



park to protect the grass and trees from careless parking. Recently a new border was cleared adjacent to the present one to increase the wildflower area further. This was organised by Tim Duffy and Alice Brawley who organised volunteers from Extinction Rebellion. The turf was collected by Parks staff. Signage which describes the wildflower project has been installed by Tim Duffy so a big thank you for all his work.

*Neil Roger*

**August Work Party** - We had six volunteers in total, two new ones and they left their emails. We had a really good clean-up session around the croquet hedge and the grassy areas beside. Got 13 bags of rubbish. We tidied up the two General Maczek tubs in preparation for a few wallflowers that I will try to get from council Inch nursery. Fortunately that annoying padlock has been removed from the fountain gate so we were able to get in and clear up. One volunteer cleared the docks and was keen to take bags to the recycling place. She did a marvellous job.

**September Work Party** - we tidied up the tubs across from the Pavilion cafe, and replanted them for the autumn. We were also able to clean off the graffiti using special cleaning fluid. Also Alec was able to open up some of the barriers around new trees to allow clearing the rubbish that accumulates inside.

*Leader: Alison Carr*

### **Dirty Weekenders**

The University environmental projects groups called Dirty Weekenders got in touch to offer Sunday 29 September to help maintain the Meadows. In line with the FoMBL programme work was proposed for dock control on Bruntsfield Links, and clearing the hedge around the tennis courts. They cleared rubbish from the long hedge, replaced the fencing around the bird friendly plantation and tended lots of trees. I provided sandwiches and they were blessed with a dry day!

*Sarah Tolley*



Here are the Dirty Weekenders at the tennis courts (above) and the next page shows them working on the bird-friendly planting area.



## **Jawbones Restoration News**

FoMBL have been involved in the restoration of the arch for some time. Now we keep in close touch with Fiona Rankin of Edinburgh World Heritage who are managing the restoration project. The latest information is that the jawbones are with a specialist conservator in England and it is hoped the work will be completed by the end of 2020 if not before. Lighting and support foundations have been installed and an information board designed.

*Neil Roger*

## **City of Edinburgh Park Quality Assessment Result 2019**

A very positive report, with good marks in every category. The report mentions good safe access and good signage, lots of various activities, although it did say that some cyclists go too fast. We have also had some reports of runners acting very carelessly, even towards disabled pedestrians. The report says that although there are plenty of large bins, on the day they visited there was some overflow - we were informed that at one point there was a shortage of staff to empty the bins. The council has at last cut back on the use of chemicals, something which FoMBL has been supportive of, with work groups doing weeding and mulching to suppress weeds instead. They notice our conservation efforts with wildflower planting, and suggest more along the wall on the north side. Our work as community involvement is noted (although the newsletter is only three times a year, not quarterly!). The information boards are praised, and while they suggested another board telling the history of the Royal Infirmary, members of FoMBL have already done a great deal of research on this subject.

*Summary by Editor*

## **Tree Time Edinburgh**

There is a new scheme which allows people to donate towards Edinburgh's trees. 'Tree Time' is a pilot initiative spearheaded by the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council and the Woodland Trust Scotland. Its aim is to increase and maintain the Capital's trees by offering a way of commemorating a loved one's life, marking a child's birth, celebrating a special anniversary or just to show how much a person cares about trees and/or Edinburgh as a place.

By taking part in Tree Time, donors can choose from a range of packages from £20 to £5,000, all of which will go towards planting more trees in Edinburgh as well as looking after existing trees in the city (with an initial focus on planting more street trees).

The higher end of the donation scale offers the opportunity to sponsor an existing tree or pay for a new tree to be planted. A personalised, commemorative plaque will be placed on the tree in recognition of the donation. A list of trees available has been produced so that members of the public or groups can identify one that is appropriate for their requirements.

Further information is available from:

<https://edinburghlivinglandscape.org.uk/project/tree-time-edinburgh/>

*Sarah Murphy*

*Senior Programmes Officer, Parks Greenspace and Cemeteries, City of Edinburgh Council*

## **Forthcoming events**

Monthly Blast Running Event - Tuesdays 12.45pm, from 5 September onwards  
Drop-in information event at the Meadows - 25 October 3pm, 7pm

Meadows Chamber Orchestra

**Saturday 9th November 2019**

7.45pm Stockbridge Parish Church

Peter Evans conductor, Colin Scobie violin, Philip Higham cello

Mozart: Symphony No 29 in A major K 201

Stravinsky: Danses Concertantes

Brahms: Double Concerto Op 102

Tennis Event, Brodies LLP - 13-16 June 2020

Cancer Research UK Race for Life - September 2020 (tbc)

## **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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**Project Manager:** Neil Roger

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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](http://www.fombl.org.uk)

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

