

Newsletter Winter 2025/6

Thank you all for your ongoing support

Restore and Rejuvenate

We are sure you would agree the park has taken a bit of a battering over the last year. However, come the end of 2025 it started to turn a corner with the Remembrance Garden's demolished conservatory rubble removed, and the main path through the park beautifully lit up in the dark evenings.

Winter is turning, the Song Thrush and Robin can be heard in the early morning. Let's work together and see our park come back even stronger in 2026.

We will see the Bandstand restored with regular musical performances, and the rejuvenated Bowling Pavilion busy with competitors.

The mess and chaos generated by Yorkshire Water will repair. Grass seed will be sown on the path edges and Yorkshire Water have agreed to supply wildflower seed to make beautiful the area excavated.



Saturday's ever popular weekly Parkrun has returned.



There will be lots of opportunities for anyone to get involved - park work, litter pick, POP UP, Bird Walk, Footfall Counting, Litter Picking and of course our annual **Picnic in the Park on Sunday 28 June. 2026.**

Dates for your Diary in 2026

Bandstand Opening: **Sunday 22 March**



POP UP Litter Pick: **Saturday 18 April**

Bird Walk: **Sunday 10 May**

Picnic in the Park: **Sunday 28 June**

Calderdale Council has redesigned its park signage. Centre Vale will see its park entrances refreshed with these new signs.



Park Work Volunteering

Our team of volunteers have been working hard in the woods coppicing - with a further date to do more in February - see below.



Many other jobs are planned including to enhance the Centenary Wall borders, clear the ponds, and restore the fruit garden fencing. Gloves and tools are provided, everyone session has a Leader and Specialist for guidance.

Come and join in on one of the forthcoming dates this year:

Sunday 15 Feb 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Tuesday 3 March 10.30am - 12noon

Sunday 15 March 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Tuesday 7 April 10.30am - 12noon

Sunday 19 April 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Just get in touch to join in:

rachel@friendsofcentralepark.org.uk

Calderdale Countryside Work Party Volunteers

Our thanks to Phil Singh of Calderdale Council and these countryside volunteers who restored some of the upper paths of the Heritage Trail.



Castle Hill Primary School

The school has settled in to its temporary site. The rebuild of the new school on Halifax Road is well underway and the intended move-in date is the end of this year - the meadow restored during 2027.



Friends Committee members Alicia and Bob have met with the Head Teacher Duncan and have instigated a project to involve the children in building bug hotels to give permanent homes to buzzing creepy crawlies - get in touch if you want to be involved - update you in the Spring Newsletter.

Meetings with Calderdale Council

Our Chair Karen, joined by one other committee member, convenes quarterly meetings with senior officers of Calderdale Council. The meetings last an hour with agenda and minutes. Collaboratively working with the officers, numerous issues are raised on behalf of the Friends - we hold them to account where they need prompting to stick to promises, or act in a more consultative way. One recent action is to let you know the public toilets at the main entrance are being refurbished during February.



Memorial Donation Policy

You might have noticed several benches being removed from the park - though sometimes beyond repair, one has recently been restored and returned. Some benches are through memorial donation - the standard cost for Calderdale Council to supply and install a bench with memorial plaque is £1,236 plus VAT. The plaque inscriptions must be under forty words and suitable for public display. Maintenance is provided for 10 years - be in touch if you want a copy of the Council's latest policy.



- For more information visit our website - www.friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk
- Rachel Terry, Park Volunteer Co-ordinator - rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk
- Leye Oladapo, Membership Secretary - leyeoladapo@gmail.com
- Karen Andrews, Chair - karen.andrews495@gmail.com
- Bob Still, Secretary - stillbob@gmail.com

Hope to see you all soon!

The Frozen Watcher

A silent figure carved in stone,
Amidst the drift, it stands alone.

With shoulders draped in falling white,
It catches stars in the winter night.



The snow descends like feathered wings,
To mask the weight that memory brings.

A quiet crown of ice and frost,
For every moment found or lost.