

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN'S WOOD

Volunteers

Over 100 direct volunteers plus many more who help out indirectly. From children to pensioners, our oldest volunteer 87 years old.

Local teachers, celebrities, politicians and businesses support the North Kelvin Meadow and Children's Wood.

Celebrity Support

45 cultural, academic and celebrity figures signed a letter supporting our project and calling for the land to be saved from development (see Appendix 10). Supporters are listed below and on the next page.

Tam Baillie - Children's Commissioner for Scotland

Kate Dickie - Game of Thrones

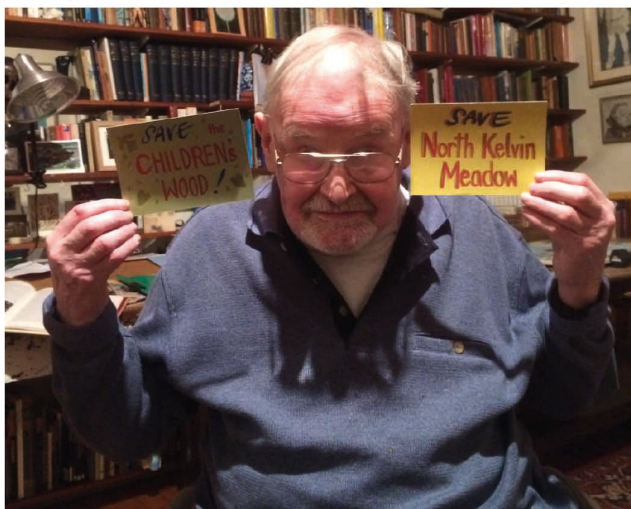
Julia Donaldson - previous Children's Laureate

Alasdair Gray - writer and artist

Liz Lochhead - poet and writer

Damien McGinty - Glee

Cathy Ford - writer



Local People's Views

A poll surveying around 2,800 people in the community, using a new voting system created by Glasgow University, found that over 90% of those who responded did not want the land to be built upon.

Around 3,000 people signed a petition to save the land from development.

A further two petitions showed similar results. The most recent with 6,000 signatures

One third of people who attended events on the land come from more economically deprived areas such as Lambhill and Ruchill.

Six local head teachers surveys found that all of their schools had benefited from the meadow and wood:

"Children gained strong attachment to nature and the environment."

"Wonderful organisation, linked to the Curriculum for Excellence. Children thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of their visit."

"Developed the school improvement plan of promoting outdoor learning."

"Since the Children's Wood is just 10 minutes walk away we can use it regularly as a resource and would use it more systemically were it to be further developed."

Awards

Nominated for the People Make Glasgow Awards,
Observer Ethical Awards Finalist,
Greener Together Awards Finalist (Scottish Government),
RSPB Nature Scotland Awards (Highly commended),
Streets Ahead Awards Finalist (Glasgow City Council)
Inspiring Cities Finalist (Glasgow City Council),
My Place Awards Finalist (Glasgow Civic Trust)

List of Supporters

Tam Bailie, Children's
Commissioner for Scotland

Emeritus Professor Gill Scott,
Glasgow Caledonian University

Prof Mark Reed, Professor in Social
Innovation, Newcastle University

Prof John McKendrick, Glasgow
School of Business and Society,
Glasgow Caledonian University

Professor Eleanor Gordon,
Economic and Social History, The
University of Glasgow

Professor Alexandra Shepard,
School of Humanities, The
University of Glasgow

Professor Lynn Abrams, School of
Humanities, The University of
Glasgow

Dr Carol Craig, Director of The
Centre for Confidence and
Well-being

Dr Niamh Stack, School of
Psychology, The University of
Glasgow

Sue Palmer, Writer and literacy
expert, Upstart campaign

Dr Margaret Sutherland, School of
Education, The University of
Glasgow

Monica Porciani Lecturer, School of
Education, University of Strathclyde

Dr Henry Noltie, Botanist

Julia Donaldson, Author

Alan Sinclair, Economist, The Work
Foundation

Iain Abercrombie, Head of Faculty
for Creative and Digital Industries,
Glasgow Kelvin College

Scottish Network for Able Pupils

Marguerite Hunter Blair, CEO Play
Scotland

Woodcraft Folk Scotland
Alistair Gray, Artist & Writer
Bernard MacLaverty, Writer
Cathy Forde, Writer
Andy Wightman, Writer
Tam Dean Burn, Actor
Kate Dickie, Actor

Alec Finlay, Poet
RM Hubbert, Musician
David McCluskey, The McCluskey
Brothers

Alex Neilson, Trembling Bells
Paul Thomson, Franz Ferdinand
Richard Wright, Artist
Dr Sarah Lowndes, Writer
David Hayman, Actor
James Morton, Baker and Writer
Laura Fraser, Actress
Christine Grady, Heritage Manager,
Maryhill Burgh Halls

Queen Margaret Drive Traders
Association

Amanda Patterson, Director, The
Hidden Gardens

Woodlands Community Gardens
Battlefield Community Project
Gregory Chauvet, Managing
Director, The Bike Station
Norman Armstrong, Managing
Director, Freewheel North
Friends of the River Kelvin

Glasgow Regional Outdoor
Woodland Learning
GOW Community



Understanding Our Impact

Research with Glasgow University

CW have utilised links with the University of Glasgow to develop the case for outdoor learning of children. With their help CW have participated in a number of studies:

"The Children's Wood activities have changed the focus within our school towards more outdoor learning which has had a positive impact on our curriculum."

Local School Headteacher

The Children's Wood have a continual collaboration with Glasgow University which they hope to develop into a research hub. In addition to this CW collaborate with Strathclyde University teacher training department student placement programme (See Appendix 3)



Attention Span

In 2014 a study looked at the relationship between being outside in a 'wild' space and the impact this had on local primary school children's attention span – a vital component for learning.

This study compared children's attention across three conditions where lunch was taken in the classroom, in a concrete playground, and after eating lunch in NKMCW. The study showed children who came to NKMCW for lunch showed a significant increase in attention span. This study built on various previous findings which demonstrated a known dip in attention span in the afternoon in both children and adults. Interaction with nature has previously been shown to restore attention.

Creativity

In 2015 a Glasgow Psychology Research student carried out a study looking at the impact of a 'wild' space on creativity. Children from a Maryhill school participated in the study on North Kelvin Meadow and The Children's Wood. The findings revealed that children made more creative pictures after playing outside on the meadow and wood; compared to after spending time in the classroom or the playground.

Creativity is crucial for learning and previous findings reveal that it is connected with future success in life.

Self-Esteem

In 2016, through the Children's Wood's work with the Psychology department at Glasgow University another study was conducted with local primary school children. This time looking at the impact of a 'wild' space on self-esteem.

The study revealed that children who learned outside on the North Kelvin Meadow and The Children's Wood displayed higher self-esteem than learning in the playground or classroom. The study also revealed that the children found the 'wild' condition more enjoyable and interesting.

Low Self-esteem is connected with many negative outcomes like depression, eating disorders and addictions.

Sustainable Futures

Moving Forward

The committee of the Children's Wood is dedicated to its objectives, to broaden participation and access to outdoor learning, and build our local community in North Kelvin Meadow and The Children's Wood.

The land as the focus is placed between an area of relative affluence, and more deprived areas of Glasgow, and as such allows families to interact without stigmatism or prejudice. In this regard CW work hard to minimise or eliminate costs, relying heavily on public donation.

CW are currently engaging with the community, and preparing a specific strategy for the coming years. CW charitable status is critical in order to maintain momentum and sustainability. This is allowing CW to meet the growing demand for their work amongst the community and schools.



Biodiversity & Variety

There is a wide and diverse plan, bird, bug, insect, moth, butterfly, spider and bee life on the site (see Appendix 8 for a sample list). The Children's Wood has worked with the local community and larger organisations like Royal Society Protection of Birds, The Conservation Volunteers, Clyde College, Glasgow University, Santander, British Telecom as well as community groups on nature and conservation projects.

For example, over the last three years CW have collaborated with Clyde College to plant wild meadow seed with young people who are seeking asylum. This year, together with the RSPB CW have planted a house sparrow meadow plot and built compost bins. CW are part of their Glasgow Wildfest September 2016.

CW have created a sensory garden near the Kelbourne Street entrance for local schools of children with additional support needs. They've also co-created a mud kitchen and a community garden. Having funded positions has allowed CW to give local people jobs and also build community and biodiversity.

The Children's Wood commissioned a tree survey (see Appendix 9) to help with the management of the site and their staff have been working to protect the site through planting different species and managing the woodland as well as maintaining and building biodiversity for future generations to enjoy. CW are currently working on a yearly management plan so that the site's biodiversity can be enhanced in the years to come. Fruit trees and bushes have been planted in the Orchard with local school children. Local children have created homes for bees and children and families have monitored and recorded species.

Both The Conservation Volunteers and The Royal Society of Protection of Birds have agreed to help CW with conservation work and protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the site in the years to come.



Finance & Funding

Until recently the CW received some small grants from groups such as the Forestry Commission and Comic Relief fund and donations from local shops and businesses, with the majority of their funding coming from public donations at events, the support and enthusiasm of private individuals, and the goodwill and in-kind contribution in the form of time and skills of volunteers and local and national celebrities such as Julia Donaldson, Liz Lohead, Alistair Gray, and Tam Dean Burns. Now CW have larger funds to help pay for salaries and running costs

Funders who have invested in North Kelvin Meadow through the Children's Wood:

The Robertson Trust
The Postcode Lottery
The Lottery Communities and Families Fund
Awards for All
UK Space Agency, Space for All Fund
Royal Bank of Scotland
Eaton
Comic Relief
Foundation Scotland
Forestry Commission
Local donations, including shops and businesses



Expanding Our Reach

CW estimate that there are over 100 volunteers participating yearly in their events and activities in a range of roles, reaching a monthly 1,000 children, and 400 families. Despite some seasonal variation given the outdoor nature of activities, we are pleased to report that the group continues to hold highly successful (up to 1500 attendee events) throughout the winter months. CW believe that this has increased access to nature all year round and not just in the good weather months, increasing community cohesion.

CW firmly believe in inclusion, and have specifically advertised events through flyering in local council housing estates, supplementing the activities undertaken with local schools. With Conservation Volunteers CW facilitated sessions called 'discover me' for black and minority ethnic groups in the area.

A Few Previous Events



Speakers Public Hearing

Tam Baille. Children's Commissioner for Scotland

Rights of children in Maryhill and North Kelvin

Marguerite Hunter Blair. Chief Executive Officer. Play Scotland.

Priorities for Play in Scotland and importance of the meadow and wood

Professor John McKendrick. Glasgow School for Business and Society

The importance of North Kelvin Meadow and The Children's Wood for antipoverty agenda

Dr Katherine Jones. RSPB Scotland

The importance of North Kelvin Meadow and Children's Wood for connecting people, especially children, to nature

Monica Porciani Associate Lecturer in Education. Strathclyde University

The relevance of the space for teacher training placements and existing/future work with the Children's Wood.

Dr Niamh Stack. Developmental Psychologist. University of Glasgow

Ongoing collaborative research projects between the School of Psychology and the Children's Wood and the potential to build on this work to develop a unique research centre of excellence in this area.

Andrew Dickenson, Head of Junior School. Kelvinside Academy

Andrew will discuss the importance of the space for his school and the collaborations and use of the space over the years.

Michelle Peddle and Kelly Ramsey. Parents from the Wyndford nursery school. Maryhill.

How the school and their children/families have benefitted from the space and the Children's Wood activities.

Joni MacKay. Teacher at local Maryhill school for children with additional supports needs school.

The impact of the space for children with additional support needs

Susie Marshall. Local teacher, volunteer and convenor of the Children's Wood education pack.

Talk about the benefit of the site for empowering teachers in the area and beyond to deliver the curriculum for excellence outdoors, through the Children's Wood Education packs

Sapna Agarwal. Convenor of Home Education Glasgow

The space is utilised by the Home Education Group and is unlike any other park or greenspace.

Emily Cutts. Chair of the Children's Wood.

The importance of the space as being used as a 21st Century Amenity and the sustainability of the Children's Wood project as an alternative to building. Co-created space

Mrs Sheila Penny. Convenors of The Children's Wood playgroup

The impact of the playgroups for families in the area

Tam Dean Burn. Local parent, actor

Impact of the land on his professional life, family life and on the community

Mrs Riikka Gonzalez. Event organiser for Children's Wood, local parent and volunteer

Importance of events for the wider community and the impact this has on all ages of people

Speakers Public Hearing Cont..

Andrea Fisher. Schools and Community officer. Employee of the Children's Wood and local parent and volunteer

The impact of the space and the Children's Wood activities on the community and the inter-generational activities on the land - how the space makes a difference for older people. .

Daniel Livingston. Community Engagement Officer. Employee, Local resident and young person.

The benefit of the activities on the wider community and how young people and adults are benefiting from the space. He will talk about his involvement as a young person and how it has had a positive impact on his mental health and connection to others.

Dr John Donaldson. Convenor of Children's Wood Outdoor Learning Club

The one of a kind co-operative club based on a Forest School philosophy, training volunteers, children and the wider community

Mr Ralph Green, retired social worker, Children's Wood Trustee and local Grandparent

The impact of the space for inclusion.

Mr Stephen Greenland. Children's Wood Secretary.

The Children's Wood Sustainable Futures Programme and how the meadow and wood project are now sustainable

Dr Scott Shanks. Conservation Officer. Bug Life

Will discuss the biodiversity of the site and its importance

Professor Quintint Cutts. Local resident and creator of the North Kelvin Meadow and Children's Wood petitions

Will discuss the petition in relation to the Local Development Plan

Alex Macgregor FRIAS. RIBA. MRTPI. Architect and City Planner.

Brief site history, its urban morphology/grain/quality and nature of the area as a whole (scale, spatial integrity, etc.); the need for public open space in the area; biodiversity, inclusiveness, enriching social cohesiveness, etc.

Mr Jim McChesney. Local resident. Chair of Compendium Trust

Talking about the history of the community relating to the site and the intention for the site as an education resource

Gerard Ferns. Ecologist

Biodiversity of site