

Friends of Inverleith Park

OUR update on YOUR Park - Issue 29 Autumn 2017

Don't forget to buy your copy (or many copies) of the

2018 INVERLEITH PARK CALENDAR

With stunning photographs by Anne Rushbrook

Copies cost £5 (still the same price) and are available from
Borthwick's, Write Stuff, from Pam at 332 4765, Maria at 332 6567,
Tony at 332 4759, Anne at 332 7090, Joan at 556 7993, Cathy at 332 8707



Forthcoming events for your diary

AGM

Followed by lecture by Alastair Hunter on *A Look at Sundials*

Monday 27th November 2017, 7.00pm

Stockbridge Church, Saxe Coburg Street

All welcome! *Please note the Change of Venue!*

The Christmas Charity Festival

Inverleith Park Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December 2017

The Edinburgh Christmas 5k & 10k Runs; The Edinburgh Christmas Walk 10k

The Golden Tinsel Mile Walks 1,2 or 3 miles you choose the distance!

The Santa Toddle & Parade, Santa's Grotto.

How to find out about the Friends: Facebook page with lots of beautiful photos by Anne Rushbrook. where you can comment: www.facebook.com/Save-Inverleith-Park-180926588601438/ . For interesting general information go to our website: www.friendsofinverleithpark.co.uk. To join us go to the webpage of the Friends of Inverleith Park www.friendsofinverleithpark.co.uk and click on membership.

Report from our Convener - Pam Barnes

Upkeep of the Park: Inverleith Park is as popular as ever and the park is full on the weekend especially if it is sunny. However this does cause litter problems partly because the bins are not adequate for the amount of litter. The Cleansing Dept. is re-organising and they will be re-thinking the amount and types of bins in the park. We have made our opinion known - we need more sizeable bins in the right places with a design that is gull-proof, fox-proof and emptied regularly.

The situation has improved this summer and we welcome the council's initiative to get together with the local schools like Broughton to encourage the pupils to help keep their park nice for everyone. The grass is much improved this summer - thanks to Ross and Lloyd for their work on this. We have planted up a lot of the area on the west side of the Sundial Garden and hope next spring you will see the difference.

Gardening in the Sundial Garden : Work continues every Wednesday morning in the Sundial Garden. We hope you have noticed the gradual improvement. There are now 5 regular volunteers (Trish, Joan, Elizabeth, Andrea and Pam). We are still getting help from the Community Payback Team organised by Graeme Laird and our park rangers Jennifer and Fiona also help when they can. I would like to thank all of them for their hard work; it has made a big difference. Thanks also to Kathleen who weeds the roses when she goes through to her allotment. And a big thank you to dog owners for keeping their dogs on leads in the Sundial Garden. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Come along any Wednesday morning from 10am if you want to see what we do or would like to help. Just come along or ring Pam - 332 4765 or 07786 186 698 - no gardening knowledge necessary.

Cafe: No-one has come forward to run a mobile cafe - a shame as it was so popular.

Past events: *The Foodies* had another mixed event weather-wise - but everyone seemed to enjoy it. Fortunately the area has recovered well from the damage to the turf. *The Festival of Walking and Cycling*, which the Council puts on to encourage everyone to be more active was well attended this year and several new members joined us. *Pam Barnes*

The sundial

The process of refurbishing The Sundial is going well, with The Kinloch Anderson family and firm bearing the brunt of the cost. There are, however, other ancillary costs to bring the rest of the Sundial Garden up to scratch. These include upgrading the paths, repairing gateposts, supplying some more benches and tidying up the SE quadrant, which is a mess at present. The Friends are contributing £1.000 at present, as are The Council. We are also applying for a grant for A Fixed Term Garden Project. I have a few offers of financial support, but if anyone else would like to contribute to what will be a significant project in The Park, then please contact me on :- tony.cook13npt@btinternet.com The date to keep for your diary is Saturday 16th June 2018, 4pm. Don't miss the AGM talk on sundials on Monday 27th November at 7pm in Stockbridge Parish church in Saxe-Coburg Place. Alastair Hunter of Macmillan Hunter Sundials will be speaking, and it will be a treat not to be missed. He is overseeing our project and is a foremost expert in this field. *Tony Cook*

Activities in the Park

The Petanque Club: At the beginning of August, Friends of Inverleith Park were invited to a taster session of Petanque (French Boules). Colin and Mags were ready for any weather and provided us with plastic ponchos to combat the showers. It was most enjoyable! During the summer months you can go along any Tuesday or Thursday evening and give this game a try, they are always welcoming and patient whatever your skill level. Sadly in the winter it gets dark too early to play but you can have a go on a Sunday at 11.30.



Buggy Fitness: Family and Buggy friendly walks are organised round many Edinburgh's parks. Sometimes their meet-ups take place in Inverleith Park. Check out their web page <https://www.meetup.com/Buggy-Walks-MeetUp-Edinburgh/>. Another company that offers fitness for mums is **Buggy Boot-camp**. They meet several times a week and offer several fitness levels. See <http://www.edinburghbuggybootcamp.co.uk/>.

Walkfit in Inverleith Park: Three classes take place each week. The participants are led through fun and challenging activities with team games, paired exercises, low impact circuits and of course, walking. <https://www.walkfit.co.uk/locations/inverleith-park-edinburgh/>. The first class is free. Some of our 'Friends' are keen members.

Edinburgh Model Boat Club (EMBC): During the sailing season members of EMBC can be found every Sunday at our pond and every Wednesday evening at the clubhouse. To find out more check out their website <http://www.edinburghmodelboatclub.org.uk/>.

Outdoor Table Tennis ? (but not yet!): It was suggested that Inverleith Park should install outdoor table tennis as this has proved very popular in other local parks. We are applying for grants to fund this as we think it would be a good addition to the park facilities. Scotmid has kindly donated £200 of vouchers. Fund-raising plans include a Christmas hamper/box and raffle. If you have any bright ideas, please let us know.

Comments from members

The Council has imposed speed limits of 20 mph on the streets of Edinburgh, but strangely that limit does not apply to the Park. Members walking small children and dogs are often overtaken by cyclists exceeding that limit. Is there a case for introducing a 5 mph restriction, as is being considered by the Glasgow Council? In 2015 a cyclist who exceeded 38 mph in Richmond Park in London was fined. Please cyclists don't even think about competing with this one!

Wildlife

The number of rabbits at the allotments is thankfully well down – but there are still a few and they love anything green. The voles, which have been noticeably busy over the summer and autumn, have an infuriating habit of stealing fruits and hiding them in a cache – very typically a cache of green strawberries. Fallen apples are being enjoyed by foxes, voles and mice – and the voles and mice have been digging under the netting round people’s corn on the cob – and feasting. It’s all very maddening!

There are plenty of frogs about with many little ones from this year. The herons are back from the Duddingston heronry and seeking goodies in the Inverleith pond and the allotments. Let’s hope they leave next year’s generation of cygnets alone.

Nuthatches are being spotted in the Botanics and the park – as are treecreepers. The former walk down the tree trunk eating bugs whilst the latter go up the trunk often in a circling fashion for their food. The steady increase in the numbers of nuthatches in Southern Scotland is however a worrying harbinger of global warming. Oystercatchers (presumably from Granton and Silverknowes foreshore) are being heard again with their distinctive call – in feeding on the grass of the Grange.

This has been a very pretty colourful autumn so far with beautiful berries and lots of apples. This probably means we are likely to have the winter thrushes such as the redwings and the fieldfares, coming here from Scandinavia to eat our berries. So keep an eye out. In 2018 the Allotment Association is going to be celebrating its centenary and a beautiful booklet has been produced to honour the occasion. It includes pictures by local artists, history, nature notes and stories past and present. The booklet is available online: http://www.inverleithallotments.org.uk/uploads/1/6/1/0/16102276/compressed_inverleith_100_complete.pdf , and also in hard copy from Cathy Bell (332 8707 or 07722650226) for a suggested donation of £3.

The wet warm autumn has brought out a rich crop of different species of fungi. The yellow stainer, *Agaricus xanthodermus*, has been seen growing in huge clumps, (even now in November). Superficially they look edible and an inexperienced forager might confuse them with the field mushroom, which is another member of the same genus. Please don’t eat them, as they can cause serious stomach upsets.



Note the yellow stain which appears if you score the cap at its edge, and on the cut surface of the stipe.