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# LORD MORAY'S FEU SUMMER 2017

## AGM Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

### 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 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, at 13 Randolph Crescent, starting at 6.00pm. The accounts for the year to 31 March 2017 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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 are available at 9 Ainslie Place.
3. Treasurers' report and approval of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2017.
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 Newsletter of the Moray Feu.

The smooth management of the gardens has continued, over the last few months, and I am sure you will agree that the gardens look splendid.

Alan Welsh stands down from the Committee this year, having served his term. There may be applicants for membership by the time of the AGM. The Committee hopes you will appoint and retain committee members with particular skills and duties so that all aspects of the Feu management may be addressed.

We hope for a good attendance at the AGM (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June) and the drinks party in the garden thereafter.

Also, please make a note of the Festival drinks party at mid-day on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August. Please come and bring, in addition to your tray of nibbles, a guest or two, especially if they are visitors or playing some part in the Edinburgh Festival.

Robert Hay, 10 Moray Place

### Treasurers and Secretaries

The results this year report a loss of £10,500, £3,000 more than 2016 although generally in line with that budgeted. The Committee's previous decision to reduce the Bank rate has, as planned, resulted in a deficit of £7,000 for the Bank Gardens reducing the closing reserves to £41,000. A £3,000 loss in the Front Gardens Fund reduces closing reserves to £17,000. In the Balance Sheet fixed asset additions of £700 included the new table tennis table and garden equipment used by the gardeners. Following a number of years of planned deficits and unchanged assessment rates the committee are now looking to adopt a more balanced budget approach. Front and Bank assessment rates are proposed to increase as noted below. Randolph Crescent and Outside Subscribers rates will remain unchanged.

<b>Front Gardens:</b>	6.0p per £ of 1989 rateable value (previously 5.9p)
<b>Bank Garden:</b>	4.9p per £ of 1989 rateable value (previously 3.7p)
<b>Randolph Crescent:</b>	£25 per property (previously £25)
<b>Outside subscribers:</b>	£140 per property (previously £140)
<b>Annual Dog subscription fee:</b>	£30 per dog (previously £20)

These rates include VAT.

*Whitelaw Wells,*  
Secretaries and Treasurers

## GARDENS

Since the Winter Newsletter there have been some improvements in Moray Place Gardens, notably new wooden edging round the North and West lawns and the corresponding opposite sides of the outer path, followed by the laying of 64 tons of new pea gravel on all the paths. The North section of path has been prone to flooding in wet seasons, and years of laying new gravel on top of old had raised the path to lawn height. So John, the Head gardener, hired a mini-digger to reduce the level of that path along

the whole of the quadrant and discovered original old drains which previously allowed water to run off the path into the border. The upper half of these drains is now exposed and functioning and John reported that even that half is capable of carrying away large quantities of water. So hopefully the path will no longer flood in wet weather.

### **Tree Work**

We commissioned a tree safety report as it is a few years since the last one, and were pleased to learn that there were no trees requiring work for the safety of pedestrians or parked cars. The two young limes in the North quadrant lawn of Moray Place were removed, being the smallest of the five trees in a row shading the border behind in which little grew except holly and laurel. Hopefully this border can be improved with new planting to provide more interest. A few other trees in the borders of Moray Place were also removed to allow more space for neighbouring trees to develop and to allow light to reach the flowering shrubs.

In Bank Gardens the slope between the two sets of arches has been semi cleared to allow a young beech to develop and to give space to a new rowan. Many self-seeded hollies have been removed throughout Bank Gardens to open up views, and a young golden hornet malus has been planted by the path below the first lawn which will produce little golden apples in the autumn.

### **Planting**

During the winter the gardeners cleared the ivy covered triangle at the end of the birch wood in Bank Gardens and discovered a rockery beneath. This plus several areas further along have been planted up with spring flowering bulbs as well as with hellebores, euphorbia and lamium, surplus stocks from Moray Place. But hand watering of all of these has proved laborious for the gardeners because of the lack of rain in the last two months and the absence of a handy water supply in Bank Gardens. The slope between the arches has been planted up with ferns and the long dormant seeds of wild flowers have, this Spring, been able to germinate and flower in the increased amount of sunshine. Melvyn, the new gardener, drew up his ideas for planting three separate areas in Moray Place, viz. behind the notice board, the BBQ flower bed and a bay in the West border, and these have been planted with new shrubs in the last month, including several crinodendron, a new species to Moray Place Garden.

The little Doune Terrace garden was established last summer on the site of the felled elm tree, as a fenced off dog free area. The planting in this area has taken well and hopefully a bench will appear soon so that residents can enjoy a glass of wine in the sunshine.

I would particularly like to commend the gardeners on their hard work in the last year as they have made some very noticeable improvements.

Fiona Jarvie, 2 Ainslie Place

### **TRAFFIC AND POLLUTION IN THE FEU**

Despite the Council's recognition, and signage, that the roads in the Feu are unsuitable for heavy vehicles, we have heard from Stuart Lowrie [Public Transport Manager, 9 March 2017] that because of the Tram-related traffic restrictions on Princes Street "there are very few alternatives to either Charlotte Square or Randolph Crescent. Banning HGV's from these streets would be difficult to enforce and would push this traffic elsewhere. Currently there is no funding to reconstruct the carriageway in Randolph Crescent."

In other words, the Council now feels that it has successfully diverted the A1 from Princes Street to Queen Street, creating a 24x7 corridor for heavy vehicles through residential areas even when Princes Street is silent!

Your Traffic Subcommittee continues to challenge this thinking, but the Council is set to promote the extension of the Edinburgh Tram to Leith, and to Little France, removing even more traffic from commercial areas and displacing it into adjacent residential areas. For example, extending the Tram down Leith Walk will place more pressure on the new 'A1' through the Feu and all communities north of the city centre, and yet as Mr Lowrie highlights, the Council is not even budgeting to repair the damage to the roads through the Feu, let alone re-instate the Feu's flint paths and cobbles that have been covered in tarmac.

The health impacts of the resulting noise and air pollution are receiving more attention worldwide, with particulate pollution now being shown to measurably impact cognitive function in as little as a year. This aspect of life in Edinburgh was notably absent from the campaign priorities of our councillors, and their responsiveness on this issue has declined over the last 8 years. We ask you help remind our elected representatives of the importance of this health issue.

On a more positive note, we can report closer engagement with DEFRA through the Aarhus action that we originally took because our council withheld air quality data showing the adverse impact of Tram traffic displacement. DEFRA were not happy that 'the actions of one council' brought the whole of the UK into contravention of the Aarhus Convention, and are now engaging directly with us. We continue to participate in Aarhus Compliance Committee reviews of UK environmental legislation and to work with the Tram Inquiry.

There are also some very positive opportunities to work on 'Citizen Science' projects to better understand the impact of traffic-related air and noise pollution, taking advantage of 'Urban Data' initiatives funded by the Scottish Government and an 'Open Data' initiative by the Information Services Division of the National Health Service Scotland. Residents with expertise in Health and Medical Sciences, Data Science and Citizen Science, or just a general interest in improving Edinburgh's environment for all residential areas, are invited to participate. Please contact the subcommittee by writing to us c/o Whitelaw Wells.

Ashley Lloyd, 14A Randolph Crescent

## **WASTE**

On March 21st Edinburgh City Council published its Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan, which is available from the Council website.

Of most interest to Feuars is Action Point 19 of the Plan, to "Assess options for the containerisation of those streets that remain on gull proof sack or sack collections".

Comments on progress on Action Point 19 from the Council are as follows: "All 120 streets studied in the action have been assessed for viability of placing bins through a desktop exercise. Those more challenging streets are receiving a site visit to further assess options. Should containerisation be assessed as a possibility this will be investigated further as part of the review of the wider bin collections"

In 2013, Feuars voted 159 to 37 in favour of gull proof bags versus containers. We will keep you informed of further communication from the Council on Action Point 19 of the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan. In the meantime, I would be pleased to feed back your opinions to the Council.

Fran van Dijk, 6 (2F) Moray Place

## **DOGS**

In the first year of the registration scheme, the charge was £20 for initial registration and £20 annual fee. Now that we have a tally for the number of dogs using the gardens, we have reviewed the dog costs against the annual fees paid by dog owners and, to cover costs, the annual fee will need to increase to £30. The registration fee will remain at £20. We will monitor costs annually, as we do not think it appropriate for non-dog owners to be subsidising dog owners, or vice versa.

Both gardeners and garden users have commented on the improvement in the cleanliness of the gardens since the introduction of the registration scheme so thank you for your general vigilance in picking up after your dogs.

However, unfortunately we continue to get regular complaints about some dog faeces being left lying, which is unacceptable at any time, but particularly during summer months when the gardens are more heavily used. Please do take care to keep an eye on your dog at all times when in the gardens.

Green tags should also be visible to all when dogs are in the gardens.

Any dog-related comments should be addressed to Candia Kingston at [candiakingston@hotmail.com](mailto:candiakingston@hotmail.com)

## **SOCIAL**

The end of last year was celebrated with our usual Christmas party. Attended by even more Feuars than usual it was a very enjoyable evening. Courtesy of Grace Durham, it was held in her beautiful, spacious flat. Much appreciated, as were the efforts by all the ladies who provided delicious canapes and snacks. Thank you to everyone.

A new event in February was our Burns Supper. Held at the Angel's Share in the West End. The hotel staff were enthusiastic and helpful making it a very successful evening.

We had speakers for all the parts:-

Derek Shepherd – Address to the Haggis;  
Mike Baynham – The Immortal Memory;  
Wilson Hunter – The Toast to the Lassies.

I was privileged to perform The Reply and our Chairman, Robert Hay became the piper for the night, while John Stirling was an excellent Master of Ceremonies.

Various social events are organised during the year. Those coming soon include:-

### ***Annual General Meeting, Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June***

Please join us after the AGM for wine and snacks in Moray Place Gardens, tickets £5.

### ***Festival Garden Party - Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> August at 12 noon in Moray Place Garden.***

Wear your posh hats ladies or fancy headdress, and gentlemen you too! Wine and canapés provide. There will be a charge of £5 for this event.

Please contact Rachel Cohen, 9 Moray Place, if you would like to help with any of these events or have ideas for future events. [rachel@nehoc.co.uk](mailto:rachel@nehoc.co.uk)

## **WEBSITE**

The Moray Feu web site can be accessed at [www.Morayfeu.com](http://www.Morayfeu.com)

**LORD MORAY'S FEUARS**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

for the year ended 31st March 2017

	5.90	3.70	2017	2016
	Front	Bank	Total	Total
	Gardens	Gardens	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Assessments receivable	55,252	24,872	<b>80,124</b>	80,970
Bike Shed hire	333	167	<b>500</b>	500
Randolph Cresc Gardens	917	-	<b>917</b>	1,000
Outside subscriptions	3,293	1,646	<b>4,939</b>	4,258
Awning hire	150	75	<b>225</b>	175
Key deposits net of costs	587	293	<b>880</b>	393
Dog registration income	2,889	1,444	<b>4,333</b>	-
Sale of Moray Place elm products & honey	350	174	<b>524</b>	-
Donations	-	-	-	125
	<b>63,771</b>	<b>28,671</b>	<b>92,442</b>	<b>87,421</b>
bank interest receivable	17	9	<b>26</b>	27
	<b>63,788</b>	<b>28,680</b>	<b>92,468</b>	<b>87,448</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Wages	31,951	15,976	<b>47,927</b>	43,605
Pension	943	471	<b>1,414</b>	1,690
Insurances	2,793	1,396	<b>4,189</b>	3,905
Fertilisers	1,521	-	<b>1,521</b>	878
Hire & repair of equipment	2,278	1,139	<b>3,417</b>	2,248
Turf, top soil & grass seed	34	17	<b>51</b>	343
Fuel	475	238	<b>713</b>	594
Consumables	437	219	<b>656</b>	574
Repair to fencing, gates & benches	631	1,540	<b>2,171</b>	4,920
Wall pointing	-	1,500	<b>1,500</b>	-
Edging & gravel	3,192	25	<b>3,217</b>	-
Lawn tining	1,795	-	<b>1,795</b>	-
Plants	147	859	<b>1,006</b>	923
Gardeners' travel expenses	166	83	<b>249</b>	259
Dog expenses	1,626	814	<b>2,440</b>	1,489
Equipment depreciation	3,008	3,296	<b>6,304</b>	6,162
Waste collection	637	318	<b>955</b>	1,011
Electricity	849	424	<b>1,273</b>	862
Tree surgeon	235	485	<b>720</b>	6,910
Tree surveyors' safety report	500	250	<b>750</b>	-
Professional fees - auto-enrolment	-	-	-	950
Training	-	-	-	485
Sundries	114	57	<b>171</b>	238
Honoraria - Dr Rae	75	37	<b>112</b>	103
Website maintenance	247	123	<b>370</b>	295
	<b>53,654</b>	<b>29,267</b>	<b>82,921</b>	<b>78,444</b>
Secretaries & Treasurers' fees	10,500	5,250	<b>15,750</b>	15,250
Secretaries & Treasurers' fees - dogs	2,167	1,083	<b>3,250</b>	-
Net social event cost	116	58	<b>174</b>	247
Debt collection & searches	236	118	<b>354</b>	512
Bad debts	317	159	<b>476</b>	417
	<b>13,336</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>20,004</b>	<b>16,426</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for year</b>	<b>( 3,202 )</b>	<b>( 7,255 )</b>	<b>( 10,457 )</b>	<b>( 7,422 )</b>

## LORD MORAY'S FEUARS

### BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2017

#### ASSETS EMPLOYED

	Cost £	Depreciation £	2017 £	2016 £
Machinery & equipment	67,003	39,343	27,660	24,691
additions	710		710	9,131
disposals			-	-
charge for year		6,304	( 6,304 )	( 6,162 )
	<u>67,713</u>	<u>45,647</u>	<u>22,066</u>	<u>27,660</u>

#### Current assets

Assessments outstanding			1,311	1,221
Prepayments and VAT			4,916	4,887
Bank deposit accounts			33,805	40,895
Bank current account			1,000	( 2,808 )
			<u>41,032</u>	<u>44,195</u>

#### Current liabilities

Creditors			( 5,258 )	( 3,923 )
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#### Net current assets

			<u>35,774</u>	<u>40,272</u>
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#### Total net assets

			<u><u>57,840</u></u>	<u><u>67,932</u></u>
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FUNDS EMPLOYED	Front Gardens £	Bank Gardens £	Total £	Total £
General Fund b/f	13,838	45,941	59,779	67,201
Results for year	( 3,202 )	( 7,255 )	( 10,457 )	( 7,422 )
General Fund c/f	10,636	38,686	49,322	59,779
Amenity fund	6,143	2,375	8,518	8,153
	<u>16,779</u>	<u>41,061</u>	<u>57,840</u>	<u>67,932</u>

#### AMENITY FUND

Balance brought forward	5,900	2,253	8,153	7,746
Voluntary contributions	243	122	365	407
	<u>6,143</u>	<u>2,375</u>	<u>8,518</u>	<u>8,153</u>

#### WHITELAW WELLS

Chartered Accountants  
Treasurers