

**Friends of Linn Park
AGM Annual Report 12.09.18**

Signed By	(two of three)
Chair	
Treasurer	
Secretary	

Set-Up

The group was established with help from Project Officer Alex Morrison from Glasgow City Council. He facilitated several public meetings to gather support, consider a constitution and to vote in Office Bearers and Committee Members.

Friends of Linn Park was formally constituted on the 13th July 2017.

The key aim of the group is to protect, improve and promote the green space of Linn Park Local Nature Reserve. We are very lucky to have so many different interests represented in the membership which has meant we have undertaken many and varied actions throughout the year.

We hold a meeting once a month – and have been holding regular activities and volunteering opportunities. We have been supported at these meetings and in much of our volunteer work by Gary Linstead, Countryside Ranger and by Alison Grieg, Senior Countryside Ranger.

Membership is open to all and costs £1. You get a lovely button badge to wear to show your membership. Junior membership costs nothing and is open to all under 14.

As part of our set-up process we have opened a bank account, set up a website, set up a facebook and twitter account and we are planning a newsletter. We have also set-up an action plan which helps to guide our activities going forward.

There was a previous group of the same name. Some members attended the initial meetings of this new group, helped us with a handover of information and with a generous donation of £500 to our funds.

Membership Numbers

Adult membership = 51
Junior membership = 79

Launch Event and Survey

We held two events in October 2017 to officially launch the group and to start a conversation with all Park users regarding their enjoyment of the park and which areas they used most. We launched a survey, online and paper form, and to date we have received 75 returns. We plan to run the survey for a few more weeks targeting users in the park on week days to fully represent park users.

The results of this survey will help us plan our activities and support any application for funding we may make in the future.

Events

We have held over 21 volunteer days and events in the park. These have been path improvement days, wild-flower planting, tree planting, litter picking, wildlife days, family picnic, walking events and some theatre. Most days included a wee bit of fundraising and useful conversations about the park. We have had between 8 and 20 volunteers turning out to help plan and volunteer at the events, and we have had between 10 to 100 attendees to them.

We plan to hold a similar series of events over the coming year with the next two being on the 15th and 16th September. The 15th is a path improvement day, and the 16th is the second nest box challenge day.

We post event invitations on facebook and our website and have posted pictures following each event on both also. This is building into a lovely gallery of happy helping people! A list of the events is included at the end of this report.

Projects

We have three projects currently running, and a fourth planned. More details about each are included at the end of the report and you can also find information about them on our website.

The **Nest Box Project** is currently looking for a few volunteers to help monitor the boxes during the nesting season.

The **Butterfly Project** currently has two transects and a group of 5 volunteers who monitor them. Any others are welcome to join!

The **Wildlife Trail Project** will (hopefully) be ongoing for several years working with different schools to develop the trail. Any volunteers who'd like to help are welcome.

There is a fourth project connected to the Busby Angling Association and the health of the river for monitoring riverfly planned. Any volunteers welcome!

Aspirations

Newsletter - One of our junior members has proposed a seasonal newsletter and the first issue of this is currently available on our website. These will form an invaluable record of the Park and our own activities.

Community Space/Cafe in the Park - A further item of interest to the group is the existing Golf Pavilion and whether it can be brought back into community use.

Park of the Year 2020? - This was intimated as a goal during one of our meetings and we decided to include it in our action plan to keep the momentum going and to encourage us to continue to grow the Friends Group membership and it's reach to all users.

Issues in the Park

We have discussed many issues in the park over the course of the year. Some we were able to try and tackle straight away and others will take more time. They have ranged from blown down trees, litter issues, some complaints about conduct of different groups, requests from groups to learn more about the park and requests to get involved in wider celebrations of Glasgow's parks and local nature reserves.

We have some very useful contacts in different sections of Glasgow City Council but there is more work to be done in connecting the dots.

Fundraising

More details about money in our treasurers report, but I wanted to mention some of the donations we have received.

We have had lovely donations of homebaking and chocolates to our event days. We have had photographs donated to use in our displays and in cards for fundraising. We have had cards made with images of the birds in the park for fundraising. We have had a donation of badges to mark membership, and we have had a donation of a gazebo for event days. We have had donation of nest boxes and floating bird food.

We have had the donation of a considerable time and effort from members and other attendees to event days.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to help in any way to help the future of Linn Park Local Nature Reserve.

In Summary

It has been really enjoyable to reflect on the past year and the work and effort from so many volunteers. We have been fortunate as a group to have a wide range of interests and abilities reflected in our membership.

A great big thank you to you all in helping the Friends of Linn Park to flourish.

And here's to next year!

List of Events to Date

25.07.17 Wildflower Planting

Action Earth funding. With Glasgow City Council Countryside Rangers. Wildflower planting to Simshill meadow.

20.08.2017 Path Improvements

With Glasgow ramblers. Improving drainage to path near the beach area on the White Cart Walkway.

11.10.17 – Volunteer Day

With Glasgow ramblers. Improvement to Holmwood House steps.

01.10.17 – Launch Day One

Stall set-up at the Golf Course Entrance with tea and coffee and treats. We lunched the survey. Some volunteers also made a start on clearing a glade for planting.

31.10.17 – Launch Day Two

Stall set-up at the White Bridge with tea and coffee and treats. We continued the survey. Volunteers also began planting out the glade areas with wildflowers.

06.12.17 – Litter Pick

A much needed tidy up of the pocket of ground at Clarkston Road.

10.12.17 – A Walk in the Park

A wintry wander along the white cart walkway and up to the stables for a hot chocolate!

20.01.18 – Volunteer Day

Cutting through fallen tree and clearing path. Clearing willow from original meadow area

17.02.18 – Nest Box Day

A wonderful nest box challenge event where 13 new nest boxes were installed in the park, and a further 13 sponsored for future installation.

04.03.18 – Great British Spring Clean

A fun week of litter-picking around most of the park. Interrupted by a bit of snow!

17.03.18 – Tree Planting

400 trees from the woodland trust were planted in the meadow above the zig-zag path. Some new members gained on the day!

14.04.18 – Path Improvements

Day one of cutting new steps at Netherton Brae. With Glasgow Ramblers

01.05.18 – Wildflower Planting

With Action Earth Funding and with 91st Glasgow (Netherlee) Beaver Cubs

12.05.18 – Family Picnic: Mary, Queen of Scots

Family fun day with theatre and activities. Sunshine helped over 70 people enjoy a picnic and an opportunity to re-live the history of Court Knowe.

27.05.18 – Wildlife of your Local Nature Reserve – Day 1

Event planned to tie in with 30 years since the Glasgow Garden Festival. Event was supported by RSPB. Lovely kid-oriented event hunting for wildlife.

09.06.18 – Path Improvements

Day two of cutting new steps at Netherton Brae. With Glasgow Ramblers

23.06.18 – Wildlife of your Local Nature Reserve – Day 2

Event planned to tie in with 30 years since the Glasgow Garden Festival. Event was supported by RSPB. Lovely kid-oriented event hunting for wildlife.

19.07.18 and 27.07.18 Wildflower Planting

Action Earth funding. With Glasgow City Council Countryside Rangers. Wildflower planting to glades.

Details of Projects

Nest Box Challenge

This project sprung from the initiative of one of our young members who initially proposed to gift 6 nest boxes to Linn Park. This was part of his individual '100 Nest Box Challenge' whereby he was making the boxes himself and selling them for donations to three wildlife charities. Several members of the group then asked to buy more nest boxes and 'sponsor' them for the Park. This led to 13 nest boxes being installed in Spring 2018, with 13 more already sponsored. These will be erected in time for nesting in 2019.

These boxes have been monitored through the 2018 season with 10 being used, 59 eggs laid, 52 chicks hatched and 47 chicks fledged. They will be monitored through the coming nesting seasons also. We would be delighted if you'd like to get involved!

Butterfly Monitoring

Butterflies are uniquely placed to act as indicators of the state of the environment, allowing us to assess the impacts of climate change and the progress of government policy initiatives to conserve biodiversity.

Not only are butterflies biologically suitable as indicator species, having rapid lifecycles and high sensitivity to environmental conditions, but the recording and monitoring volunteer networks and datasets built up by Butterfly Conservation (BC) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) enable accurate assessment of their trends.

The United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) was formed by a merger of the long-running Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (BMS) (established by CEH in 1976) with Butterfly Conservation's co-ordination of 'independent' transects (established in 1998). The UKBMS was launched in 2006.

We have two butterfly transects set up in Linn Park - one starts from the flag at the Golf Course Entrance, and the other starts from the white bridge. These are marked routes which are walked and monitored for butterflies each week from April to September. The results are lodged with UKBMS. This is a long-term project which must run for a minimum of three years.

Wildlife Trail

Friends of Linn Park are working with local schools to develop a trail inspired by the wildlife of this Local Nature Reserve. Netherlee Primary School, Merrylee Primary School and Kings Park Secondary School are involved for the first year of the project.

The younger children will learn about the wildlife of the park, take some form of it as inspiration to design a character who lives in the park, and then design an entrance to the character's house. Doors will be made and installed along a trail in the park, with an interactive element which allows the story behind the door, and the wildlife which inspired it to be explored via a smartphone. The older pupils will assist in forming the trail, in supporting the interactive element and in planning the launch event.

We expect to develop the trail over the coming months ready for installation in time for Easter 2019.

Further sections of the trail will be developed by other schools in coming years.