

Boultham Park **BEACON**

.....
Issue 7



A look back at 2020/21

**Inspiring, leading and resourcing Lincoln
heritage to create positive and lasting change
for people, now and in the future.**

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Working hard to make the park a better place...

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Hello, and welcome back to the newly rejuvenated Boultham Park Beacon Magazine! Since it has been some time since our last issue, we decided to make a one-off special taking a look back at everything that you may have missed in the park over the last two years.

Throughout the pandemic, it has been proven just how important green spaces are for our mental and physical wellbeing, and we have been so proud to be able to offer Boultham Park as one of these valuable locations that welcomed so many over the last 2 years when restrictions limited our activities.

From the pandemic, to lake restoration works and all major events that have happened since, join us as we re-live Boultham Park over the last two years as the Lake Restoration Project has progressed.

Please enjoy the pull out reversible poster in the middle, as we set the stage for many more issues of the Beacon to come!

Written by Lizzie Oakley

Robert Pitchford

Chairman of the Boultham Park Advisory Group (BPAG)



Hello and welcome to the latest addition of the Beacon Magazine. It is almost three years since the last edition and a lot has happened in the meantime.

Firstly, the restoration work in the park has been completed; the removal of the overgrown areas and the inclusion of the Linkage café and hall footprint has transformed the area adjacent to the children's play area and turned it into a meeting place for both local residents and visitors to the park. My two favourites have been the restoration of the bandstand and crazy paving surrounding the bird bath.

Secondly, it seems that no sooner had phase one been completed than phase

two started; the lake and surrounding park land have been taken back to their former glory and, in my opinion, a lot better than I remember it in the 1960s. The finishing touches are taking place ahead of the grand opening in the spring. I can't finish this introduction without mentioning the Summer Fair and Light Show events that have taken place.

The two day Summer Fair was a huge success and we saw over 3,000 people attending, it was a welcome respite from the covid lockdown restrictions that we have all gone through. The lantern walk around the lake followed by the Light Show was also a well attended event and the work put into this by Lincolnshire Wildlife, Sir Francis Hill school and the restoration team certainly paid off.

I hope, like me, you are looking forward to enjoying the park this year, whether it is just to walk through or to attend an event.

Take care and keep well,

Robert Pitchford
Chairman
BPAG

PS: We will be re-starting our BPAG meeting in the next few months and are always looking for new members (date and time will be posted on the park notice boards)

BPAG MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the outlook of our local park and open spaces while maintaining its heritage as a premier green space in Lincoln.



Boultham Lake Restoration Works

A major part of the Boultham Park Lake Restoration Project was the works in and around the lake, with a focus on improving biodiversity and restoring the lake. Works were able to begin in early 2021 consisting of restoring the lake's edges, improving footpaths and introducing understorey and edge planting, and installing an aeration system in the water, to name but a few.

Despite having a few bumps along the way, the new picnic benches along the south side of the lake are finally complete, and fully accessible to any and all visitors. Viewing platforms were installed at either end of the lake, with one of them providing access for future boating activities. Fishing pegs were installed to help encourage fishing being brought back to the lake. Wildflowers were planted around the lake to help improve biodiversity and stabilise the bank as their roots bind with the soil to help prevent erosion and bank slippage.



"I love the lake improvements, the aeration and the marginal plants being introduced - pretty to look at and good for wildlife. The purple loosestrife looked glorious this year."



"I think that the lake as a whole, is looking amazing, and the renovation of the surrounding areas enhances the whole park"

The new aeration system in the lake is one of the most important parts of the restoration works for improving the quality of the water and habitat for the wildlife that lives in it. It circulates the water and adds dissolved oxygen which enhances the fish's habitats, reduces algae, improves the water quality, removes nasty smells in the lake and creates more oxygen rich water for the fish to live in. It also breaks down organic leaf matter and stops the build-up of silt and reduces the existing silt over a period time.

Written by Lizzie Oakley



There were a number of trees around the lake that were cited for removal, one of the main goals of this was to reduce leaf debris as this was the main contribution to the silt in the lake. On average, a fully grown deciduous tree has up to 200,000 leaves on its branches prior to winter fall. Each leaf weighs approximately 5grams, and if you take a mean average of 150,000 leaves per tree, this would equate to a fall weight of 0.75 tons per tree.



After surveying the lake, island and surrounding trees, it was concluded there were, on average, a total of 454 trees in this area. Using the following factors to calculate the leaves entering the lake: Island 100%, Lake bank 75%, peripheral trees 40%, the total weight of debris entering the lake due to surrounding trees, equated to a minim of 190.35 tons per annum. Therefore, the decision to remove multiple trees from the area should result in significantly less silt build-up in the future.

Overall we are extremely proud of all the work that has been done around the lake and have received endless praise from visitors on the improvements. As well as focusing the improvements on biodiversity and natural heritage, the project has proven the importance of green spaces to local communities.

The Importance of Parks



Parks are a tangible reflection of the quality of life in a local area, they provide identity for local residents and are a major factor in the perception of quality of life in a given location. Parks are often cited as one of the most important factors in surveys of how appealing communities are. Parks can provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages, ethnicity and economic status, regardless of whether they live within the city or beyond.

Parks and recreation programs provide places for health and well-being that are accessible by persons of all ages and abilities, especially to those with disabilities. Parks have a value to communities that transcend the amount of money invested or the revenues gained from fees. Parks provide a sense of public pride and cohesion to every community.

A study by the City of Lincoln Council shows that 75% of people approved measures to restore, develop and conserve open spaces, implying the majority of the public view parks as an essential priority for council spending.

In a 2019 survey of Boutham and Morland residents 8 of 10 households rated a quality park either very important or extremely important to their quality of life.

Research by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs indicates that community involvement in neighbourhood parks is associated with lower levels of crime and vandalism. Access to parks and recreation opportunities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and to reduced juvenile delinquency.

Written by Rob Pitchford



Lake Art Installations

Have you stopped to take in the art installations and information boards around the lake? We had a chat with Lindsay Johnson, the person responsible for these incredible designs.

How did you become involved with designing the interpretation boards?

I was working as a volunteer on the first restoration project, whilst finishing a Masters at Leeds in Landscape Architecture (I should say as a mature student - very mature!!) When the project was complete I went on to volunteer for the community services team in a professional capacity. The reason I took on a volunteer role (as well as being employed in a paid capacity) was that I have always felt a strong connection to open green spaces, especially in built up areas and believe that we all have a role to play in using and promoting them as places for learning, improving health and wellbeing as well as helping communities to thrive.



What was the process for choosing the themes for the boards?

Firstly, I had to choose one central theme which had to be one thing that visitors should remember after reading the interpretation. I picked themes based on nature and culture, the central concept had to capture the essence of the special nature of Boultham Park Lake, and the importance of the Lake for local people and visitors.

We then came up with three secondary themes:

Theme 1- The essence of the lake's distinctive landscape we experience today was shaped by the interventions of man;

Theme 2 - The lake's Landscape hosts a variety of wildlife and habitats. These have been, are, and will continue to be influenced by the actions of people;

Theme 3 - We can all be inspired to learn more about our lake and be involved in safeguarding its natural and cultural heritage through the choices we make as individuals, communities and as a society.



How did you decide on the materials for the art installations?



The selection of material was a really important part of the interpretation strategy as we had to consider: the simplicity of installation, the ease of maintenance, minimal maintenance costs, vandal resistance, the influence of weather and UV radiation, aesthetics and how the material we chose reinforced the concept and themes of the interpretation.

Self-Weathering Steel was chosen for the interpretation (also referred to as Corten or Atmospheric Corrosion Resistant Steel). It is an inexpensive and really effective material. The steel oxidizes with pollutants in the air, forming a layer of rust – this acts as a protective layer which prevents the steel from corroding.

We think they fit into the landscape beautifully – especially in autumn when the sculptures and information panels seem to disappear into the surrounding environment, but my favourite time of year to look at them is summer, when the sun shines on them in the late afternoon they seem to glow and just come alive.



Written by Lindsay Johnson



Social Prescribing

When Covid19 arrived, we became concerned about the impact a full lockdown would be having on those most vulnerable. Therefore, we sought advice from our corporate health and safety team, and began to use the park to support others.

In December 2020 we began using the park for social prescriptions in the form of one on one befriending walks and volunteering in practical conservation. Social prescribing may not be familiar to everyone – but put simply it is a way to support people's wellbeing and quality of life while reducing pressure on the NHS. It links patients with physical or mental health conditions, or people who may be lonely, isolated or experiencing stress for example, to community based activities, rather than simply prescribing them medicine.

As guardians of the beautiful Boutham Park we felt a responsibility to use the space in a way which would empower people struggling with their wellbeing to be able to self-direct themselves to use nature to make themselves feel calmer, more relaxed and begin to feel at home in a familiar environment. A place they could come and feel an element of comfort. By delivering relaxed simple sessions, we aim to use the park in a way that enables people to: feel less isolated and more involved in their community, meet new people, learn new skills and improve their health and wellbeing. No one is judged and everybody is welcomed. Activities we have done include Tree walks, photo walking, walk and talk, litter picking and practical conservation.



During lockdown many people felt very isolated and lonely and for those already suffering from wellbeing inequalities, this was an especially difficult time. Each person we met was different and were struggling in their own individual way, so we developed a safe way of offering our referrals as a wellbeing walk, which involved joining a befriender in the park and benefitting from meeting someone for an hour each week who would actively listen and enable each person to talk in an open way about anything they wanted to.

At the beginning of 2022 we started to work with specialists, enabling us to deliver further opportunities to use the park to nurture health and wellbeing, for example wellbeing workshops exploring meditation, exercise and diet. These are all free and are accessible through the social prescribers or you can contact us independently.

Written by Lindsay Johnson



Outdoor Classrooms

In early May last year we were contacted by a teacher at Sir Francis Hill school who wanted to know if there were any opportunities for the children to do an art project in the park. At that point we were in a phase of restriction easing, the children had returned to school and were very happy to be back.....so were their parents!

We recognised how important the park had been to so many in lockdown and devised a programme of bringing the classroom outside. By coming up with a weekly timetable of activities which allowed pupils and their teachers to come to the park for a couple of hours and take part in fun and educational activities, the pupils benefited from being in the fresh air and felt the positive effects the park has on both physical and mental wellbeing. For the teachers and support workers it was a welcome break from the challenges of running the school with so many necessary constraints brought about by the coronavirus pandemic.



The programme enabled us to connect with every year group in the school. Some examples of the type of activities we delivered were: Art of nature - which encouraged creative play and art activities using the natural surroundings of the Park. Den / shelter building - so much fun and teaches the children about team work, cooperation and problem solving. Seed bomb making and sling shot seed planting. Planting wildflowers in the woodland and pond dipping in the lake - the children loved this activity. Mentioned here are just a few.

The outdoor classroom sessions put on by Lindsay Johnson and Lisa Blezzard have proved very popular with the pupils, their teachers and of course visitors in the park. Following their success In 2021 we have continued with sessions into 2022 - the initiative has enabled us to engage with many local children who, along with their teachers, have become familiar faces and feel like an extended part of our park family.

Written by Lindsay Johnson



Boultham Park's Colouring Book

My name is Clare Bryan, and I was commissioned to create a colouring book for Boultham Park by Lincoln City Council and given complete freedom to develop it how I wanted. This is a dream for any artist and I also knew the park well and had enjoyed many visits there. My focus was to capture the work that had been achieved through the restoration of the park making sure I included its history, the lake restoration in particular, the activities in the park and its flora and fauna.

I usually work in pen, watercolour and coloured pencils so it was strange not being able to colour in the drawings at first as this is what usually brings them to life. My illustrations like to include a lot of humour so I particularly enjoyed adding cheeky squirrels and noisy ducks, gossiping mums and there are lots of chatty children in there too. You will see that it takes you through a journey round the park, past the café and the holly bushes and fountains, past the band stand and into the Yew walk and around the lake. On the way you can spot the parks spectacular and special trees from the Blue Atlas Cedar tree – to the Railway poplar tree and you can discover plants and animals on your journey.



I spent a lot of time in the park watching people and talking to them, I'm very nosy, and I took lots of photos and made sketches particularly of people with their dogs. I very much wanted to show how people use and enjoy the park for walking and leisure from sitting under the cherry trees, having a picnic in the sunshine, playing in the playpark or taking the dogs for a walk.



I have had a long career working in the arts across the county particularly working with local communities. I continue to spend time in the park working with people and the local schools to share my art and love of nature and support the restoration work. I hope the colouring book in some small way will encourage people to stop and notice the small details or find out something about the park they didn't know or hadn't seen before.

The colouring book is still available for purchase from the park cafe or contact Boultham.park@lincoln.gov.uk.

Written by Clare Bryan



Summer Fair 2021

The 2021 Summer Fair became a 'beacon of hope' for the local residents and vendors. It was the first open air event to take place in the City since the start of the Covid lockdown process, yes it was all about timing.

The planning for the event started in the spring of 2020 when we thought that we would be holding a fair in that year, I don't need to say anything on what happened next as we all had to live through it! All of the vendors we had booked for the event in 2020 expressed a desire to attend the event in 2021 and it would be fair to say that only a couple dropped out.

The range of handmade or locally produced items was amazing from handmade bows to local honey and jams. We had approx. 75 stalls that joined us and from the feedback they all enjoyed being back to some normality. The younger generation loved the fairground rides and the bouncy castle just to name a few.



We were very lucky with the weather so lots of people were able to sit and enjoy the live entertainment and eat from the local food vendors that were on site, while keeping our distance within the covid rules. This even brought the girl guides and scout groups out to enjoy showing the community what they are all about including trying to encourage some new members to join them.

I just want to acknowledge all of the hard work put in by Lottie Brown and Kirsty Wallace, the event would not have taken place without the hours that they put into its organisation. Lottie worked with the vendors to ensure we had a good balance of people selling a variety of products and local interest groups while Kirsty kept on top of the paperwork required to meet all of the Health and Safety requirements along with booking the food vendors. Over the two days we welcomed over 2,500 attendees, comprising of Grandparents, Parents and Children of all ages!!

One last thing..... we are in need of people to come along and help on the day. All of the organisation and operations were run by volunteers and we most certainly need more. If you are interested please contact Lottie and Kirsty via the Summer Fair Facebook page.

Written by Robert Pitchford



Linkage Community Trust

It's a pleasure to be in Boutham Park

It's nearly 10 years since the Boutham Park Restoration Project was awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Big Lottery Fund and the changes that have taken place since then have been remarkable. Linkage Community Trust residents have benefitted greatly from the development, especially the facilities provided by the Linkage Education Centre. Linkage has also welcomed the opportunity to engage with the local community through the café and the opening of the glasshouse, adding to the unique pleasures that Boutham Park provides.

During the past couple of years and the difficulties endured by many people, the importance of outdoor community space has really come to the fore and the teams at Linkage feel privileged to have been able to help in creating that space with the café operating a hatch service throughout the pandemic.

Come and See What's on Offer

Why not come for a bit of refreshment at Boutham Park Café with added horticultural retail therapy at the Glasshouse in preparation for making your own outdoor spaces look lovely this spring and summer.

The Glasshouse has a wonderful range of plants available, and from Easter onwards, it will be open every Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 10am – 4pm. Laura Docking at the Glasshouse, will be on hand to provide a warm welcome and advice wherever she can on the plants for sale. Between now and Easter the Glasshouse will be open in line with café hours on weekends, closing at 2.30pm. There are over 50 varieties of perennials, spring baskets and planters, herbs, tomato and vegetable plants, as well as ground cover and shade tolerant plants.

Boutham Park Café is open 10am until 3pm most days and will be open from 10am until 4pm once the clocks go forward. They have a fabulous array of snacks and homemade cakes available and sell drinks to take away including Stokes coffee. The café space inside, although not open to the public at present, can be booked for Groups and you can also book your menu options in advance. Please enquire at the café for more information.



Written by Andrea Beer





Restoration in Review

A word from our Community Services Manager, Caroline Bird.

Amidst all the worry, difficulties and disappointments of the past two years, Boutham Park has given us plenty of reasons to smile. Like our other green spaces across the city, it's provided a freely available space where people can enjoy exercise, play, nature and fresh air. Somewhere to de-stress, to upskill, to have fun. A place for the community to come together, even if that coming together was at a safe distance!

We were determined not to let the pandemic stop the lake restoration project, and it didn't! I've been absolutely thrilled to see the amazing changes that the restoration has brought. A walk around the lake feels like a walk in nature. The water quality is already much improved, the edges are now stable, with the original edging stones back in place, the planting is brilliant for wildlife and looks wild and beautiful. The public art and interpretation, the seating, the boating platform and lookout, the fishing pegs.... The list goes on. I look forward to seeing the planting continue to flourish this year, to seeing the water quality continue to improve, and to seeing the benefits to biodiversity in and around the lake.



There have been a number of high points this year – the summer fair was a huge success in July (well done to the Summer Fair team), the formal opening ceremony for the lake project in September, and being awarded Green Flag status once again. There's been lots of activities as part of the lake restoration including the Lincspirational Plants event, talks, wellbeing sessions, social prescribing and working with Sir Francis Hill School. And once again, Boutham Park's brilliant volunteers have stepped forward and made a huge difference.

We've lots to look forward to in Boutham Park this year. I hope you will get lots of chances to enjoy it, whether you prefer quiet contemplation, a peaceful walk, wildlife-spotting, a family picnic or friendly chat in the Cafe, a fun-filled event or working hard as a volunteer. Enjoy being part of the Boutham Park community!

Written by Caroline Bird



Our Favourite Photos By You!

Our lovely followers on social media have shared so many fantastic photos over the last 2 years, and here are some of our favourites.



@alanhowden8



@glemo_photography



@artbyma66



Boultham Park Lake Restoration Project Timeline



2020
Lockdown delays lake restoration works

2020

2020
Some park activities are able to continue during lockdown



March 2021
The Lake edges are restored

2021

2021
Lake restoration works begin

March 2021
Sir Francis Hill Outdoor Classrooms begin

April 2021
Art Interpretation boards built



Mar

April 2021
Pathways are repaired and restored



May 2021
Marginal planting is completed

Apr

May 2021
Beacon area resurfaced



June 2021
The new viewing platforms are finished

May

June 2021
Aeration system to improve lake quality installed

July 2021
The Boultham Park Colouring book by Clare Bryan is released



Jun



July 2021
The Boultham Park Summer Fair returns

October 2021
Boultham Park is given the Green Flag Award again!

July

September 2021
Opening ceremony to commemorate the completion of the Lake restoration works



Sep

October 2021
Linspirational Light Show Event



December 2021
The Mini Explorers lantern and carols walk around the lake

Oct

2022
We have so many activities and events planned for the future, including the official Lake opening celebration on the 20th of March

Dec

2022



SATURDAY 9TH
& SUNDAY 10TH JULY

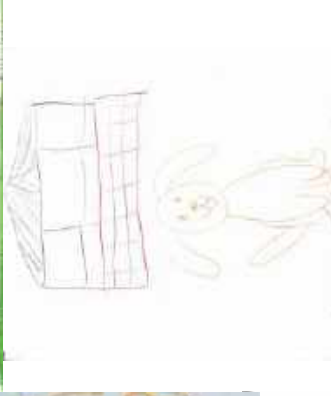
OPEN FROM 11AM - 5PM

FIGHT FACTORY WRESTLERS ON SATURDAY!

STALLS, FOOD, FUN FAIR,
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CRAFTS AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

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The Lincspirational Light Show

The Lincspirational Light Show was a celebration of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's Lottery Funded LoveLincsPlants project: working to preserve Lincolnshire's botanical heritage and inspire and train future botanists. The event was originally meant to take place in early October, however it had to be postponed to the 28th due to very bad weather. Despite all this, Boultham Park was still able to put on a spectacular evening of flowers, lights and entertainment.



On the evening the Bandstand was lit up with lots of colourful lighting as well as multiple trees around the area to create a mesmerising atmosphere, accompanied by some fantastic food by the Twisted Company.

In preparation, LUMO Workshop worked with children from Sir Francis Hill to create lanterns out of willow and tissue paper to represent some of the flowers that are a part of the LoveLincsPlants project, including Napweed and Buttercup. On the evening of the event the children were then asked to carry their lanterns on a parade around the lake which was truly magical. At the end of the parade all of the lanterns were then placed in the ground around the bandstand which looked mesmerizingly beautiful.

Once the parade finished, focus was drawn to the video being projected adjacent to the bandstand. A slideshow of all of the winners from the Lincspirational Plants Art Show exhibition was accompanied by some captivating music by cellist Deirdre Bencsik from Sinfonia Viva. The evening concluded with children dancing around the bandstand, photoshoots amongst the lanterns and trees, and incredible food and music.



The event was a roaring success, which welcomed a high public attendance - higher than anticipated! And the success of the event has opened our eyes to the possibilities of more evening events to come.

Written by Lizzie Oakley



The Mini Explorers

What a couple of years! We are so very proud of all our MagPyes for navigating through these uneasy years. We've not been able to meet up in person as much as we wanted but my goodness the changes and interactions we have had have been incredible, both for our Mental Health and the park.

We've had children planting new trees, which they will get to watch and see grow along with them as they continue to explore and enjoy the park as they grow older. We've been hands on helping the Restoration team clear areas of the park for new developments – of course learning and having fun as we do! We've also helped plant up areas to encourage new life to the park to increase biodiversity, both in sunshine and in rain! We love both!



There's been lots online on our Facebook page to join in with too. We've seen lots of our families join in with Seasonal Challenges, gaining points to win prizes by doing tasks such as Litter Picks and Scavenger Hunts. So even though we couldn't be together in person we still had a community of people with a common goal. It was great to see new friendships form through the Children and the Parents.

We have seen many MagPyes go on to their next stage of life starting school! And we have had many new MagPyes come join us who have moved to the area or found out about us through their friends. We always welcome new members who want to play and learn in the great outdoors, no matter what the weather. We are very much looking forward to a future of our Monthly Group getting back up and running and more fun challenges along the way. We enjoyed a Halloween "Potions and Commotions" story walk and potion making! And we have enjoyed our first of 2022 with "Groggle's Monster Valentine". Thank you to everyone who made that an incredibly lovely morning!

Thank you for everyone's support in creating a community of like-minded families, caring for and looking after our local park (and beyond).

Margaret and the Mini Explorers

Written by Margaret Corson



St Helen's Church

St Helens Church sits on the eastern side of the park at the end of Hall Drive and has occupied that plot since the 13th century, over the years it has hosted many events and has had some tasteful modifications. One constant over this time has been the work put in by parishioners to ensure the church is clean, tidy and well maintained for the folks wanting to visit and use the building.

Over the past two years it has been closed for services, however on the first Tuesday of each month a small group of volunteers has come along to clean and tidy the inside of the church and checked on the outside for any deterioration from the weather. You would be surprised on the amount of cleaning that this old building requires, mainly due to the gaps around the windows where both dust and flies can enter, so a good brushing and hoovering is always needed. The highlight at the time the restrictions were eased was that the Friends of St Helens Church were able to hold two carol services, one for the general public and one for the Friends group (whose donations help with maintaining the church). We spent a day decorating the church (pictures included) and arranging the order of service. At each service we had readings from both members and guests and were able to sing carols accompanied by the 18th century pipe organ.



Well as is said, 'ever forward and ever upward', we are looking forward to holding services during the year and joining with the Park Group to support both the Summer Fair and the Queens Jubilee Celebration.



The Anglican parish church in Boutham, now a district of Lincoln but once an outlying hamlet mentioned in the Domesday Book, is dedicated to St Helen. The first church is mentioned when Gilbert of Ghent, a nephew of William the Conqueror, endowed the newly founded Bardney Abbey with the Manor or Estate of Boutham. In about 1150 Gilberts grandson, Robert, Earl of Lincoln, gave the care of the church and the appointment of a Rector to the Abbott and Convert of Bardney. A new church was built in the early 13th century of which only parts remain after the church was totally restored, lengthened and had new windows added in 1887 by the Ellisons in memory of various members of their family.

Thanks to Brian for his research.

Written by Robert Pitchford



The Lake's History

The Boultham Estate was bought by Richard Ellison in the mid 1820s for his illegitimate son, Colonel Richard Ellison. The estate underwent a period of development under Colonel Richard Ellison, who was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Lincolnshire. In 1857 a large ornamental lake was excavated and the soil used to help landscape the gardens and raise the ground on the southern side of the estate, that is now backed by St Peters Avenue. To landscape the lake the Ellison's planted the surrounding area with oak, beech and line trees, it was stocked with fish and had a wooden boat house added close to the current site of the beacon. The Ellison's also erected a summer house on the Island where their guests took afternoon tea.

The lake was originally designed in a serpentine shape that can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map from 1932, the water was diverted from Pike Drain, which is fed from the lakes at Whisby, and the overflow took the excess water down to the River Witham. By the 1950s the Serpentine section was filled in and the shape of the lake changed into its current format as shown on the Ordnance Survey map from 1950. A number of reasons for the change have been documented but the main one is that due



to excess flooding of the land to the rear of St Helens Church through to Cathedral Oak wood better drainage was required,

so Pike Drain, was improved and a catchwater dug along side the water course providing better outflow into the River Witham.

The Ellison family constructed the original lake for their guests to use when they visited and many parties took place in the grounds, and row boats were used on the lake from 1857 until the mid 1960s. The entire park covers 50 acres and the lake covers 5% of this.

In 2021 the Lake went under many restoration works, including the lake edges being restored, viewing platforms and additional seating added, as well as a new aeration system installed to improve the quality of the water. Boultham Lake currently represents 5% of the total wetlands habitat in Lincoln.

Written by Robert Pitchford



The Park's First Christmas Cards

In 2021 Boutham Park held a competition for the best Christmas Card design, and from the many amazing entries there was one winner and 5 runners up who were chosen to have their design printed and sold as Boutham Park's first ever Christmas Cards. These fabulous designs will also be available for Christmas 2022!

The Winner

Tracy Willis won the competition with this beautiful hand embroidered design, when asked what inspired her design, she said she "chose a cheeky robin as they are regular visitors to the park and included the bandstand as this is instantly recognisable as Boutham Park. I wanted to represent the open space and trees that are associated with the park."



The Runners Up

"I wanted to include a few of the bird feed options in the picture to encourage feeding the ducks a healthier diet. The goose being missed off Santa's list is because Geese have a reputation of being naughty." - Gemma Harris



"I chose a snowy scene for the card because we see real snow so rarely in Lincoln, and the park looks even more beautiful under a covering of the white stuff." - John Bennett





**BUY OUR CHRISTMAS CARDS
FROM THE CAFE READY FOR
DECEMBER 2021**

"I like to feed the squirrels and swans, and some of the squirrels are quite tame. This one posed nicely for me that day." - Jo Mansfield



"The little dog is inspired from my own dog Daisy. I think Boultham will suit snow!"
- Jem Dunn Designs



"I heard about the competition and had one clear thing in my mind, the bandstand. My favourite area is the fountain which is also why I included it."

- Jessica Reeve

Written by Lizzie Oakley



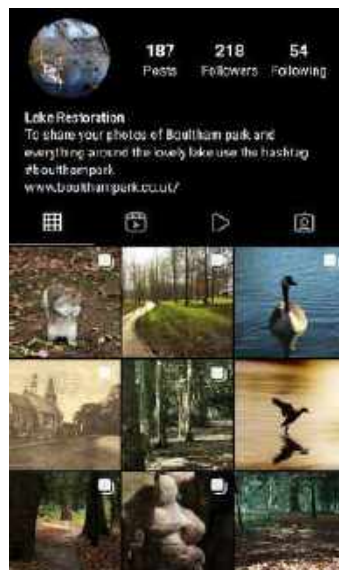
Boultham Park's Social Media

Going From Strength To Strength

I started as the Project Assistant to the Lake Restoration Project in September 2021. Since that time, I have focused on using our existing social media platforms as a tool to connect with those who are unable to physically come to the park, and to encourage people to visit.

Instagram has become the main focus for stunning photos of our beautiful park, with Twitter being the place to find all the latest news and announcements. The Facebook account is as active as ever, with daily updates on upcoming events and activities, as well as fun games and diy ideas, and interesting wildlife and nature facts.

The website has been updated, with regular news on the blog page, and the activities and events page being regularly updated with the newest activities, as well as the addition of a variety of activity sheets for all ages. There is a downloadable and printable children's activity sheet pack; the Spotter's Guide which holds a list of various nature and wildlife residents in the park to be found – great for adults and older kids; the Orienteering Park Quiz for all ages, which will take you in a walk around the park asking you questions along the way; and a new Interactive Park Map – either enjoy it as an addition to your walk around the park, giving you information as you stroll, or explore from the comfort of your sofa and learn about our wonderful park.



A new YouTube account has been created, becoming the home to a wide variety of park related videos, including 'how to' videos with various simple diy projects for all ages, as well as informational videos on the local wildlife and history of the park, and simple ambient videos of the lake and ducks.

Our Flickr account is being regularly updated with new park photos and recording major events and activities, as well as adding to our historical archive as more people from the community come forward with their photos and memories from the park's previous decades.

And most recently created, our new TikTok account for all of your fun video content!

Written by Lizzie Oakley



Mindful Doodling

Tuesdays 11-12pm on March 15th, 22nd,
29th and April 5th.

Free entry

Come join our fun and friendly, 'Creative Calm workshops': a series of 4 mindful doodling sessions created to help you feel calmer, content, relaxed and 'WOWED & PROUD' of yourself too!

Mindful doodling is something that EVERYONE can do, no experience is needed. You will be kindly guided by your doodling expert and mindfulness teacher Dr. Sands (Mindfulness Skills4Life).

For more information please contact
sanders@mindfulness-skills4life.co.uk or
boultham.park@lincoln.gov.uk or call 01522 873607.



The Boultham Park Advisory Group (BPAG) get together every three months to discuss what is going on in the park. We have representation from many interest groups such as; nature watch, angling, outdoor bowls club, dog walkers and the Magpies children's club. Other parties attend from; Lincoln City Council, Continental Landscapes, local PCSO and Linkage College.

Meetings are published on the park notice boards and via our membership email group.

We are always looking for new members, if you are interested, please email our secretary
Diana Pitchford -
diane.pitchford5@btinternet.com



Available
now
Only
£6

BOULTHAM PARK COLOURING BOOK

This beautiful Limited Edition colouring book has been created by our resident artist Clare Bryan.

The book is a pictorial journey through Boultham Park that tells the story of everyday life here.

Characterising the people, wildlife and history whilst narrating the story of what this park means to so many different people.

To get your copy visit Boultham Park Cafe or contact us at:
Boultham.park@lincoln.gov.uk / Telephone: 01522 873 907

ILLUSTRATED BY CLARE BRYAN



THE BOULTHAM PARK MINI EXPLORERS - THE MAGPYES

Boultham Park Mini Explorers was born when The restoration project wanted to encourage more people, especially the next generation, to come and enjoy the park in a fun and magical way. Bringing the community together through art, music, fun and laughter.

Volunteer led and free to attend this group gives all children an opportunity to experience and enjoy the great outdoors. Each session will loosely follow a theme and have activities in which to inspire and mean children can lead their own play and learning. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun and creativity and let your imagination run wild.

Follow the Facebook Page @TheMagPyes to be kept up to date with all upcoming sessions!



For The Kids

Wordsearch - can you find all of these hidden words?

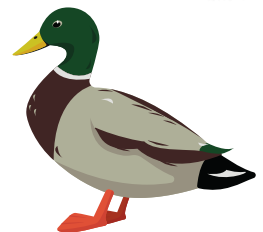
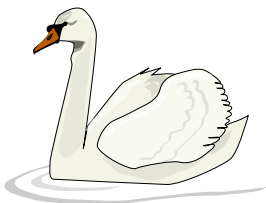


W M S A R E D N R Q W N A T O
 I A H R P E O R N D A G A I A
 L H S P O C V Y A T X Q N Y Y
 D T X A A O D I U L L Z S A M
 F L Z E K M D R V E L V R P F
 L U B J F B E T R E E A G C O
 O O K N B G L R U N S O M K U
 W B U T N A I A Q O R O B I N
 E K X V R U N G C U Q N W N T
 R T J Z Q W A D X K O J O W A
 R I G S B T W M S X B J I T I
 W Y W A N H S H Y T J I G D N
 E R U T N E V D A C A Y R O J
 D N U O R G Y A L P D N Q D K
 I K V M I C M N Y W P Y D X G

- Mallard
- Swan
- Squirrel
- Robin
- Blackbird
- Wildflower
- Nature
- Adventure
- Outdoors
- Boultham
- Beacon
- Tree
- Bandstand
- Fountain
- Playground



Match the wildlife to its name!



Mallard Duck

Mute Swan

Grey Squirrel



Make Your Own Leaf Garland

and brighten up your garden

All you need is some thread, a needle, and some leaves.

Simply thread as many leaves as you can onto the thread and tie it off.

You can add on other natural materials if you like, including pinecones, catkins, berries or anything you would like.

Don't forget needles are sharp so ask an adult for help.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

THE TIPTOE GAME

Cover someone's eyes with a scarf. The others stand at least 20 paces away and try to sneak up on them, if they hear a noise they point to where they think it came from. If they are right, that person must go back to the start. Be the first to tap the person whose eyes are covered without being caught.

CAPTURE-THE-FLAG TAG

You'll need four or more players. Divide into two teams and find an item like a scarf to be your 'flag', then place it on the ground. The aim is to try to get the other team's flag first. You can 'tag' an opposing player, and if you are tagged you have to freeze, but you can be unfrozen if a teammate taps you on the shoulder.

TARGET PRACTICE

Find some pinecones (or small stones), draw a circle in the earth with a stick, and a smaller circle inside. Move 10 steps back, and take in turns to throw cones into the circles. Score 10 if it lands in the inner circle, and 5 for the outer one. Who can get the most points in three rounds?

Make Your Own Bird Feeder

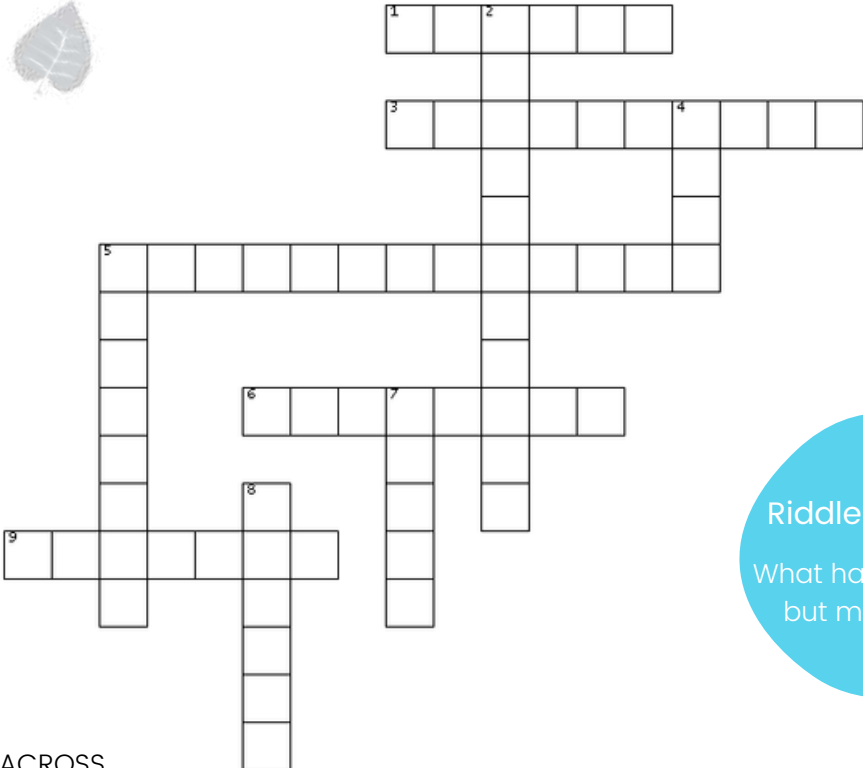
and bring the birds to your garden

You will need an empty toilet roll, a piece of string, some wild bird seed, and some lard.

Coat the toilet roll with lard, spreading it all over the outside. Then roll it around and coat the toilet roll with bird seed, using the lard as glue. Finally thread the string through the toilet roll and tie a knot so it can hang outside.



For The Adults



Riddle me this...
What has no fingers,
but many rings?



ACROSS

- 1. Tree with curved branches named the Weeping _____ (6)
- 3. A bird with a strong beak and shock absorbing skull (10)
- 5. Which tree grows a brown conker in a spikey green husk? (13)
- 6. What system keeps the lake water clean (8)
- 9. Family name of original Boultham Estate owners (7)

DOWN

- 2. Waterside plant that grows tall with narrow leaves, Purple _____ (11)
- 4. A black waterbird with a white beak (4)
- 5. Insects that are experts in mimicry that look like wasps (8)
- 7. Tree type whose wood becomes stronger when wet (5)
- 8. What is the name of Boultham park's oldest tree? (6)



100 year old Gingerbread Cake Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup melted butter
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup hot water with 2 tsp baking soda added to it
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- 1 cup hot water

Directions

1. In a large bowl cream sugar, melted butter, molasses , and eggs.
2. Add water and soda mixture.
3. Mix together dry ingredients.
4. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients.
5. Add 1 cup of hot water to the batter. This will result in a thin batter.
6. Grease and flour an approx. 9 x 13 pan,
7. Bake at 160C for 40-60 minutes. Check To see if the cake is done with cake tester.
8. Serve warm or let cool. For added goodness top with maple whipped cream.



Can you help us?

Here at Boultham Park, we love to make memories, that's why we've created an online archive, showing the park through the decades!

We'd like to keep adding to this archive and we cannot do that without your help. If you have any pictures, memories or stories of the park, please send them to us.

Together, we can tell the story of Boultham Park!



			5	4			8
6					2	3	
		7			3		9
	3	1		5			2
	4			3		7	1
	9		7			2	
		8	6				5
1				2	4		

Riddle me this...
A Tree

8. Poplar

7. Alder

5. Hoverfly

4. Coot

2. Loosstrife

DOWN

9. Ellison

6. Aeration

5. Horsechestnut

3. Woodpecker

1. Willow

ACROSS

Crossword:





We are extremely grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and to National Lottery players, for funding the project development work and for contributing almost £660,000 to restoring our wonderful lake, and for all that they have enabled to happen in the park #ThanksToYou.

We are also indebted to Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust as our partner on this project, and for the expert advice and support they have been providing. We are also grateful, as always, for the support of the Boultham Park Advisory Group whose enthusiasm for the park and the lake help to drive us forward.

All physical works in and around the Lake are now complete, and as part of the final stages of the project we will continue to bring about an increase in activities, events and volunteering opportunities centred on the lake, building on those already enjoyed due to the original Boultham Park Restoration Project.

The project has had a key focus on biodiversity and community, and as part of that we will continue to bring biodiversity activities, community events and activities, and occasional boating to the lake and visitors.

Don't forget to follow us on social media to keep up to date with everything Boultham Park related!

