



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

## **NEWSLETTER 24** **Spring 2010**

### **Convener's Comment**

#### **The Future of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links**

I'm sure you will enjoy this latest newsletter from the capable hands of our Editor. It is a reminder of how pleasant and precious are the green meadows and golf links that we exist to sustain. Do come to the meeting on the ninth of March, when this will be our chief topic. We need to decide how much we can do to help the Council staff with their efforts, and what we think are the main requirements for the improved maintenance we hope for from them.

The Council has again applied for Green Flag status for the Meadows and Links. I think we should encourage all concerned to foster the high standards expected. A perennial problem is parking on the Meadows by Council vehicles (see the letter on page 4), and this is something we hope to discuss at the meeting.

Meanwhile, enjoy the crocuses and daffodils!

*Chris Wigglesworth*

#### **A note for dog-lovers**

A dog health-check vehicle and service will be in the Meadows on Friday the 7th of May. Members who have dogs may be interested in the free dog or pet health-check on offer.

The vehicle where the health checks will be offered will be 6 metres long and 3 metres wide, and the plan would be to keep it on the hard standing if ground conditions are wet.

#### **The Pavilion Café**

This popular venue will open at the beginning of April.

**The Spring Meeting of Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links will be held on Tuesday 9 March at 7.30 p.m. in the German-speaking Church, Chalmers Crescent. Speakers to include David Jamieson, Parks and Greenspace Manager, and Mike Shields, Community Parks Officer. All are welcome.**



*Fun in the snow, Bruntsfield Links, December 2009*



*Arthur's Seat in the snow: view from the Meadows*

## **African Roots in Alba** by *Angus Ogilvy*

African Roots in Alba  
In the frosted morning  
with my walking stick  
my shadow makes a Masai warrior  
on the Meadows.

Over Bruntsfield Links  
old memories stir  
and Africa rises through me  
with the hot sweet smell of spoor  
and the insouciant panic of wildebeest.

A troupe of baboons,  
haunched on a hillock,  
gossip up menace with their eyelids,  
as a squabble of guinea fowl  
scurry to the sales  
down Jawbone Walk.

Elephants crumpling padprints  
on the way to work  
with undulant purpose  
toss cool clouds of breathdust  
over their shoulders.

In the rock outcrops of Marchmont,  
with their tribal drawings  
of abandoned hunts,  
warthogs trot for sanctuary  
where lions loll behind fogged windows  
waiting for the sun to sink  
in the afternoon  
before another night out on the prowl.

And the leopard,  
as always,  
remains unseen  
in the tree above my head,  
guarding the carcass  
of tomorrow's kill.

*©Angus D.H. Ogilvy December 2008*

## **Pedestrian Area Improvement**

The pedestrian area at the southern boundary of Bruntsfield Links adjoining Bruntsfield Terrace and Greenhill Gardens corner has, over a long period, deteriorated into a very unsightly space (*see photo opposite*).

In particular Council bin lorries have driven up over the pavement kerb to gain access to litter bins on the walkway that leads to Whitehouse Loan. They have done this for years because fixed bollards have prevented them from driving straight onto the tarmac areas and instead they drive over the grass, resulting in a dreadful muddy area.

Members of Greenhill and Church Hill Amenity Association and FOMBL worked together to prepare a layout drawing with specifications which were agreed by Mike Shields (Council parks officer). These proposals include: new folding, lockable bollards, dropped kerbs, granite setts to cover muddy areas, new smarter litter bins, relocation of the information board to a more prominent location, two or three new planters and installation of barriers to deflect cyclists from hitting pedestrians at the Greenhill Gardens corner.

Last year funds were allocated to complete the majority of the proposals and it is hoped that additional sums could be made available to augment work completed. No work took place last year but it is hoped that work will commence soon.

*Neil Roger*



*The southern boundary of Bruntsfield Links*

## **Forthcoming events on or near the Meadows**

### **Meadows Marathon**

The Meadows Marathon will take place on Sunday 7 March 2010. Registration for the half marathon and 5km fun run is now open alongside a newly updated website [www.meadowsmarathon.org.uk](http://www.meadowsmarathon.org.uk). The event is an entirely student volunteer-led project, and the organization team aims to smash all previous records and raise £100,000 for local and national charities, as well as attracting over 1,000 runners.

It will take place around the historical area of the Meadows, in the centre of Edinburgh, which has stunning views of the city's well-known landmarks. The event is aimed at all levels of runner, and it only costs the small amount of £15 to register, to encourage maximum participation from local charities. The organizers believe that exercise should be fun and so, on the day, various entertainments will be provided, including radio DJs, celebrities and performance acts, all designed to spur on the competitors.

As well as the website, runners and supporters can also find information and news about the event on the facebook group, Meadows Half Marathon, which has already gained over 500 members. John Owens, editor of *myRace*, commented, 'The Meadows Marathon is perhaps the most vibrant and exciting half marathon in the whole of Scotland. The atmosphere on the day is electric and it's fantastic to see so many students and keen runners taking part in the name of charity. The costumes last year were well thought out, and it will be interesting to see what some runners come up with this year.'

This year's Project Manager, Sally Hutchby, has been involved with the Meadows Marathon for the past two years and is keen to carry on its success. Sally commented, 'I am thrilled to be part of this project for another year and hope to carry on its legacy. This year we want to make the Meadows Marathon even bigger and better and are going to be pulling out all the stops. We want to show that Edinburgh's students play an active role in the community and that they can bring their energy and enthusiasm together to raise funds for a whole range of deserving causes.'

### ***Background information***

The event was founded in 2007 by Paul Hewett and Alex Robertson, two mathematicians from the University of Edinburgh. The Meadows Marathon is returning for its fourth consecutive year. Last year's event was one of the biggest student-organized road races in the UK, and 850 runners raised £50,000 for charity. The team believes that any charity can become involved and that the event is accessible to all.

For further information, and to sign up, visit the website - [www.meadowsmarathon.org.uk](http://www.meadowsmarathon.org.uk), or alternatively contact Alexandra Budge at [press@meadowsmarathon.org.uk](mailto:press@meadowsmarathon.org.uk), or on 0797773806. The Meadows Marathon is registered under the Edinburgh Students' Charities Appeal, Scottish Charity No.SC035064. Registered office 5/1 Bristo Sq, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL.

### **Meadows Chamber Orchestra**

The next concert of this popular orchestra will be in the Queen's Hall on Sunday 30 May at 7.45 p.m. The programme is devoted to pieces influenced by jazz, and will include Copland's *Music for the theatre*, two pieces for saxophone and orchestra, one by Sally Beamish and the second by Richard Ingham, a new work by Ben Parry with the title 'Little Jazz Sinfonietta', and the concert ends with Gershwin's *An American in Paris*. Conducted by Peter Evans, with saxophone soloist Richard Ingham. Perfect entertainment for a summer evening! 'Interesting music performed with zeal, passion and a smile' – *The Scotsman*.

Tickets from the Queen's Hall Box Office, Tel. 0131 668 2019: £10, £8 (concessions), £4 (students), £1 (children), or for members of FOMBL at a modest discount from Heather Goodare, 0131 228 6998.

### **Meadows Fun Fair**

This will run from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June, with the Meadows Festival on the final weekend, 5-6 June.

### ***Letter to the Editor (during the recent snow)***

I would like to bring to your attention the fact that quite often cars park regularly inside the Meadows. Toilet assistants, employees of Edinburgh Leisure, and council vehicles are very often parked there for many hours, if not for the whole day. I do query the necessity for any of the mentioned cars to be parked inside a public park, especially as more often than not the people concerned are nowhere to be seen and cannot even claim to be carrying out work in the area.

This morning, like almost every day, a Ford was parked next to the Orthodox church. The tennis courts are covered in snow: why was a tennis coach allowed to park there?

*Giulia Dawson*

<p><b>The AGM and Summer Meeting of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links will be held on Thursday 24 June 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Croquet Pavilion adjoining Leven Terrace.</b></p>
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### **Useful numbers**

**Mike Shields:** Community Parks Officer 0131 529 5126

**Community Beat Officer** PC 4601 Yocksan Bell 0131 662 5022

(to report a crime: 0131 311 3131; emergency 999; or anonymously to Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111)

**Anti-social behaviour (24/7):** 0131 529 7050; Litter: rapid response 0808 100 33 66

**Defective lamp-post lighting:** note number and report to Clarence – 0800 23 23 23

**Environmental Manager:** David Doig – [david.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:david.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk)

### ***FOMBL Committee members***

**(please address all correspondence to the Secretary)**

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