



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

NEWSLETTER 27

Spring 2011

Convener's Comment

The swathes of crocus colours along Melville Drive, and the prospect of a sea of daffodils, remind us what a glorious area we are stewards for. Do share your appreciation of the Meadows and the Links, and even more your concerns for the future, with your elected representatives, especially in the Council. Our March meeting features the future of the trees. With the disturbing prospect of no tree replacement planting this year, especially after the storms that uprooted several trees, and the felling of diseased elms, it is vital that every one of us does all we can to prevent neglect and abuse of this priceless green space. I hope you agree!

Chris Wigglesworth

The Spring Meeting of Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links will be held on Monday 21 March at 7.30 p.m. in the King's Hall, Community Church, 41a South Clerk Street (next to the Post Office). The speakers will be Steven Webley, Urban Forestry Manager, and Paul Vine, Trees and Woodlands Officer, of the City of Edinburgh Council. Their subject will be 'Trees of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links'.

All are welcome.

AGM of FoMBL will be held on Thursday 23 June at the Croquet Club, Leven Terrace, at 7.30 p.m.

Talking of trees – 'Diseased elm trees turned into furniture'

Six diseased elm trees in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have been felled and handed over to craft workers to make into furniture. The trees were earmarked for removal in November by council staff, who decided to donate them to the Scottish Furniture Makers Association.

Around 30 members will use the wood to create a series of specially designed pieces for an exhibition at the Dovecot Gallery in October. They will also create a hand-crafted chair for the Lord Provost.

The group's Chris Holmes said he had counted the rings on one of the trees and found around 120, making it as old as the Forth Bridge.

Evening News 16 February 2011



An example of the damage done by vehicles on Bruntsfield Links

'Help keep the Meadows free of unauthorised vehicles!'

Posts have been installed at the east entrance to the Meadows to prevent unauthorised vehicles from driving on to the Meadows from the Buccleuch Street end. Drivers of Council vehicles are required to raise the posts after they have driven on to the Meadows but they are often left down for long periods. When you go past this part of the Meadows, could you pull up the central post if it is down? When it is fully raised, it locks into place and can only be lowered again by someone with a special key. Thank you.

Anne Leaver & Peng Lee Yap

Cheesee Peasee

We are very lucky to have a French cheese merchant right here on the Meadows. Every Saturday throughout the year (except January), Cedric Minel parks his cheese van in Meadow Place, on the corner of Melville Drive and Marchmont Road, from 10am until 6pm. Cedric comes from Lyon, but settled in Scotland while his French wife was completing her final year of studies at Heriot Watt University. He has been selling cheese from his van on this site for the past nine years.

All his cheeses, which represent all parts of France, are delivered directly from Paris. Do have a look at his website at www.cheesee-peasee.com to see the varieties he sells. He says his favourite is Comte, which is a cheese from the Jura Mountains on the border with Switzerland. He also sells some pastries from a French bakery shop here in Edinburgh and he makes macarons. When he is not selling cheese, Cedric looks after his baby daughter and plays music. His wife, who works as a researcher for the university, was expecting her second child on the day I interviewed Cedric (19 Feb). He says he loves working in Edinburgh. He once worked for a year in Marseilles and on the whole he prefers the climate in Scotland: 95% of his clients are regulars. His only regret is that everyone knows his name, but his clients have never introduced themselves. If you have any questions about recipes using French cheeses, Cedric would be more than delighted to help answer your queries.

N. J. Hill

Odeon Cinema, Clerk Street

Southside Community Council is calling on the City of Edinburgh Council to save the former Odeon Cinema building on Clerk Street. Full details are available on the Southside Community Council website, www.edinsec.org. If you would like to join the campaign, please use the enclosed postcard.



Storm damage to trees on the Meadows

This is only one of the trees uprooted by the recent storms. It was in fact planted ‘in memory of my beloved wife Barbara Koerner’, donated by her husband Mark. No date was given on the attached plaque. The photo here is of the Anderson family, who were obviously enjoying using it as an adventure playground, shortly after the gales that brought it down. One solution to the current problem of tree planting would no doubt be for members of FoMBL to donate trees in memory of a loved one. Think about it.

The Jawbone arch

This Victorian structure at Melville Drive near Marchmont Road, donated by the Shetland Fair Isle Knitting Association to the 1886 Great Exhibition in the Meadows, is under threat: there are gaps where there was once a smooth surface: it needs restoration, but Historic Scotland has declined to list it. Councillor Cameron Rose is campaigning to save the structure: he suggests a public subscription. The sixth of May this year marks the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Great Exhibition, and he proposes that this date should set the start of a campaign to save it. If you wish to support his efforts, email cameron.rose@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Inverleith Park

The Council are planning to sell off a corner of Inverleith Park for a private luxury housing development. The local community is strongly against this. They want to preserve the park as a recreational amenity for all: once it is sold it is lost for ever. You may think: if they can do this in Inverleith Park, what hope is there for the Meadows? If you would like to join in the petition to ‘save Inverleith Park’, look at the website www.inverleithpark.co.uk, or ring Fiona Houston, Save Inverleith Park campaign coordinator, Friends of Inverleith Park, tel. 07900 515774.

British Military Fitness in the Meadows

You may have noticed more and more people exercising in the Meadows. Some of them will be part of 'British Military Fitness', which holds classes four times a week. The aim is to get fit and have fun. It's for everyone. The classes are divided into three groups - blue for beginners, red for intermediates, and green for advanced. Whichever you join, you can be sure that you'll enjoy an entertaining workout with people with a similar level of fitness. It's effective - the encouragement and knowledge of your instructor means a varied, different workout every week. Have a look at their website: www.britmilfit.com.

BMF was founded in April 1999 by Major Robin Cope as an alternative form of fitness training to gyms. Robin's idea was to get people of all fitness abilities outdoors training in parks, with motivation provided by military trained instructors. It was never the intention to make this a 'boot camp', but a fun and effective form of training using the highly professional skills learnt in the military to get people fit. It was originally launched in Hyde Park in London.

Apart from the Meadows, BMF classes can also be found at Inverleith Park, Holyrood Park, and Edinburgh Business Park. Here in the Meadows there are four classes per week, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 1830, Saturday at 0900 and Sunday at 1030. If you feel like joining, look at their website <http://www.britmilfit.com/where-we-train/edinburgh/meadows/>. Best of all, why not try a session for free? Again, go to their website: <https://www.britmilfit.com/try-bmf-for-free>. If you enjoy it, keep us all up to date with your progress.

R.G.L.Hill

Forthcoming events

Events on the Meadows and Links that have received approval so far are the following: **Meadows Festival (5-6 June 2011)**; **Bruntsfield Links 250th anniversary (17-25 June 2011)**; **Taste of Edinburgh 2011 (1-3 July 2011)**; **Urban Circus: Ladyboys of Bangkok (5-27 August 2011)**.

Meadows Chamber Orchestra

The final concert in the 2010-11 season will be in Greyfriars Kirk on Saturday 14 May at 7.45 p.m., with a new work by a Kenyan composer with particular interest for FoMBL members: Njane Mugambi's '*Hifadhi*', a musical meditation on our environment, its fragility and the need to protect it. Also included is Shostakovich's Cello concerto no. 1, played by Robin Michael, and Brahms's noble and reflective Fourth symphony. Tickets from Heather Goodare (hm.goodare@virgin.net), or from the Queen's Hall Box Office, 0131 668 2019 (see enclosed programme).

Useful contacts

Mike Shields Community Parks Officer 0131 529 5126; email: mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk

Police: Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC 4601 Yocksan Bell 0131 662 5022 or Sgt 4554 Peter Houston (same number). To report a crime: 0131 311 3131; emergency 999; or (anonymously) to

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

Anti-social behaviour (24/7): 0131 529 7050; **Litter:** 0131 529 3030

Defective lamp-post lighting: note number and ring Clarence – 0800 23 23 23

Shaun McGrath Acting Local Environment Manager: shaun.mcgrath@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 529 3711

Complaints regarding Council vehicles driving on Links or Meadows:

Taskforce, Craigmillar Depot: 0131 664 8330

Graffiti: Adam Morton or Robert Davidson: email: adam.morton@edinburgh.gov.uk or robert.davidson@edinburgh.gov.uk

FOMBL Committee members

Convener Chris Wigglesworth, 12 Leven Terrace, EH3 9LW. Tel. 0131 228 6335.

Email: wiggles@talk21.com

Secretary and Treasurer: Hamish McKenzie, 7 Bruntsfield Terrace, EH10 4EX Tel.0131 229 6055.

Email: hamish@bruntsfield7.freeserve.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Mrs Sabine Murdoch, 1 Greenhill Gardens, EH10 4BN Tel. 0131 229 4793.

Committee: Andy Devenport, Elizabeth Jogee, Neil Roger.

Newsletter Editor: Heather Goodare, 3 Glengyle Terrace, EH3 9LL Tel. 228 6998. hm.goodare@virgin.net

Webmaster: Philip McDowell

Website: <http://www.fombl.org.uk>