

# KINGS PARK NEWSLETTER

Updates from the Friends of Kings Park



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## Winding down and looking ahead to 2024

Welcome to the **Friends of Kings Park Newsletter**.

It is that time of year when daylight hours are limited and the weather makes us feel like staying indoors.

But Kings Park is still busy.

The Thursday morning volunteers have been spending more time in the café than gardening but that's not to say that nothing has been achieved!

As we look forward to our **Christmas social evening**, we are also planning for lots of Friends' projects and activities next year. Read on for more.





## Peace of Mind Garden

Over the last few months, we have purchased some bark chippings and our volunteers have **built a new path through the shrubs** on the hedge-side of the garden. This is part of our plan to replant and open up areas of the garden. Garden visitors have been spotted using the new path and it seems an attraction for children. Next season we will add to the planting in this area.

We have been awarded a **Magic Little Grant** to buy a new tool store for the garden. The grant is funded by the People's Postcode Lottery. The Land Services Team at Stirling Council have delivered some paving slabs for us to use as a base. Early in the new year we will get to work on this project. It will be much appreciated next season by the garden volunteers who have been carrying with them all their required tools.



## Community Orchard

Our other recent success in fundraising was a grant award from **Stirling Council's Community Grants Scheme** to create a new information board for the orchard. It will replace the existing out-dated and poorly sited board. We will be working on the content with some partner organisations and hope to have it in place in the Spring.

One of our projects for next year is to create a **biodiversity hub** around the orchard. With wildflower planting and bug boxes, and of course our new information board, we want to create more interest in this area for park users. And we are hoping to involve some young people in helping us create these new features.



## Tennis court updates

The work to resurface the tennis courts as part of the **Lawn Tennis Association** and **Stirling Council** project was completed in October. Further work is required before the courts will reopen. We look forward to the official opening next year.



## Working with Stirling Council's Land Services

We held an **autumn catch-up meeting** with council officers in charge of maintenance and the rangers service. It was good to share our ideas and plans for next year, and to get some contacts for potential partnerships.

We also shared concerns about various issues in the park. Within their restricted budget, the officers will try to address some of these issues.

More updates to come.

## Expanding our network

As a voluntary organisation, we are keen to learn from good practice and make sure we are being as effective as possible with our resources. We have joined two umbrella organisations (free membership) and we propose making use of their services in the coming year.

**Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE)** is locally based and supports many local organisations like us. We will be exploring if SVE's volunteer portal can be used to attract more local volunteers to our group.

**The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)** is a national body for voluntary and charitable bodies. The Friends of Kings Park is one of over 3,700 Scottish organisations as members. We now have access to a lot of information and support services. And the opportunity to connect with and learn from other friends groups elsewhere in the country.



## Christmas is coming

Our **Christmas social evening** will take place on **Thursday 7 December from 7pm in the Pavilion Café** in the Park. All members and their partners/guests are welcome. An entry ticket of **£5 per person** includes a free entry into our exciting Christmas raffle, as well as drinks and seasonal nibbles. We look forward to a good turnout. Warning... Christmas jumpers may be worn!



## Become a Friend of Kings Park

We are a charity that aims to promote and improve Stirling's Kings Park. We work with the local community to promote the use of the park and improve its facilities.

We meet regularly to undertake various projects that we hope make the park an even better place to visit. While we won't be in the garden over the winter, we will meet regularly on Thursday mornings at the Pavilion Café.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2024 and are always looking for new members. If you would like to get involved, email [fokpstirling@outlook.com](mailto:fokpstirling@outlook.com), visit our website, [www.friendsofkingspark.org](http://www.friendsofkingspark.org), or our **'Friends of Kings Park Stirling'** Facebook page.

Gardening experience not required.  
Donations are also welcome.

## Did you know...

The trees in our orchard have names, Bloody Ploughman, Stirling Castle and Katy to name a few. But one is nameless.

We look forward seeing what fruit our 'tree with no name' bears next year.

If you'd like help out with the community orchard, or any FoKP activities, contact [fokpstirling@outlook.com](mailto:fokpstirling@outlook.com)

