

**Committee Members:** Listed below are names and contact details for committee members of the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. Please address all correspondence to the secretary

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**PLEASE OBSERVE and SUPPORT the CODE**



Fouling



On Walkways



BBQs



On reserved sites & pitches

**Park Watch Partners:**... Every 'Friend' is a partner in helping to protect our unique urban parkland, by acting as the Council's eyes and ears. They will appreciate your assistance, as they cannot be everywhere at all times. Just telephone one of the numbers below, if you see something that needs their attention, (you may give your name or not— as you prefer).

|                     |               |   |
|---------------------|---------------|---|
| Dumped Items        | 0808 100 3366 | Rubbish, furniture, traffic signs, shopping trolleys, etc.. |
| Litter Problems     | 0131 664 8330 | Environmental Task Force Manager for Meadows & Tollcross    |
| Park Wardens        | 0131 332 2368 | Vandalism to trees, turf, seats, playgrounds, monuments     |
| Pathway Lighting    | 0800 23 23 23 | Non-functioning lamps - quote lamp post number or location. |
| Police/St Leonard's | 0131 662 5000 | Disturbances, fires, vehicles parked on grass, vandalism    |
| Graffiti            | 0131 200 2000 | Graffiti removal (Council)                                  |



<http://www.fombl.com>

**D**ates for your Diary - Meetings of the Friends

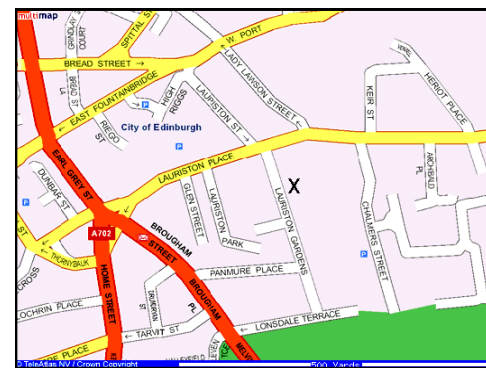
The next Meeting will be at St Thomas' Convent, Lauriston Gardens at 7.30 pm on October 24 (see page 2 for details about the Convent).

Proposals to redevelop the Cricket Pavilion.

Parking, Tree Planting and Lighting on the Meadows and Links, Damage to the grass caused by the tent on the Meadows during the Festival. Proposals for the magnet playground and the East Meadows Bowling Green Pavilion

The following Meetings will be held on February 27th at the Orthodox Church at 7.30 pm. Tim Duffy will speak about proposals to increase Biodiversity on the Meadows

The Summer meeting and AGM will be held at the Meadows Croquet Club on 19th June at 7.30 pm and will be followed by a Guided Tour of the Meadows led by our tree warden



Location of St Thomas' Convent

There will be an opportunity to discuss various issues concerning the Meadows with Stephanie-Anne Harris, the head of Parks and Leisure. Topics that members hope to discuss include:

The Short Term Working Party and proposals for the further development of the Meadows and Links

**Membership Renewal :**

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR THIS YEAR**

**Please use the form inside the newsletter**

**Ask a friend to join!**

## St Catherine's Convent of Mercy

St Catherine's Convent is the Edinburgh home of the Sisters of Mercy. The order was founded in Dublin in the early nineteenth century through the work of Catherine McAuley who was inspired to form a group devoted to assist the poor, sick and needy in the spirit of Christian charity.

Their reputation in this sphere was such that in 1858 they were invited to Edinburgh by Bishop James Gillis to alleviate the social miseries of the Catholic poor there, swollen by many immigrants.

For two years they lived in a small house in what is now Lauriston Lane, but in 1861 they moved into the present building in Lauriston Gardens in 1861, which had been donated by Mrs Isabella Cunningham-Hutchinson. This they dedicated to St Catherine of Siena. Its spiritual centre, built a little later, is a beautiful chapel with inlaid arcaded stalls in the sixteenth century style by Whytock & Reid.

Under Mother Agnes Snow, who was elected Superior in 1872, their work expanded to cope with the demands of the Education Act of that year, the sisters being involved both with teaching in schools and in the training of Catholic teachers. They also were concerned for the care and welfare of the girls from the House of Mercy, which provided accommodation for girls who had work but nowhere to stay, and unemployed girls and the orphans were given a training course which would enable them to find work.

In 1880 it was said that 'Their life was passed on the thoroughfares of the city, in the wards of hospital and in the lodgings of the poor'. In 1951, a hostel was opened to provide accommodation for students. In 1983 McAuley House, the original House of Mercy, which had been used as a stu-

dent hostel, was leased to the University for the same purpose. Part of the building was retained and modernised to provide facilities for many Parish activities.

In 1992, St Catharine's was designated as a Mercy Centre - a place of hospitality and mercy, a place of outreach and refuge for the most broken and needy in our society. Education is still very much part of the Community ministry either directly by involvement in the Schools or indirectly by providing facilities for many groups. It is seen as a place of hospitality, support, prayer and friendship.

As such it has is very active in support of the homeless and, with the help of volunteers, offers support to various groups tackling social problems. The sisters commit themselves to be mercy to all, with a preferential option for the poor, to embrace the challenge of new ministries and to explore creative ways of sharing their life with others for the sake of the Kingdom



### We Need New Members:

Do you know of anyone who is interested in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links?

Why not ask them along to our meetings or tell them about our web site <http://www.fombl.com>

## News from Quartermile

Notes from the Quartermile Good Neighbour Relations Meeting held at 1 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh on Wednesday 3 August 2005

### The Big Partnership

1.1 Ken Aitken advised the group that Laing O'Rourke had been appointed as Principal Contractor on the Quartermile site and construction had started.

1.2 He also explained that the shareholding of Quartermile is now a joint venture between Bank of Scotland and the Gladedale Group, and that the development is being managed by Gladedale Capital Projects, a company specialising in large scale, mixed use, city centre regeneration projects.

1.3 Other local projects by Laing O'Rourke are the multi-storey car park at Edinburgh Airport, the Royal Bank of Scotland HQ at Gogarburn and the Buchanan Galleries in Glasgow.

### 2.0 Start of work on site

2.1 The first phase of construction includes 127 contemporary apartments, 28 conversion apartments, 104,000 sq ft of offices and 16,000 sq ft of retail space and the associated landscaping and infrastructure.

2.2 Construction started on site on 25th July with the excavation of the basement car park at the east of the site.

2.3 Work on the first commercial building (fronting Lauriston Place) is expected to start with excavations for the foundations in mid-September over a 35 \* 40 week period, followed by the superstruc-

ture with an expected finish date Q1 2007.

### 3.0 Phasing & programme

3.1 Ken referred to a slide in the later presentation which showed the phased build out from the south east corner.

### 4.0 Demolition

4.1 Further demolition is to take place later this year with the removal of the Simpson's Maternity Hospital, the Chalmers Street Terrace and the Reproductive Biology building.

4.2 Arisings from the first phase of demolitions were crushed with a view to using them later on site, but the type of stone was unsuitable as when crushed it turned to sand. Laing O'Rourke is confident that rock removed during the car park excavations will be suitable for crushing and re-use.

4.3 Soil from excavations for the basement car park is being removed from site by lorries and taken to Leith Docks for land reclamation.

4.4 Vehicles are entering the site via the west gate on Lauriston Place and leaving via Chalmers Street. A wheel-wash is in operation at the site exit to reduce the amount of mud brought into the street.

4.5 Further asbestos is still to be removed; when the development is finished it will be completely free of asbestos. £6.5m has already been spent on this work.

### 8.0 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is still to be confirmed but is expected to be in October