



RESTORE Saughton Park



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our November newsletter. As the days get shorter and the temperature falls, things have picked up pace on the project. It's a really exciting time as plans start to develop and even though our bid deadline seems like a long time away, only this morning I was thinking that this time next year we'll be waiting anxiously for December to arrive when we will hear whether or not our bid has been successful! Anyway, back to the present and the news about what's been happening!

THINGS ARE MOVING ON

The design teams have been working hard to carry out all the research and surveys which are needed to help with the development of the proposals. We have also been speaking to many of you to get a better understanding of what your issues and requirements are for the park, and to hear your suggestions for making it better. This phase is almost at an end and we have begun to develop ideas for layout of the park and for activities which people can get involved with.

IDEAS EXHIBITION 16 DECEMBER

You can view these ideas for reviving the park and gardens on 16 December at a drop-in exhibition between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Saughton Park Winter Gardens.

You'll be able to talk to members of the project and design teams and discuss your views and ideas. Your feedback is needed at this stage to ensure we are getting things right.

The Friends of Saughton Park will be arranging festive music and children's activities and will have refreshments on sale so come along and get into the Christmas spirit.

Issue 3 : November 2014



Dressed in Autumn colours!



PARKS FOR PEOPLE

Find out more about the Heritage Lottery Fund '[Parks for People](#)' programme on their website www.hlf.org.uk.

HELP IS AT HAND



Last blooms of summer



Ready for winter

The gardens at Saughton Park are being given a helping hand by various volunteers, trainees and students.

We are pleased to welcome volunteer gardeners Amie Routledge and Alexandra Linton-Smith. Amie is a Landscape Design student at SRUC and brings with her a wealth of planning experience. She is keen to get hands on experience of working in a botanical garden. Alexandra is an RHS student at the Edinburgh Royal Botanical Gardens and wants to balance the theory that she is learning there with practical skills at Saughton.

The Charge Hand gardener Alan McMahon has been very impressed with them so far. In addition to the help that he is getting, he is also ensuring that Amie and Alexandra both learn from his wide knowledge of plants by running regular plant identification tests!

Skills Path, an organisation who offer training and support for adults with mild learning disabilities, now have two of their trainees also working in the garden. Along with their worker Lorna, Kevin and Oliver have been helping Alan the Charge Hand gardener carry out a range of jobs in the garden. Kevin and Oliver have quite a bit of horticultural experience already and Alan is helping them to learn and do even more.

Skills Path will be working with us over the next 6 months to help develop our thinking around the subject of therapeutic gardening which is an intrinsic part of the park Master Plan.

And if that's not enough, a group of pupils from Tynecastle High School S1 year group, who are undertaking the Junior Awards Scotland programme, are about to start volunteering in the Park and will be helping Park Ranger Matt Creran with various tasks such as litter picking and pruning.

All very valuable work in keeping the park and gardens beautiful and clean!

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities at Saughton contact Pete McDougall, contact details below.

LOOKING FORWARD TO LOOKING BACK AT THE PARK'S HISTORY

Discovering, recording and telling the story of Saughton Park's heritage is an important part of the project. Rachel Hunter is a specialist in heritage interpretation and part of the Audience Development team. She has been working with us and the local community to discuss ideas for exploring the park's history.

We've also been lucky enough to have some very enthusiastic local historians in the Friends of Saughton Park group and they have been instrumental in setting up a Saughton History Group. They are holding their first meeting at Saughton Park Winter Gardens on Monday 17 November at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and get involved in what promises to be a really interesting group.

Contact Joe McGuigan joe.m.mcquigan@btinternet.com if you would like more details.

On the subject of the history of Saughton Park, two free History Festival Events will take place later this month on 21 and 22 November. See the Dates for Your Diary section at end of this Newsletter for details.

FUN AND FROLICKS

The Friends of Saughton Park have done it again!! Their October Great Saughton Bear Hunt was once again a big success, with over 150 children coming to the park to hunt bears! The Friends ran a pop up café which provided everyone with teas, coffees and biscuits.

Their Spooky Saughton event for Halloween in the Winter Gardens was another success. Local children made their own creepy spiders prior to having a dusk walk through Walled Garden whilst listening to a true ghost story about 'Tizzie' the chambermaid of old Saughton Hall who met with an unfortunate accident on a dark and stormy night!!! Even the adults were scared!

The Friends of Saughton Park are keeping up the pace with events planned for the Scotland History Festival later this month and Christmas activities as part of the Exhibition of Ideas on 16 December. They are also about to launch a design competition for Edinburgh Art College students to design a logo for their group and their Face Book is due to go live anytime soon!

JOIN TODAY

The Friends of Saughton Park welcomes new members. Contact us by [email](#) or call us on 0131 608 1100 for details of how to join.



Friends of Saughton Park coming up with ideas for their group.



Friends of Saughton Park pop-up café at the Bear Hunt. They raised £62.38 from the sales and from donations on the day!



OTHER NEWS

The Restoration Project is now part of the Gorgie Dalry Forum and will be part of intergenerational, local history and health initiative that is currently being developed.

Garden staff, rangers, project staff, Skills Path trainees and Balgreen Primary School P6 class were all involved in a City of Edinburgh Council staff 'Pride in our People' filming at Saughton on 27 October. See if you can spot them on https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=KBLted8P5w4!

The Visitor Survey is now closed. Around 300 were completed so a big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this survey. This information will be used to help us understand who uses the park, the reasons why they visit and their views about the park. We will publish the results on our webpage in due course.

That's all the news for now.

Dates for your Diaries are listed on the next page. We hope you can make it to some of the events planned and we look forward to meeting you at the Drop-In Exhibition on 16 December.

Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to find out more or get involved with the project. We would love to hear from you.

Linda and Pete



Filming 'Pride in our People' video in October.

AND DON'T FORGET ...

Put the Ideas Exhibition on 16 December in your diary now!

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#) or call 0131 529 3030.

Queries or comments?

Find out more at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark

Email us at parks@edinburgh.gov.uk or call 0131 529 3030



SAUGHTON PARK RESTORATION PROJECT—DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saughton History Group 1st Meeting

Monday 17th November 7:00pm at the Saughton Park Winter Gardens

All welcome to come and join a few local history enthusiasts in exploring the history of the local area.

Scotland's History Festival Event - Explore the history and lore of Saughton Park

Friday 21st November meet at 2 p.m. at Saughton Park Winter Gardens

This is a free guided walk, so be prepared for the great outdoors. The event will last for approximately 2 hours and teas, coffees and biscuits will be on sale by the Friends of Saughton Park.

Stenhouse, Saughton Mains and Whitson Community Council Saughton Park Walkabout

Saturday 22nd November meet at 11 a.m. at Saughton Park Winter Gardens

This walkabout will be led by a member of the Saughton Park Project Team who will give you an update on the plans for the restoration of Saughton Park and Gardens. Please dress for the great outdoors. All local residents welcome and its free to attend.

Scotland's History Festival Event - Explore the history and lore of Saughton Park

Saturday 22nd November meet at 1 p.m. at the Saughton Park Winter Gardens

This is a free guided walk, so be prepared for the great outdoors. The event will last for approximately 2 hours and teas, coffees and biscuits will be on sale by the Friends of Saughton Park.

Water of Leith Conservation Trust Talk on Saughton Park

Monday 24th November 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre

All welcome and free to attend.

Friends of Saughton Park Meeting

Thursday 4th December at 7 p.m. in Saughton Park Winter Gardens

New members are always made very welcome so do come along with any ideas that you have for the Park.

Drop In public exhibition of ideas to revive Saughton Park and Gardens

Tuesday 16 December anytime between 4 pm and 8 pm at Saughton Winter Gardens

Everyone welcome to come along and see how the ideas to revive the park and gardens are developing. You'll be able to speak to members of the project and design teams and discuss your views on the ideas for both the design of the park and the activities that will take place.

Festive music and children's activities along with the sale of refreshments will be on offer courtesy of the Friends of Saughton Park so come along and make sure you have your say.