

The Common People

What is the Common Land?

Like many other areas of Leeds, Armley has areas of green space for the general public to enjoy. However, what makes Armley unique is that much of the land is known as "common land" and, in theory, belongs to every Armley resident.

What is Armley Common Right Trust?

Armley Common Right Trust is a non profit making charitable trust which manages the land. The Trust consists of 7 Armley residents who are elected on a 3 yearly basis.

Who are The Friends of Armley Common Right Trust?

Over the last year, a new group called the Friends of Armley Common Right Trust has developed. The "Friends" are people who have been involved in supporting the work of the Trust.

Contents

Who Are ACRT.....	Pg 1
Way Back When.....	Pg 2
Current Information.....	Pg 3
Contact Details.....	Pg 4

Interested in being our Friend?

There is no limit to the numbers of Friends the Trust has. The only requirement is that you are committed to preserving the green space we are lucky enough to have.



The Millennium Stone on Armley Moor

Way Back When...



Tenterhooks

Part of the Armley Enclosure Act specified that 8 1/2 acres of land should be allocated in six or more separate places near to the cottages to where cloth was made. This would provide space for the cloth to be stretched out and dried on tenterhooks - hence the phrase "being on tenterhooks".

1 cow, 2 sheep ?

So how did the common land come to be in existence? Well, way back when there wasn't utilities like electricity, gas and water the common land provided people with a resource to help them survive. In Armley this meant that residents could graze a cow and two sheep on Armley Moor. Obviously the animals would provide families with food and milk.

In 1793 the Armley Enclosure Act came into force. This meant that the common land, rather than being a vast space, became enclosed. Leaving the land that wasn't enclosed being used for urban development or farming.



Did You Know?

- * Armley Moor was originally 175 acres in size, compared to the 5 acres it is now.
- * The Trust was formed with 7 Trustees in 1908.
- * Charlie Cake Park was given to the Leeds/ Liverpool Canal owners to oversee.

Thanks to Graham Branston who has written a book about the common land in Leeds.



Gardening Days at Charlie Cake

In order to establish a more regular pattern to the gardening days they will now take place on the Third Saturday of every month.

Work Days

Last year, with the help of West Leeds Healthy Living Network, Groundwork and BTCV, days were allocated for members of the local community to come and do some gardening and maintenance work in Charlie Cake Park. Over the summer period this year, attendance on the work days has been good. This has meant that a great deal of work has taken place. Paths have been cleared and flower beds have been weeded and maintained. Hopefully, once we have got on top of Charlie Cake Park we can turn some of our attention to the other areas of common land.

Current

Information

Recently you may have noticed improvements to the general appearance in Charlie Cake Park. This is, in part, due to more regular workdays. However, it is also because the Trust have been successful with a number of funding applications. In fact, at this very moment the park paths are being resurfaced. We were also fortunate enough to receive some money to enable us to buy a sit on lawn mower. This has meant that the grass has been cut on a much more regular basis

than in recent years. Unfortunately, the lawn mower was stolen from the container but was recovered on Armley Common. The Friends of ACRT are awaiting to hear if they have been successful in their bid for Breathing Places funding. Keep your fingers crossed!

If you do notice anything suspicious on the common land please contact the following:

**Nuisance and anti-social behaviour
0845 6060606
Ask for the NPT**

Funding Success

Sadly, earlier this year Ron Trory, an Armley Common Rights Trustee died suddenly. Ron was committed to to Armley and to the Trust. Over the years, Ron had been involved with many different things in Armley. As well as being the Caretaker for the Clock School, he was also involved with the Armley Advice Centre. More recently he was the Treasurer for the Armley Lodge Community Centre. When it closed he donated money for the bench which is on Armley Moor Top. He had been a Trustee for a number of years and was responsible for planting bulbs on Armley Moor. Ron will be missed and our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Fond Memories of a Committed Trustee

Further Information

If you would like to know more about Armley Commons Rights Trust, please contact Brooke Nelson or David Boutle (2634561).

If you want to know more about the Friends of Armley Common Rights Trust or wish to submit an article for the next newsletter (Spring 2007) please contact:

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Acknowledgements

The Editor would like to thank the following people for their help with the production of this publication.

Iris (Trustee)

Graham Branston, author of *The Commons, Waste Lands and Urban Moors of Leeds*

Chris Coates (West Leeds Healthy Living Network)

Leeds Library and Information services (for the use of the pictures of Charlie Cake Park and Moor Top.