

Friends of Whirlow Brook Park (FoWP) Newsletter

Issue 20 - Spring 2025



Registered charity no 1204004

Message from the Chair

Winter is usually quiet in the park for us, but the last three months have been unusually busy, with an army of volunteers getting the orchard site ready for planting in February. University volunteers, Scouts from Greenhill, school students, Gripple Ltd and of course our own intrepid volunteers all contributed to filling over 100 builders' bags with nettle and bramble. Contractors (paid from the proceeds of last year's plant sales) removed some of the old cypress hedge and planted a new native hedge. We had new Gripple fencing, 20 fruit trees (sponsored by Friends and friends of Friends) and a water tank funded by the Local Area Committee. We have a hibernaculum and the makings of a stumpery. Thank you to everyone who donated or who braved the winter weather to get us this far.

On 17 March the deputy lieutenant for South Yorkshire came to assess us for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. It was an honour to be nominated and we gave it our best shot, but we were advised that it is 'all a bit of a lottery' so we shan't be disappointed if we are not chosen. Well, not TOO disappointed!

Spring is here at last and the park is waking up. There are white lines in the top car-park and both parking areas have been spruced up. Fresh bark has been spread on the Blue Trail. We have plans for both gardening and small repairs, plus lots of events to enjoy, starting with the Easter Egg Trail. This event is part-funded by Gripple, who we are delighted to welcome as our new corporate sponsor.

We have said goodbye to Parks team leader Richard Godley, who has returned to his previous post. He will be sorely missed but his team will carry on with the mowing, hedge cutting and waste removal until his successor arrives. It is now clear more than ever how much our group is needed. Please give FoWP whatever support you can. We have a new donations section on the

website where you can contribute to a specific project and have an entry in our Book of Remembrance.

Best wishes

Shelagh Woolliscroft, Chair of FoWP

Easter Egg Trail Sat 19th April

Can't believe this is our fourth Easter Egg Trail! Children will follow the trail of wooden eggs, solve the anagram and win a prize. Please book on TicketSource to ensure your children can take part! Tickets cost £4.00 per child over 3 years. Adults and children under 2 are free. There will be face painting and games on the lawn.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-whirlow-brook-park/t-pqeneag>

www.friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk/events
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Community Orchard update

We have had an extremely busy, but exciting time in the community orchard since our last newsletter. Some of you may have seen our updates on facebook, but here are a few highlights of what we have achieved. In February, contractors removed a section of leylandii hedge that borders the area and the remaining hedge was trimmed. This has let a huge amount of light into the orchard to help the trees grow.



Contractors removing the Leylandii

We held a community day on Feb 15 to plant a native hedge made up of hawthorn, holly, rowan, hazel, crab apple, some blackthorn and many more. We had students from the University of Sheffield Conservation Society and Scouts from 265th Greenhill Scouts, as well as local residents to help. The Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV) gave us the hedge whips. Volunteers also built a hibernaculum.



Greenhill Scouts helping plant the hedge

The following Monday saw more volunteers and tree sponsors planting our fruit trees at last! These include apple, pear, cherry, quince, mulberry and a medlar! We purchased some of the trees from Sheffield Fruit Trees and some from Bents Green Nursery. All were sponsored. Everyone joined in with the planting and were sustained by coffee and cake.



Peter and Roger planting the quince



The planting plan with coffee and cakes

Community Orchard continued..

A couple of weeks later our corporate sponsors, Gripple, installed a wire fence to keep out any deer who might take a liking to the new trees. They worked incredibly hard removing a big tree stump before they could continue.



The Gripple team

Next came the issue of watering the trees. With funding from the Local Area Committee (LAC) we bought a 1000 litre water butt which has been kindly filled by our neighbouring farm. A big thank you to them. It was built in stages by our volunteer Michael and set on a stand. We are using watering cans at present to water the trees but this is a bit painstaking so we need to devise an irrigation system.

Over the past year we have done an incredible amount of work transforming what was a huge overgrown area of old orchard to what it is now. Thanks to all our amazing volunteers and helpers, university students, corporate volunteers, scouts and SCC Parks and Countryside Dept. The orchard is situated to the left as you go up the drive, the entrance being next to the green grit bin. We plan to have signs and a gate/fence at the entrance and also a nature play area and picnic benches in the near future. Go and see it!



Hard at work



Michael with the new water butt



The finished fence



The finished orchard (almost!)



The hibernaculum

Water, Water everywhere

We all know we have problems with water in the Park - it doesn't stay where it should and, when it rains at all heavily, it goes where it shouldn't. Work on clearing drains and diverting surface water all help but we need to do more. Over the past couple of weeks, we have been talking to a civil engineer and to the Wildlife Trust about ways of reducing the flow of water into the Park and then managing it better within the Park. Suggestions include creating holding ponds in the rough woodland above the Park. We hope we can start work over the coming year. Watch this space!

Volunteer Update

With all the work we have on we have extended our volunteer sessions to four times a month now, two Saturdays and two Mondays. (See dates below) or on our website. Other than all our work in the orchard, volunteers have still been very busy in the rest of the park. We have mulched a lot of muddy paths in preparation for the Easter Egg Trail. We have pruned a large section of cornus (dogwood) and cut down dead branches to expose the area to the right of the sunken garden. A lot of the dead branches have been used to repair the dens on the Blue Trail, but if your children love dens then they are welcome to add some more!

If any of our readers would like to volunteer then please get in touch. You don't have to come to every session and you will learn a lot and meet some lovely people!

Email us at:

fowp@friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.co.uk

Volunteer Days

We have introduced more days to cope with the amount of gardening we do! (See dates below and on our website). We meet on the grass square near the top car park. New volunteers always welcome. There will be a sign-in sheet and health and safety information for 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. Don't forget to bring a drink. Biscuits provided!

Dates: 5 Apr, 14 Apr, 3 May, 12 May, 19 May, 7 Jun, 16 Jun, 23 Jun, 5 Jul, 14 Jul, 21 Jul

Please don't come to the sessions if you feel unwell especially if you suspect Covid.

Sounds of Summer concerts

Early heads up for our music concerts that start in May. Last Sundays of the month May- Sept. 3-5pm. Please bring chairs, picnic and cash for donations and our raffle!



Friends of Whirlow Brook Park
present:

Sounds of Summer

A series of music concerts in the park. Last Sunday of the month 3-5pm (side lawn, right of the Hall)

25 May: Sons of Rodger/ PLUC

29 June: Treebeard/Cobalt Tales

27 July: The Crafters/Ordinary Joes

31 August: Pluk/Bungalow Bliss

28 Sept - 20ft Squid/ Michael Richards & Kiri Smith

Admission Free – but suggested donation of £5 pp towards our work in the park. Thank you

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Bring a chair / blanket, picnic and drinks! Children welcome

Upcoming Events in 2025

Sat 19 April - Easter Egg Trail 2.00-4.00pm
 Mon 5 May - VE Celebration (with Shelter Café)
 Tues 6 May - Bird Walk (info on page 6)
 Sat 10 May - Spring Plant Swap/Sale 10am-1pm
 Sun 25 May Sounds of Summer Concert 3-5pm
 Sun 29 Jun Sounds of Summer Concert 3-5pm
 Sun 27 Jul Sounds of Summer Concert 3-5pm
 Sun 31 Aug Sounds of Summer Concert 3-5pm
 Wed 10 Sept - Heritage walks in the park (TBC)
 Sun 28 Sept Sounds of Summer Concert 3-5pm
 Sat 4 Oct - Autumn Plant Sale
 Wed 29 Oct - Pond/water work 9.30am - 1.00pm

Details of all our events are on our website at www.friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.co.uk/events/

Friends of Graves Park



Landscape Conservation Forum &
South Yorks Biodiversity Research Group present

What is Wild?

Wednesday, 7 May - Thursday, 8 May 2025
Lees Hall Golf Club, Sheffield, S8 8LL

Day 1: What is Wild? An exploration of science, history, and concepts'.
Speakers include Keith Alexander, Dr Matthew Adeleye, Prof. Peter Bridgewater, Prof. Peter Rowley-Conwy, and Dr Michael J Allen.

Day 2: 'Welcome to the Urban Wild'.
Speakers include Ted Green and Jill Butler, Prof. Peter Bridgewater, Prof. Ian Rotherham, Dr Peter Shepherd, Dr Paul Ardron and Richard Scott.

SPECIAL FREE EVENT Wednesday 7th May 6.30pm - 8.30pm
An evening with Mark Cocker presenting 'What is Wild?' followed by a discussion led by Ted Green and Jill Butler
University of Sheffield Arts Tower, S3 7NA
**Included for conference delegates but also open to all (booking required)*

For further information, including the full programme and booking details, visit our website: www.ukeconet.org/what-is-wild.html

VE Day Celebration

The Shelter Café will be holding a VE Day celebration on Bank Holiday Monday 5 May, in conjunction with the Friends. They plan to have special VE cakes, picnic boxes and music. There will also be Face Painting and fancy dress with a free cupcake for the best dressed child in 1940's costume. (Adults can dress up too!) The event is free and will run from 11.00am until 4pm. Why not bring a picnic and enjoy the fun! There is limited parking in the park and there will be a lot of people about so please park on the crescent outside or on Whirlowdale Rd. Better still, walk or use public transport.



Plant Swap/Sale - Sat 10 May

We would really like your donations of plants (split them now from your garden) or plant seeds. And if anyone would like to make jams, marmalade, chutneys etc we'd love to sell them. Need to leave them by the gardener's store the day before or contact us to collect.

www.fowp@friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk



Plant Swap/Sale

Saturday 10 May 10-1.00pm

At Whirlow Brook Park, S11 9QD

Please come along, bring a plant to swap or just buy some! Also home-made jam, chutney etc. All funds go towards the Nature play in the Community Orchard. Also, our tool sharpening expert Geoff, will be there to sharpen your small garden tools in exchange for a donation to the Friends of Whirlow Brook Park.



Registered charity no.1204004

Donations

The donation page of our website has been revised to give more information on the various types of donation. There are sections on: Making a general donation; Supporting a specific project; Making a bequest or a donation in memoriam; and Corporate Sponsorship. The section on specific projects links to a Current Projects page that will be updated as and when. At present our projects include the community orchard, sculptures in the park and a tree survey. The section on bequests has a link to our online Book of Remembrance which has now opened with three tributes related to donations towards the community orchard. General donations and donations to other specific projects may also be associated with tributes in the Book of Remembrance. For more details and to make a donation please visit our website. <https://friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk/donations/>

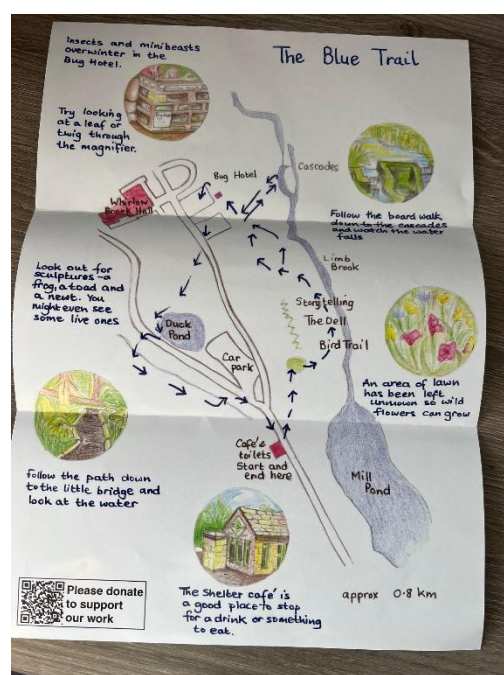
Bird Walk

Fancy finding out a bit more about birds in the park? Why not join our bird walk on Tues 6th May? Meet at the entrance to the park at 10.00am finishing at 12.00pm at the café. We will walk around the area looking and listening for birds, hoping to see some summer migrants. Please wear strong footwear and suitable clothing. Please email Monica Frith if you wish to come (max 10 people). m.frith256@btinternet.com



New Blue Trail Leaflet

Our Blue Trail leaflet has just been revised to give more information for those little explorers to follow. Thanks to volunteer Tricia Goffin for designing this lovely leaflet with map. Pick one up in the café and go and explore!



Fundraising Regulator



In December last year we registered with the Fundraising Regulator. This means that we are committed to the Code of Fundraising practice. The Code sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK. It aims are to:

- promote a consistent, high standard of fundraising;
- make sure charitable institutions, their governing bodies and fundraisers know what is expected of them;
- set out the standards we use when considering complaints;
- provide a benchmark for organisations and fundraisers to assess their practices against so they can identify necessary training and monitor and set policy priorities for their fundraising; and
- develop a culture of honesty, openness and respect between fundraisers and the public.

All FoWP fundraising will follow this code and carry the Fundraising Regulator logos in all our publicity material and social media.



Follow us on Facebook

We have now reached over 1.2K Facebook followers! (1,274 to be precise) But we'd like more! 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 <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofwhirlowbrookpark>



Twitter or 'X'

Please follow us on X- [Twitter@FriendsBrook](https://twitter.com/FriendsBrook)
<https://twitter.com/FriendsBrook>

AGM - 9 June 2025

Please do come along to our AGM on Monday 9 June at 6.30pm for 7pm in the Oak Room in Whirlowbrook Hall. We will have a guest speaker (TBC) followed by the election of officers. Refreshments provided. We hope to finish around 9pm.

Making it easier to park

Many is the time, when you are parking in the top car park in Whirlow Brook Park that you have to make a guess as to where the car park spaces are and folk don't always get it right. But not anymore! Thanks to SCC and Amey who, in February, came and repainted all the car park lines including two disabled bays. In preparation, FoWP volunteers swept the car park and cut back shrubbery to enable the work to go ahead. Thank goodness we don't have to chalk in the lines anymore for our events!



FoWP Contact Information

If you wish to volunteer and/or join the friends please contact us at:

Email: fowp@friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk

Website:

www.friendsofwhirlowbrookpark.org.uk

Facebook@friendsofwhirlowbrookpark

Twitter or X @FriendsBrook

Telephone: 0114 255 8948

Registered Charity no. 1204004