



Over the last few years the Friends of Hazlehead have been working hard to raise the money needed to make the much

needed improvements that we all want to see in Hazlehead Park.

There have been a number of fundraising events which have helped attract people back to the park. We held our second 5k marathon last month, our second annual fundraising ball and the Christmas Winter Wonderland event which will enter its third year this year.

*I am delighted to report that the **Queen Mother Rose Garden** has received £60,000 of refurbishment works this year. The money raised by the Friends as well as the £30,000 I secured from the Common Good Fund has paid for new roses as well as the necessary soil and fertiliser to ensure that the Garden is maintained to a gold standard. The paths and the arbors are also receiving a much needed make over and finally **the fountain** at the bottom of the garden will be brought back to life. The Council is making good progress and the rejuvenated garden is expected to be completed soon.*

Hazlehead is extremely unique as home to Pets Corner. *This winter will see the start of works to refurbish **Pets Corner** including improvements to the structure of the building, a new education centre, new staff welfare facilities and a revamp of the aquarium. This will make PETS Corner one of the most exciting places to visit in the city!*

Many of you will have noticed the *improvement works to the **core paths** around the park and the **golf course**.*

£250,000 was secured from money raised through Bus Lane Enforcement, this has given us the much needed funding to carry out resurfacing and drainage improvement works. This work has made a tremendous difference to accessibility and connectivity throughout the park.

The Friends of Hazlehead are ambitious for Hazlehead Park and as Scotland's first climate change park we are working to improve the practices in and around the park to make them more environmentally friendly.

This year we succeeded on our first attempt to obtain Green Flag status. This is the first time the park has received this prestigious award and it also ties in with the work of local schools, Hazlehead Primary and Hazlehead Academy who both have Green Flags. The awarding of this flag is a great testament to the fantastic work being carried out in the park by the Friends and the Council working closely together in partnership.

£20,000 was secured from the Great Outdoors Project to fund the creation of a **Memory Path through the Azelea Gardens** which looks absolutely wonderful. This project allows people to *sponsor a slab* and have a particular quote or poem inscribed on it.

Friends groups make a huge contribution to our local community and our local quality of life. Over the last year vibrancy and vision has been brought back to Hazlehead Park and the local volunteers involved have done a truly fantastic job. I do hope you have seen that positive change in Hazlehead Park and that change is only the beginning.

Cllr Ross Thomson

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