

# Friends of Pickering Park



## Welcome to our Autumn 2021 Newsletter

The new normal starts here... We have a new Small Animal Centre that's due to open on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the paddling pool saw lots and lots of visitors over a mainly glorious few weeks of Summer and Mally Welburn's Land Train kept old and young alike entranced. The promised pedalos were delayed by concerns over the impact that they would have on the lake, its wildlife and regular users such as the anglers. These concerns are still being investigated by Hull City Council, hopefully some decisions will be coming soon.

We have a Santa Run to look forward to, hopefully some new signposts and the Sensory Garden has seen its first activity since we were all locked down eighteen months ago. In addition, we'd love you to join our group and have a say in what happens within Pickering Park.

### Park Improvements

**Small Animal Centre:** It's been a long summer for the builders with variable weather holding up the project initially, but the old Aviary is gone and a new Small Animal Centre has risen in its place. Visitors to the park will notice that it's on a very similar footprint to the old building and the original cages have been kept, but apart from that it's a whole new attraction for the park. There's rumours of meerkats, porcupines and birds but we'll just have to see what new neighbours we have when they arrive. We are pretty sure it won't include an elephant anyway...

**Children's Play Area:** The children's play area was closed for refurbishment after the kids all went back to school and those improvements are now complete. The bark has been replaced by a soft, springy floor and new equipment has also been added. There's some great pictures on the website but it looks even better in person.

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### Lazy Summer Days

**Land Train:** Mally Welburn's Land Train was a huge hit this year, particularly when it was offering free rides for the first few weeks. When we say "free", we do of course mean "for fruit" – we're not sure quite how many apples Mally and his team managed to eat but they won't need to see a doctor for a while, that's for sure! 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.

**Pedalos:** We have been very interested in the progress of the application for pedalos on the lake. Local residents and anglers contacted us with their concerns and we made every effort to pass these on to the Council. Discussions within the Council for what happens next are still ongoing. It is still possible that the pedalos may be on the lake next year but all options are being considered and the situation remains undecided.

**Bandstand and Anchor:** Unfortunately, we have heard nothing further about the move of the Queens Gardens bandstand. This is planned to be placed in the centre of the former Rose Garden. There's also talk about an old anchor that might come with it – which, given Christopher Pickering's trawling heritage would be very appropriate. We are quite 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. We hope to hear more about these two projects now that we are managing to arrange meetings again.

**Sensory Garden:** After almost eighteen months of enforced absence due to lockdowns and shielding we have finally managed to get into the Sensory Garden to do some work. We hope to have a team of volunteers from a local company to assist us with the clear out and hopefully this will help us get back to where we were before the first lockdown.

## Happy Christmas!

**Santa Run:** After not being able to hold a Santa Run last year due to...well, you know...Hull and Holderness Rotary Clubs will be holding this year's event in Pickering Park on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. Everything should finish by 2pm. If you've never seen the spectacle of hundreds of Father Christmases running through the park together then we thoroughly recommend coming to watch. If participation is more your thing then please contact either of the two Rotary Clubs or go to <http://www.hullsantrarun.org/> for more details. Santa outfits are provided, well-fed rounded tummies and a rosy disposition are your responsibility.



We will be there to support the runners, with a tombola and hopefully some other stalls. Two years ago there was live music and food as well so hopefully the same will happen again this year. The Rotary Clubs are hopeful of making this an annual event now that everything is gradually returning to normal so please come along and support their efforts for their various charities.

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## The Future

**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, the Sensory Garden and other places of interest. This was a project for 2020, bumped to 2021 but will now hopefully progress further in 2022 instead.

**New Members:** We're delighted to announce that the Friends of Pickering Park have finally been able to organise meetings again after a long hiatus. The first one was quite lively thanks to the pedalo discussions but we're settling in a bit now. Check the "Events" tab on the website for details of the next meeting and also our new location at the Methodist Church Hall on Askew Avenue.

During recent times the Park has welcomed many more visitors than it usually would have done with some, perhaps, gaining solace from such a beautiful place. It has been proven that activities such as walking in open, green spaces are beneficial for both physical and mental health.

Our past fundraising efforts have brought the Sensory Garden; the Adventure Zone – including the zip wire and outdoor gym; the bench around the turkey oak tree; more equipment for the children's playground and extra seating dotted around the Park. We would love to add more character and facilities to the Park over the coming years.

We were pleased to welcome some new members once we started meeting again and would welcome more new bodies to help the organisation with additional efforts and some fresh ideas. If you are willing to help our cause, with a few hours to spare as and when possible, then why not join us? We are a friendly group of varying ages with one common intent – to keep Pickering Park as one of the best recreational areas in the city of Hull. Contact us via the links below or just come to our next meeting.

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## Contact Details

### **Friends of Pickering Park:**

**Website** – [www.friendsofpickeringpark.com](http://www.friendsofpickeringpark.com)

**Email** – [friendsofpickeringpark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofpickeringpark@yahoo.co.uk)

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

**Facebook** – Friends of Pickering Park.

**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.