



Greetings to all supporters and members of the Friends of Pollok Country Park...

Looking forward to 2021! And an update on what the Friends did in 2020 since our last newsletter!

Like many organisations after a while when it looked like Covid 19 wasn't going anywhere any time soon we Zoomed our meetings courtesy of the Bellahouston Road Runners subscription service – thank you Bella RR! Our Annual General Meeting which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm will also be held online.

During the pandemic Pollok Park has been so much more than a park – a meeting place for family and friends – an exercise location – a dog paradise – a place to breathe and get some alone time. Whatever the reason we went to the park in unprecedented numbers – it was obvious for all to see!

The park has never looked more beautiful and our thanks are due to the park's staff who keep the park looking so good.

So what did the Friends do/discuss/decide/pursue in the latter part of 2020?



The Herald Memorial Garden

The proposed memorial garden is to be located in Rhododendron Avenue in Pollok Park. The Friends asked for representation on the steering group due to concerns about the location



Work Parties

As a result of the pandemic a Permit to Work system was introduced by the Council and our work parties were able to resume in August albeit on different basis due to Covid restrictions. This only allows a restricted number of people however we hope to expand as soon as the pandemic rules allow. During the autumn/winter the work parties have refurbished several memorial benches, cleaned many others and weeded underneath the river front ones – we also have a list of benches to paint in the spring. The Hobbit Village has been partly restored and dressed for Christmas with the prospect of more work when the weather allows. Hundreds of wild flower seeds and bulbs have been planted, Himalayan Balsam has been pulled and litter has been collected. There are also firm plans for a joint project with Glasgow City Council on improvements to the Mountain Bike Trails.

and access to it and were subsequently invited along with various representatives from national organisations such as the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland to a 'conversation' about the project. This 'conversation' discussed many exciting ideas such as something like the Poppy project to commemorate the first World War,

wild flower rainbows, walking labyrinths and similar however it is unclear as whether or not any of these ideas will be adopted. It has however been confirmed that architects have been instructed. Further information can be found at: <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18554102.herald-memorial-garden-everything-need-know/>

Reopening of the Burrell Gallery

Follow the Burrell's progress at: <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/blog/introducing-the-burrell-blog>

Transformation of Pollok Country Park – Active Traffic Management Plan

Planning consent was granted on 6th November 2020 subject to various conditions – full details can be found at: <https://publicaccess.glasgow.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=document&keyVal=QAZZ49EXIK000>

Litter Bins

Bins in the park are generally in a dilapidated condition. It has been confirmed that some new bins are to be installed as part of the 'Transformation of Pollok Park – Active Management Plan' however it is not clear how many or where they will be located. There is also an Officers' group in Glasgow City Council involved in planning new refuse storage and collection systems in parks. We await further information.

Wee Green Grants

There was a Covid related delay in releasing the funding for the Wild Life Garden and the new benches however plans have now been developed which have been submitted to Council Officials for approval. The Keir Group which is the project management group for the Burrell Gallery kindly recycled some granite setts which had been removed from the site of the Burrell

Stable Block

The subcommittee has pursued the rescue of the stable block taking time along the way to visit Castlemilk Stables and Saughton Park in Edinburgh to gain a better understanding of the successful

The National Library of Scotland (NLS)

The NLS contacted the Friends regarding <https://movingimage.nls.uk/film/4995> which is a vintage film about Pollok Country park which you can enjoy from your armchair.



Gallery and which are now being used to help reduce the water levels in the pond in the Wild Life Garden. Thanks to the Keir Group.

Woodland Outdoor Kindergarten

The owners of the nursery who operate in the park approached the Friends with a view to working together on common issues and subsequently made a substantial donation to our funds. We haven't decided finally how to use this donation but bird feeders (and bird food) are being considered. Thanks to the Woodland Outdoor Kindergarten.

Historic Walks

Historic walks had been planned in the park by the Southside Heritage Trust (SET) and since these could not go ahead Jen Anderson of SET has produced an audio tour which you can take with you on your walk on your mobile phone – very interesting it is too. It can be downloaded at: <https://anchor.fm/sghet/episodes/Pollok-Park-Heritage-Trail-egioqg>

Pollok Cottages

The cottages at the Pollokshaws Road entrance are giving cause for concern and contact has been made with Glasgow City Council to establish their future plans for these buildings.

management of heritage projects. It is understood that firm plans are being developed for a three stage project and that a report to Glasgow City Council might be imminent with a start on Phase 1 following soon afterwards.

Council contact for queries re Pollok Park

Several people have contacted the Friends about issues in the park because they are unable to find any contact details on the Council website. We have raised this matter with the Council and have been advised that all queries should be directed to the Council website at: www.glasgow.gov.uk/ContactUs.

Respect Project

Following complaints, initial discussions have taken place with the parks manager regarding a possible joint project to emphasise the need for the many types of park users to respect each other and to safeguard wildlife.

FoPCP AGM 2021

Our AGM will be held on **Wednesday 17th February at 7.30pm** on Zoom. A personal invitation will be sent to all members so please ensure that your membership is up to date as it requires annual renewal. You can renew at: <https://membermojo.co.uk/friendsofpollok/>



Contact us at:

contact@friendsofpollokpark.com

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Management Committee 2020

Chair: Liz Corbett

Vice Chair: Patricia McCarthy

Secretary: Catherine Todd

Treasurer: Grace Lyon

Assistant Treasurer: Richard Leyton

Members: Alan Melville, Alex Osborne, Bob Marshall, Gordon Blair, Martin McCartney, Peter Gore, Rachel Clark.

To contact Glasgow City Council for a complaint or compliment www.glasgow.gov.uk/ContactUs