



# Park Life

(Care to Run - Special Edition)



Edition No 14

Friends of Sandall Park

September 2009

## THE GOLF COURSE PROJECT

2009 has been a major year for the Friends of Sandall Park and Sandall Park itself. Since the old golf course ceased to be of use that area had become 'dodgy' with stolen motorcycles, drinks parties and other anti-social behaviour. These carried on out of view behind the huge conifer screen put in place to stop golf balls landing on the road.

With a substantial grant and sponsorship from the Big Lottery Fund, Groundwork and Community Spaces as well as support from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team everything has changed in that area.

The same area is now open, crime free and well used by responsible park users.

## GET FITTER IN SANDALL PARK

A major part of the project has been to link the main park with the old golf course. Many people just did not think it was part of the park.

The park already had well used fitness trails that covered the whole park but this project allowed these to be enhanced with the creation of a fitness station near to Thorne Road. This station includes four pieces of specifically designed outdoor fitness equipment. They are meant for adults and children should only use them under adult supervision.



**Question:** How many 45ft Leylandi trees were taken down along Thorne Road as part of this project?

Answer:

**284**

## MINI CLUMBER PARK

Ok, so Sandall Park may not compete with Clumber in many areas but it is closer to home for Doncaster people and why shouldn't local families go to the park and have a picnic and game of rounders?

As part of the golf course project six picnic benches and litter bins have been installed with three of them having paths to assist wheelchair and pushchair users. The benches also have one end extended to assist wheelchairs users.

A rounders pitch has been marked out and the Friends of Sandall park offer rounders equipment free of charge to anyone who wishes to have a game.

20 extra bird boxes have also been installed as well as the planting of thousands of bulbs and wild meadow plants.

For the dog walkers six dog 'poo' bins have been installed which has had an immediate impact on the area. There are just one or two owners who now require training!

## THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

This project would never have happened without funding and sponsorship from the Big Lottery Fund, Groundwork and Community Spaces.

Almost £23,000 has gone into the development of the golf course.

The project also would have been pointless if the investment could not be protected and made safe. The removal of the 284 conifers has been key to the success of the project and for this we thank the local Safer Neighbourhood Team who facilitated and organised the tree removal in a correct and proper manner. No fuss, no protests.

This has meant that with open views across the park the crime and anti-social behaviour previously associated with the area has now ceased.

## THE LAUNCH

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September was chosen for very good reasons. The Friends of Sandall Park have long since formed a good association with the Aurora Centre and this years 5Km charity run/walk is a good event to showcase the new look area of the park.

The start and finish this year has been placed in the heart of the project area where a thousand runners and supporters will be able to see the changes at first hand following last years event before the project had commenced.

We are hopeful that many newcomers to the park will return when they see what the park now has to offer.

## WHAT NEXT?

We never seem to finish. As one project is completed another one starts. This winter will see another 'natural play' area created in the park.

We are keen to resolve the issue of the lake edging and particular the area at the far end where the litter in the lake gathers.

We also want electric down to the lakeside and even a running surface around the old golf course area..... but that's for another time!

### **FOSP Meetings**

FOSP Meetings are held every third Wednesday in the month in the Sandallwood Centre. See our web site for copies of previous minutes of meetings.