



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

NEWSLETTER 52 Summer 2019

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links
Annual General Meeting Friday 21 June 2019, 6.00-8.00pm - Croquet Pavilion
Guest Speaker: Paul Lawrence
Executive Director - Place
for the City of Edinburgh Council. Talk on the challenges facing the city
followed by a Q and A, Refreshments will be provided
ALL WELCOME

Volunteer Activities in March 2019



Work Party Report at Cricket Pavilion.

A fine team of six volunteers turned up with myself and Maureen leading the work.

Cleared huge amount of leaves and other stuff to enable grass seeding and bulb planting at the side of new tarmac area.

Spread soil on bare patches around log —to be seeded in late Spring. Still soil left for future hole filling etc.

Cleared undergrowth at Acer ready for mulching.

We met Amanda who will work on her garden at the rear of the Pavilion but we will help at future dates.

27th April work party

With fine weather to help us we (four volunteers) managed to clear the South Links wildflower meadow and ready for new plants. We also cleared weeds and mulched under trees.

Opening of General Maczek Walk



Pictured:

Andrew Maczek, Lady Fraser, Heather Goodare, (former chair of FoMBL), General Maczek's granddaughter Karolina and The Polish Consul General in Edinburgh Mr Ireneusz Truszkowski.

Polish Scouts and children from the General Maczek School supporting.

Reported in The Courier, extract below:

Lord Fraser's widow, Lady Fiona, officially opened the General Maczek path at a gathering held by The Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links (FoMBL), attended by members of the General's family and the Polish Consul General in Edinburgh.

FoMBL worked with the late Lord Fraser of Carmyllie on his project to create a bench featuring General Stanislaw Maczek to mark the contribution he and Polish armed services gave in World War Two. Little was known of his wartime activities in Scotland until his death in 1994, when Lord Fraser represented the UK Government at his funeral and heard for the first time about his achievements. That led to the launch of the campaign to recognise the General's heroic war achievements in the city that was his home for the last 50 years of his life. The memorial was originally to be sited in the Edinburgh Meadows but was moved when legal doubts were raised over the location and last November it was unveiled in the courtyard at the entrance to the City of Edinburgh Council Chambers on The Royal Mile.

FoMBL still felt the need for some remembrance of General Maczek on the Links in the capital and worked with local councillors to have the path named after him. The route is a path starting outside the croquet club pavilion and to Leamington Walk in the Meadows, along which General Maczek used to go with his daughter while living in Marchmont.

General Maczek played a key role in the Battle of Normandy, preventing the retreat of thousands of German soldiers at the Falaise Pass, and liberated parts of France, Belgium and Holland. He was stripped of Polish citizenship by the Communist government after the war, compelling him to stay in Scotland, but since he was not considered an Allied soldier was also refused a military pension and denied combatant rights, working as a barman in an Edinburgh hotel to make a living.

From The Courier, 22 March



Tulips in Bloom

The General Maczek Walk is decorated with two tubs of special Dutch tulips, created in memory of the man who was instrumental in the liberation of Holland from the Nazis.

Spring Gathering



On 25 March at the beautiful Barclay Viewforth Church, we had a most fascinating talk from Neil Laird (who has written a book on this subject) about the history of golf on Bruntsfield Links, and he was able to show us old photographs and paintings of buildings and views of the area from long ago.

Tree Planting for Birds and Biodiversity



The trees and saplings are coming on well, cared for by local people. The fence is temporary until the trees are established.

Sarah Tolley

Sheep Used to Graze in the Meadows



A pop-up sheep installation on 4 May, when we also painted notices to remind people not to burn the grass. They can be seen all round the park.

Sarah Tolley

Community Tree Fund

There has been money available from this fund which FoMBL can use to plant a new rowan tree near Heather's Goodare's house, to commemorate Heather's contribution to FoMBL. This will replace the one which was blown down.

Project Update

I have received many comments regarding the Nelson pillar board and am now in the process of finalising the text.

We have been offered £4,000 from Forbes nursery to part-fund new play equipment - this was in response to an email I sent requesting a contribution so I was very surprised at the amount offered.

Neil Roger

Historic Lamp-posts

One of our perceptive members noticed that the lamp-posts on Melville Drive are not actually ordinary lamp-posts, but are originally the supports for the wires for the tram-line which used to run along that street. Unlike most other lamp-posts they are arranged in pairs opposite each other, rather than alternating, which was the clue to their purpose. We contacted Edinburgh World Heritage, who have shown their interest in this 'vital part of the history of the city', and they will ensure that the council lighting department will take appropriate care of the lamp-posts, which are obviously quite old, and are getting a bit rusty.

Meadows Festival 2019 - FoMBL Stall



The FoMBL stall was set up in the Information Tent, sharing a table with Merchiston Community Council. Alison and Sarah from FoMBL were able to spend time at the stall on Saturday and Sunday, to give information to passers-by about the work we do to help care for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, and even gained a new member! The Edinburgh University Engagement Manager stopped to talk about how to get more students involved in volunteering. So a great success, and mostly lovely weather.



Forthcoming events

World Naked Bike Run - 8 June

Community Garden Party - 15 June, 12.00-5.00pm (north-east Meadows, in front of the University Library, near the play area)

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

Kinship Summer Day - 10 July

Meadows Chamber Orchestra - Concert 28 September at 7.45pm, Stockbridge Parish Church. Conductor Gordon Bragg and Clarinet soloist Maxi Martin. (No 24 bus goes to Stockbridge)

Programme:

Elgar Sospiri Op 70

Tom Aitken Pink Chaise Longue

Copland clarinet concerto

Tchaikovsky Souvenir de Florence

(for more details and future concerts www.meadowsorchestra.org.uk)

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.

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

Other FoMBL Contacts:

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

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

