

Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill - Report for CCC AGM, July 2024

We continue to work alongside the Natural Heritage section of the City of Edinburgh Council. They completed several repairs in 2023/24 – some broken steps on 'Poet's path' were replaced and some ash trees were trimmed because of die back. They react quickly to broken steps and fallen trees if deemed unsafe.

There have been several well attended events such as a plant sale, an easter egg hunt and a fungi walk. The swans provide further interest with a changing of the guard and we've run some fun events to guess the hatching date for the next brood and a naming competition for our new arrivals. (Eric and Dotty)

We have again been awarded a Green Flag this year and we have also maintained our 2nd place on the quality parks assessment for Edinburgh out of a list of over 140 sites across the city. The assessment covers access, cleanliness, signage, biodiversity and safety and is done by independent examiners.

We lost our community engagement worker in late 2023 when our funding for that post ran out. Our volunteers though have been busy throughout the last 12 months during which we have spent 650 volunteer hours with both Duke of Edinburgh Award students and local people.

We've completed the Welcome Garden at the Craiglockhart Terrace entrance. This has bloomed into a feast for bees and other pollinators during Spring 2024 with the planters providing splashes of colour. On the hill we've been able to plant species of tree and wildflowers which have not been seen here before thus increasing the biodiversity.

Our Volunteering sessions run most Sundays from 2 till 4 pm and everyone is very welcome to join in. Please support us by joining as a member or a volunteer - just look for the Join and Volunteer tabs respectively on our website - eastercraiglockharthill.org