

It's Nearly Spring!



Emerging from Hibernation

The days are getting longer and it's lovely to see signs of Spring around Newlands Park. As the days get lighter, the Friends of Newlands Park are thinking about the year to come. We haven't been completely dormant; this newsletter features some of the activities that have been going on over the past few months, as well as some exciting new plans. We hope you enjoy reading this update, and do get in touch with us to let us know what you think about our plans.

Do forward this email on to anyone that you think might be interested in news about the park.

If you have received this newsletter from someone else, why not subscribe to get your own copy straight into your inbox.

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Picnic Tables

You may have seen our recent post on the Facebook group about our plans to install new picnic tables. We think that the ideal location for 2 or 3 tables would be between the avenue and the big tree stumps (see X on the map*).



This is an accessible site, close to the tennis courts and where children like to run around and play with balls. We have identified robust wooden tables from a council approved supplier and we are talking to the Council about the practicalities of installing the tables.

Now we need your input and support!

Can you make a donation towards the cost? We estimate that it will cost around £550/table, including materials for ground preparation. So far we have raised just over £100, and we are very grateful to those of you who have already donated.

If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of picnic tables, or for any of the activities of Friends of Newlands Park there's a link for making donations at the end of this email.

If you would like to sponsor an entire table, please send us an email
info@friendsofnewlandspark.org

**thanks to Keppie Design for creating this lovely bespoke map for us.*

Make an on-line donation here

You can choose to make a donation that specifically goes towards picnic tables or for anything that benefits the park.

[DONATE](#)

Hedge Trimming



The Council have been very busy in the park this month, cutting back all of the hedges around the periphery of the park. This is something that we have been asking them to do for some time, especially where the overgrown hedges were encroaching on the pavements. Whilst it looks very severe, the hedges will soon put out new Spring growth and provide a safe haven for nesting birds.

Now that the hedge has been cut back it will also allow the Council to access to paint the fence. We've been in touch to ask what their plans are regarding the fencing, and we will let you know what they say.

Meeting with the Experts



Friends of Newlands Park are always keen to hear from parkgoers of all ages about what they think about the park and what improvements they would like to see. One of our committee members was therefore delighted to be invited by Mrs Sluman, a teacher at Merrylee Primary School, to meet with their Outdoor Learning Committee at the school.

They talked about their favourite parts of the park, the importance of engaging with and protecting nature, and what they could do to engage the interest of other children. They came up with a lot of great practical suggestions and they will be visiting the park soon as a group, to start planning some new projects.

Our Gardening Volunteers are Starting Back



Our gardening volunteers have been taking a well earned break during the dark months of winter, but they will soon be back out around the park. There's always lots to do, and new volunteers are very welcome, even if you have only limited time to spare.

For people with time during the week, the regular gardening group are can usually be found in the park from around 10.00 to 12.00 every Wednesday. Regular sessions will start back this week (**4th February**). It's a very sociable group, mostly retirees, and they maintain the flowerbeds and shrubberies around the park; weeding, planting and light pruning are the usual tasks. Do say hello if you see them in the park.

If you don't have much time but would like to help out occasionally, the new **Saturday Hit Squad** might be for you. It generally meets around once a month and focuses on making a big impact in a small area. It often involves heavier tasks such as cutting back bushes and clearing badly overgrown areas. It's great for families, as if the kids aren't old enough to use the tools, they can help with sweeping and taking debris to the skip. Weather permitting, the next few dates for the Hit Squad will be **14 February, 14 March , and 11 April**.

Both sets of volunteers have dedicated WhatsApp groups to keep in touch and we also have a separate email list for the Saturday volunteering.

If you are interested in volunteering, sign up via the button below, or just reply to this email. There's no minimum commitment, just join in when you can. We are also happy to answer any questions you may have about volunteering before deciding.

Join our volunteers

[Click here](#)

Pétanque Update

After our survey in late 2024 showed that there was significant interest in installing a pétanque piste in the park, we approached Glasgow City Council in April 2025 with an outline plan and funding proposal.

In November 2025 we were told that the Council are supportive and there is suitable funding available, but we seem to have hit a bureaucratic impasse in trying to establish how to actually move this forward.

We will continue to press the Council for a definite commitment and are grateful for the support of our local councillors.

Video Presentation Friends of Newlands Park: Past, Present, and Future

This is a 10 minute slide and audio presentation giving an overview of Newlands Park, recent achievements of Friends of Newlands Park, and our consultations with parkgoers to develop an overall strategy for future improvements. It was given at the Glasgow Friends of Parks and Greenspaces Forum on 22nd November, 2025. Take a look and share your thoughts on the future of the park.



Every donation counts

*Even a pound or two can make a difference.
We rely on donations & grants to fund
activities and infrastructure projects that
benefit all users of Newlands Park. All
donations are gratefully received. Click the
button to make an on-line donation here, or
email us contact@friendsofnewlandspark.org
for other ways to donate.*

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