

Annual Groves get together

The Association has been working hard to try and improve our area, involving working with the council, police, Youth Justice Services and local education facilities.

The Groves Association Annual General Meeting will be taking place:

at Theatre@41 Monkgate, York YO31 7PB

on Tuesday 25 November, 6.00 – 8.00pm.

You are all warmly invited to this opportunity to share with the community what the Association has been working on over the past year and to make suggestions for the future.

Refreshments will be available and there will be the opportunity to socialise with other local people. Make your voice heard!

Trees in the Groves



The Association, councillors and the council are looking to replace trees that have died or have had to be removed in the Groves over the past

few years. A walkabout of the area has been carried out with the council and any suitable sites will require a further underground survey. Sites will be discussed with nearby residents to ensure any tree planting will not have any negative impact on them. Funding will need to be found and, furthermore, any trees planted will need maintenance - mainly watering. This is where we will definitely need volunteers to sponsor the trees and look after them!! We will update the community as this project progresses.

Exciting times for the Groves Repair Cafe

After a summer break, the Groves Repair Café started up again on the last Saturday in September as part of York Environment Week. We are delighted that we have some new funding for a Project Manager to help make sure the Café can keep going for the long-term and help us add to the range of things we can offer. We give a big Groves welcome to Catherine Djimramadji (pictured below) who takes over from Denise Craghill as the Groves Repair Cafe Project Manager. Also a big thanks to Denise for all of her support and hard work over the past years.



If you have household items – clothing, kettles, vacuum cleaners, vases, toys, electronics, bikes etc.- that need fixing, just bring them along and our wonderful

volunteer fixers will have a go at fixing them for free.

And if you are a budding fixer yourself – great with sewing and fabrics or a wizard with a screwdriver, soldering iron or pots of glue – please do get in touch – we'd love to hear from you! We have a fantastic team and the Repair Café is a very sociable event.

The next Repair Cafes will take place at St Thomas' Church Hall on Lowther Street (YO31 7ND).

9.30am – 12.00pm on Sat. 25th October and Sat. 29th November.



Save money, reduce waste, meet some lovely people and be part of the new circular economy.

Contact us: grovesrepairandshare@gmail.com

Festival Success



The first Groves Spring Festival held over the early May bank holiday weekend was a tremendous success. We received many wonderful comments including – ‘...the festival was brilliant and would love to see it made even bigger...’-‘...it brought the community together...’- ‘...good range of activities for all ages...’



The Festival supported 10 events over 4 days, attracted more than 450 local residents and gave a great

opportunity to 35 performers and around 30 volunteers.

100% of survey respondents said they were either ‘likely’ or ‘very likely’ to attend future Groves festivals..... which is good news because the next Groves Spring Festival (1-4 May 2026) is already shaping up to be even bigger.

The Festival team is working very hard behind the scenes to organise 16 events over the early May bank holiday weekend.

New events include a dance project with local primary schools, a competition for best front garden and The Hut (off Clarence Gardens) are having an open day.



And don't worry – all the previous popular events will also be happening such as the Ceilidh, Band Night, Heritage Walk and

Secret Garden stalls. Anyone who would like to support the Festival by offering ideas, voluntary support or donations please contact us at:

grovesassociation@gmail.com.

More details will be available via our Facebook page and website.

Arting the Groves

Our resident street artist - Mista Scribble - continues to creatively update some of our art walls, provoking passionate discussion about the nature of street art. Whatever your opinions, any comments are always fed back to the artist to better inform further artwork. A project is currently being undertaken to create an historic art wall that will consist of 4 paintings depicting the Groves from different eras. We are also working on creating a community art wall that will hopefully involve pupils from local schools. A substantial art project was carried out in August to create colourful murals with groups of children and young people. This was very messy (and very popular) with all participants!! The project, funded by the Fire and Police Commission, was led by Friends on Every Street and involved partnerships between the Youth Justice Service and Door 84.

The key aims of the project were:

- To co-create a public mural that reflects the community's spirit.
- To offer young people a positive, collaborative experience rooted in creativity and expression.
- To encourage ownership, confidence, and voice among young people often excluded from community processes.



before...

The murals can be seen at Door 84 on Lowther Street and The Secret Garden (between Del Pyke and March St.).



...after

Fairy Trail

The trail has been ticking along nicely over this past year; only a couple of major vandalism incidents. We have been working with police, Youth Justice Services and local schools to try and address the issue.



It has been a delight to see local people getting involved by either litter picking or making their own houses to place along the trail. Thank you to all that are helping keep the trail alive!

Sadly, the funding application to provide a dry pathway along the trail was unsuccessful but we will keep trying. We have held a number of little events and will be having a Christmas event in December for families.



Keep an eye out for dates and times here:
www.thefossfairytrail.com/news-and-events/



Community meetings

Community meetings have been held every two months at St Thomas' Church hall (thank you St Thomas). This has been a great opportunity to meet up with people in the area, to share what is happening and get some feedback. The ward councillors also attend the meetings and provide updates on anything the ward has been working on. If you would like email updates of these meetings and other activities of the Association then please email grovesassociation@gmail.com putting 'mailing list' in the subject line.

Helping hands

We have some outstanding people in our community that are willing to try and help where they can.

Take Nana Nelly as an example. Although not able to do much physically she puts lots of energy into the community by helping in any way she can from packaging seeds to creating crafts for events.



Kim has been working hard to clean up the borders around flats off Lowther Street. They are looking amazing! It has made such a difference to the community in that area.

A huge THANK YOU to Nana and Kim!

Please contact the Groves Association if you would like to get involved in the work we do.

Greening the Groves

The green fingered volunteers have had a busy time! Lots of planting has been achieved around the communal flat areas that has added a splash of colour over spring and summer.



The summer months were a difficult period due to so little rain but we managed to save the majority of plants with a lot of manual watering. The plants were either donated or funded by the Guildhall Ward so a big thank you for the support.

Bulb planting took place in September. These were donated by The Rotary Ainsty Club and funding provided by the Norman Collinson Trust. This should add extra colour between January and June next year. We are always on the look out for volunteers to help maintain and expand the greening. If you would like to get involved please email:

grovesassociation@gmail.com.

Exciting changes on the cards for the Groves Association

Initially set up as a council Tenants Association, over the years we have become an association for all residents in the wider Groves area - supporting local people to take part in greening and cleaning projects, heritage trails, community arts, the Repair Café and the Spring Festival as well as supporting tenants on housing issues. But we'd like to do more - managing bigger funding bids, reaching out to more residents and collaborating with other local groups and businesses to make the Groves as vibrant as it can be.

To do this we need to make the Groves Association fit for purpose; protecting committee members from financial risks and developing a firm foundation for the future. We are proposing to become a C.I.O. (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) with a constitution based on the 'Association' model (like a number of other York neighbourhood-based groups). In practice this will mean very little visible change. Residents will continue to have opportunities to have their say and can also become official members of the Association (via a simple sign up). Everyone living in the Groves area will be eligible and membership will be free. As well as voting rights at the Annual General Meeting, members will get regular email updates on activities and volunteering opportunities. This move is a big step for the Groves Association. **We need your views and votes as to whether this is the best way forwards. Please come along to the AGM on Tuesday 25 November, 6-8pm, Theatre@41 Monkgate to be part of the discussion.**

Police update



We are all aware of the continuing issue of anti-social behaviour in certain areas of the Groves. As well as the ban on street drinking in these areas it is important that we all report anything of this nature to the police to make sure they are aware of the extent of any problems. The more we report the more they can help! Please call 101 or report on-line: www.northyorkshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/.

If you feel unable to contact the police directly please email:

grovesassociation@gmail.com and we will report on your behalf.

Street cleaning

Regular monthly street cleans have been taking place over the year, involving litter picking, kerb hoeing and sweeping. Working with the



council street sweepers, we have started to improve the cleanliness of our streets. We are also checking and reporting any fly tipping - 135 cases since January! The monthly clean up meets at Helmsley House, Penley's Grove Street at 10:00 on the first Saturday of each month for an hour. Litter pickers and bags are provided along with any tools needed. A great opportunity to meet up, have a chat and make a difference to our community!!!

Groves in Bloom

As part of the Groves Spring Festival 2026, residents are invited to enter the Groves in Bloom competition. There will be 2 categories - 'best front garden' and 'best house front'. The competition is free to enter - simply email grovesassociation@gmail.com with your name and address with your nominated category in the subject line. Judging will happen at some point over the Festival weekend (1-4 May) and there will be a prize for each category. Enter now! Closing date Friday 3rd April 2026.

The Groves Association Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 25th November 2025

Time: 6.00 - 8.00pm

Venue: Theatre@41 Monkgate, York YO31 7PB

