



NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 : Jan 2016

Happy New Year Everyone!! And to start off the new year in style, we are absolutely delighted to announce that our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was **SUCCESSFUL!!!** If we ever manage to calm ourselves down after all this excitement, we will get to work delivering all the things we said we would. Read on to find out more about what will be happening and how you can get involved.

THE HLF AWARD £3.8 MILLION

The HLF has awarded £3.8 million to restore and improve Saughton Park. This, along with funding from the Council and other parties, will fund the necessary construction works and cover all professional fees, staff salaries and costs associated with delivering an exciting and diverse programme of volunteering, learning and participation activities in the park. This phase of the project will last for five years with the main construction works taking place between early 2017 and the middle of 2018.

We will continue to work with landscape architects [Ironside Farrar Ltd](#) and architects [Sutherland Hussey Harris](#) to deliver the proposals they have helped us to develop over the past two years. During this first year, they will be developing detailed specification drawings and working with us to tender for construction contractors. We will also be starting an Oral and Social History Project, details provided later in this newsletter, and will continue to run a range of events and activities that you can get involved with.

You can view the proposals at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark.

LET'S GET PLAYING

We have started working on proposals to improve the play-ground and make it more inclusive. As part of these proposals we are considering ways to include more provision for sport, such as a multi-use court. We will be trying to raise additional funding for this and for improving some of the football pitches. Watch out for news about how you can have your say about these plans and help with the fund-raising.



Proposals for reinstating the bandstand.

PARKS FOR PEOPLE

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



Play time!



Who remembers this clock at Saughton? Where is it now?



Who remembers Saughtonhall House? Do you have any other pictures?



Reminiscence session at the Ford's Road Care Home.

GET INVOLVED

Interested in these or any other activities?

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

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



Volunteers helping Alan in the Rose Gardens.

THE STORY OF SAUGHTON

During the past two years many people have shared their memories and memorabilia with us and helped us to gain a fascinating insight of what the park and gardens has meant to people over the years. We would love to capture some of these stories for our Saughton Park Heritage Exhibition which will launch the newly restored park in 2018.

We are therefore looking for volunteers to be part of a Saughton Oral History Project. We have 15 places available and you will get training on oral history techniques, carry out interviews and edit the information you gather. You will be supported during the whole process by a professional oral historian and, if you are interested, you can join the heritage working group to develop the park's interpretation and exhibition material.

Separate to this, volunteers are needed to carry out research on the park's social history. We have 10 places available for this programme and training and support will be provided. As with the oral history volunteers, you can also join the heritage working group.

These heritage activities will include reminiscence events, history walks and talks and various research workshops, so there are lots of other activities to get involved with if you are not a volunteer.

We would love to hear from you if you wish to register for either of these volunteering activities or if you have stories, photographs and other memorabilia you wish to share with us.

GET GARDENING

We currently have three volunteer gardeners working in the Walled Garden. They make a significant contribution to the gardens and in the future this will be even more important if we are to keep the newly restored gardens in top condition.

Working in the garden alongside the garden staff helps volunteers to gain essential work experience and develop skills. For instance, the Charge Hand Gardener runs regular plant identification sessions, teaches about pests and diseases and demonstrates best practice maintenance techniques. Or, for keen amateur gardeners, you can improve your general horticultural knowledge. Volunteers also get the pleasure of working in a beautiful historic garden while putting something back into their community. Its fun, its healthy, its good for you!

So if you have some gardening experience or are happy to learn, and you are interested in becoming a volunteer gardener, please contact us for a chat.

JOIN IN WITH PARK LIFE

A great way to get really involved with park life is to join the Friends of Saughton Park. They are a lovely, fun and friendly bunch of folk who will make you very welcome. It's only £2 to join and they always have lots going on from regular community gardening to local history activities.

Their members also sit on the project steering group, run seasonal and family fun events and support various other project initiatives. In the future they will play a greater role working with Council park staff and Caley members to oversee the park's management and maintenance.

They meet monthly and their next meeting will be Thursday 14 January at 7 p.m. in the Winter Garden so why not go along and find out more about what they do.

Another way to get involved is through the Caley. They have had a long association with Saughton Park and this project will bring about some exciting changes for them. They will have new office space, meeting space for their members and teaching and demonstrations gardens within the Stables yard. Like the Friends, they are heavily involved in the project and in the future will play a greater role in the park, especially around horticultural based events and activities.

The Society seeks to promote and support gardening and all aspects of horticulture in Scotland and their membership is open to all. Annual membership starts at £13 for students and young people, £26 for individuals and £32 for families. Visit their website and find out more about their work.

LET EVERYONE JOIN IN

Once the park is restored it will have lots of features which make it easier for people to visit and to enjoy. For instance, we will have a new "Changing Places" toilet facility, which will have an adult sized changing table and hoist. For some, this will make the world of difference by enabling them to visit Saughton Park and take part in events and activities.

The aim is also to expand the cultural diversity of park users. Saughton Park is located in one of the areas in Edinburgh with the highest percentage of minority ethnic residents, and we want to make sure that everyone has a sense of belonging to their local community park. We recently attended an interesting research workshop about finding out more about the unmet needs of minority ethnic communities in Scotland. We were able to share experiences and make contacts with other agencies working in this area. To expand on this learning, we would be very interested in making contact with individuals or groups who can work with us to improve our understanding of what we can do to address those needs.

CONTACT THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Saughton Park welcomes new members.

Visit their website
www.friendsofsaughtonpark.org

Email
friendsofsaughtonpark@gmail.com

Join their Facebook page
www.facebook.com/groups/FofSP/



Christmas time with the Friends of Saughton Park.

CONTACT THE CALEY

All are welcome at the Caley.

Visit their website
<http://www.rchs.co.uk>

Email
membership@rchs.co.uk



Linda and Pete at the ethnic minority communities workshop.

FIND OUT MORE

You can find out more about Changing Places toilets
<http://www.changing-places.org/>



Plant sale at Christmas ... Pete and Pam having a chat.



Wreath making at Christmas ... Shona showing how it's done!



The team getting festive at Christmas ... Pete, Alan, Linda and Helen.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

CELEBRATING THE SEASONS

While we have been busy getting stressed waiting to find out about the outcome of our bid, the Friends of Saughton Park have been busy celebrating the seasons.

As we mentioned in the December Newsletter, Spooky Halloween took place on 31 October with spooky tales, creepy cakes and ghostly apparitions!! We think however it is worth re-publishing this wonderful picture of Pumpkin and Pie mice in their pumpkin home!! Thanks to Susan for making this cake, and to Jules who named the mice.



Christmas at Saughton Park took place on 5 December, with wreath making, plant sales, festive tea and cakes and of course Christmas music. The two events attracted over 100 people each and raised £368 for the group. Thank you Friends of Saughton Park for bringing fun and laughter to the park.

If you have any ideas for events and activities, let us or the Friends know. We'd love to hear from you!

All that's left to say is thanks for all the support you have given us during the last two years. We will both continue working on the project in our respective roles - Linda as Project Manager and Pete as Project Development Officer - and we look forward to working with you for the next five years!!

All the best
Linda and Pete