

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

4 Months in 1 Edition!

Due to ill health and other pressing commitments I have been unable to put pen to paper, or in this case finger to keyboard. So, with my health back to normal, and with time on my hands, I sit down to write this edition. Covering four months in total should be quite a bumper issue when completed.

However, before I begin a review of this past year's activities by the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, I would like to first begin by discussing the following article, which I have given the title:

'Dog Walker verses the Mobile Phone'

To begin this article there always appears to be a large number of complaints made on social media concerning the carelessness of dog owners around the café/children's play area on Woodthorpe Park, which reaches a peak when the local schools are on half term break and during the summer holidays.

The complaints follow a similar pattern of owners letting their dogs off the lead, and the dog, however big or small, or however friendly bounding up to some unsuspecting child and frightening it.

In light of all these complaints, steps are now being taken to minimise these incidents by making an area within the vicinity of the café exclusively for the use of dog owners, where can they keep better control of their dogs and are further away from other members of the public.



Although the work began in late September, 2019, as you can see from the above photograph it is very much a case of work in progress. Unfortunately, because of the bad weather we have been experiencing of late the work has been held up. When work has been able to

commence, because of the wet conditions the ground has been churned up by the service vehicles and plant machinery turning in the area where the work is taking place, which has been another cause of complaint. However, the park authorities are aware of the state of the ground adjacent to where the work is taking place, and as soon as the weather improves and the ground dries up repair work will commence.



Apart from the ebb and flow of complaints about irresponsible dog ownership, I have another theory, that of dog owners who also have mobile phones, and when out walking their dog, are instead checking what's on their mobile phone. All of which has led me to believe that owners are taking their mobile phones for a walk, and their dogs can come too!

To test that theory, one only has to look at the statistics for mobile phone usage. For example, according to www.statista.com America and Europe have the highest mobile broadband subscription penetration rate, around 97.1 percent and 93.6 percent respectively, which in 2018, the global average stood at nearly 69.3 percent. This stands against landline phone usage, which has fallen by 50 percent over the last five years as more and more people switch to smartphone usage.

For example, data from the UK communications watchdog found that in 2012, people in the UK made a total of 103 billion minutes of landline calls, but in 2017 that figure fell to just 54 billion. Also, in the same time scale Ofcom data showed that mobile call minutes have increased steadily from 132.1 billion to 148.6 billion.

Juxtaposed to the rise in mobile/smartphone usage comes the rise in mobile phone checking. According to Ofcom we are making fewer phone calls than 10 years ago, and we have become a nation attached to our phones, with the average British adult

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

checking their screen every 12 minutes of the waking day.

Apart from checking our mobile phones, on average every 12 minutes, in contrast to just 10 years ago, most people now say they need and expect a constant internet connection wherever they go, with 64 percent of adults describing it as an essential part of their life.

Mobile Phone Usage Facts and Figures

For the first time, the amount of time spent making phone calls from mobiles has fallen as users increasingly turn to internet-based services such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and Twitter, all of which can be accessed from a 'smartphone.'

Only 75% of smartphone owners consider using a mobile for phone calls to be important, compared with 92% who think using the device for internet browsing is important.

Half of all UK adults (50%) say their life would be "boring" without the internet, around a third say they feel cut off or lost without it and 17% find it stressful without a connection.

Some 19% of adults say they spend more than 40 hours a week online, up from 5% just over 10 years ago, and for the first time this year women spend more time online than men.

Overall, people claim to spend an average of 24 hours each week online – double the amount of time spent in 2007.

Two in five adults (40%) first look at their phone within five minutes of waking up, rising to 65% of those aged under 35, while 37% of adults check their phones five minutes before lights out, again rising to 60% of under-35s.

However, Ofcom found significant numbers of people think being online has negative effects on their lives, with 15% saying it makes them feel they are always at work and 54% admitting that connected devices interrupt face-to-face conversations with friends and family.

The study revealed disagreement between older and younger generations about acceptable smartphone use around others, and many admitted that the way they

behave in public on their smartphones is unacceptable "in principle".

Three quarters (76%) find it annoying when someone is listening to music, watching videos or playing games loudly on public transport and 81% object to people using their phone during meal times.

Just over half of adults (53%) say they are usually on their phone while watching television with others but 62% of over-55s think this is unacceptable, dropping to just 21% of 18 to 34-year-olds.

As you will have gathered by what you have read, the mobile phone, or rather the smartphone, has become the crack cocaine of the digital age. In other words, it has become highly addictive!

So, with all the above data, it can now be proved that dog owners fall into two categories. These are the ones who congregate around the café and continuously throw the ball, sometimes into a path of an oncoming cyclist or a mother pushing her child in a pushchair. Or the owners who pay no attention to their dog because they are too busy checking their phone whilst the dog is off the lead and probably leaving calling cards about the park (without the need to result to vulgar descriptions), as the illustration below demonstrates!



The Positive Side to Mobile Phone Usage!

These are of course all the negative sides to mobile phone use, especially amongst mobile phone users who insist on checking the mobile phones when walking their dog. However, there is the positive side to mobile phone use that being those who visit Woodthorpe Park pursuing their hobby of Pokémon Go!

As I reported in the January/February 2019 edition of the Woodthorpe Park Gazette, Woodthorpe Park has become the mecca for the Pokémon Go craze. These are whole groups and individuals, mostly adults, who walk through the paths and gardens of the park gazing into their mobile phones in search of little cartoon characters or what is referred to by enthusiasts as pocket monsters.

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

As you will recall, I went on to say, some may see the Pokémon craze as rather eccentric, or something rather odd especially on a fine summer's day where Woodthorpe Park is full of people enjoying the weather when some are more content with checking their mobile phones in the fond hope of catching one of these cartoon characters.



In conclusion of the report I said, it was on Saturday afternoon I saw a whole group of Pokémon enthusiasts walking through Woodthorpe Park's garden's making their way towards the Plant Shop. As a naturally curious person I asked one of the group members why there were a large number of people all walking in the same direction? In reply, apart from stating what I thought was the obvious that you don't have to be mad to be a Pokémon enthusiast, but it helps, she went on to say we are a group of enthusiasts who meet up occasionally on Woodthorpe Park, and that Woodthorpe Park is a rich hunting ground for the Pokémon characters!

In search of the Pokémon cartoon characters is, of course, the positive side to mobile phone usage. It might, to the uninitiated, look rather eccentric as whole groups of people, indeed, whole families walking around the Woodthorpe Park's paths and gardens gazing into their mobile phones. However, they are at least enjoying their hobby, and they are not causing any trouble, and it is to Woodthorpe Park they come to enjoy it.

I suppose the only negative side to the Pokémon craze is that its enthusiasts are oblivious as to what is going on around them, especially when some dog owner throws a dog a ball and it happens to be in their direction!



Review of 2019

Environmental Issues

2019 has once again been a year that has been taken up with environmental issues, in particular litter picking and subsequent fly tipping.

In the area that surrounds the wooded area that leads onto Woodthorpe Park from Sherwood Vale, it has been noted by Berridge and Sherwood cleansing team as a fly tipping blackspot, as these recently taken photographs show.



Photograph taken 2nd November, 2019



Photograph taken 23rd December, 2019

The above are just two examples of the numerous photographs that have been taken in recent times on the issue of fly tipping.

Those who regularly read the Woodthorpe Gazette will know that there is rarely an issue that does not have an article relating to the environmental issue of fly tipping and litter picking, especially in the wooded entrance to Woodthorpe Park from Sherwood Vale.

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Advertised as an urgent litter pick concentrated in the area surrounding Woodthorpe and Winchester Court flats, 2019 began with a litter pick on Saturday 26th January. Also, it was the intention of moving onto the wooded entrance to the park from Sherwood Vale. However, due to the immense amount of discarded rubbish found lying in the vicinity of the flats the move onto the wooded area had to be postponed to a later date.



**Just some of the volunteers who turned out on
26.01.2019**



Incriminating evidence amongst 10 bags of rubbish

As the caption says to the above photograph: 'incriminating evidence amongst 10 bags of rubbish.' I say incriminating evidence, as amongst the 10 bags of rubbish in the brambles at the bottom of the steep bank adjacent to both blocks of flats and nearby allotments was found a frame for a motorbike, which was in near perfect condition.

Finding a frame for a motorbike led me to believe that someone deliberately threw the frame into the brambles. Believing it wouldn't be found as it was

incriminating evidence, and if caught with it the person who threw it into the brambles would have been charged with theft!

Apart from the 10 bags of rubbish collected, in the same area there was yet more evidence of fly tipping, coming in the shape of a large quantity of 25 litre containers, two fridges and a large quantity of domestic waste, as the photograph below shows.



As there was a large quantity of fly tipped waste and the 25 litre containers carrying hazardous warning signs the fly tipped waste had to be left where it was found. It was later reported to the Nottingham City Council who's cleansing team later came and removed it.

In much pleasanter weather conditions, and as part of the national Keep Britain Tidy Campaign, a campaign that ran from the 22nd of March to 23rd April, 2019, the next litter picking session came on Saturday 23rd March, 2019.



WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Concentrated in the wooded area onto Woodthorpe Park, the above photograph was taken of just some of the rubbish collected by volunteers who came to help.

However, it will be the litter pick held on Saturday 8th June, 2019 that will stand out most in my mind.

If you remember, the meteorologists referred to June 2019 as the June Monsoon due to the poor weather conditions brought on by the rain.

With the rain showing no signs of letting up, and with the 8th June upon us I decided to go ahead with it.

Arriving at Woodthorpe Park's Plant Shop I said to one of the members of staff: 'I'll give it 5 minutes, and if no one turns up I'm going home!' When to my surprise four people turned up, of which one was the Sherwood Ward Councillor Lauren O'Grady.

Again, chosen was the area surrounding Woodthorpe and Winchester Court flats. Apart from picking large quantities of litter, quite a number of passers-by thanked us for the work we were doing in such appalling weather conditions.

The only thing that stopped us from carrying on was in spite of wearing waterproof clothing we were all becoming, like the weather – damp! Also, with the amount of rubbish we had collected, our sacks were becoming increasingly heavy. So, it was decided to make our way back to where we all met, the park's greenhouses, and to where the photograph below was taken.



This is just three out of four litter picks the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park arranged and took part in over 2019. There have been a number of litter picks

where individual members have walked around the perimeter of Woodthorpe Park picking up litter.

Looking ahead to 2020 there will be more litter picking sessions taking place, with dates still to be announced. However, to begin the 2020 session of litter picks, as you will see by the advertisement below the Friends will be holding another litter picking session on Saturday 25th January, 2020, meeting outside the Plant Shop at 10.00am

An advertisement for a 'New Years Litter Pick' event. At the top, a cartoon trash can character with a smiling face, arms, and legs is holding a sign. The sign reads: 'Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park New Years Litter Pick 25.01.2020'. Below the character, the text says: 'Meeting outside the Plant Shop, Woodthorpe Grange Park at 10.00am on Saturday 25th January 2020'. Further down, it says: 'Join the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park for an New Years litter Pick'. At the bottom, it states: 'Equipment and disposable gloves will be provided'. There is a small circular logo at the very bottom of the advertisement.

Gardening Sessions

September 2019 saw the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park begin a series of monthly two gardening sessions along the West Wall in the Formal Gardens.

Although short the session ran from September through to November. Unfortunately, the November session had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.



WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



West Wall in the Formal Gardens, before work commenced!



Work in progress!



After the first gardening session

Looking ahead to 2020, all monthly gardening sessions will recommence in March. For dates and times keep looking regularly on the Friends website on www.woodthorpefriends.co.uk and the Dates for your

Diary page, which can be accessed on the website's homepage.

Community Activities

As reported in the July/August edition of the Woodthorpe Gazette, in spite of our recent topsy-turvy weather that was the spring and summer of 2019, Woodthorpe Park saw a flurry of local community activity, which began on Sunday 21st April, with an Easter Sunrise Service led by the Rev. Bridget Baguley the Vicar of St. Martin's Church, Trevoose Gardens, Sherwood.

The second occasion was on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May 2019 at the Meet the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park stand, which was adjacent to the children's play park and café.

The third community event took place in true British summer weather – the rain on Sunday 2nd June at a 'Pray and Play' event that was again organised by St. Martin's Church in Sherwood and included all other churches in the Sherwood and Mapperley area as well.



Key

1. Easter Sunday 21st April, Sunrise Service led by the Vicar of St. Martin's Church Rev Bridget Baguley.
2. Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May, Meet the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange.
3. Sunday 2nd June, Pray and Play organised by St. Martin's Church and included all churches in Sherwood, Mapperley and all surrounding areas.

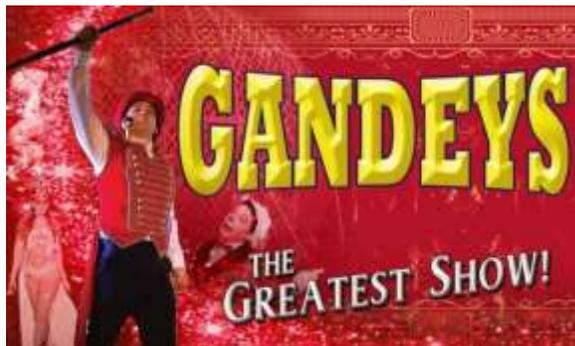
WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



A further Meet the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park stand was organised for the Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August in the same area. Both attracted interest from members of the public, which we hope will bear fruit when there are events organised by the Friends.

Major Public Events



Of all the major public events that have taken place on Woodthorpe Park it has to be Gandeys Circus. Very much a first for Woodthorpe Park, when you consider the Forest Recreation Ground is normally the venue for a circus. However, from 18th to the 24th September, 2019 Gandeys Circus made Woodthorpe Park the centre of family entertainment.

Unlike the Billy Smart Circus or Chipperfield Circus of my childhood which came with animals from different parts of the world, Gandeys Circus came with a cast of over 32 international artistes all starring in a lavish theatrical production staged in a fully-heated 1,000-seat Italian big top, featuring the latest in light and sound effects.

Not having been to a circus since my childhood, the cast of Gandeys was a host of truly international world class circus artistes, which includes aerialists Jacqui and Brandon from Mexico,

the Gerlings from Colombia, racing in the iron thunder dome on motorcycles.



As I wrote in the September/October edition of the Woodthorpe Gazette: In all, the two hours circus performance proved itself to be excellent value for money. In fact, I hope this is not the first and the last time we will see a circus like Gandeys come to Woodthorpe Park.

As someone who has lived facing Woodthorpe Park all their life, it is high time more attractions like this one come to Woodthorpe Park. After all we have an annual summer fair so it is only natural, we have a circus paying an annual visit as well.



As regards to major events that draw people to Woodthorpe Park, it was ironic that on the same weekend of the 21st and 22nd of September that Gandeys Circus was on Woodthorpe Park, the Plant Shop was holding its annual Autumn Flower Festival.

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



The Plant Shop's Annual Autumn Flower Festival

The only downside to the visit of Gandeys Circus was the clearing up after 26th September. It was not the fault of the circus, as when it came onto Woodthorpe Park the ground was bone dry. It is just that nature played a hand when it was moving to its next venue. In as much as through the whole day as it was packing up to leave the park it was throwing it down with rain.

As a consequence, loaded vehicles struggled to leave the site, and when doing so churned the grass up leaving deep gouges in the ground that have had to be left unrepaired due to the recent wet weather. However, as soon as the weather brightens up and the ground dries up, like the ground adjacent to the park's café, it will be repaired.



As soon as the ground dries it will be repaired.

The one event that rounds up the year on Woodthorpe Park is the annual Christmas Family Festival, when three greenhouses are transformed into a winter wonderland.



A Winter Wonderland

The 2019 event was held over three weekends, the 30th November/1st December, 7th and 8th of December and the 14th and 15th December.

As a treat for those with children on the weekend of the 7th and 8th of December Santa Clause's Reindeers visited Woodthorpe Park.



Santa Clause's Reindeers



The Mechanical Organ

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Apart from all the Christmas gift stalls and the live entertainment, one of the chief aims is the sale of Christmas trees.



15th December, 2018 all sold out of Christmas trees

As you will see from the photograph above, those who remember 2018's Christmas fair, which ran for four weekends, by the 15th of December, apart from a few trees that had been already purchased and were waiting to be picked up by the purchaser, all the stock of Christmas trees had been completely sold out.

With the thought of running out of Christmas trees still fresh in the minds of the organisers, for the 2019 three weekend Christmas Fair a much greater quantity of Christmas trees were brought in. So much so that the area surrounding the Plant Shop and Greenhouses were temporarily turned into a pine forest!



7th December 2019: Still well stocked of Christmas trees to keep up with the demand.



No Christmas Fair would be complete without a stand promoting the activities of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, which in 2020 moves into a new phase of membership.

2020 will be the year when the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, in line with other similar organisations launch paid membership.

It is envisaged that single membership will be an annual fee of £5.00 and £10.00 for family membership. For that, on production of a membership card, members will receive a 10 per cent reduction at the Café and Plant Shop. However, conditions will apply at the Plant Shop during times of organised events.



Membership Stand at the 2019 three weekend Christmas Fair

Tree Planting on Woodthorpe Grange Park

Acorns from Major Oak will be planted to reconnect city with Sherwood Forest

Nottingham Post 30th November 2019

To coincide with Tree Charter Day and to reconnect the city with Sherwood Forest, on Saturday, November 30 the first of three mature oak trees were planted in Woodthorpe Grange Park from acorns harvested from the Major Oak and other native trees from seeds harvested from Sherwood Forest.

The 100-year project is being led by the Nottingham Open Spaces Forum (NOSF) charity and has received support for multiple organisations in Nottinghamshire.

Sarah Manton, a trustee for NOSF who has spearheaded the idea said it has been two years in the making.

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

"It started with a conversation in the pub with my friend Ade Andrews, better known as Robin Hood," she said.

"I said it was a shame Sherwood Forest is so far away from the city and it would be good if we could bring them closer together - the only way to do that is with more trees.

"After that we moved on to discussions with NOSF, the Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, the city and county councils - everyone.

"The plan is for 'talismanic' oak trees to be planted in a spiral from Nottingham Castle to Sherwood Forest using land within schools, community gardens, parks and private landowners.

"Some of the acorns will be sourced from the Major Oak and its siblings in Sherwood Forest as well as other native species."

The Oaks and other trees planted will act as both a positive addition to the environment and allow communities and schools to work together.



Pictured are Chief Executive of Sherwood Forest Trust Patrick Landler, Sally Longford, Official Robin Hood Ade Andrews, the chair of Nottingham open spaces forum Martin Willis, Peoples forest Founder Sarah Manton, Community Landscape Manager for Sherwood Forest Trust Ian Major & Head of Public Realm for the council Eddie Curry © Nottingham Post

Sarah confirmed NOSF would be applying for grants and appealing for donations to fund the project.

She added: "It is quite emotional to see where it's come from two years ago.

"This is completely about people power and it's been the passion project of my life.

"Oak trees have an average life span of 900 years so this is about leaving a legacy for future generations."

Ian Major, community heritage landscape manager for the Sherwood Forest Trust welcomed the project.

He said: "Sherwood Forest was once an entire landscape, roughly one third the size London is now. You could walk to the Nottingham city boundary and see the forest.

"Over 150 years, 90% of heath land was lost, and it's comparative for woodland.

"When you think of the millions of trees that were lost through development, it's all had an impact.

"We can't get it back but we can make woodlands bigger, and reconnect them."

Sam White, one of the co-founders for the Nottingham Tree Planters Group also shared her support.

She said: "As a child I loved going to see the Major Oak and to hear that acorns from this tree will be planted is a great idea.

"The government is telling us we need to plant more, so as a group we just felt surely it was something we could do ourselves.

"It's great to find more people who are working towards the same thing."

Alex Staniforth, chairman of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange said: "Trees are really the main attraction at Woodthorpe, there are around 1,400.

"One of our members met with the NOSF and heard about the plans. It'll be a big event for people and represents the start of a long project."

A spokesman for Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust said: "Sherwood Forest is known the world over but few people realise that it once reached right into the city and any project that helps to reconnect Nottingham with the ancient Sherwood Forest landscape has to be welcomed.

"We are currently facing climate and ecological emergencies and tree planting projects and other wildlife habitat schemes are needed to help put nature into recovery.

"Nottingham has a range of great parks and important wildlife habitats and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has championed urban wildlife for almost 40 years.

"However, alongside positive initiatives such as this we need to see better coordination of city planning decisions and more ambition to build in new green space.

"Whilst we welcome investment in our wonderful city, we must ensure that the current development boom across Nottingham doesn't result in lost opportunities to transform our urban landscape for future generations."

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

The Nottingham Open Spaces Forum has a website which gives more information about the 100-year project to reconnect the city with Sherwood Forest and you can become involved.

Entitled Sherwood Forest - The People's Forest, the website address is: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/peoples-forest?utm_term=A9RRaqa2Z

Tree Planting on Woodthorpe Grange Park Nottingham Open Spaces Forum

18th December 2019



© NOSF

With species of Rowan and Silver Birch donated by the Woodlands Trust, on Wednesday 18th December 2019 Nottinghamshire Tree Planters, Nottingham Trent University Sustainability, Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, Nottingham Organic Gardeners, Nottingham Growing Network, Friends of The Earth - Nottingham, and Friends of Wollaton Park set about planting 800 trees on Woodthorpe Park.

Originally thought by NOSF as a bit of a long shot, but 35 gave their time on a dull, pre-Christmas morning when there were plenty of other things to be done, and for no reward, and all because people wanted help to plant 800 cell grown trees. As NOSF went on to say: 'Stars!' Love this city and its green networks. So, we smashed it - 800 trees. THANK YOU.



Woodthorpe Park
1922 – 2022

Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park's Website



I hope you have found the Friends of Woodthorpe Grangewebsite informative. As the webmaster I feel I have done my best to keep it up to date with all the latest news and other items of interest. At the time of writing, the website was last updated on 24th December, 2019.

You will notice, in recent months I have added more photographs to the Photo Gallery page. In numerical order, number 27 is a selection of 80 photographs taken from January 2017 to August 2019 of the renovation of Woodthorpe and Winchester Court flats including the construction of Winwood Court. Whereas number 28 is a selection of 12 photographs taken of the inside of Winwood Court.

As more historical facts about Woodthorpe Park has become available I have updated the information, which is accessible from the website's homepage on www.woodthorpefriends.co.uk

You will notice too at the top righthand side of the homepage the title; 'Items of Historical Interest to Download. Open that page and you will notice there

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

are four separate items of historical interest, all of which are replicas of the original items I hold.

Apart from the Nottingham Evening Post's report of the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Woodthorpe Park on Tuesday 10th July 1928, which is a copy of the text, the second item is a copy of the brochure surrounding the events that took place during the opening of the University of Nottingham's Trent Building by King George V and Queen Mary on the same days as they visited Woodthorpe Park.

The third item is a replica of the programme of events that were held on Nottingham's Parks, which includes Woodthorpe Park, to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on the 2nd June 1953. Whereas the fourth item is of the order of service for the 12th Service of Remembrance held at the War Memorial on Woodborough Road, Mapperley for those who gave their lives in the 'Great War' of 1914-18 (WW1) on Sunday 6th June, 1930.

Mention of the War Memorial at the junction of Woodthorpe Drive and Woodborough Road leads nicely onto a first for the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park.

As Honorary Archivist for the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, every Remembrance Sunday for the past four years, between 2014 to 2018, of my own volition, I have been laying a wreath of poppies either at the Soldiers Memorial at the General Cemetery or at the Garden of Remembrance at the Victoria Embankment at Trent Bridge. All of which I have done in honour of all those soldiers who died as a cause of their injuries in Nottingham's hospitals during and after the First and Second World Wars, and all those who gave their lives in subsequent wars and conflicts after.



World War One Memorial, General Cemetery

Laying a wreath of poppies has become for me an annual event. However, for the 2019 Remembrance Sunday I decided to do something a little different. Instead of laying a wreath as Honorary Archivist to Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, I would instead lay a wreath of poppies on behalf of the members of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park at the War Memorial on Woodborough Road.

As Sunday the 10th November was the date for Remembrance Sunday 2019, the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Woodborough Road is always set for a week later. Therefore, the Service of Remembrance was held on the following Sunday the 17th November.

As this was the first time I had attended a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Woodborough Road, I was surprised how well attended it was. Apart from all the three services represented and their subsequent associations, there was also representatives from all three civilian emergency services including youth organisations as well.

Also, in attendance was the Mayor of Gedling Borough Council, Councillor Sandra Barnes and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire, Tom Huggon.



**Service of Remembrance, War Memorial,
Woodborough Road, Mapperley, Nottingham**

The Fallen

Laurence Binyon

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



The wreath of poppies centred with the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park's logo.

It is my intention to lay another wreath at the War Memorial on Woodborough Road at the 2020 Service of Remembrance. However, if anyone else would like to lay the wreath you will be most welcome to do so!

Woodthorpe Grange Park's Poets Corner

Another feature to the Friends website has been the page entitled, Woodthorpe Grange Park's Poets Corner, which currently has 14 poems all written by local poets.

The idea to have featured on the website a page dedicated to poetry was to draw people's attention to Woodthorpe Grange Park's centenary in 2022. And as part of the park's centenary, to publish a pictorial booklet about Woodthorpe Grange Park in which will feature poems about Woodthorpe Park.

To me, what has been submitted and posted onto the Friends website captures the true essence of what Woodthorpe Park means to the poet themselves, and ultimately ourselves. In particular, one poem entitled Woodthorpe Woody by Pam Shepperson has a hidden meaning to it, that meaning being – keep your dog on lead.



Woodthorpe Park from the roof of Woodthorpe Court

There is, of course, plenty of room for more poems. I am not looking for Shakespearian poetry. All that is required is an ability to express yourself and what you like about Woodthorpe Park on paper.

If like me you have never written poetry before, and always wanted to have ago, now is your chance. No matter how good or bad you think are or what your poem will turn out to be, it will be posted onto the Friends website.

To give you some idea, below is the poem by Christine Baldwin simply entitled Woodthorpe Park with the opening line "What does Woodthorpe mean to me?"

*What does Woodthorpe mean to me?
That was the question asked
It means so much, so many memories
Of times both recent and past*

*Of children playing, happy in the sun
Watching the birds take flight
Of conkers gathered in the Autumn
Much to the children's delight*

*And, what about the golf course
Where I first learnt to play
Or, the train peeping out of the tunnel
An unusual sight, hidden away*

*There are so many different aspects
To write about through the year
The sledging in the winter snow
The Carol singers bringing good cheer*

*Or, explore the tropical gardens
A peaceful place to rest
So much to do, all through the year
Or time just to sit and be blessed*

*This Park holds so much treasure
For one and all to see
For fun and rest and leisure
Woodthorpe's the place to be*



WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

Woodthorpe Grange Park's Centenary

2020 will see the preliminary stages of the build up to the 2022 centenary celebrations of Woodthorpe Grange Park. The precise centenary date in two years' time will be Wednesday 1st June, 2022. However, in the two-year period leading up to the centenary celebrations, beginning in March 2020 (date and venue to be confirmed), hosted by the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, it is intended to hold a meeting of local interest groups, societies, schools and churches in the Sherwood, Woodthorpe and Mapperley areas to come together to pool our thoughts with the aim of bringing the local community together to celebrate the centenary of Woodthorpe Grange Park.

We believe that it is important that we celebrate the centenary of Woodthorpe Park. In 1921 the whole of the Woodthorpe estate had been put up for auction, all with the intention of selling the land off in lots to develop and turn it into a housing estate. However, Sir Jesse Boot stepped in and gave a donation of £10,000 (today worth £439,126.790) on top of the £5,000 (today worth £ 219,563.39) raised by the local council. All of which allowed the Nottingham to purchase the whole of the 52-acre Woodthorpe estate.

The full story behind the purchase of the Woodthorpe Estate is available to read and download from the homepage of the friends website on www.woodthorpefriends.co.uk under the title of Woodthorpe Park Historical & Pictorial Guide.

As I have spoken to members of the public when they are enquiring about Woodthorpe Park. 'Imagine, without the donation of £10,000 from Sir Jesse Boot there would be no Woodthorpe Park, would be a housing estate.' I then go on to say: 'Try and imagine Woodthorpe Park as a housing estate – you can't!'

This therefore ranks Woodthorpe Park alongside Highfields Park, the home of the University of Nottingham and the Victoria Embankment. As without the generosity of Sir Jesse Boot all of these open spaces we take for granted would be housing estates.

Finally, I would ask all groups and societies who are interested in becoming part of the organisation of the centenary celebrations to please make regular checks for dates on the Friends website specifically under the title of 'Latest News and Dates for your Diary,' which is accessible from the homepage. Also, please check the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange's Facebook page

and Twitter feed, all of which are accessible from the Friends websites homepage.



November 2018, the view looking towards the Grange. Try and imagine the view you see in the above photograph as a housing estate, or the photograph below. Instead of an open space, perhaps one of the big four supermarkets!

Were it not for Sir Jesse Boot's generous donation of £10,000 that may have been the case!



“1922 – 2022”



**Woodthorpe Grange Park
Centenary Celebrations**

WOODTHORPE GAZETTE

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Out Door Gym and Play Ground Expansion



Could this be you in 2020

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As already reported, in spite of the delay due to the inclement weather the area surrounding the café is in the process of being renovated. However, I can now report that funding has now been secured to expand the children's playground and to install an outdoor gym.

All this is down to the valiant efforts of Leonie Brown the Greenspace Development Officer who was able to secure the funding. Hopefully, work on installing the equipment will begin in the spring.

This is all good news for Woodthorpe Park, as it puts the park firmly on the map where leisure and outdoor activities take place.

So, there is no excuse, soon we will be able to go for a good workout on the park's gymnasium – all for free – and afterwards cool off in the park's café.

Winwood Court, the new venue for all meetings of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park

What began on Wednesday 27th November 2019, thanks to Julia Townsend the warden, all future bi-monthly meetings of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park will now take place in the new complex of Winwood Court, which is in between the renovated Woodthorpe and Winchester Court flats on Chestnut Walk.

The next bi-monthly meeting of the Friends of Woodthorpe Park will be held on Wednesday 29th January, 2020 beginning at 6.30pm.



Winwood Court, the Friends new meeting venue



L/R: Marian Staniforth presenting the warden Julia Townsend with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of allowing the members of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park to hold their meetings in Winwood Court. Also in the photograph are Leonie Brown, the Greenspaces Development Officer and Alex Staniforth, the Chairman of the FoWGP.

If 2019 was busy year for the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park, then in all probability 2020 looks to be even busier. Therefore, as editor for the Woodthorpe Gazette may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

