



NEWSLETTER

Issue 17: June 2017

Hurrah! Summer is with us!

As we say goodbye to May and welcome in June with some more wonderfully sunny weather, Saughton Park is indeed looking gorgeous right now. We are rapidly heading towards the start of the construction phase with the builders due to start work in July so read on to find out what we have been up to the last couple of months and what exciting things are just around the corner.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Tenders for the landscape package of works have been received from contractors and after a process of detailed evaluation we will be in a position to appoint the successful contractor in June with a view to them taking over the site in mid July.

The second tender for the buildings package of works for the new café, etc. will be issued soon with the successful contractor due to be appointed in early August.



An aerial view of the Mixed Garden at Saughton

In the next newsletter we will give you information about the areas of the park and gardens which will be closed and when. While this will be an inconvenience, time will fly and before you know it we'll be making plans for the Grand Re-opening next summer. In the meantime, make sure you come along to the 'Last Hurrah' Garden Party that the FoSP will be hosting on 11 June between 12 noon and 5 p.m. - it will be a final farewell and celebration of the park before the construction works start.

Page 1

PARKS FOR PEOPLE

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

FOSP EASTER EVENT UPDATE

The FoSP Easter event was a huge success with the group raising over £820 and over 800 people attending, our biggest ever attendance!



A great crowd came along.....



....sat on the grass, chilled out.....



...and enjoyed the Easter fun.

£500,000 FUNDING FROM SUSTRANS!

We mentioned in the previous Newsletter that we submitted a grant application for Sustrans 'Community Links' funding in February which would allow us to extend the Active Travel Routes in Saughton Park. We are very pleased to now let you know that our bid was successful and we've been awarded £500,000.

This funding will provide a great opportunity to build on local active travel connections and the plans includes upgrades to the path network which will improve and extend cycling and pedestrian routes through the park, improve off-road linkages around the neighbourhood and provide a safe and attractive environment for people who wish to build up their stamina for walking or who wish to develop their cycling proficiency and confidence.



Illustration of what the Main Avenue will look like afterwards.

The work will include:

- Upgrades to the Main Drive (Sustrans Route) and the Central Path;
- New paths along the north, south and east boundaries;
- Improvements at the entrances to make them more pedestrian and cycle friendly;
- A new entrance to the north-east corner to provide a better link to Balgreen Tram Stop; and
- Lighting to the main paths, cycle racks, seating, art work and landscape improvements.

AND EVEN MORE FUNDING SUCCESS!

Hot off the press ... we've just received the great news that Viridor Credit Environmental Company has awarded just under £50,000 to help make the playground inclusive and accessible for all children to enjoy. The Viridor grant will specifically go towards the creation of a trampoline zone which will include a wheelchair accessible trampoline as well as two individual trampolines. Fund-raising is still ongoing as we are aiming to raise £300,000 in all! We've got another two bid applications outstanding and two more ready to go. So, please keep everything crossed that we are successful in this next phase of fund-raising to make the Saughton Park Playground better!!

SAUGHTON PARK HAS REACHED THE AIRWAVES!

BBC Radio Scotland approached Pete a few weeks ago with an enquiry about the history of the park as they wanted to feature this as part of their new Tuesday lunchtime series called 'Time Travels'. Louise Yeoman, the series producer, was following a vague lead that she had regarding the 1908 Scottish National Exhibition and a connection to Senegal in West Africa. As many of our readers may remember from our last newsletter, there is indeed a fascinating historical connection between Edinburgh and Senegal, and it is one which serendipitously continues today through our friends from the Edinburgh Senegalese Society and one of their leading activists, local guy and accomplished musician, Samba Sene, who is featured in the programme. Samba gives a fascinating account of his life in Edinburgh and how he discovered the Senegalese connection to Saughton Park.

Joe McGuigan and Lynn Corrigan of the Friends of Saughton Park History Group were also able to fill in some of the missing parts of this historical jigsaw and provided interesting insights into the human and social aspects of this amazing tale of two Edwardian era peoples.

You can listen to 'Time Travels – Episode Two' in full on the BBC website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08r2wst>



FoSP's Joe McGuigan and Lynn Corrigan with BBC presenter Susan Morrison and local legend Samba Sene.



The Senegalese Village in Saughton Park in 1908

HISTORY GROUP

If you are interested in joining the history group, researching the local area or have anything to share with them, then please contact:

Joe McGuigan

Saughton Park History Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FofSP/>

EDINBURGH SENEGALESE SOCIETY (ESS)

The Edinburgh Senegalese Society (ESS) was founded by Senegalese nationals living in Edinburgh. They are a non-governmental organisation and they are not affiliated with any companies. The Society is run and currently funded solely by members donations.

To find out more see the ESS (Edinburgh Senegalese Society) pages on Facebook.

THE DREAMER OF PEACE



Sri Chinmoy, the Dreamer of Peace puts Saughton Park on a par with Oslo, Prague and Seattle.

DREAMER OF PEACE AT SAUGHTON

We have been working with Professor Alan Spence, a Scottish writer and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen, since September last year to find a home at Saughton Park for a *Dreamer of Peace* statue.

The statue was designed by Kaivalya Tropy, inspired by Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007) who was an Indian spiritual leader. Embodying a vision of peace that is both contemplative and dynamic the Statue offers you the chance to hold the torch and offer your own hope for peace - a prayer, a good thought, a moment of silence.

The statue was installed a couple of weeks ago in a location along the south border of the Walled Garden. A new white herbaceous flower border is planned for this area as part of the restoration works and a bench and permanent plaque will be added in due course.

Last weekend a formal unveiling ceremony was held with a 100 strong international audience in attendance. Present were dignitaries representing India, Japan and Bangladesh along with poet Aonghas MacNeacail, actor and singer Gerda Stevenson and Professor Alan Spence who joyfully co-ordinated the event.

AND FINALLY ...

Here is the latest list of upcoming events:

Saturday 10 June – SiMBA Butterfly Release 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Winter Garden

Sunday 11 June – FoSP 'Last Hurrah' Garden Party 12 noon to 5 p.m. Winter Garden

Saturday 17 June – The Caley Gathering and Plant Sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Winter Garden and Walled Garden (BBC Beechgrove Garden filming probable)

Construction works will commence in July. Paths, car parks and areas of the park and walled gardens will be closed for periods over the next year. We'll provide more information in due course so keep an eye out for notices.

That's all for this newsletter.

Enjoy the glorious sunshine that we are having and we hope to see you in the park over the next few weeks.

All the best
Linda and Pete

THE FOSP

If you are interested in finding out about the Friends of Saughton Park see their facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FoS/P/>

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

CONTACT US

Find out more at

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark

Email us at

park_s@edinburgh.gov.uk or call

0131 608 1100