

KINGS PARK NEWSLETTER

Updates from the Friends of Kings Park



Welcome to Summer 2026

Despite some unseasonal weather, our Friends of Kings Park volunteers have been busy delivering our projects over recent months. And we have been grateful for assistance from others. In this newsletter we showcase our diverse range of activities...it's not just gardening! New volunteers to help with our projects are always welcome. No expertise or experience required, just enthusiasm. Come along and join us on a Thursday morning or contact us via our website or Facebook page.

Fountain Parterre Gardens



This year's new themes are vertical edible, fusion, grass and grains, and a white garden. Led by Jane, our volunteers have grown plants from seeds, which supplement a variety of new purchases funded from recent generous donations. We have erected interpretation signs to explain the planting schemes and their different biodiversity values. So far, there has been glowing praise from park visitors. It's great that our volunteers' efforts are appreciated. If you haven't seen the new themes, go take a look!



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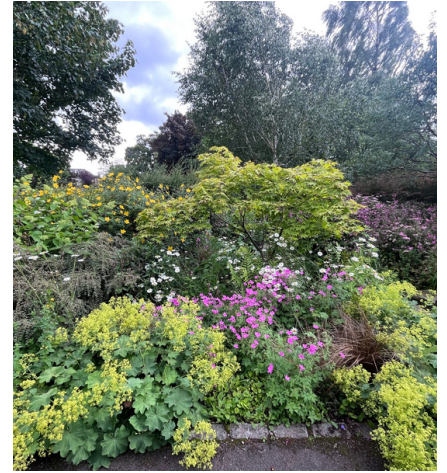
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Peace of Mind Garden

Have you seen our new footpaths? After hard work from Andrew and John and donated paving slabs, we now have easier access into two deeper areas of planting.

Throughout the spring months the garden has been ablaze with colour. The benefits are now showing from the redesign and replanting of the garden over the past few years. Well done to Carol and Andrew and all the volunteers who have been working in the garden. Also, we arranged with Stirling Council for a repair to the outer fence. Now we need to do some repair work on the dry stone dyke. Does anyone have suitable skills to help us?



Help from Others

A little help from our friends is always welcome!

In April, members of **The Conservation Volunteers** (TCV) helped to dig over part of the shrub border by the outdoor gym. It is a longer-term project which we have discussed with Stirling Council. The aim is to recreate a proper edge to the path and supplement the existing shrubs and trees to improve the amenity of this prominent area of the park.

On a sunny evening in early June, the **Stirling Girl Guides** did a spring clean of the mosaics. Equipped with brushes, sponges and lots of soapy water the enthusiastic youngsters cleaned all nine of the colourful mosaics which tell the history of the park. The Guides had a short history lesson too! Thanks for your help.



Signage Project

The Friends Group has a new project underway. It aims to improve signage in the park to encourage people to explore the walking routes and understand more about the park's history. Discussions with Stirling Council and others have been very supportive. We hope to install some wayfinding information in the coming months. Look out for more details in our next newsletter.

Volunteering Week



Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE) asked its members to take part in a fun, interactive challenge during National Volunteers' Week in June. Our members, Neil, John and David formed the 'Plant Life' team, and set about the 30 different challenges.

From thinking about the value of volunteering and community benefits, to showing off our own volunteers'

efforts, they tested their creative thinking. Some coffee in the Pavilion Café and a wander around the park in the rain with a camera helped! We ended up in 3rd place amongst the local groups. Well done to the winners, the Horse Power team from Riding for the Disabled Association who produced very creative videos.

And we recognised all our wonderful volunteers in the Friends group with a big thank you on our Facebook page during Volunteers' Week. We couldn't do it without you!

Litter Pick



Volunteering is not just about gardening! We plan to do two litter picks this year to help keep the Kings Park in good shape. We spent a morning in late May on our first litter pick and filled ten sacks of rubbish. If you can help us in the next litter pick in the autumn then let us know. We are grateful to the **Stirling Rotary Club** for the loan of their equipment.

Dobbies Community Initiative

We were pleased to be a runner up after entering the Dobbies' initiative to support local gardening groups. Jane and Stuart were invited along to the local store and had the opportunity to meet volunteers from other local groups. We received some seeds and gardening equipment which we can use for our projects. Well done to Wellgreen Nursery for winning the Stirling area category.



Certificate of Entry

Awarded to

FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK

Braehead Community Garden

Enthused by the entertaining talk at our AGM last year by Aileen Hall, some of volunteers visited the Braehead garden during their open day in May. It was a most enjoyable morning, topped off with tea and delicious home baking and a few purchases from their plant stall.

Many thanks to David Black for a most interesting tour and for introducing us to the famous chickens. Despite their appeal, we have no plans to introduce chickens to the Kings Park (yet!).

Stirling Council Update

We appreciate the continued support from officers in the Council. Recent reorganisation has brought some new officer responsibilities, and it was good to have a liaison meeting in the park with them to discuss some of our projects and seek their assistance.

The Council is currently installing CCTV in the park to improve safety. You may have seen the three high posts near the cafe, play area and main gate. The cameras are yet to be added. It will link in to the city wide monitoring scheme.

Last year we lobbied for the installation of a defibrillator in the park. Earlier this year, the Council installed one on the outside wall of the toilet block. It is a very important addition to the park's facilities. We are continuing to seek improvements to the surfaces in this area which have been damaged by service vehicles and heavy footfall. We will keep you updated!



Can you help us?

Later this year, our **Secretary** and **Treasurer** are both stepping down from their roles. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to replace them. It is a great opportunity to get involved in a local charity, contribute to your local community and develop valuable skills in administration, governance and leadership.

Details are available on our website and we would be happy to have an informal chat if you are interested.



Friends of Kings Park Updates

The management committee of the Friends of Kings Park meets regularly to organise activities and support volunteers' work. Details of our meetings can be found on our website: www.friendsofkingspark.org/about-us

If you might be interested in joining the Friends of Kings Park committee, we would be happy to hear from you and have a chat, without any obligation. Contact us at: fokpstirling@outlook.com