



Winter Newsletter

2014/15



Dear Friends

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. It seems that with yet more austerity on the way for Cardiff Council in 2015 the work of our group becomes more and more important: "working with the Council to protect, conserve, restore, and improve the Park for future generations".

Trouble ahead: The Friends formed in 2010 to try and work with the Council to halt the previous decade of neglect and deterioration. Together we have made a great start. However, we now face the possibility of this neglect and deterioration all over again. As of going to press, Cardiff Council are proposing a significant budget cut and 'remodelling' of the Park Ranger Service in 2015. *Without the Rangers and maintenance of the Park, the habitats and facilities that we have helped to develop will be affected. Also, we rely on the Rangers for their expertise and assistance without which volunteering, organised events and educational opportunities cannot take place. That is to say, without Ranger support and presence we (and the many other Friends Groups) are not permitted to volunteer! The Committee will write to Councillors but you can also comment (initially by 12th Jan) on the budget proposals via www.surveys.cardiff.gov.uk/budget/*

We are not saying that Cardiff's green spaces are necessarily more important than other Council services, just that they and their benefits to the environment, health, education, heritage, tourism, community, etc, must receive a fair hearing. There is trouble ahead for Parc Cefn Onn - again!



Awards: Following our previous Secretary's individual runner up award in 2013 we were really

pleased to have our efforts recognised again this year by winning the G roup runner-up award for Cardiff Council's volunteer of the year 2014 at City Hall.

Our next BIG project. Everyone will have noticed that the lower pond became very silted up a few years ago and is just getting worse and worse. We are currently organising environmental surveys of the area and applying for grants to turn it into an inviting area of ecological and educational interest in 2015. If possible, we would like to include a viewing platform/dipping pond and educational information panels on habitats and plants.



Sunday WORKDAYS 2015

(if we have continued Park Ranger support)

Jan 18 th	July 26 th
Feb 15 th	Aug 23 rd
Mar 22 nd	Sept 27 th
Apr 12 th	Oct 25 th
May 24 th	Nov 15 th
Jun 14 th	Dec 20 th

Further Workday details at
www.friendsofcefnonn.org.uk

Review of 2014

Many thanks to everyone who complimented the completion of the Entrance Project this year. It was a lot of work and has really improved what had become a sorry sight. With the darker mornings and evenings we are pleased the new underpass lighting is working well. Other activities included:

- 10-20 volunteers have regularly attended our monthly Workdays
- organising a number of walks
- helping the Council retain the green flag award
- continuing the battle with the phytophthora disease
- installing 20 bat boxes
- supporting employer volunteer days
- liaising with other Friends Groups in Cardiff



Nant Fawr Trail walk:



This is a great walk that we helped organise last summer and also featured in the Independent newspaper's top 10 best Boxing Day walks last winter: Cefn Onn to the Cafes in Roath via Coed Y Felin Woods, Lisvane Reservoirs, Roath Parc, and Roath Rec. It is about 12 km (6

miles). Google "Nant Fawr Trail leaflet" to download a map and directions.

Replacing our old tired benches:

Despite our efforts to preserve the benches over the years many are now in need of replacement. We are working with the Parks Department to identify funding and a design for use throughout the Park over the next few years.



Disappointing news: The Friends have been informed a few times this year by Park users that they have seen some adults, children and dogs running amongst the flowering bulbs the Friends have planted, damaging the banks of the streams, not clearing up dog mess, littering, and breaking parts of the historic Summer House. Please help us to look after the Park by reporting incidents to us.

Thank you to:

Cardiff Council Parks Department and Park Rangers Alec and Raj who regularly support our efforts.

Lisvane Community Association and Lisvane Community Council who kindly sponsor our existence and have been a great source of support.

Cardiff East Rotary Club for agreeing to donate boxes of bulbs for planting in the Spring.

Membership this year is unchanged yet again at only £5 per household. Please invite friends and family to become members. We cannot do the work we do without a strong membership. For all membership details please see our website for full details.

Website news

Please see our website for park Information, past newsletters, and regular Park news updates.

Events 2015 to be advertised

Ridgeway walk (2/5/15 @10:00,) Cefn Onn Historic walk (25/6/15 @ 18:00), AGM (1/7/15 @ 19:30), Nant Fawr Corridor walk, Cefn Onn Tree walks, Bat walk - with bat detectors (5/9/15 @ 20:00), etc

Photography competition 2015

Following our successful competition in 2013 we will be repeating this in 2015. Watch out for the entry forms and website announcement.



Winter winner 2014