

Friends of Roseburn Park Newsletter

7 February 2016

The flood works are starting

Tree cutting will commence week beginning 8th Feb. Approximately 30 out of 150 trees will be cut-down and later replaced with semi-mature trees. The two oldest trees that were in the petition will have a stay of execution until Sept. The Council are working really hard to explore changing the plans to save them. It looks like the one with love hearts will definitely be OK.

At the Chiropractor's entrance to the park, the two mature cherries will be saved. The **entrance** to the park at the playpark will be closed. All the trees from the end of the wall, along the path, to the bench on the cross path will be cut down.

All the vegetation on the non-park side of the river (Corstorphine Road side) will be removed. Some areas of the park will be fenced-off for contractor equipment and materials. And that's just the beginning.

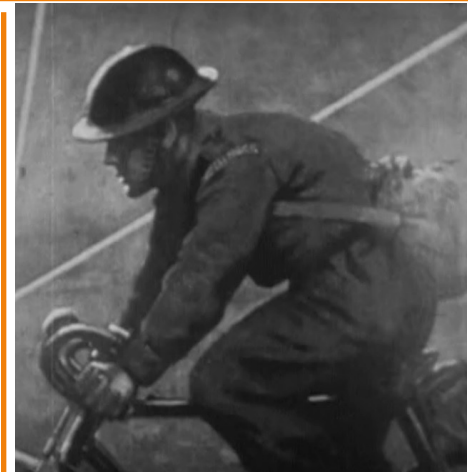
The Council website gives details here:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20045/flooding/1199/water_of_leith_flood_prevention_scheme_phase_2

The Friends of Roseburn Park Committee are working hard to get the most out of the transformation that the park is under-going. With local residents we have been questioning the felling of some of the trees. The Council are listening and responding.

We are arranging to eventually move the playpark to a sunnier location inside the (post-works) park boundary, by the Chiropractor's entrance to the park. We will be asking for pupils at Roseburn Primary School and local people to give views on the design details. We are also trying to obtain hardwood trees and sculpted logs to provide informal seating in the park. We are developing a post-works plan to improve the park and are due to present this at the Community Council in the Spring.

All ideas are welcome. And we will be fund-raising for these things this year.



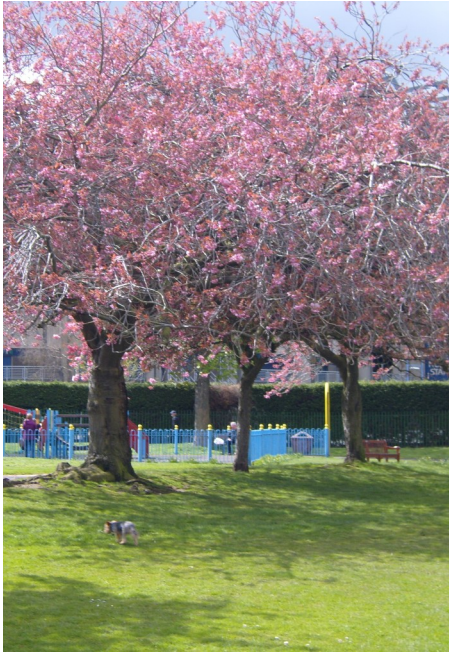
Asbestos in the Armoury

Asbestos has been discovered in half of the (green) armoury building, the part used by the school football team. It has been sealed-off in advance of repair works, which the Cricket Club and the City Council are discussing.

What was the armoury? It was built in the Second World War as a Report Centre for emergencies. It features in a short film "THE MESSAGE MUST GET THROUGH", which can be seen here: http://movingimage.nls.uk/film.cfm?fid=1396&search_term=Roseburn.

If you look at it two minutes in, you'll enjoy the sight of a mob of WW2 Wardens trying to cross the Water of Leith at Riversdale on their bikes, to get their vital message to the Armoury. And you can see the Wardens actually getting there, 17 minutes later in the film, as the reports arrive at the Armoury. See within, the ladies behind hatches taking secret messages - in what we can only imagine is the wall near the Cricket Club's tea urn. You can see the exteriors then and again later at 24 mins as the messages go out again. It's fascinating seeing how little it's changed since 1942.





Glyphosphates

Friends of Roseburn Park recently brought up with City Council our concerns about the use of glyphosphates in controlling weeds and borders in the park, particularly around the play area.

Glyphosphates are the active ingredient in the popular herbicide, Round-up. Recently the World Health Organisation has upgraded glyphosphates to "probable carcinogen", which is the second highest risk category for chemicals in relation to cancer.

The Council has since announced that they are exploring alternative ways of controlling weeds in order to phase out the use of this weed-killer:

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/glyphosate-weedkiller-to-be-ditched-over-cancer-fears-1-3986630>

Entrepreneurs- A Café for the Park?

Friends of Roseburn Park recently asked the City Council to make the old toilet block available to let or sale to someone who might create a business out of it. (A disused Council cottage was converted into a restaurant in London Road Gardens at Royal Terrace, so it's been done before.)

Full details of how the toilet block might be revamped can be seen here:

<http://www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/files/2013/02/Feasibility-Report-A-EMAIL-VERSION.pdf>

We would be interested to hear from any such entrepreneur who has an interest in the idea.

The building is deteriorating without use and something is needed.



Join for free and stay in touch!

If you did not get this newsletter direct from us you might not be a member of Friends of Roseburn Park [SCIO]!

Our membership is one of the reasons we can be effective. It's **free**, **easy** and **online** right now:

<http://www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/join-for-free/>



Cakes, songs, comments & photos

Thanks to everyone who helped with or came to a park event last year. And thanks to everyone who sent a comment or photo about the park.

These are where FoRP gets its ideas, inspiration, motivation, confidence and voice.

It's a big year. Everyone's views are more important than ever:

www.friendsofroseburnpark.org.uk/
www.facebook.com/roseburnpark