



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

NEWSLETTER 31 Summer 2012

Convener's Comment

It was an honour to be selected in June 2011. For my first committee meeting I had sciatica so that bit is vague. Then my life changed unexpectedly and I went to the USA straight from the November meeting in the Golf Tavern. Despite being told this, FoMBL members ratified my appointment.

Transatlantic parks

The parks in Maui (Hawaii) have sprinkler systems for the grass or are wildish. People leave some litter on the ground, not in bins, mainly after dark. Fair numbers of people go to vantage points to watch the sun go down over the Pacific and many of those sites are in local parks. San Francisco has the huge Golden Gate Park, dwarfing the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and smaller parks. The one at the Pavilion of Fine Arts is my favourite.

Back in Edinburgh

Back in Edinburgh I chaired the General Meeting on a topic I keep proselytising about - 'The Importance of Pollinators'. Gardeners, you've got to let them have the first dandelion flower nectar of spring, then chop the heads off - the dandelions, not the pollinators. Grow a few nettles if you can fit them in.

April brought a committee meeting to chair and write the minutes of. We are still working on a barbecue petition to the Scottish Parliament but veering towards a complete ban rather than the original ban on ones without legs. I went to Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group meetings, including one I chaired. Before it we looked at a new type of bin, which recycles everything. Check them out in Princes Street Gardens.

I hope the Meadows Festival membership drive went well. I believe you need a Chairperson who will be in Edinburgh more of the year than I am likely to be. Thank you to the other committee members for their thoughtful contributions and hard work this year.

Linda Hendry

Weather report: the last few months have included gales, rain, and glorious sunshine: so activities have been wide-ranging. Here it was nice weather for ducks



Here it was fine for boxing





Reform Entertainment Licensing

This was the message being spread by these entirely peaceful ‘protesters’ on 1st April 2012 on Bruntsfield Links (it was April ‘woolery’, not April foolery!). This group of mainly women knitters and spinners were offering free knitting and spinning lessons, free face-painting, free musical performances (we noticed a guitar), and a free outdoor art exhibition. On display were some beautiful pieces of knitting, and a gorgeous rug.

They were concerned about the new licensing legislation: from April 1st in Scotland, exhibitions and events held free of charge are required to pay hefty fees to obtain a Public Entertainment Licence. It affects community organizations, clubs and activity groups, charities, and visual and performing artists of all kinds. For more information, visit www.reform-pel-scotland.co.uk.

Volunteering: work parties on the Meadows

Sunday May 27. Six volunteers laboured in the heat to clear debris and litter from under the laurel bushes behind the cricket pavilion. Our labours were nicely interrupted when Amanda, who runs the café, invited us in for tea. We continued where we left off last time, cutting back the bushes to reveal more of the pavilion. We had re-painted the bare and graffitied areas in March, so reducing the thick cover, and tidying the area should make vandalism and informal toilet use less likely. Amanda is keen to make use of some of this cleared area for planting and horticultural beautification. She is a qualified horticulturalist and very supportive of the Friends. Do call in and say hello.

Please come along if you are free at 2.30pm on Friday June 15th for a couple of hours to repaint the bare and worn areas in front of the pavilion. Let me know if you can come, and bring gloves.

Richard Ellis Tel. 0131 447 4124 email: rellis.consultancy@virgin.net

The Green Banana Story

In January 2009 I was invited to join about 20 volunteers (referred to as Guerrilla Gardeners) to improve the environmental aspect of a neglected piece of land about 200 yards long between the northern half of Marchmont Crescent and Roseneath Place. Permission and support were given by the City Council, so the name 'guerrilla' was dropped. Because it was banana shaped, it became known as 'The Green Banana'.

The first job was to clean the area of dog dirt (still a problem), and to get the Council to replace numerous missing iron fencing posts. This was followed by the introduction of many plants, which have included snowdrops, primula, senecio, leycesteria, comfrey, aquilegia, crocosmia, buddleia, roses, forsythia, hellebore, winter aconite, geranium, red campion, ribes, barberry, hazel, daffodil (donated by the City Council), narcissus, and over 200 lilies received from the Eden Project in Cornwall. Volunteers are now down to five or six – we need more!

Brian J Harris

Brian is also a loyal FOMBL volunteer: it is possible to do both! (Ed.)

Farmers' Market for Bruntsfield?

Proposal for a Farmers/Craft/Local Business Market in Bruntsfield Links

Background

The idea of a Farmers-type Market came about from the local residents and traders in the Bruntsfield area wanting to reconnect with the community after hearing about Sainsbury's opening a mini supermarket where a local delicatessen (Peckhams) had closed down. As I currently run monthly Craft & Gift markets (Market Tree Events) and am a local resident who lives and has a business (Gulliver's Toys) in the area it seemed to them that I would be the best person to get this up and running. The residents and traders were thinking about doing it themselves as a group but have decided that the cost involved both from a time and a financial perspective would be too much for them. This is very much a community-requested initiative, and I am keen to mould this in a way that suits the community.

The Market

At present there are still a lot of details that need to be sorted in consultation with the local residents, traders and FOMBL, as this is a community-driven incentive. A Focus Group has been set up and we will meet on Thursday 31st May at 6pm in Falko's, Bruntsfield Place, to discuss the shape of the market, and I will also deal with any issues/objections people may have.

The consensus to date would be to have a Farmers/Craft/Local Independent business Market along Leamington Walk and the cycle path (appropriate signage will be displayed asking cyclists to be extra careful). The market will run all year round (weather permitting) on a Sunday (currently the preferred date) and will open between 10 and 5pm. There will be a mix of :

- cold foods / meats (bread, cheeses, raw meats, olives, and confectionery)
- hot food (burgers & coffees)
- Crafts (soaps, jewellery, etc),
- Local businesses are welcome to take a stall

I envisage initially that the market will be run on Sundays, and then towards Christmas time we may open on both Saturdays and Sundays (still to be discussed at the focus group). For further information please contact monica@MarketTreeEvents.com www.MarketTreeEvents.com or [facebook.com/TheMarketTreeEvents](https://www.facebook.com/TheMarketTreeEvents). **Monica Faulkner**

Monica will be making a brief presentation about this proposal at our AGM on 21 June (see over)

Forthcoming events

The next (Summer) meeting of FOMBL (AGM) will take place at the Croquet Pavilion, Leven Terrace, at 7.30 pm on Thursday 21 June at 7.30 p.m. at the Croquet Pavilion, Leven Terrace. Monica Faulkner will be presenting the case for a Farmers Market on Bruntsfield Links alongside Leamington Walk. It will be preceded by a 'taster' session of croquet at 7.00 p.m.

Meadows Chamber Orchestra

The final concert in the current season, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of this well-loved local orchestra, will be on Saturday 9 June at 7.45 pm in the Queen's Hall. The conductor will be Peter Evans, and the programme includes the world premiere of a new work for jazz piano and orchestra by Richard Michael, who also plays the solo piano. Gershwin's Cuban Overture opens the concert, and his *American in Paris* is the final work. The programme includes Korngold's Violin Concerto played by Andrew Haveron. For more detailed information, please have a look at the website: www.meadowsorchestra.org.uk. Discounted tickets (£1 off) from Heather Goodare (address below).

Meadows Festival 2-3 June 2012

Fun Fair 30 May-5 June 2012

Edinburgh Canal Festival 30 June 2012 at Edinburgh Quay: contact Pat at 0131 453 4617

Taste of Edinburgh 2012 6-8 July 2012

Urban Circus (Ladyboys) 4-26 August

Fun Fair 9-19 August

The Red Bus Puppet Show 6-15 August
August

Three-sided football 12

Amnesty International 19 August
September

Emily's Big Walk 4

Barbecues

If you would like to help prevent more damage to the Meadows and Links from irresponsible lighting of barbecues, please ask for a supply of Council leaflets to give out to people. It would be helpful if you could ask David Doig direct (see the list of useful contacts below).

Useful contacts

Mike Shields Community Parks Officer 0131 529 5126; email: mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk

Police: Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC 4601 Yocksan Bell 0131 662 5022 or Sgt 4554 Peter Houston (same number). 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:** 0131 529 3030

Defective lamp-post lighting: note number and ring Clarence – 0800 23 23 23

David Doig Local Environment Manager (responsibility for roads, parks and green spaces): email david.doig@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 529 5187

Complaints regarding Council vehicles driving on Links or Meadows:

Taskforce, Craigmillar Depot: 0131 664 8330; or Jim Monaghan on 07786 110 377

Graffiti: report to 0131 200 2000 or email operationdivide@lbp.pnn.police.uk

Kathy Evans: Local Community Safety Manager (tackling anti-social behaviour and joint working with the police) kathy.evans@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel. 0131 529 5106

Environmental Warden team leader: Mohammed Demnati 0131 529 5204

FOMBL Committee members

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