

TVNP Community grant Case Study

This is a case study for Tees Valley Nature Partnership written by Michael Carling from [Friends of Borough Park](#).

Friends Of Borough Park

Proposal

The Friends of Borough Park bid was funding to purchase and plant a variety of bulbs and shrubs that would flower over winter. The aim was to provide emerging wildlife with sustenance over the Winter months and create a more attractive public place. The Friends main aim was to restore a much neglected Rose Garden but it became apparent that the park lacked natural plant diversity and did enough to give enough support to wildlife.

What happened

Following advice from the Royal Horticultural Society and similar groups as ourselves, we planned to purchase and plant the following bulbs and shrubs. Bluebells, Winter Aconites, Snowdrops, Crocus, Mahonia, and Winter Flowering Clematis. We had raised our own funds in previous years but with Covid ending all such activity, the only way we could go ahead was to place a bid to the TVNP which was successful.

With all the work being carried out by volunteers the task of planting thousands of bulbs had to be undertaken quickly as small bulbs dry quickly.

Mainly carried on hands and knees it was not an easy task. This is all undertaken within a public park with all that brings including overly friendly dogs and even falling apples.



To ensure the bulbs could be planted quickly they were ordered in a sequence which made the task a little easier:

- Bluebells first on 29th September followed by Winter Aconites on 2nd October then Crocus on the 20th October.
- The bulbs were planted in the Family Wood, The Community Orchard and along a perimeter fence separating the park from Redcar Lane.
- The Mahonia and Hellebores were planted on the 20th of October within the Rose garden and ornamental areas within the park.



The intention is to purchase further of these plants when our fund raising activities can resume in the New Year.

