

inspiring and showed that commercial entertainment does not have a monopoly on enjoyment. Thanks to David Garlovsky, the clarsach trio, Pregnancy & Parents Centre, Will Pickvance for a splash of piano magic, Soul Bikes, the Real Junk Food crew, and the Here+Now team for their design a seat workshop. The event gave a boost to the workshops we ran over the next month.



James York and a growing team of voluntary helpers including Civic Soup worked tirelessly to finish off the insulation of the Wikihouse and build an outside seating area. Other workshops produced flip-up benches that help with the seating inside; Sarah Marshall made a beautiful glass art work to cover the damage that had been done to one window and the Scrapstore ran mosaic workshops with children from Tollcross Primary School to design gable end panels.



We are still trying to ensure that its final destination in Tollcross Primary school playground goes ahead. This would be a satisfying end to this exciting project.

The Meanwhile project ended in September. The Grove 2Garden is already flourishing in its new home

in Harrison Park East, the Forge is planning to move down the canal to the Calders and the Scrapstore will be moving to the Granton community hub

We were all sad to see them go but their legacy is a demonstration of what is meant for the site to have a heart. This "unmanaged" public space allowed people of all ages and backgrounds to come and try new skills, meet others in their community and have fun together. Hundreds of people came to the Winter Festival and the Spring Fling and local groups offered their help for free. This community buzz or 'social capital' is known to reduce loneliness, ill-health and social exclusion and FCI will pursue the idea of creating a space for this through a community managed facility 'Our Space'.



Canal Festival

Held on 18th June, this was seen as the 'best ever'! Co-ordinated for the last 10 years by Re-Union Canal Boats, the range of groups and activities for all ages make this a success story for Fountainbridge - for locals and visitors alike. A fantastic afternoon of activities opened with the arrival of the Lochrin Belle carrying the Tollcross Primary School Choir. Throughout the day there was live music, Free Boat Trips, Canoe Taster Sessions, Birds Of Prey, Pony Rides, Model Boats, Stalls, Food, Water Walkers and much, much more. FCI will keep pushing for this crucial canal based social enterprise to find a base on the canal again, where it rightly belongs.

'Our Space' event

In August the team from *Here+Now* helped us run a consultation on the towpath to gather public views about a community run facility.

'Our Space'. 115 people stopped for a towpath conversation about this and 35 people offered to help.



A rooftop restaurant, spa baths & hydro pools, green growing spaces, space for local community projects and creative workshop spaces were the top priorities.

Boroughmuir High School

The school is now almost finished with a new deadline of August 2017. The original plan to keep Viewforth open, with a one way traffic system in place, has been overtaken by events. Local residents and school parents noted the rising roll at the school to 1,165, the need for an overspill annex at Darroch, and 400+ new dwellings to be built on this stretch of the canal which will vastly increase footfall. FCI raised this issue and the School parents also submitted a petition in January to the Council asking for the health and safety plans to be reviewed.

FCI now have 112 members, a supporter's list of 29 local groups and 240 individuals. We are grateful for the support from our local Community Councils, Re-Union Canal Boats, Pregnancy & Parents Centre, Forth Canoe Club, Tollcross Community Association, and Cllrs Gavin Corbett and David Key. Many thanks also to Cllr Andrew Burns who stands down in May. He has played a key role in supporting our involvement from the beginning and chairing the useful Sounding Board meetings.

Our monthly Steering Group meeting is open to all. Come and join us!

Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative

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