

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
APRIL, 2018

Welcome to this the first edition of the bi-monthly newsletter of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, the Woodthorpe Gazette. The aim of this newsletter is to keep members of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park informed of issues that surround the environment of Woodthorpe Park and also the activities the friends, from time to time, take part in and to keep members informed of future events taking place on Woodthorpe Park.



For a number of years, the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park have been meeting on an informal basis. We all have a common interest in this beautiful local park.



Gradually we have become more involved with events on the park. Voluntary activities have included informative walks and talks, bulb-planting and litter picking.

On Wednesday 28th March, 2018 we held our first inaugural annual general meeting with the aim of actively promoting the park to ensure its future.

We welcome anyone who has a genuine interest in Woodthorpe Grange Park to join our meetings and volunteer activities.

For more information visit our website on www.woodthorpefriends.co.uk or our Facebook Page, Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park.

Marian Staniforth

Woodthorpe Grange Park's Flytipping Problem

With local business leaders raising concerns over the proliferation of waste thrown from passing motorists on both carriageways of the A52, Brian Clough Way, and the residents of a street in Sneinton frustrated by those who are flytipping. Whilst I agree, those who dump their rubbish are showing a selfish disregard for the environment and for those who have to clean up after them, especially cash strapped councils who are forced to spend money clearing up their rubbish.

Whilst I have every sympathy with those who have to deal with this issue, it is something that has been an ongoing problem for years. In many ways it could be said, it's a problem that's 'as old as the hills.' In deed the problem pre-dates the decision by Nott's County Councillors to allow only residents from the county to use its recycling centres, which many see as an escalation of the problem. Especially when the City has only one recycling centre, located on the western side of the City of Nottingham at Lenton, which is near to the city/county boundary and the county has twelve recycling centres.

One of the areas however that does pre-dates the decision made by County Councillors is Woodthorpe Grange Park. Woodthorpe Grange Park, a favourite for dog walkers and those wishing to enjoy its open spaces is also a haven for fly tippers, especially around the wooded area of the park that backs onto Sherwood Vale. In recent years flytippers have dumped broken fridges, freezers, tyres, building materials, and as the illustration below shows even a flat screen television!



This of course, is just the latest example of what is dumped on the lower part of Sherwood Vale and onto the park. As I have said, it's been an ongoing problem for years.

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In an attempt to remedy the problem, or to make an attempt in cleaning up that area of the park, five members of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, on Saturday 24th March, 2018 went on a litter pick. Originally booked for Saturday 3rd March, but due to inclement weather the event had to be cancelled.

In all, eight huge bags of rubbish were filled, consisting mainly of sweet rappers, dozens of drinks cans and beer bottles. One of the members even found a partially buried bag of wet flyers advertising pizzas, and a broken plastic cover from a lawnmower. In other words, we had barely begun to scratch the surface. Therefore, on the next litter picking session, which will be held on Saturday 5th May when, as before, we all meet at the Plant Shop at 11am, we will again be concentrating our efforts in the same wooded area of the park as before.



As the above picture shows, four of the five members who took part in the litter pick on the 24th March standing around the eight bags of collected rubbish.

Is spring is just around the Corner?

Is spring just around the corner? is a question all of us must have been asking ourselves over the past few weeks, especially when on the 1st March, which was meteorologically the first day of spring, saw a heavy snowfall and arctic temperatures when just a week earlier, on the 24th February, the Friends volunteered in planting bulbs in the Dell Gardens. Thus giving, for those who took part, that spring is finally in the air, as the photograph below shows.



Just when we all beginning think that spring is in the air, it is hard to image that just five days later on the 28th February this was the scene that greeted us all, as the above photograph shows, and when it was taken the temperature was a very cold minus 5 Celsius.

Thinking that the weather we'd just had was only going to be a brief wintery spell that would soon melt away the following day, Thursday the 1st March, for those struggling to get to work, it soon became a nightmare, causing, for many commuters, a slow journey to work, as the photograph below clearly

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shows by the long queue of traffic on Woodborough Road.



The same could be said for Nottingham's Tram Network. As the photograph below shows, because of the heavy overnight snowfall, the trams that were running were also heavily delayed, which for passengers, especially those who have had experiences of it, resembled scenes of the rush hour on the Central Line on London's underground system.



Yet for pupils whose schools that were closed the story was completely the opposite, with the chance to sledge down the hills of Woodthorpe Park

For generations of people who have grown up in the area, there has always been a tale or two to tell about their experiences of sledging on Woodthorpe Park in the winter. I for one can tell the story as child braking my leg sledging on the park when I went into a tree. However, it didn't stop me sledging as I went out again with my leg in a plaster caste! As for the tree, when I crashed into it, it was a sapling, now it is a fully grown tree!



As quick as the snow came by the Sunday the 4th of March the snow had all but melted away.

Thinking we had seen the last of the wintery weather, especially with one or two days of spring like weather, this was proven to be a brief respite from what was to follow, coming as it did between Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th March.

The show that fell, thankfully, didn't last for too long as it had all thawed out by the following Monday evening. Since then, apart from the odd dry spell it has been cold and damp, which has lasted right up until the Easter Bank Holiday and beyond.

With continuous long spells of rain coupled with the damp conditions from previous bouts of inclement weather this has caused the underground water table to rise, and now Woodthorpe Park has its own ornamental lake, which has aptly been named 'Lake Woodthorpe!'



Finally, I bet there will be a drought this summer!

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Woodthorpe Park 1922 – 2022:

Your chance to have your say

On the 1st June, 2022 Woodthorpe Grange Park will be celebrating its centenary. As Woodthorpe Park is very much a people's park, and although it's still four years into the future, we the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park would like to hear from you, the reader, how you feel Woodthorpe Park's centenary should be celebrated. To give you a brief history, here are some of the key dates.



1874: Henry Ashwell the first person to live in Woodthorpe Grange.



1889: The Nottingham Suburban Railway is opened



Tuesday 10th July, 1928 Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary visit Woodthorpe Park

I hope this have given you some idea as maybe how Woodthorpe Park's centenary should be celebrated. As I have said, these are just some of the key dates that are a part of Woodthorpe Park's history. There is more historical information available on the Friends of Woodthorpe Park website, on www.woodthorpefriends.co.uk

Again to reiterate, we would like to hear from you on what ideas you have as to how Woodthorpe Park's centenary should be celebrated. The email address to send you ideas to is woodthorpefriends@gmail.com
We look forward to hearing from you... Thank you