

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018

Welcome to this the fifth edition of the Woodthorpe Gazette. The previous edition the summer special was, of course, all about this year's glorious summer weather, the hottest summer since 1976.

As a PS to the summer special and the hot weather we have experienced this year, I wonder how a younger generation will remember this year when they reach my age. Just as I reflect on the summer of 42 years ago.

In years to come, today's young generation will probably be lamenting on the glorious summer of 2018 and saying the same thing as I have said this year about the summer of 1976: we've not had a summer like the one we had in 2018 for some time, so let's not complain about the heat and just enjoy it!

As a footnote, reflecting on the summer of 1976 we didn't have so many health warnings as we have today. In other words, we were not being constantly being reminded by health experts of the dangers of being out in the sun between the hours of 12 noon to 4pm, and how important it is to drink plenty of fluids to keep oneself hydrated.

As I remember, all that was reinforced was the need to preserve water, the rest was just use your common sense. If it was too hot to go out, providing you were not at work, you stayed indoors. As for drinking plenty of fluids, you just drank when you were thirsty. That is all we had.... How have I managed to live to this great age?



When I took the above photograph, it was a sweltering 32 degrees Celsius. As you can probably see in the distance there are a few Mad Dogs and Englishmen Out in the Midday Sun!



With the weather being as it has been this summer, it has been a wonderful opportunity for individuals and families to enjoy the pleasures the park has to offer, all of which began on Thursday 21st June with the four-day James Mellors Fun Fair.



At the time of writing, looking at the above photograph I am reminded that Nottingham's annual Goose Fair is in seven weeks' time, beginning on Wednesday 3rd of October!

Because of this summer's warm weather, apart from the park's annual fun fair, it has been a time for families to gather together to celebrate, amongst other things birthdays.



As the above photograph shows, whole families coming together to celebrate a birthday, in this case a child's birthday.

It has been common throughout the whole of the summer to see groups of families of all age groups coming together to enjoy themselves and to have a good time.

As proof of Woodthorpe Park's popularity, during the time of the annual Splendour Music Festival held on Wollaton Park I met with two groups of friends, one group who lives in Warwickshire and another who lives in Yorkshire. As Nottingham is halfway distance between the two counties they would annually meet up at Wollaton Park. As it was the time

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018

of the Splendour Music Festival, Wollaton Park was closed to normal visitors. As a consequence, both groups decided to meet up at Woodthorpe Park. When speaking to them they both agreed Woodthorpe Park is far better and it is much cheaper as you don't have to pay for parking!



ADVERT: Families come to Woodthorpe Park, have a great day, and the best part is - it's all for free!

Party in the Park



Perhaps one of the biggest attractions that brought an estimated 2,000 families on to Woodthorpe Park and raised £1,500 for Nottinghamshire Hospice together with further corporate sponsorship from Barclays Bank of £800 thus bringing the final total to £2,300 was the Party on the Park event that was held on Saturday 11th August, 2018.



Scenes for the Party in the Park 11 August, 2018

Blessed with good weather, it attracted many craft stalls from the locality, some of which you see at Woodthorpe Park's annual Christmas Fair held in the vicinity of the Plant Shop.



As the whole event was deemed a success one of the many comments made by those who were spoken to all said the same thing, another similar event should be held this time next year.

From a personal perspective, as Woodthorpe Park celebrates its centenary in four years' time, events like this should be held annually as a lead up to the park's centenary year.



Woodthorpe Park Opening Ceremony, 1 June 1922

Woodthorpe Park
1922 – 2022

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018

A Little Piece of Park History

With the thought of the park's centenary in four years' time or, to bring it closer, a little over three years' time, and the thought of how we should celebrate it here is something which readers may find interesting. Sixty-five years ago, on the 2nd June, 1953 at the time of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II coronation in Westminster Abbey, towns and villages throughout the United Kingdom and Commonwealth all held their own celebrations to honour the newly crowned queen. Nottingham was no exception.

Beginning two days earlier on the 31st May, a Divine Service was held at St. Mary's Church in the Lace Market at 10.45 in the morning. This was followed by a United Denominations of Nottingham's Churches, which was held on the Castle, the Forest Recreation Ground and Wollaton Park at 8.30 in the evening.

Apart from street decorations and street parties, during the whole of the coronation week three of Nottingham's Public Buildings, in the evening, were illuminated. This included the Castle, the Trent Building at the University of Nottingham and the Council House.



The floodlit Council House in Nottingham's Old Market Square.

Apart from the coronation service being relayed from Westminster Abbey to members of the public assembled on Nottingham Castle, the celebrations got underway at 12 noon with a firing of a 21-gun salute by members of 307 Battery the South Nott's Hussars R.A., T.A. which was the curtain raiser for the celebrations to begin on Nottingham's public parks.

With the main events taking place on the Forest Recreation Ground and Wollaton Park, which included a variety show on the Forest and a coronation carnival of Wollaton Park, culminating at 10.30 in the

evening with a grand firework's display on the Forest, Woodthorpe Park was no exception with children's entertainment beginning at 2.30pm.

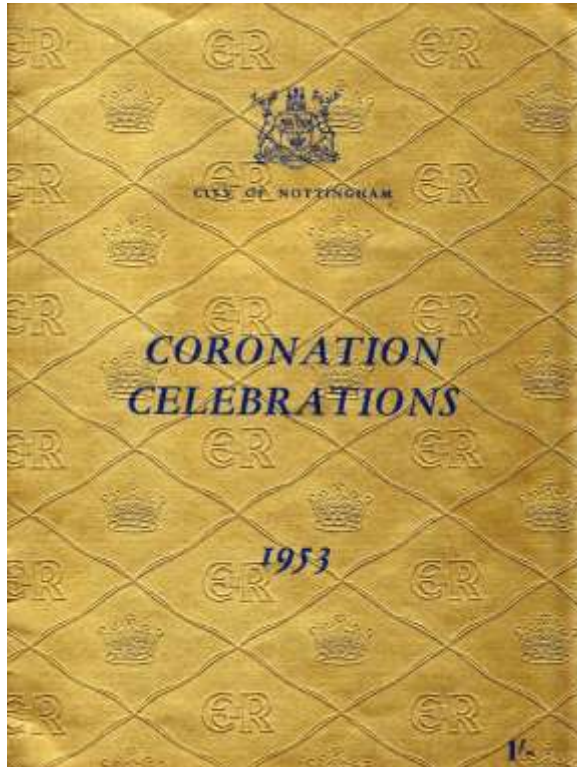
Excerpt from Nottingham's Coronation Celebrations Souvenir Programme, 1953



1953: Nottingham's Central Market

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018



The cover of the souvenir programme of Nottingham's Coronation Celebrations for 1953. As you will see it cost 1 shilling (5p), which today is worth £1.37p



1953: Turney Bros. Ltd Leather Works

A Friend of Woodthorpe Grange Park is one who deposits their rubbish in the right place – a bin!



At a previous meeting of the Friends of Woodthorpe Park it was decided as part of the activities carried out by the Friends that at periodic times, especially when there is an event taking place like the Party in the Park or when there are a lot of people on the park, periodic emptying of the park's bins should be carried out by one of the Friends. The decision was made so as to prevent the keeper of the pitch-and-putt kiosk from having to temporarily close whilst he goes and empty the bins within the immediate vicinity.

Therefore, it was decided that an appropriate time to put the theory into practice would be at the Party on the Park event.

Putting the theory into practice, armed with bin bags and protective gloves was none other than the Friends of Woodthorpe Park's Chairman Alex Staniforth and his wife Marian.

Results from emptying the parks litter bins will be heard at the Friends next meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 26th September, 2018 beginning at 6.30pm in the Grange on Woodthorpe Park.



1953: Street Party, The Meadows, Nottingham

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018



Marian and Alex Staniforth

Caught on Camera!



The above photograph is of one of the Woodthorpe Park Friends volunteers Janice Farr who was caught on camera in the process of tidying up one section of

the park's formal gardens that was once a huge bed of well attended to roses.



A far cry from when it was a well-tended bed of roses. The above photograph is the section of the formal gardens that Janice Farr was working on.

The Woodthorpe Park Café:

The Friends of Woodthorpe Park's Watering Hole

You will recall in the July/August edition of the Woodthorpe Gazette I reminisced about the café that for many years was situated in the Grange and how you would see people on a Sunday afternoon que up to patiently await their turn to order freshly made sandwiches and cups of tea.

All of that, of course, is now just a distant memory as the café ceased trading decades ago. Apart from the seasonal ice cream van, it wasn't until 2011/12 that £200,000 of Council funding was invested to rebuild the pitch and putt kiosk and provide toilets and a cafe.



The kiosk was designed to complement the park's surroundings and is very environmentally friendly. The building has a 'green' roof made of sedum, a perennial plant which forms blue-green rosettes of succulent foliage throughout the summer. This encourages plants to grow and wildlife to visit. Light tubes allow the building to be lit using natural

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018

daylight, movement sensors minimise waste on electric lighting with push-taps installed in the toilets that automatically shut off to avoid water wastage



Managed by Bean Culture, there are four similar outlets also placed on Nottingham parks. Apart from Woodthorpe Park there are outlets on Bestwood Country Park, Bulwell Forest, the Arboretum and Holme Pierrepont Hall, there is even an outlet at the Nottingham Tennis Centre on University Boulevard.

The café on Woodthorpe Park also features on www.tripadvisor.co.uk a website in which people are encouraged to comment about their experiences of their visit to various visitor attractions other than Woodthorpe Park. For example, there are two favourable comments from August 2016 about the service given by the café's staff. The first comment says:

"A super little café serving hot and cold snacks, ice creams and drinks etc Without exception, the staff are friendly and polite -- a real joy to pop in there after a walk around or a visit to the children's play area. We love the place! Well done to the lovely staff!" The second comment simply says:

"Lovely park to either walk, drink great coffee or have a round of golf. We started to visit here a couple of years ago and have been every week since."



Woodthorpe Park
1922 – 2022



Light Bites	
Jacket Potato (with or without butter)	
With 2 fillings	£3.75
Paninis	£3.00
Toasties	£2.50
Specials	See our Specials Boards
Cold Snacks	
Selection of Sandwiches	£2.50 - £3.25
Selection of Wraps	£2.80
Selection of Baguettes	£3.25
Pastries & Cakes	
Cake - Daily Special	£1.85
Biscuits	80p - £1.40
Scene, Jam and Butter	£1.30
Muffins	£1.85
Cake Bars	£1.60
Individual Cakes	£1.40
Children's Menu	
Lunch Box	£3.50
(inc. basic sandwich, juice or water, fruit or crisps & mini biscuit pack)	
Confectionery & Snacks	
Chewing Gum	£0.45
Mints	£0.55
Sweets	£0.65
Chocolate	£0.60
Crisps	£0.75

Prices as of 2011/12: As you can see the café has a wide-ranging selection hot and cold snacks together with a children's menu and other confectionary delights as well.



In more recent times the café have installed a soft ice cream machine, so those who prefer soft ice cream to a cornetto will be well catered for!

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018



Judith, the editor's wife enjoying from the park's café a 99 with a Cadbury's Flake - no less!

For Woodthorpe Park the café is a success story. However, for those who remember, the original café that was in Woodthorpe Grange that too was a success. To this day it is often been asked why it was ever closed. Let us hope today's café doesn't go the same way and that the Friends of Woodthorpe Park's watering hole only goes from strength to strength!

'Conker Canker' Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut

During the late 1970's and early 1980's huge elm trees on Woodthorpe Park were felled due to the onset of Dutch Elm Disease. In many ways, due the prevalence of Dutch Elm Disease and the felling of so many of the

park's elm trees this has contributed to how the park's natural environment looks today, with the planting of indigenous silver birch trees and the fast-growing poplar tree.



Circa 1977: Looking out on to Woodthorpe Park before the onset of Dutch Elm Disease



Circa 1983: Looking out on to Woodthorpe Park after the felling of two distinctive elm trees. Also, notice the plantation of poplar and silver birch saplings.



Circa 2011: The view on to Woodthorpe Park now that the silver birch and poplar trees have reached maturity.

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018

From the above three photographs you can see how Dutch Elm Disease contributed to the alteration of the park's natural environment. That, of course, could all change again in other parts of the park due to the prevalence of Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut or rather Conker Canker as the need to fell those trees becomes vital in order to stop the disease spreading.

Bleeding canker is a disease of horse chestnut trees that affects trees of all ages and produces external and internal symptoms. Ultimately the disease can lead to tree death. However, it has been known for trees to have periods of remission and even recover.

External Symptoms

One of the first external symptoms of infection is bleeding lesions: patches of dying bark on the stem or branches that ooze drops of rusty-red, yellow-brown or almost black, gummy liquid.

The bleeding may be at the base of the tree at the soil surface level, or may be higher up the trunk. In spring, bleeding patches exude a dark but transparent liquid that turns a cloudy or opaque rusty-colour during summer and dribbles down the tree trunk. Under dry summer conditions, bleeding may cease and the exudate dries to leave a dark, brittle crust near the point of exit in the bark.

Renewed bleeding may be seen later in the year, often in autumn. This suggests that pathogen activity is greatest under the moist and mild conditions of spring and autumn.

After some months the centre of the bleeding bark patch may crack apart. Fruit bodies of wood-rotting fungi often appear on the surface of the dead bark, or protrude out of the bark cracks. Over several years - and particularly if a tree has multiple bleeding cankers - the areas of dead phloem and cambium underneath the bleeding patches may coalesce and extend until they start to encircle the entire trunk or branch.

When this happens crown symptoms become visible, typically consisting of yellowing of foliage, premature leaf drop and eventually crown death. Sometimes part of the crown may fail to flush and the remaining foliage withers and dies later in the same year. In trees with chronic dieback caused by the disease, the leaves may also be smaller, and seem thinner and more flaccid than the foliage of healthy trees.



The signs of Conker Canker, yellow/brown mottled foliage.

Internal symptoms

The inner bark (phloem) under the bleeding patches is usually necrotic or dead, with an orange-brown colour which is often clearly mottled or zoned. Underneath the wood may be stained blue-black. Sometimes white fungal mycelium can be seen under the dying bark but this is usually indicative of Armillaria (honey fungus) or other decay fungi that invade the moribund tissue and not the original cause of bark death. When this happens the agent that originally caused the bleeding canker cannot be isolated. Sometimes Armillaria does attack healthy trees and causes stem bleeding, as it invades via the tree root system. However, in such cases the stem bleeding is likely to be confined to the root collar and lower stem.



Another example of conker canker, whole mature branches of braking of from the main trunk of the tree.





Signs of Conker Canker: The inner bark under the bleeding patches is usually necrotic or dead, with an orange-brown colour which is often clearly mottled or zoned.

Reasons for increased incidence of bleeding canker of horse chestnut

Bleeding canker is a disease that affects horse chestnut trees and its incidence in the UK has dramatically increased over the last decade. In 2000 only four cases were reported but this rose to more than 110 reports in 2006 to the Forest Research Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service and survey results show that in 2007 49% of horse chestnut trees showed some degree of symptoms. So, what is causing this dramatic increase in incidence?

The initial hypothesis was that mild winters and wet springs had favoured the spread of the Oomycete *Phytophthora* pathogens, which are known

to occasionally cause bleeding cankers on horse chestnut trees.

But while climate change may be playing a role it is not the only factor that is driving the spread of the disease. It now seems that a different and newly arrived causal agent is responsible for most of the recent cases of stem bleeding and tree death.

Culturing from the margins of dying bark tissue of diseased trees has consistently revealed one species of gram-negative fluorescent bacterium. To find out if this bacterium is responsible for bleeding canker, Forest Research inoculated healthy young horse chestnut saplings with the bacterium. After several months many of the saplings developed symptoms of bleeding canker.



An example of a dead horse chestnut tree due to bleeding canker of horse chestnut.

Source of information:

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk>

Finally, there are many examples of conker canker to be found on Woodthorpe Park. The illustrations shown in this article are all of horse chestnut trees that have fallen victim to this contagious disease that in time will, because of the felling of so many of the elm trees, alter the park's natural environment as new trees are planted.



WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018

Saturday 25th August, 2018 Woodthorpe Friends Litter Pick

Meeting at 11am outside the usual location, the Plant Shop, the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park went on another of its periodic litter picks. However, this time we were joined by Nottingham City Councillor Adele Williams who came along to see what our group of friends get up to.

With Councillor Williams joining us we were able to raise the issue of the scourge of fly tipping, which blights the wooded entrance to the park on Sherwood Vale.

Apart from filling bags of rubbish with discarded bottles, cans and paper and recovering two discarded babies carry cots, Councillor Williams was shown the part of Sherwood Vale, that was once the railway bridge that straddled Sherwood Station, a place which is now a haven for fly tippers, and was the site of a recent deliberately started fire.



Large amounts of discarded garden waste thrown over the side of the parapet of the bridge.



An assortment of fly tipped rubbish on the site of the former Sherwood Railway Station.



As you will see from the above photograph, the fire caused considerable damage to three conifer trees together with the owners of the adjacent property's decking and garden furniture. Although not in the picture, to the left of the decking is a gas barbeque. As was said by those whose property was affected: had the fire brigade not arrived when they did the consequences could have been far more catastrophic!

A note of caution!

As a note of caution, from the pictures you see of fly tipped garden waste, when clearing large amounts of garden waste, you will hear of people with a van offering to remove garden waste for a cash-in-hand fee, on the premise that they will take it to a recycling centre for you. It may sound perfectly innocent, especially if you are on a tight budget. However, what they do with your rubbish and most of all your money is entirely up to them. For all you know you could be handing your money over to someone with an ulterior motive who is after making a fast buck and doesn't care where they dump your rubbish.

Therefore, a note of caution is, if you need someone to remove a large quantity of garden rubbish and you want someone who is local, take a look on the internet. For example, on the Google search engine just type in the words 'Garden Waste Disposal Nottingham' and you will come up with 423,000 results in just 0.62 seconds, so there is plenty to choose from.

Let us not forget the Nottingham City Council operate a collection of bulky items as well. It is free and easy to request. In fact, you can even book a collection online. The full website address is: <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/bin-and-rubbish-collections/request-a-collection-of-bulky-items/>

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2018



Councillor Adele Williams (second on the left) With members of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park.

The problem of litter and of course fly tipping is not just sacrosanct to Woodthorpe Park, it happens all over the place. You see it not just in towns and cities but in rural areas as well. How many times have you walked, cycled or driven past an open field and seen discarded waste fly tipped at the field's entrance?

Finally, as a PS to this article. As already discussed, the site of the former Sherwood Railway Station is a haven for fly tippers just throwing unwanted items over the parapet of the bridge. However, as you will see from the photograph below, in someone's haste to get rid of a whole bin bag full of rubbish instead of it reaching the ground below and probably bursting open it came to rest in the branches of a tree instead!



When the site is finally cleared of rubbish who is going to be the person or volunteer to climb the tree and retrieve the full bin bag?



Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

The summer's lease has finally given way to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. In fact, because of this year's hot summer weather, it has come a little earlier. In various parts of the park black berry bushes are laden with fruit ripe for the picking. Indeed, my Victoria plum tree is this year full of fruit, so much so that my wife and I have picked our first crop of plums with plenty more to come!

In previous editions of the Woodthorpe Gazette we've read poetry from Robert Browning and Sir William Shakespeare's Sonnet 18. Therefore, I feel, as we now are now entering the season of autumn it is only fitting that I close off this edition of the Woodthorpe Gazette with John Keats poem simply entitled 'To Autumn'

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too -
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.