



LORD MORAY'S PLEASURE GROUNDS

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2016

Chairman's Comments

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Moray Feu newsletter.

I am happy to report the continuing smooth operation of the gardens in the recent six months.

Apart from the recruitment of Enid Holman-Arthur to the Social sub-committee to help with social events, the committees are unchanged. I would like to record again my thanks to the committee members for their labours on behalf of the feu and in particular to Candia Kingston for implementing the dog registration scheme, the benefits of which are already apparent. The committee is in need of a member with building/surveying/architect skills. Is there someone out there who can help?

There has been a gratifying reduction in the use of the garden as a sports field, possibly helped by the popular introduction of table – tennis. May I remind feuars that the use of footballs and rugby balls, except by young children, is not allowed.

The honey bees continue to thrive in their second year. (Honey will be for sale at the Christmas party). Feuars should give the hives a wide berth when the beekeepers in their white suits are working on the hives, at which time the bees get aggressive.

Grace Durham has once again kindly agreed to host the Christmas party in her handsome flat in Forres Street. This will be 6.30pm - 8.00pm on Friday 9th December and I look forward to greeting you all there. Please do RSVP to Whitelaw Wells if you intend to come so that we can provide enough food.

Robert Hay, Chairman

Gardens

Since the last newsletter we are pleased to say that we have engaged a new permanent gardener called Melvyn Clench, who started on 24th October. He has a good horticultural background and will be able to help John with the tasks that need a bit of experience.

This summer we had more student help than normal with the equivalent of three and a half men in addition to John and so, on top of routine maintenance, we were able to clear two areas of scrub and ground ivy in the Bank Gardens and found a reasonable sized beech and a supporting wall previously hidden from view. The hawthorn hedge along the path at the top of one area has been cut down so that it can sprout from the base and together with some new interplanting it will hopefully develop into a new thicker hedge. Removal of the ivy and scrub gives us a clearing in which we intend to plant bulbs and wild flowers, as we are quite short of herbaceous plants in Bank Gardens.

In Moray Place we have removed some very old and large philadelphus which were so shaded by trees that they failed to flower, and the surrounding shrubs are enjoying a bit more space and light.

We have conferred with Belinda Hayter Hames, landscape architect and resident of Moray Place, who kindly provided us with her original planting plans of the late 1990's for Moray Place and discussed with us how large and how many of those shrubs she intended there should be twenty years later, which has been most helpful to us.

We have also acquired a quieter leafblower and hope that residents will be less disturbed by the use of this one.

Fiona Jarvie

Traffic

Lord Hardie's Tram Inquiry: The Traffic Subcommittee is now working with the Inquiry. One experienced prosecutor recommended that we should have 'core participant' status though left the Inquiry shortly afterwards! The Inquiry is an important opportunity to set on record the promises that the Council made to manage consequential noise and air pollution, so we welcome advice and support from any Feuars with expertise in such inquiries.

Heavy Vehicles: despite an admission that the Feu is not suitable for heavy vehicles we have not been given the promised signs defining an alternative route for such vehicles. The current traffic order for Haymarket to Princes Street allows all vehicles transit at night – please ask our Councillors to push for signage, and support a permanent ban on HGVs using the Feu.

Future Pressures: The Feu is now the 24x7 main route through Edinburgh. The second Forth Crossing is likely to increase traffic and, if Charlotte Square is pedestrianized as planned, this will place more pressure for traffic to access routes through Moray Place.

Our Councillors know about our concerns but are no longer actively working on them - Feuars should raise these concerns with them directly. If you'd like to join our subcommittee or contribute in any other way, please contact Ashley Lloyd at ashley@edinburgh.ac.uk

Social

We are looking at arranging more social events during 2017, and welcome any suggestions. Ideas under consideration include a **Burn's Supper** in a local venue at the end of January or early February 2017 and a **Family Event** or **Children's Party** over Easter in the Moray Place Garden.

However, before then please join us for our Christmas Party on Friday 9th December 6.30pm to 8pm at 11 Forres Street, cost £5 for wine and

canapes. If you wish to reserve a place please contact Whitelaw Wells.

Enid Holman-Arthur

Dogs

Thank you to all feuars for co-operating with the dog registration scheme. Almost all dogs are now wearing their distinctive green tags in the gardens and both gardeners and garden users have commented on the improvement in the cleanliness of the gardens. Your efforts are much appreciated – please keep up the good work!

Any complaints about the scheme or about dogs should be addressed to Candia Kingston at candiakingston@hotmail.com

Play equipment

As we said in our summer newsletter, a small group of volunteers is currently investigating development of a fenced off play area within our gardens. This is at a very early stage and we would hope to have a more firm proposal prepared by next spring/summer.

We would be delighted if any others would like to join our group – please contact Rachel Cohen on rachel@nehoc.co.uk

Waste

Feuars who have questions/ observations/comments on waste should contact Fran Van Dijk on franvandijk@blueyonder.co.uk