

# Friends of Inverleith Park

OUR update on YOUR Park - Issue 32 Spring/Summer 2019



## **Forthcoming events for your diary**

### **Stockbridge Summer Solstice**

**23rd June 2019**

Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council are holding a community event called Stockbridge Summer Solstice. The streets will be closed to traffic from Leslie Place to Portgower Place. There will be entertainment from many local groups, activities for all ages with local shops spilling out onto the street and supplemented by a variety of stalls such as Royal Botanic Gardens, RSPB, Cheyne gang amongst others. A fashion show will be held at 1.30 and Edinburgh Academy Pipe band will march down the street at 2.30. For more information, visit our facebook page : [stockbridgesummersolstice](#) or have a look at the web page. [www.stockbridgesummersolstice.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgesummersolstice.org.uk)

### **The Foodies Festival**

**2nd– 4th August**

Foodies Festival, the UK's biggest food festival, returns over the weekend of 2nd, 3rd & 4th August with a mouth-watering summer festival of top chefs, tasty food, delicious drinks and live music from much-loved headliner The Hoosiers on the Music Against Homelessness Stage. Watch great performances from 50 emerging bands and soloists from the Edinburgh area as well as the best of Edinburgh Fringe Festival acts and Tribute Bands.

### **Festival Fireworks Concert**

**Monday 26th August 2019, 9.30-10.15pm**

With its great views of the castle Inverleith Park is a good place to enjoy the fireworks without the crowds. Unfortunately the video link and speakers were dropped due to budget cuts, but you can bring your own radio. Get there earlyish to bag a good spot as proceedings start at 7pm.

## **Pond dipping (with nets for pond-life)**

**Saturday 29th June 11am**

**Sunday 18th August 11am**

The pond dipping sessions have proved popular over the past few years, so we are again holding two this summer. They are suitable for anyone over 3. All children must be accompanied by adults. Equipment will be provided, but if you have your own net and a white basin or tray, do bring it. No need to book. Meet by the Pond.

### **Regular activities in the Park**

- **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. <http://www.edinburghmodelboatclub.org.uk/>.
- **Petanque:** Look up <http://www.scottishpetanque.org/the-spa/find-clubs/inverleith-petanque-club/>. Also see the Convener's report on the next page for opening times.
- **Inverleith Junior Parkrun:** A 2K run for juniors aged 4-14 is taking place every Sunday at 9.30 am. <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/inverleith-juniors/>
- **Be Active in Inverleith Park:** British Military Fitness instructors lead the participants through fun and challenging activities with team games, paired exercises, low impact circuits, walking, and (for those who want to) running. The first class is free. Some of our 'Friends' are keen members. For fitter people British Military Fitness runs a Boot Camp. <https://www.britmilfit.com/edinburgh-inverleith-park>.
- **Free tennis courts and outdoor table tennis.** Please bring own rackets, balls and bats.

### **Report from our Convener - Pam Barnes**

**Future Plans:** The Council is discussing their depots and their needs. There is a possibility that some of the depot area will become available for community use. In 2012 we were promised that the community would be able to decide about the use of part of it. However since then it has been continually used as a depot. There are many buildings around the park that are only partly used and not in a good state. Did you know there are at least 6 toilets in the park but none are for the general public? This forces parents to take their young children behind a bush, while older park users have to hope they make it to the Botanics. How is it that the Victorians managed all sorts of facilities for the public, while for our much richer society the council is closing down toilets and facilities all over the city?

**Cafe:** The mobile cafe is very popular and provides breakfast for early dog walkers, treats for the dogs and snacks and drinks for all until the afternoon.

**Gardening in the Sundial Garden:** Work continues every Wednesday morning at 10am in the Sundial Garden with a small group of volunteers. The thought of deer chewing up our new plants was a bit of a worry - but no sign so far that they have been chomped! We would welcome anyone who would like to join us - no gardening knowledge necessary. Please contact Pam at 0131 332 4765.

Unfortunately since the summer of last year we have had intermittent problems with large gatherings of too many young people. Most of them are fine but a small minority

throw glass bottles at the sundial and after a weekend there is often a lot of broken glass around. This is especially bad for dogs and small children. Some of the youngsters have told us that it has spoilt things for them too as they are turned out by the police if they start gathering. Such a shame that a few unruly ones get drunk and behave badly. The 'gate' to the sundial fence is now operational, which will facilitate cleaning.

A big thank you to dog owners for keeping dogs on leads in the Sundial Garden. We occasionally find ourselves gardening in dog poo but it is so much better now than it used to be.

**Petanque:** The Club is looking for new members. 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. They are always welcoming. Why not try it and see if you like it.

**Other Sport:** The tennis courts operate very successfully, and the outdoor table tennis is popular on calm days. It was thought that the system of self-organisation would never work and that the courts and tables would be vandalised but it hasn't been so. Other sports pitches are well used for rugby and cricket. *Pam Barnes*



The beautiful results of our volunteers' endeavours. Note almost no weeds!

### **Cycling in the Park**

We had a comment about cyclists speeding across the Park in the last newsletter, and unfortunately the situation has not improved. At rush-hour times especially, cyclists frequently conflict with dogs, their walkers and young children on their way to school. Might it be possible to have a cycle lane along the broadest alleyways? At the very least there should be a notice warning cyclists not to exceed 5 miles per hour, and to inform them of their liability.

### **Wildlife**

Hot news – extraordinary – Duncan Wood, an FOIP member out walking his dog very early one morning, recently saw 2 deer in the park. Is this a first? Let us know if you saw them too -or indeed ever in the past.

'Our' water rail was back this winter 'skulking' in the reeds. You knew he was there when you saw the ornithologists with their binoculars and camera equipment.

Although our female swan was seen sitting on 5 eggs, and some cygnets did hatch, none have survived.



Is this bunch of flowers by the nest for them? Luckily one of last year's cygnets (a female) has not been driven away, so we have three swans on the pond. The geese and ducks and a few ducklings are about too. As in the February picture of this year's calendar, the summer snowflakes were flowering on the north side of the pond. On the east there is lots of cow parsley and in the south west of the pond the lovely golden marsh marigolds are out. A biodiversity survey of Inverleith Park, coordinated by Vladimir Krivtsov on behalf of the Edinburgh Council and Heriot Watt University, has uncovered some rarities lurking in the bushes. Helping him was David Chamberlain, who was delighted to find a moss new to this part of Scotland. The best find of the year, how-

ever, has to go to an 18 inch eel, spotted in the pond by Jenny Cook.

The allotments are 'hooching' with nesting birds e.g. tits, chaffinch, blackbirds, robins, wrens, and song thrushes. To the east of the east gate of the allotments crows gather twigs and greenfinches wheeze as they organise accommodation. In the park you will see nuthatches climbing down trees and tree creepers circling their way up – all feeding on bugs. A greater spotted woodpecker has been seen there early in the mornings looking for food to provide for their family, which nest in the Botanics. The allotments are crawling with 7 spot ladybirds and the frogs and toads have been spawning. This has necessitated the netting over of the pond near the west gate to keep the heron and marauding mallards – who are looking for free 'caviar' - out. *Cathy Bell*

### **Park Trees**

We have lost several mature deciduous trees in the park. The arboriculturists employed to carry out the removal claimed, when I questioned them, that the trees were infected with root rotting fungi *Kretzchmaria deusta* and *Ganoderma aplanatum*. I asked an expert from the Royal Botanic Garden about this and he confirmed that these fungi are very common, and do not pose serious threats to the trees. The presence of the fruiting bodies should not be used as a reason for felling as infected trees can live for many years with little or no ill effects. However, the parks work under strict Health and Safety rules. After all, our Park is not 'closed' in high winds. *Maria Chamberlain*

### **To join the Friends of the Park**

Go to the webpage of the Friends of Inverleith Park and click on membership, or straight to this: <http://www.friendsofinverleithpark.co.uk/membership.html>.

### **Facebook and online**

Find us on our Facebook page with lots of beautiful photos by Anne Rushbrook - a good place to leave comments and communicate with us. [www.facebook.com/Save-Inverleith-Park-18092658601438/](http://www.facebook.com/Save-Inverleith-Park-18092658601438/) . Online at: [www.friendsofinverleithpark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofinverleithpark.co.uk)