



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

Welcome to our Summer newsletter!

As we burst into summer, we hope you are enjoying the beauty of the park, with the flowers in full bloom, the birdsong, and of course the many highland calves which have been born during the spring. It's been an exciting start to the year for the park, with the opening of the Burrell Museum, the ongoing improvements via 'The Active Travel Management' plan, the creation of the Covid memorial garden, the re-opening of Pollok House, and of course the exciting plans announced for the Stable block.

We hope you have a great summer, and if you would like to help the FOPCP in any way, please get in touch!

The Burrell Collection

"The Burrell" reopened on the 29th of March to much fanfare. The roof is fixed!

It boasts a third more gallery space than before and many previously undisplayed items are now available to view.

As you'd expect there are many more interactive and immersive exhibits, including a look inside the Burrell household, and there is an increased focus on education.

Perhaps most importantly the fan's favourite, the cafe, now has outdoor space too!

Play Park Open!

The Play Park near to the Burrell has had a makeover and is now re-opened with new equipment and a smart new look. There had been a supply issue with some equipment suitable for children with disabilities but this is being addressed and hopefully there will be something for everyone to enjoy very soon.



Stables Update

Glasgow City Council have provided the following progress update: *The main activity so far has been ecological surveys. Parts of the Stables and Sawmill buildings were deemed as a possible suitable habitat for hibernating and roosting bats. As a protected species, and to comply with Statutory legislation, there was a requirement to engage with a licensed ecologist and arrange bat roost assessments and hibernation surveys before any meaningful restoration works to the buildings could be started. Bat emergence/re-entry surveys are also required, and these are undertaken between mid-May and September which has further impacted the programme of works. We will be revisiting our programme as a result.*

We will provide further updates as we receive them from GCC.



Work Parties

The Monday work parties started again in January after a short break in December.

The team have been out and about in the Park doing a variety of tasks from painting memorial benches, taking out brambles from behind the Burrell, planting wildflowers at the Riverside Grove and creating a fernery in the Beech Grove - as well as tackling Himalayan Balsam and tidying up the wildlife garden.

On the opening weekend of the Burrell the wildlife garden was open for a few hours and we welcomed many people back to it as well as those seeing the garden for the first time. During the summer months we hope to have the garden open on a more regular basis at weekends and would love to see you there!

National Covid Memorial

'I remember'... Scotland's National Covid memorial here in Pollok Country Park...

Scotland's Covid memorial was officially opened in Glasgow's only country park, steeped in 800 years of history and gifted to our City back in 1966, and made yet another piece of history when the Covid Memorial was officially unveiled by Deputy First Minister John Swinney on behalf of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, (who ironically, was recovering from Covid).

'I remember' - is the title of a collection of memories of difficult times during the pandemic that has been gathered alongside the creation of Scotland's Covid memorial, and was recognised in a dignified, sombre and thought provoking gathering, enhanced by artist and poet Alec Finlay, who designed a series of tree supports throughout the Park which now naturally forms a walk.

There are currently a total of 15 structures, which also recognise all those affected by the pandemic, but looking ahead there will be 40 throughout our park by next Reflection Day on 23 March 2023.

One such structure is pictured, the location where wreaths were placed during the ceremony. The key motif of 'I remember' is carved in the tree supports in several languages, and on most of the structures, there is a QR code (quick response code), which will take you to an audio book created by people's memories during the pandemic, and is emotional narrated by Glasgow born actor Robert Carlyle.

This, our National Covid Memorial, here in Pollok Park, provides a space where people can come to remember loved ones and reflect on the many ways we all supported one another as a nation through the most difficult of times in our memory.



Nature Walks and Talks

After meeting with our Nature Sub-group, the countryside rangers have offered to start their nature walks in the Park again. The first one was held on Saturday 21st May and looked at wildflowers, folklore around them and how to ID them. The 2-hour walk proved to be very popular and places had been filled within an hour of contacting members! If you didn't manage to attend there is a link to the information given on the walk. Check out our website.

A full programme is being developed for the rest of the year and the next topic is on birdwatching and birdsong on 11th June – again already full. However, on 25th June, there will be a talk in the wildlife garden on medicinal herbs and plants and their uses. This is designed to accommodate those with mobility issues who might not be able to go on the walks, but everyone is welcome. There are only a few places left for this, so join (for free!) and book now!



Cycling To The Park

Work on the delayed extension to the South West City Way began on Monday 30th May and is expected to last for 17 weeks until 30th September 2022.

On completion the route will go along St Andrew's Drive and give safer access to the park at the North Lodge entrance.

Upcoming Events

7/18 June & 5/23 July – Flower Power (GCC)

11th June – Bird Walk (FoPCP)

12th June – Afternoon Tea (NTS)

25th June – Shawlands Beer & Gin Festival 2022 (Cartha Queens Park RFC)

July TBC – Tree Folklore (FoPCP)

20th Aug – Tree Identification (FoPCP)

10th Sept – Bushcraft (FoPCP)

Oct TBC – Pollok History Tour (FoPCP)

Nov TBC – Highland Coo – close up and personal (FoPCP)

Dec TBC – Festive Wreaths (FoPCP)

AGM Update

It's also been a busy time for the FoPCP committee, a new committee was elected at the AGM (details below). Several subgroups will continue to operate, focussing on nature, events, history/education, IT/Social Media, along with the Monday work party, and the stable block.

We will provide updates on the activities of the subgroups throughout the year.

A massive thanks to our retiring chair Liz Corbett, along with the committee members who stepped down at the AGM, for their hard work and dedication over the years.

Contact us at:

contact@friendsofpollpark.com

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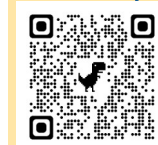


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Management Committee 2022

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Vice Chair: Catherine Todd

Secretary: Rachel Clark

Treasurer: Brian Willett

IT/Social Media: Gavin Winterbotham

Members: Bob Marshall, Charles Turner, Jane Black, Pat McCarthy, Phil Wray, Peter Gore

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