

# Friends of Roseburn Park AGM 2022 Agenda

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 7.30pm- by Zoom**

1. Attendance & apologies
2. Minutes of last year's AGM
3. Chairperson- Report on last year's activities
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Committee

## **Friends of Roseburn Park Annual General Meeting 2021**

**Minutes - 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, by Zoom**

Present: John Yellowlees, Jim McDonough, Pete Gregson, Jock Miller, Alex Dickson, Penny McCallum, Phil Yelland, Barbara Knowles, Kirsten Stalker, Frank Ross, Roy Beavis and Rebecca Eccles

Apologies : Paul Harding, Kim Rowse and Iain Martin

1. Welcome –Jim McDonough as Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the meeting that a Friends stalwart and former chair, Valerie Forbes, had recently died. She had been the heart and soul of Friends. He asked for a few minutes reflection on her passing.
2. Minutes of previous AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 were proposed for approval by John Yellowlees and seconded by Jock Miller. Jim McDonough drew attention to changes to Trustees and membership of the Committee. Frank Ross had joined as a Trustee; Pete Gregson stood down as chair, but remained a Trustee. The Management Committee had been extended to include Roy Beavis, Rebecca Eccles, with Kim Rowse and Paul Harding remaining on the Committee.
3. The Chairperson gave a report on last year's activities:
  - The Park continues to be well used by groups as diverse as Roseburn Primary School, dog walkers, to the Cricket Club, Wanderers and people enjoying the Park.
  - The conversion of the toilet block to café project was on-going. In July of 2021 the Council agreed to provide substantial funding for refurbishment with thanks to Councillor Ross. There was much to do regarding the project. Friends needed to show commitment by end of March 2022, otherwise Friends would lose the allocation. It was not clear at this stage whether additional funds would be needed.
  - Renovation of the west playing fields drainage had taken place and was performing above expectations.
  - Planting of cherry trees as part of the Sakura project would be undertaken soon. Two cherry trees were felled and replaced on the north side of the east playing fields. A further two cherry trees were provided by a donation from Murrayfield Dafs Cricket Club and planted on the south side of the east playing fields, as a memorial to Ian Shiels. Tree planting to fill in other gaps in the parkscape would also be undertaken in the future.
  - New benches and BBQ slabs had been put into the Park.
  - A Walking Guide to the Park had been completed and published. Friends wish to thank Rosie Bell for her efforts.
  - A plaque celebrating the life of local artist Charles H Mackie has been installed.
  - The Taskforce of volunteers was thanked for their work on maintaining trees, planters and bulbs.
  - FoRP currently has 271 members.
  - The next 12 months will be focussed on the café refurbishment, progressing plans to refurbish the drinking fountain, progressing an application to obtain War Memorial status for the Armoury, possible peripheral path around the east playing fields, possible petanque court in the east park and investigating further options for the old play area.
  - The Chairperson thanked the efforts of the Management Committee Members.
4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the financial year ending 30 June 2021 was one of quiet anticipation. Friends were delighted to receive donations from the Evelyn Drysdale Foundation for the drinking fountain plus various grants from Edinburgh City Council for various projects in the Park. Cash and bank balances had fallen slightly from £16,388.93 to £15,394.27, all but £1,644.48 was Restricted. The grant of £66,000 from Edinburgh City Council is welcome.

#### 5. Election of Board

Phil Yelland took the chair temporarily. All current Trustees and Committee Members have indicated their willingness to stand again. Current Trustees were Pete Gregson, Jim McDonough, Barbara Knowles, Iain Martin, Frank Ross and John Yellowlees. Rebecca Eccles, seconded by Roy Beavis, proposed that all current Trustees and Committee Members be re-elected. Jim McDonough resumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### 6. AOCB

- Phil Yelland indicated that Murrayfield Dafs Cricket Club would be replacing their nets to provide better training facilities. The Club now has a womens and girls section. This means a larger number of players over the summer months.
- Jim McDonough also indicated that the artificial wicket would be replaced by the drainage contractors, as it had been damaged as part of the drainage works.
- Jock Miller of the Hammermen queried where the fountain refurbishment had got to. It needed a prospectus for sponsorship. He was advised to contact Paul Harding, who was progressing this project.
- John Yellowlees indicated that the Community Council needed a project for the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. Several projects were suggested such as a Jubilee Memorial Garden beside the old play area or funding for the peripheral path.

7. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

## **Friends of Roseburn Park Annual General Meeting 2022 Chair's Report**

Dear Members

Another year come and gone, though thankfully 2021-22 proved to be less disrupted than its predecessor, despite some lingering restrictions. During the past 12 months, FoRP's Board of Trustees and its management committee ran a full schedule of meetings, albeit these continued to be held online. I'd like to thank everyone who has attended these meetings and contributed to the agenda over this last year, bringing and sharing a wide range of knowledge and perspectives. In particular, I would like to put on record my special thanks to our secretary, Barbara Knowles, who tirelessly and efficiently organises meetings, produces minutes from them and follows up actions. In short, most FoRP things happen because of Barbara.

#### **Park Activity**

Following the extensive ground works to the west side of Roseburn Park, which completed in September 2021, we have seen a huge improvement to the drainage and surface of the rugby and cricket pitches. It was particularly satisfying to see both Murrayfield DAFS cricket club and Murrayfield Wanderers rugby club returning to a full season of competitive matches.

Murrayfield DAFS are now fielding 4 teams, and introducing a ladies' team, and can be seen most weekends, throughout the season, on both the new artificial wicket in the west park and on the grass wicket in the east. Throughout the

summer, the club regularly attracted up to 100 young players (u12's boys & girls) on Friday evenings to their youth development programme. The newly installed practice nets are a huge improvement on the old and are rarely seen unoccupied.

Following the lifting of Covid restrictions and the upgrading of the pitches, Murrayfield Wanderers rugby club returned to Roseburn Park to deliver a full programme of training and competitive matches. The rugby club uses the park 6 days per week and runs training sessions for boys & girls aged 5yrs to 18yrs on week day afternoons & evenings and competitive adult & youth matches on Saturdays & Sundays.

Having stood amongst the spectators, watching both the cricket and rugby, I am particularly proud when I hear various comments on what a magnificent park and setting, we have.

In addition to cricket and rugby, it is fantastic to see the P1-P7's from Roseburn Primary School return to playing 7-side football in the park on Saturday mornings. It never fails to surprise me how well behaved these young players are. Whilst the same cannot always be said for their, at times, overly enthusiastic parents, there is no doubt that the youngsters are a credit to their school.

Perhaps the highlight of our year, and it seems ever more so now, was our Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in the park. Held on the 3rd of June, the celebrations, in part, paid homage to the 1953 Coronation Party in Roseburn Park, with a fancy dress competition, open to young and old.

Following a highly enjoyable and successful FoRP Jubilee disco, hosted at Masonic Lodge, on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> June that drew 65 people, ages ranging from 4 to 80 years young, our celebrations in the park commenced with a tribute to Val Forbes when John Yellowlees unveiled a shrub rose and presented it to her son. The rose and a commemorative plaque will be permanently installed in the planned reflective garden by the old play park.

Esteemed guests on the day included Christine Jardine MP; Foyzul Choudhury MSP; Cllr Frank & Mrs Hannah Ross, Cllr Euan Davidson and Cllr Margaret Graham. It is estimated that between 800 and 1,000 visitors attended the Jubilee celebrations where they were treated to wide range of activities including: croquet, table tennis, walking rugby, beat the goalie, majorettes, doggie tricks & beauty parade, sport races, and a grand auction.

Ongoing throughout the afternoon was an exhibition of 1953 fancy dress photos, a bouncy castle, 'yourself as Queen Elizabeth' Jubilee photo-stall, teas, coffee and a BBQ.

All feedback received suggests the event was a huge success and enjoyed by all. I would like to put on the record that none of the above would have happened without the organisation, planning and hard endeavours of former FoRP Chair and current Trustee, Pete Gregson, whom I cannot thank enough. I also wish to extend my sincere gratitude to Penni McCallum, Marie and McKenzie Martin, Donald Ramsay, Ann Anderson, Frank Ross, John Yellowlees, Roy Beavis, Cathie Purves, Gail Wilson and of course the hugely committed organising team of Alex Dickson, Sandra Hardie and Sheila Watt who worked so tirelessly to ensure the event was the success it turned out to be.

Lastly, and absolutely by no means least. I want to thank all the local Roseburn traders who were so incredibly generous in donating such amazing prizes to our grand raffle and to City of Edinburgh Council & Murrayfield Community Council who provided funding support for the event.

Thank you one and all.

Over and above structured sport and events, the park hosts a variety of boot camps, keep fit groups, dog walkers, strollers and cyclists following the Water of Leith trail as well as those just ambling through. It is for all park users and visitors that FoRP exists. They are our key stakeholders and it is their needs that drive our agenda and objectives.

### **The Café**

Having successfully secured funding of £82,000 last year, FoRP retained the professional services of Craig Proudfoot, of One Foot Square, as Principal Designer and Project Manager. Craig successfully progressed our planning application and managed the tendering process for all construction works and building services. Having sought out a number of potential contractors to undertake the building works, the outcome of a thorough and competitive tender process resulted in All Aspects Building & Construction Services Limited (AAB&C) being appointed in March 2022. AAB&C demonstrated a successful track record in completing similar projects and represented best value for money. I would like to place on record my thanks for the support and sound advice provided by Craig throughout the process. In

addition, I would like to thank Paul Harding who has assisted Craig throughout and whom I've found to be unfailingly knowledgeable and a great person to turn to for wise advice.

Building work commenced on the café in May and is now scheduled to complete late October/early November. My thanks to Pete Gregson who has been maintaining a picture diary of progress which can be viewed on the FoRP website.

FoRP are in final discussions with a short list of potential operators and envisage having signed contracts by the end of October. Once building work has been completed the operators will take approximately 4 weeks to equip and furnish the café. The opening date of the café is yet to be agreed between FoRP and the operator.

### **Sakura Project**

As part of a UK-Japan Friendship Pact, FoRP applied for, and were granted, 30 cherry trees donated by the Japanese Government. The new cherries arrived in the park in December 2021 under the supervision of Paul Vine, CEC Trees & Woodlands Officer. The trees were planted on three sites, across the park, in small groves. The largest grove in the west park by the ice rink.

All 30 cherry trees have broken bud and started to flower in late spring. My thanks to Barbara and her watering task force for ensuring that all survived the summer drought. My thanks also to Roy Beavis who has created a photographic record of the project.

### **Trees**

The Council's Forestry Team has been extremely busy in the park over the spring and summer months. Largely due to Ash dieback (a fungus which originated in Asia) and the age of our trees, there was a requirement for large scale remedial and preventative maintenance on our stock. This resulted in 6 trees being lopped and weakened branches taken down and 4 trees being felled (one was left as a 'stump'). We are looking to retrieve the felled trunks to use for seating and/or sculptures.

Whilst we have lost 4 trees, one new 'memorial' tree was planted and we are in discussion with the Council to receive replacements for the trees that were felled.

### **Benches**

A new bench was installed beside the table tennis table and CEC has advised that another will be installed in the west park opposite the artificial cricket wicket. My thanks once again to Pete Gregson who has been diligently maintaining the log bench situated next to the pavilion.

### **Wildlife Posters**

We were kindly gifted 12 wildlife posters from the Water of Leith Trust. These posters provide details of the local wildlife and their habitation. Thank you to Rebecca Eccles for organising frames for the laminated posters and for erecting them along the walkway.

### **The Memorial /Reflective Garden**

Work has now commenced to create a tranquil space in the triangle by the old play park on the south side of the east park by enhancing the existing garden. The local Freemasons Lodge has agreed to fund the project and help with labour and maintenance. Fiona Underhill, on behalf of the Council, has approved the project subject to a modification to facilitate grass cutting. The plan is to prepare the site for planting late October into November to be completed in the early Spring of next year.

My thanks to Roy Beavis for leading this important initiative.

### **Wild Flower Meadow**

The park has limited spaces to develop as wild flower meadows - the central banked areas, the enclosed section by the east entrance and the cherry tree grove at the west park by the ice rink. An experiment with seed bombs planted on the central embankment failed largely due to drought and vigorous competition from existing vegetation. Following

consultations, it has been agreed that we make a start next Spring by planting a limited number of plug plants in the heavily grassed enclosure by the east entrance.

### **Upkeep & Maintenance**

A great deal of work goes on in the background unnoticed by the vast majority of us. Ever wondered who waters the young trees, plants the bulbs and keeps our park looking so neat and tidy throughout the growing season? Led by Barbara Knowles, the volunteer task force provides a huge amount of time and effort to ensure the park is always looking its best. Barbara is always looking for new volunteers to join the task force and I encourage all members to get involved. Any member wanting to join the task force please let us know or get in touch by email –

[secretary@friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk)

### **Finance**

As evidenced by our treasurer's Report on Accounts, FoRP's finances are in good shape. This is entirely due to the generosity of our donors and the funding support received from the City Council. These include:

- PBIP grant from Edinburgh City Council
- MCC Platinum Jubilee Celebrations grant from Murrayfield Community Council
- Grant from Evelyn Drysdale Foundation
- Proceeds and donations from the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- Gift Aid from HMRC
- Private donations

My sincere thanks to each of the organisations and individuals who have supported FoRP during the year. Without your generous contributions none of our work in the park would be possible.

### **The Next 12 months**

Through various means during 2021/22, The Trustees and management committee have sought to engage across a range of initiatives and ideas which will impact the park and its visitors. It is clear from our meetings that there is a wide and evolving list of topics of interest, though some seem to crop up with regularity, tree management, speeding cyclists, an outdoor gym, a petanque court, a periphery path in the east park and the ability to recruit more task force volunteers. Doubtless this list could be expanded. However, this next year will see FoRP focus on the following key initiatives:

- Completion of the Café refurbishment, appointment of an operator and opening to the public.
- Consultations with CEC and Fields in Trust to attain FIT status for Roseburn Park.
- Progressing plans to refurbish the drinking fountain.
- Investigating the possibility of installing a path around the periphery of the east playing fields.
- Progressing our application to the War Memorials Trust for the Armoury to be given War Memorial status.
- Investigating the possibility of installing a petanque court in the east park.
- Investigating options for replacement of the old play park. Specifically assessing the feasibility of an outdoor gym.

I look forward to working with the Trustees, management committee and our volunteers to deliver on the various projects we undertake and the needs of our members and visitors.

**Jim McDonough - Chair, Friends of Roseburn Park**

**FRIENDS OF ROSEBURN PARK (SCIO)**  
 Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC044659  
 c/o John Yellowlees, 7 Roseburn Cliff, Edinburgh, EH12 6AL

**Receipts and Payments Year to 30 June 2022**

	Notes	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2020/2021
<b>Receipts</b>					
Unrestricted donations	1	755.00	-	755.00	505.00
Donations (restricted)	2	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,600.00
Fundraising	3	1,385.65	-	1,385.65	-
Grants	4	-	68,500.00	68,500.00	4092.00
Trading Receipts		-	-	-	-
<b>Payments</b>					
Fundraising expenses	5	1180.65	-	1180.65	285.37
Charitable Purpose Payments	6	173.09	28,467.86	28,640.95	6,806.98
Annual Public Liability Insurance Cover		99.31	-	99.31	99.31
Bank Charges		-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	7	501.60	-	501.60	-
Cash surplus/(deficit) to End of Year		<u>158.99</u>	<u>41,532.14</u>	<u>41,691.13</u>	<u>994.66</u>

**Statement of Balances at 30 June 2022**

	Notes	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2020/2021
<b>Cash Balance</b>					
Cash and Bank Balances at Start of Year		1,644.48	13,749.79	15,394.27	16,388.93
Surplus/(Deficit) Shown by Receipts and Payments		158.99	41,532.14	41,691.13	(994.66)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Closing Balance at bank		<u>1,803.47</u>	<u>55,281.93</u>	<u>57,085.40</u>	<u>15,394.27</u>
<b>Other Assets/Debtors</b>					
	8	<u>728.08</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>728.08</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Liabilities/Creditors</b>					
	9	<u>(79.07)</u>	<u>(53,643.82)</u>	<u>(53722.89)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Working Balance</b>		<u>2,452.48</u>	<u>1,638.11</u>	<u>4,090.59</u>	<u>15,384.27</u>

Notes – see over

Signed:

John Yellowlees (Treasurer) Phelim Plant O'Toole (Independent Examiner)

8 October 2022

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Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC044659  
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Notes to Receipts and Payments and Statement of Balances for financial year ending 30 June ----:

1. Unrestricted: £200 donation from Jim Scott, £500 from Evelyn Drysdale Foundation, £50 from Frank Ross, £5 from Amazon
2. Restricted: £1,500 donation from Evelyn Drysdale Foundation for toilet block conversion
3. Unrestricted: £1,385.65 income from Platinum Jubilee party and disco
4. Restricted: £68,500 grant from City of Edinburgh Council for toilet block conversion
5. Unrestricted: £1,180.65 expenses for Platinum Jubilee party and disco
6. Unrestricted: £173.09 expenses for Val's rose and planter, ~~yeasts~~ and frames. Restricted: £2,750 interim fee for architect/project management; £401 for Planning consent; £593 for Building Warrant; £168.96 for grass seed, fertiliser, stone chisel, bolts; £24,554.90 for building work (first payment)
7. Unrestricted: £501.60 for keys, copying, park maintenance, plaque
8. Unrestricted: £500 grant due from MCC for Platinum Jubilee party; £228.08 Gift Aid from HMRC
9. Unrestricted: £79.07 expenses due for Platinum Jubilee party. Restricted: £53,643.82 fees accrued for completion of Café Refurbishment - Building Work & Services.

No remuneration or expenses were paid to any of the Charity Trustees during the period.

Signed:

John Yellowlees (Treasurer) Phelim Plant O'Toole (Independent Examiner)

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