



RESTORE Saughton Park



NEWSLETTER

Issue 4 : December 2014

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2014! What a year it has been for our project. Pete and I started in February and since then have met with what seems like hundreds of people over the course of the year, we've gotten to know who visits the park and why, we've found out what your aspirations are for the future and listened to your ideas of how to make the park even better than it already is. We finished the year with an agreed concept for the buildings within the park and are ready to hit the New Year full steam ahead to develop the detailed master plan for the park.

Read on and join us on our look back over the year!!

GOOD TURNOUT ON 16 DECEMBER

Thank you to everyone who came along to our consultation event on 16 December. It was a good turnout with 35 attending the workshops during the day and over 50 attending the public exhibition on what was a wet and windy night.



Stakeholder Workshop 16 Dec

DEVELOPING THE MASTER PLAN

We showcased our initial thoughts about the layout of the buildings within the park at this consultation event and discussed your ideas on what sort of events and markets you wanted to see in the park. We also got a better idea of the kind of café offering you think there should be.

There was a consensus agreement from all those who attended to cluster the café, community space, the Caley and Gardener's office space and the Winter Garden to the west of the park, using the derelict stable block and yard as the inspiration for development in this area, as show on page 2.



Public Exhibition 16 Dec

There was also agreement by the majority of people who attended to the location of the historic bandstand, which we propose to restore back to its former glory, as shown on page 2. While not set in stone, this location will now be considered in more detail by the designers.



Above is the concept drawing showing the development of the old Stables and possible location for the bandstand. Below are two visualisations of how the courtyard could be used as a market place and demonstration gardens. They are intended to provoke discussion rather than actual proposals.



You can view the 8 exhibition boards on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark web site in January and we will publish the consultation report on our website in due course.



History enthusiasts at Saughton Park on 21 and 22 Nov



DISCOVERING THE PARK'S HISTORY

The Scotland's History Festival event at the end of November attracted over 50 people who came along to hear all about the rich history of the Saughtonhall and the Park & Gardens.

Most of those who came along had never been in the park before and all agreed that it is indeed the 'hidden jewel' of Edinburgh's Parks.

LET'S SHOUT ABOUT IT

You might have noticed our lovely new signs which have popped up around the Park and Gardens. While we have a lot of information about the project in the Winter Gardens, there was nothing around the outside of the park and we felt it was time we announced what we were up to all those who walk past and maybe don't realise what's happening inside. They are obviously working too, as quite a few people who came along to the public exhibition on 16 December found out about it from the information on the new signs.

The exhibition itself received a lot of press coverage, which is great and hopefully it has raised awareness even further ready for our major public consultation next March, when we want local and city wide residents to get involved and have their say about what's being proposed for the park.



New Information Signs



LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Over the past couple of months we have visited three other HLF funded parks to learn about their experiences. This has been fascinating and has given us many useful insights and ideas which will help us in getting things 'right' at Saughton and maybe avoid some of the issues our colleagues at different councils encountered

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE FRIENDS OF SAUGHTON PARK

Early in December, the Friends of Saughton Park had their final meeting for 2014 of what has been for them a highly successful first year. Having formed in April this year it is astonishing what they have achieved in such a short period of time. The group, whose membership is steadily growing, have run a range of fun events in the Park such as the Great Saughton Bear Hunts, Spooky Saughton Halloween and the aforementioned History Festival event, all of which have been a great success. The FoSP now have a History sub group and a Community Garden sub group such is the enthusiasm of the members. As well as all of this, one of the FoSP sits on the Project Steering Group and provides a much valued local voice.

Thank you Friends!!

PARKS FOR PEOPLE

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

JOIN TODAY

The Friends of Saughton Park welcomes new members.

Contact us on parks@edinburgh.gov.uk for details.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Email us at parks@edinburgh.gov.uk or call 0131 608 1100

LET'S LOOK BACK



So, as we are nearly at the end of what has been an amazing year for Saughton Park, let's have a wee look back at that year ... in numbers:

There was 1 wee dog called Missie who attended all meetings, slept on laps of the unwary and wormed her way into everyone hearts. We had 2 new project staff Linda and Pete who started in February and 3 pencils worn out in an hour by Kirsty while doing a visitor count on a busy Saturday! We put 8 new signs around the park and sent out 4 project newsletter to tell everyone what's been happening.



During summer 11 sweetcorn cobs were grown (and eaten) by Balgreen Primary School students, 500 children came to hunt Great Saughton Teddy Bears and 5000 wildflowers were planted by adults from Craighall Day Centre. We have discovered that 554 people visited our 7 Geocaches hidden in and around the Park and 100 junior archaeologists discovered the foundations of the old Saughtonhall.



Over the year we held 14 stakeholder workshops to get your help in defining and shaping the plans for the park, 353 of you completed visitor surveys and we found out that around 400,000 of you visit the park over a year and that most of you spend around 1 hour there. We met with 100 different groups, charities, organisations and delivery partners and 95 public meetings, events and activities were organised since the project started in February, the same as the number of fish living in the Winter Garden pond!!



The first historic reference to Saughton was 1128 and 2 influential and celebrated Victorian psychiatrists pioneered therapeutic gardening for their patients at Saughtonhall. In 1908 the Scottish National Exhibition opened at Saughton Park for 6 months and in 1984 the current Winter Garden was opened.



Thinking ahead to 2015 we will press the button on the 28th day of the 8th month and submit our application asking the Heritage Lottery Fund for 3.8 million pounds and 1000's of fingers will be crossed for good news this time next year.

All the best to you and yours at this festive time of the year,
Linda and Pete

