

Friends of Inverleith Park

OUR update on YOUR Park - Issue 31 Autumn 2018



**Don't forget to buy your copy (or many copies) of the
2019 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

Dates for your diary:

AGM

Monday, 3rd December 2018, 7.00pm

followed by lecture by Dr Richard Milne

Climate denial - the original Fake News

Come prepared with any "skeptical argument"
that you have heard and don't know how to refute.

Tanfield Bowling Club

Arboretum Place EH3 5NY

All welcome! *Please note the change of venue!*



CHRISTMAS
CHARITY
FESTIVAL

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December 2018

Christmas Charity Festival

Santa parade, (with reindeer), Christmas walks and runs, carols, and lots more.

Check out the whole timetable on www.greatscottishevents.org.uk

Report from our Convener - Pam Barnes

It's been a wonderful summer and our park has been enjoyed by many. The heavier than usual usage has inevitably resulted in overflowing bins and a rash of burnt patches of grass from barbecues. Our calls to the cleansing department about excess rubbish were usually quickly addressed, but the issues of getting suitably sized bins in the right places continue. We need the public to help too. Please do not leave rubbish heaped at the base of a full bin for the foxes and dogs to scatter. You can always search for an emptier bin, or if none is available take the rubbish home with you.

Another consequence of the good weather through the long summer days has been an increasing use of the park in the evenings by teenagers. We talked to various groups and so did the police. The youngsters were pleasant and promised to be more careful and clear up after themselves, but unfortunately the problem escalated and the police have now acted to stop the gatherings. Our local community police, Holly and Nev have done a good job in trying to contain the problem and retain a good relationship with the youngsters. It is a great shame that there are always some who behave badly and spoil it for the others. Apparently the word had spread through the social media that our Park was 'the place to go' resulting in gatherings of hundreds from all parts of the city with much noise, mess and broken glass. The newly restored sundial has been chipped and damaged by thoughtless drunken youths throwing glass bottles which can cut dog's paws and hurt little children.

Cafe: The mobile cafe is thriving with the good weather being good for business. It is much appreciated by dog walkers in particular.

Table Tennis: There has been some interesting, creative play by young children with inventive games with larger balls. If you want to play table tennis you need to bring your own bats and ball as the ones left originally have gone walkabout.

Gardening in the Sundial Garden: As you know we are slowly continuing to restore the Sundial Garden. Work continues every Wednesday morning at 10 am with a small group of volunteers. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us - no gardening knowledge is necessary.

This year we had a great push to get the Sundial Garden looking reasonable by the date of the Opening of the restored sundial by the Lord Provost in June. (More about this event later). The Park Rangers, Jen, Fiona and Michael together with the volunteers - Andrea, Carol, Elizabeth, Isobel, Joan, Margaret, Trish and Trisha helped plant all the new plants. Despite the downpour on the opening day of the Sundial, the rest of the months were extraordinarily dry and it has been a nightmare keeping more than 100 new plants alive in the powdery earth. Even the trees and established bushes were wilting. A huge effort was made by the Community Payback Team, organised by Graeme Laird, who arrived with containers of water several times a week. Forestry lent us their water bowser when they weren't using it themselves. Otherwise we continued to lug watering cans from the pond. We badly need a tap in the Sundial Garden. Surely installing one should not be too difficult as there used to be one! However, despite the drought we only lost about 5 plants and 2 were stolen.

Gary Hook and his gardening team at the depot helped to improve the the paths and grass despite their wide-ranging work remit over a large area of north west Edinburgh.

And a big thank you to dog owners for keeping their dogs on leads in the Sundial Garden. We do occasionally find areas of planting damaged but it really is so much better now than when we started. Thanks all!

Foodies: The Foodies event was well attended and for once had really good weather. Damage to the site was minimal and the organisation of traffic onto the site was much improved. The only complaint was of excessive noise from the music bands. It really was loud - even on the far side of the Botanic. When the organisers were contacted they quickly turned the volume down so hopefully next year we will not have this problem again.

Festival of Walking and Cycling: This took place in September and was very enjoyable and well attended. Lots of useful information and things to do and children had a great time. Thanks again to Elaine Lennon who organised it. A tremendous amount of work is involved in organising these sorts of events and we are very grateful to her for her efforts.

Petanque: The Club is looking for new members. In winter they are there on Sunday morning 11.30am but during the summer months you can go along any Tuesday or Thursday evening or Sunday morning at 11.30am and give this game a try. If you have never tried it before, they will teach you and they are always welcoming.

Tombola: A tombola will be held in aid of Friends of Inverleith Park's funds at the Christmas Charity Festival. Any suitable donations can be brought to the sundial garden on Wednesday or given to a committee member.

Friends of the Rocheid Path: The Rocheid Path goes along the water of Leith from Arboretum Ave as far as Inverleith Terrace Lane. Why not take a walk through the Botanic in one direction and then back through the Rocheid Path - a piece of countryside in the city! The Friends Group helps to look after it but needs more members. If you want to be involved you can join in meetings and the occasional working party, or, if not, why not join and support them for just £5/year. This money enables the committee to fund small improvements. If you would like to support, contact their Treasurer: kathdavies@ednet.co.uk or phone 0131 332 9672.

A Report on the Sundial Opening - Saturday 16th June - Tony Cook

As most of you know the refurbishment of The Sundial has been a project dear to the hearts of many people. It is now nearly 2 years ago that Kinloch Anderson grasped the opportunity to restore this monument, so generously gifted to The City of Edinburgh by Joseph Kinloch Anderson in 1890. The refurbishment commemorates the 150th anniversary of the founding of Kinloch Anderson in 1868. There were many meetings with the KLA family fronted by Deirdre Kinloch Anderson (photographed by the sundial on the next page), involving the Council and especially the Parks Department, and Graciela Ainsworth, who's brilliant conservation work contributed so much to the end result. There were railings, cobblestones and the fine detail of the gnomes that cast the shadow onto the faces. Always in the background was Alistair Hunter of Macmillan Hunter sundials who

understood the mathematics and detailed angles that had to be considered. He was the guru we all turned to for the right answer.

All fell into place for the grand opening ceremony presided over by the Lord Provost on Saturday 16th June. There were marquees, canapés and wine for all and The Stockbridge Pipe Band to escort the Lord Provost and play as the Sundial was unveiled. No detail was left out with the unique tartan dedicated to The Sundial and all guests left with a notebook containing the history. The fact that it poured with rain did not dampen any enthusiasm! Children from local schools were greatly involved and it was heartening to have Arthur Dutch attend. He provided the vital picture of The Sundial in 1917, so that details of the gnomon and top knot could be accurately replicated.

The Sundial now sits resplendent watching as the garden around it is transformed to match. We shall have to keep a look out to protect it. One of the information boards has already been vandalised beyond repair and bottles have been smashed on the monument itself. We must take steps to ensure that its majestic beauty acts as a deterrent, rather than a target for vandals.



Wildlife notes - Cathy Bell

After such a sunny dry summer, then some rain and now some warm sun – we are having a really beautiful autumn with masses of wild and orchard fruits and wonderfully coloured leaves. The allotments have produced many lovely colours too with pumpkins apples plums plus dahlias and cosmos etc. It is proving to be a prolific year for fungi – keep looking. Also butterflies have had a rather better year this year thank goodness.

The four young cygnets on the pond are growing and developing very well – now in their ‘ugly duckling’ stage with mixed feathers. I don’t know if they have flown yet?

The sparrowhawk and kestrel are seen quite often over the allotments and the tawny owl calls sometimes from the surrounding trees of an evening. Also buzzards pass overhead. Birds seem to have bred well in the allotment and park generally. Rabbit numbers are now very well down but there are quite a lot of voles and mice. However the fox and her family have been helping with all these!

So now we must watch and wait and see if the old adage comes true - ‘If there is a lot of fruit in the autumn will we have a harsh winter’?