



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

NEWSLETTER 37

Summer 2014

Convener's Comment

Events on the Meadows

Many thanks to all of you who helped with our response to the consultation on the Events Manifesto. We are still preparing for our deputation to the Transport and Environment Committee to reinforce the points we made. I have just heard that the relevant report will not be dealt with on 3rd June after all, but on 26 August, so if you were intending to accompany me, please come in August instead if you are free, and let me know in advance, as I need to submit a list of names to the Clerk. Be at the Council Chambers Reception by 9.30 a.m. Our main requests are as follows: 1. Events on the Meadows should not last longer than 15 days (as in other Edinburgh parks); 2. A market rent should be charged for commercial events, and the revenue used to extend Park Rangers' hours.

Charitable Status

Separately we are sending to you our new constitution, which we hope you will all be happy to adopt at our AGM. It is a long document, but paper copies will be available at the AGM for anyone who wishes to read it and does not have access to a computer. We have had expert advice in making sure that it reflects all our aims and objectives, while conforming to the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for incorporation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). All our present Committee except one, who is stepping down, are happy to become Trustees: we also welcome Jennifer Thomson, who is willing to take over as Treasurer, since Hamish McKenzie, after 12 years of sterling service, is now retiring. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his expert and professional guidance over so many years.

Voluntary work

During the summer, while Richard Ellis is busy with cricket on Saturdays, Andy Devenport will be organising the voluntary work. If you would like to help, meet on the last Saturday of each month at the Cricket Pavilion at 10.00 a.m. Bring gloves: all else will be available, including coffee at the Pavilion Cafe, kindly provided by Amanda. If you haven't volunteered before, and would like to do so, please contact Andy: Tel. 229 8796; or email andy.devenport@virgin.net.

Current work includes filling in the turf in front of the Pavilion, where there is still ponding. Overleaf you will find a photo of some small volunteers on a recent visit to do some seeding of grass: the children were very helpful, and saved my back by doing a lot of bending down to scatter the seeds. Many thanks to them and their parents. We are also looking forward to working with some children from James Gillespie's Primary School, who are going to help us plant cotoneasters along the bottom of the new mural at the back of the Scottish Power building. Start them young is my motto! But also, age is no barrier: Brian Harris is our shining example (see page 3).

Heather Goodare (Convener)

The next meeting of FOMBL (AGM) will be on Thursday 26 June at 7.30 p.m. at the Croquet Pavilion, Leven Terrace. The speaker will be Jennifer Thomson, on the subject: 'Designing and managing green space for health'. Jennifer is a graduate student researching this topic, which is of course close to the aims and objectives of FOMBL. Refreshments precede the meeting, and also (at 6.30 p.m.) a croquet taster session. All are welcome.



Many thanks to Heather's little helpers: Jeevan, Leela, Amor and Erin

photo: Merina Hoehnke

The story of the John Muir Way

John Muir - farmer, inventor, sheep-herder, naturalist, explorer, writer, and conservationist - was born on 21 April 1838 in Dunbar. Until the age of eleven he attended the local schools. In 1849 the Muir family emigrated to the United States. In 1892 Muir and a number of his supporters founded the Sierra Club, in Muir's words 'to do something for wildness and make the mountains glad.' Muir served as the Club's president until his death in 1914.

John Muir was perhaps the States' most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. He taught the people of his time and ours the importance of experiencing and protecting our natural heritage.

There is a John Muir Way which stretches 134 miles or 215 km across Scotland's heartland, running between Helensburgh in the west through to Dunbar on the east coast and Muir's birthplace. It will take you 7-10 days to walk, and about half that by bike. A section of this route is through Bruntsfield Links on Leamington Walk, and the Meadows on South Meadow Walk. Look out for the signs. There is more to be discovered on the John Muir website: www.johnmuirway.org.



The Meadows Sign



Bruntsfield Links Sticker

Audrey Simon



Photo: Linda Hendry

Cherry Tree Picnic

Did you know that cherry trees are very special in Japan? BBC Two has been making a programme on the Great British Garden Revival, to be broadcast in the autumn, and wanted to include a feature about cherry trees. They proposed to include shots of our very own trees on the Meadows. At fairly short notice we were able to lay on a Japanese picnic for the benefit of the BBC production team, with the help of Kaori from her newly opened Japanese bistro, the Harajuku Kitchen, at 10 Gillespie Place, opposite the Barclay Church. We'll keep you posted, and let you know on the website when the film will be broadcast. In the meantime, here is a shot of the picnic.

Congratulations to Brian Harris

Among our stalwart volunteers is Brian Harris (aged 84 - see next page), who not only turns up regularly for our FOMBL work parties, but also works indefatigably on the 'Green Banana', a neglected area in Marchmont that he has transformed, together with other volunteers. Brian is a retired botanist, so we couldn't have more expert help. He has recently been 'highly commended' in the Civic Champion section of the Scottish Civic Trust's annual 'My Place' awards, which celebrate community projects. We are proud to have you as a member, Brian!

Mural project

This is now near completion, and should be ready very soon. Help with preparing the ground for the shrubs to be planted by pupils from James Gillespie's Primary School will be welcomed: ring Andy.

Forthcoming events

Meadows Festival Funfair 2-8 June; Meadows Festival 7-8 June (at which FOMBL will have a stall - do come and visit! Also, more volunteers to help run the stall will be most welcome: please contact Heather on 228 6998); Tollcross Primary School Sports 9 June; Join In Event 27 June; Salomon City Trail 4-5 July; The Sumo Run 12 July; The Lady Boys of Bangkok: 2-26 August
Public religious meeting 9 August



Photo: Evening News

Useful contacts

Mike Shields Community Parks Officer Tel.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: 101 (costing a flat rate of 15p per call); emergency 999; or (anonymously) to Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

New Police Service of Scotland website is <http://www.scotland.police.uk>. New police 101 non-emergency number is now in use 24/7. This should reduce pressure on the 999 system, but do still ring 999 in emergency.

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

David Doig Local Environment Manager (responsibility for roads, parks and green spaces): email david.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 529 5187

Forestry Service: email forestry.service@edinburgh.gov.uk. Tel. 0131 311 7079

Complaints regarding Council vehicles driving on Links or Meadows:

Taskforce, Craigmillar Depot: 0131 664 8330; or Jim Monaghan on 07786 110 377

Graffiti: report to 0131 200 2000 or email operationdivide@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Kathy Evans: Local Community Safety Manager (tackling anti-social behaviour and joint working with the police) kathy.evans@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 529 5106

Environmental Warden team leader: Mohamed Demnati 0131 529 5204

FOMBL Committee members

Convener and Newsletter Editor: Heather Goodare, 3 Glengyle Terrace, EH3 9LL Tel. 0131 228. Email: hm.goodare@virgin.net

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Email: alec.mann@gmx.co.uk. **Volunteer co-ordinator** Richard Ellis: rellis.consultancy@virgin.net

Minutes Secretary: Elizabeth Jogee **Committee:** Andy Devenport, Linda Hendry, Neil Roger.

Webmaster: Philip McDowell

Website: www.fombl.org.uk