



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

NEWSLETTER 51 Spring 2019

Convenor's notes

FoMBL plays a vital role in protecting the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and acting as custodians on behalf of the local community and wider city. Nobody has embodied our efforts more than Heather Goodare who recently retired from the FoMBL board after many years as Convenor and newsletter editor. Heather is a real inspiration and, even in retirement, is determined to finish her book on female cancer survivors. We're so grateful for all Heather's hard work that in October last year we unveiled a small plaque to her as well as three new trees that we had planted (see photo below). On behalf of the membership, I'd like to thank Heather most sincerely and wish her and her family every happiness for the future.

FoMBL have been very active over the last few months (see report of Activities below).

Another valuable partner is the University of Edinburgh who have funded lecterns for the old Royal Infirmary site. We're finalising these designs and they'll be another interesting addition to the park. Last year we also organised for the starter's hut on the links to be repainted and repaired and it's looking great now. There's always so much to do but the trustees, members and volunteers continue to have an amazing enthusiasm and passion for maintaining the beauty of the Meadows.

We always welcome new volunteers at FoMBL and there is work to do all year round such as picking up litter, watering the trees during heat waves and raking and seeding barren areas of the park. Details of this are on our excellent and informative website.

FoMBL is a membership organisation and anyone can join for just £5 per year. Again, details are on our website. As convenor I'm always happy to hear from members or residents (such as feedback or new suggestions). I can be contacted by email on: convenor@fombl.org.uk.

At our next public meeting on 25th March, we will be treated to a talk on the history of Golf on Bruntsfield Links. We trustees are looking forward to seeing many FoMBL members and local residents there. On behalf of the trustees, I hope you continue to enjoy our wonderful park.

Jim Orr, Convenor

Spring Gathering

**Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links
Public Meeting: 25 March 2019: 7.30-9.00 p.m.
at The Pillar Hall, Barclay Viewforth Church**

Speaker Neil Laird, who will talk about his recently published book
'Bruntsfield Links - Home of Club Golf'

Volunteer Activities in 2018

1. In the enclosed area of Bruntsfield Links, turf was lifted to create a wildflower patch to encourage pollinators. Seed was scattered but because of the drought, 95% of the seed did not germinate. We were left with a bare area that was going to look awful and likely to get trampled on by children. A request was made to the council nursery at The Inch for anything they could provide. They gave us 200 small annuals, which were planted. The next issue was water as the drought continued - so 10 gallons of water were sprinkled over the patch every day for weeks. The annuals grew and thrived and were actually still looking colourful at the start of November.
2. A small extra shed to house tools has been erected behind the Cricket Pavilion.
3. Several clean up sessions took place clearing litter and leaves and encroaching weeds around benches.
4. FoMBL assisted the proprietor of the cafe at the Cricket Pavilion to have a tidy up around the Pavilion and birdbath area.
5. The three large planters at the entrance to Bruntsfield Links on Bruntsfield Crescent have been tended, watered, mulched, pruned and added to, to give colour. They are still looking good.
6. A resident in Greenhill Terrace offered FoMBL a lot of homegrown mulch. A plan was made to weed and mulch around the young trees in the enclosed area of Bruntsfield Links as fears were raised that these young trees were going to perish in the drought. A number of volunteers worked on this and probably saved the young trees (particularly the three new Rowans that have been planted in thanks to Heather Goodare for her tireless work with FoMBL).
7. The bowser was used on several occasions to water trees on the Meadows. It holds enough to water 7-8 trees, giving them approximately two gallons each. The bowser cannot be filled to the top as it becomes unstable. It is also very heavy to push or pull.
8. The plaque for Heather Goodare was designed and ordered and installed in concrete beside the second of the three Rowan trees planted for Heather.
9. A tree group was formed and met with Council officers in charge of trees on council property. A very useful walkabout took place and a plan of action to care for trees on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links was hatched.
10. A meeting took place with a small after-school club from Heriots to discuss ways they might assist FoMBL. They are very enthusiastic. Another local school are keen to help and we are waiting to hear back from them.
11. More bulbs were planted in mid November - 1000 bluebells (see photo below).

Alison Carr

Celebration of the contribution made by Heather Goodare



On 31 October last year members of FoMBL met in west Bruntsfield Links to celebrate Heather's work as Convenor and Newsletter Editor for FoMBL over many years. Three varieties of rowan trees were planted and a plaque was unveiled.

Bulb Planting



As you can see from the photo, we have been busy planting wildflowers and bulbs with volunteers, and a team of eco warriors from Gillespies. The Parks provided 1000 bluebells, which have also been planted by volunteers from Sciennes Primary School, so the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links will look lovely in the Spring.

Alison Carr and Sarah Tolley



The 420 wildflower plugs here were provided by Buglife and are grape hyacinths. They also planted lesser celandine east of the Cricket Pavilion.

Parks provided other bulbs which were planted in planters at the Cricket Pavilion by the FOMBL work party.

Tim Duffy and Alasdair Lemon

PAL People Against Litter

Are you tired of seeing unsightly litter spoil our parks, towns, cities and countryside?

PAL is a group of people founded in Edinburgh, (July 2003) who are committed to trying to reduce this unsightly problem. We have a simple aim: each 'member' picks up at least one piece of litter per week and asks another person to do the same. There are no fees, meetings or group clean ups, just an individual's commitment to pick up at least one piece of litter per week, and if possible get one other person to do the same. If you would like to become a PAL, please have a look at our website <https://www.peopleagainstlitter.org/> or email Francesca Saunders using the email address below. Please state how you heard about PAL. Unless future prospective PALs join through the site or email, they cannot be counted in. It really is as simple as that!

You'll find lots more information on the PAL website but if you have any further questions or queries please contact PAL Founder Francesca Saunders. Email: fs.pal@blueyonder.co.uk

Bridget Stevens

Edinburgh Meadows Defibrillators

There had been no community defibrillators available at the Meadows in Edinburgh. People of all health and ages use the Meadows every week to enjoy sport and early defibrillation saves lives.



Lily and Isla with the help of the community have raised £1678.70!! After just-giving fees this should leave £1550 to pay for the Meadows to have their first defibrillator with a heated secure outdoor storage box.

It is planned that the defibrillator will be attached to the Tennis Pavilion, which will be a great thing for the Meadows to have. Hopefully over time the charity will be able to find others to be interested in funding more for the Meadows and for the rest of Edinburgh. On St John Ambulance website you can see a map of the location of the other ones around Edinburgh so far. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/meadows-defibrillators>

Alison MacLeod



Here are Lily and Isla with the new defibrillator - it was unveiled at the Tennis Pavilion on 4 March.

They are accompanied by Alex Harkins who is the Tennis Development Officer with Edinburgh Leisure.

General Maczek Walk

We're looking forward to celebrating the new General Maczek Walk on 23 April, 5.30pm. Two large flower tubs (paid for by the Polish Consulate) were recently installed at the Croquet Club end of the walk and the tulip bulbs should be in bloom by the time of the celebration. The tulips are a special variety from Holland, bred in honour of General Maczek after his contribution to the war effort. The story of Polish war hero General Maczek is a very interesting one and well worth looking up.

Jim Orr

Community Garden Update

This is our second full growing year and we look forward to a good start, with our new donated coldframe. Our community shed is now installed, and so useful for keeping kit safe and dry. This year, we will host a Welcome day for wheelchair users, and invite Gardens for Sanctuary to our Community garden party. We are also hosting another Don't Burn the Meadows event, featuring a

pop-up community art project. Our regular Saturday gardening sessions continue, and we now hold monthly meetings in the Shrub cafe. See our website for updates. We are on FB and Twitter too.
www.greeningourstreet.btck.co.uk

Sarah Tolley

Project Update

Playground equipment

Neil Roger is working with Alan Grevers (playground officer) to choose appropriate new equipment for the Links playground and Toddler playground at East Meadows. It is hoped this equipment can be installed before the summer. Fund provided is around £7000.



We are pleased that the council has now fitted two self-closing gates at the Magnet playground to help prevent dog entry. This has been requested by FOMBL over several years.

Worn grass areas

The grass areas to the sides of the access path from Lonsdale Terrace have now been fenced off to prevent further erosion of grassed areas. The railing is similar in material and design to those erected at the Chalmers Street entrance. Following completion the worn areas will be raked and seeded. This work will cost about £7000.

The parking/access area adjacent to the Cricket Pavilion has become a muddy unsightly area and so this will be tarmaced with grassed areas edged in concrete upstands. It is hoped this will extend up to the council store. This work will cost about £6000 and should be completed by April.

Worn out muddy corners at many paths will be tackled later in the year.

Tree labels

Mike Shields has agreed to fund a first stage of tree labelling at £250. The labels will look the same as those in the Botanic Gardens. He has also agreed to fund tree information wooden posts.

Restoration of wooden benches

FoMBL have had ongoing discussions with council officials and the prison pay back officer about restoring worn wooden benches. This has not yet been resolved but it is hoped action can be taken this year

Information Boards

The Nelson Pillars information lectern draft text is nearing completion and this will be circulated for comment soon. The Royal Infirmary information lectern text is being finalised by a working group of University staff.

Wildflower meadows

There will be a meeting held in mid-March to discuss the enlargement and management of the Leamington Walk wildflower area. Buglife will continue to provide funding and staff to augment planting along the John Muir Way. It is hoped that local Schools will be involved in planting up areas as well as other voluntary work.

Neil Roger

Forthcoming events

Edinburgh Bicycle Cooperative Demo Event - 13 April

Korrika 2019, Basque Community march/procession ends in the Meadows - 13 April 11.30-2.00pm

Opening of General Maczek Walk, near the Croquet Club - Tuesday 23rd April at 5.30pm

Don't Burn the Meadows Event - 4-5 May

Meadows Chamber Orchestra concert - Saturday 18 May in Inverleith St Serf's church at 7.45pm.

Programme to include Aitken: A Pink Chaise Longue; Mozart: Symphony No. 38 in D, K 504 (Prague); and Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

(The no 23 bus goes very close to the venue)

World Naked Bike Run - 8 June 2019

Edinburgh Silver Arrow Archery Competition, Royal Company of Archers - 18 June 2019

Kinship Summer Day - 10 July 2019

Drop-in information event at the Meadows - 25 October 3pm - 7pm

Useful Contacts

Mike Shields, Parks and Greenspace Officer South East Tel. 0131 529 5126; email:

mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Police: To report a crime: 101 (costing a flat rate of 15p per call); emergency 999; or (anonymously) to Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

Police Service of Scotland website is <http://www.scotland.police.uk>.

Anti-social behaviour (Edinburgh Council): Tel. 0131 529 7050; **Environmental services** 0131 200 2000;

South Office: 0131 529 5051 **Litter:** 0131 608 1100

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

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

Road repairs and development: Alan Dunlop, Senior Transport Team Leader: Tel. 0131 529 3719; email: alan.dunlop@edinburgh.gov.uk

Task Force Manager (responsible for street cleaning and grounds maintenance) Rab Farquhar: Tel. 0131 664 8330 or 07786 110377; email: rab.farquhar@edinburgh.gov.uk

Graffiti: report to 0131 200 2000 or Police 101 if persistent

Family and household support service manager (tackling anti-social behaviour and joint working with the police) email: kathy.evans@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 529 5106

Environmental Warden team leader: Paul Baxter Tel. 0131 529 5204; or 608 1100

People Against Litter (PAL): *please contact* <http://www.peopleagainstlitter.org/>

FoMBL Trustees

Convener: Jim Orr. email: convener@fombl.org.uk

Secretary: Sarah Tolley. email: secretary@fombl.org.uk.

Treasurer: email: fombltreas@fombl.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Alec Mann, email: membership@fombl.org.uk.

Project Manager Neil Roger

Newsletter Editor Maureen Parnell. email: newsletter@fombl.org.

Tollcross Community Council Iain Black, **Southside CC** Joan Carter, Kaaren Houghton **Merchiston CC** Bridget Stevens, **Marchmont and Sciennes CC** Alison Service

Webmaster: Philip McDowell. **Website:** www.fombl.org.uk

Other FoMBL Contacts:

Volunteer Co-ordinator Alison Carr. email: volunteer@fombl.org.uk

