



LORD MORAY'S FEU SUMMER 2016

AGM Wednesday, 1st June 2016

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 1st June 2016, at 13 Randolph Crescent, starting at 6.00pm. The accounts for the year to 31 March 2016 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 3rd June 2015 are available at 9 Ainslie Place.
3. Treasurers' report and approval of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2016.
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. Our beautiful gardens have functioned smoothly for another year, the 184th year of their existence.

Mrs Enid Holman Arthur has joined forces informally with Rachel Cohen in the management of the social calendar. I would like to express my continued thanks to the committee members for their labours on behalf of the feu and also to Dr David Rae for his invaluable professional advice.

David Wood, head gardener has been unable to continue his employment with us due to the re activation of an old knee condition. His final uncoupling from the feu is unresolved. Negotiations are in the hands of myself and the vice Chairman (Miss Sue Jarvie). In the meantime, as you will have observed, John, with some muscular assistance is doing splendidly.

The bee colony continues to thrive and may multiply to a second hive this summer. Honey should be on sale at the festival party (Sunday 14th August). There are four apiarists among us and anyone wishing to be involved with these fascinating creatures should contact Derek Shepherd.

I have made a number of heritage items in the form of chopping boards, door stops, cavity books etc. from the returned wych elm timber. Samples will be on view at the AGM. Some slabs of the timber remain in store which feuars may purchase but be aware it is tough, springy wood, hard on the tools and cannot really be managed without a workshop of almost industrial capacity.

The committee has been much exercised over the dog registration scheme, the purpose of which is to address the problem of overuse of the gardens by dogs without impinging on the liberties of the feuars, and to bring us into line with the other New Town Gardens. A wide consultation process has taken place. On the 1st June, the committee will be seeking the AGM's support for this measure.

Robert Hay, 10 Moray Place

Treasurers and Secretaries

The results this year report a loss of £7,422, £2,500 less than that budgeted. The Committee's previous decision to reduce the Bank rate has, as planned, resulted in a deficit of £10,000 reducing the closing reserves to £47,000. A £2,500 surplus in the Front Gardens Fund increased closing reserves to £21,000. In the Balance Sheet fixed asset additions of £9,000 included a new tractor (£6,000), the bike shed (£2,000) and bee equipment (£850). 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 November Newsletter we have had a few storms as well as a visit by a tree surgeon, so the gardeners have been busy logging branches and these have proved popular with feuars taking them away to burn. One large lime by the bonfire, which was already leaning at 45 degrees, blew down and

some of the trunk was taken away by wood sculptors.

Much of the low wire fencing in Moray Place has been repaired, replaced or removed altogether where it was felt to be unnecessary. We have also had to focus on ivy which has taken a grip in the shrubberies of Moray Place and parts of the Bank Gardens and will become a serious problem if not dealt with.

You may have noticed that two horse chestnuts were removed from Moray Place lawns: they were both cankered and would eventually die.

With the advice of Dr Rae of RBGE, some replanting has been taking place in the bank at the north end of Bank Gardens which had been cleared of its hollies and the new plants are growing vigorously. This area is now more open to the sun and should provide some new interest as well as allowing light to filter further down the slope. With the removal of the hollies a new handrail has been constructed along the top as a safety measure.

Some new planting has been introduced in Moray Place, acer palmatum, weigela, chaenomeles, ceonothus and hebe, to replace some of the larger evergreen shrubs which have been reduced in size and number.

Fiona Jarvie, 2 Ainslie Place

TRAFFIC

The traffic subcommittee would first like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by the late Alistair Laing who was indefatigable in his efforts to protect the Feu from the increased traffic loading of recent years. Indeed this was acknowledged in a kindly tribute just received from one council official with whom he regularly sparred. He will be sorely missed and a hard act to follow, but anyone who feels motivated to join our now depleted subcommittee would be most welcome.

A traffic count carried out for the Council in July shows that traffic flow through the Feu remains at 14,500 vehicles per day, the level measured at the start of tram running. However the same count showed only 1,800 vpd using the alternative route through Charlotte Square. The dire state of Council finances is being blamed for lack of progress to tackle such outstanding issues as required under the terms of trams TRO3; and on the related matter of the Charlotte Public Realm work approved by the Public Hearing of January 2014, this has since been held up awaiting agreement between the Developer and the Council on funding.

Feuars will be aware of the imminent (starting in June) staged introduction of a 20 mph speed limit on all city streets excepting the main arterial routes. 20 mph will apply to all streets in the Feu.

A further issue of great importance to feuars is the Parking Action Plan. The recommendations of a report ([http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/50216/item 78 - parking action plan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/50216/item%2078)) on the public consultation held last October, were accepted by the Council's Transport & Environment Committee on 15th March. Those of particular interest to feuars are:

- Shared parking bays [mostly additional to existing dedicated residential bays] will be extended to zones 1 to 8
- Visitor Permit entitlements for B, N & S zone residents have been fixed, and priced at an hourly rate of £0.40, but entitlements and pricing for zones 1 to 8 are subject to further consideration.
- Controlled waiting and parking on Monday to Saturday in zones 1 - 4 will be extended to 1900 hours.
- Controlled waiting and parking on Sundays in zones 1 - 4 will operate between 1300-1900 hours.

Finally it can be reported that the Moray Feu application to the Aarhus Convention is one of eight applications being used by Aarhus to take the UK to task on compliance, and Ashley Lloyd has twice been invited to take part in a teleconferenced meeting on this matter.

Alistair MacIntosh, 17 Great Stuart Street

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

We are hoping to put up a table tennis table in Moray Gardens during the summer months, and that this will be enjoyed by all ages. Please remember to put the cover back on once you have finished playing.

The committee are starting to consider a fenced play area somewhere within the gardens, with equipment based on a wooden design. Those of you who know the Dean and Belgrave Gardens will have seen similar play areas there. This is at the very early stages of discussion and we would like input to help us with design. If you are keen on the idea and would like to share ideas, could we ask that you make initial contact with Rachel Cohen at rachel@nehoc.co.uk so we can arrange a get together.

WASTE

Covers for Recycling Boxes

Please note that if the cover of your box has been lost or has become too loose to fit properly, then you can obtain a replacement in any local library. Well fitting covers will help to keep our neighbourhood free of litter on windy days.

Remember, you can report most things online – from fly tipping and graffiti to potholes and missed bins online. Register once, then it's quick and easy to use: www.edinburgh.gov.uk

DOGS REGISTRATION SCHEME

The Committee thanks garden subscribers for their comments on the recent circular letter. All comments, whether favourable, neutral or critical, have been replied to. Over 80 dogs have been registered; more are anticipated. It is recognised that their owners are an important part of our 400-home community, and are some of the most frequent users and therefore monitors of the state of the gardens. All six of the committee available met to discuss all the comments, and as a result some modifications and simplifications have been made to the initial draft Code of Conduct.

The preamble to the initial letter stated: "The vast majority of dog owners in the Feu are extremely responsible and careful to pick up after their dogs, but there are some who are less than careful at least some of the time, leaving others to face the consequences of their thoughtlessness. We have sought to find a solution which, we hope, takes account of all garden users. The introduction of a dog registration scheme would bring our gardens into line with many of the other New Town gardens. This scheme would provide dog walkers continued access, but give an easier way to identify those dogs and dog owners who are causing the problem."

This initial letter and the scheme were arrived at unanimously by the 11-member Committee.

The reasons for a Code of Conduct (which of course we already have) are to do with:

1. Safety through proper control of dogs;
2. Care for the environment (dog fouling, affecting feuars, their children, nursery children and garden staff and their working conditions; damage to shrubberies, flowers and grass); and
3. Consideration and respect for other users of the gardens.

The basic concepts of having dogs under control (i.e. in sight and biddable) at all times and always removing excrement immediately are already in the Moray Feu website ([www.morayfeu.com/information/rules para 3](http://www.morayfeu.com/information/rules_para_3)). They are also the minimum legal requirements under the following legislation:

Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010: For the purposes of this Act, a dog is out of control if it is not being kept under control effectively and consistently (by whatever means) by the proper person, its behaviour gives rise to alarm, or apprehensiveness, on the part of any individual, and the individual's alarm or apprehensiveness is, in all the circumstances, reasonable.

Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 (Section 1): A person commits an offence under this law if they do not immediately remove the faeces defecated by their dog in any public open place. Currently the fine is £80, in line with littering.

There are eight major New Town gardens that allow dogs (Regent, Queen St East, Central and West, Dean, Belgrave, Drummond, and ourselves). We are now the only ones that have no registration scheme. The Committee judges that a registration system would also be extremely helpful for us, so that non-compliant feuars and outside subscribers, and dogs not entitled to access to the gardens can be identified.

No one is envisaging policing in the conventional sense; we think that briefing of incoming subscribers, reminding existing ones of what is now required, and peer pressure should be sufficient in our community to ameliorate the very real current problems reported frequently by many garden users and the gardeners themselves. For instance, the results of a mower hitting excrement include fouling of the driver, the lawns and also of cuttings and compost.

We view registration and the signing of the Code of Conduct as ways of acknowledging that all sections of the community have a common interest. No-one should take this as a personal slight. After the scheme takes effect, we shall still be the least stringent of the major gardens in our rules. Other gardens have, for example, waiting lists of up to two years, only two dogs per key holder (and that by special agreement), an annual fee of £50 per dog, dogs on leads in summer months, and posting a list of permitted dogs and their owners.

The modifications to the draft code of practice concern:

- collars vs tags: following feedback, we propose numbered tags rather than coloured collars;
- worming: we have removed the statement from the code stating that dog owners can be asked for proof of worming;
- visiting dogs: can be registered at the secretaries at a cost of £5 per week or part thereof (plus a returnable deposit); and
- wording of Code of Conduct has been brought closer into line with the legislation.

The Scheme

Dog owners will be asked to complete a form of registration for their dog(s) with the secretaries, and sign up to a Code of Conduct for dogs in the gardens.

Initial registration will cost £20 per dog being registered. The dog owner will receive a numbered tag, which can be worn permanently or clipped onto the dog's collar when walking in the gardens.

There will, in addition, be a fee of £20 per dog per annum (or part thereof), which will be added to the dog owner's direct debit, and will go towards the cost of provision of waste bags and dealing with the waste. For tenants, where the direct debit is settled by the landlord, the charge may be payable separately, by request to the secretaries.

Visiting dogs can be registered at the secretaries at a cost of £5 per week or part thereof, with a returnable deposit of £20.

The secretaries will keep a register of all dogs and owners and update the Committee with any problems.

The Committee will keep the working of the scheme and any feedback under review.

Code of Conduct for Dog Owners

- Dogs are only allowed in the charge of the key-holder or their appointee.
- Only dogs registered with the secretaries and wearing their specially issued tags are allowed in the gardens.
- Dogs are to be kept under effective control, in line with the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. This means that you should either:
 - keep the dog on a lead; or
 - keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return promptly on command.
- Any dog, regardless of its breed, can cause apprehensiveness, alarm, or even injury if its behaviour is 'out of control'. This does not necessarily involve aggressive behaviour, but could involve running up to, barking at or jumping at other people or other dogs. What may seem like playful, friendly behaviour to one person, can be alarming to another. Dog walkers have a responsibility to ensure that their dog does not impede the enjoyment of the gardens for others.
- Your dog's faeces must be picked up immediately, in line with the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003. Bags and bins are provided for this purpose. When using the gardens after dark, you must carry a torch.
- Your dog should be regularly wormed.
- Dogs are not allowed in the shrubberies or the flowerbeds and should not cause damage to the lawns.
- You will make anyone you appoint to walk your dog in the gardens aware of the relevant parts of this code.

SOCIAL

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

International Children's Day Sunday, 8th May 10-12 in Moray Place Garden

Family fun and games, bring a picnic if you like. Tickets £3 per adult or £5 per family with donation to UNICEF.

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, 1st June

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

Diner En Blanc, Thursday, 23rd June 7 for 7.30pm

Celebrate midsummer for a dinner picnic with music in the Moray Place Gardens. Dress in white and bring a main course to share with friends and neighbours.

Limited tickets £18 includes 1/2 bottle of wine and dessert.

Festival Garden Party - Sunday, 14th August at 12 noon in Moray Place Garden.

Wine and canapés. 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 e: rachel@nehoc.co.uk

WEBSITE

The Moray Feu web site can be accessed at www.Morayfeu.com

