



THE FRIENDS OF Rowntree Park

Summer has finally arrived and it is so amazing to see the park coming into bloom and full of life and activity. Our newsletter aims to keep you up to date with a summary of what we are up to, but please do keep an eye on our website and social media for regular updates.

There are Friends' meetings on the following dates - June 17th and October 21st - and anyone is welcome. The June date was likely to be via Zoom so please contact us for the link.

Read on for more about our centenary, gardening updates and events and projects in the park!



2021: Rowntree Park's Centenary Year!

Rowntree Park was York's first municipal Park and was set up as a memorial park. Rowntree Park opened on the 16th of July 1921, as a gift to the people of York from the Rowntree Family and it was *"intended to serve as a perpetual memorial to the members of the Cocoa works staff that fell and suffered in the War"*. Rowntree stated he wanted the park to *"afford many rest and recreation from the turmoil and stress of life, and bring health and happiness to a large number of young lives"*. From that day on, the park has been managed by York City Council on behalf of the people of York. The park has changed a lot over the last 100 years. Some features remain the same, others come and go. You can read more about the history of the park and how it has changed on our website.

The Friends of Rowntree Park was set up in 1993 and became a charity in 2019. Through those years, our work and focus has changed a lot. We now take on more responsibility for some physical areas of the park. We also run community events and work in conjunction with council teams to try and make improvements to the park. The aims of the Rowntree family are embedded in our charitable aims. A huge thank you to all our members and volunteers who support what we do.

Although the park's centenary falls on a particular date, our aim has been to have a number of events and activities throughout 2021 to mark the birthday. You can keep up to date with all our events and activities by checking out our new online calendar. Many of our events are ticketed - this has become particularly important due to Covid. Therefore, please do check out the details of events and get tickets when required to do so. View our calendar [here](#).

Reminders:

Birthday Video - send in your phone videos wishing 'Happy Birthday' to Rowntree Park. We are aiming to collate these messages in a short film. It would be great to hear people talking in their home language (or accent) to help show York's diversity. However, of course, Yorkies are also very welcome. Send to events@rowntreepark.org.uk

History - We are also still asking people to send in photographs and memories linked to the park, related to anytime from 1921-2021. Thanks to those of you who have already been in touch. Contact us at events@rowntreepark.org.uk

We hope to be able to offer some history tours through the summer and autumn.

The Rowntree Society are hosting a free online event on July 15th about Rowntree Histories as part of York's Festival of Ideas. You can find out more [here](#):



Scarecrow Trail

We need you! Desperately seeking houses on the following streets to be part of our Scarecrow Trail due to take place on 3rd-4th of July: Richardson St, Bewley St, Norfolk St, Russell St, Millfield Rd, Bishopthorpe

Rd (between Sainsbury's and Balmoral Terrace/Beresford Terrace). Other addresses also welcome!

Deadline to register is Friday 11th June. Contact events@rowntreepark.org.uk

The Big Community Challenge

Each year, York Cares encourages local businesses to sign up to volunteer days that focus on a project in York. Rowntree Park is the focus of this amazing event this June! Over the next few weeks, we have workplace volunteer teams coming in to help with tasks. A huge thank you to [York Cares](#) and York Eco Team who are running this project and have worked with us to prioritise tasks. We cannot wait to have all these extra volunteers in the park through June! An extra thank you to [Johnsons of Whixley](#) and [Yorkshire Lavender](#) who have donated a range of plants as part of this project.

Gardening update

Our volunteer gardeners are working hard and you can really see the difference. It's been hard work with lockdowns and floods, but community action really makes the park what it is! We currently have availability for new volunteers to opt into our Monday, Thursday and Friday morning sessions. To register interest in gardening (or any volunteering), please fill in this [form](#). We are running some induction sessions on Friday 11th 1-2pm and Tuesday 15th 10-11am.

An extra thank you to people who have been growing plants as part of the 'plant for the park' project and also all those who have donated plants - all your contributions are so much appreciated. If you have any plants you'd like to rehome or have extras, do contact Stu at gardening@rowntreepark.org.uk

Nature Walks

We have recently started running free 'nature walks' for adults in Rowntree Park and plan to do more through the year. If you are interested in being notified when a new walk is running, then you can complete this [form](#).

Local photographer Richard Gresswell is offering some nature-based phone photography workshops on June 12th and July 31st. Each walk has a maximum of 8 people and is totally free! Book your places [here](#).

New Wildlife area: Event Day 19th June

We are developing our new Wildlife Area at the back of Butcher Terrace Field, over the next 4 years, funded by Yorkshire Water. This area will eventually include a new pond, a bog garden, a rockery to encourage reptiles and wildflowers for pollinators, benches and much more. It will be a little haven of nature!

On the 19th of June we are running a couple of events based around wildflower planting:

Wildflower planting - Adult event

Come along and plant some wildflowers and have a little tour of the new wildlife area and hear our plans. All tools provided. No experience needed, just enthusiasm and interest! These events are free to attend and each session is limited to 10 places. This will be a fun and informative event with the chance to be part of the start of this project. Book your places here. Two sessions running at 10.30-11.15am and 11.30-12.15pm. Book [here](#).

Sow & Grow - Family Event

We will have a range of nature-based activities for young families. Activities will include: wildflower planting in the wildlife area (it involves mud and tools, so kids love it!), we will also be making our own seed bombs, bug hunting, making plant pots and planting seeds and more! This will be a free-flow session and numbers are limited to 30 people per session. Tickets must be booked in advance and you pay per child (£4 for FRP members/£5 non-members). Sessions running 1-2pm and 2.15-3.15pm. Book [here](#):

Hippystitch - Bees & Butterflies Yarnbombing plans and workshops

Hippystitch are getting the community involved in creating knitted, stitched and crocheted bees and butterflies to be displayed in Rowntree Park this Autumn. People can create items at home and drop them off at the café, or you can attend an organised workshop! The first workshop ran last weekend and another takes place this Friday (11th June); places are still available, so do a book on and get involved [here](#). If you can't make the workshops, you can still take part at home - you can find out more about the project in general [here](#).



Events and Activities in Rowntree Park

The Friends of Rowntree Park run a range of events and activities for the community. We also welcome outside providers to book events in the park and particularly encourage events that support our charity

aims. As Rowntree Park is a 'managed' space, it is important that all events are booked in officially. You can find out more information on our website under 'Events'. Events are run in line with the Covid regulations at the time.

Events are listed below. You can find out more or book places for our events [here](#)

Some of the events below have slightly different booking links, so please check below.

Forest School (Pre-schoolers)

Every Friday morning, run by the Friends. These sessions are booked in 'blocks'. To be added to the waiting list, contact education@rowntreepark.org.uk

Forest School 6+

These sessions, run by the Friends, happen monthly on a Saturday and are aimed at ages 6-12 approx. The next session is June 19th AM: places are available. The following sessions are 10th July and 14th August.

The Very Young Friends of Rowntree Park

Our nature-based craft and activity group for pre-school children aged 1-5. Thursdays 1.30-2.30pm. Booking for the next sessions open - 10th June and 1st July.

Little Kids Yoga - NEW!

Tuesdays throughout June! This group is all about yoga and movement in nature. A fun, light-hearted group run by a qualified yoga teacher who is also mum to a toddler. Working with the Friends.

Home Education group

The Friends run monthly Home Education sessions. The next is on Wednesday 23rd of June (fully booked). The next is 21st of July.

Little Kids Yoga

Starting Tuesday 8th June and running weekly from 9.45am, this fun nature-based yoga and movement session for 2-5-year-olds will be great fun! Led by a qualified yoga practitioner who is also mum to a toddler! Working with the Friends.

Sow & Grow event for families

Saturday, June 19th starting at 1pm.

Rock Painting sessions

On July 10th and 11th at 10-11am, the Friends are hosting some 'rock painting' sessions aimed at young families. Come along and decorate some rocks for Rowntree Park's 100th birthday - these rocks will be displayed around the park.

Events run in conjunction with us:

Catkin Club

Local business offering nature-based exploration and play for those with wide eyes and wild hearts. Nature crafts, games, and stories with a focus on sensory experiences and mindfulness in nature. Bees are the theme of the Catkin Club on Wednesday, June 9th. Aimed at 1-5-year-olds. Find out more and book places [here](#):

Bees & Butterflies workshop

Craft workshop with Hippystitch (sponsored by the Friends) - more details [here](#).

Tropica - DJ Family Picnic

Saturday 26th June 2-8pm. This event features DJs playing a range of world music and will be a fun family-friendly event suitable for all ages. Bring a picnic and chill! **This event will only take place with Covid restrictions being removed, so please keep an eye out on social media for updates.** Working with the Friends: donations will be sought to help cover costs and raise additional money for the Friends.

Salsa Sunday

On various Sundays in June and July, there are some salsa sessions at 4pm, with Sita. Sessions are £6.40 pp, with a donation going to the Friends(?) To find out more contact Sita scarrhill@gmail.com/07737654628

Park Bench Theatre returns!

We are excited to announce that Park Bench Theatre are due to be returning to the park from 5th-17th of July. The play being performed is loosely based on Rowntree Park's history, and written by Mike Kenny (who adapted E. Nesbit's Railway Children for a Theatre Royal production the other year). We do not have full details yet but will send an email update to all members dates and times are confirmed and the booking link goes live.

Our other projects:

Stories and poems from the Friends' creative writing project 'Words from a Bench' are still up in the park. These will be changed over in July for new ones. 'Art in the Park' will be coming to the park in July! Hippystitch also aim to install a birthday banner for the park in July.

Other events in Rowntree Park

There are a range of events in the park provided by outside providers including Pilates and Yoga, Story Craft Theatre, Kindermusik, Tree Babies, Junior Chess sessions, Salsa on Sundays, and much more. Can we ask that when an event is on, please give them space as they have all employed a number of measures to keep their groups and the general public as safe as possible. We also make sure there are not too many events running at once so there's enough space for everyone. We have managed to add an online calendar to our website that will help you see what is happening and when. View it [here](#).

Pilates and Yoga in the Park

These sessions are run by York Pilates People. Classes are taking place on Tuesdays and Saturday mornings. Some places at each session are free to our volunteers, and there is a 20% discount for FRP members. Find out more and book places [here](#)

Email helo@rowntreepark.org.uk for discount/free codes to go with your booking.

Note:

There had been a musical event booked in by **Bev Jones Music Company** for 12th and 13th of June. This has now been postponed. Reports in the local press about why the event chose to postpone are not entirely accurate - the group were asked to consider some additional safety precautions and check government guidelines on performances, and so they opted to postpone instead.

Please note that the Tennis Club, and York Explore Café and Library are separate from the Friends and they operate their own areas. Please contact them directly, if there any questions about what they do. General park bookings/activities are organised by the Friends in conjunction with Make it York (on behalf of CYC).

York Mind - new programme of events

York Mind is offering a programme of events and activities for people to help with mental health and wellbeing. As part of this programme, the Friends of Rowntree Park have the following sessions on offer:

- Family Forest School Sessions
- Woodland Crafts for adults
- Green woodwork sessions for 18-25-year-olds

You are welcome to book/self refer yourself to any of the events on the MIND programme and they are free to attend. If you feel you would benefit from being involved in sessions, get signed up.

There is also a range of other activities run by other partners including Guided learning, such as Mindfulness, Managing Anxieties, Building Confidence and Resilience, Creative Journaling, Arts and Crafts, Theatre for Well-Being as well as well-being activities including Yoga, Nordic Walking, Swimming, Climbing, Carer Well-being sessions and more. You can find out more about what [York Mind](#) is offering [here](#).

We are seeking further funding for mental health and wellbeing activities for the community and thank you to all who voted for us for the recent LNER funding - we will wait to hear what happens.

Closure of parts of Terry Avenue - Environment Agency Work

The Environment Agency has closed access along Terry Avenue for approximately 12 months from May 2021. You can still access the park carpark but this is now via Butcher Terrace and then along Terry Avenue. Currently, diversion signs don't show you can access the park; we have been told that this is being rectified. As the new route goes down a residential street and in front of park gates/millennium

bridge, we ask all drivers to take extra care. Please see the link from Flood Plan for more information including diversion routes for motor vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians - [here](#)



Copyright © Friends of Rowntree Park 2021
Thank you for supporting our volunteers' work in the park!

Our mailing address is:

c/o 16 Norfolk Street
York
YO23 1JY

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

