

Newsletter Autumn 2013



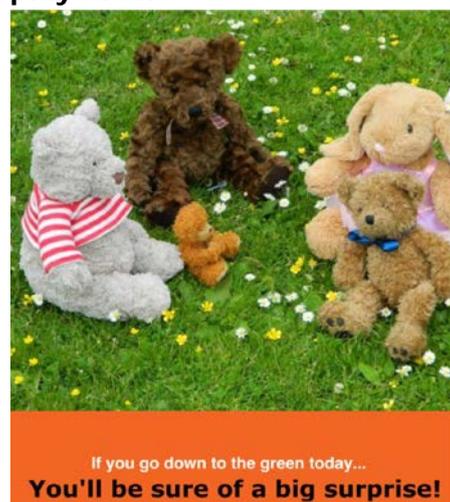
Please join us, help preserve and protect Magdalen Green and renovate our playpark!

Magdalen Green is Dundee's oldest park it is a lovely green space in the middle of the bustling West End of Dundee.

The Friends of Magdalen Green group has been going since 2007 and our aim is to protect and enhance the Green, to educate users and residents about the green and to help raise awareness of the issues. Please join us!

This year we held our **AGM** in May at which Sandra Thomson the Managing Director of Balfour, McGregor Textiles gave a very entertaining talk about her 'Jute Journey' and it went very well, there was even a chance for some retail therapy. The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Minutes Secretary all agreed to stay in their posts for one more year and the constitution was amended to allow this. In recent years we have lost several committee members so it was a relief to welcome 4 new committee members; Sandra McDowell and Catherine Fairweather, who are well known to their fellow dogwalkers on the Green and Alice la Rooy and Sharon Dickie who are leading the fundraising campaign to renovate the Roseangle play-park.

The Council agreed to earmark £10,000 for the play-park project but we have big plans, which will cost more than £100K! So far 9 grants have been applied for and sadly 4 have been declined but we have been invited to resubmit for the big one, Active Spaces, which is part of the Commonwealth Games 2014 Legacy programme. A great variety of fundraising activities have been organised. In July the Teddy Bears picnic went ahead despite the rain, and the band played on!



If you go down to the green today...
You'll be sure of a big surprise!

A wine tasting at Aitkens followed in August and a great time was had by all! In early September Tayside Orienteering helped us run a joint event on the Green. We hope to repeat both these events soon.

In September Cherry Blossom and Daisies nurseries held a 'Toddle Waddle' in aid of the play-park fund and raised nearly £170! Cherry Blossom Nursery use the play-park a lot and it will be great when we have some equipment suited to toddlers. In October a bake sale at the University raised over £460 lots of hungry people there!

We held a photography competition to find photos for the 2014 Friends of Magdalen Green calendar. 6 photos were chosen from the entries and the rest were kindly donated by local professional photographers. Printing costs were subsidized by 12 local businesses whose logos appear on each month.



You can buy the calendar at Frasers, the Perth Rd Post Office and the Parlour Café Westport, price £6. All proceeds go to the campaign.



WESTFEST Big Sunday this year was on June 9th and the Friends had a stall on the Green. The play-park campaign had an activity area which was very popular. A banner was donated by a local artist and has been used several times since. Thanks Stu!

Our Play-park Renovation Campaign ran stalls on Big Sunday including a 'design your own play-park' and over £700 was raised. This helped spread the word and got the campaign off to a flying start.

Remember WESHA the West End Sports and Heritage Association, which the Friends helped to found?

It's now WECSH - the **WestEnd Community Sports Hub!** The name is now in line with the other Community Sports Hubs in the city, and better explains what we hope to do. This year the woefully underused pavilion south of the railway was given a makeover thanks to a grant from Community Payback. The organisations which make up WECSH, FoMG, WESTFEST, 2 football groups and various other sports groups, are looking forward to making use of the pavilion for more than just changing rooms. We hope it will eventually become a community hub where exhibitions, workshops and other activities can take place. WESCH has applied for SCIO status and is about to sign a lease with Dundee City Council for the pavilion for a trial year. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

ALSO on the sports theme, Wendy Reid from Fraser's Fruit and Veg ran a triathlon in July and donated her £550 sponsorship money to the Play-park campaign. Many thanks Wendy!

MORE NEWS FROM 2012-13

Lighting Action!

The lighting project for the south path has re-emerged with the help of Dr. David Rodley director of the University of Dundee Centre for Renewable Energy. This summer his students were busy working on the plans and were last seen testing a prototype in Davids' garden so hopefully we will see progress this winter! Also on lighting, the cycle path lights have been a great success as have the temporary wheelie bins brought in to help with the volume of litter on hot weekends.

A memorial bench was installed by the friends and family of Sam Lewis, who died at a tragically young age. It's the big bench near the bandstand, thanks to all who helped fundraise. Sam loved the Green.

Late last year the old wooden roundabout was condemned as unsafe, the spindle was worn and replacement could not be sourced. After many complaints the council has replaced it with a funky new yellow one which spins around much faster and makes kids (and adults) very dizzy! Thanks Dundee City Council!

More sad news, we are hoping to plant a tree in memory of Sandy, a regular dog-walker on the Green who died this year. We want a beautiful, strong tree to be planted in Sandy's memory and have a small plaque and a little ceremony. At the moment we are deciding on the tree and location. Sandy is sadly missed on Magdalen Green, but will always be remembered with great fondness and affection.

LATEST NEWS! Dinner Dance at the Invercarse- a great success!

Around 150 people came to our dinner dance on November 9th. Over £5,500 was raised from ticket sales, a raffle and auctions. We are really grateful for the donation of the raffle prizes and auction lots. Thanks to the brilliant band who got everyone up dancing and gave us a good discount. Also many thanks to Peter Menzies who was our MC and a wonderful auctioneer! Including the DCCs £10,000 and the donation in kind from McAlpine who will demolish the current playpark when needed, our total stands at about £40,000. We hope to raise between £120,000 and £150,000 so we still have a way to go!

If you have any fundraising ideas please get in touch.

If you'd like to join the Friends, email friendsmagdallengreen@yahoo.co.uk alternatively send your name, address & fee to:-

The Friends of Magdalen Green 16A
Windsor St, Dundee, DD2 1BP

Annual membership fees are:

Friend	£2.50
Good Friend	£5.00
Best Friend	£10.00

Website; www.magdalengreen.org.uk email; friendsmagdallengreen@yahoo.co.uk

Or look us up on Facebook; www.facebook.com/RoseanglePlayParkDundee