



Friends of Pontefract Park

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Email: friendsofpontefractpark@gmail.com
or find us on Facebook



Aspire at the Park

We have our own room at Aspire where we keep all our equipment, and where we meet for litter-picking and gardening sessions every Wednesday at 10am. We hold our meetings in the Community Room in Aspire, second Thursday of each month, and the meetings are open to anyone. Our leaflets are available in the foyer, and we will often be there to meet with the public and publicise our activities.

Litter-picking

Our regular litter picking sessions are on Wednesdays at 10am. We provide pickers, bags, and bag-hoops, but it is advisable to bring your own gardening gloves.

We also provide litter-picking equipment in the entrance foyer of Aspire for anyone who feels inclined to litter-pick while walking in the park. Please return the hoops and pickers to the receptacle in the foyer.



NHS Supply Chain litter pick

We can provide equipment for group litter-picking. Contact us and we can arrange for your group to be kitted out at a date and time convenient for your group. We have provided this for schools and corporate volunteering days.

Gardening

We look after the two flower beds near the mini-roundabout and they are replanted with bedding plants twice each year, in May and October. The 2,000 plants needed to fill the beds and boats are provided by Pontefract in Bloom.



Flower beds summer 2025

New raised beds

Early last year extensive work was carried out to repair the lakeside, which was collapsing in some areas. The lakeside boat planters were removed as part of this work, and we have replaced them with three large raised beds constructed from sleepers. We have planted them with sustainable perennials, rather than continuing with twice yearly bedding which is expensive and labour intensive. A grant from the Council's Neighbourhood Improvement Fund paid for the cost of the sleepers and planting, and construction was carried out by the Park Ranger Team.



One of three lakeside raised beds



Raised beds with spring bedding plants

Two additional raised beds have also been installed by the Park Ranger Team and planted with bedding plants for a spring display. They will subsequently be planted with perennials. We continue to plant spring bulbs every autumn, and we were fortunate to have the help of the NHS Supply Chain who

had a corporate volunteer day in November and planted 1500 daffodil bulbs and 4000 crocus corms.



Spring bulb planting, November 2025

Lakeside revamped

The long-awaited repair of the lakeside was carried out early last year and completed by the end of March.



We are a small community group and are always looking for more volunteers. Look on our Facebook page for our planting dates. You can earn Citizen Coins with us: register with <https://www.citizencoin.uk>. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements in Pontefract Park. Get in touch by email or Facebook.

Website:

e-voice.org.uk/friendsopontefractpark

