



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

## **NEWSLETTER 26**

**Autumn 2010**

### **Convener's Comment**

As I write this, it's another day when the Meadows and the Links are looking delightful in the autumn sunshine. And it also looks as though we will have enough volunteers to keep our organization alive. Thanks to all who are encouraging us to keep going. We can work out more details for the future at the next meeting, so do come along!

You will see in this Newsletter that help with Leaf Collection is being organized (*see* p. 3). It would be good if members bring further ideas to the meeting. Other concerns which are in the air at present include: arrangements to respond next spring to the desire for barbecues, ideas for tree replacement, and questions about signage and markings for cyclists.

The Council has an Advisory Group for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, under the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, and we can feed comments to the Council through it, as well as through our Community Councils. Our City Councillors also respond when asked. So the main thing is for our members to be active citizens!

Over to you with good wishes

*Chris Wigglesworth*

**The Autumn Meeting of Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links will be held on Monday 22 November at 7.30 p.m. in the Arran Room, Gillis Centre (entrance on Strathearn Road). The speaker will be local historian Graeme Cruickshank, on 'The history of golf on Bruntsfield Links'.  
*All are welcome.***

The two preceding talks in this trilogy have dealt with the history of the Meadows, and the history of Bruntsfield Links. While the Meadows present a linear progression in their development, and could therefore be dealt with coherently in a single talk, the same cannot really be said of the Links. The second talk therefore dealt with various aspects of their social history, though excluding the major strand that ran through it - '*The Gowff*'. This talk will concentrate on the topic of golf on Bruntsfield Links, looking at some colourful characters and memorable incidents.

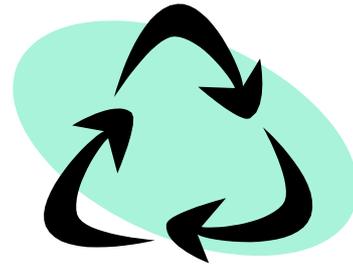
*Graeme Cruickshank*

## Green issues: a new initiative from Tollcross

Tollcross Energy and Carbon Saving Ltd is a company of local people who came together in Autumn 2009 to raise awareness on how to save money, energy and carbon. TECS is funded by the Scottish Government Climate Challenge Fund to work with local residents to cut carbon emissions. We believe that each of us can do something to help, but that working together as a community we can do more.

We held an energy awareness event in January 2010 in the Barclay Viewforth Church, with stalls, displays and presentations on the productive use of back greens, Lister Housing Cooperative's solar panels and energy efficiency measures, the installation of heat source pumps, home energy and water efficiency measures, and products made from recycled materials. We also heard about what Edinburgh Transition South has been able to achieve. Votes were cast at this meeting for the following projects:

Tenement (insulation, bike racks)	17
	votes
Back green composting	12
Local food	10
Home energy/ water efficiency	9
Heat source pumps/ solar panels	9
Community gardens	7



We have also carried out a questionnaire survey of households in Tollcross. Responses from residents show most interest in energy use in the home, particularly how to save on heating and lighting. Fifty-five per cent walk as their main means of transport, with 14% relying on their car; 8% regularly use their bike. Residents find it easier to recycle clothing than plastics and glass in the Tollcross area.

Our next initiative is to install bike racks in 10 tenements in Tollcross **by the end of the year**. We have a budget of £1500 for this.

If your tenement block is interested in having a secure **FREE** cycle rack installed in the ground stairwell (*see photo*) do please contact us at: [enquiries@tecsedin.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tecsedin.org.uk).

*Angela Hull, Chair of TECS*

## We are 10 years old!

*An extract from the first edition of FOMBL newsletter, Autumn 2001*

Meanwhile, a tree was planted on the edge of the Links near Wrights Houses by Cllr Steve Cardownie (CEC Leisure and Culture) and Dr Chris Wigglesworth (Secretary FoMBL), to commemorate the launch of the 'Friends of Parks' initiative on the day of the heaviest snowfall of the winter (26 February 2001).

## **Scottish Furniture Makers Association is donated elms from the Meadows and Links**

The City of Edinburgh Council is donating six elms to the Scottish Furniture Makers Association (SFMA) for use by members to build furniture for the forthcoming Dovecot gallery exhibition (Oct 2011). A small party of SFMA members toured the Bruntsfield Links/Meadows with forestry/parkland officials from CEC, and provisionally selected half a dozen of the elms which are due to be felled shortly, due to the ravages of Dutch elm disease. These trees promise some spectacular timber, and we applaud the city council for being keen to be involved in this initiative. They are all thought to have been planted around 150 years ago (according to Keith Logie, Edinburgh parks manager).

This first tree is very local to where I stay now, and co-incidentally to the very first flat I lived in when I came to Edinburgh over 40 years ago. It came into full leaf in late spring this year, but during the summer months died back rapidly with Dutch elm disease and acquired the Council's big red X, meaning it is now for the chop. On the basis of the two trees I have (kind of) measured, we probably have a total volume of about 250 cu.ft. in the six trees. All we need to do now is bridge the small gap between the standing trees and getting the dry planking on to makers' benches and ready to rock. As they say in the trade, what could possibly go wrong? If you would like more information, please visit my blog: [chrisholmesblog.wordpress.com](http://chrisholmesblog.wordpress.com). *Chris Holmes*



*Burr Elm in front of the Golf Tavern, Bruntsfield Links*

**Leaf collection** Volunteers will be most welcome to help with leaf raking on the Meadows and Links on two days during the autumn season: Saturday 27 November and Saturday 4 December. Please come to the Cricket Pavilion at 9.00 a.m., and you will be given your task by Mike Shields. Tools will be provided. Please wear stout shoes and gloves.

## **Forthcoming events**

### **Meadows Festival 2011**

The Meadows Festival Association has begun to plan for the Meadows Festival 2011 - which will be held on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June 2011. With three festivals under our belt since the re-establishment of the Festival in 2008 the challenge will be to raise enough funding and sponsorship to make the Festival happen in 2011. If you would like to get involved please don't hesitate to contact me on [mail@fredmackintosh.com](mailto:mail@fredmackintosh.com), or come along to our Annual General Meeting at 7:30pm on Wednesday 17 November 2010 at the Lauriston Centre.

Like FoMBL, the Association is a voluntary group of local people who get together to run the Meadows Festival. We are always delighted to welcome new and enthusiastic recruits to the team. The Meadows Festival website is at [www.meadowsfestival.org.uk](http://www.meadowsfestival.org.uk).

*Fred Mackintosh, Convener, Meadows Festival*

### **Meadows Chamber Orchestra**

The next concert is on Saturday 13 November at Greyfriars Kirk, at 7.45 p.m. The theme 'Man and Nature' should appeal particularly to FoMBL members, who will have fun identifying the bird calls in Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, and in other works that are less well known, particularly Messiaen's *Abîme des Oiseaux* for solo clarinet from his *Quartet for the End of Time*. Please see the enclosed flier, and come if you can! Ring Heather on 228 6998 for discounted tickets (£1 off).

### **Pavement art?**

Your responses to the 'Compass' at the foot of Middle Meadow Walk were entirely favourable, with no dissenting voices. Here are some of your comments:

'Keep it: for a while at least (but only because this one is so good)'; 'Keep it as a not too destructive bit of street art – which we acquired for free!'; 'Keep it and complete it'; 'Colourful – lovely'; 'Keep it, it's a lovely addition to the park'; 'Nice addition'; 'What a treat! Love it!' 'A little ray of sunshine in the meadows. Keep it, make it permanent'; 'Attractive, informative; I love it too'; 'Please keep'; 'Great! Keep it'.

### **Useful contacts**

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

**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:** rapid response 0808 100 33 66

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

**Environmental Manager:** Shaun McGrath – [shaun.mcgrath@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:shaun.mcgrath@edinburgh.gov.uk) Tel. 0131 529 5187

**Complaints regarding Council vehicles driving on Links or Meadows:**

Taskforce, Craigmillar Depot: 0131 664 8330

**Graffiti:** Adam Morton or Robert Davidson: email [adam.morton@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:adam.morton@edinburgh.gov.uk) or [Robert.davidson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Robert.davidson@edinburgh.gov.uk)

### **FOMBL Committee members**

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

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