

The Friends of Rowntree Park

www.rowntreepark.org.uk

July 2017 Newsletter



Our work with YUMI is starting this month, with an International Picnic. On July 16th, we invite you all to come to picnic, enjoy international food and crafts and plant up some herb planters for the café. You'll be able to see what the Friends have been up to—and what our plans are for the rest of the summer. The event starts at 11am, and runs til about 2pm. We'll be based in the 'small gardens' near the Mercury statue.

This is the first activity of a series supported by the Green Spaces initiative (CYC funding, managed by York CVS), which aims to increase the number of volunteers working in the Park. Over the next two years, we will plant up beds in the 'small gardens', one forming a sensory garden, and the other a child- and picnic-friendly space. Besides the gardening sessions, the Friends and YUMI will run various events in the park, linking 'gardening for all' with YUMI's fun and fascinating multicultural activities. Further details will emerge: see our newsletters and/or follow us on our blog, Facebook or Twitter.

The Friends' activities

The new **Children's trail** has a wildlife theme (King of the Birds) and is the work of the local artist, Gerard Hobson. Follow a trail guide to find all nine wooden birds perched up in the trees; guides are available at the Reading Café (for a suggested donation of £1 per guide). Two of the

wooden birds are currently missing—the robin and the kingfisher—so please keep your eye out for them! Replacement birds are being commissioned from Gerard, but each replacement costs the Friends money, so if you should find a wandering wooden robin or kingfisher, please let us know!

Following the cancellation of this year's Birthday Party, if anyone is interested in helping **plan for a future Party**, please do speak up now: these events take place in July, but planning needs to start in January!

The volunteer gardeners meet again on July 12th (9.30 am), 16th (from 11am, at the International Picnic), and the 24th (7pm for an evening session). With the council's budget cuts, only gardening by volunteers can ensure colour and interest in the borders, so let's get stuck in! All are welcome, no gardening expertise is required or assumed. To join the gardening mailing list, please contact: rosiebbentley2000@yahoo.co.uk.

Some lovely local people have also volunteered to do **litter-picking in the Park**; if you are interested in helping with this sort of activity, the contact at the Council is: https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20151/community_innovation/997/environment_and_community.

We are still waiting for the new railings to be on one of the 'small

PTO →

Next Friends' meeting: 7pm, Thursday 19th October (AGM) at the Park café

All welcome!



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gardens' which will help prevent the geese from accessing it.

The **yarn-storming installation 'Brilliant Birds'** is now up in the park, and will remain up for most of July, before being sold off as individual birds (profits to St Leonard's Hospice). The Friends sponsored this activity, and we think that they look very lovely. They have certainly been getting a lot of appreciative attention. Many thanks to Sally Stone (Hippystitch) and Deborah New for organizing this. More details:

<http://hippystitch.blogspot.co.uk/2017/04/brilliant-birds-yarnstorm-details.html>

You are very welcome to share your pictures of the Brilliant Birds on our Facebook page.

Membership

Membership remains at £5 per household, per year. Contact Emma Morris, 78 Bishopthorpe Road, YORK YO23 1JS or ask for bank transfer details, by emailing membership@rowntreepark.org.uk

Once you have paid your fee, your membership card(s) will be left at the café, for you to pick up; the Friends' 10% discount on food and drink at the Reading Café continues into 2017. Lots of you have paid and not picked up yet, so don't forget!

NB a special offer price of 10 years' FRP membership for the price of 8 (£40)!

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realised ... I was somebody."

Find out more about Volunteer Gardening in Rowntree Park, by joining us at the International Picnic, by getting in touch online, or in person at a gardening session. Your park needs you—and it's fun to get involved.

What's on in the Park 2017

Stroke, Sponsored walk	9th July
International Picnic (with gardening)	16 July, 11am to 2pm
Aspect Opera	Wed 19th – Sat 22nd July, 6pm
Friends' AGM (all welcome), at the Café	Thursday 19th October, 7pm

The Friends aim to keep the 'What's On' listing on rowntreepark.org.uk up-to-date, as far as possible. If you want to publicise an event which is due to take place in the Park, please contact us, using Facebook, Twitter, our website or by emailing info@rowntreepark.org.uk