

LORD MORAY'S FEU

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2019

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

"It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!"

Winnie the Pooh

It feels like this year has gone very quickly, and it has been a wonderful one in our gardens. John and Melvyn have worked tirelessly to maintain and enhance them and the gardens have been a delight, particularly this summer.

As you will see in the reports that follow, we have been looking at what work will be needed to look after the arches in the Bank Garden, other plans for planting and tree management and a rolling programme of maintenance for the various garden benches.

We have had some very convivial social events this year and I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's Christmas drinks party on 13th December.

Warm wishes for this autumn and winter season.

Fiona Young
Chair

GARDENS

It was warm and wet towards the end of the summer and the vegetation just exploded into growth to the point that the gardeners could hardly keep up with it. John was collecting about four times as much grass from the lawns than is usual.

Some ash trees in Bank Gardens are causing us concern as we have watched them fail to

produce foliage of any healthy amount this summer. This is probably the result of ash dieback which has, as you will know, been spreading North slowly. It has not affected all our ashes – some are in good health. It has mainly been the single leaved variety which has been touched. Adam Riedi, a well qualified tree surveyor, has been asked to report on these ashes and we await his opinion. Our likely course of action is to wait and see whether they recover next year.

The surveyor has also been asked to give his opinion on the large elm at the foot of the Doune Terrace garden. The tree was given the all clear recently by the Council who inspect all our elms six- monthly for Dutch elm disease. Our concern is with a large area of rot at the base of the trunk. Again, we await Adam Riedi's opinion.

We had been watching one very old hawthorn in the central roundel of Moray Place for several seasons as it struggled to produce blossom and leaves, but this year sadly, we decided it was never going to flourish again and we took it down. It had been supressing a young neighbouring rowan which can now develop to fill the space.

Two new laburnums were planted, one on each side of the SW gate in Moray Place, to replace the old ones which died. Hopefully the new ones will do better, but it is a very windy site.

We intend to buy two new red flowering hawthorns, one for the space beside the SW gate of Moray Place and one for Bank Gardens.

Our summer student Elliott was with us the whole season, and we were delighted to hear in September that he had secured his first permanent job, with Edinburgh Zoo, after finishing his course with The Botanics. We wish him well there.

News, updates and pictures throughout the year are available on <https://www.morayfeu.com/> and https://www.instagram.com/moray_feu_gardens/ and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/282104212712221/?ref=share>

STRUCTURES AND FIXED EQUIPMENT

Bank Garden Gallery and Arches Stonework

In late 2018 the Moray Feu Committee commissioned a structural assessment of the 33 arches and gallery walkway that form the boundary between the Bank Gardens and Feuars properties on the north-west side of Randolph Crescent, Great Stuart Street, Ainslie Place and Moray Place. David Narro Associates of Edinburgh were appointed and their final report was received in September 2019.

In general the condition of the arches is considered to be reasonable given their age. However the following items of work were identified as being required in the short term:

1. Inspection of the walkway railings with a blacksmith to agree repair details where cracking of stone slabs has occurred;
2. De-scaling of masonry around four large cracks and the installation of tell-tale measurement devices to assess the rate of movement and whether these cracks are progressive;
3. Review of the surface water drainage behind and through the arch structures to establish if additional measures are required to reduce the rate of water induced erosion of stonework e.g. re-pointing between stone slabs on gallery walkway and/or drilling additional weep holes through the front wall of the arches.

In the medium term work needs to be performed on eroded stonework to prevent further degradation. In particular:

4. Generalised re-pointing in suitable lime mortar including raking out of cement

mortar which is present in almost half the arches;

5. Repair or replacement of stones in six arches which are considered to be highly eroded.

Items 1-3 are expected to be progressed during 2020 with the balance items being addressed over a 5-10 year time horizon.

Ainslie Place Railings

Following the successful painting of the Bank Garden gallery railings in 2018 Painting the Capital were awarded a contract to paint all of the Ainslie Place Garden railings. Work was performed during August/September 2019 and is now complete.

Repairs to Bank Garden Gallery Steps

Some Feuars may have been aware of damage to 7-8 steps along the Bank Garden gallery walkway in early October 2019. This was caused by the unauthorised entry of a contractor to transport a wood chipper unit to the rear of Randolph Crescent. Subsequent discussions with the contractor has resulted in a repair plan being agreed with a promise to complete the work by the end of October, 2019. This unfortunate incident has served to reinforce the committees policy that no future access shall be allowed for large items of equipment via the Doune Terrace entrance to the Bank Gardens. It would also be greatly appreciated if Feuars do not accept requests from contractors to access the Bank Gardens in cases where they do not have their own key.

Gregor Henderson
Convener

SOCIAL

Some unusual events this year. After the AGM we had a wine party in the Moray Place

Garden on a sunny June evening. It was hosted by the Belgravia Film Company and their team. Around 150 Feuars came and it was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other and to learn of plans before the filming began in July.

Our traditional Festival Party was postponed because the rain refused to stop. However we eventually got together on August 18th and enjoyed meeting and greeting. The Halloween Party on October 26th had wonderful support with many new families coming along in colourful, even scary, attire. It was especially good to see so many children having fun. There was a carved pumpkin competition and dressing up for boys and girls.

Fiona Young, our Chairman, created a special brew of mulled wine, while Blair Finlay produced flasks of hot chocolate. Thank you to everyone and also for the Feuars bringing Halloween Cookies. A Yummy and most enjoyable afternoon!

Robert Hay was kind and allowed us to use his Marquee. Thanks to all the helpers for fixing it and folding it away and especially to the gardeners for their expertise.

DIARY DATES

The Christmas Party is on 13th December 2019 from 6.30pm, kindly hosted again by Grace Durham.

Please RSVP to Whitelaw Wells, 9 Ainslie Place or by email to sthompson@whitelawwells.co.uk

The Burns Supper, is planned for 27th February, 2020. Details from Enid Holman-Arthur on 0131 225 7839.

The Big Lunch 2020, Saturday, April 25th. Join in and bring your Picnic to Moray Place Garden.

Scotland's Gardens annual event taking place in the various gardens on Sunday, May 17th.

Enid Holman Arthur
Convener

WASTE

Waste management isn't the most glamorous topic, but it is actually a key factor in keeping the Moray Feu a great place to live. There are three key things I'd like to focus on this year to "glam" up the trash situation.

1) Keeping litter to a minimum in the first place. We need to use our black gull-proof bags properly. (Gently remind your neighbours who let their flats as holiday homes to ensure that their guests know collection days and how to use the bags, too. All too often, there is carnage on the pavement because holidaymakers simply leave a white bin bag out--we know this is a seagull buffet and an eyesore for residents and pedestrians).

- Please make sure that only bagged rubbish is placed within the gull-proof bags. The collectors won't take unbagged trash, and it often gets strewn about.

- Please hang or place them outside the night before or early enough in the morning of the designated collection day and take them in as promptly as possible. Black bags out for days encourages passersby to see them as litter bins.

- The same applies to red and blue recycling boxes. Those little "shower bonnets" are unwieldy, but they do prevent wind-strewn litter in the streets, so try to use them if at all possible. I've seen some clever ways of attaching them to the boxes so they don't blow away, too!

2) Working with the Council to make sure that the Feu is included in any forward discussion

of waste management modernisation in Edinburgh. As part of the World Heritage Site, the Moray Feu presents unique challenges and opportunities to implement innovation solutions to rubbish, recycling, and food and garden waste. I'd be happy to have a coffee and a conversation if you're interested in being involved in future CEC consultations on waste management or if you simply want to share your ideas about such things as: recycling depots, ingrounding, communal bins and litter bin locations.

3) Organising a Clean Up Scotland event, through the Keep Scotland Beautiful initiative for Spring 2020. I'm hoping this will be a fun, engaging event that will involve people of all ages in actively caring for our neighbourhood.

Martha Vail Barker
Convener

TRAFFIC

You should be aware of current major proposed changes to parking, which will have a significant impact on our streets. Time is short if you wish to comment or object as the closing date is 26 November 2019.

The details are on the Council's website at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders>

Scroll down to and click on:

TRO/19/29 - Controlled Parking Zones –
Edinburgh - Proposed amendments

Most of our streets are in Central Zone 1A, with Doune Terrace in Peripheral Zone 5A. The key changes are:

- Introduction of new Zone 1 parking restriction on Sundays from 12.30pm to 6.30pm.
- Shared-use parking places are being brought into Ainslie Place and Great Stuart Street and significantly extended in Moray Place.

- Introduction of £40 extra charge for parking permits for diesel powered vehicles, with a 3 year grace period if already owned
- Introduction of Visitor Permits costing £2.31 each, valid for 90 minutes; capped at 200 permits per household per annum.
- Removal of the exemption for permit holders to park in public parking places 8:30am to 9:00am and 5:30pm to 6.30pm on weekdays and 1:30pm to 6:30pm on Saturdays

The details are shown on maps in the link above. The overall number of parking spaces will increase to the extent that are being packed in, raising concerns about the aesthetic impact as well as increased traffic flow. Virtually all kerb line which is not at a street corner or opposite a garden gate will now be used for controlled parking. Although there will be more spaces, the loss of single yellow line areas will make legitimate loading, unloading and delivery use harder.

Ewan Jeffrey
Convener

Lord Moray's Feu CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, 13th December 2019

6:30-8pm

Feuars and Guests Welcome

Wine, Fizz and Canapes

£5.00 payable at the door

RSVP

sthomson@whitelawwells.co.uk

or Whitelaw Wells, 9 Ainslie Place EH3 6AT



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