



LORD MORAY'S PLEASURE GROUNDS NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2011

Chairman's Comments

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Moray Feu newsletter. I hope you will be able to come to the party on the 3rd of December at 2 Ainslie Place.

The Committee takes this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

David McLellan
Chairman

Gardens

Fay Laing

As many of you may already know, Fay has decided to stand down as head of the Gardening Subcommittee. We owe her a great debt of gratitude for all her work and commitment over many years arranging the maintenance of the Gardens and overseeing the work of John and Alex, our two gardeners. She remains on the LMF Committee and I know she will continue to support the work of the subcommittee

Exercising Dogs

Much of the grass area in Moray Place is very badly drained, mainly due to the poor subsoil. This means that when the grass is wet, it is easily damaged, particularly by larger dogs chasing sticks or balls. This damage can take many weeks to recover. Whilst it is appreciated that the Gardens are very convenient for exercising dogs, if you throw balls or sticks for your dog,

could you please check carefully that it does not leave the grass damaged; if damage is inadvertently caused, please can you replace the divots in damaged areas and tread them back in.

Bonfires

During the summer, there were some complaints from neighbours about smoke from bonfires, particularly from those down at the foot of the Bank Gardens, near the Water of Leith. We have now purchased a new chipper/shredder which should be able to break up much of our garden waste and reduce it to mulch which we can spread around plants and shrubs. As well as substantially reducing the need to burn any waste it has the added bonus of keeping down weeds. However it will still be necessary to have the occasional bonfire and the gardeners will put up notices the day before to warn people. However changes in the weather may alter the timetable!

Bank Gardens

The area by the new handrail at the top of the Bank Gardens has now largely been cleared; several hundred spring bulbs, mainly daffodils and narcissi, (in drifts) and also some fritillaries have been planted and new grass sown. Some *Rugosa* roses have also been planted near the handrail to provide additional colour. One or two of the many holly bushes in these Gardens may also be pruned back to give them better shape and let in more light to

what at times can be a dark and uninviting place.

Upper Gardens

Following the very useful survey of trees in the Bank Gardens that was carried out by Arboretum Internationale earlier this year, we are now having a similar exercise carried out on trees in the Front Gardens. This will enable us to identify any trees that have safety or structural health issues in good time and also to plan ahead for trees that may be reaching the end of their lives.

This will also provide information and advice for the Gardening Subcommittee to review and update the Management Plans for all the Gardens. This was last done over 15 years ago and during this time much has happened; trees have fallen, trees have been planted and many have self-seeded themselves, not always in the best place. Similarly shrubs have grown and now often can block the views they were meant to frame.

This will be a long term exercise which I hope to report on in more detail later. In the meantime the Gardens Subcommittee will continue to oversee the routine pruning and maintenance of the Gardens, always seeking to maintain the essential character of the Gardens whilst meeting modern challenges such as increased traffic noise and pollution.

Colin Mitchell-Rose
Convenor, Gardening Subcommittee

Christmas Party- 3rd December

The Christmas Party will take place at 6pm on Saturday 3rd of December at 2 Ainslie Place. Please let us know if you intend to come by emailing sthomson@whitelawwells.co.uk

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