



Friends of Gedling Country Park

Registered Charity Number 1167205

Chairman's Report – December 2018

Another year has gone by and we have seen lots of activities, events and great work by the Friends and the hard-working volunteers.

Last year at the AGM we gained 3 new trustees, one elected to work as a co-opted, rather than a full trustee, and sadly has had to resign, for personal reasons, part way through the year. Our thanks go to them for their hard work in organising and running the photo competition.

Equally this year we will be saying farewell to Graham Tavner. Graham has been with us from the start and is a great supporter of our efforts but with his health in mind he is standing down as a trustee but will still remain in contact – so on behalf of all our members I should like to thank Graham for his support and wish him well for the future.

We do need more trustees and details of the roles of a trustee can be obtained by contacting:

chair@gedlingcountrypark.org.uk

Trustees meet on a monthly basis for around 2 hours in an evening to manage the activities of the group. Currently we do need certain skill sets and so we are looking for individuals who can help out in several ways:

- Legal experience
- Planning and building experience
- Editorial and publishing backgrounds
- Website and photo-graphical experience
- Helping with and organising/running working days

Volunteers:

A great big thank you to all those who have volunteered (both Members, supporters and organisations) over the past year. We have achieved a considerable amount of work. That is not to say that there is still not lots to do in the future.

We have been well supported both financially and with volunteers by local companies and so I pass our thanks onto them, but especially to the Co-Op, who, over the last few years have helped us greatly. But this year we have been amazed by the generosity of our Gedling Village Co-Op and members who have raised just under £3000 for our funds.

We have had approx. 50-man days of work from local companies and this together with my estimate of over 150 days (equivalent) by volunteers (based on Sundays and midweek days) shows how committed our supporters are to ensure that this park is Simply the Best.

We are also pleased that over the last year and future years we have been helping the Duke of Edinburgh participants in gaining their badges. Their work with us has been very helpful and added to our volunteer work.

We have also been pleased to host activities from local Brownies and Cubs and are always pleased to be able to promote the Park to groups such as these.

The table below shows some of the work done over the last year and also some planned for next year.

In addition to this we have done hours of planting, clearing/weeding, watering, repairing, ecological surveys, building bird tables and nesting boxes and more.

Description.	Funding Source.	Delivery Date
Weir in Central Lagoon		Completed 24 November 2017
Construction of raised flower beds in memorial garden	FGCP	Completed 31 January 2018
Drainage in woods	FGCP	Completed 29 June 2018
Bird hide - floor and seat	FGCP	Completed November 2018
Building weir in Western Lagoon	FGCP	Completed November 2018
Forming island in Eastern Lagoon	FGCP	Completed October 2018
Repair of Weir - Eastern Lagoon	FGCP	Completed 9 November 2018
Seal pipe under lagoon	FGCP	Completed November 2018
Floating nesting platform	FGCP	Already made - need water - before Spring 2019
Floating nesting platform for arctic tern platform	FGCP	To be built - before late spring
Duck tubes (2)	FGCP	To be built - before spring 

Gedling Borough Council

Adam, the Park Ranger moved on from the Council at the end of August and the work he had done both for the council and with ourselves was greatly appreciated. His replacement is Alastair and we look forward to continuing the excellent relationship with him.

Green Flag status was awarded again, and we also now have final confirmation of the park being designated a Local Nature Reserve. Equally we, the Friends, continue with our policy of supporting the fact that no non-native species of plants are used on the park.

The cows have been back and have again proved a great attraction for all, this has been due to ensuring that water is available in the areas for them. (Apart from idiots damaging the water containers.)

The Council together with ourselves supported a local landscape gardener with his plans for a show garden at the RHS show at Tatton. The end result was that although he was unsuccessful in their competition the park was given the show garden and whilst there is still some work to be done it has been installed and next year, we should see the full benefits to all.

Gedling Heritage Project has been running since March and the park is a central point for a lot of the information and so we still have some new (information) display boards to go onto the park, Mosaics at the café entrance and features to be installed in the café to promote Gedling Heritage Groups across the entire borough.

Finally

If you know of any organisations, groups or individuals who are interested in helping us out then please pass their details onto me or ask them to get in touch with myself.

This year we have seen significant contributions from:

- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Gedling Borough Councillors
- Gedling Village Co-Op
- Castle Rock Brewery and the Willowbrook
- Bloor homes gave us £250 worth of materials for the bird nesting platforms and also have provided £1500 for trees as compensations for the damaged hedge.

We also continued work on raising funds to support our activities for future developments. As you will see from the Treasurer's report, I feel that we have been extremely successful in this – but this is just the start of our efforts in raising funds to allow the development of the park. At this point I should like to express the thanks of the Trustees and Friends to all those organisations and businesses who have helped us both financially and materially.

So, to bring this report to a close I should like to offer my personal thanks to all our members, our hard-working volunteers, my fellow Trustees and most importantly of all the staff and councillors of Gedling Borough Council.

Oh yes – still need lots more volunteers please.....

Terry Lock, Chairman, Friends of Gedling Country Park