

Friends of Pickering Park



Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter

As life gradually returns to some level of normality after the last two years, Pickering Park is awakening from its slumber and we're running just as fast as we can to keep up with it.

The new aviary has opened, the sensory garden has had a significant work over and we also have a lovely new bandstand. The summer holidays will see Mally's Land Train running around the park again and it is looking likely that this will be accompanied this year by pedalos on the lake.

Park Improvements

Aviary: Well, it took a while and we had a number of false starts but finally the new aviary is open. There are still some guests yet to arrive but we already have a number of different animals and birds. Most of them have been staying indoors (who can blame them?) but as the weather improves they will hopefully venture out into the open air. The aviary celebrates Hull's cultural links with our twin city, Freetown in Sierra Leone. It is dedicated to the education and conservation of both African and native biodiversity and natural habitats and the collection of African birds, small mammals and reptiles will reflect this.

Opening Times

Term Time

School Bookings	Monday and Tuesday (pre-book only)
General Admission	Wednesday to Sunday 10:30am to 3:45pm

School Holidays

General Admission	Every Day 10:30am to 3:45pm
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Note that last admission is 45 minutes before closing.



Bandstand: The new bandstand in the centre of the Rose Garden looks magnificent. We understand that when the bandstand was in Queens Gardens it was unofficially known as the "Police Bandstand" and we are hopeful that the Humberside Police Brass Band will be able to officially open it during this summer. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more details.

Sensory Garden: We have been able to start 2022 with two significant pushes on the Sensory Garden and it is now beginning to resemble the area that we knew and loved before Covid stuck us all indoors for so long. We would particularly like to offer our huge thanks to the Hull & East Yorkshire Smile Foundation and the volunteers from Arco that worked so hard in the blazing March sun. The full story of that day can be read on this link: <https://www.thehullstory.com/allarticles/arco-staff-help-get-park-ready>

Long, Lazy Days of Summer

Land Train: Mally Welburn's Land Train was a huge hit last year, particularly when it was offering rides for fruit for the first few weeks. The £1 per person charge also didn't seem to deter the crowds when it was brought in, so it's fair to say that the train was a huge success throughout the school summer holidays. We understand that it will be running again this summer, you can catch it close to the children's playground.

Pedalos: We believe that the Council have investigated the potential environmental impact of pedalos on the lake and its inhabitants and are happy that a controlled introduction is possible. We have asked to see the environmental report but this has not yet been made available to us. We are especially keen to ensure that the concerns raised by local residents and anglers have been considered in any decision taken.

Prehistoric Pickering Park: If you go down to the woods today, you're in for a very big surprise... Download the "Love Exploring" app to your phone and discover the prehistoric wonders that await in the park. There are dinosaurs at every turn!

Paddling Pool: The children's paddling pool will be open as usual during the school summer holidays.

Hull & Holderness Rotary Club Santa Run



Following a very successful Santa Run on 5th December 2021 we're hopeful that the event will now become an annual one. There were a number of slightly boggy stalls and an awful lot of jolly red-coated runners and it's fair to say that everyone had a great day.

If you've never seen the spectacle of hundreds of Father Christmases running through the park together then we thoroughly recommend coming to watch the next run which will probably be held in early December again. If participation is more your thing then please contact either of the two Rotary Clubs or go to <http://www.hullsantarun.org/> for more details. Santa outfits are provided, well-fed rounded tummies and a rosy disposition are your responsibility.

Projects and Plans

Minesweeper Memorial: The Friends are hopeful that we can convince Hull City Council to display an anchor alongside the new bandstand within the Rose Garden. We are keen to dedicate the anchor to the crews of the minesweepers that served in the First World War. Many of the boats were converted trawlers, with fishermen as crew, and as far as we can ascertain there is no memorial within the United Kingdom for them.

Signposts: We are still keen to tell people where to go if we possibly can, so this project is very much on the top of our list. We're hopeful that we might get some progress during this summer, but then we said that in 2020 and 2021...

Turkey Oak Bench: The enormous turkey oak near the Hessle High Road gates dates back to at least the early 1900s and probably further back than that. Back in 2012 we installed a bench around the tree but this has unfortunately deteriorated badly over the years. We were contacted by [Esh Group](#) because they were looking for a local organisation to get involved with and we are delighted to say that they are supporting a reinstatement of the bench which should be completed during the summer.

Park Gates: The restoration of the gates at the Hessle High Road entrance to the park was the first project highlighted by the Friends of Pickering Park when we initially got together. Unfortunately the cost was extremely prohibitive and our fundraising fell well short of the necessary target. However, it remains something that we would love to get done.

Lake Path: At various times of the year it becomes extremely difficult to walk around the lake because the path gets very chopped up and muddy. We would like to install a new path that circles the entire body of water and which would provide a pleasant way of wandering around the edge.

Contact Details

Friends of Pickering Park:

Website – www.friendsofpickeringpark.com

Email – friendsofpickeringpark@yahoo.co.uk

Phone – 07564 980893 (Leave a message if no answer)

Facebook – Friends of Pickering Park.

New Members: Check the "Events" tab on the website for details of our next meeting and also our new location at the Methodist Church Hall on Askew Avenue. You are more than welcome to come and join us, we ask for no commitment beyond your interest, ideas and enthusiasm.

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.