

Friends of Pickering Park



Welcome to our Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Well, we didn't see that coming did we? What an awful year 2020 has been for most of us. On a positive note, however, the Park has never been so popular. We had hoards of first-time, one-hour-only joggers during lockdown, small family groups when we were finally allowed to mingle again and then sports groups getting together in small numbers on the playing fields during the late summer and into autumn. All this alongside the regular dog walkers and people just enjoying a walk through our lovely local park.

Lockdown 2020

Lockdown Craftwork: We would like to thank all the children (and adults! 😊) for the beautiful craftwork which they made and hung on various trees & bushes around the park during lockdown. The people who visited the park loved them, it was a great conversational topic and certainly brightened up the park. It also got people talking to each other both in the park and on our Facebook page, creating a fantastic community spirit. Thanks to everyone who participated, whether it was creating or donating crafts, it was lovely to see.



Christmas 2020

Santa Run: Last year's Santa Run was a great success. Unfortunately, this year's event has had to be cancelled due to...well, you know. We are hopeful that the Santa Run will be back next year and that participation numbers will increase. Keep an eye open for notifications next year. It's easy to enter a team of runners and they even provide the Santa outfits for you to wear.

Christmas tree trail: We are once again decorating a tree in the park during December as part of the Christmas Tree Trail organised by the "*We Made This*" charity. Last year sixty organisations took part in Hull and the "*We Made This*" team provided trail maps so that members of the public could enjoy all of the decorated trees. This year the trail runs between the 5th and the 27th December. Keep your eye on the Friends of Pickering Park Facebook page for more details of our tree.

Pickering Park Festive Scarecrows: Following on from the incredible success of the Anlaby scarecrows, it has been suggested that we on the Pickering Road / Hessle High Road side of the park might be just as creative. You could create a Santa, one or more elves, a winter wonderland or even recreate a scene from your favourite Christmas movie. Entries can be advertised on the Facebook page – search for Pickering Park Festive Scarecrows – or just put your display out over the first two weekends in December. The more the merrier – and we could definitely do with a bit of merry after the year we've had!

The Park

Important advice on feeding the squirrels and birds: Although it is lovely to feed the squirrels and birds, it unfortunately does attract vermin too. Hull City Council have suggested that one of the main reasons that so many rats are thriving in the park is because people are throwing food for the squirrels & birds on the floor and the rats are taking advantage of this. Their advice would be that people refrain from throwing food on the floor for the squirrels/birds especially in the Rock Garden as that is where they seem to be thriving the most.

If you can feed the squirrels/birds outside of the Rock Garden and only leave small amounts of food as and when you see a squirrel/bird it could help reduce the rat infestation. HCC pest control are being sent a report about this problem. If we can all play our part too it will be better for all of us. Many thanks.

The Future

Aviary: We are finally at a stage where this subject can be moved from “Future” to “Current”. Work has commenced on the refurbishment of the aviary, with a number of mature trees unfortunately the first victims of the development. These had to be removed because their roots were undermining the foundations of the building. The security fencing is in place and that means that the redevelopment can take place into early 2021. The aviary will not be the same as we all knew & loved. The cages will be smaller with fewer birds, it's all about education and protecting birds that may be under threat. We're hopeful that we will soon be able to see the plans that have been drawn up by the Major Projects and Infrastructure team at HCC and, if so, look out for an update on the website and Facebook page.

Signposts: “Where shall we go next?” can be a puzzling question for visitors to Pickering Park as some are not aware of the amenities on offer. The Friends of Pickering Park are hoping to resolve this problem by arranging the installation of signposts near the main entrances that will point to the toilets, the Lake, the Outdoor Gym, the Aviary (when renovated), the Sensory Garden and other places of interest. This was a project for 2020 but will now hopefully happen in 2021 instead.

New Members: Like many organisations the Friends of Pickering Park is in need of more members to join the group – we have been unable to put on our big summer events for the past couple of years as there are insufficient numbers of people to help organise and arrange a day. There are two categories of membership - Members who take no part in preparing activities within the Park but lend support and are content to receive news and updates on an ad hoc basis and Volunteers who help organise events and/or help in the Sensory Garden which operates between early March to late October. We do not have an office, so ‘work’ on our behalf is carried out at home. We have not managed to do much in the park this year, but we plan to get right back into it next March. No experience is required, only a willingness to help, and we seek no commitment, i.e. we do not demand that x number of hours are put in.

Membership fees are £2 per annum or £5 for a three-year membership. The benefits for you include information about a local landmark, fresh air in an open environment with quiet places to retreat to if necessary and the knowledge that you are helping your local community. Our aims are to update our magnificent Park and to broaden its appeal.

If you are ready, willing and able to spare a few hours of your time and interested in joining us, you can print out a membership application form on our website www.friendsofpickeringpark.com, email friendsofpickeringpark@yahoo.co.uk or call us (usually Carole) on 07564 980893. Once we are allowed to meet again it will be on the second Wednesday of each month at St Nicholas Church. It would be great to see you. Please remember that the more members we have, the stronger is our voice.

Contact Details

You can contact us: Friends of Pickering Park - If you would like to volunteer with us, help at any events we may have or any ideas you would like to put forward. **Email** – friendsofpickeringpark@yahoo.co.uk **Phone** 07564 980893 (Leave a message if no answer) **Facebook** – Friends of Pickering Park.

You should contact the Park Rangers: For information on the Fishing Lake, summertime paddling pool opening hours, broken equipment (contact Council too) or worries about wildlife. The Rangers are very good and do their best for the Park. They report all issues concerning the Park to the Council, which is part of their duties, but once passed over to the Council it's out of their hands. **Contact the Rangers** on 07702 669996.

Contact local Councillors: Do you have concerns about the local area, the Park, or issues you might have in the community? Contact Councillor Lynn Petrini at councillor.petrini@hullcc.gov.uk phone 01482 575271 or contact Councillor Gill Kennett at councillor.kennett@hullcc.gov.uk phone 01482 613583 (Guildhall). Their monthly surgeries are currently suspended.

Prices for fishing: Adult day pass **£4.45**, 12-16 years **£2.75** Annual pass **£35.50** (Adults), juniors & under 12s free. All prices are correct as at January 2020 but are subject to increase so please check with the on duty Park Ranger on 07702 669996 or contact Hull Culture & Leisure either by telephone on 01482 300300 or email info@hcandl.co.uk