



Friends of Parc Cefn Onn

Spring 2025 Newsletter

To all FoCO members

Welcome to the Friends of Cefn Onn newsletter for Spring 2025. Spring is starting to arrive, and we are now seeing bluebells, wood anemones, native daffodils and other native plants growing in the areas that were cleared of brambles last year.

Coffee shop in the Park

The Friend's group have been approached by a local charity, the Moondance Foundation, who offered a very generous grant, to use to help establish a coffee shop in the Park.

The Friends approached Cardiff Council, who were interested in this project to upgrade the former Ranger's bungalow and provide a much needed facility in the Park. The estimate of visitors to the Park is recorded as over 150,000 a year.

In December 2024, Council officials, Cllr. John Lancaster and representatives from the Friends group held a site visit to consider the feasibility of the project.

The Council will now go to tender for anyone interested on taking on a lease to refurbish the bungalow and open a cafe. The Moondance Foundation has confirmed the grant is available to be spent on provision of the catering equipment for the new café.

It's early days, but we and the Council is hopeful that the café will be open in the not too distant future.



Main Pond Clean-Up



The pond, which had become overgrown with weeds and green algae, has now been cleaned-up.

This specialized activity was arranged by our ranger Alec and funded by the Friends. The Cardiff River Group undertook the significant all-day task.

Cardiff River Group also helped the Friends litter pick the park, collecting a total of 26 bags of rubbish. The River Group said that this was actually one of the cleanest parks they had seen!



Bird & Bat Boxes

As reported in our last newsletter, we are planning installation of new bird and bat boxes. However, these boxes do need annual cleaning out and so the Friends are still looking for a new volunteer to undertake some of this work. If this could be you, please get in touch.

Crocus planting in the park

In November the Friends of Parc Cefn Onn assisted the Llanishen Rotary Club in planting purple crocus corms to raise awareness of the Rotary's fight for a world free from polio.



1333 of the purple crocus corms were planted in a dedicated area in the park. Our thanks to the Rotary club and to all those who came and helped with the planting. At our February Workday we started to build hazel fencing around the planted areas to help protect them from human and animal footfall.

#86 bus route

The Friends of Parc Cefn Onn have recently written to all the councillors in Lisvane and Thornhill, the local MP and the member of the Senedd, to raise concerns regarding the possible discontinuation of the 86 bus route.

Whilst the Friends were pleased that Cardiff Bus was recently able to secure additional short-term funding for this route, we hope that it is maintained. The route is the only bus service that passes near Cefn Onn.

There is a very limited frequency of buses on the route and we believe that is a limiting factor for visitors coming to this lovely natural and historic Park. There are currently only seven buses from the City centre to Lisvane and six returning buses.

The Friends have asked Friends of Lisvane and Llanishen Reservoirs and the Lisvane Community Council for their support.

It is hoped that more money can be found in the next Council budget to improve this service.

Brass rubbings

There are several brass plaques on posts around the park that can be used as brass rubbings. Many of the posts had become rotten and so the Friends group has taken them down for renovation. A couple of the plaques had been lost and will be replaced. The posts themselves will be replaced by weather-proof plastic posts.

Park sculptures

Following an ideas meeting in the Park in late 2023, it was decided to commission two wood sculptures from internationally renowned wood carver Chris Wood. Chris is planning a dragonfly by the top pond and a frog at the lower pond.

Social media help needed

The Friends group have a website with useful information about the Group and the Park itself. This has recently had a massive upgrade with huge thanks to local volunteer, Peter Bradley.

We still have a vacancy on the Friends committee for someone with the knowledge and expertise to help the Group with our social media presence. If you can help, please get in touch.

Forthcoming events

The Friends are hoping to hold our annual Spring Walk, run by our ranger Alec. Friends' member Peter Kent will be leading the annual tree walk. Peter was head gardener

prior to his retirement. The Park has over ninety special trees from all over the world planted by Tom Jenkins, the original Park Gardener 100 years ago.

Dates coming soon.

Workdays 2025

16th February
23rd March
13th April
11th May
22nd June
13th July
17th August
28th September
19th October
16th November
21st December

