



Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

NEWSLETTER 62

Autumn 2022

Public Meeting and Forum

24 November 2022 7.00pm, Barclay Viewforth Church

The Early History of Hearts and Hibs on the Meadows



Come and learn about
this era with speakers
David Allan of the Hearts
Museum and Tom
Wright the Club

Historian of Hibs. All welcome. Free
entry. Donations appreciated.

Thursday, 24th November 2022

Barclay Viewforth
Church 7pm

Tickets via our website,
www.fombl.org.uk or



**Friends of the Meadows
and Bruntsfield Links**



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-early-history-of-hearts-and-hibs-football-clubs-tickets-441484852077>

Obituaries – Alec Mann



I was shocked to hear of our loss of Alec so suddenly. I say 'our Alec' because I was working with him, raking the 'Meadow Beside the Meadows', as recently as August 21st after the meadow had been cut by accident by the council at least two months ahead of schedule. Typically Alec turned up to my emergency appeal for help at short notice and we spent the usual pleasant time gently working away, and occasionally swapping stories about our favourite cultural experiences in the Edinburgh International Festival. I had worked on nature conservation tasks with Alec for many years with Lothian Conservation Volunteers so this sort of work and commitment was nothing new for Alec and we shall all miss dreadfully his gentle approach to looking after the local environment. The Council have ordered 200 native wildflower plugs to be grown up for next spring to be put back in the Meadow to help ameliorate the mistake, and I for one shall be planting every one of those in memory of Alec. My sincere condolences to his family.

Dr Tim Duffy

With great sadness I am writing to say that Alec Mann, who was one of our longest serving members and trustees, died recently.

Alec not only served as a dedicated and hard working membership secretary but was a regular and supportive volunteer for many years. He was always willing to help and turned up almost every Friday to join the FoMBL tree group to plant, maintain and water trees. He was a regular and supportive volunteer on Saturday work parties and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Neil Roger

Ann Wigglesworth

Elizabeth Jogie has kindly conveyed the sad news that Ann Wigglesworth, wife of Chris, died on 24th September in the infirmary after a short illness. She was an active FoMBL member for many years and always very supportive and concerned about the Meadows. There is a memorial bench for Chris on Coronation Walk.

Neil Roger

Lions in the Meadows



The Born Free 'Lions of London' exhibition is currently sited on The Meadows until 10 January 2023.

Husband and wife public artists and passionate eco-warriors Gillie and Marc have created this monumental sculpture installation 'Born Free' based on the true story of two conservation pioneers who saved a lion cub and released her back into the wild. It features Elsa who stands on a 1961 Land Rover surrounded by 20 cubs and two pairs of adult lions, George and Joy. (The full story can be found on the boards by the lions.)



Bird Boxes



The first batch of 11 bird nesting boxes were taken down for routine cleaning, maintenance and data collection on 7 November. They will be going back up shortly and the remaining 10 attended to. This is part of the FoMBL biodiversity initiative. Please say hello if you see us in action. *Keith Gifford*

FoMBL Friday tree group



Another success for the tree group, as they continue the planting on Bruntsfield Links. They hope to plant twenty trees over the autumn and winter in the Links.

FoMBL is very pleased to now have access to water sources from the toilets and the university, since it is very important to be able to water new trees in dry weather.

At least five trees which were planted at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 have died due to dry conditions and despite the tree group watering all the trees throughout the year.

Three young rare elms (*Ulmus minor Umbraculifera Gracilis* [Späth].) have been planted at the Links wildflower meadow.

Neil Roger

Updates from recent committee meeting

Toilets

While there are still discussions between the council and a concerned local resident about provision of toilets in the Meadows, there was a suggestion that FoMBL's priorities should be:

1. Continued summer funding of the temporary toilets at MMW.
2. Long term maintenance and retention of the two current toilet blocks. (Officers indicated that the existing toilets do not appear to feature in the council's long-term plans.)
3. New toilet block at the pavilion to replace the temporary ones.

Benches

A community grant has been applied for to renovate an old wooden bench at the South Links playground along with two new wooden benches adjoining the James Gillespie play area/South Links.

Playgrounds

Due to delays in supply of equipment, work on the South Links playhouse has still not started.

The parts required to repair the Archimedes screw water feature have now arrived and installation is now expected to be completed in the Spring 2023.

Mike Shields has agreed to install a new bench at the South Links playground.

Information panels

EWH project leader, Fiona Rankin stated that funding from Historic Environment Scotland was ring-fenced and approximately £17000 would be transferred to our account at some point. She also gave a completion deadline of March 2023. It was agreed that Fiona would set up a meeting with EWH to progress the project but unfortunately, this still hasn't happened.

Neil Walker

Cycle racks

The CEC's Active Travel Officer, Lewis Taylor, seems fairly confident that we will get more cycle racks in the Meadows and Links, with construction hopefully beginning in March 2023. He pointed out, 'For cycle parking in the Meadows, we need to take into account accessibility for the Emergency Services and the different work vehicles that need access to the park. We've identified mostly options that make use of existing tarmac areas reducing the need of ground works (reducing costs). With doing this, we need to make sure there is enough space for all users including pram and wheelchair users.' We fed in our ideas of good places for them.

Water tap

Scottish Water has secured permission for development of a water tap (designed for refilling water bottles) near the Pavilion.

Joan Carter

Community gardens



I am delighted to report that St Thomas Aquinas pupils have been helping the community garden to plant bulbs and maintain their wildflower gardens. We encourage young people to contact the community garden about their volunteering projects as we provide lots of different experiences, including the monthly FoMBL litter picks!

We at the community garden are holding a Christmas party on Saturday 17 December from 12 to 1pm. FoMBL members are welcome to join us for mince pies and merriment.

Sarah Tolley

Meet the members



I am a local resident living by The Meadows for the last 35 years so it was a natural progression for me to join FoMBL (many years ago). Since retirement a few years ago, I've been happy to take on the role of Treasurer and now recently as Membership Secretary.

Alison Service, one of the trustees of FoMBL

Forthcoming Events

Volunteers are always needed for work in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links on the last Saturday of the month – the nature of the work depending on the season. We meet at the Cricket Pavilion at 10.00am, and any necessary tools can be provided.

24 November Public Meeting and Forum: The Early History of Hibs and Hearts on the Meadows, 7.00pm, Sanctuary Hall, Barclay Church

Useful Contacts

Mike Shields, Parks and Greenspace Officer South East (Edinburgh Council). Tel: 0131 529 5126 or email: mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Police: To report a crime: 101 (costing a flat rate of 15p per call); emergency 999; or (anonymously) to Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.

Police Service of Scotland website is <http://www.scotland.police.uk>.

Anti-social behaviour (Edinburgh Council): Tel. 0131 529 7050;

Environmental services: 0131 200 2000;

South Office: 0131 529 5051 **Litter:** 0131 608 1100

Defective lamp-post lighting: note number and notify on the City of Edinburgh Council website

Forestry Service: email: forestry.service@edinburgh.gov.uk. Tel. 0131 311 7079

Road repairs and development: Alan Dunlop, Senior Transport Team Leader: Tel. 0131 529 3719; email: alan.dunlop@edinburgh.gov.uk

Task Force Manager (responsible for street cleaning and grounds maintenance) Rab Farquhar. Email: rab.farquhar@edinburgh.gov.uk, tel: 0131 664 8330 for recycling.

Graffiti: report to 0131 200 2000 or Police 101 if persistent

Family and household support service manager (tackling anti-social behaviour and joint working with the police) email: kathy.evans@edinburgh.gov.uk, tel. 0131 529 5106

Environmental Warden team leader: Paul Baxter Tel. 0131 529 5204; or 608 1100

People Against Litter (PAL): *please contact* <http://www.peopleagainstlitter.org/>

FoMBL Trustees

Convener: Jim Orr, email: convener@fombl.org.uk

Secretary: Neill Walker, email: secretary@fombl.org.uk.

Treasurer: email: fombltreas@fombl.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Alison Service, email: membership@fombl.org.uk.

Project Manager: Neil Roger, email: projects@fombl.org.uk

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Martin Howorth, email: howorthmartin2@gmail.com

Tollcross Community Council: Iain Black, **Southside CC:** Joan Carter,

Merchiston CC: Bridget Stevens, **Marchmont and Sciennes CC:** Alison Service

Other FoMBL Contacts:

Webmaster: Philip McDowell, Website: www.fombl.org.uk

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Alison Carr. email: volunteer@fombl.org.uk

