

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955, www.fombl.org.uk



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charity No – SC045955

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024**

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees take pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name, OSCR number and Address

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, SC045955,
25/2 Roseneath Place, Edinburgh EH9 1JD

Current Trustees

Iain Black	Trustee
Joan Carter	Vice-Chair
Martin Howorth	Trustee
Jim Orr	Chair
Maureen Parnell	Newsletter Editor
Neil Roger	Projects Manager
Alison Service	Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Bridget Stevens	Trustee
Neill Walker	Secretary

Note that all of the trustees were in position for the entirety of the year. We currently have a full complement of trustees although we are always interested in expressions of interest from members who wish to become trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution and Trustees

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered with OSCR on 3rd September 2015. It has a two-tier structure with membership open to the public and a board of elected trustees who are also members of the charity.

Trustees are elected or re-elected at the annual general meeting and additional trustees may be elected at any time during the year. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of nine trustees.

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Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only, and in particular, the objects are:

- Advancement of Arts, Heritage, Culture or Science. To promote the historical value of the area, its scenic, architectural, landscape and ecological qualities for the enjoyment of people living and visiting the area.
- Advancement of Environmental Protection or Improvement. To encourage conservation, protect, enhance and improve the landscape, biodiversity and sustainable use for the benefit of people and wildlife.
- Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development. To engage and involve local community in environmental issues and action through information exchange, educational and practical activities.

Activities

A healthy number of very dedicated volunteers help to keep the Meadows and Links in good shape throughout the year. We are very fortunate to have such committed people and the FoMBL members and local people owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

The tree group planted hundreds of new native trees and bushes across several areas of the park during the year, notably the Southwest area of the Links (with help from the council and pupils from James Gillespies) and around the tennis courts and the east playground. This included two new bird enclaves. The group also maintained over one hundred young trees throughout the park by restoring rotten support stakes, reusing wire protection cages and removing excess growth and litter. They also mulched many other trees and watered the younger ones during the hot summer months. Unfortunately, and as often happens, some young trees died during the year (usually due to lack of water) and we try to replace all of these. A new water bowser was purchased during the year to help with the watering. 22 birdboxes have been installed over the last few years with most of them having been used by birds.

The wildflower meadows were also maintained and improved during the year with many new bulbs and flowers planted or seeded. We worked with the council to increase the amount of unmown or reduced mowing areas. All these measures will improve biodiversity from insects to birdlife as well as cutting down on pollution. A plan is being drawn up to look ahead to future copse, hedgerow and tree planting in conjunction with Forestry and Parks officers. This is in line with the council's Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027.

We undertook several projects during the year. A new log house and wooden train were

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successfully installed on the South Links creating a new toddler's playpark at a total cost of £24,581 of which FoMBL raised £5,000 from a Community Grant with the local Forbes Nursery also donating £4,000. Also, two wooden benches were restored and reinstated by a local carpenter during the year and we were awarded funds to erect a secure shed at James Gillespie's School to store vital watering and gardening tools.

The volunteer group met throughout the year to collect litter and leaves and remove weeds and graffiti as well as many other tasks. A charity called Tree Time fund the planting of trees around the Lothians but we have made clear that we do not support their policy of attaching plaques to trees.

We continue to represent the local community regarding the jawbones. The original jawbones are to be disposed of and council officers have been investigating a replacement. At the time of writing there are no firm plans for any replacement partly as there is no consensus as to what any such replacement might be.

The council are planning on installing new toilets in the Meadows. The current plans indicate that these will take the form of a number of freestanding enclosed structures to be installed near the cricket pavilion. This is very welcome as campaigning for new toilets has been one of the primary objectives of FoMBL for many years. We've very grateful to the council for supporting this investment.

Our main way of communicating with members is through our excellent regular newsletters which are always full of great photos and updates. These are available to read on the FoMBL website. We also maintain a FoMBL Facebook group with 4,500 members.

Finally, our paid membership remains healthy. As at February 2024 we had 103 members which is a little more than last year when it was 101.

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Financial summary and reserves policy

During the year the charity made what looks like a substantial loss, but this was due solely to the timing of the grant receipts and payments. The charity remains in a healthy financial position with over £10,000 in the bank at the year end. We have no fixed costs and a substantial regular income and so we have no need for a reserves policy.

In terms of committed expenditure, £300 is set aside for a sign for new play equipment and £3,463 is set aside for information panels to be developed in association with Edinburgh World Heritage and so the total is £3,763.

Jim Orr

Chair of Trustees, April 2024

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Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year to 31/03/24

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31/03/2024	31/03/2023
Receipts				
Donations	679.00	800.00	1479.00	1351.00
Grants	0	0	0	7026.00
Membership Subs	933.87	0	933.87	921.00
Overpayments	0	0	0	938.73
Total receipts	1612.87	800.00	2412.87	10236.73
Payments				
Meetings expenses	149.89	0	149.89	323.33
Grants expenditure	3506.00	5800.00	9306.00	1681.40
Membermojo	170.00	0	170.00	0
Online meeting costs	0	0	0	71.84
Fees/Speakers	0	0	0	70.00
Volunteer equipment	761.21	0	761.21	309.41
Stripe charges	11.95	0	11.95	13.96
Trustee Insurance	157.00		157.00	0
Overpayment	0	0	0	1013.40
Sundry	0	0	0	50.00
Total payments	4,756.05	5800.00	10556.05	3533.34
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(3143.18)	(5000.00)	(8143.18)	6703.39
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(3143.18)	(5000.00)	(8143.18)	6703.39

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Statement of Balances - As at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year to 31/03/24	Year to 31/03/23
Opening cash at bank and in hand	9,502.46	8,763.00	18,265.46	11,562.07
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(3,143.18)	(5000.00)	(8,143.18)	6,703.39
Closing cash at bank and in hand	6,359.28	3,763.00	10,122.28	18,265.46
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank deposit account	6,359.28	3,763.00	10,122.28	18,265.46

Jim Orr

FoMBL Convenor, April 2024

Alison Service

FoMBL Treasurer, April 2024

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Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31st

March 2024

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the charity's constitution.

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Related party transactions

No remuneration or personal expenses was paid to any trustees or connected persons during the year (2022/23: Nil)

4 Governance costs

	Total 23/24	Total 22/23
Independent examiner's fee	0	30

5 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers of between restricted and unrestricted funds during the period.

6 Note on project and other expenditure

The £9,306 for project expenditure consisted of payments towards the log house of £7700 (£5,000 grant plus £2,700 from FoMBL funds) plus the restoration of two benches for £1,606.

The main item of the £761.21 for volunteer equipment was £399 for a new bowser mainly for watering trees in summer.

Membermojo is our membership database. The £170 figure relates to two years' payments (hence zero in the prior year).

Trustee Insurance costing £157 was taken out for the first time mainly to protect trustees from any financial liability which may arise due to FoMBL activities.

7 Assets held by the charity

The charity owns a number of gardening tools and similar "assets", the most valuable of which are two water bowsers on wheels.

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield links

I report on the accounts of the charity for the nine months ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities

Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Mr Gordon Miln



08/05/24

Address: GBM Accountancy Service Ltd, 94/6 Dinmont Drive, Edinburgh, EH16 5RY.