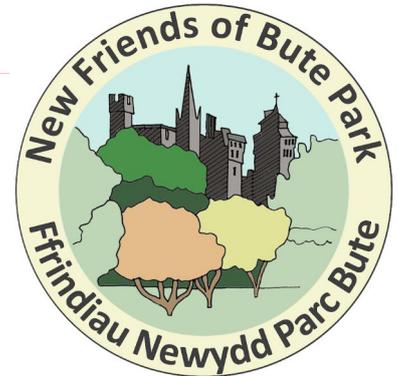


The New Friends of Bute Park

Autumn Update 2022

Introducing the New Friends of Bute Park Committee (and our new logo)



A new committee was elected at the AGM in May by the New Friends of Bute Park membership.

Paul Barrett is the Chair and the only member from the previous disbanded Friends of Bute Park committee.

Ian Body is the Secretary and has successfully brought the committee together using his organisational and communication experience.

Margaret Leitch is Treasurer and Membership Secretary and is using her commercial and public sector background to ensure that the finances and membership are carefully looked after, which has taken a lot of work.

Ashley Martin has been involved with adults and children with additional learning needs, in social care and education and is keen to increase access opportunities to Bute Park for all.

Louise Kane works with interior design and is also the Secretary of a voluntary group of creative and construction professionals engaged in the built environment, and this

gives her a special insight into the Park's ambience. Louise has also designed the logo.

Dougie Gentles is a mental health campaigner, an author, trainer, speaker and consultant. Having worked since 2006 in youth and mental health services, he and Ashley, who has also worked with disadvantaged groups, are keen on introducing groups who rarely use the Park, to perhaps volunteering or just experiencing being there for the first time.

Paul Davies has been involved with working as a volunteer and with volunteers in several parks in Cardiff and is also the Chair of the Cardiff Reservoirs Group. As such, he has extensive experience of working together with Cardiff City Council and the Senedd.

Caroline Drayton works for Natural Resources Wales and her responsibilities include health, safety and wellbeing, stakeholder engagement and communications. She has a scientific background and is focussed on the delivery of environmental and sustainable outcomes for current and future generations.

Lesley Lewis was the International Trade Co-ordinator at South Wales Chamber of Commerce, so brings a variety of skills to the committee, including commercial contacts and international know-how. As the Park is increasingly being used by foreign tourists, this knowledge has proven invaluable.

Cody O’Cailleagh-Wheeler has been involved with numerous community projects concerned with environmental issues, including the Orchard Project; skills and experience which are invaluable to the New Friends of Bute Park.



Left to right: Paul Barrett (Chairman), Margaret Leitch (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Ashley Martin, Paul Davies, Lesley Lewis, Louise Kane, Ian Body (Secretary) and Dougie Gentles. Not pictured: Caroline Drayton and Cody O’Cailleagh-Wheeler.

We are always interested in hearing from anyone who may have relevant skills or interests as potential future members.

Reclaiming our Park



All photos by Mark Lewis for Wales Online

After Bute Park was targeted by vandals a Reclaim the Park event was organised by Melissa Boothman of the Secret Garden Cafe in response to widespread public disgust and sympathy.

Several hundred people of all ages gathered for a salsa band led march and a community picnic.

Melissa set up a personal Just Giving page raising funds for new trees in Bute Park . The response was huge, initially raising over £5000, donated by more than 170 individuals. Unprompted, many of these donors also suggested the idea of a community orchard.



“Reclaim Our Park”: what people said...

“This is such a beautiful reaction. Darkness cannot drive out darkness only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that. Thank you, and yes yes and yes to a community orchard” Emma H

“What a wonderful idea, such a positive addition to Bute Park, for both community and wildlife” Julia P

The Community Orchard



As a result of the sickening vandalism that took place a year ago, there was an amazing reaction from many communities in Cardiff which brought about the idea of a community orchard in Bute Park and this has now been given its blessing by Cardiff Council.

There will be two orchards - one located to the north of Blackweir playing fields and a smaller one next to the Bute Park Visitor Centre at what is called the Orchard Lawn.

Of course, the New Friends of Bute Park are supporting this initiative enthusiastically and we are expecting work on the orchards will start very soon.



It has been shown that spending time in an orchard improves our sense of wellbeing, and the Orchard Group wants to share this experience with as many people as possible.

Orchards have played an important role in communities for hundreds of years, providing a focal point, a gathering space, and a place where people and the rest of nature successfully work together to create harvests and cultivate fresh fruit long before we could even dream of importing fruit.

We hope that the two orchards will provide vital green spaces in Bute Park, where people will be encouraged to interact with nature either through becoming custodians of the trees or by simply being around them and enjoying their shade, beauty and fruit.

Anne Bell, who has compiled an extensive on-line history of Cardiff parks and trees, notes that "Bute Park has now more champion trees than any other municipal park in Britain, and the Bute Park Arboretum contains over 3,000 individually catalogued specimens" [source: www.cardiffparks.org.uk/trees/bute/index.shtml] but there is no thriving edible orchard.

Historically a large orchard would have been pride of place in Bute Park, providing soft fruits, apples and pears to the Bute family and friends.



If you'd like to get involved contact: admin@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk



Volunteering with the New Friends

Education Centre Volunteer Staffing

Bute Park's Visitor Centre, located in the Secret Garden, was opened in November 2011 as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Bute Park Restoration Project to be a hub of parks-based information, learning and recreation. With a reception area, main classroom, smaller meeting room and multi-media presentation facilities it currently provides information on the park and its history, the Education and Outreach programme, in-house training and office space for the Bute Park management team.



activities within the centre and would also provide the New Friends group with a base to promote itself and its activities to the public and park users.



Initially this could be on a trial basis for limited days and limited times (possibly between 10.00 and 15.00) to assess the potential and judge the public response. At this stage the committee are interested in hearing from anyone (New Friends members or not) who might be interested in helping us with this trial and who would like to know more. Please get in touch by emailing admin@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk

With the management team's limited resources, it is not possible to have the Centre open daily throughout the week – as a result, opportunities for the Centre to be accessible to the public and provide a base for activities, education and public information are being missed.

The New Friends of Bute Park are currently looking at the opportunity of providing resources to support the operation of the Visitor Centre on nominated days. This would allow greater public access, enable more events and



New Friends Networking



Volunteers BBQ at Forest Farm

Probably the best BBQ in the history of this event took place on Wednesday 13th July.

The weather was perfect, there was a great turn-out from all the Friends groups in Cardiff, plus Nicola Hutchinson who organised the event and who also leads the Community Rangers team, prepared some excellent summer BBQ food, which ensured that everything went off like a Mid-Summer Night's Dream.

This was a great opportunity for networking, and Ian Body, Margaret Leitch and Paul Barrett, who represented the New Friends of Bute Park, were able to talk to members of other Friends groups and get the benefit of their experience, while Julia Sas, the Bute Park Manager, was also present and able to do some networking.



Julia Sas, centre , facing



Ian Body, right

Membership and Subscriptions

Bute Park belongs to the people of Cardiff, so please think about joining us. When you become a member you get:

- A Newsletter – quarterly as a minimum
- Voting rights at formal meetings
- Opportunity to comment on proposals for Park work, activity and changes
- Opportunity to input ideas and suggestions as part of Bute Park's development
- Opportunity to develop ideas for community access to and use of Bute Park
- Access to Friends Facebook Group for New Friends members only
- Priority information on events and activities
- Privilege rates and access in some cases

And in return all we ask for is an annual contribution of £10 to help run the group and your email address to enable us to keep in touch and keep you updated. Just drop an email to members@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk to say you are interested

New Friends of Bute Park Website Development

New Friends of Bute Park have a page hosted by Cardiff Council on the Bute Park website and we are also working on our website. Any help is gratefully accepted.

Please contact: - admin@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk

Bute Park awarded Green Flag by Keep Wales Tidy



On Tuesday 26th July Bute Park was awarded a Green Flag, which is delivered in Wales by environmental charity Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government. Green Flag provides a national quality standard and framework for green space and Bute Park is proud to have its work acknowledged in this way.

Welsh Government Minister for Climate Change, Julie James said, "Our local green spaces have a vital role to play in connecting us to nature. These awards go to prove that Wales' parks and similar areas are doing a wonderful job in providing quality places to relax and enjoy."

Left to right:

- Lucy Prisk – Keep Wales Tidy
- Rachel Davies - Bute Park Ranger
- Ian Body – New Friends of Bute Park
- Julia Sas – Bute Park Manager
- Natalie Taylor - Cardiff Harbour Authority
- Councillor Jennifer Burke-Davies - Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
- Dougie Gentles– New Friends of Bute Park
- Meriel Jones – Bute Park Education Officer
- Jenny Bradley – Bute Park Events and Communications Officer
- Jonathan Gagg - Parks Asset Officer





Upcoming Events

Check the website for updates <https://bute-park.com/whats-on/>

Christmas at Bute Park

1st December 2022 - 1st January 2023

“Christmas at Bute Park” is the biggest festive light trail Wales has ever seen.

The multi-award winning festival of light is back for 2022 and is set to shine brighter than ever!

With a host of new installations, including a ‘hypnotic laser journey’ and an ‘epic orb of iridescent colour’, this year’s light trail is going to dazzle visitors once more.

After a sellout first year, Christmas at Bute Park will be open from December 1st 2022 – 1st January 2023. Visitors of all ages will once again be able to soak up the magic, as the park is



taken over by a stunning array of festive lasers, neon trees and flame-lit light installations.

The 1.4KM route will also take in delicious, locally produced street food & drink stalls too.

Visitors will have the option to visit during a number of different time slots running each night & the event is fully accessible to those with wheelchairs and prams, aiming to offer an inclusive celebration of Christmas for all the family.

For more information on Christmas at Bute Park & how to book tickets, visit christmasatbutepark.com



Step into the Light