



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

NEWSLETTER 55

Summer 2020

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links 2020 AGM

This year's AGM, postponed from June, will take place at 7pm on the 7th of September 2020. Due to the ongoing challenges with physical meetings this AGM will be conducted online only. Details of how to access the meeting and the AGM papers (agenda, minutes, etc) will be circulated in advance and will also be available on the FoMBL website and Twitter account.

At the AGM, we will elect a new body of trustees and elect some of those trustees to the various committee positions. We would welcome new trustees. Please contact the convener of FoMBL, Jim Orr, via convener@fombl.org.uk with any questions.

Lockdown on the Links



My 'front lawn' consists of the north-western corner of Bruntsfield Links, near the Barclay-Viewforth church. During the past few sunny days at the end of May it has been increasingly occupied by family parties enjoying themselves: small children playing with balls, grown-ups (including dads) sunning themselves, dogs being walked, and so on.

I did notice smoke from two barbecues, but they were too far away for me to check whether or not they were burning the grass.

On Whit Sunday morning I saw a young woman out with a litter-picker, being very conscientious. I couldn't get out to ask her if she belonged to FoMBL: we need people like her!

The new prevalence of bikes, which I welcome warmly, was perhaps a bit overwhelming: they are now all over the Links as well as going the wrong way down Glengyle Terrace. But I have to say that for a self-isolating granny the whole picture is preferable to the usual pitch and putt when the golfers are out there. The Internet tells me that it is 'the oldest **pitch and putt** golf course in the world', so we are honoured: but I wonder what will happen when they open again.

In the meantime, I enjoy the view from my front porch, which Neil has kindly photographed for you.

Heather Goodare

Spring Flowers



Tulips in full flower in April, in the Maczek tubs, photographed by Kate Ruchomska.



The crocuses appear every year, all round the Meadows and Links. Photos from Sarah Tolley.



A wonderful selection of wild flowers, all colours. There is more planting for the bees now.

PROJECTS UPDATE August 2020

- Alison Carr and other volunteers have been clearing tree bases and protecting some trees. Alison has mulched and watered many young trees at south Links. She also fixed a mesh guard around a rare Tulip tree which had been getting seriously damaged by young children.
- Volunteers have been cutting Docks and nettles before they seed at South Links and Leamington Walk wildflower meadow. (see photo below)
- Benet Haughton has been very active in repairing failed wire cages and posts around young trees.



- Alan Gevers (playground officer) has agreed to order and install new play equipment (trampoline and see-saw) at West Links playground and east toddlers' playground adjacent to the tennis courts.
- Edinburgh World Heritage has been held up on the procurement process for designing and installing new info boards but hope this will resume soon.

- A painter is due to start painting some low railings in late August.
- No funding is now available for repair of muddy, worn areas.
- Bridget is organising a plaque for Robin Morris.
- The Buglife pollinator project has been extended into next year with further seeding planned for the Autumn/Spring.
- Spring seeding failed at South Links due to dry weather but the new wildflower areas off Leamington Walk have fared better thanks to seeding by Tim Duffy.
- Heather Goodare has generously paid for two new trees and hope planting will proceed adjacent to Glengyle Crescent in the Autumn.

Neil Roger

Wonderful warm dry weather this spring, but young trees suffer

Local Hero

People who are taking pleasure in the flourishing green of Bruntsfield Links will have noticed that the young trees were lovingly tended during the surprisingly long dry period we experienced. Alison Carr has been watering, weeding out the fierce weeds around the base - and if you have never dug out a dock from clay soil, we can recommend it as heavy exercise - and then finishing the work by putting a bark mulch around the roots. Alison is unquestionably one of the people who are holding our world in balance in the present time, and deserves our admiration! The good Mr Tod should also be mentioned due to generous provision of free mulch of the highest standard.

Sara Stevenson



Park Noticeboard Painting

Big thanks are due to Les Taylor of Lesley's Snackbar. Les has been a fixture on Middle Meadow Walk for 4 years, and has done his bit to beautify the site. He's planted bulbs, and roses, and his apple and pear trees are gorgeous. His latest improvement has been painting the Park noticeboard, which FoMBL keeps updated. It was in a sorry state, but now is resplendent in several new coats of black paint. Other park noticeboards need a bit of TLC; get in touch with our volunteers team if you can help!

Sarah Tolley

The Thriving Green Spaces Project

This project will shape an ambitious new vision for Edinburgh's natural environment and produce a 30-year strategy and action plan to deliver that vision. Starting on 29 June the project team conducted three short, interactive surveys for anyone who lives or works in Edinburgh:

- How do you use and what do you think of Edinburgh's green and blue spaces?
- Active Commuting in Edinburgh
- Using Quiet Routes after dark

These surveys were developed with the help of a number of masters students from the Landscape and Wellbeing programme at the University of Edinburgh, one of the partners working with the Council on this project. The project is made possible by a £899,500 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and the National Trust (NT), who have joined together to provide funding to local authorities to enable them to develop bold and innovative financial and management solutions for their green spaces against a backdrop of financial uncertainty. Alongside the Council, bid partners are: Greenspace Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum (the umbrella group for Edinburgh's friends of parks groups).

Children making a contribution



A very young volunteer clearing docks and nettles.



LOOK CLOSELY AND YOU WILL SEE

BLUE MUSCARI (GRAPE HYACINTH) FLOWERS

THESE WERE PLANTED BY **JAMES GILLESPIE'S** CHILDREN IN THE AUTUMN WITH HELP FROM **BUGLIFE** AND **FRIENDS OF THE MEADOWS AND BRUNTSFIELD LINKS**

ALONG WITH DANDELIONS THESE ARE IDEAL TO PROVIDE FEED FOR THE EARLY SPRING BEES

PLEASE HELP TO PROTECT THESE FLOWERS



Clearing the Acquoff Memorial Fountain.

The fountain is cleaned and cleared of rubbish and leaves every month or more by volunteers.

Here is Alison again.

Obituary - Chris Wigglesworth

Members of Merchiston Community Council and Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links were sad to hear of the death on 4 April of Chris Wigglesworth. Others will write of his roles as a City of Edinburgh ward councillor, a church minister and as a community activist through his association with Tollcross Community Council (of which his wife Ann was an active member), but what we in MCC and FoMBL will remember with particular gratitude and affection is his unflinching championship of local people whether or not they were his constituents, lived within the Tollcross area and/or shared his political views. Chris frequently supported us at the Licensing Board, and MABLAG (Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Action Group), while he and Ann regularly flew the community councils flag at the Meadows and Canal Festivals. Chris was Convenor of FoMBL from 2009 to 2011.

He was a man blessed with great wisdom which he wore lightly yet was always willing to share with others when required. And, as many are saying, he quite simply was "a lovely man".

We will miss him and we send our deepest condolences to his family.

Chris's funeral took place at 11am on Thursday 16 April and was for obvious reasons a family-only event. Anyone wishing to see a recording of the funeral can do so via the following website:

www.obitus.com Username: mortonhall9068 Password: 581462.

Bridget Stevens

Forthcoming events

There are no events planned at this time, however the regular monthly sessions for FoMBL volunteers will now continue. Meet at the Pavilion Cafe on the last Saturday of the month, where tools and equipment will be provided, and information about the tasks for each month.

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 notify on the City of Edinburgh Council website

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: email: 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, 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.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

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

