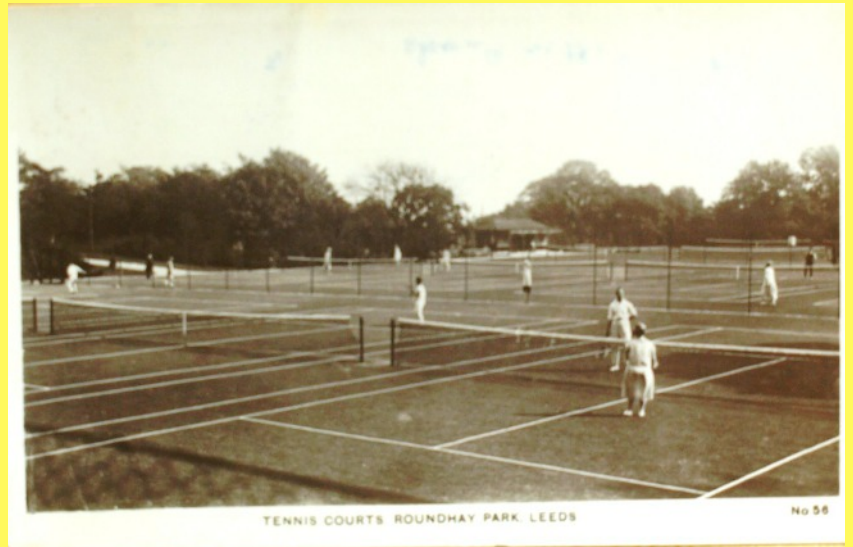
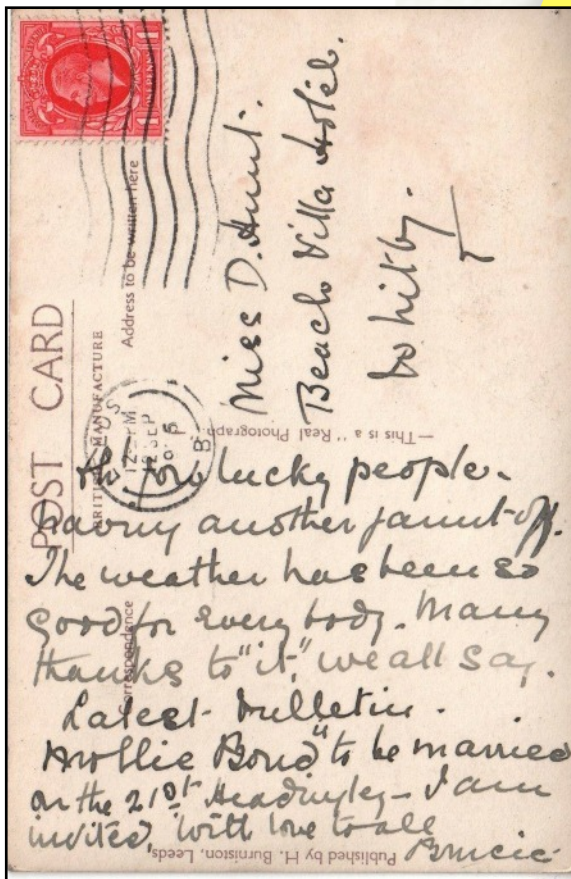
In addition, use of the water for recreational, coaching and competitive purposes will enhance the range of activities open to club members, including the disciplines of sprint, marathon, slalom and canoe polo. Ease of access and potential use of open and flat cockpit canoes, together with the placid nature of the water, will ensure

that use of the lake is particularly suitable for participation by younger paddlers and those with disabilities.

Waterloo Lake has proved to be an ideal venue for bringing canoeing to the attention of the public at large and providing facilities for a diverse membership. The people of Leeds thus benefit both from the financial investment via Sport England and from the time which our volunteers give to further the aspirations of White Rose Canoe Club. There are regular 'come and try' Saturday sessions on Waterloo Lake from 2pm to 4pm open to the public during the summer at a cost of £5.00 per participant. No booking is necessary – just turn up and have a go! Qualified coaches and bank support will be on hand to provide assistance. The 2014 sessions have been held on 10 May, 7 June, 12 July, and 2 August. A further session is scheduled for 13 September. We hope to see you there and welcome both spectators and participants.

Pamela Taylor
Secretary: White Rose Canoe Club
The Lakeside Boathouse
Roundhay Park
Leeds LS8 2ER
www.whiterosecc.org.uk





As people enjoy using the refurbished tennis courts, the editors thank Jonathan Brown for contributing this postcard featuring the courts from by-gone days. We cannot read the date on the postmark, but the card carries a George V penny red stamp. George V reigned from 1910 to 1936. Perhaps one of our readers with deep knowledge of stamps, or tennis fashion(!) could narrow down the date for us?

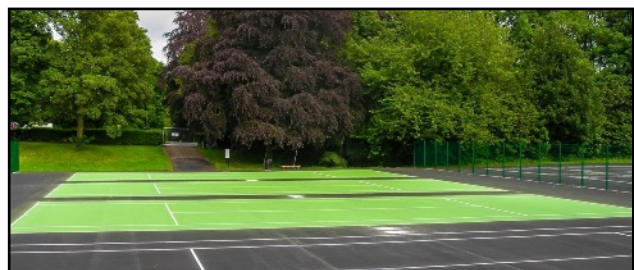
The cheery message sent to a Miss D. Hunt in Whitby reads (as far as we can see):

*Ho! you lucky people.
Having another jaunt off. The weather has been so good for everybody. Many thanks to 'it' we all say. Latest bulletin - Molly Bond is to be married on 21st Headingley. I am invited. With love to all
Brucie*

AND NOW FOR SOME PHOTOS OF THE REFURBISHED TENNIS COURTS



Anyone for tennis?



In this summer, when the Tour de France came to Yorkshire, you might think there was nothing new to say about cycling. But, think again! The editors are grateful once again to Neville Hurworth for the following fascinating glimpse into the history of Roundhay Park.

CYCLING IN ROUNDHAY PARK — ON WATERLOO LAKE!

By Neville Hurworth

Last year, Judah Schiller, modified a mountain bike so he could ride it on water on buoyancy tanks and he pedalled his way across San Francisco Bay and then at a later date, the Hudson river in New York. He seemed to think that water bicycles were an invention of the 1980s but when I looked into it, I found several accounts of cycling on water from many years earlier.

Among these there were the remarkable escapades of the energetic Miss Zetta Hills. In 1920 Miss Zetta Hills was watched by large crowds as she cycled for fifteen miles down the Thames. Much later in 1938, after an unsuccessful attempt to cycle across the Channel, Miss Zetta Hills, pedalled her way across the Solent in another highly orchestrated event.

The earliest account I could find was about 'Professor' Brown of the Royal Surrey Gardens. He too, was watched by large crowds as he cycled two miles down the Thames in 22 minutes. It was a race against the clock for a bet, which he won easily. His machine is described as seeming to be *"nothing more than the ordinary bicycle, with the exception of its having been placed on each side some large hollow tubular piping, pointed at each end, in front of a rudder ..."*

This was in 1872. Not long afterwards it seems there was a similar device at Roundhay Park on the Waterloo Lake.

The account I have about this starts in 1875, when the management committee at Roundhay Park received a letter from a Mr G.M. Bilbrough complaining that he had applied to

the boating contractors to have a private boat upon Waterloo Lake and had been refused permission. The park manager was duly instructed to investigate and report back to them at the next meeting, which he did, as follows:

"... the small vessel referred to is not an ordinary boat. It is somewhat like a bicycle and is propelled with the feet in a similar way. It rests on two hermetically- sealed tubes which give it the required buoyancy. It was used on the Waterloo Lake during the summer of 1873. The contractors state that their reasons for refusing were as follows :- If this "Bicycle Machine" was used on busy days the attention of the occupants of the steam boat would be taken by the novel construction of the "Bicycle" and the bulk of them would frequently rush to the nearest side of the boat when passing it and thereby endanger the lives of a great number of people. I think the Bicycle is a dangerous thing for the general public to use as I have often seen it upset and the rider immersed, but if the man clings to the machine his weight is not sufficient to sink it."

There is no record whatever of any discussions after the park manager's report. It seems that any concerns about safety were dismissed. Maybe the committee didn't want to stifle the innovation. Or could it simply be they had an eye on the money? They ruled that Mr Bilbrough could continue using his "Boat" on payment of the usual fees, £2 per annum to the corporation and £1 per annum to the boating contractor for *"taking care of the Boat."*

Racing in the 1950s



Join us as we...

Banish the Balsam!

Sun 1st June 10am—3pm

As part of a Leeds-wide campaign to tackle invasive non-native plants that can out-compete and cause harm to our native species, Leeds City Council and partners are aiming to eradicate them along certain key tributaries in the area.

Join the Countryside Ranger team as we look to tackle Himalayan balsam at its source in the Wyke Beck system and Roundhay Park as part of our Big Balsam Bash week!

Himalayan balsam is easy and very satisfying to pull, and all children over 7 and adults are welcome to get involved, so why not bring the whole family! (Please note anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult)

Meet at 9.45am at the Education Rooms at the side of The Mansion House, Mansion Lane, Roundhay Park.

For more information please contact Jon Dunster at jonathan.dunster@leeds.gov.uk or 0113 336 7552



On a bright and sunny day a number of FoRP members and members of the public joined council employees to 'balsam bash' in the park. This included one gallant lady who brought along her young grandson in his buggy. It was advertised as a full day session which unfortunately may have put some members off due to other commitments. Numbers were not as high as they could have been.

However, we were welcome to attend for a shorter period which was just as well as this was back-breaking work and the plants grow in some quite hazardous spots. However, a number of people were willing to climb down gorge edges and into the streams to remove these very troublesome plants, which we understand are destroying the habitats of other plants. Transported by water we focused on removing them from close to the streams. I thought they would need to be uprooted and placed in bin liners but we were taught to uproot them and crush their roots underfoot. Then they are apparently safe to leave. After a couple of hours I had to leave due to another appointment but to be honest it was pretty hard work - my back did not appreciate it. So well done all of you who spend so many hours at FoRP working parties.

Carol Stagg

TREES OF ROUNDHAY PARK

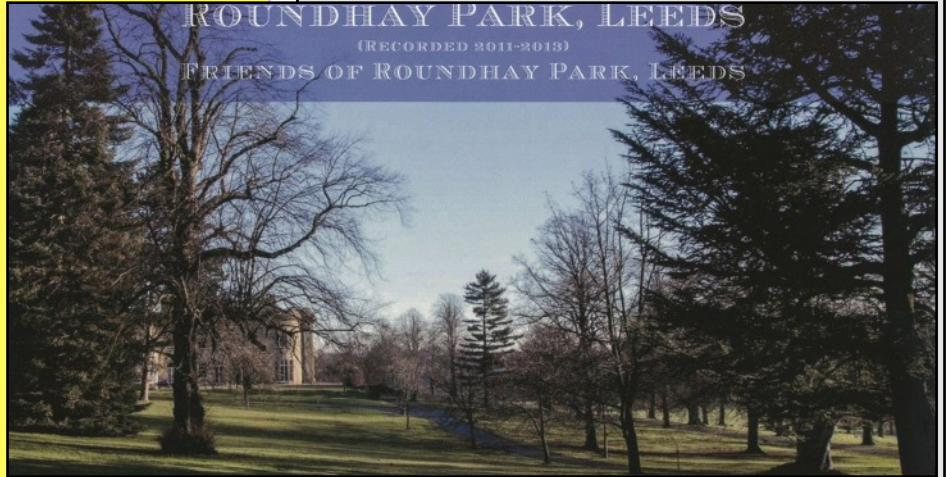
On behalf of all FoRP members, the editors would like to thank Cecily Jarvis for being our 'tree champion' Not content merely to produce the excellent tree trail now available, Cecily, with contributions from many members, has put together a wonderful book about trees in Roundhay Park. Cecily's own description follows:

"Trees of the Pleasure Gardens, Roundhay Park, Leeds" **By Cecily Jarvis**

After several seasons identifying, photographing and recording details of trees in the area between the Mansion and the Roundhay Fox, known as The Pleasure Gardens, the information has been brought together into a lovely full colour book.

The book is A4 size – landscape format - and runs to over 200 pages. It displays 41 trees, including some unusual ones such as Tulip Tree, Black Mulberry and Dawn Redwood. The trees are shown in every season along with leaf form, flower and fruit. There is a map of the area showing the location of all 41 species together with a table recording their estimated height and girth. Not only does the book highlight some of our most attractive trees, it also acts as a snapshot in time which in future may become a useful historical document.

Helen Hodgart helped with identification and mapping and the photographs were all taken by FoRP members. It is thanks to their commitment over several seasons that we have such a full record.



This unique colour photographic record of some of the most beautiful and interesting trees in Roundhay Park is now available at £20 and can be purchased only from FoRP. The book will be on sale at FoRP meetings and events. Copies can be ordered via email to news@forp.co.uk or telephone 0113 293 2893 for collection.

Cecily has also kindly offered to feature a tree for our newsletter. In this issue she describes the Ginkgo.

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Introduced to Britain from China in 1758, the Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree is now endangered in the wild. It is the only surviving member of the ancient family Ginkgoaceae and there are fossil records of this tree dating back 250m years. The two-lobed leaves which turn butter yellow in autumn, give it its Latin name "biloba".

Grown mainly for its ornamental value, there are indications that substances from this tree may be medically useful in the treatment of certain conditions of memory loss.



Cecily Jarvis

NOTICES AND REMINDERS

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE SERIES

All welcome, no need to book.

Tuesday 16 September 2014

"The Animal life of Tropical World".

As well as seeing some of the inhabitants, we'll hear about Tropical World's breeding programmes, - some more bizarre than others! - its connections with many organisations across the world and some of the future plans.

Steve Dickie BSc is Head Animal Keeper at Tropical World and is well-qualified to oversee these complex arrangements.

Tuesday 18 November 2014

"Victorian galas in Roundhay Park featuring, 'Most Original Entertainments; Sports both on Water and Land; and a Host of other Attractions; in Aid of the Medical Charities of the Town'."

Finding the advert above in Leeds' archives prompted Helen Hodgart to research further about what sound to have been exciting days out! She's an active member of the Friends and a volunteer with Leeds Museums service.

Tuesday 20 January 2015

Please keep this evening free! At the time of going to press, we are awaiting confirmation from a speaker.

Tuesday 17 March 2015

'Photos of Roundhay Park from Victorian times to the Present day'

This will be a combination of photographs and slides donated recently to the Friends and some discovered in the archives, after years hidden away. Lynda Kitching and Helen Hodgart will present these, - come prepared to share your memories!

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

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

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Roundhay Park took place at the Education Centre on Wednesday 11 June 2014, and was attended by 38 people. Julia Wilson and David Binns were re-appointed as chair and secretary respectively, and Chris Hill was re-appointed as treasurer. Key items reported and discussed in the meeting included the following:

- FoRP membership has grown considerably over recent years, and was reported to be 449 households, equating to 632 members
- Heritage Lottery funding had been awarded for restoration of Oakwood Clock, but there was still a shortfall in funding to improve the area around the clock, with another £60,000 being needed by next Spring
- A planning application is in place for the disused toilet block beside the Oakwood Clock. The proposal is to develop this site as a restaurant.
- Three new information boards are to be produced to enhance visitors' enjoyment of the park. One will be located near the Lakeside Cafe, for identification of water fowl. The other two will be located at each end of the Tree Trail, informing visitors about the trail, and the availability of the leaflet.

A full set of minutes of the meeting can be obtained from David Binns (news@forp.co.uk). The next full meeting of the Friends of Roundhay Park will take place on Wednesday 8 October at 7pm.



NO, WE DON'T NEED SOMEONE TO ERECT OUR FURNITURE

BUT We DO need someone with website skills to help build a new revamped and updated website. Also we need a very organised person who can take on some of the clerical work done by our over-stretched secretary. We could also do with someone who would be interested in taking on the role of deputy chairperson - the idea being that they could work alongside our current chairperson - Julia for a while with a view to possibly taking over in the future. The current team have been in their present voluntary roles for some time. They are very keen to recruit others who may be interested in supporting and possibly taking over existing roles. **FoRP's future depends on its members providing support and taking responsibilities.**

CLOCK, ROCK AND TWO EMPTY BARRELS

The Clock, Rock and Two Empty Barrels event was dreamt up in the pub by some locals in 2013 wanting to help to rescue the Oakwood Clock and get it re-stored. By popular demand, it was back on Saturday 2 August 2014.

Stalls brimmed with local street food including nachos, fudge, brownies, pulled pork and barbeque as well as delicious Caribbean food. The stalls sold a wide variety of different products, from stained glass to baby clothes, petal art to music-orientated gifts.

The Preston's Super bar - manned by Bananaman, Wonder Woman, Hit Girl, the Caped Crusader and Bat Girl - was drunk dry by thirsty patrons who queued up to try the 13 local beers from Ilkley Brewery, Kirkstall Brewery and Great Heck as well as a full variety of wines, cider and soft drinks.

This free event was organised by OTRA (Oakwood Trader's Residents Association), local residents, Leeds City Council, Tasty and Preston bar and is funded through grants from local councillors and the Leeds City Council Inner East North East Committee team.

This year OTRA raised a fantastic total of £3200 for the Oakwood Clock restoration fund and to help fund free future



community events across Oakwood. More information can be found on the www.loveoakwood.co.uk page.

Alexis Keech

Space needed for
Address labels

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.

Your contributions

We welcome your articles of up to 800 words accompanied by photographs wherever possible. Copy due date for the next publication Dec 10th 2014.

We also welcome your bite sized items. Please send contributions to editor@forp.co.uk

CALENDAR 2015

The Friends of Roundhay Park 2015 calendar is on its way and will be available for purchase by the end of September. We have held the price at £6.99, which also includes delivery and postage to any UK address.

The calendars will be stocked by City Stationers, Timoney's and "With Love" (all at Oakwood), Philip Howard Bookshop (Street Lane) and Headrow Galleries (Harrogate Road, Alwoodley). We shall also be at The Farmers' Market on Saturday, 18th October 2014

OR

You can order direct from FoRP – Cheques should be made payable to FoRP and sent to FoRP, PO Box 129, Leeds LS8 1WY

If you have any queries, please email news@forp.co.uk or ring David Binns on 0113-293-2893