

# Another cool year in the Park Ranger Service at the East Neighbourhood

## Newsletter 2015



As we approach the new year, we would like to give an overview of some of the **activities** we have been involved in during this busy year.



**Our work with schools** has grown this year with a couple more schools involved. And even nurseries lately! We have taken activities with up to 600 kids and two entire schools celebrated their picnic day with us at their local Park (nowhere better!) That means far more than **1000 kids** from the area have been doing activities with us just last year!

The range of activities with the kids at the park is huge: seeding flower meadows, clean-ups, leaf hunts, bird feeding and watching, pond-dipping...

All the activities encourage the kids to improve their **knowledge, engagement and care** about their local Parks. And of course have fun at the Park in a positive way!



The **feedback** from the kids and the teachers has been really good and we have noticed an improvement in the Parks as well: less litter, less vandalism.



We all know that regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of various diseases and improve mental and physical health and we are lucky enough that the East Neighbourhood offers quite a lot of choices to walk at your own pace and safely. These are some of the reasons why this year we have kept going with the successful **Healthy Walks** with our friends from “Adult Learning Link” and “Care for Carers”.

**Give a great welcome  
to the spring by joining our  
Healthy Walks!**

if you are interested, please contact:

tel: 0131 652 6324

mail: [fiona@adultlearninglink.co.uk](mailto:fiona@adultlearninglink.co.uk)

ADULT LEARNING LINK  
PARK RANGERS (East)

From the Innocent Railway to the Promenade, passing by some of our most beautiful local Parks, we had a healthy walk for all tastes and conditions. Everybody is welcome!

More than **60 local walks** took place this year!



Another big part of our job is **working with volunteers** and this year has been full of novelties in this aspect.

As part of our work with **Friends of Parks Groups** we need to mention the **archaeological excavation** that took place at the doocot at Lochend Park. We were helping Friends of Lochend Park Group and we learnt quite a lot about events that happened in the past in this place. This is an ongoing activity and we are looking forward to continue our collaboration in this





A few more collaborations to highlight: with the **Friends Groups** at Figgate Park this time, the butterflies area (well used this spring!)



and the **bug-hotel** which is ready for next year with the huge help of the gardeners assigned to the park.



And, of course, we can't forget about the **new mural at Figgate**. We were together with the Figgate Friends at the local schools Assembly talking about Figgate Park, showing pictures and encouraging the kids to give their ideas to the graffiti artist for the new mural. So, they did it and the result is spectacular. It is a must see! You won't regret it!







As part of our **community work at Craigmillar**, this summer we began a **weekly** work with **Carr Gomm and Men's Sheds** who collaborate with **NHS Lothian** supporting people in the community at Wauchope Community Garden in a kind of "outdoor workshop".

We enjoy working with the guys, sharing tools, skills and experiences. But it is not just fun, we make useful objects for the community as well: benches, bird boxes, baskets and bird feeders made with willow...



In addition to this, we work with volunteers in different events, like community clean ups gardening duties, clearing up the burns, cooperating with local business, schools, Friends of Parks Groups...

With the community work we help different groups come together with each other and the local parks and outdoors activities. We can provide a common field of interest between different groups in the community around the Parks.



This year, as in the past, we celebrated the “**Love Parks Week**” in the East Neighbourhood.

We collaborated with “Fields in Trust” on this occasion, who provided us with material for the kids.

The activities took place around the ponds in two of our local Parks Lochend and Figgate where the kids could enjoy pond-dipping, getting surprised and learning about the variety of creatures they could find under the water.

Library staff joined with us with storytelling at Rosefield, Figgate and Baronscourt Parks and we all enjoyed some exercise outdoors with the frisbee golf.

# Love Parks Week

2015



## Figgate Park

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of July 13:00-15:00

Pond dipping, storytelling (14:00) and badges making



## Lochend Park

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of July 13:30-15:00

Pond dipping and frisbee golf



## Rosefield Park

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of July 13:30-15:00

Frisbee golf, storytelling (14:00) and badges making



## Baronscourt Park

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of July 10:30-12:00

Frisbee golf and storytelling

[Join us to enjoy the Parks!](#)

East Park Rangers and Pierhill/Portobello Library



The week, in summertime, with the kids off the school, was a great success.

Sunny days, lot of **kids, parents, grandparents, outdoors** activities and fun. What else can you ask for?

We are proud and happy to announce that **Rosefield** Park has been awarded with a **Green Flag** for first time this year. And the **other 3 Parks** in the neighbourhood have maintained the award as well...

The hard work of the whole team has been recognized!





To finish we would like to highlight some of the **other tasks** we do. Perhaps they are not so cool, but we think they are equally necessary and are much appreciated by the public:

- Working with the rest of the **Park Rangers** from other neighbourhoods in a **monthly “Inter-Neighbourhood Work”**, doing as a team the big jobs that we would not be able to do on our own and avoiding the need to get a contractor.
- Regular Park patrolling (**24 Parks**) and weekly safety inspections of **24 playareas** and footpaths along with some minor maintenance work in them.
- Surveys and consultations about new proposals and projects in the area, like the “**New Park for EH15**” or the new “**Adventure playarea for Magdalene**”.
- Picking litter and **potentially dangerous** material from the Parks, collaborating with other departments like Environmental Wardens and TaskForce.
- We do some maintenance work in the Parks along with gardening duties (planting bulbs, weeding...).
- We get a big vehicle **weekly** to lift flytipping from the Parks and burns, because there is no other service assigned to burns and we can improve the speed of the job because we are always “**on site**”.



So, as you can see, we had a **busy and interesting** year and we really hope that next one is as **enjoyable** as this past one!