



LORD MORAY'S FEU SUMMER 2019

AGM Wednesday, 26th June 2019

The Educational Institute of Scotland, 46 – 48 Moray Place

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 26th June 2019, at 46-48 Moray Place, starting at 6.00pm. The accounts for the year to 31 March 2019 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 by 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 6th June 2018 are available at 9 Ainslie Place.
3. Treasurers' report and approval of the accounts for the year to 31 March 2019.
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

CHAIR

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter 2019. It has been another busy year in our gardens, and for me in my first year as Chair. I think you will agree that the gardens are looking especially beautiful, with new planting blooming, particularly in the Bank Gardens. We are very appreciative of the efforts of our gardeners, John and Melvyn.

This year, Robert Hay stood down from the Committee and at this coming AGM both Fran van Dijk and Ashley Lloyd will have served their full terms and will also be leaving us. They have our thanks for all the hard work they have put in over many years.



The climbing frame, which had been in service for decades, had to be replaced this year and the new one has been welcomed.

Arwyn was pleased, "It's back!" she exclaimed on first seeing it.

There has been a programme of maintenance and improvements. The metal handrail in the Bank Gardens has been extended to assist with walking on the steeper slope as you enter. The Gardens report describes the installation of a new water supply. On the advice of arborists, there has been tree work carried out to address issues with trees weakened by disease or damaged by bad weather. Please be assured that no trees are taken down without very good reason.

We have had a number of very enjoyable social events providing opportunities to spend time with old friends and new.

Our gardens continue to attract the admiration of visitors with groups visiting through Edinburgh World Heritage and during the Scotland's Gardens open day in May. We are being featured in Garden Square News, a publication about the private gardens of Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster in London and the Feu has attracted interest from film makers.

I feel very fortunate to live this wonderful community.

Fiona Young
Chair

TREASURER and SECRETARY

The results this year report a surplus of £4,000, slightly higher than last year and than budgeted. The Bank Gardens broke even so the full surplus is attributable to the Front Gardens increasing that garden's closing reserves to £22,500. Bank Garden reserves remain at £43,500. Outside subscriber income was £2,000 higher than last year following approval of an increased assessment rate at last year's AGM. Overall expenditure is £14,500 higher than last year but generally in line with budget. There was a £2,500, one off, cost spent assessing the arches; £3,600 on tree surgeon costs and maintenance of railings, gates and benches included £4,600 for painting railings in-line with the rolling maintenance programme. These cost increases were off-set with £1,500 less being spent on plants and £500 less electricity costs for the Bothy. In the Balance Sheet fixed asset additions of £19,000 included the new climbing frame, a new database and water taps in the Bank Garden. This significant investment did, however, increase the depreciation charge in the year from £6,500 to £9,000 and meant cash reduced from £41,000 to £32,500 at the year end.

The Committee have developed a budgeted five year maintenance plan. In anticipation of future expenditure the committee are adopting a budget approach to give a small annual surplus on routine matters to cover more significant expenditure identified in the maintenance plan. By doing so they hope to avoid large assessment increases in any one year. Assessment rates are proposed to increase as follows:-

Front Gardens:	6.9p per £ of 1989 rateable value (previously 6.6p)
Bank Garden:	6.1p per £ of 1989 rateable value (previously 5.9p)
Randolph Crescent:	£32 per property (previously £30)
Outside subscribers:	£210 per property (previously £200)
Annual Dog subscription fee:	£32 per dog (previously £30)

These rates include VAT.

Whitelaw Wells,
Secretaries and Treasurers

GARDENS

As far as I know, Bank Gardens has had a water supply only at the Doune Terrace gate for all the years it has been in existence. That may have been sufficient in past years, but with continuing long spells of dry weather and some new planting, we realised that we needed to improve matters to save the gardeners carrying large amounts of water and laying out long lengths of hose. Therefore, in January an extension was laid under the path to bring water from the tap at the Doune Terrace gate to a point well inside the Bank Garden from where the gardeners can reach most important areas with a sensible length of hose.

More interestingly, we have been aware for some time of a natural spring issuing from the back wall of one of the arches then disappearing almost immediately underground. John Hughes, our Head Gardener, thought this could be put to good use by digging a cavity to contain a large tank to capture this water, which could then be fed by gravity to a tap at the bottom of the hill, just above the bonfire. Both jobs were carried out by a contractor in January and have proved to be useful already as we have had another very dry start to the year.

Otherwise, the gardeners have been busy with planting and routine maintenance.

Fiona Jarvie
Gardens Convener

SOCIAL

The Christmas Party was well attended and fun. Thank you to everyone who helped and of course to Grace who allowed us to use her lovely flat.

Paul Broda has been in charge of wine ordering this year and although I had thought we should increase entrance fees for the main events supported by the Feu this appears unnecessary. Paul has done the sums and for the Christmas Party, the After AGM Party and the Festival Party we can stay with our £5 per person charge for the moment. Other events during the year will remain 'self financing'.

The Burns supper held in February (the idea is not to clash with other suppers in case you wondered) had fifty attendees and all expenses were covered by ticket sales. The evening was packed with speakers and performances running late into the night. We had David Duncan giving the Address to the Haggis

and Professor Allan Young giving the Toast to the Lassies to which I replied. Fiona Young linked everything together as our Dinner Chair and we had young Angus Macgregor playing the pipes.

A special treat was to see the Silver Ragout Spoon loaned to us by Gordon Grant and believed to have been used by Robert Burns at dinner with the Whitefoord family, in their Canongate home.

Robert Hay and guest Morag Macmillan performed Tam O'Shanter with a battery of scary, sound effects from the audience. Thank you to all those taking part!

On 5th May the Feu joined in Scotland's Open Garden Day. The Big Lunch was held in the Moray Place Garden on 25th May. It was a rather breezy day but luckily heavy rain waited until after 3pm before it arrived. Over fifty stalwart adults and around ten children came with their picnics, many dressed in dashing and flamboyant style. Feuars are just wonderful and always ready to join in a party it seems.

We had a ceremonial opening of the new children's climbing frame by our Chair Fiona Young, after a parade across the garden. I must confess to feeling rather like a Pied Piper as the children followed me around!

Various social events are organised during the year but those coming soon include:-

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, 26th June

Please join us after the AGM for wine and snacks in Moray Place Gardens. The Belgravia team are joining us and hosting a wine party, an ideal opportunity to mingle and to greet each other.

Festival Garden Party - Sunday, 11th August at 12 noon in Moray Place Garden.

Wear your posh hats ladies or fancy headdress, and gentlemen you too! Wine and canapés provided. We hope for a dry afternoon unlike last year! There will be a charge of £5 for this event.

Halloween Party – 26th or 27th October

Fun for all the family!

Please contact me if you would like to help with any of these events or have ideas for future events.

If we have some nice warm sunny evenings we might try 'Supper in the Garden' or a 'Diner en Blanc' late Summer or early Autumn. Watch this space, or join the Facebook Group, for up to date information and I hope to see you at some of these events.

Enid Holman-Arthur
Social Convener

WASTE

Feuars continue to manage waste and recyclables collection very effectively. Please remember to put boxes out on the morning of collection as recommended by the Council and no earlier than the evening before collection. To prevent light recyclables such as paper, card and plastics from uncovered red boxes are blown around the Feu, **please be sure to windproof your red box with a blue cover, available free from Stockbridge Library.** New recycling boxes can be ordered online at edinburgh.gov.uk

If you have any questions please call Fran van Dijk on 07986 236038

IT and DIGITAL REPORT

Forming a small 'Digital Family', we have three ways for feuars to find information and stay connected to the community as little or as much as they wish.

Firstly, a new website, www.morayfeu.com, has been built and relaunched. The site is much more user friendly with easy to find pages and a short digital journey for the user. Content includes useful information that feuars may need, including a downloadable members handbook.

The second is a Closed Group (only approved people can join and see this page) Facebook page to act as a noticeboard. From this platform we can quickly communicate more immediate information effectively, along with posting coming events. This private format of communication helps build more of a community feel and helps with reducing the reliance on printed information only.

The third family member is Instagram, where images of the Feu are posted regularly building a picture library. From a members position, this is a great way to stay familiar with the whole of the Feu and charts the seasonal changes throughout the Feu.

Contributing a large number of photos to Instagram and the website are Ross Johnston and Ross McMahan-Wilson who over 2019 are taking key photographs free of charge for us.

Blair Finlay
IT Convener

MORAY FEU BEE PROJECT - UPDATE

An apiary was established in the Bank Garden in 2015 with one hive that now comprises three WBC hives plus an old reserve National hive.

Unfortunately, we lost all of our bees over the winter of 2017 – 2018, the final colony succumbing to the "Beast from the East" which arrived at the worst possible time for bees. Colony losses throughout Scotland were very high that winter.

We were fortunate to source near native bees locally from a bee farmer in Fife. We were quite late in ordering them and with large demand for new bees after the severe winter they did not arrive in the apiary until the end of June and mid July 2018. New bees arrive in "nucs" (a nucleus) – a new mated Queen with around 5,000 workers and a few drones on four/five brood frames with food stores and brood from a previous Queen. In a good summer a colony will grow to as many as 50,000 bees before reducing in the autumn with the Queen and around 5,000 workers surviving through the winter. The Queen starts laying again in mid-February and new brood starts hatching in mid-March. The overwintered worker bees final job is to feed and nurture the eggs, grubs and newly hatched bees until these new season bees are ready to replace them. February and March are when the colony is at highest risk.

Two of the new colonies established themselves well over the summer but we decided not to harvest any honey from the bees in August 2018 as they had such little time to forage from small beginnings. This policy appears to have paid off and we currently have two very strong colonies of very calm gentle bees. When the beekeepers are carrying out a full hive inspection, the bees remain very calm. The Queens in both hives are now in full egg laying mode and we hope to undertake an artificial swarming of one of the colonies to split it in two and populate the third hive with our own new Queen in the next four to eight weeks. A reasonable summer should provide a good honey crop.



Join Us

FACEBOOK Closed Group

For all paid garden members, you are invited to join our Closed Group Facebook page. This enables easy and regular communication, conversations and news updates.

www.facebook.com/groups/282104212712221/

INSTAGRAM

Follow our Instagram page for regular photos of the Feu's gardens and architecture as we build a photographic library. From seasonal change to developments in the gardens or simply to remind yourself of parts of the Feu perhaps you haven't been to for a long time.

www.instagram.com/moray-feu-gardens/

WEBSITE

Easily accessible information from Member's Handbook, History, Committee Members to practical and helpful information, together with a growing picture gallery.

LORD MORAY'S FEUARS				
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT				
for the year ended 31st March 2019				
	Front	Bank	2019	2018
	Gardens	Gardens	Total	Total
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Assessments receivable	61,558	40,431	101,989	89,589
Bike Shed hire	361	181	542	458
Randolph Cresc Gardens	1,251	-	1,251	1,038
Outside subscriptions	5,031	2,516	7,547	5,337
Awning hire	167	83	250	325
Key deposits net of costs	285	142	427	367
Dog registration income	2,514	1,257	3,771	3,575
Donations	13	7	20	29
	71,180	44,617	115,797	100,718
Bank interest receivable	64	32	96	16
	71,244	44,649	115,893	100,734
EXPENDITURE				
Wages	33,795	16,897	50,692	49,692
Pension	2,952	1,476	4,428	1,728
Insurances	2,990	1,495	4,485	4,330
Fertilisers	1,645	-	1,645	1,506
Hire & repair of equipment	3,431	1,537	4,968	3,304
Turf, top soil & grass seed	-	39	39	406
Fuel	433	216	649	657
Consumables	137	68	205	836
Maintenance of railings, gates & benches	1,224	4,587	5,811	2,276
Wall maintenance	-	-	-	360
Professional fees - Arches	-	2,438	2,438	-
Small tools & equipment	105	52	157	432
Edging & gravel	67	67	134	312
Plants	676	407	1,083	2,756
Gardeners' travel expenses	126	63	189	323
Dog expenses	901	451	1,352	549
Equipment depreciation	4,195	4,801	8,996	6,435
Waste collection	378	189	567	481
Electricity - Bothy	523	262	785	1,300
Tree surgeon	640	2,960	3,600	280
Sundries	13	7	20	20
Training	148	74	222	-
Honoraria & gifts	86	44	130	86
	54,465	38,130	92,595	78,069
Secretaries & Treasurers' fees	11,266	5,633	16,899	16,300
Secretaries & Treasurers' fees - dogs	867	433	1,300	1,250
Website maintenance	220	110	330	393
Net social event cost	266	133	399	164
Debt collection & searches	146	73	219	868
Bad debts	-	-	-	330
	12,765	6,382	19,147	19,305
Surplus/(deficit) for year	4,014	137	4,151	3,360

LORD MORAY'S FEUARS				
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March 2018				
ASSETS EMPLOYED				
	Cost	Depreciation	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Machinery & equipment	69,695	51,753	17,942	22,066
additions	18,793	-	18,793	2,312
disposals	-	-	-	-
charge for year		8,996	(8,996)	(6,435)
	88,488	60,749	27,739	17,943
Current assets				
Wood stock			1,304	1,891
Assessments outstanding			3,532	3,380
Prepayments and VAT			8,559	4,477
Bank deposit accounts			31,570	39,902
Bank current account			1,000	1,000
			45,965	50,650
Current liabilities				
Creditors			(7,607)	(7,009)
			(7,607)	(7,009)
Net current assets			38,358	43,641
Total net assets				
			66,097	61,584
	Front	Bank		
FUNDS EMPLOYED	Gardens	Gardens	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
General Fund b/f	11,999	40,683	52,682	49,322
Results for year	4,014	137	4,151	3,360
General Fund c/f	16,013	40,820	56,833	52,682
Amenity fund	6,640	2,624	9,264	8,902
	22,653	43,444	66,097	61,584
AMENITY FUND				
Balance brought forward	6,399	2,503	8,902	8,518
Voluntary contributions	241	121	362	384
	6,640	2,624	9,264	8,902
WHITELAW WELLS				
Chartered Accountants				
Treasurers				