



# Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links

Issue 05: Autumn 2003

## Newsletter

**A**utumn Meeting: Lecture at 7 pm on November 11 at the Autumn Meeting of the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, at the German Speaking Church, Chalmers Crescent, Marchmont

Mr Graeme D R Cruickshank, Researcher, Writer, Lecturer and Broadcaster, who specialises in Edinburgh Local History has kindly agreed to give an illustrated lecture on:

### THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1886

For six months in 1886, the West Meadows played host to the first major industrial exhibition to be staged in Scotland. An amazing structure was erected comprising the palatial Grand Hall, extensive exhibition courts, and an evocative recreation of Old Edinburgh. It proved to be a huge popular and commercial success and it holds a special place in the history of the city.



**F**ebruary Meeting: The next meeting of the FoMBL will take place at 7pm on 2nd February 2004 at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The speakers will be Paul McAuley and Derek Christie. Paul will be presenting a talk about 'Monuments on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links' and Derek will talk about 'Bryophytes in the Southside'.

**M**ust See Exhibition! There is an exhibition, organised by Paul McAuley, on 'Edinburgh Monuments' in the City Art Centre in Market Street. The exhibition runs until the 24th of January 2004. This is well worth a visit!

# **T**he Role of the Tree Warden: What do Tree

Wardens do? It might be easier to describe what a Tree Warden does not do first. He is not invested with powers to prowling around the Meadows cajoling people for misbehaving, barbecuing or cycling on 'no cycling' paths. He is not a policeman or local vigilante. He is not on a power trip, I hope! He does not wear a reflective yellow jacket and issue parking tickets or other penalty tickets (as my wife thought!).

He functions as a liaison person between the City Council and the community in relation to tree matters and initiatives. What could he do then? It is really up to the incumbent! He/she could act as a conduit for community ideas and wish lists possibly offering low key advice as well. He could offer suggestions to the Council's Culture & Leisure Department where trees might be planted, replaced, maintained or otherwise worked upon as deemed necessary or desired by the community. He could initiate and organise community volunteers to undertake tree work within the Park ; work which the Council unfortunately do not have the resources to undertake in the same detail perhaps as volunteers. He can liaise with schools and other community groups in giving talks and guided tours about the Meadows and the Links. City residents today want to influence the management of their green resources and more particularly establish a stronger voice in proposed 'development'.

A number of jobs come to mind immediately. These could be:

Encouraging a local community task force to undertake light work days with Council's support. (Mulching and tending newly planted trees!)

Organising tree events for the local community. Naming and knowing species/age/condition etc.

Promoting awareness of the biodiversity residing in the Meadows of which the trees are but a part. (Fungi, Lichens, insects, etc)

Encouraging events for the local schools.

**Mike Walsh is our  
new Tree Warden**

Promoting adoption responsibility for newly planted trees (watering in times of drought?)

Undertaking tree surveys to ascertain gaps for replanting (species?), condition etc.

Reporting on damage or replacement trees with species suggestions.

Removal of stakes and surveying stumps (for removal) in due course.

Other tasks.

**Interested? Get in touch: Mike Walsh 667 1708**

Keep in touch—visit our Website on:  
<http://www.fombl.com>

## **G**ood Neighbours Relations Group:

Here are some of the more significant action points resulting from the Quartermile Good Neighbour Relations Meeting on Tuesday 26th August 2003 at 7.00pm

### **Planning update**

Claire Hull, the PR & Communications Manager for Southside Capital Ltd (SCL), updated the group on the planning situation, that the application is being considered by the Scottish Executive and SCL should be advised in writing this week as to any further time needed by Historic Scotland.

### **Asbestos strip & demolitions**

Ken Aitken of SCL advised that the Asbestos strip will start the week commencing 1st September in the first two medical blocks and ward 10. This will be carried out using an approved contractor and following strict regulations. - The demolitions contractor will be appointed very soon and will make a presentation to the LUHT and the Lister Housing Co-operative some time in the next couple of weeks, a date to be agreed.

### **SCL move to site**

Southside Capital will move their offices to site on 10th October, taking residence in ward 10 of the surgical block which will be temporarily converted to office use.  
SCL

### **Security & Hoardings**

All hoardings now erected around the site, Quartermile logo graphics have been applied. Graffiti on stonework on MMW was cleaned but SCL do not know who by. In future this will be done by a specialist contractor using a 'Dofftreatment' (a specialist method of jet washing walls) this contractor is ready to start on 15th September. Other graffiti on the blue hoarding will be cleaned off by Taylor Woodrow as soon as possible, further cleaning fluid has been ordered. Viewing platforms are a popular request, SCL to look at where one would be appropriate.

### **Traffic**

Ken Aitken updated the group on the plans to improve the junction at Chalmers Street and Lauriston Place. He confirmed that this junction will be widened and traffic lights installed. An underpass was suggested for this junction, but the group did not support this.

### **Bus routing**

In a recent meeting between SCL and Lothian Buses, SCL is reasonably satisfied with the assessment of existing bus routes. Lothian Buses report that demand has hardly dropped since the closure of the Old ERI, and there is no suggestion of a reduction

Continued overleaf.....

in the frequency of these services. SCL had considered a looped service between Haymarket and Waverley Stations, calling at Quartermile. Discussions with Lothian Buses revealed that all looped services have now been phased out and replaced by normal routes as these are more effective. All Schools, the University and College to feed back to South-side Capital how many pupils they estimate would use a service between the stations on a daily basis. If we can demonstrate sufficient demand on a yearly basis we can put the case to Lothian buses for an increase in frequency. Please feed back this information to Claire Hull.

### Neighbours Newsletter

Copies of the September 'Neighbours News' are now available for distribution and have been sent to all GNRG attendees. If you require further copies, please contact Claire Hull

### AOB

Mike Walsh wants to make a case for the retention of a beech tree onsite Ken Aitken confirmed that this has been highlighted for attention by the landscape architect. Speculation by the Evening News prompted questions about whether SCL were intending to convert the Surgical Block into a five star hotel. SLC confirmed that it was in negotiations with hotel operators, and that CEC had been minded to grant planning permission for a hotel. SCL to check with CEC working hours, suggested

7 – 7 Mon-Fri. SCL to investigate with Councillor Chris Wigglesworth how we can boost local trade after the Tollcross Traders reported a downturn in business since the

closure of the hospital.

### The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 29th October at the Edinburgh College of Art, further details to follow.

**S**KATEBOARD PARK: LATEST NEWS Various rumours have abounded over summer regarding the siting of the Skateboard Park but apparently, the Council had decided that the requirement to change the legislation covering changes to the Meadows might impose a two year delay before work could start on the Skateboard Park in the Meadows (assuming the Planning Application was successful)

The latest news in response to a question relating to the location of the proposed skate park in the Meadows is that a report by the Director of Culture and Leisure on this subject will be considered by the Council's Executive at its meeting on 18 November 2003.

Should it be decided at this Meeting that the Council would definitely submit a Planning Application to build a Skateboard park on the Meadows, then members of the FoMBL would all be balloted by post regarding their views on this development

PL Yap

**W**e Welcome: correspondence, comments or articles in this Newsletter. The deadline for the next Newsletter is 12th January

# **S**hort-Life Working Group for Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

## **Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Programme of Works - October 2003-March 2004**

### **Membership**

Councillors Henderson (Convener), Walker, Cairns, Wigglesworth and McInnes met with The Friends Secretary, Hamish McKenzie to discuss the programme of works planned for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links between October 2003 and March 2004.

### **Details are as follows:**

A planned programme of works totalling about £65,000 will be carried out at the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, October 2003-March 2004 in accordance with the Planning and Design Framework Plan.

Installation of Drainage on the events area to the east of the cricket pavilion will be undertaken to resolve the drainage problems at this location.

Soil Aeration and Sand Spreading will be carried out on all areas where events took place during the summer of 2003.

Removal of chain-link fencing will be carried out at the east end of the Meadows and replaced with knee-high railings to raise the overall standard of amenity.

Infilling of Channels at grass edges and seeding works will be carried out on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links to improve the overall appearance of the two parks.

Soiling and Reseeding of Worn Grass Areas and Desire Lines will be carried out on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links to improve standards.

Trees will be removed on safety grounds due to decay and ill health - 1 on West Bruntsfield Links, 8 on East Bruntsfield Links, 5 on Middle Meadow Walk and 4 on North Meadow Walk (total 18). Once felled, the tree stumps will be dug out and removed to allow replanting in the same pattern.

Seventy Replacement Trees will be planted to fill the gaps in East Bruntsfield Links, Leamington Walk, Warrender Park Terrace, Glengyle Terrace and also on the Meadows.

Thirteen Trees Infected by Dutch Elm Disease will be removed from the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links prior to 31 March 2004.

All Tree Stumps will be completely removed by digging or grinding out.

Two Artificial Trees will be installed at the Short Hole golf course.

Bird and Bat Boxes will be installed on selected trees in conjunction with the Friends of the Meadows and local schools to raise awareness of biodiversity.

**Continued overleaf.....**

Upgrading of Path Edges on the south side of Melville Drive will be carried out commencing at Meadow place and working westwards.

Notice Boards and Signage proposals are being developed by staff of the Culture and Leisure Department and the Friends of the Meadows.

Drainage Works will be carried out on the area subject to ponding on Bruntsfield Links.

The estimated costs of the works at the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are £65,000 which will be met from Culture and Leisure's Capital Programme for 2003-2004.

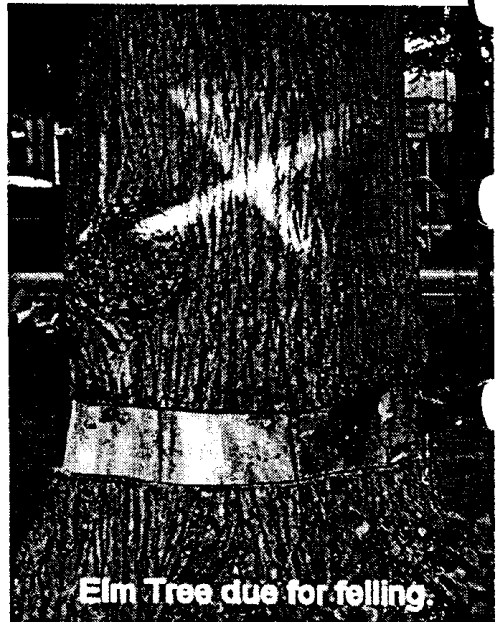
Other topics that were discussed included proposals for a Magnet Play Area, which will involve building on the present site of the East Meadows Bowling Green and relocation of the toddlers Play Area. Also Chain Link Fence Removal in Bruntsfield Links and proposals regarding Events and

**N**ew Signage in the Meadows: In February of this year Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links were granted a Central Local Development Committee grant of £9270, to enable FoMBL to work in partnership with Edinburgh City Council, Department of Culture & Leisure to improve signage in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. Planning of the details of the information to go in the Signs has occurred over the Summer with the Dept of Culture & Leisure and with the Paul Hogarth Company and it is intended that the new Signage will be in place by February, 2004.

**W**e Need New Members: Do you know of anyone who is interested in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links? Why not ask them along to our meetings in November 11th or February 2nd. It only costs £2.00 to join!

**A** Special Thanks: to Audrey Simon for her splendid work in designing, editing and producing our newsletters over the past two years. Special thanks also to John Simon for all the help he has given with the Newsletter as well as his service as a Committee Member

**M**any Congratulations: to Chris Wigglesworth who steps down as our Secretary, following his recent election as the Councillor for Tollcross



**Elm Tree due for felling.**

**T**ree Planting in the Meadows: Keith Logie has informed us that the City of Edinburgh Council, Department of Culture and Leisure has planned to re-stock trees in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links during 2003/2004. Below is a draft list of the proposed species of trees

**Main Species:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Acer saccharinum</i>                      | (Silver Maple)                             |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> "Worleii"         | (Sycamore, yellow-leaved variety)          |
| <i>Crataegus oxycantha</i> "Paul's Scarlet"  | (Midland hawthorn, pink-flowering variety) |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Westhof's Glorie' | (Ash)                                      |
| <i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i> 'Raywood'           | (Caucasian Ash)                            |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>                       | (Common beech)                             |
| <i>Nothofagus obliqua</i>                    | (Roble beech)                              |
| <i>Quercus cerris</i>                        | (Turkey oak)                               |
| <i>Quercus frainetto</i>                     | (Hungarian Oak)                            |
| <i>Tilia tomentosa</i>                       | (Silver Lime)                              |
| <i>Ulmus</i> x 'Regal'                       | (Elm cultivar)                             |

**Occasional species:**

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Acer rubrum</i>                    | (Red or Canadian Maple)      |
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>         | (Horse Chestnut)             |
| <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>       | (Katsura tree)               |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'asplenifolia' | (Fern-leaved beech)          |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>        | (Tulip tree)                 |
| <i>Nothofagus procera</i>             | (Rauli)                      |
| <i>Quercus rubra</i>                  | (Red Oak)                    |
| <i>Salix alba</i> 'sericea'           | (White willow var. Argentea) |

**Notes:**

All stock to be prepared root-balled extra-heavy standard (18-20cm girth), under-guyed. All to be protected by steel mesh guards and mulched around the base. The hawthorns are for specific replacement of individuals now in poor state, mainly along Warrender Park Terrace



**C**ommittee Members: Listed below are names and contact details for committee members of the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.  
Please address all correspondence to the secretary

**Chair:** Peng Lee Yap, 5 Meadow Place, EH9 1JZ.  
 Tel 229 0948 email: Peng.LeeYap@snbts.csa.scot.nhs.u

**Secretary:** Hamish McKenzie, 7 Bruntsfield Terrace, EH10 4EX.  
 Tel 229 6055 email: hamish@bruntsfield7.freeserve.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Josephine Scott, 31/8 Salisbury Road, EH16 5AA  
 Tel 667 3386 email: jo.scott@ukonline.co.uk

**Committee :** Oliver Chapman Colin Christison Dennis Gallagher  
 Valerie Quinn Naomi Burnett Gavin Sprott  
 Tim Puntis

**Tree warden:** Mike Walsh, 17 Tantallon Place, EH9 1NZ  
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**Webmaster & Newsletter Editor** Derek Christie.  
 email: D.Christie@ed.ac.uk

PLEASE OBSERVE and SUPPORT the CODE



Fouling



On Walkways



BBQs



On reserved sites & pitches

**P**ark Watch Partners: ... Every 'Friend' is a partner in helping to protect our unique urban parkland, by acting as the Council's eyes and ears. They will appreciate your assistance, as they cannot be everywhere at all times. Just telephone one of the numbers below, if you see something that needs their attention, (you may give your name or not—as you prefer).

|                     |               |   |
|---------------------|---------------|---|
| Dumped Items        | 0808 100 3366 | Rubbish, furniture, traffic signs, shopping trolleys, etc.. |
| Litter Problems     | 0131 664 8330 | Environmental Task Force Manager for Meadows & Tollcross    |
| Park Wardens        | 0131 332 2368 | Vandalism to trees, turf, seats, playgrounds, monuments     |
| Pathway Lighting    | 0800 23 23 23 | Non-functioning lamps - quote lamp post number or location. |
| Police/St Leonard's | 0131 662 5000 | Disturbances, fires, vehicles parked on grass, vandalism    |
| Graffiti            | 0131 200 2000 | Graffiti removal (Council)                                  |