



Friends of Roundhay Park

Newsletter July 2006

Friends of Roundhay Park, PO Box 129, Leeds LS8 1WY
website: www.forp.co.uk

Chairman's letter

I was glad to meet so many of you at the AGM and wish to thank all officers, contributors and members for making it such a successful and well attended evening.

Having said that, many issues remain unresolved and rest assured that your Committee will strive to get positive results in the months to come.

Particular thanks are due to Peter & Hilary who, as you will read, have passed on the Newsletter baton to Alan & Michèle. I hope you enjoy this edition and encourage submissions to future ones.

John Richards

The Annual General Meeting

was held on Wednesday 14th June, at St. John's School, North Lane, Roundhay – see report inside.

There will be a **General Meeting** on Wednesday 9th August at 7.30 pm hopefully in the Boat House, near the Lakeside Café.

Working Parties

The **working parties** take place on the third Saturday of each month, meeting in the Mansion Car Park, or as advised, at 10.00am.

Saturday 19th August
Saturday 16th September
Saturday 21st October

Editorial

We welcome the new editors of the Friends Newsletter and hope they get as much happiness from their efforts as we have done.

Hilary and I have enjoyed the experience of producing and distributing the Newsletter and we thank all who have helped us and who have contributed reports and articles on various issues. We have had to improve our computer skills, learn how to manipulate column lengths, improve and adjust photographs and try to make the page layout attractive enough to read.

As with all societies, the more you put in the more you get out. Knowing that we might need to write about the Friends' activities, certainly made us pay more attention to what was going on. We have made many friends and attended many happy occasions and enjoyed working with the members of Friends of Roundhay Park. We believe we have contributed to the renewal of Roundhay Park, helped to produce a lovely garden and hope that we have contributed to saving the Mansion from being turned into Park staff offices and returning it to its previous enjoyable role as a centre for Park users' enjoyment.

Peter & Hilary Dyson

(We have a hard act to follow but here goes! – Alan & Michèle Jackson)

Hill “60”

Contributed by Joan Newiss

The earliest extant known Plan of Roundhay is dated 1774, when the Estate was owned by The Duke of Norfolk and the land was divided into dozens of fields, each one named. One of them was called “Hanging Bank”. We know this today as “Hill 60”, overlooking the Sports Arena.

An access route in 1774 ran then, as now, from Oakwood – across the land now known as “Soldiers’ Field” and down The Hill to what is now The Arena, through which a stream once flowed.

To the east of “Hanging Bank”, there were the “Bank Closes”, which now overlook The Carriage Drive created by Thomas Nicholson. My interpretation of these old field names is that they indicated rising land, overhanging level ground at their foot, with an adjacent stream. The Oxford Dictionary describes “Bank” as a “raised shelf of ground” and “sloping margin of river”, both of which are applicable to the site.

An alternative suggestion made by my colleague, Murray Mitchell, proposes that there was a gallows at the top of “Hill 60”, hence the name “Hanging Bank”, but we agree to differ on that scenario!

Turning to the modern name “Hill 60”, this has nothing to do with suggested 60 m.p.h. toboggan speeds down the incline. This statement is oft repeated, but is not achievable over such a short distance, quite apart from danger!

The name “Hill 60” in fact derives from a long-drawn-out episode of World War One. The savage loss of life in that conflict inspired local people to want Memorials. In his book “Leeds In The Great War”, William Herbert Scott estimated that 9,640 Leeds men were killed in action between 1914 and 1918. Locally, 42 of them are listed on a Memorial in St John’s Church at Roundhay.



A typically dreadful battle on the Ypres salient was fought intermittently from April 1915 to April 1918. Under German control, “Hill 60” offered a view over large swathes of the British line and into Ypres. It acquired the name at this time from the contour line marking the site on the map. Changing hands six times, with severe loss of life, it was just one of many similarly dreadful episodes. However, by popular consent after the War, the name “Hill 60” was given to the hill in Roundhay Park, where Leeds people now sit so often to watch happier events in the Arena.

Perhaps we should put this on record, so that future generations will know the real origin of the name and the sacrifice of so many who are still buried under that distance hill, carefully preserved as a memorial three miles south-east of Ypres in Belgium.

.....

Here’s a photoclip of one

- taken on a balmy

*Have you taken a Park
others to see in a future*



of the new Park signs

summer evening in July.

*photo that you’d like
edition of the Newsletter?*

Report of AGM by David Binns

The Annual General Meeting was held at St John's Church of England Primary School on Wednesday, 14th June 2006 and was attended by at least 53 Members and Guests.

Officers were elected for 2006-2007 and are:

John Richards	Chairman
Harry Hurst	Treasurer
David Binns	Secretary

The above are also Trustees of the Charity, as is Lynda Kitching.

The Executive Committee Members are Peter Dyson, Mike Hollingworth, Tony Quinn, Tricia Ryan and Don Player.

The highlight of the evening was a Magic Lantern Show, given by Professor Mike Green, using one of his vintage contraptions. The slides covered Roundhay Park, Leeds and Yorkshire in general – plus some of Mike Green's own slides dating from the mid-19th Century. The content of the Show led to much discussion and humour and was greatly enjoyed by all present. A collection for Mike Green's Charity was made and this, plus donations, enabled us to send a cheque for £100 to Child Advocacy International.

Presentations were also made by Jon Vogler on Working Parties and current Projects, Hilary Curwen on her initiative for "Art In The Park" and by Catherine Bowhill on news from the Park.

It was inevitable that the matter of The Mansion should raise its head during the Q&A session – and it did! However, the Ward Councillors were not able to give any new information at the Meeting, but Councillor Matthew Lobley promised to write to FORP to confirm the current position. We hope to receive this from Matthew before we go to print with this Newsletter, so that it can be included.

(.... and here's the letter!)

The Mansion

"I am writing in response to your request for an update on the Mansion and the reasons for delays so far.

Firstly I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Council to the Mansion. We are committed to maintaining the Mansion as a treasure of the city – for use by the public as both an educational and a recreational facility. The public upset at the original plans made everyone involved aware of the importance of this asset to local people. We have changed the proposals, we have resubmitted the plans and resubmitted our funding applications – hopefully this demonstrates our determination to get this right.

We are now in the final stages of deciding how the Mansion will be used for the next 25 years and this clearly merits serious consideration. While we appreciate that there is concern over further delays to the project, it must be recognised that we are making sure that we choose the right operator for the Mansion, to provide the service that local people want, not necessarily the cheapest, easiest or quickest option.

The project must be seen in two phases – the visitor centre and the café/bar facility. Both aspects require the Council to work closely with partners, whose needs must be accommodated and which continue to have an impact on the timescales.

The Visitor Centre – This has now passed the most difficult hurdles, including the lengthy public consultation on the options and clearing these changes with the Heritage Lottery Fund. The planning application has been submitted and is currently under consideration by the Department for Communities and Local Government, as local authorities cannot grant themselves planning permission. Given public approval and HLF funding, I am assured

that this should not be a problem. However, the Council cannot begin work on the visitor centre until planning permission is confirmed.



Tenders are in for the construction/ demolition work and work is due to start in August 2006, providing planning permission is granted in time. This will mean that we are aiming for an opening date in May 2007. The planning department are actively pursuing the government for a decision to allow the timetable to be kept to. Once permission is received the only constraints are those normally associated with a large construction/conversion project of this kind. We will, of course, keep a close eye on the contractors and try to ensure that these timescales are kept to.

The bar/café/function room – The facility is intended to be run by third party operators and the Council are committed to finding the operator who will do credit to the historic building as well as the strong tradition of supplying quality refreshments to visitors to the park. It is acknowledged that by giving over the historic part of the Mansion to a third party, the Council has a heavy responsibility to ensure that the right operator is chosen. The importance of this was shown in the results to the public consultation which identified public access to the Mansion, a continued function facility and provision of refreshments as factors for consideration.

While a marketing exercise has been undertaken and tenders received, the tenders have caused serious reconsideration of the requirements for the Mansion. The decision is not as straightforward as we had hoped and it will therefore be taken by the Executive Board as to what the next steps should be.

No timetable for the building works and re-opening of this part of the Mansion can be given, as it wholly depends on the operator and the amount of work that they choose to do to the interior of the building. They will have to submit a planning application with the usual consultation period, appoint contractors etc before work can even start. It is envisaged that the third party will be in a position to open in early 2008 but this is very tentative at present.

I think that it is also important to outline the reasons for the delays so far so that you do not think that officers have been resting on their laurels. The public consultation that led to the changes in design for the Mansion in 2005 resulted in a new application being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the money previously granted. The HLF permission process took longer than expected, particularly since the decision date was delayed to January 2006. Council officers took the project as far forward as they could without this approval, putting the Council at risk of having to find the money to pay if the application was rejected, in order to keep to the timescales promised in December 2005 (Executive Board). However, selecting and contracting a construction company for the main part of the project clearly could not occur before all funds were in place – the tendering process was therefore delayed until HLF permission was granted. Similarly, the planning application was submitted as soon after the HLF responded as possible. The causes of delay have led to a slip in the timetable of three months – work should now start on site at the beginning of August, rather than April of the Executive Board report of December 2005.

As you can see from the above, we are now a significant way down the road to providing a valuable facility for everyone in Roundhay Park. We hope that we can count on your continued support as we make the finishing touches to the project before construction work begins.”

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Lobley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'M' and a long, trailing 'y'.

Councillor Matthew Lobley

Roundhay Ward

Cricket Pavilion

You can see for yourselves that work has started on the modifications and improvements that are



scheduled to be complete for next year's cricket season.

The Road Train

It's still early days for the road train but operator Ian Smith (Mr Whippy to his friends) is keen to make it a permanent feature of the Park. Bus stops should appear shortly. The £1 a go ride begins at The Lakeside Café and progresses towards the Wetherby Road, turning at the roundabout alongside the dam.



It then travels back up Carriage Drive via the café and takes a left turn to the main Park Gates before returning again to the café. Take a ride at any time from 11am to 4.30pm on days when it is running. Ian says "It's a boon for pensioners, some of whom find it difficult to see the top end of the park due to it being too hilly for them to walk".

Art in the Park - Drawing Day?

Following the interest expressed at the AGM, and the success of Jon Vogler's Sculpture Day, Hilary Curwen is attempting to bring the national '**Big Draw**' Campaign to Roundhay Park in October (possibly Oct 14th). This is an initiative started by the Ruskin School of Art to encourage more drawing throughout the country in a wide variety of venues and accessible to the general public as well as art lovers. Plans to include Roundhay Park are still being developed and it is hoped that support would come from the Big Draw Campaign and the Education Department of the Park. Any volunteers - artists or otherwise - interested in helping on the day, please contact hilarybrosh@hotmail.com

Working Party uncovers another Nicholson path!

Excitement mounted in the Ravine last session as members of the Working Party endeavoured to discover where Mr Nicholson's stone-kerbed path led. We did "break out" into the grassy area above the big lake but everything was not entirely as expected. Having seen off a large fallen log, cut down the nettle and Himalayan Balsam, it was apparent that the seemingly 'hundred' years of soil and leaf-mould excavated were of later origin. The path ended with a curved flourish opening, perhaps at the spot where the grassy area once extended.

If you are not on the current monthly working party e-mail list, but would like to be involved in future exciting projects, please contact Jon Vogler on jon@vogler.demon.co.uk and he will add you to his mailing list. Working Parties are held on the third Saturday of each month, generally from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

The FGMG sessions (Friends' Garden Maintenance Group) are on Tuesdays at about 10am. Join them to weed and nurture if you can; if not then have a visit over a weekend - it is looking superb. Well done the FGMGers!

Robbie Williams Concert

We wish to remind members once again that our area will be very busy on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September 2006 for the Robbie Williams concerts. See full Event List overleaf.

E-Mail

The Friends e-mail address is to be re-instated for members to submit items for the Newsletter but will not appear on the website where you will recall it attracted mainly SPAM. Copies of the Newsletter will continue to be available on the website, minus the email address(!) – do visit www.forp.co.uk Meanwhile, please send your items to the editors at jackari2@aol.com

Roundhay Park 'Up and Coming' Event List 2006

21 st July-4 th Sept	Leeds Schools Summer Holidays	20 th August	Band in Coronation Gardens
22 nd July	Sponsored Walk	21 st – 25 Aug	Tennis Camp
23 rd July	Leeds Painting & Sketching Club Show	23 rd August	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World
24 th July	Grass Track Cycling	28 th August	Leeds Morris Men , Tropical World
26 th July	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World	30 th August	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World
30 th July	Band in Coronation Gardens	8 th & 9 th Sept	Robbie Williams Concert
31 st July	Grass Track Cycling	23 rd September	St Gemma's Sponsored Run
2 nd August	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World	24 th September	Take Heart Event
5 th August	White Rose Canoe Club Regatta	8 th October	British Cycling Event
6 th August	Mela (Provisional)	14 th & 15 th Oct	Cactus Club, Tropical World
6 th August	Band in Coronation Gardens	20 th – 30 th Oct	Leeds Schools Half Term
7 th August	Grass Track Cycling	25 th October	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World
9 th August	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World	3 rd November	Bonfire (Provisional)
12 th August	Charity Balloon Launch	20 th December	Leeds Schools Christmas Holidays
13 th August	Band in Coronation Gardens	20 th December	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World
16 th August	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World	15 th –23rd Dec	Totally Tropical Christmas (Provisional)
19 th August	British Legion Event	27 th December	Meet the Keeper, Tropical World
19 th August	Wheatfield Hospice Sponsored Walk		

That about wraps things up for this edition though you can pass on the form overleaf or use it to increase your subscription(!) – postal charges are increasing and we can't deliver all newsletters by hand. We welcome comments/suggestions and items for publication in future editions – perhaps your own memories of the Park in former days, anecdotes or just something you've spotted which will be of interest to other Friends.

Alan & Michèle Jackson July 2006

FoRP Joining/Renewing Membership Form

Yearly membership of FoRP costs £10 for a single member or £15 for a household membership. This can be paid by cheque payable to '**Friends of Roundhay Park**' or preferably by setting up a Standing Order using the mandate below. Additional donations always welcome.

I would like to **join** / **renew*** my membership of Friends of Roundhay Park (*delete as applicable)

Name..... Address.....

..... Post Code.....

Telephone number.....E-mail.....

If you are NOT enclosing a cheque, please complete the **Standing Order Mandate** below

Gift Aid Declaration

Declaration for Tax Reclaim purposes:

I declare my intention that tax should be recovered under the Gift Aid Scheme on all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I have read and understood the points listed below.

Signed..... Date.....

Name..... Address.....

..... Post Code

Important Notes:

- 1.You should pay enough tax to cover the amount reclaimed by Friends of Roundhay Park on your giving. Relevant tax is any income tax (at whatever rate) or capital gains tax. If you cease to be a tax payer, or to pay enough tax, you should notify us. If too much tax is recovered on your giving, you will be liable to refund the Inland Revenue.
2. Please notify us if you change your name or address.
3. You are entitled to cancel this declaration at any time. Simply notify us in writing if you wish to do so. Unless and until you cancel your declaration we will continue to reclaim tax on all your giving.
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return

Please note you only need complete this form once (not each year). It is an ongoing authorization to reclaim tax

Standing Order Mandate

To.....Bank PLC Address

..... Post Code

Please pay **Lloyds Bank, Vicar Lane Branch, 2 The Headrow, Leeds LS1 6PN**

For the credit of **Friends of Roundhay Park** Sort Code **30-98-93** Account No. **0529066**

The sum of £.....(figures)..... (words)

Commencing.....(date) and annually thereafter until further notice.

Please debit my account accordingly. This instruction cancels and replaces my previous standing order in favour of **Friends of Roundhay Park**

Account to be debited..... Account Number

Signature(s)..... Date

Please send this form to: **The Membership Secretary, FoRP, PO Box 129, Leeds LS8 1WY**

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