

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

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



Trustees' Annual Report 2021

This has been an unusual year for FOMBL. We have had no public meetings at all and our trustee meetings have been virtual.

We did have some great news in April when, following a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour, the council decided to fund a temporary toilet block on Middle Meadow Walk. Hopefully this will be replicated in future years and significantly reduce the impact on the surrounding streets. We're grateful to the council for their support.

Our funding for local projects has continued. We raised money for and commissioned the purchase of an outdoor table tennis table near to the toilets at the east end of the links and which was mainly funded by the council. Our planned Meadows Interpretation Trail is also currently being rolled out with significant funding from Edinburgh World Heritage. These information boards will cover the Royal Infirmary, the Masons and Nelson Pillars, the Jawbone Arch, the 1886 International Exhibition and more.

We expect the jawbones to return soon following the long delayed preservation process. We have also funded new playground equipment.

In May 2021 we completed the restoration of a teak bench at Bruntsfield Terrace to commemorate the sad passing of our former Treasurer Robin Morris. Again, this was supported by community grant (council) funds

Our volunteers have continued to meet during the year for litter-picking, seeding, graffiti removal and other tasks. We are very grateful to all these partners and volunteers plus the university students and school pupils who have assisted.

Our tree group has also continued to meet to repair posts and cages mainly for the young and more vulnerable trees in the Meadows.

The future of the cricket pavilion is uncertain at present. The council have opened up the contract to run the pavilion to new parties. New investment is needed. Unfortunately the council faces financial challenges and commercial arrangements in premium parks such as ours is a fact of life now. We will continue to monitor and support or challenge all such proposals. Our position

is generally that this invaluable public space should be protected and remain accessible by all.

None of the work that FOMBL does would be possible without our members, volunteers and local residents. By working together we are much more effective in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links for current and future generations.

We are always looking for new members, volunteers and trustees to support our endeavours. Trustee meetings take place roughly every two months.

Signed by Jim Orr, Convenor of FOMBL _____