

Welcome! Croeso!



This is the first newsletter from the New Friends of Bute Park.

Why New Friends? Because after nearly two years of lockdown and social distancing, the committee has almost totally changed and so have many of the members.

We don't want this newsletter just to come from the committee - if it doesn't belong to its members, it is hardly worth doing. So we would like you to participate as much as possible with photos, articles and letters. Please contact: newsletter@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk

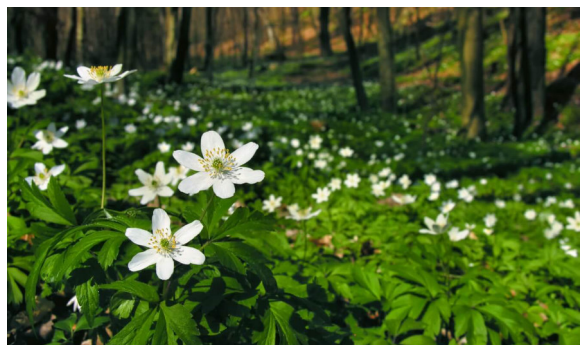
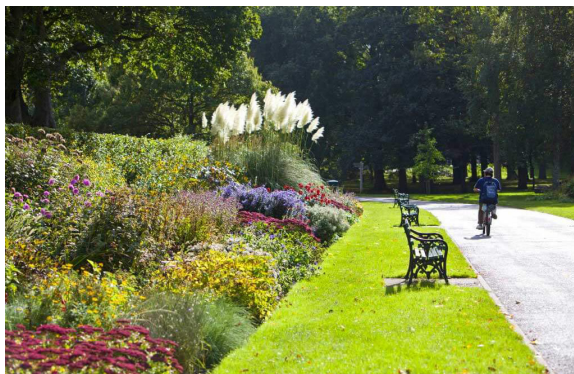
Of course we are aware of the importance of the Welsh language and we welcome articles in the Welsh language. Cysylltwch â: newsletter@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk

We cannot emphasise the importance of Bute Park enough - not only is it the lungs



of the city, it helps fight pollution, it encourages biodiversity and, in addition it helps control the city's temperature and humidity. We also found out during the pandemic just how significant it is for social cohesion and we witnessed how important Bute Park, Pontcanna Fields and Llandaff Fields are as places of solace, recreation and community enjoyment - as well as part of the tourist experience for thousands of visitors.

The park is also important historically - the Castle Green was landscaped in the late eighteenth century by Capability Brown, and the park itself was laid out around 1873 by Andrew Pettigrew, head gardener to the 3rd Marquess, who was one of the richest men in the world. The 5th Marquess of Bute presented the park to the Council in 1947 and it was opened to the public in 1949.



Please get in touch. We are always keen to hear from members and anyone else on anything related to the Park - contact us at admin@newfriendsofbutepark.co.uk

Introducing Bute Park



Bute Park follows the River Taff from Castle Street in the south all the way to the A48 in the north. It borders, but doesn't include, other green spaces such as Sophia Gardens, Llandaff Fields and Pontcanna Fields.

The Park is managed and maintained by a dedicated team from Cardiff Council who support all of the activities to be found in the Park, whether horticultural, artistic or educational, as well as volunteering opportunities and leisure facilities.



Spring Open Day 2022



This was probably the finest day of Spring. The sun shone, there was hardly a cloud in the sky and the selection of plants would have made Monty Don dance on his tiptoes through the tulips. And besides the plants for sale, there were guided walks, craft activities for children, story telling for children, Gardener's Question Time. and visits to the Nursery.

This was a wonderful way to celebrate Spring and, hopefully, the end of the pandemic. Event date for 2023 is still TBC. Check the website for updates on What's On in Bute Park - <https://bute-park.com/whats-on/>



Volunteering in the Park



Park management agrees that volunteers are an increasingly important element in the overall character of the park. The benefits resulting from successful volunteer programs here have ranged from encouraging community ownership and increasing the use of the space to identifying and nurturing future community leaders.

Some of the projects that volunteers have worked on are conservation sessions like clearing paths, cutting back overgrowing brambles, litter-picking, hay-raking, bulb planting, crown-lifting trees and pruning.

There are also opportunities to organise various walks like bird-watching, educational events and nursery volunteers.

There are opportunities such as helping with educational visits, running guided walks and gardening.



It is generally thought that the five motivations for volunteering are:

- Challenging work
- Increased responsibility
- Growth and development
- Achievement
- Recognition of accomplishment



Regular volunteering sessions include

Tuesday - Practical volunteering - afternoon

Wednesday - Gardening - morning

Second Saturday of the month - Conservation - morning

Places are limited; please email - ButePark@cardiff.gov.uk to book.



The great new play area in nearby Llandaff Fields

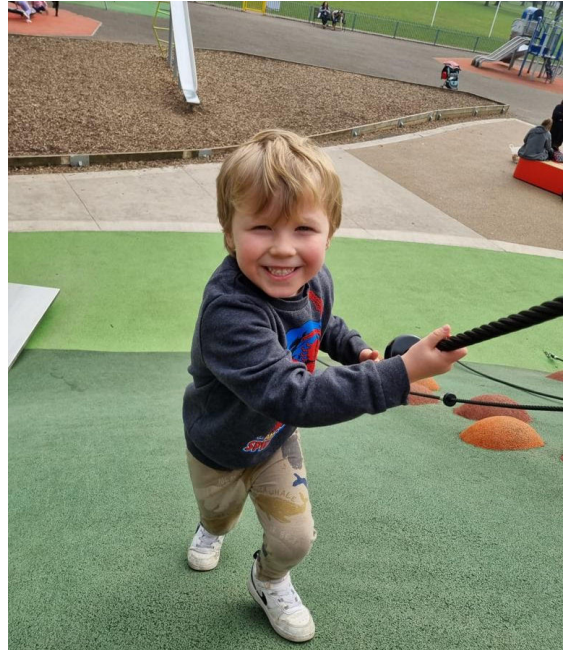


Question: What do Canada, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Germany have in common with Llandaff Fields?

Answer: Mark Synan, landscape architect, has designed play areas in diverse localities in all these countries.

“I’m from Cardiff,” said Mark, “but I’ve worked a lot abroad and children are the same all over the world. They want to get out and move - at least most of them do.”

When asked about what the difference is between what is available now and years ago, he is quite clear. “Legislation over the years has changed things like safety surfacing. Now we have rubber, bark mulch, rubber tiles and artificial grass. Cardiff Council has a dedicated team that is constantly checking that every play area is safe. At the same time, this emphasis on safety allows us to develop features that would not have been possible twenty years ago. Added to that, there weren’t many suppliers years ago but now



there is much more choice for landscape architects like us.”

“We wanted the area in Llandaff Fields to have a central feature and this is the mound with slides and climbing trails with separate ropes at different levels and angles. We added rubber spheres as well and I don’t think that this has been used in Britain before.”

“We have intended the climbing area to be for the 5 to 12 age group and, from what we have seen, this is mostly the age range that uses it.”

“This sort of play area is intended to last between ten and fifteen years - and I often wonder how many children will use this area during that period. We have a rough idea but you can never be sure. I just hope that they get as much enjoyment out of using it as we did planning it.”



A few upcoming events in the Park



Everyman Theatre

Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival, Sophia Gardens

23rd June - 30th July 2022

Blackadder Goes Forth

Twelfth Night

Little Shop of Horrors

High School Musical

...and much more!

Box Office: 0333 666 3366

Contact: <https://cardiffopenairtheatrefestival.co.uk/>

Check the website for updates on What's On in Bute Park -

<https://bute-park.com/whats-on/>



Adventure Cinema, 29th July

The UK's largest touring outdoor cinema is back for 2022!

This safe, spacious event will screen an eclectic mix of classics, musicals, big blockbusters and family films.

All you have to do is buy a ticket, pack your picnic, camping chairs and blanket, and join us this summer! VIP deck chairs also available.

<https://www.adventurecinema.co.uk>

Cancer Research UK Pretty Muddy + Race for Life, 9th July

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, which has been in partnership with Tesco for 20 years, is an inspiring series of 3K, 5K, 10K, Pretty Muddy and Pretty Muddy Kids event which raise millions of pounds every year to help beat cancer by funding research.

Pretty Muddy – Saturday 9th July

Race For Life – Sunday 10th July

Money raised funds world-class research to help beat 200 types of cancer – including bowel cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, testicular cancer, brain cancer, children's cancers and leukaemia.

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org>



A few more things...



CCTV Update

Work has started on the installation of new CCTV cameras around Bute Park as part of a crackdown on crime and to increase public safety. The new CCTV cameras will cover 6 key locations to achieve the ability to prevent and detect crime in the park. The system is quite an advanced one, in that there is no need for lights at night, which otherwise could adversely affect wildlife.

Can Mlynedd o Urdd Gobaith Cymru a Phum Mil o Chwaraewyr Rygbi

Rhwng y 4-8 Ebrill chwaraeodd dros bum mil o bobl ifanc yn y gystadleuaeth rygbi 7 Bob Ochr ar Gaeau Pontcanna.

Dywedodd Gary Lewis, Cyfarwyddwr Chwaraeon yr Urdd, "Mae'r digwyddiad 'ma yn dangos pwysigrwydd chwaraeon ym mywydau pobl ifanc yng Nghymru, a hefyd gallwn weld bod y Gymraeg yn elfen amlwg ddeinamig."

Ychwanegodd Gary, "Mi glywais i fachgen di-Gymraeg yn dweud wrth ei fêt, "Playing rugby and hearing Welsh spoken all the time, this is the most Welsh I've ever felt. It's brilliant."

Website

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

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 £5 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 and we will get things started for you.

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Please get in touch

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Your chance to learn about the wonders of pollinators



Introduction to Pollinators Webinar

Insect pollination is essential to growing our food, and in maintaining a healthy and thriving environment. There are over 6,000 species of pollinating insects in the UK and this includes bees, flies, butterflies, moths and beetles. Join Buglife for this free webinar, to learn more about the diversity of pollinators in the UK, and the threats facing these species.



Thursday 12th May 2022
6.30-7.30pm
Via Zoom

Book your place through [Eventbrite](#)
Or for more information contact
alice.parfitt@buglife.org.uk



This workshop is funded by Network Rail as part of its Greater West Programme: Achieving No Net Loss for Forest Farm, managed by The Wildlife Trusts.

Gweminar Cyflwyniad i Bryfed Peillio

Mae pryfed peillio yn hanfodol i dyfu ein bwyd, ac i gynnal amgylchedd iach a ffyniannus. Mae dros 6,000 o rywogaethau o bryfed peillio yn y DU ac mae hyn yn cynnwys gwenyn, pryfed, pilipalod, gwyfnod a chwilod.

Ymunwch â Buglife ar gyfer y weminar rhad ac am ddim hon, i ddysgu mwy am yr amrywiaeth o bryfed peillio sydd yn y DU, a'r bygythiadau sy'n wynebu'r rhywogaethau hyn.



Ydd lau 12 Mai 2022
6.30-7.30pm
trwy Zoom

Cadwch eich lle drwy [Eventbrite](#)
neu am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â
alice.parfitt@buglife.org.uk

