

# PARKLIFE

your natural health service



**See what your council's Parks Development Team, partners and community groups have been doing for your area this year.**

**Issue - 3**  
**Autumn/Winter 2021**

# Introduction

I am delighted to be asked to introduce the third edition of the ParkLife newsletter. I'm sure you will agree the number of projects and environmental initiatives on show highlights the resourcefulness and commitment of our community groups and council officers as we work together to improve and sustain our environment.

Parks are essential – Let's treat them that way.

The City of Glasgow is blessed with over 90 parks and greenspaces some of which can trace their history back to the Iron Ages. Our parks are stunning in their beauty, fascinating in their history and essential to our future.

Friends of Glasgow Parks Forum recently held – thanks to the support of Glasgow City Council – two online workshops which were well attended and generated some good ideas for us to work on. One of those ideas is a national campaign to get parks funded by central government as a statutory function similar to services such as roads network or education. This is a huge and challenging debate which we need to be having as part of climate change. Parks are the best Low Emission Zones a city can have, they absorb CO2. They provide essential habitats for wildlife, especially endangered pollinators such as bees and butterflies, thus aiding biodiversity. They provide areas of tranquil respite away from the confines of home, school or office. They provide areas for exercise and for education. A national campaign would be a huge undertaking and with such a huge task, one wonders where to start? How about right here?

Governments and Councils within the UK are all committed to tackling the Climate Emergency and achieving Net Zero. Massive sums of money are being earmarked to tackle Climate Change and this is where we need to direct the campaign. With Council elections next year, let's get the discussion started. Let's get the subject on the agendas of ALL of our Friends of Groups and get the wider community on board. Let's find out what young people think about our

parks and role they can play. We will need to work together with other bodies across Scotland such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, Central Scotland Greenspace Network, etc. Together we can make our voices heard and ensure that our parks are with us for centuries to come.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the great work being carried out across the city and if it inspires you to get involved in your local area please make contact with the team via the email provided.

Thank you.  
Mark Fiddy  
Chair of the Friends of Glasgow Parks Forum



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Please note that Glasgow City Council is not responsible for the content on any links to facebook groups or external partners pages within this document.

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# Growing Glasgow Children's Woodland

As COP26 draws to a close the children of Glasgow can be proud that they have created a long-lasting legacy for the city and helped rewild a 13-hectare site into a woodland with oak trees that they grew from seed. Providing a living symbol that no-one is too small to make a difference.

Over 1,200 primary school children planted thousands of trees across the skyline of Scotland's largest city in the first week of October creating a Glasgow Children's Woodland which will benefit everyone in the city.

The Lost Woods – a fantastic volunteer-led initiative is helping to connect children to nature and had representation from 148 primary schools including the Additional Support and Learning establishments, Gaelic language schools and home educators.

Primary school children came together as representatives of all communities across Glasgow, to use their voice to inspire and enable individuals, communities and world leaders to take action now!

In partnership with Glasgow City Council, Green Action Trust, Trees for Cities, Scottish

Forestry, Scottish Power and The Conservation Volunteers a total of 17,000 new trees were planted on this 13ha site that overlooks the city of Glasgow, calling for change at COP26 and leaving a lasting legacy for todays and future generations to enjoy.

This project is the first woodland of its size to be planted in Glasgow for generations and part of a wider woodland ambition known as the Cart & Kitch. This new native woodland also aims to contribute towards the Central Scotland Green Network vision of enriching the environment of central Scotland, benefiting local communities and wildlife, and helping to mitigate against climate change.

Councillor Anna Richardson, City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction, said: "We are delighted to partner with the Lost Woods for Phase 2 of our Community Woodlands Project. As we look to meet the objectives of our Glasgow Climate Plan exciting projects such as this, with children at the centre, will ensure we continue to improve our environment whilst providing opportunities for our communities to actively participate in climate related activities."

Eddie Murray from Glasgow Gaelic School said – "All the children of Glasgow are creating a magnificent green space for future Generations and when we have children, we can tell them we did that. Plus, going outdoors and planting trees is fun."



The Lost Woods present their short documentary film telling the story of the creation of the Glasgow Children's Woodland as a legacy project to the COP26 Climate Conference. A heart-warming story about hope and how a local Glasgow group took on an ambitious idea of reaching out to all the Glasgow primary schools to help children feel more connected to nature. Proving no-one is too small to make a difference – even from a single acorn!

The Lost Woods is a project designed to inspire, educate and empower children about their environment. Bringing climate optimism and learning to life.

**Click  
Here**

**To find out more  
about The Lost  
Woods Project**

**Click  
Here**

**To watch the  
Documentary  
Video**





Theresa Glasgow (formally Theresa Martin) has been working for the Parks Development Team for nearly 3 years having previously worked in the community learning development and mental health field for 23 years. She has a fascinating background in volunteering, working and managing different types of community health projects, delivered lectures on community engagement and supported many people through their volunteering and professional journeys!

Here is what Theresa has to say "Right let's keep this short, writing about yourself is tricky isn't it? Although, when I'm asked to speak about my work I tend to go on a bit, but for the right reasons! I love my job. My title is a bit of a mouthful, Natural Environment Officer, Community Engagement Parks and Greenspaces and sometimes I talk about open spaces, blue spaces and grey spaces too! Every day is different in this role, it's varied with many tasks and I feel the journey of the work my team and I do is just as important as the overall

outcomes. My job came around with the support of Fiona McKinnon and as a result of the Parks Vision 'Our Dear Green Place' – if you haven't read it yet, why not?? I jest, although I do thoroughly recommend you do- it even has a summary version for a quick read over.

I think it is also vital to mention that the Parks Vision came around in response to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) 2015 act which in short 'helps communities to do more for themselves and have more say in decisions that affect them' – and this sentence is a good starting point to explain the meaning behind my work.

Our Parks Development Community Engagement Team work really hard to support the Friends of Parks and Greenspaces Groups, of which there are over 70 and counting. As you will be aware one of the effects of lockdown is the change in our relationship with the outdoors. Some people are discovering the benefits of being outside or even seeing greenspace through a window for the first time, others are supporting this powerful

natural standpoint even more than they did before. From around June 2020 there have been new enquiries to our team about emerging Friends of groups and we have a long list of up and coming groups, which is FANTASTIC....and a lot of work! More communities are gathering together for the cause of the power of greenspaces. Our team give supportive conversations around how to set up groups, action plans, give funding advice and how to gain permissions for projects. Our Countryside Ranger Team work in tandem with us delivering support to community groups, schools and others who want to be in and deliver services and activities in Glasgow's parks and greenspaces and SO MUCH MORE.

Being a Place Standard lead for Glasgow City Council is another great part of my role. I support walkabouts as part of community engagement around our greenspaces, which can really help communities prioritise areas of development and what should be celebrated more. Volunteering with Bereavement Services through initial lockdown was an important

## Meet the Team

curve for me and now being a qualified Cremation technician and having completed the Glasgow University course, 'Death, Challenge and Innovation' I am learning more about encouraging compassion at all times and within my role at GCC through any work and conversations about participatory democracy in green spaces and open spaces. Myself and my colleagues have been working really closely with the Glasgow Parks Forum recently and are providing new and existing Friends of Groups with online workshops, in September topics have been 'The purpose of Glasgow Parks Forum' and 'Funding and Facebook hints and tips' and from their roaring success we're delivering more workshops in November and December with some very special guests, keep your eyes peeled for the invite. As well as creating more connection for the groups and forum through this work a main aim of mine is to encourage and support the facilitation of the conversation between the Glasgow Parks Forum, Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government around decision-making regarding Glasgow's parks, greenspaces and open spaces, all with an assertive, kind and supportive approach.

Right, I said I would keep it short. I'm away to chair an inauguration meeting with a new 'Friends of' Group then deliver a presentation about 'Green Health' at an international conference, plant some trees, do some weightlifting and then have a cuppa.



**Click  
Here**

**To Read the Parks  
Vision - Our Dear  
Green Place**





Presentation of RCHS awards September 2021

The Garden Project offers adults a gardening pathway to social inclusion and employment. The project helps participants to increase self-confidence and improve mental and physical health and allows them to engage with others in a safe outdoor environment. It is delivered at Bellahouston Demonstration Gardens and Tollcross Park Allotments and is staffed by two educational gardeners and a full-time project worker who are assisted by trained volunteers.

The Garden Project is delivered in three steps which are designed to ease individuals into a routine and gradually build confidence and skills. These steps introduce structure and motivation. Participants are supported and mentored by Sacro staff throughout. We offer participants the opportunity to enrol in two Royal Caledonian Horticulture Society Awards. A group of 11 volunteers have successfully achieved the RCHS Grow and Learn in Nature award this year and were presented by The President of

the RCH at a ceremony in September at Bellahouston Demonstration Gardens. Many of the successful participants started working towards this award during lockdown and were supported via digital learning to complete tasks at home.

Attendance at each site is carefully managed to keep numbers at a level which ensure that each participant can access 1-1 tutoring from the educational gardeners, allowing staff to plan activities for individuals who may require more support.

We offer a woman-only group which is delivered by female staff, the group is providing a person-centred, gendered approach to improving health and is available every Wednesday at Tollcross Allotments.

We also host regular health walks which are led by our qualified staff.

We are committed to ongoing participation in The Food Growing Strategy Scotland and are members of the North East Glasgow Food Growing, Community Garden and Green Space Network.

# The Garden Project SACRO



**Click  
Here**

**To get involved or  
learn more**

**Click  
Here**

**To watch the video  
on the project**



# Seven Parks in Glasgow Presented with a Green Flag Award

Keep Scotland Beautiful celebrates sustainable and well managed parks across Scotland.

Congratulations to our recent Friends of groups who do so much to improve our parks in partnership with our Parks Development Team.

Environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful, has announced that seven parks in Glasgow have been presented with a Green Flag Award. The accolade acknowledges quality green open spaces across the country that help to boost our nation's health and wellbeing. The international Green Flag Award is administered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful and acts as a benchmark for recreational outdoor space. The award celebrates well maintained parks and greenspaces and supports the opportunities that they provide to enable exercise, improve mental wellbeing and provide safe areas for play – something that has been particularly important to everyone over the last 18 months. Over 2,000 parks across the world have achieved the award this year. Amongst the 2021 award winners are spaces managed by local authorities, community groups and various other organisations including the NHS.

The winning parks in Glasgow are Glasgow Botanic Gardens, Friends of Linn Park, Friends of Castlemilk Park, Friends of Maryhill Park, Friends of Southern Necropolis, Yorkhill Green Spaces and Friends of Mount Vernon Park.

Barry Fisher, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, commented: "I would like to congratulate all

of Scotland's award-winning parks. Receiving this prestigious international benchmark recognises all the hard work that has gone into maintaining and managing these precious green open spaces. Every single one of these parks provides an invaluable service to the local communities that it serves - from creating a safe space to play, to think, to work out – and they helped to address many of the health and wellbeing challenges we faced as a country during lockdown. Spending time in nature can be good for people's health and wellbeing, and merely living in a greener neighbourhood can be good for health. The Green Flag Award recognises the valuable, and tangible contribution that these parks make towards the nation's well-being.

A detailed map of Scotland's Green Flag sites can be found at: [www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/parks](http://www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/parks)

'If you wish to get involved in projects in your area or work toward a Green flag please contact Jamie Ormiston at [jamie.ormiston@KeepScotlandBeautiful.org](mailto:jamie.ormiston@KeepScotlandBeautiful.org)

For Council support and advice contact Alex Morrison at [alex.morrison@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:alex.morrison@glasgow.gov.uk)



Greenflag winners



**Click Here**

**To view a map of Scotland's Green Flag sites**

**Click Here**

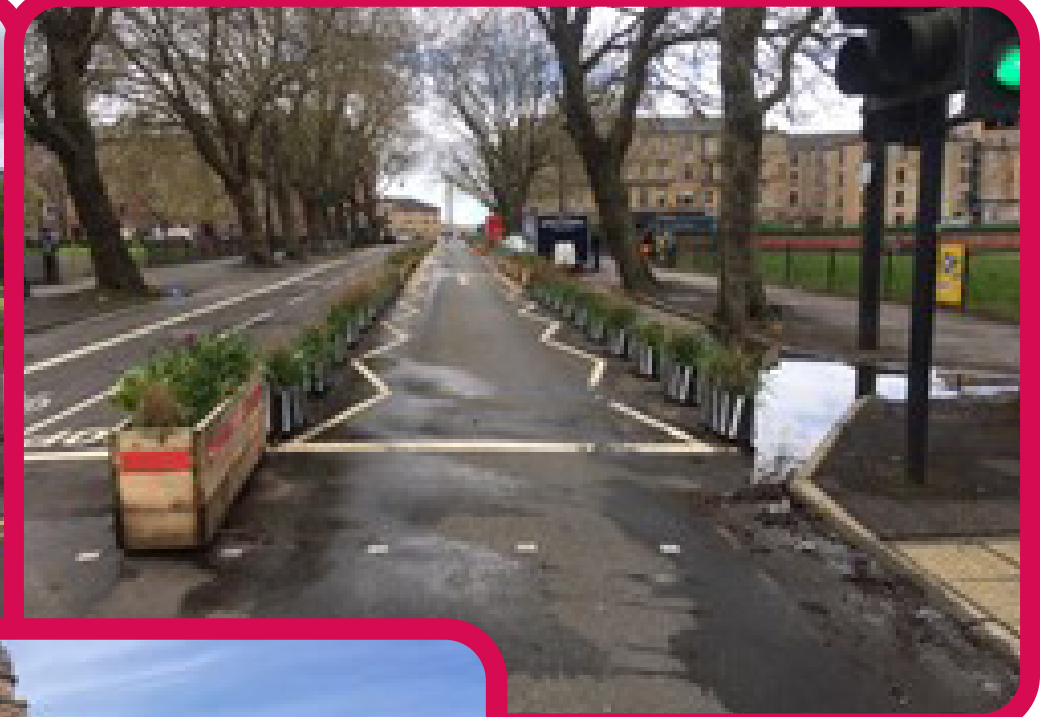
**To get involved in projects in your area**

**Click Here**

**To get advice from Glasgow City Council**



# Spaces for People



Planning started on this project in May 2020, this project was to enhance the street scene and offer more space for people and cyclists with a view to 'greening up' these routes of travel. The project used various styles of planters, wooden, plastic and stone ones. Once we had details of all the styles, sizes and volumes of the planters, we established the plant mixes and the soil volumes, and we then started ordering the materials.

We used existing soil from Glasgow Green and added a soil enricher. We avoided peat-based composts as Glasgow City Council are moving away from this exhaustible commodity. The planters were planted up on site with the assistance of the roads dept. and the maintenance was taken on by colleagues at Queen's Park Nursery.

The instruction was to use architectural plants, ones with

linear and distinctive shaped foliage, avoid trailing material and have various tones with colours unusual to the norm. The first SFP planters went out onto Kelvin Way between Sauchiehall St and University Av. between May and June, the rest followed on shortly afterwards at locations around Shettleston, Pollokshields, Merchant City and finally George Square.

Some of the planters around George Square were 'destroyed' by the 'Batmobile' during filming of the movie however, the producers had been in touch beforehand to ask advice on where to purchase the same plant material and their set/prop teams replicated the stone planters using softer plaster for obvious reasons...I've not seen the movie but no doubt it was realistic looking!

[Click Here](#)

**For more information on Spaces for People**



# Growchapel Community Allotments Garden Launch

Despite what can only be described as atrocious weather, the intrepid team from NRS took another step towards the goal of delivering a Food Growing site in each of the City's 23 Electoral Wards with the launch of Growchapel Community Allotment Gardens in Drumchapel.

The seed for the Growchapel Community Allotment Gardens was first planted in 2019 by local police officers and council neighbourhood staff who wanted to create diversionary activities to help people move on from involvement in anti-social behaviour.

The project grew quickly, drawing in further support from a wide range of community groups, local schools and third sector organisations that focus on health and well-being. An area of underused land in Drumchapel was identified and a community consultation was held that indicated strong, local support for the concept of a community garden.

Now with the area between Halgreen Avenue and Abbotshall Avenue fully fenced off and work to build paths, a drainage system, a polytunnel and other features are all completed, the thirty-five growing plots have been now been officially allocated to future growers. With winter approaching the growers now have the opportunity to begin preparing their soil so it is ready for seeding and planting in the early part of next year.

Collaboration across council teams, local organisations and the 3rd Sector has been essential to the delivery of the site and provides a template for future site development. Whether these sites be in parks, disused sports pitches, expanded allotment sites, within the grounds of community facilities or on formerly derelict sites, the Food Growing Team and our colleagues in the Neighbourhood Liaison Team at NRS are determined to make their contribution to support Glasgow's ambition to become one of the most sustainable cities in Europe.

Access to locally grown food can help ensure more cheap, fresh nutritious produce is consumed in Glasgow, which assists our efforts to reduce the City's carbon footprint, however food growing can also provide many other benefits to individuals and the communities they live in. Food growing helps to improve physical and mental health and that's a major aim of the Growchapel Project. People get to spend time outdoors while tending to their plot and nurturing their crops alongside fellow growers, which can create a real sense of satisfaction and well-being.

Thanks to Police Scotland, Drumchapel L.I.F.E., Enable Fortune Works Glasgow, COPE Scotland, Drumchapel Community Council, Children's Neighbourhood Scotland, and many others too numerous to mention

The Team from Fortune Works on launch day



Click Here

To view the Growchapel Storyboard



From Left to Right:  
Sandy Paterson Assistant Manager (Food Growing), Fiona Farris ALISS, Cllr Elspeth Kerr, Baillie Malcolm Balfour, Cllr Anna Richardson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Karen Venables, Neighbourhood Coordinator (West)





Annual Wildflowers



Machine turning the ground, creating areas for wildflower seeding

## Glasgows Green Connectors

Glasgow builds stronger connections for the city's biodiversity

The Green Connectors project aims to improve biodiversity across the whole city by creating linkages between woodland, hedgerows and wildflower-rich grasslands. Our Green Connectors are an important part of the City's landscape, forming wildlife corridors and helping to link areas of wildlife-rich habitat together.

Invertebrate life, especially bees and butterflies, is particularly abundant on flower-rich Green Connectors while the habitats also support a range of small mammals and birds. While the project is aiming to improve biodiversity, it is also of benefit to people. Biodiversity and nature-based solutions play a vital role in combating climate change and in providing mental and physical health benefits for all of us.

The first tranche of the project is already underway thanks to a £111,151.00 award from NatureScot's Biodiversity Challenge Fund.

A network of habitats designed to support city wildlife is growing up across south west Glasgow with the help of a new scheme involving Glasgow City Council, Parks Development Team, and RSPB Scotland. The project initially aims to foster over 50 open spaces between Darnley, Priesthill, Pollok and Crookston to provide local environments where pollinating insects, birds and small mammals can all thrive. The project also hopes to make walking routes more attractive and encourage more active travel.

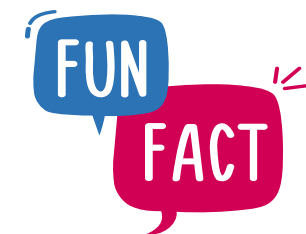
Glasgow's Green Urban Connectors partner RSPB Giving Nature a Home Glasgow Project Manager, Sarah-Jayne Forster, said, "RSPB Scotland's

Giving Nature a home team have been working for the last eight years to connect communities in Glasgow to nature. We now want to do more to help communities to take action for nature. We are excited to get started on this wonderful partnership project. We will work with Glasgow City Council, local schools, community groups and volunteers to deliver transformational habitat improvements in parks and along road verges and riverbanks that will benefit wildlife and local people. Training workshops will empower and upskill local people to deliver and then monitor habitat improvements across the project area".

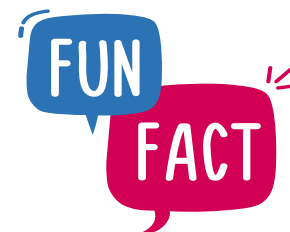
Parks Development Team, Natural Environment Officer, Carol MacLean said, "Many of our Green Connector sites in Glasgow were originally grasslands that were cut several

times per year. This type of grassland does not provide a great benefit to the environment. We have altered and amended the sites so that they provide refuges for species of flowers and other native plants that have largely been lost from frequently cut grass areas. On many of our sites we have cultivated the soil and added wildflower seeds, we have also planted flowering bulbs and wildflowers, and on a few sites, we have planted very young trees and hedgerows. These local changes will provide a great benefit to nature in your area". We can all help towards making

green connections within the city - leaving areas of longer grass, flowering bulbs and wildflowers in our gardens all help nature to thrive, even a small area in part of your garden can make a difference. Most garden centres sell flowering bulbs and wildflower seed and often wildflower plants too. Trees, shrubs and hedgerows also benefit pollinators and other wildlife. Add a bird box or bird table and you can create a perfect place for wildlife to flourish. The more wildlife gardens there are in the city, the better connected all our greenspaces will be for nature.



Did you know that over 27% of urban Glasgow is protected greenspace?



Did you know that more than 20 species of butterfly have been recorded in Glasgow?

**Click Here**

**To find out more about Biodiversity within Glasgow**



Councillor Richardson planting bulbs in Queens Park

**Click Here**

**To view the Green Connectors Storyboard**

**Click Here**

**To volunteer with the RSPB**

**Click Here**

**To volunteer with TCV**





Witney Tiny Forest, 17 months after it was planted. Credit Mark, Witney Tree Keepers



Community Science Day at Witney Tiny Forest. Credit Earthwatch Europe



Pupils from a school bubble in Leicester plant a tiny forest. ©John Evans



East Wichel Tiny Forest in Swindon, 7 months after planting. Credit Earthwatch Europe



Newly planted tiny forest, Avenue End Glasgow. Credit Seven Lochs

# Wee Forests

Wee Forests are springing up in Scotland!

A Wee Forest is a dense, fast-growing, native woodland about the size of a tennis court. These are amazing places for wildlife and people and can provide a range of benefits to help manage the impacts of climate change. An exciting collaboration between Glasgow City Council, Earthwatch Europe, NatureScot, Glasgow Science Centre, Green Action Trust and The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) has brought 8 of these to Glasgow this year – that's 4,800 trees and shrubs overall. The forests have been supported by Blackrock, Bloomberg LP, OVO Foundation, Vaillant Group, Whyte & Mackay, Seven Lochs Partnership, and Local Friends of Groups, communities and schools.

Wee Forests are part of Earthwatch's Tiny Forest programme. They have a unique planting design following principles first developed in Japan by Professor Akira Miyawaki. The forest is made up of 600 native saplings

from 15 species specially selected for each site and densely planted in a 200m<sup>2</sup> plot. The aim of the forest is to tackle environmental issues such as flooding, heat stress and loss of biodiversity that are increasingly affecting urban areas.

Above all else, Wee Forests are designed for the community. Wee Forests help people connect with nature close to home. They give young people the chance to plant and look after their own forest in their own neighbourhood. They're open and accessible to visit anytime, to enjoy alone or for group activities. Although densely planted, there are pathways through the space, benches and an outdoor classroom area for local schools. They are spaces for everyone to reconnect with nature, and for people to learn about the environmental issues that face our planet.

Earthwatch will collect scientific data with the help of local schools and the wider community to assess the forest's environmental benefits such as carbon absorption and

biodiversity, as well as assessing the social and wellbeing benefits of having this new green space in an urban area.

You will find a Wee Forest in the following areas in Glasgow:

- Glasgow Green
- Maxwell Park
- Govan Road
- Orkney Street
- Oakgrove Primary School
- Rossendale Road, Pollokshields
- Crookston Castle
- Castlebay Drive, Milton

Edinburgh Wee Forests:

- East Pilton Park
- Mount Vernon

**Click Here**

**To see the Wee Forests map**



# Glasgow Green Celebrates Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) takes place annually in October and this year 2021 is no exception. The Parks Development team have been working with artists supported by Sustrans, the national cycling charity, to promote cultural diversity in parks and open spaces managed and maintained by Glasgow City Council.

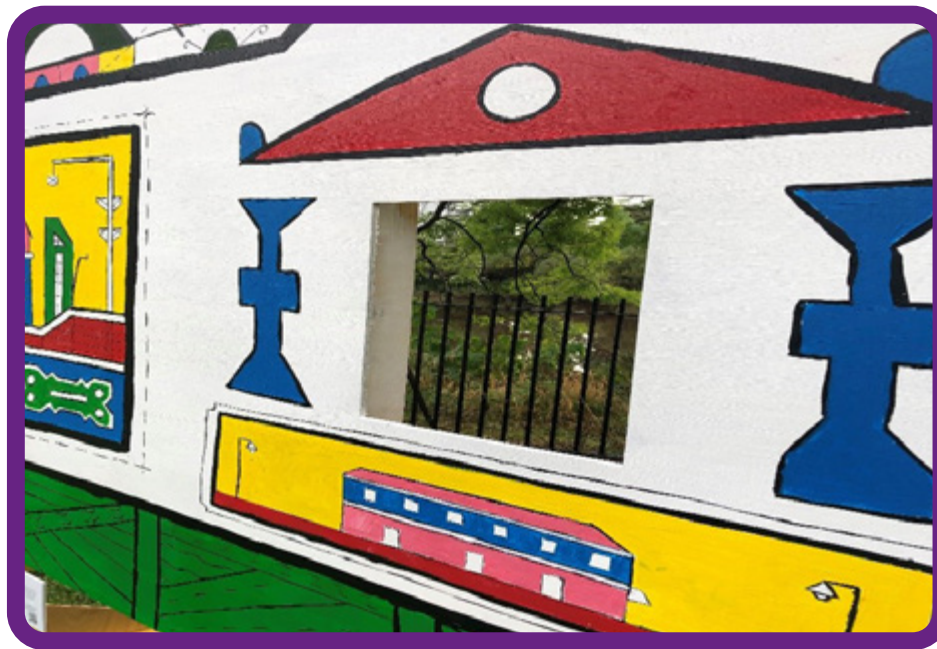
One such project is the installation of artwork along the National Cycle Network (NCN) route 75, near the West Boathouses.

Local artist Grace Browne has created a mural triptych celebrating African women's wall art. They are inspired by three styles; the Igbo Uli/ Uri from Nigeria, South African Ndebele murals, and Egyptian Nubian wall decoration.

The artworks are painted using natural materials like earth pigments, feathers and twigs as well as acrylic paints and paintbrushes. They are designed to weather over the course of the month.

The project celebrates the beauty, creativity, and ingenuity of African women's art and architecture.

*This project was commissioned by Sustrans with funding from Transport Scotland. It is part of a series of art installations and performances celebrating Black History Month along traffic-free National Cycle Network routes in Scotland.*



**Click  
Here**

**To find out more**

**Click  
Here**

**To watch the video  
produced by the  
Scotsman**

**Click  
Here**

**To watch the video  
produced by the  
Glasgow Standard**



# Illustrations of Glasgow Parks



All around Glasgow there are many of you using our glorious parks for all different reasons, here are the thoughts and some beautiful drawings from Inga, a regular park user in our city. During the Covid pandemic lockdown in 2020, did you find yourself enjoying your daily ration of socially distanced exercise in your local park?

In my pre-Covid frantic life, it never occurred to me to sit in a park contemplating the minutiae of life. I was far too busy and always en route somewhere else. When the impact of Covid took hold and the world paused, we found ourselves in unfamiliar circumstances with unexpected time available but travel severely restricted. How

fortunate for Glasgow people to live in a city with 108 local parks. Land gifted to the people of Glasgow from as far back as the 15th Century - Glasgow Green - became havens for many. Green places to meet in the open air at a safe distance for exercise, chatting with family and friends, and just being outside away from the claustrophobic confines of four walls.

My habit of sitting in parks started in Naseby Park but quickly spread to other parks in west end Glasgow. It began in Naseby because it was near a cafe that was quick to sell takeaway coffee. Ah, the familiar joy of a takeaway coffee in a suddenly unfamiliar world. The simple pleasure of

sitting on a park bench, sipping coffee, people watching became a custom.

It felt important to create a visual record of this historical period. In documenting seven parks, the individual character of every park became apparent. Each with its unique personality, people and plants. Trees planted over 100 years ago have watched over generations of Glasgow dog-walkers, sunbathers and parents pushing young children in prams. The trees, distinct and unique to each park, become characters in the drama of daily life. They have witnessed previous challenging times come and go. They are the reminder that this too shall pass.



# I Remember – Scotlands Covid Memorial

We are supporting a campaign to establish a national Covid-19 memorial at Pollok Park. The Herald initiated the campaign and are now working with the Friends of Pollok Country Park, Greenspace Scotland, Glasgow City Council, Creative Scotland. Poet and artist Alec Finlay is to lead the engagement phase, and everyone in Scotland is being invited to contribute to the memorial by writing a short sentence beginning 'I remember ...'

The pandemic has been a very challenging time for everyone. The memorial will have a focus on those we have lost but will also allow people to share some of the ways that life over the last 15 months has been very different. It will provide an opportunity to recognise the challenges and losses that many of us have experienced and contribute to a lasting commemorative memorial to reflect the impact of the pandemic on the city and its people. Glasgow's parks, supported by our communities, staff and volunteers, have played an extraordinary role in providing vital support to our citizens during this time.

## How to get involved

- You are invited to submit a single sentence that begins, 'I remember ...'
- Your sentence is a way to remember loved ones lost, or to record your own experience of the pandemic – from the everyday to the more challenging
- Submissions will be held anonymously
- A wide-ranging selection will appear on the project blog where they will be anonymised
- All contributions will be archived
- Submissions will inform the final memorial,

which will be created in Pollok Country Park - and at satellite venues

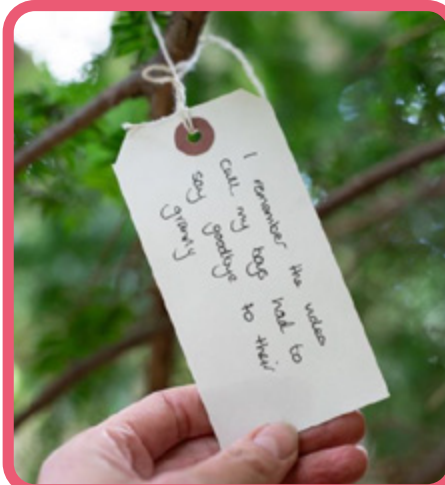
- For the sake of confidentiality - please only use first names if you refer to people
- You are welcome to contribute more than one 'I remember'

How to submit your 'I remember ...' sentence

Please email your contribution(s) to Alec Finlay, the lead artist on the memorial project using the button below

There is no deadline for submissions since we recognise that the pandemic is not over.

I remember my wee boy's laughter as he played tag with the other children on the playground - I hope he remembers it too



**Click Here**

**To email your contributions to iremember**

**Click Here**

**To access our blog to find out more**





Planting in McPhuns Park - The Rt Hon Lord Provost Councillor Philip Braat is joined by (left to right by David Garner, Catherine Scott (Natural Environment Officers) and Gary Linstead (Countryside Ranger)



Working Hard



Tree Planting

# Sakura Cherry Tree Project

The Sakura Cherry Tree Project is an initiative that was launched in 2017 by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and UK Prime Minister Theresa May to mark 150 years of Japan/ UK friendship and continued cooperation.

The project aims to plant over 6,000 cherry trees nationwide and it began in autumn 2020 and will be completed this winter.

Glasgow applied for, and was offered, trees which have now been planted as cherry tree groves in Queen's Park, Bellahouston Park and McPhuns Park. The planting took place in the first three days of this November and was a combined effort of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration & Sustainability, Parks Development colleagues, members from the specific park Friends group, volunteers through The Conservation

Volunteers (TCV) and local community members who either saw publicity or were just walking by at the time for planting and stopped to join in.

In Glasgow our aspiration for the Sakura Cherry Tree Project is that in time the trees will grow to create a flowering canopy in each of the parks that can be enjoyed and admired by generations to come.

In addition to the Glasgow City Council NRS colleagues and volunteers, we were joined by local elected members on the various days and on the third day in McPhuns Park the Lord Provost Philip Braat attended and he eagerly took part in the planting. He was also able to offer support and recognition to the Soroptimists International, Glasgow Society who, as well as volunteering to plant cherry trees, were also there to plant two Redwood trees they have gifted to this park to mark 2021

as their centenary year.

The mass planting of cherry trees is a landscape project that can be added to over time in these parks or replicated in others to bring spring colour from blossom and a fiery display of autumn colour.

All trees and planting accessories were donated by the Sakura Cherry Tree Project

[Click Here](#)

**To find out more about the Sakura Cherry Tree Project**



Sakura Cherry Blossoms in a Tokyo Park





Great Teamwork

# Your Parks Bringing your Heritage Alive Archaeology

When people think of parks, it is usually about leisure and recreation, community events and food growing but the benefits of parks go far beyond these uses. Parks and greenspaces provide a lens into our past and bring our heritage alive by helping to investigate the past, inform the present and inspire future generations by working together.

The Parks Development team has been providing guidance, support and permission to Archaeology Scotland to dig deep into our football heritage.

Archaeologists from Archaeology Scotland have discovered the remains of the first purpose built international football stadium in the world, the original Hampden Park.

The first Hampden Park was opened in 1873 and was home to Queen's Park FC and the Scotland National football team until 1884, when it was closed due to the building of the Cathcart Circle Railway line.

Carrying out geophysical survey as well as excavating six trenches in the Queen's Park Recreation Ground and Kingsley Gardens, on the south side of Glasgow, in the summer of 2021, the archaeologists revealed evidence of the foundations of the first Hampden Park pavilion where the first players to play for Queen's Park and the Scottish National team would have got changed before matches and where the team officials would have sat.

There was also tantalizing evidence of the original playing surface, sealed beneath a century of earth and dirt, as well as numerous artefacts dropped by the early supporters including beer bottles, juice bottles and clay pipes.

Forming part of Archaeology Scotland's New Audience Project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland, the project was designed to engage audiences that would not normally have access to heritage or archaeology. In this instance, working in the south side of

Glasgow the team were able to work with people from lots of different backgrounds, whether they had been born and brought up in the area or had just arrived. Over the course of the project there were volunteers from eleven different countries on site, learning more about their new city, learning a bit about archaeology, practicing their English and Glaswegian and making friends.

*Copyright Archaeology Scotland*

Project funded by Historic Environment Scotland.



Mural Commemorating the original Hampden near site.



# Wee Green Grant Hillhead Primary

As you will have read in previous issues of this fabulous newsletter, the 'Wee Green Grant' created by the Glasgow Park Forum has funded a whopping 51 greenspace development projects!

The forum, parks development staff and many more are all looking forward to hearing how all the projects have moved forward, challenges, celebrations 'n' all and featuring them here in Parklife.

One of the many successful Wee Green Grant applicants had recently reported that their project finally has lift off after the delay of lock down! Hillhead Primary Parent Council wrote in to say, 'After all your help, it's finally happening!' Their 'Colourful Biodiversity Wall Mural and Mini Garden in Gibson St Corridor' is underway and the excitement is tangible. With the support from their local community, local elected members and RSPB, the team applied for and was granted permission from Glasgow City Council to start their environmentally artistic project.

Here is what the team had to say,

We seek funds to establish a mini pollinator garden and mural wall to transform an area that is neglected into one that promotes biodiversity, neighbourhood ownership of emerging green spaces, and intergenerational community imagining of an ecologically-sustainable future. It can showcase Glasgow as a bold and creative green city at COP26 in November. This project, on the very edge of Kelvingrove Park, can create continuity between urban and park designated spaces, encouraging communities to understand how greenspace redraws boundaries as points of encounter. It would link the green, blue and grey spaces of the River Kelvin, the currently pedestrianised Kelvin Way, shopping streets, schools and the University and the Gibson Street bee corridor. By reclaiming this neglected spot, a focal Open Space emerges that encourages us to re-connect with our surroundings, to converse, to share dreams and to develop values of care and wellbeing for human and non-human species alike.'

I'm sure you'll agree that it looks fantastic and will take a trip to see this example of community greenspace power, art and climate change inspiration.

'This project was designed and delivered by a National Trust-approved graffiti artist, in collaboration with children and young people at the schools'

Work in progress of Hillhead primary parent council mural wall, bees, frogs, flowers, fish, water soil, rainbow, sky, sun



Artist Working Hard



Interesting Stuff



Complete Works



# Salmon School – Clyde River Foundation

Primary schools in Glasgow were invited to take part in the “Migration Phase” of a project called Salmon School, devised and delivered in advance of COP 26 by the Clyde River Foundation on behalf of the Missing Salmon Alliance.

There are 26 schools participating in the project (from Leadhills in the headwaters, to Inverkip on the Firth) which introduces children to the Atlantic salmon (in particular) and its requirement for cold, clean water. We demonstrated how scientists monitor the condition of fish communities in our rivers (and showed the children electrofishing and what we caught) and the children participated in kick sampling for invertebrates, tree identification and taking eDNA samples for fish identification by this cutting-edge method. The results were incorporated into a document fed into COP26 high level discussions.

Practically, we hope to be able to detect salmon by electrofishing or eDNA analysis across the catchment. In places where there are no salmon, we will hopefully be able to explain why.

Clyde River Foundation approached the Parks Development team for permission agreement and guidance in accessing parks to carry out the “Migration Phase” of the project.

Schools in Glasgow which participated (and the GCC parks where we took the children) were:

Dalmarnock (Early Braes Park); St Denis' (Tollcross Park); Caldercuilt (Glasgow University Vet School); St Convals and Lorne Street (Pollok Country Park); Our Lady of the Annunciation (Linn Park).



Dalmarnock @ Early Braes Park



St Denis' @ Tollcross Park



St Conval's @ Pollok Park



Our Lady of Annunciation @ Linn Park



Lorne St @ Pollok Park



# Glasgows Urban Wildlife

For most people, enjoying wildlife is listening to the birds sing, build nests or watching foxes sleeping on the riverbank in the sunshine while they are out walking or just sitting in garden. But have you ever wondered what happens to urban wildlife that ends up injured, ill, or orphaned and needs help?

Unfortunately, sometimes wildlife becomes unwell or maternity homes are disturbed so the parents either move the babies or abandon them. As Countryside Rangers, we are trained to handle wildlife and use correct rescue equipment and regularly get called out to injured swans, deer or foxes and occasionally bats and owls. We are also handed young, abandoned animals or called to an area to pick up ducklings or a poorly hedgehog. These rescues tend to be seasonal with

Springtime the busiest season of the year for us as well as the SSPCA and Hessilhead hospitals.

It is always a feel-good moment when you are called by the rescue hospitals sometime later to say the injured or orphaned wildlife is ready to go home! This happened recently when SSPCA who had taken some orphaned fox cubs found abandoned in Glasgow last April to their hospital gave us a call as, after fighting for their lives, they had grown healthier and stronger with lots of TLC and were ready for release back into the wild. Fox cubs usually leave the natal home during September and move to new pastures, same goes for the rescued ones so being able to return these cubs to their birth home was quite an emotional moment. We met the SSPCA at an undisclosed site to assist with

the little ones return to the wild. Thank you to everyone in GCC who assisted with this amazing opportunity (you know who you are). Without these rescue organisations we could not have had a happy ending.



# C7 city reach Big clean up - People Make Glasgow Greener

As the eyes of the world are on us, we have a unique opportunity to make real progress towards our ambition of becoming one of the most sustainable cities in Europe. We all have a part to play.

Whether you have already been involved in lots of litter picking activity or are thinking about it, Glasgow City Council deliver a range of initiatives which aim to clean up Glasgow making it a cleaner place for people to work, children to play and for everyone to visit.

Intrinsic to this service, is the Neighbourhood Improvement Volunteer (NIV) Programme, which encourages individuals to improve their local environment, making it cleaner and safer for everyone. Volunteers take part in a range of activities to enhance their local environment, from litter picking to reporting environmental problems.

Our community groups and NIV's tell us that being able to improve their area by personal action.

C7 Church City Reach week helped clean up 3 different areas around our city including the streets surrounding the Church building at High Craighall Road.

The group also cleaned up Victoria Park Nature Walk where they collected 12 refuse bags, with a grand total of 42 refuse bags collected over the week. A big thanks to C7 Church for making our parks and open spaces greener and cleaner.

You can also organise your own group event, maybe with a group of friends by doing a litter pick. You can borrow a kit from one of our growing Community Hubs or from the NIES Service.



**Click Here**

**To request a Clean Up Kit**

**Click Here**

**To find out how you can get involved**

**Click Here**

**For more information or to become a NIV**



# **Parklife**

If you have an interesting story or  
have a question, please use the  
button below to get in touch.

**Click  
Here**