

# Friends reach out to involve all community

By Jonathan Geddes

**MEMBERS** of the Friends Of King's Park group have been trying to restore the park to its former glory for five years.

And now they're appealing for other locals to help them as they push towards their goal.

The group's work has recently involved trying to establish a sensory garden in the area, as well as re-vamping the existing rose garden, while they have also been involved in working with local schools and other groups.

But the group's biggest challenge is trying to overcome a lack of members, with only eight locals currently involved.

And the group's chairperson, Kathleen McNeill, is now hoping that more members of the area's community can become involved in their efforts to help bring back the glory days of the park.

She said: "We've had good feedback from people, and our work seems to be helping the park.

"The biggest challenge is simply that we need more volunteers to help us out.

"We're trying to improve the park in any way we can, and make it a better resource for everyone throughout the area.

"We're all pensioners, so it would



**PARK LIFE:** The Friends of King's Park are hoping more local residents will join them.

Kathleen and the rest of the volunteers have become heavily involved with the park, and feel that getting the community more involved is the best way to help achieve their aims.

Among their successful projects have been the Summer Cycling Club with the Glenmarnock Wheelers, as well as the Santa's Grotto event, in which Father Christmas visited.

Kathleen added: "It's very important to try and get others involved from the local community.

"It's also important to involve the schools - we've felt that if we involve the pupils, and make them feel like they're a part of the work,

will also help with the improvements.

"That's why we've been involved in the cycling club with Glenmarnock Wheelers over the past few years, as it involves getting the local children into the park.

"And we've just had the Santa Grotto for the third year running, which we've been holding at Cathcart Old Parish Church and which is where we invite local schools and nurseries to visit Santa.

"We've also worked with the gardening club too."

For more information on the group, and how to get involved, visit [www.friendsofkingsofparke.co.uk](http://www.friendsofkingsofparke.co.uk).