

**Feuars Responsible for the
Upkeep of Lord Moray's
Pleasure Grounds**



Moray Feu 200

Andrew Dixon, Bicentenary Chair and Events Convenor
events@morayfeu.com

The advisory group for the bicentenary has been meeting monthly and is working on a year-long celebration, starting 1st January with a launch in the gardens.

We are very pleased to announce our headline sponsor for the year - Simpson & Marwick who approached us at the AGM and will be supporting us throughout the bicentennial programme.



You'll find more information about the fundraising efforts, and a donation form on the last page of this newsletter. We hope that everyone will feel able to help us make the year special, either by donating or by supporting events

Dates for the Diary

11th December

Randolph Crescent Garden

Children's Christmas Party 2:30 pm to 4:00pm

Expect lights, singing, games, dressing the Christmas tree and goodie bags. Bring a bauble for our tree. Watch Facebook and noticeboards for tickets (£5).

RSVP events@amorayfeu.com or book online

Moray Feu Christmas Drinks Party 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Enjoy wine, canapes, a few songs, and a twinkling garden backdrop for our first outdoor adults-only Christmas drinks party. Catch up with friends and welcome new residents. Pay as you please - cash, card on the day. Canapes welcome. Suggested donation £7 a person.

RSVP events@amorayfeu.com or book online

1st January, 3:00 PM

**Moray Feu 200 Launch Party
Moray Place Garden**

A new year and a special one for the Moray Feu as we celebrate 200 years. Allotment soup, some New Year snacks and a glass to toast the New Year. We will announce the winners of our photo competition and preview our programme for 2022.

**Christmas in the
Gardens**

Jolly Holly

Watch the Facebook page for an announcement of free holly clippings, to be collected from the roundel in the Moray Place Garden

Sing Out!

Join our merry band of singers for a rehearsal on 6 December at 6:00pm and performances at the Christmas parties. For more information, events@morayfeu.com

Christmas Cheer for All



General Inquiries

info@morayfeu.com

Secretaries and
Treasurers

Whitelaw Wells
9 Ainslie Place
Edinburgh, EH3 6AT

**2021
Photography
Competition
Closes Dec. 1**

Enter up to three of your best photos taken of life in the Feu (people, gardens, wildlife, events). Send your entry to:

events@morayfeu.com

Prizes and winners announced at the Moray Feu 200 Launch Party on New Year's Day

Polish Up Your Pas de Basque & Make a Date with a Dashing White Sergeant

25th June

Moray Feu 200 Ceilidh

The marquee is booked, and tickets go on sale soon!

Tickets will be limited to 200, so don't wait to RSVP.

News from the Gardens

Mike Baynham, Vice Chair
vicechair@morayfeu.com

Our gardeners have recently completed the planned bulb planting programme for this year in the Bank Garden having planted over 5,500 bulbs – Daffodils (in the Lime Walk), Bluebells, Snowdrops and Scilla in the bed above St. Bernard's Well and Allium in the rose bed.

We will be planting up the next phase of the Rhododendron bank shortly and will be planting replacement trees for the Doune Terrace Elm and the two Sycamores felled in the Rhododendron bank as well as replacements for the Zelkova in Ainslie Place and the Davidia in Moray Place which did not take.

We have been closely monitoring our Ash trees for Chalara Ash dieback and, following a planned inspection by our arboriculturist, will be undertaking remedial pruning to remove deadwood from three Ash trees in the Bank Garden. Unfortunately, the Weeping Ash cannot be saved and will be felled. We will retain all the large diameter wood with features / defects which will be safely placed in partial shade in the adjacent tree group where it will provide a sanctuary for wildlife, lichens and the like. At the same time, we will reduce the length of a primary branch and remove deadwood from two Limes adjacent to the Water of Leith walkway, all in accordance with the arboriculturist's recommendations.

Recent Improvements

Gregor Henderson, Fixtures Convenor
Infrastructure@morayfeu.com

Moray Place BBQ

The BBQ upgrade has been completed. Key improvements are separate meat and non-meat BBQ areas and increased surfaces for food preparation.

Moray Place and Doune Terrace Gates

The four Moray Place gates and main Doune Terrace gates have all been re-painted. We plan to start re-painting the Moray Place railings in Q2 2022.

New Shed

A new 10 ft by 8 ft shed was installed in the Moray Place gardens outside the roundel, opposite the table tennis table. The tables and chairs, croquet set, and other games roundel can be found in the new shed.



The Moray Feu Cake Off and Halloween events combined attracted over 350 people and some memorable images and moments, from the winning cakes to the Dead Good Dinner Party to Halloween Doorstep Dressing.

A couple of times a year, the Dog Convenor sends what I think of as the "Let's All Be Good" email to the keyholders who have registered their dogs. Ironically, the Be Good email goes to the dog owners who are already very good. The vast majority follow the Dog Code of Conduct, pay their fees, keep their dogs under control, and pick up after their pets. (And usually after others'.) The dog owners who need the reminders about Good Dogmanship aren't getting the Be Good email, because they haven't registered their dogs.

I get a lot of questions from non-dog owners about what the Gardens Management Committee could or ought to be doing when dogs cause problems. So I thought rather than send the Be Good email this fall, I'd explain the Committee's procedures to a broader audience in the newsletter. It is so important that all feuars work together to make sure every dog in the gardens has a green tag.

The Gardens Management Committee strives to ensure that all the owners can use the gardens, and that no-one feels they can't walk, picnic, or play safely and comfortably. We take seriously our responsibility to manage risk on behalf of the gardens' owners: you. Hence, the Dog Registration Scheme, details of which can be found in the Feuar Handbook at www.morayfeu.com

The key message is: every dog that is in one of the four gardens of the Moray Feu must be registered and have a green LMF tag visible.

If you are involved in or witness an incident with dog that is a serious breach of the Dog Code of Conduct, please make a note of the tag number and/or breed, colour, and size of the dog. Please include that information and a detailed description of the incident in an email to the Dog Convenor.

If a dog doesn't have a green tag, the Committee cannot do much in response to a complaint unless one of us is present. If the dog owner is not a keyholder, we can ask them to leave the gardens with their dog. However, at the present time we cannot prevent a keyholder from bringing an unregistered—or registered—dog into the gardens. We do track incidents, and we will try to identify and contact owners of unregistered dogs if at all possible.

Please do not ask any of the gardeners to intervene with misbehaving dogs; this is not part of their terms of employment. It poses a health and safety risk for our employees, and puts them in an unfair position. The Committee has a process for handling complaints, and keeps a register of verified complaints against specific dogs/owners.

If a breach is minor, please consider calmly talking to the owner at the time of the incident. These are our shared gardens and our common interest is to prevent distress, nuisance, or injury to our neighbours and their guests.

Lord Moray's Feu Pleasure Grounds Committee of Management

Chair
Vice Chair & Gardens Convenor
Finance Convenor & Gardens Subcommittee
Fixtures Convenor
Events Convenor & Bicentenary Coordinator
Website & Social Media Convenor
Member, Gardens Subcommittee
Convenor Aide-de-camp
Families Convenor
Environment Convenor

Martha Vail Barker
Michael Baynham
Ewan Jeffrey
Gregor Henderson
Andrew Dixon
Blair Finlay
Paul Broda
Frances Dobson
Felicity Griffith
Ken Dixon

chair@morayfeu.com
vicechair@morayfeu.com
finance@morayfeu.com
infrastructure@morayfeu.com
events@morayfeu.com
digital@morayfeu.com
gardens2@morayfeu.com
convenor@morayfeu.com
Family@morayfeu.com
environment@morayfeu.com

The Risk Register

Frances Dobson
Convenor Aide de Camp
convenor@morayfeu.com

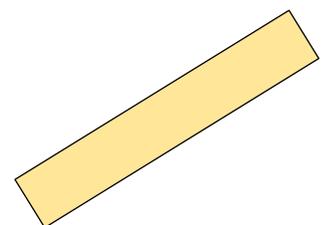
As with all good management bodies, one of our responsibilities is to try to predict what might go wrong and cause us problems – so that we can plan ahead to try to reduce the impact. It's a bit like crystal ball gazing whilst pretending to be Eeyore! Of course some problems can't be easily anticipated (world pandemics?) but others can. For example:

1. What if feuars don't pay their subscriptions and we hit cashflow problems?
2. What if more trees develop serious diseases and have to be doctored/removed?
3. What if one of the gardeners has an accident?

We record this information in "the risk register". This is a list of all the risks (problems) that might occur, and then for each risk we assess the likelihood of this happening and the possible consequence. We then look at what (if anything) we could do in advance to mitigate the impact for the risks that may cause significant problems.

One of the actions we've undertaken is to be more proactive at chasing feuars for late payment. This is a very likely risk and one that could cause serious problems if, for example, we couldn't pay the gardeners' salaries due to cashflow issues. We've also increased the contingency for tree maintenance, as the past couple of years would suggest that is a very real possibility and could be a serious hit on our finances. And, we make sure our gardeners have had the relevant health & safety training to reduce the likelihood of an accident.

We update the risk register every year in December, review the relevant actions, make plans to implement any changes in policy, practice, or coverages.



Help us reduce our carbon footprint and reduce admin and postal costs by having our newsletters, annual assessments and other limited MF business correspondence delivered to your email inbox.

Simply send an email requesting the change to sthomson@whitelawwells.co.uk

And remember: paying your assessment by direct debit saves paper, postage, and time!

A New Way to Pay

TAP-n-GO

Now available at all events is card payment, with pre-event payment also possible by following a secure link found on Facebook or the website when events are posted.

For those who wish to pay by cash, that is still possible.

Be Connected!

www.morayfeu.com

Moray Feu
(private group for residents)
on Facebook

[moray_feu_gardens](#) on
Instagram

Green Gardens

Ken Dixon, Environment & Sustainability Convenor
environment@morayfeu.com

With COP26 taking place in Glasgow the eyes of the world are on all things environment, sustainability and zero emissions.

Luckily we, and our inner-city oasis, can play a part in the solution. Our gardens offer up the opportunity to be an exemplar of good stewardship and best environmental practice.

John, Mel and the team have done a great job of helping our gardens evolve into an increasingly wildlife-aware and supportive environment. We have eliminated weed killers (on all but the Bank Garden pathways), reduced mowing in the Bank Garden and encouraged buglife through the installation of bug hubs.

As we move forward, and lower impact / lower emissions / restorative solutions arise, we are keen to embrace all ideas that can enhance the variety of native species and wildlife.

(After all, we are all the guests in their garden and we mess with the environment at our peril.)

Please feel free to contact us with all constructive suggestions.

The Digital Feu

Blair Finlay, Digital & Social Media Convenor
digital@morayfeu.com

Moray Feu 200 Oral History Project

2022 will be a year of interaction with each other, both in-person and on line at a much greater level, whilst we celebrate the bicentenary. Many of you will know Fran van Dijk, whom, along with myself is pulling together a living history interview format. Kept casual and personable, we will record a year's worth of interviews showing more than just history, but also the personality of individuals and the community. Should you like to take part, please email digital@morayfeu.com

Website Refresh

www.morayfeu.com will have its refresh finished in November. An easier-to-use Feu's Handbook with current updated content is now online, and downloadable. Should you need to reach any member of the Gardens Management Committee, their emails are now directed accordingly, right from the website.

Moray Feu Private Facebook Group

Happily, Facebook continues to show healthy growth and strengthening across age groups and forming relationships within the neighbourhood. It's a place for all of us to share information, learn about garden events, and in an easy, timely, and safe way.

Weekly and monthly features in the group are dotted through the year:

- Monthly baking videos and recipes
- Pocket information on each street
- Bite size history
- Weather forecast
- Q&A with the garden committee

There are over 200 members in the group and they post about a range of things: lost and found items, questions about the neighbourhood, news of interest to all residents of the Feu, and lots of great photos. This is where you can always find information about events in the gardens and bicentenary programming. Sign up today!

Randolph Crescent Garden

Blair Finlay, Liaison

Winter 2021

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2021 has been a reawakening for Randolph Crescent Garden. Long referred to as 'the neglected garden', it was gently sliding into dereliction with paths sinking under mud and moss, and vigorous ivy strangling the hedges.

20 years after Randolph Crescent was feued, Frances Moray sold the garden at its heart to the homeowners of Randolph Crescent, who remain responsible for its upkeep. It once had its own committee working with the Garden Management Committee, but at some point the committee disbanded and the garden lost direction, funding stalled, and standards slipped.

Worry not. Randolph has been lavished with voluntary hours this summer. It now has the Randolph Garden Consultative Group (RGCG) who will work with the Garden Management Committee (GMC) going forward to insure Randolph is brought back to standard.

Over summer we:

- Established the Randolph Garden Consultative Group with Martin Thurston Smith and Richard Adamson joining me.
- Reinstated path edges and scrapped surface back to Victorian level. Removal of overgrowth and undergrowth throughout garden
- Restored service path railing inner-side
- Cleared heavy build-up of dirt and weeds from council path outer-side railings.
- Activated a compost bin
- Cast iron handrail installed on the entrance flight of steps
- Levelled part of and planted grass in void space between double edges (Queensferry Street side) with a farmer's haha
- Filled holes and dips in the lawn and grassing
- Close-clipped the lawn to encourage fresher, dense growth

Over this winter we will:

- Obtain a quote to stabilise and repair rusting railings on the Queensferry wall
- Undertake a Garden Survey for Randolph Crescent feuars
- Add the first layer of gravel to the paths
- Yew hedging for perimeter crescent and roses for railings costed and planted bare root in autumn or spring
- Usual seasonal cutbacks and removals including the small undeveloped bank trees. Replace with Silver Birch.
- Formalise the garden services provided through the Gardens Management Committee

Our plans for the Spring onwards include:

- Feeding and weeding the lawn to reduce the dandelions, moss and other lawn weeds
- Planting Buxus balls and a low hedge to central path backed with soft planting to lawn
- Using agapanthus, hostas and the like at the base of trees with high surface roots.
- Repairing and encouraging the cotoneaster hedge to reknit and thicken, closing in the large gaps.
- Launching Friends of Randolph. Feuars will be invited to become a 'FOR' by donating time, plants or money for particular projects. This will help to develop engagement and connection with our neighbours, along with offsetting the cost of much-needed improvements

For many years, oddly low yearly assessments didn't cover basic gardening time. To support the expenses of the garden, the yearly charge had to increase to £150, VAT inclusive. Because this garden is funded by only Randolph Crescent feuars, every pound is important. This year's subscriptions have helped to cover costs and build a little for the future repairs. Sadly, we do have a persistent problem with late payers, and the cost of recovery by Whitelaw Wells having to chase delinquent assessment. Currently, we have unpaid assessments of £1805.

Stay In Touch

Get updates in real time, or, reach out and ask a question by joining the Randolph Crescent Owners Facebook page. This is a private page, the content is not available to anyone outside the group.

Have you seen the birds?

Not the movie, but the six small metal birds that were installed on the new BBQs this spring—they've disappeared. They were salvaged from an old gate in the Feu and so do have heritage value. Information leading to their return can be sent to infrastructure@morayfeu.com

Ainslie Place Garden Design Charette

We're anticipating, conditions allowing, that the much-anticipated and long-postponed design meeting for Ainslie Place will take place in early Spring. Announcement of a time and date will be sent to feuars by email.

House Histories

The 200th anniversary of the Moray Feu is a great time to research who built your house and who has lived or visited there over the last two centuries. (Or if it has been in any film productions...)

Share your home's story during Moray Feu 200!



The Bicentenary Committee is aiming to raise £40,000 to £60,000 for a year-long programme of events, activities and an archive of the bicentenary. Plans include:

- An oral history project
- Concerts, talks, a giant ceilidh
- Family recycled sculpture event
- A lighting project
- A film competition and festival
- Food events including the Cake Off
- A photography book of the year

We have already raised £16,000 from events, sponsorship and generous donations from residents ranging from £200 to £1,000. We hope that you will help us reach our target by Spring 2022.

You can either make a payment straight away or email or phone Andrew Dixon, the Moray Feu 200 Coordinator to discuss support (events@morayfeu.com/ Tel 07850 572195).

If your company is interested in sponsorship and branding during the bicentenary we can send you a copy of our brochure.

Donations can be made now in 3 ways!

- 1 **Online** directly to 'Messrs Whitelaw Wells CA for Lord Morays Feuars'
Sort code 83 06 08 Account Number 10448320
Reference Moray 200
- 2 **By cheque** to 'Lord Morays Feuars' via Whitelaw Wells
9 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6AT
Please reference Moray 200 and include the form below
- 3 **By Credit card** – contact Andrew Dixon, Events Convenor
Tel. 07850 572195

Name:

Address:

Email Address or Phone Number:

I'd like to help make Moray Feu 200 a spectacular celebration with a donation of:

£50 _____ £100 _____ £500 _____ £1000 _____ £5000 _____ Other _____

This donation is in honour of _____ or in memory of _____

Please tick if you wish your gift to be anonymous