



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

NEWSLETTER 60

Spring 2022

FoMBL 2022 AGM

Friday 24 June at the Croquet Centre, west Meadows
Formal AGM from 7pm, guest speaker Terry Levinthal from the
Cockburn Association from 8pm

Terry will talk on the use and misuse of public space in Edinburgh

(Future online zoom talk on The Early History of Hibs and Hearts on The Meadows planned for autumn)

FoMBL Tree Group planted 18 trees in the Meadows



above: FoMBL Tree Group
below: Alec and Oliver watering trees
along North Meadow walk



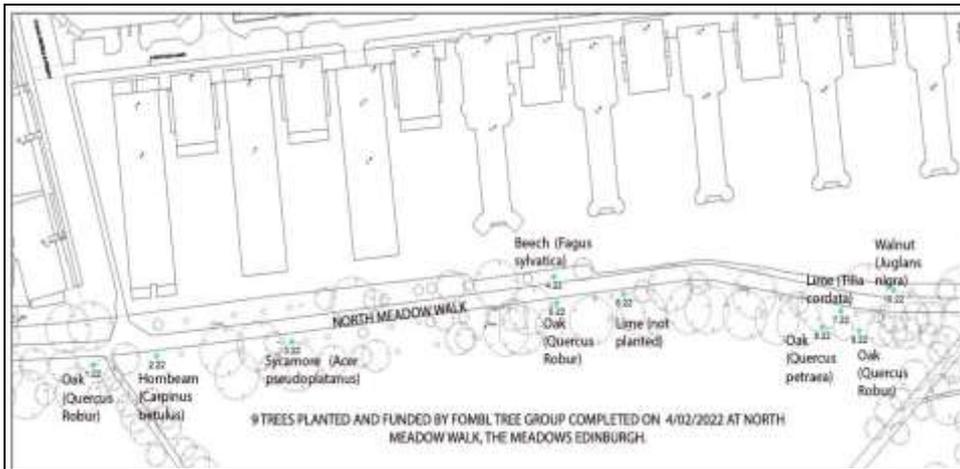
The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have many mature and old trees. These are very important homes for wildlife, such as insects, mammals and birds. They are also significant landscape features and help in reducing pollution from the city. Unfortunately some of the trees become diseased each year, the elm and ash are particularly affected and are then felled and removed. If we don't replace these trees, the greenspace will change and we will lose its character.

The Friends of the Meadows tree group of volunteers has been planting native trees this year across the Meadows as part of work to keep the tree population. We have planted oak, beech, hornbeam, lime, walnut, sycamore and silver birch trees. Eighteen trees have been planted by the volunteers with the cost of the trees supported by FoMBL and a grant from Aberdeen Standard Foundation. We will water and care for the trees this spring and summer to get them established. We would love to carry on this work of planting more trees this autumn, but need your help to buy more trees. We have to carry out watering during the first year and check wire cages and trees for any damage. All help is welcome so please contact Martin Howorth (howorthmartin2@gmail.com) if you can support the group.

You can donate money to Friends of the Meadows and
Bruntsfield Links to fund this programme. Every little bit
helps

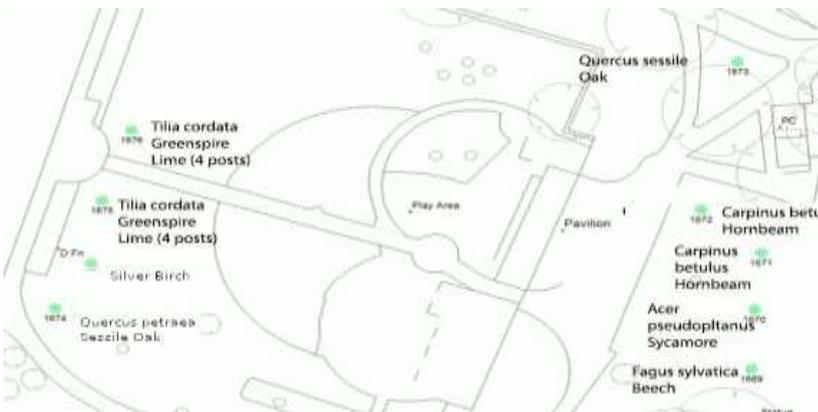
FoMBL can accept donations by text message.

See <http://www.fombl.org.uk/otherpapers/TextPayments.html>



left: Map showing location of the first batch of new trees along North Meadow Walk planted in early February.

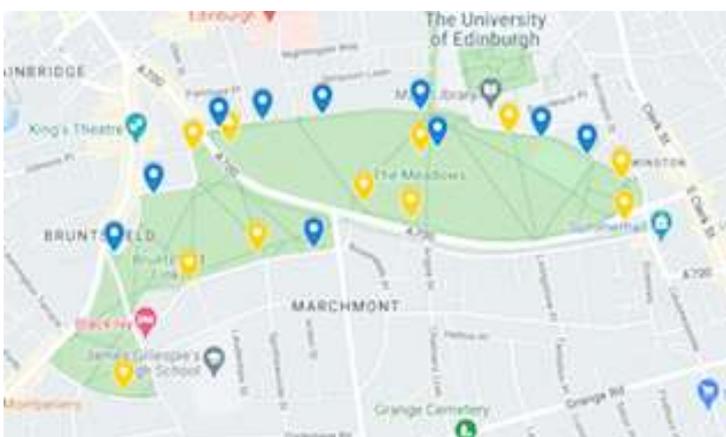
Below: another tree planted with Claire Miller (Green councillor) helping



The latest batch of trees around the east playground area

Bird Boxes

Users of the park will have noticed that these have now been installed – some already are occupied. Here is a map of the locations:



If anyone is lucky enough to take a photo of birds around their new nests, please send it to the newsletter.

The boxes are a mix of Blue Tit and Great Tit boxes, and each box has a nest box protection plate. The boxes have been installed on or near to mature trees with nearby shrub cover, and they will be checked regularly and maintained annually.

The yellow boxes show the first phase and the blue ones were added later.

Acknowledgement: Boxes donated by Rebel PT, an outdoor fitness group who use the Meadows for group training and Craggs Yoga, a group of like-minded outdoor and yoga enthusiasts. Timber used is a sustainable Larch from the Borders kindly donated by Abbey Timber of Abbey St Bathans, Duns. Donation from FoMBL.

Neill Walker

Volunteer Report

FoMBL volunteers continue to do all manner of tasks on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links over the Autumn and Winter months. Litter clearing is popular. Clearing composting leaves from paths is quite time consuming but the results are worth it. The area around the benches needs to be tidied and scraped and grass cut back and some work has been done on this (see photo below). It is a big job as there are so many benches. There is a difficulty keeping noticeboards free of fly posters and graffiti. It takes time to do this and there are a lot of noticeboards. Volunteers have come to the conclusion that there is a problem with the design of these noticeboards. They are always going to be a target. Various ways to combat the problem have been discussed informally. Perhaps shatterproof glass and a grill of some sort might prevent fly posters being plastered all over them.

If anyone has a method to remove posters, that works without damaging the current perspex, we would like to hear about it.

Neil Roger



Volunteers planting wildflower seeds on Bruntsfield Links with Tim Duffy leading the project.
Mix of perennial and annual seeds supplied by Scotia Seeds.



Leaf clearing at Bruntsfield Crescent



far left
Mike Shields from the city council has agreed to replace all the perspex sheets this time but if damaged again we will have to look at alternatives.

left
June and Gordon MacLeod clearing weeds around benches

Toilets

The Council has allocated funding in 2022/23 to allow for the provision of temporary toilets in the Meadows and our other Premier Parks again this year. This funding will be available from 1 April.

Officers were working to procure the temporary toilets with an aim to getting them on site as early in the year as we possibly can. The process of installing the toilets has now begun.

Edinburgh City Council message to FoMBL

Jawbones

It was reported that the Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation project had reached a critical stage, financially and technically, and could not proceed without approval of the recommendations of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

Decision

- 1) To agree to commission and install a high quality, sustainable replica of the Jawbone Arch in the Meadows (utilising recently made 3D scans).
- 2) To agree that a suitable, free and publicly accessible indoor space should be identified to display the original bones, with costs to be met from the original fundraising exercise.
- 3) To agree that officers should progress discussions with stakeholders and potential funders on the proposed approach and to report back to Committee once these discussions are concluded.
- 4) To agree to hold discussions with partners regarding a location for the original Jawbone in a safe and suitable location.
- 5) To agree to provide an update on progress with arrangements for hosting the original Jawbone partners in the next Business Bulletin. *(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)*

Unfortunately a planned deputation by Graeme Cruickshank, as proposed by Neil Roger, to address this item at the committee of 26th April did not happen due to a committee error and we hope that this item can be addressed at a meeting to be held in August.

Community Garden

The community garden (north-east meadows, in front of the university) is putting on an event in Refugee Week: cyanotype art (a method when the sun creates shadows on prepared paper) and story telling, from 12 to 4pm. All welcome.

Sarah Tolley



Meet the Members



Clearing rotted leaves at Bruntsfield Links

Saturday Work Parties

We knew about the monthly work parties but because we attended Edinburgh Leisure fitness classes on a Saturday morning we had never participated in a work party. However, due to COVID and the subsequent closure of the studios suddenly we were both available to contribute to the work.

Since 2020 we have litter picked, removed graffiti, planted daffodil bulbs, cleared piles of leaves and leaf mould, removed docks, edged paths overgrown with turf, planted wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) plugs in the wildflower meadow in front of Warrender Park Terrace and helped to replace the bird grove fencing to keep nesting birds safe from dogs.

It is very sociable, healthy and rewarding work. We are often thanked by appreciative passers-by. During the Edinburgh Festival while having a coffee break in the sunshine outside the Pavilion Cafe we even became part of a Fringe show. In December we were invited to join the Christmas party at the community garden for mulled wine and seasonal goodies. In spite of the fitness studios reopening with the easing of restrictions we have decided to carry on assisting the work parties.

Gordon and June MacLeod



I'm Jim Orr and I'm the convener of the FoMBL charity. I live in Marchmont and work as an accountant. I also served as a city councillor between 2012 and 2017 which was a great opportunity for someone interested in politics and governance. While there I got to know Heather Goodare. She was the previous FoMBL chair and when she asked me to succeed her around 2018 I couldn't say no. I love the Meadows and Links and used to play there when I was small on day trips into Edinburgh from my home in East Lothian. At FoMBL we do a great job in representing the local community and protecting the park. Ideally every park in the capital would have as good representation as the Meadows does. We have been involved in some great additions to the park recently such as the table tennis table near the tennis courts and the temporary/summer toilets on Middle Meadow Walk, but there are still many difficulties such as the damage that barbecues do to the bare grass. There is also a lot of uncertainty for example around the jawbones and the future of the pavilion.

We're always looking for new trustees to help run the charity so please get in touch if you're interested.

Forthcoming Events

Volunteers are always needed for work in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links on the last Saturday of the month – the nature of the work depending on the season. We meet at the Cricket Pavilion at 10.00am, and any necessary tools can be provided.

21 May	Falun Gong – 9.30–5.30pm
29 May – 5 June	Meadows Fair
30 May – 7 June	Meadows Festival 2022 and Jubilee Picnic
15 June	The Edinburgh Arrow
18 June	Cyanotype art and story telling at Community Garden – 12–4pm
19 June	Edinburgh Pretty Muddy
24 June	Edinburgh Front Runners 5K Pride Run

Useful Contacts

Mike Shields, Parks and Greenspace Officer South East (Edinburgh Council). Tel: 0131 529 5126 or 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

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Tollcross Community Council: Iain Black, **Southside CC:** Joan Carter,

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

