

## **Friends of Linn Park**

### **Set-Up and Management**

The current group was formally constituted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2017. The group's first AGM was held on 12.09.18. This is our sixth 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.

Membership of Friends of Linn Park is open to all – and we plan more 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 are in the process of re-vitalising our website, FriendsofLinnPark.com, we have 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 continued with the localgiving subscription which makes it easier to donate to Friends of Linn Park online. This has an annual fee which increased to £180 this year but it has enabled us to benefit from gift aid. We hope to use this method of receiving donations alongside our other efforts for re-opening the path in from snuffmill in this coming year but will consider this higher cost before renewal again.

Donations in the last 12 months include:

Acorn Trails - £239  
Donations Via Localgiving - £466

Grants in the last 12 months include;

- Magic Little Grant – People's Postcode Lottery
- Glasgow City Heritage Trust – Funding for Community Memory Project – this was awarded in 2021/22 but paid out over this last year as we completed the project.

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 two citizen science projects running on an ongoing basis and we welcome any interest in volunteering to help further any of them!

### **Boxing Clever - Nest Box/Bat Box Project Butterfly Project**

We have also undertaken the following projects;

**Wildlife Trail Project** – which is now an established trail

**Cathcart Castle Project – Community Memory Project** – which is now a published book

**Community Use Project** – which is on-going

It's fantastic to see both the **Nest Box** monitoring and the **Butterfly** transects continuing into their fifth year of operation. Led by Kevin, Michael and Ros, they have retained and recruited volunteers to ensure the useful information is still gathered.

The **Wildlife Trail** project has managed to achieve a Community Green Flag award for 2023/24. We have now held this for four consecutive years. New signs created by George now mean it is clearly marked the whole way round, from any approach – and we were gifted some new colourful doors by someone who had enjoyed the walk very much in lockdown.

The **Cathcart Castle** Project has progressed a lot this year. Our memory project prompted several coffee morning events in the park and surrounding area, and brought together loads of lovely memories into a book. We used photographs from our own events, and some old photos from the council, and also many supplied by park users along with their memories. We have ordered a second run of 100 books and will be handing these out at a pre-christmas event in the park.

The funding previously earmarked from the Council to improve accessibility to the area is still available – but that project has not progressed due to the continued closure of the path in from Snuffmill.

The project to re-open the path in from Snuffmill has taken up quite a lot of our time and deliberations this year. We are delighted to have found a source for a large portion of the funding in Paths for All and our expression of interest has been accepted. We are in the process of providing sufficient detail for a full application. The Council has also earmarked the remaining funds necessary for the safety work to be undertaken and the temporary fence removed. The support from our Friends of Linn Park members and the partnership with Simshill and Old Cathcart Community Council and Cathcart District Community Council have proved instrumental in proving the community need to re-open this path, and therefore securing the Council support for the project.

The **Community Use** project has progressed slowly through the year. The Council has offered us a 'license to occupy' and we have prepared changes to our constitution to allow us to enter into this type of agreement. We also were successful in an 'I dig trees' application which allowed us to plant a hedgerow which will ultimately form the boundary to the site.

## **Events and Other Activity**

We have continued to work with Linn Park Adventure Playground to make improvements within their grounds and in the connection to the park. We plan to continue to work together.

We have worked together with W.I.L.D Forest School to undertake some joint volunteering, and also take part in their lovely 'Teas and Trees' programme within the park. We have proposed more joined up volunteer work in the coming year.

We finally got our new David Ogilvie designed benches and installed them into the park. They have been a really popular addition and highlight the wildflower meadows within the park. We are looking forward to fundraising for some more benches which will tie in with the re-opening of the Snuffmill path into the park.

We have continued to look after the pond within the park, and also the wildflower glades within the conservation area.

We were delighted to see the improvement work carried out on the White Cart Walkway – this has been on our agenda since we re-formed and it is great to see the investment on the section between Holmwood House and Snuffmill bridge. As volunteers we could do some work, but to bring the fencing/handrails up to scratch and to improve so many steps we needed the investment from the Council.

The Tuesday group have gone to strength to strength through the year tackling all sorts of issues. We have really appreciated when park users have got in touch to perhaps alert us to an issue in the park, and the volunteer group has been able to respond to this. This has included fallen branches, missing signposts and lots of tidy-up work around the Seil drive play area. We have continued with efforts to improve paths, fit cross drains, clear culverts, mend fences, clear invasive species, refresh the wildlife trail, litter picking, wildflower planting, and many more tasks besides. It's been wonderful to see a strong consistent group of volunteers and many 'visiting' volunteers coming along too.

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 Allison Grieg from the Countryside Ranger Service, Carol MacLean who shares funding opportunities on a regular basis and Kevin McCormick from Glasgow City Council who have helped to further projects or support volunteer work. We'd like to thank the Linn Ward Area Councillors for their support to many of our meetings and volunteer events this year.

## **Looking Ahead**

**Path in from Snuffmill Bridge** – This is a key priority for us in the coming year. We need to complete our grant application to Paths for All, and then work in partnership with the Council to progress the final design work. We then need to lead the grant application for the construction phase of the project and continue to coordinate the works to completion.

**Cathcart Castle** –We seek to progress the project identified to improve access and visibility of the castle within the park. Funding had been identified from the Council and we will be keen to see how this is taken forward. This may need to wait until the snuffmill path work is completed.

**Parks Heritage** – Glasgow University are undertaking a project with Glasgow City Council to explore the heritage and archaeology of parks within the city and have chosen Linn Park as their next subject. We have had meetings with them this year and we look forward to the planned digs.

**Community Use** – we look forward to progressing the community use of the field next to Linn Park Adventure Playground. We hope this affords the possibility of seed collection and growing into seedlings to enhance the biodiversity of the meadows and glades, the opportunity to store tools and materials more easily for our volunteer work in the park and the beginnings of a community focal point.

## **Summary**

This has been a year where I have not been able to give as much practical time in the park as I have previously. I might have worried about progress; however it's been wonderful to see the Tuesday group flourish in my absence! We recently had a new person attend our meeting for the first time and a comment later was 'you really are friends'. We are a strong group, we have done a lot, there's always more to do – but we will meet it together.

Thank you to the efforts of every volunteer!

To keep our group going from strength to strength I would like to encourage everyone to bring a friend, encourage a neighbour, when they see an issue being raised on facebook to invite them to get involved as we try to solve it.

Thank you