



LORD MORAY'S FEU SUMMER 2015

AGM Wednesday, 3rd June 2015

The French Institute, 13 Randolph Crescent

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Feuars responsible for the upkeep of Lord Moray's Pleasure Grounds will be held on Wednesday 3rd June 2015, at 13 Randolph Crescent, starting at 6.00pm. The accounts for the year to 31 March 2015 are annexed.

Nominations for election to the committee, and any resolutions for consideration at the meeting, should be lodged with the secretaries at least two weeks before the meeting when they will be posted on the notice board in Moray Place Gardens. Anyone wishing to vote on behalf of a feuar should provide written authority to the secretaries at the start of the meeting. Whitelaw Wells, Secretaries, 9 Ainslie Place. Tel 226 5822

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Copies of the draft minutes of the annual meeting held on Wednesday 4th June 2014 are available at 9 Ainslie Place.
3. Treasurers' report and approval of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2015.
4. Assessments for the current year (set out in the secretaries' report).
5. Reports by convenors of sub-committees.
6. Elections to the Committee of Management.
7. Appointment of secretaries and treasurers.
The Committee recommends the re-appointment of Whitelaw Wells, Chartered Accountants.
8. Any other competent business.

Following the AGM there will be a **drinks party in Moray Place Gardens**. A charge of £5 will be made for this event which will be collected from you when you arrive in the garden.

REPORTS

Chairman

Welcome to the summer issue of the newsletter. Over the last year there have been some changes and innovations in the gardens.

In response to a ballot of the feu, your wish for a locked bicycle shed has now been met after successful appeal against the original planning application refusal. Further details for the use of the shed, and application process follow later in the newsletter.

Honey bees have been introduced in to the Bank Gardens and an enthusiastic group of apiarists are emerging led by Derek Shepherd. Please contact him if you would like to be involved with these fascinating and essential creatures.

A change to the Garden Rules was introduced requiring owners not to allow dogs to run free in the Moray Place Garden during the hours of darkness to help prevent unscheduled revelations the following morning. We are also trying to tighten up on the existing restriction of footballs and rugby balls being kicked in the gardens by anyone other than small children.

In December the locks on all Front and Bank Garden access gates were changed. This is a significant undertaking therefore only carried out periodically. It is hoped the inconvenience to feuars was kept to a minimum. Anyone still requiring a new key should contact the Secretaries.

Our thanks also go to all feuars who have volunteered their time. The various convenors' reports are set out below, and I would like to thank these convenors and the other members of the Feuars' Committee for their support and hard work during the year.

Robert Hay, 10 Moray Place

Treasurers and Secretaries

The results this year report a small loss of £2,430, slightly less than that budgeted. The Committee's previous decision to reduce the Bank rate has, as planned, resulted in a deficit of £4,000 reducing the closing reserves to £57,000. Despite a £1,600 surplus the Front Gardens Fund remains somewhat depleted at £18,000, although this is an improved position. The committee therefore suggest no changes to either the Front or Bank assessment rates. Randolph Crescent and Outside Subscribers rates will also remain unchanged.

Front Gardens: 5.9p per £ of 1989 rateable value (previously 5.9p)

Bank Garden: 3.7p per £ of 1989 rateable value (previously 3.7p)

Randolph Crescent: £25 per property (previously £25)

Outside subscribers: £140 per property (previously £140)

These rates include VAT.

Whitelaw Wells,
Secretaries and Treasurers

GARDENS

Since the December Newsletter there have been some improvements in the Gardens.

The gardeners have been reducing the amount of holly, privet and Portugal laurel to allow more views from the flats into the gardens, and more sunshine into the shrub borders. They have also introduced new flowering shrubs for colour and interest. In March the dying chestnut in Moray Place was removed leaving a space for a new tree to be planted, and some of the limes were crownlifted and deadwooded.

A small elm in Bank Gardens which was suffering from Dutch Elm disease, sadly also needed to be removed. Elsewhere, new border fencing has been bought to replace the most damaged of the old fencing which was put in in 1995.

Dr Rae, ex Head of Horticulture at the Botanic Gardens, has now visited our gardens twice and given us useful guidance on work which needs to be done.

The gardeners have enclosed their work area in the central roundel by constructing a strong wooden fence with gates. This is primarily for the safety of children and dogs to discourage them from running through the area while the gardeners are at work with the tractor and other machinery.

Fiona Jarvie, 2 Ainslie Place

TRAFFIC

The trams have been fully operational for a year now, but traffic routing through our part of the city centre is by no means fully settled. Feuars may recall that the Trams Traffic Order (TRO) made by the Council in November 2010 was in three parts, with TRO3 devoted to 'adjusting traffic movement identified during monitoring of the road network after the tram was fully operational'. This process is still in progress with initial monitoring in Great Stuart Street carried out in April 2014 at 14,500 vehicles per day, and monitoring at the junctions of Queensferry Street with Drumsheugh Gardens and Hope Street currently being arranged by the Council.

Feuars were well represented at the Charlotte Square Inquiry held in January 2014, but failed to stop the scheme, with the Council assuring the Reporter that the impact *"will be minimal in terms of air quality, as there is likely to be, if any change at all, a modest reduction in volumes of traffic [through the Feu]"* (Scottish Government, 22 April 2015). The Council's argument is that reducing traffic through Charlotte Square will also cause less traffic to use the Feu as a route into the city centre. This is set against expectations that total traffic levels are set to rise and suggest continued displacement of traffic from central commercial streets to wider residential areas.

However, some useful progress in stabilising traffic using the Feu can be reported:

- Shandwick Place is now open to all traffic from 8pm to 7am, providing an alternative for heavy vehicles at night
- All traffic can now pass through Hope Street in both directions allowing direct access from Charlotte Square to Queensferry Street
- Assurance has been given that the Great Stuart Street route will be included in the forthcoming 20mph limit to be enforced throughout the city centre (excl. main routes)
- The present George Street experiment has been deemed a failure by the Council, and will be abandoned

We welcome members of the Feu to work with the 'traffic and environment' subcommittee – see www.edinburghtramfacts.com for more background to the issues and contact us via the website.

Alistair MacIntosh, 17 Great Stuart Street

BICYCLE SHED

A lockable bike shed for the convenience of feuars has just been installed inside the Doune Terrace gate. It can accommodate approximately sixteen bicycles stored in an upright position, held by a numbered hook.

We do not know the level of interest in this project but it is hoped that all interested parties will be accommodated. If oversubscribed, ballot allocation and a waiting list will be employed. Subscribers will be required to have access to the Bank garden.

It is intended to display the following regulations in the shed:-

- Please store your bicycle on the hook corresponding to your key number
- Other than helmets, no bike accessories are to be stored in the shed
- Do not leave bicycles standing on the floor
- Padlock or chain your bike securely
- The Feu accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to your bike

The shed is anticipated to be operational shortly after the AGM at a cost of £50 per year per bicycle. Feuars are invited to register their interest with the Secretaries by 3rd June.

Robert Hay, 10 Moray Place

WASTE

We look forward to another seagull-free Summer as Gull Proof Bags (GPBs) protect household waste from attack. During the year the system worked well apart from a period when the Council failed to uplift black bags from GPBs properly, affecting Great Stuart Street, Ainslie Place, Randolph Cliff and Randolph Cresecent in particular. Residents resolved the problem by contacting our councillor, Joanna Mowat.

Red and blue boxes are generally picked up reliably. The contractor collecting organic waste has been less regular, but boxes are returned to the pavement more neatly than previously, following a raft of complaints.

To keep the Feu looking attractive, please:

- Help pick up any rubbish that has blown out of red and blue boxes on windy days
- Put out GPBs with black rubbish sacks inside from 18.00 on Wednesday
- Take empty GPBs into your property on Wednesday night or Thursday morning early
- Ask a neighbour to put out/take in your GPB if you go away. This will prevent it flapping on the railing and filling with waste from passers' by. Loose waste will not be removed by the Council.
- Don't leave empty GPBs on the railings near your main door during the week
- If your GPB is not fully emptied (i.e. black bags remain inside) please contact Joanna Mowat joanna.mowat@edinburgh.gov.uk .

If you'd like to discuss waste issues please call Fran van Dijk, 6 Moray Place, 07986 236038.

FESTIVAL GARDEN PARTY - Sunday, 16th August at 12 noon in Moray Place Garden.

Those who are able are asked to bring a tray of canapés. There will be a charge of £5 for this event.

MORAY PLACE WEED PULL and BBQ - May 30th 2015 9.00am to 15.00pm

Please bring family and friends for a few hours on Saturday May 30th to pull up the weeds taking hold of the inner circle pavement. Together let's spruce it up for the Summer!

Ten to fifteen of us working together can make a real difference. As well as friends and family, please bring useful tools, black bags, brooms and something delicious for the BBQ.

Need to know more? Contact Fran van Dijk, 6 Moray Place, 07986 236038

Looking forward to seeing you there!

WEBSITE

We are delighted to inform Feuar's that the Moray Feu web site is now live and can be accessed at www.Morayfeu.com