

**Friends of Linn Park
AGM Annual Report
06.10.21**

Set-Up and Management

The current group was formally constituted on the 13th July 2017. The group's first AGM was held on 12.09.18. This is our fourth AGM.

The key aim of the group is to protect, improve and promote the green space of Linn Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Our committee and membership base represent a wide range of interests and skills, and this is reflected in the projects and activities we have undertaken.

Despite the various restrictions required to manage COVID-19, we have managed to continue our monthly meetings online and carried out lots of others activities when permitted.

Membership of Friends of Linn Park is open to all – and we hope to back to holding in-person events where you can sign-up. Membership costs a one-off payment of £1. Junior membership costs nothing and is open to all under 14. Members receive a FoLP button badge

We maintain a website, FriendsofLinnPark.com, an active Facebook Page (Love Linn Park) and Twitter Account (@lovelinnpark).

Funding

Our funding comes from a combination of one-off membership fees; donations, funds raised from community events and grants. Full details of income associated with fundraising activities etc. are presented in our Treasurer's Report.

We have launched a facility to make it easier to donate to Friends of Linn Park using localgiving. This costs an annual fee but enables us to benefit from gift aid. We will monitor donations against this cost before renewal.

Donations in the last 12 months include:

Acorn Trails - £200

Donations Via Localgiving - £100

WGM Engineering – approximately 20 tonnes of material suitable for paths.

Grants in the last 12 months include;

- Wee Green Grants, Round 2 – Glasgow City Council (path materials)
- Glasgow City Council Local Area Partnership Award (100 years celebration materials)

Thank you to everyone who has donated, and who has helped secure these grants – without funding we wouldn't be able to carry out much of our volunteering work.

Projects

We have five projects currently running on an ongoing basis. Information about them can be found on our website – and we welcome any interest in volunteering to help further any of them!

Boxing Clever - Nest Box/Bat Box Project

Butterfly Project

Wildlife Trail Project

Cathcart Castle Project

Community Use Project

I would like to congratulate both the **Nest Box** monitoring and the **Butterfly** transects in retaining and improving their volunteer numbers. These are both citizen science projects which are now successfully in their third year of operation – valuable data is being collected and shared.

The **Wildlife Trail** project managed to achieve a Community Green Flag award for 2020/21. We have applied to retain the award this year.

The **Cathcart Castle** Project has developed over the last year with meetings taking place with local councillors and relevant council officers. There is a special Linn Park Area Partnership meeting on the 7th October where some significant funding may be agreed. This should begin to achieve the aims of accessibility and visibility for the Castle.

The **Community Use** project has also progressed with a view to taking on a Permission to Use for the area, undertaking an initial community consultation, and developing proposals and a timeline. We hope to progress some works and establish some funding for the project in the coming year while establishing the implications of a lease or ownership.

Events and Other Activity

A particular focus during this year was marking the Centenary of the opening of the park. We were delighted to have permission to repurpose the Grant from the Local Area Partnership to use toward a trail with posts and information celebrating the different aspects of the park. We were able to produce a lovely set of postcards which also celebrate these themes and give out 300+ gift bags as part of the birthday celebration. Thank you to everyone's efforts for collating the information for the postcards and for helping installing the posts. A special mention for George Wilson for all his effort designing and making the posts for the trail.

We had an impromptu 'Happy Birthday' moment for the park on the 2nd July with a local piper playing for a small gathering. It was a lovely moment to enjoy and share!

The centenary was also marked with a race organised by Acorn Trails which started and finished in the park. They did some litter picking of the route and park first, and made a lovely donation to Friends of Linn Park afterwards. It was great to see these sort of events return to the park after so long.

The volunteer work in the park has continued through the year with groups meeting most Tuesday for some improvement works. We have removed invasive species, cleared paths, installed drains and laid 50+ tonnes of new path material – and counting! What an effort!

We have recently joined in to support some volunteer days led by The Conservation Volunteers in the park as team building days for COP26 volunteers. It was a pleasure to share some of our citizen science projects with them, and it was great to see them help out with some improvement efforts in the park too. Thank you to Linn Park Equestrian Centre who helped support the full day volunteering with access to their facilities.

We have also supported employee volunteer days from the Scottish Government in the park where we working with the Countryside Ranger to offer a day of path clearing and improvement. This was a successful day – and hopefully there will be more.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to support us during the last year. We would like to note Gary Linstead and Alison Grieg and also Alex Morrison and Fiona MacKinnon from Glasgow City Council who have helped to further projects or support volunteer work.

Aspirations

100 Year Celebration – 2021 will represent 100 years since Linn Park opened as a public park. The committee has agreed that we should look to formally mark this milestone and future meetings will seek to develop exactly how this occasion can best be celebrated.

White Cart Walkway Improvements – In 2019 FoLP, the Countryside Ranger and a representative from Paths for All met to discuss areas for improvement and better understand the potential financial and manpower commitment required to address certain issues. I am delighted to say we have managed to make significant progress on a couple of areas of this walkway this year, and in addition there is commitment from the Council to repair and renew the handrail as required.

Partnership Working

I'm particularly pleased to report that collaboration with different park user groups such as W.I.L.D., the Equestrian Centre, The Conservation Volunteers, Acorn Trails and Glasgow City Council continues to flourish.

We have undertaken projects including many younger volunteers from the following schools and groups: Netherlee Primary School, 91st Glasgow Scout Group, 1st Netherlee Brownies and Guides.

We hope to be able to work more with local schools and other groups over the coming year as restrictions allow.

Issues in the Park

At our monthly meetings we discuss issues brought to our attention by both FoLP members and members of the public.

There are some recurring issues for Linn Park users which include;

- Litter problems in the park
- Dog fouling and dog behaviour
- Drainage problems

We will continue to be a voice for these issues for the park users and will work with Glasgow City Council and others to try to improve the situation. We must recognise though that we have no ability to police or prevent some of this behaviour.

Summary

So we have achieved a lot over this year and a huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of that. I consider it to have been a successful year where our influence and connections have grown and where the volunteer contributions to the park have been recognised by many.

We still have plenty to do to continue the good work – and to further our various projects. I would encourage all of you to ask your friends to join in; ask your neighbours to contribute; share that facebook post; be proud of all our efforts. We want to make sure we have the numbers to keep going and the new interest to maintain momentum.

Thank you

List of Events from Sep 31st 2020 to Sep 31st 2021

Tuesday Group – met since the 01.09.20 pretty much every Tuesday it was permitted through the year with numbers varying from 3 to 14.

22.11.20 – Path Improvement Day

Superb to be back in action with a weekend day of activity – shifting 10 or so tonnes of type one onto paths and routes we had cleared. It was a good opportunity to use the new tools and wheelbarrows from the Green Flag Award money.

22.12.20 – Path Improvement Day – with TCV

Shifting the remaining type one material onto the paths in the low woods.

20.04.21 – Tree Planting Day – with TCV

Planting up the hedgerows to the crematorium with additional trees.

02.08.21 – Happy Birthday Linn Park

A lovely day which started with us being gifted some material from WGM Engineering for improvement works to the White Cart Walkway.

We then marked 100 years since the park was opened with a piper who led us in from the Clarkston Road Entrance, to the white bridge, and on up to the Equestrian Centre where a wee cup of tea was enjoyed.

04.08.21 – Linn Park Centenary Trail – running event

Acorn Trails held a very successful running event which started and finished in Linn Park. We gave a set of our centenary postcards to each participant.

16.07.21 – Adventure Playground

Friends of Linn Park Volunteers helped to start tidying up some areas of the Linn Park Adventure playground outdoor space.

17.08.21 – COP26 Volunteer Event

50 COP26 volunteers were brought by TCV to the park and led through a day of different volunteering activities to support the park. Our volunteers introduced the groups to our citizen science projects and Linn Park Equestrian Centre supported the event by allowing the use of their facilities.

07.09.21 – Scottish Government Volunteer Day

Tuesday Group expanded to include several volunteers from the Scottish Government – excellent session lopping branches and moving path material supported by the Countryside Ranger.

28.09.21 – COP26 Volunteer Event

50 COP26 volunteers were brought by TCV to the park and led through a day of different volunteering activities to support the park. Our volunteers introduced the groups to our citizen science projects and Linn Park Equestrian Centre supported the event by allowing the use of their facilities.