



# **Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links**

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

## **NEWSLETTER 54**

**Spring 2020**

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Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

### **Spring Gathering**

Monday 16 March, 7.30pm

Chalmers Hall, Barclay-Viewforth Church

Speakers:

Lindsay Grant, Parks Programmes Manager

will report on the Park Life Project and its possible future applications  
and

George Hunter will speak on the history of the Edinburgh Fire Service  
Free, all welcome, refreshments available

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### **FoMBL AGM 2020**

Evening of Friday 26th June at the Croquet Club

*City for Sale? The Commodification of Edinburgh's public spaces.*

One of the defining issues of our time has been the expanding use of the  
city's public gardens, streets and parks for private events.

Terry Levinthal, Director of the Cockburn Association, will explore the  
issues and challenges behind this phenomenon.

Also

Update on the Old Royal Infirmary (soon to be the Edinburgh Futures  
Institute) by University of Edinburgh staff

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## Volunteer Activities



Left: cleaning and tidying around the memorial fountain beside the cricket pavilion; middle: building a turf border beside the pavilion cafe, to prevent vehicles driving onto the grass; right: members of FoMBL and Buglife planting snowdrops near Melville Drive. Many thanks to the Tool Shed team at HMP Saughton who have kindly provided refurbished tools for the FoMBL volunteers to use during their sessions in the park.

### Volunteers Needed!

Now that Spring is coming there will be so much more work to do in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. If you enjoy our beautiful park then why not join us on the last Saturday every month, meet at 10.00am at the back of the Pavilion Cafe where the tools are kept, and find out how you can help. It is great fun and enormously satisfying! Pass on the message, and perhaps we can gain new members of FoMBL!

## October Meeting



Here is a photo from the public meeting last autumn, when Joanna Lindsay from Buglife Scotland gave a talk about the project to create a corridor of wild flower pollinators right across Scotland, following the John Muir Way, to enable the spread of our essential insects.

The meeting was well attended, and was tremendously informative, showing how our own contribution of wildflower planting in the Meadows forms part of the link.

## Young Volunteers



Here are some children from James Gillespie's Primary School last November, planting Mascari or grape hyacinth bulbs for a display of colourful spring flowers.

(Here is an example.)

## Christmas Party



The FoMBL Christmas Party was held in the Old Town Development Trust centre, and members were welcomed with gluhwein and homemade mince pies. We played Twister and explored the new centre. EODT aims to support the Old Town community by establishing a network of gardens and green spaces, and by preserving our built and cultural heritage. The new centre is a wonderful place for holding a party and making new friends!

*Sarah Tollev*

## Donations

It is now very easy to make donations to FoMBL by text. To make a donation, text 'FOMBL' to 70490 to donate £5. This costs £5 plus a standard message rate. Alternatively, you can opt to give any whole amount up to £20, for example FOMBL 3 for a one-off £3 donation. Thanks!

Existing, and new, members of FoMBL, please can you make sure that you have filled in the correct form to enable us to claim Gift Aid. This is a valuable extra source of income.

Money raised is used for all sorts of things that are not covered by the Edinburgh City Council. For example, it enables the volunteers to plant more bulbs, renew paving, provide information and education boards, to repaint railings, to get the correct materials to clean up graffiti.

## Look out for damage to trees and verges

While you are walking around the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, can you look out for any of the young trees which have their supports falling over? Also look out for any damaged trees. Take a photograph, showing the location with some landmarks, or street names if possible, and send it to [mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk). We have grants for new tree planting, so it is important to make sure that we can look after them all.



Please can members help!

There is a serious problem where lorries have been driven along the narrow paths on the Meadows, leaving these conspicuous tyre gouges in soft soil beside them. This could be caused by any of the service vehicles which use the Meadows: garden maintenance, cleansing, street lighting, workshops etc. The Council has been notified, but it will be very helpful if they can identify the vehicles by the number plate or the fleet number. Photos, with landmarks or street names to help find the location, are useful. You should also contact [mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk) about this problem.

## Meadows East Pavilion Area

There are plans for a new mural to brighten up the blank wall, and we are looking for more ideas to make that space more welcoming and more interesting. Get in touch with us at [secretary@fombl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fombl.org.uk).

## **Forthcoming events**

Monthly Blast Running Event - First Tuesday of the month 12.45pm

Meadows Chamber Orchestra - 28 March 2020 7.45pm Stockbridge Parish Church EH3 5BN  
tickets at the door and from Queen's Hall Box Office, 0131 668 2019, [www.queenshall.net](http://www.queenshall.net)  
with Peter Evans, Richard Beauchamp, John Bett

Bizet Jeux d'enfants Suite, Prokofiev Peter and the Wolf

Mozart Piano Concerto No 9 K271, Walton Facade, Suite No 2

Meadows Chamber Orchestra - Saturday 16th May 2020 in Inverleith St Serf's Church

Conductor - Cecilia Weston, Cello soloist - William Schofield

Verdi Overture to 'La Forza del Destino', Hans Gal Concerto for cello and orchestra Op. 67

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5 in E minor Op. 64

Iftar in the Park - 21 May 2020

Meadows Festival - 6-7 June 2020, Fun Fair 3-7 June 2020

Edinburgh Silver Arrow, Royal Company of Archers - 16 June 2020

Family Fun Day - 20 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](mailto: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 notify on the City of Edinburgh Council website

**Forestry Service**: email: [forestry.service@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:alan.dunlop@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Task Force Manager** (responsible for street cleaning and grounds maintenance) Rab Farquhar: email: [rab.farquhar@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:rab.farquhar@edinburgh.gov.uk). Tel. 0131 664 8330 for recycling.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:convener@fombl.org.uk)

**Secretary**: Sarah Tolley, email: [secretary@fombl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fombl.org.uk).

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**Project Manager**: Neil Roger

**Newsletter Editor**: Maureen Parnell, email: [newsletter@fombl.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fombl.org.uk)

**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](mailto:volunteer@fombl.org.uk)

