

Friends of Dollar Park
Annual General Meeting 27th June 2017
Chairman's Report

This year once again has been very fruitful for the Friends and it is pleasing to report that we have built on that success over the last year.

- The refurbishments of the tennis courts has now been completed and were officially opened in October 2016, they are proving a great success with the general public, in addition they have greatly improved the general ambience of that part of the park.
- Also in October 2016 the Council approved the Open Space Strategy and Parks Development Plan, during the consultation period the Friends responded with a number of concerns and I am pleased to report that these have been addressed in the approved Plan.
- A number of addition reports concerning the state of our parks nationally have been published over the last year.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund published a report on The State of the UK Public Parks; this was a comprehensive research document on the pressures facing parks due to budget cuts and what actions are needed to tackle the considerable challenges that lie ahead.
- At the same time the Communities and Local Government Committee launched an inquiry into public parks to examine the impact of reduced local authority budgets on these open spaces and consider concerns that their existence is under threat. The Committee also looked at how parks should be supported now and in the future. While it only related to England and Wales a joint submission from Greenspace Scotland and The Parks Managers Forum was submitted to the inquiry. A comprehensive report was published in February 2017.

- A Dollar Park Walled Garden Steering Group was set up to oversee the development and planting of the garden as it evolves over time. I have attended a number of meetings over the year and find it an extremely good forum to oversee the continuing development of the garden.
- It is pleasing to report that the Council in conjunction with the Cyrenians was successful in their funding application to the Scottish Governments regeneration capital fund for the development and refurbishing of Arnotdale House.
- The project is to provide accommodation for the Cyrenians work to deliver community service orders alongside the provision of a café, community meeting rooms, changing facilities and our long awaited toilet facilities. It will be a positive step forward for the use of the building and will compliment the work that has been undertaking in restoring the walled garden and the refurbishment of the tennis courts.
- June saw a very successful Memories Event organized by the Cyrenians and held in the Walled Garden. The Friends put on a exhibition of old photographs depicting the park in its heyday, this provoked a lot of comment and memories from the general public. Plans for Arnotdale, old children's games, picnic bags, face painting, fairy circle stories and small animals all contributed to a very enjoyable day.
- After a long campaign the Chinese Lions at the entrance to the park have finally been cleaned and restored to their former glory,

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members and external organizations for their support and time given over the year.

Leslie Pryde

Chairman Friends of Dollar Park

