

Friends of Whirlow Brook Park (FOWP) Newsletter

Issue 3 - August 2021



Message from the Chair

One of the best things about FoWP is the opportunity to meet and work alongside interesting people in peaceful surroundings, knowing that together we will have created something for others to enjoy. I really look forward to our volunteer sessions and was thrilled to be told that we had 19 people on Monday 16 August. The young children's play area was cleared of debris and weeds and plans are afoot to repaint the maze.

Sometimes gardeners are faced with hard decisions, as FoWP recently discovered.

There are two enormous conifers at the entrance to the sunken garden, which are breaking the walls and blocking the light. Imposing though they are, they are simply now too big and they will be taken out over the next couple of months. Fortunately, the Soroptimists International Association have decided to commemorate their centenary by asking all their branches to plant trees. The Hallamshire branch has offered to support some new planting in Whirlow Brook Park, specifically in the sunken garden. So we will soon be able to welcome some worthy replacements for our oversized conifers.

So much to do and only two volunteer sessions a month! We could do more if we could find more people to lead the sessions. Can I tempt you to pick up the phone to find out what is involved? Call me for a chat about it on 07575 720702.

Finally, please do try to make the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 28 September. It is important that we are properly constituted and that everyone is clear about what is going on. There will be refreshments and we hope to have a short talk about the flood prevention work which is shortly to take place in the Limb Valley.

Shelagh Woolliscroft
FOWP Steering Group Chair

Extraordinary General Meeting - a reminder!

We told you about our EGM in the last issue of the newsletter but just in case you missed it - we will be holding our first meeting of members to give an update on progress so far, and to elect a management committee. We need to do this so Friends of Whirlow Brook Park can get properly underway. And we promise to make it as interesting as possible! The EGM will be held on **Tuesday 28th September starting at 7.30pm** at Whirlow Brook Hall. At the EGM we will be electing a management committee of up to 12 people. Once elected, the committee will meet to appoint the following Officers from amongst themselves: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Publicity Officer. Other responsibilities to be allocated include - volunteer management; co-ordination of minor works; co-ordination of events; leading on health and well-being; horticulture and ecology. If you are interested in being on the management committee you will need to fill in a Nomination form and find a proposer and seconder from within the Friends. Nomination forms etc. were sent out to paid-up members only on 10 August, forms to be returned by **3 September**. However, late applicants will be considered for co-option if there are vacant places.

Who we are

The current Steering Group members are:

Chair - Shelagh Woolliscroft,
Secretary - Roger Lasko
Treasurer - Chris Cave
Membership Secretary - David Jordan
Publicity Officer - Maggie Girling

Website

The good news this month is our website is now live! This will provide regular updates and news for members and hopefully encourage new members too. Take a look:

<https://friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk/>

Our next volunteer days

All volunteer sessions will start at 9.45am, meeting at the grass square just below the top car park. No need to book - just turn up! There will be a register and a health and safety information for any new volunteers. We will also ask for an emergency contact number for a partner, friend or neighbour. (Under GDPR we don't keep this data and it is shredded after each session). Please wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. There are a variety of gardening tools to use but you are welcome to bring your own. Bring a drink and hand sanitizer!

Saturday 4 Sept - Flower beds and kid's play area

Wednesday 22 Sept - TBA

Saturday 2 October - TBA

Monday 18 October - Clearing edges of ponds

Saturday 6 November - TBA

Wednesday 17 November - TBA

Volunteers should still continue to wear masks in the gardener's store. And please don't come to the sessions if you feel unwell or have been 'pinged' by the NHS App.

Update on work so far

Since our last newsletter we have had two successful volunteer sessions with numbers of volunteers steadily increasing. A lot has been achieved in the sunken garden, but work is slow so we have been in discussion with Parks and Countryside Dept. in SCC and they are going to assist by having a digger to scrub out a lot of the existing beds. FoWP will then agree a planting plan and work on this in September and October. The two very large conifers at the top of the steps will be taken out and replaced by trees more in keeping with the area. The walls will also be repaired by volunteers. There are also plans for a digger to scrub out the lower pond edging where it is very overgrown, and for us to replant more appropriate plants there as well.

Kids' play area

We had a volunteer session targeting the beds and kids' play area and made a lot of progress. This area has been looking rather sad lately with mud accumulating in the bottom corner. We found the edging to the paths and cleared a lot of weeds, mud and overgrowth. We also unearthed a little stone path which used to be part of the sensory garden. The kids' maze was scrubbed and will be repainted shortly. (Any willing volunteers with a paint brush appreciated!) This will be a temporary solution until plans are drawn up for this area. All in all though, a good mornings' work!



The overgrown conifers



The children's maze

Forestry Work - larch disease

There was an informative talk by SCC and the Forestry Commission on 9 August in the Limb Brook. They told us about the larch disease *phytophthora ramorum* which is present across the UK and their plans to fell a large number of Japanese larch and other trees in the Rough Standhills plantation. SCC has an order from the Forestry Commission to do this work asap in order to stop the disease spreading further. Work will start in October and will take 5-6 weeks. Some paths in the woods will be temporarily closed. The larch will be replaced by native species such as oak, rowan, birch, cherry, yew and aspen. The community will be involved in the replanting as well as ourselves. For further info on the disease click on the link below: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/.../phytophthora-ramorum/>



We discovered a stone path

Fridge Freezer wanted!

Does anyone have an old fridge freezer they no longer want? Or know anyone who has one? We need one for the gardeners' store. If so, please get in touch with John Coldron - email johncoldron@gmail.com

Music in the Park

We had a small, but select audience for the Music in the park event on Sunday 8 August. Unfortunately the weather put a lot of you off no doubt. The band, Cellar V, were great and picnics and wine were enjoyed. Look out for future events, hopefully before the bad weather sets in.



Cellar V



Dore Moor Garden Centre

One of our volunteers Jane Hall, has been in touch with Dore Moor Garden Centre who have kindly donated a lot of this season's plants (that are a little past their best) for free! These are currently being 'fostered' with volunteers until they are ready to plant in the park. We'd like to thank Alex and the team for their very generous contribution, and hope to do business with you in the future.

<https://doremoor.co.uk/>



Subscriptions

We currently have a database of around 120 'friends' - about 70 % who are paid-up members. If you haven't paid your subscription so far it's an easy thing to do and will only cost you £10 a year which covers all members of a household.

If you have online banking please set up an immediate payment of £10 to our bank account Friends of Whirlow Brook Park sort code 05-02-30 Account no 71217977. And then a standing order for the same date for the following years. Please use a reference consisting of your last name and postcode. The banks are, at differing speeds, setting up new procedures to check details of account numbers and sort codes and, until these are fully in place, you may get a warning message. Please to not be put off by this; the above details are correct! For more information on this, visit our website: <https://friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk/>

Surveyor needed

We are looking for anyone who has building surveying experience to do a scaled drawing of the building in the compound at the side of the Hall. It is very much in disrepair but if you can help then please get in touch at friendsofwhirlowbrookpark@gmail.com



Follow us on Facebook

Please follow us on Facebook - the more likes and followers we get the more exposure we will have to spread the word about our lovely park and recruit more volunteers! Search for

www.facebook.com/friendsofwhirlowbrookpark

Christmas Cards on Sale soon!

We know it's still August but we will be having some Christmas Cards printed to raise funds for the Friends of Whirlow Brook Park. These will be on sale at the EGM on 28 Sept. If anyone knows of any shops, libraries etc that would be willing to stock them please let us know. More details soon.

