



Friends of Pontefract Park

# NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

Contact us: email [friendsofpontefractpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpontefractpark@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfPontefractPark>

Website: [e-voice.org.uk/friendsofpontefractpark](http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofpontefractpark)



## 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. We hold our meetings in the Community Room in Aspire. Our leaflets are available in the foyer, and we will often be there to meet with the public and publicise our activities.

## Roundup of the last two years

Due to lockdown in 2020 the friends group was inactive, but we got going again last year. The two flower beds were planted in spring 2021 and again in the autumn. This photo was taken last summer.



Four of the old rowing boats were installed as planters by the lakeside and planted in the spring with busy lizzies and geraniums, giving a colourful display.



The boats were replanted last autumn but the geese had been nibbling the plants and we have installed a protective fence round them.



Daffodil and crocus bulbs were planted last autumn



## Park Rangers

The Council has recently launched its Green Spaces programme, aiming to improve parks and countryside areas across the Wakefield District. Park Ranger teams dedicated to a particular park have been introduced, with a remit to work closely with voluntary community groups. We had help from Pontefract Park Rangers in the autumn, planting the flower beds and boats, and with bulb planting. It is a very welcome initiative.

## Litter picking

We have a litter picking session every Wednesday at 10am. Volunteers are very welcome, meet at our room down the side of Aspire facing the courts. We provide the litter pickers and bag hoops but bring your own gloves. Wednesday mornings are not convenient for everyone, and we are planning to make litter picking equipment available from the entrance foyer of Aspire for visitors to the park to carry out litter picking while out walking. We can also provide equipment for any group that wants to have a litter picking session.

## Howard Andrews

Howard was treasurer of Friends of Pontefract Park and contributed a tremendous amount to the group. He sadly died in September, a great loss to us.



His funeral cortege made a detour into the park and we provided a litter-pick Guard of Honour. There is a newly planted tree opposite our room which is dedicated to Howard's memory.

## Working closely with other Park groups

We work in partnership with other groups in the park – the Angling Club and parkrun.

The Angling Club are pleased that the repairs to the lakeside will take place later this year.

We are helping parkrun with a commemorative bench for Ken Bingley, a loyal volunteer who died in January. The bench will be installed at Ken's Corner, by the playground, where he marshalled the runners 228 times.



## A new children's playground

We are pleased to announce that the playground will be completely refitted in time for spring 2023. The Council are consulting users of the park about plans for a new playground and the survey may be collected from Aspire or completed online at:

<https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/97RGQ9V>

Or scan the QR code:



## Picnic in the Park

Picnic in the Park hasn't happened for the past two years because of Covid but we have started planning for this year's event which will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August. It's a family event with lots of activities for the kids.

**Get involved with Friends of Pontefract Park and help us improve the Park for everyone.**