



Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Newsletter

Issue 04: Spring 2003

Ye Olde Golf Tavern: (est. 1456)

As readers of Edinburgh's Evening News will know, this ancient watering hole was recently bought by Billy Lowe of Saltire Taverns fame.

Award winning publican, Mr Lowe (41), an Edinburgher and keen golf enthusiast, has recently announced his

**New owner is set on
improving his 'Golf'**

intention to extend and redevelop this historic hostelry into an upmarket golfing theme pub, at an estimated cost of at least £1m.

Subject to receiving planning permission, the bar will close from June for several months, to effect an extensive refurbishment, allowing better use of the upper and lower floors. A new circular bar on the ground floor will permit the proprietor's considerable collection of golfing memorabilia to be displayed on the surrounding walls.

Mr. Lowe is keen to work with the Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Club, the Friends of the Meadows and

Links, and the City's Department of Culture and Leisure, to enhance the thirty-six Short Hole Golf Course on what is arguably the world's oldest golf links, where golf has continued since the fourteen hundreds. It is certainly the only free golf that we know of!

He also hopes to help organise and host competitions on the one hundred and thirteen year old Short Hole Golf Course, and re-establish

Ye Olde Golf Tavern
as the 19th Hole (or 37th!).

John Simon Committee Member FMBL

Stop Press : Urgent

**All 'Friends' are invited to
The Annual General Meeting
at 7.30-pm
on Monday 9 June at
The Meadows Croquet Club
(formerly West Meadows
Bowling Club, Leven Terrace)**

Urgent ; Stop Press

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh: Redevelopment Update:

Revised plans were offered by Quartermile Edinburgh (Developers of the RIE site) for approval, and the principal changes offered were retention of the Red Home, a (somewhat) less dense development, and the removal of the glass drum towers at the south end of the Medical Pavilions nearest to the Meadows. FMBL with others submitted various objections and comments, and in particular objected to the tall glass towers which have unfortunately been retained between the Medical Pavilions on the south side of the site. These towers affect the skyline from the Meadows, and from certain positions obscure the view of the RIE Clock Tower and Edinburgh Castle.

At the meeting of the City of Edinburgh Development Quality Sub-Committee on 9 April 2003, the Sub-Committee decided to continue consideration of the application and **specifically requested the applicant to:-**

- reduce the general scale and height of the development, with a view to reducing the overall quantity of office development on the site, and in particular the “Gateway” office blocks should respect the amenity and daylight of the already existing residential properties of the Lister Housing Co-operative site on Lauriston Place
- consider a reduction in the height and impact of the infill residential blocks facing the Meadows to lessen their effect on the Edinburgh Skyline
- examine an alternative alignment of the new residential blocks facing the Meadows with respect to the existing building line
- review the issue of affordable housing and consider increasing the total, and the proportion available for family use
- consider the provision of replacement public toilet facilities for Middle Meadow Walk
- identify specific open play space for children within the development
- provide further information on issues relating to sustainability, including energy use and emissions
- allow reconsideration of the application, together with associated applications for listed building and conservation area consent, and the original planning brief.

The Planning Sub-committee will reconsider the application, as soon as this further information is available. A further Public Meeting is unlikely, but all written comments will continue to be taken into account meanwhile.

More information should be available at the Annual General Meeting of FMBL on Monday 9 June 2003.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR RELATIONS GROUP

The RIE site will be handed over to Quartermile on 31st May, except for the Lauriston Building at the corner of Lauriston Place and Chalmers Street, and hoarding will go up around the site fairly quickly. Staff from Quartermile were present at the FMBL meeting on 3 March, 2003 to discuss details of this hoarding with our members.

A Good Neighbour Relations Group has been set up by Quartermile, and FMBL are represented on this body, which will meet every two months, (the first meeting was on 19 February). Traffic and other issues such as lighting for security purposes and environmental monitoring for noise, dust, vibration etc., were discussed at the February meeting.

FMBL members are encouraged to contact our committee with any concerns they may have regarding work on the development, so that they can be presented to the Developer via the Good Neighbour Relations Group.

Peng Lee Yap, Chair FMBL

1. List of root ball plantings (Phase 1) February 2003

Species & Variety planted in The Meadows along Melville Drive		
<i>Acer platanoides schwedleri</i> (Norway Maple)	5	Leaves purplish green turning red/ orange/purple
<i>Acer. pseudoplatanus 'Worleii'</i> (Sycamore)	5	Golden leaves turning green in high summer
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus 'Nizetti'</i> (Sycamore)	5	Leaves with yellow pink and white marking purple underside
<i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red or Canadian Maple)	5	Dark Green turning red or scarlet in autumn
<i>Foxyarpa 'Raywood'</i> (Caucasian Ash)	8	Fast-growing leaves turn plum purple
<i>Quercus rubra</i> (Red Oak)	1	Vigorous, find autumn colour
<i>Quercus. frainetto</i> (Hungarian Oak)	5	Fast growing, fissured bark, deeply lobed leaves
<i>Quercus cerris</i> (Turkey Oak)	3	Fast growing, pale green/grey foliage
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i> (Silver Lime)	8	Fine domed crown, fragrant flowers
<i>Ulmus x 'Regal'</i> (Elm)	5	Diseased-immune elm, proven in Edinburgh—fast growing
<i>Fagus sylvatica asplenifolia</i> (Fern-leaved Beech)	3	Fern four leaved beech
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Westhof's Glorie' (Ash)	3	Strong growing form, glossy dark green leaves
<i>Nothofagus obliqua Roble</i> (Beech)	3	Very vigorous yellow & crimson autumn colours
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> (Large-leaved Lime)	3	Elegant arching form
<i>Salix alba 'sericea'</i> (White Willow Var. <i>Argentea</i>)	1	Bright silver-white leaves

Total planted 63

- 2. List of removals:** 21 mature trees:
5 young trees replaced: 13 additional stumps removed.

Short Hole Golf Course: The 36 hole Summer-Course is currently in use, but will close in September 2003 for a winter rest, and the 9 hole Winter-Course on the East Links will reopen for play.

Let's give golfers a break; most of us have more sense than to picnic, cycle, sunbathe, or play frisbee or football, on a bowling green, cricket field, or tennis court, but there are some daft enough to do it on a golf course. Last year a seagull was struck and killed by a golf ball driven from the tee in a local competition.

Sylvan House: Edinburgh never ceases to amaze me. Having lived in Marchmont for over forty years, I thought I knew the area well until a lecture by Malcolm Cant sent me in search of William's Hut, now known as Sylvan House. In the eighteenth century many leading city residents built small holiday homes on the edges of the Old Town, to escape at weekends from the dirt and disease of the Royal Mile. William's Hut was built around 1740 by Joseph Williamson, advocate and town clerk, at what is now 13 Sylvan Place.

Sylvan House lies on the right, a three-storey Georgian House, its back to the lane, bearing a plaque unveiled in 1991 to the effect that **Joseph Black, MD, Discoverer of Carbon Dioxide and Latent Heat lived here.** The gentle doctor's town residence was 58, Nicolson Street, and he must have enjoyed his retreat in the country and the

Even now it comes as a surprise to turn the corner of Sylvan House and find yourself walking down a rural lane between the back gardens of Sylvan Place and Argyle Place. Behind the garden walls bird song, flowers, shrubs and fruit trees flourish. A breath of fresh country air and yet so near to busy Melville Drive.

Local Interest
Imagine Sciennes as
a country retreat
from Nicolson

A great researcher and teacher, at both Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities, Dr Black succeeded to the Chair of Chemistry in Edinburgh in 1766.

His work on latent heat and encouragement given to his friend, the talented James Watt, may have brought about the development of the steam engine.

Black was born in Bordeaux in 1728, to a Scottish mother and Irish father. He died in Edinburgh in 1799 and is buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard.

Margaret A McNeill
 FMBL Member

Friends of Edinburgh Parks Commemorative

Tree: The original dedicated tree having been vandalised, a replacement lime tree with a metal guard around it, was planted in February on the edge of Bruntsfield Links, near to the Golf Starter's Hut.



Reminder to all Members:

The more members we have, the more influence we have. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership now for year 2003/2004, or at the Annual General Meeting on **Monday 9 June 2003**

Skateboard Park: At the time of going to print, no application for a skateboard park has yet been submitted for Planning Approval. If you would like to be informed when this happens, so that your views may be considered, please send a sae to one of the officer bearers opposite, or an e-mail address to < fmb1@si-host.net > and details of the application will be forwarded to you.

FMBL

Meadows & Bruntsfield Links Planning & Design Strategy: Our last newsletter and a subsequent meeting described the proposals contained in the outline plan, and have since been approved by the Council. Remedial and restoration work began about November, and has been proceeding in fits and starts since. Of course, the council has to depend on outside contractors for most of this work, and there are other parks being improved too, so we must be patient.

Some of the wooden benches removed for repair have now been replaced with new metal ones; traditional knee high rails have replaced many of the temporary wire-link fences; some trees have been felled and others planted; and we have recently had potential tenants viewing our 'ducky des/res. on the Links'.



John Simon Committee Member FMBL

New Signage in the Meadows: In February of this year Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links applied for and were granted a Central Local Development Committee grant of £9270, to enable FMBL to work in partnership with Edinburgh City Council, Department of Culture & Leisure to improve signage in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. It is planned that quality signs are erected at main entrance and exit points detailing information of interest, facilities and rules for use. Many of the pathway name signs which used to be in place are missing or damaged. We plan to replace them as required with standard form pathway name signs. This should improve the appearance of the park and make it easier for users to choose a route to their destination.

Jo Scott, Treasurer FMBL

Office Bearers

Chair: Dr Peng Lee Yap, 5 Meadow Place, EH9 1JZ. Tel 229 0948
Secretary: Dr Chris Wigglesworth, 12 Leven Terrace, EH3 9LW. Tel 228 6335
Treasurer: Josephine Scott, 31/8 Salisbury Road, EH16 5AA. Tel 667 3386
Committee Members: Oliver Chapman; Colin Christison; Dennis Gallagher; Hamish McKenzie; Valerie Quinn
Newsletter: Audrey Rocco; John Simon.

PLEASE OBSERVE and SUPPORT



Fouling



On Walkways



BBQs



On reserved sites & pitches

Keep in touch—visit our Website on:
www.friendsofthemeadows.freeserve.co.uk

Proposal for a Racecourse on the Meadows. A report has been submitted to the Council in favour of the creation of a racecourse on the Meadows. This has given rise to protests from the proprietors of the South Districts, but the Council denies their right to infer and has confirmed its intention to proceed as planned. Mr Samuel Wordsworth has undertaken a fact finding tour, visiting and getting plans of race courses in England, for which he has been paid £30 for expenses. (from the Council Minutes of December 1811 watch this space for further developments!)

Dennis Gallagher Committee Member FMBL

29th Meadows Festival
 days of family fun will
 take place over
Saturday and Sunday
7 and 8 June 2003

< www.meadowsfestival.co.uk/ >
 or contact PO Box 1053
 Edinburgh EH7 5YA
 Tel. 0131 620 9108 (24 hrs.)
 e-mail volunteer@meadowsfestival.co.uk



Park 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 & Tolleross
Park Wardens	0131 332 2368	Vandalism to trees, turf, seats, playgrounds, monuments, etc.
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