

KINGS PARK NEWSLETTER

Updates from the Friends of Kings Park



Welcoming Autumn

Autumn is a busy time for the Friends Group. Tidying up the gardens after the summer growth starts to fade, planting new shrubs and undertaking maintenance.

We will be reflecting on our successes over the past year at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8 October. Do come along and hear more about our work. Our guest speaker from Braehead Community Garden will be inspiring us about the benefits of community gardening.

New volunteers are always welcome on Thursday mornings in the Peace of Mind Garden.



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Community Orchard

We had a good crop of apples from the orchard this year. Some have been collected by members and other shared by the wider community.

The pupils from Allan's Primary School returned to the park after the summer holidays. In the spring they had visited the orchard and learned about the trees and pollination. This time they saw the apple harvest and went back to school with bags of apples to use in their cookery class.

Archaeology

The annual dig in the park took place in August under the direction of Dr Murray Cook, Stirling Council Archaeologist. New findings were uncovered at the Bronze age burial cairn site on the lower path and at the late prehistoric fort site at the top of the upper path.

Murray led a fascinating guided walk on a glorious summer evening. The event arranged by Stirling Heritage Alliance was sold out. As always, we learnt lots from Murray about the ancient history of this area which predates the royal park.



Peace of Mind Garden

After a couple of years of significant work to redesign and refresh the planting, the garden has been looking very colourful. The work on rebuilding the pergola has been completed and we are very thankful for the technical lead from one of our members, Brian Sword. We have also worked on the redesign of the information board and happy to see it recently installed with financial support from Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust.

Last month our volunteers refurbished the benches in the garden with the paint and brushes provided by Stirling Council.



Looking Back on 2024-25

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 8 October at 7pm** in The Smith Art Gallery and Museum. Non-members are welcome. There will be a review of our work over the past year, a guest speaker from Braehead Community Garden, refreshments and time for a chat. More details from fokpstirling@outlook.com



'Edible' fountain quadrant



Repairing the garden pergola



Improving Rotary monument border



Butterfly Border



Painting garden benches



Box Planters

The Friends Group has delivered a wide range of projects over the year. Perhaps our most prominent new project was the four parterre gardens around the fountain by the main gate. The four themes and their interpretation signs attracted lots of interest. We've set ourselves high standards to follow next year!

Our most challenging project was the repair and rebuilding of the pergola in the Peace of Mind Garden. But the effort was worthwhile and this important feature of the garden is now restored to its original design.

Ongoing maintenance involves weekly gardening tasks, including a makeover this year of the butterfly border and the area around the Rotary monument, both near the Peace of Mind Garden. Summer colour was brought to the busy area near the tennis courts by filling the box planters and three-tier planter by the gate with summer bedding plants. Thanks to everyone who donated the plants.

Looking Back on 2024-25

We have enjoyed engaging with others in learning about the park, its biodiversity interest and its facilities. The children of Allan's Primary School gave enthusiastic support to the community orchard. The people who joined our writing workshop and walks learned about the varied environments of the park. Our guest volunteers supplemented the weekly efforts of the regular team to help deliver our projects. And we had a weekly reminder of the popularity of the Pavilion Café; surely one of the park's favourite attractions.



Envireauwater Volunteers-at-Work



Overflowing 3-tier planter



Allan's Primary Outdoor Learning



New play area equipment



Signalling our work



Posies for the Pavilion Cafe



Welcoming pollinators



Wellbeing Writing Workshop



Apples for all

The Friends group is dependent on the support of its members and volunteers. We are very grateful for the many donations we have received this year. And to Stirling Council Community Grants and Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust for their funding support.

Children's Play Area

Stirling Council has invested this year in replacing play equipment in the park. The play fort was replaced in late summer and became an instant hit with children all over it! The pirate ship was rebuilt in September. And further replacement of broken play equipment is expected soon.



Walk in the Park

Readers might enjoy comparing these two photos, taken late February and early September this year. The location is similar and it is interesting to note the seasonal changes (tho' jackets seem to be essential whatever the time of year!).

The recent September evening walk around the park was enjoyed by some of our volunteers. Our route took in a section of the lower path followed by the upper path circuit - it was great to see that the path verges have (mostly) been cut back through Stirling Council's maintenance work.

This was the second of our occasional walks in and around the Kings Park. An opportunity to see what's been happening over the changing seasons, the chance for a stroll and a blether, and to pick up on anything which might be of particular interest to the Friends Group.

If you would like to join us on a walk, please get in touch:

fokpstirling@outlook.com



Staying Updated with the Friends of Kings Park

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