



NEWSLETTER

Issue 16: March 2017

SPRING IS WELL AND TRULY WITH US!

With January and February now behind us and the park a blooming brimful of spring colour we are gearing up for what will be a very busy time at Saughton Park. There really has been loads going on so read on to find out more!

CONSTRUCTION IS GETTING CLOSER

We told you last month how things were moving along and that we would be putting the construction works out to tender.

The first tender, the one for the landscape package of works, has now been issued for pricing and we will be in a position to appoint the successful contractor in June.

The second tender for the buildings package of works will be issued in May with the successful contractor due to be appointed in July.



Images of what the restored bandstand may look like.

In June, we'll be able to give you a better idea of what parts of the park 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 however, make sure you come along to the 'Last Hurrah' party the FoSP will be hosting on 11 June—it will be a final farewell and celebration before construction works starts.

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.



Daffodils near the Winter Garden.



Parrotia Persica or Persian Ironwood near the West Gate.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

As you might remember from earlier updates, we have ambitious plans to reduce Saughton Park's carbon footprint by incorporating Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) systems which will provide heating for the Winter Garden, restored Stables Building and the new build Cafe. We also plan to build a Micro-hydro Scheme on the Saughton Weir to harness energy generated by the flow of the Water of Leith which will be used to run the heat pumps and provide electricity for the park.



Saughton Weir on the Water of Leith.

The Scottish Government through their Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP) awarded funding to enable detailed designs and tender drawings to be developed. Atkins were appointed to complete the ones for the GSHP systems and this has now been completed. Arcus, with sub-consultants Baby Hydro and Wind Prospect, were appointed in January and are currently undertaking this development work for the Micro-hydro Scheme.

Some capital funding has been secured and the Council is currently putting together a further grant application for LCITP funding to enable the two new sustainable energy systems to be implemented. We hope to have a decision by June and if successful this would create a closed-loop fully integrated renewable energy system which would be a first of its kind in Scotland.

LETS GET FUNDING

In addition to the grant application for the sustainable energy solutions, we submitted a grant application for Sustrans 'Community Links' funding in February to extend the Active Travel Routes in Saughton Park. A decision is expected in April.

We are also working on a number of grant applications for funding to improve and enlarge the playground and to build a new multi-use games area.

This work will continue through to August so fingers crossed please that we have success in this next phase of fund-raising to make Saughton Park even better!!

SAUGHTON PARK'S RICH AND SOMETIMES INCREDIBLE HISTORY

As covered in earlier Newsletters, we have commissioned the Living Memory Association (THELMA) to help us discover the history of the park and the surrounding area. THELMA have been training local volunteers in oral history recording techniques who have to date gathered over thirty recordings of peoples memories, anecdotes and recollections of times gone by.

This group of volunteers has also been working with the Saughton Park History Group to uncover the social history of park and they have turned up some amazing stories!

All of the collected materials will help us develop interesting and informative interpretation boards, learning materials and school education packs or resources.

One recent breakthrough by the History Group was confirmation that two Senegalese children were born in the park during the 1908 Scottish National Exhibition. The Senegalese were there to promote Anglo-French interests in West Africa.

The children were given middle names in celebration of the city of their birth with the boy being named Oumar Reekie Scotia Gueye and the girl Bineta Edinburgh Sacoqui Wade. Their births were recorded in May 1908 at Morningside - we wonder if their descendents know about the Edinburgh connection?



Senegalese musicians—Scottish National Exhibition 1908

There is another layer to this storyline in that local Senegalese musician Samba Sene who fronts the band Diwan moved into a flat just across the road from the park when he arrived here from Senegal.

Last summer he and his band played at a garden party in the park and when we heard that Samba was from Senegal we related the tale of his countrymen living there for six months in 1908. Samba was clearly amazed at this revelation and said that has explained the connection that he had always felt for Saughton Park.

Find out more about Samba Sene & Diwan here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Samba-Sene-Diwan-31170531044/>.

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/>



Samba Sene.

FRIENDS OF SAUGHTON PARK

After a well earned break over Christmas the FoSP have been really busy helping us finalise the park Master Plan. A last review of the plans were presented by Gillian Smith, our lead landscape architect from Ironside Farrar Ltd in January. There were a couple of tweaks and that was it—all good to go!



Gillian Smith and the FoSP get down to the fine details.

After this, the FoSP took to the road with the final designs and participated in the “Community Planning for People + Planet: Setting environmental priorities for SW Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan 2017-22” at the WHEC where there was a lot of interest in our project.



The FoSP stand at Community Planning for People event in February.

The FoSP has also planned their events for the year ahead and will kick things off with some Easter fun for families on Saturday 15 April from 12-4 p.m. Come along for yummy cakes, the bear hunt, Easter egg trail and loads more.

CONTACT THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Saughton Park always welcomes new members.

They meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Winter Garden

Visit their website

www.friendsofsaughtonpark.org
friendsofsaughtonpark@gmail.com

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

FOSP APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the FoSP is on **6 April at 7 pm** in the Winter Garden.

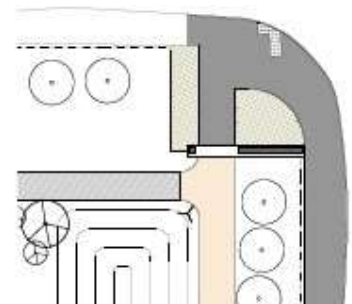
Come along and join in with the plans for the Easter Event and hear about the FoSP schedule for the year ahead.

SUSTRANS CONSULTATION

The Council's Active Travel Team is hosting a local consultation event on 4 April from 5 until 8 p.m. in the Winter Garden.

You'll be able to view plans for the Saughton Park Cycle Link, which will link the park to nearby 'Quiet' routes and make it safer and easier to get around in the local area. We'll also have plans up of the proposed Active Travel Routes within the park.

So come along, and have a chat with the project team over a cuppa and make sure your views are heard.



The new park entrance and link opposite Balgreen Library.

FOOD SHARING EDINBURGH

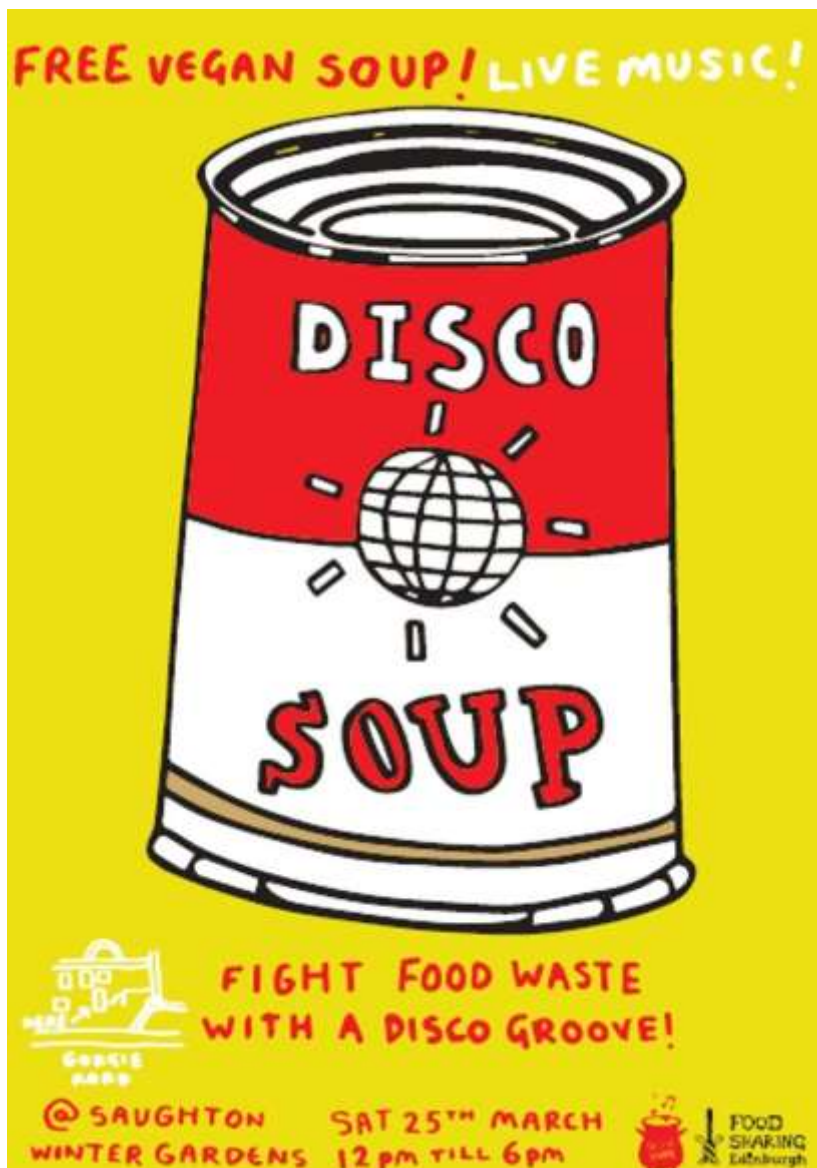
Food Sharing Edinburgh is funded by the Scottish Climate Challenge Fund to reduce CO2 emissions. It started as part of the SHRUB swap and re-use hub on Guthrie Street. Meetings are on Mondays at the SHRUB. All welcome.

See their webpage www.foodsharingedinburgh.wordpress.com for details.



Some great grooves with 'Junky Fam' at Disco Soup!

DISCO SOUP—IT'S BACK THIS MONTH!



Brought to you by Food Sharing Edinburgh, Disco Soup is all about reducing food waste to a disco groove - come chop, come chomp and let the beat drop!

They'll be serving up soup lovingly prepared from surplus vegetables, alongside some groooovy tunes and entertaining workshops about food waste and sustainable food. Disco Soup operates on free exchange basis, is open to all and allows people to share the pleasure of cooking and eating together! Families, bring your kids! Students, bring your friends! We open heartedly welcome refugees that have moved into our area and our city.

Disco Soup is open to all to get involved. Please email foodsharingedinburgh@gmail.com or come along to a meeting at the Shrub Co-op (Monday at 6 p.m.) if you would like to help provide a workshop, collect surplus food, organise or play music or just muck in on the day.

NHS HEALTH SCOTLAND 'PLACE STANDARDS'

Saughton Park has been chosen to pilot the NHS Health Scotland 'Place Standards' tool. This provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It allows you to think about the physical elements of a place (e.g. its buildings, spaces, and transport links) as well as the social aspects (e.g. whether people feel they have a say in decision making).

The tool provides prompts for discussions, allowing you to consider all the elements of place in a methodical way. The tool pinpoints the assets of a place as well as areas where a place could improve. The FoSP held a very lively workshop in March to trial the use of the tool and evaluate the park.



FoSP have some cheese and wine after the Place Standards workshop.

BBC SCOTLAND BEECHGROVE GARDEN

Thanks to the Caley, the Beechgrove Garden crew have been down to visit us, and in fact were so impressed with all of the hard work that has been undertaken by all of the partners involved the Saughton Park project that they have decided to chart the progress of the restoration.

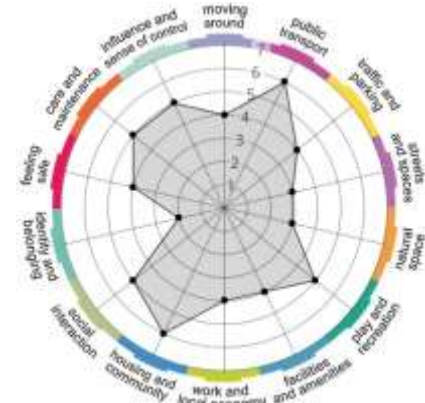
A camera crew arrived in March to get 'before' shots of the park, take some drone footage and interview some of the folk who have been involved. They also came along to the March 'Caley Gathering' which saw such horticultural luminaries as Caley President David Knott get his hands and boots very dirty indeed at Saughton. See us on the Beechgrove on Thursday 20 April at 7:00pm



BBC Beechgrove Garden filming at Saughton Park.

NHS HEALTH SCOTLAND

NHS Health Scotland is a national Health Board working to reduce health inequalities and improve health. They are part of NHS Scotland.



The Place Standards tool provides at a glance info on your local area.

THE CALEY

If you are interested in finding out about the Caley see their facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCaley/>



George Anderson, Past President of the Caley and BBC Beechgrove Garden presenter. (He knows his stuff!)

WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2017 AT SAUGHTON PARK?

SAUGHTON VISITOR NUMBERS

We had installed people and car counters in Saughton Park for the Round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid. These enable us to get an idea of how many folk use the park and when. We found out that in 2014 there were 460,000 people visiting the park and last years count revealed that 478,000 came to Saughton.

In 2014 we counted 103,000 cars too.

Pretty amazing numbers!



Downloading the data from one of the people counters.

CONTACT US

Find out more at

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/saughtonpark

Email us at

parks@edinburgh.gov.uk or call
0131 608 1100

Saturday 25 March – Disco Soup event
12-6 p.m. Winter Garden

Tuesday 4 April – Sustrans consultation meeting
5-8 p.m. Winter Garden

Thursday 6 April – Friends of Saughton Park meeting
7-9.30 p.m. Winter Garden

Saturday 15 April – Senegal Independence Day Celebration
5-12 p.m. Winter Garden

Saturday 15 April – FoSP Easter event
12-4 p.m. Winter Garden / Walled Garden

Thursday 4 May – Friends of Saughton Park meeting
7-9.30 p.m. Winter Garden

Thursday 1 June – Friends of Saughton Park meeting
7-9.30 p.m. Winter Garden

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

Saturday 17 June – The Caley Gathering and Plant Sale
10-4 p.m. Winter Garden and Walled Garden (Beechgrove filming probable)



That's all for this newsletter.

Have a great Spring and hope to see you in the park over the next few weeks.

All the best
Linda and Pete