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FoMR Spring Newsletter 2021

Dear FoMR friend,

The information in this quarter's newsletter will keep you up-to-date with issues that affect our wonderful green environment as we watch our trees grow new leaves and our bulbs return to flower once again.

Another successful application to Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

FoMR has been successful in our application to HES to include boundary walls on the outer edges of Mugdock Road and Strathblane Road. It is of benefit that both listings (listed building and designed garden) align fully with each other.

We are delighted that our application has been successful as this is a significant development as part of our wider protection and preservation efforts.

Progress update from Milngavie Reservoir Liaison Group

FoMR has continued to work closely with Scottish Water in the successful completion of Scottish Water's Strategic Plan in context to restore and maintain Milngavie Reservoir.

Scottish Water is intending to run a trial of a new ranger service, based at Commissioners Cottage, later on this year. This service will guide visitors to use the site responsibly and to adhere to Milngavie Reservoir local bylaws to keep Glasgow's water supply safe.

FoMR is supporting Scottish Water in developing an investment appraisal to undertake improvements of the paths network. It is acknowledged that

delivering a long-term sustainable solution, that will aim to address current drainage issues, is the best way forward to enhance and improve paths.

Our new Vision Statement

As part of our commitment to everyone who enjoys visiting the reservoirs, we have produced a new Vision Statement to set out our key priorities over the next three years. These are: Community and Partnership, Biodiversity and Green Conservation, Health and Wellbeing and Heritage and Visitor Access.

It is an exciting and ambitious plan that will help us in our efforts to enhance and protect this unique conservation area, National Garden and Designated Landscape and its A-listed Building status.

Our vision will enable us to work more closely with national conservation bodies and local community groups. It also includes working more collaboratively with Scottish Water, particularly on the priorities identified in the public consultation (2020) and the important next phase of this. As part of this, Scottish Water and FoMR have committed to jointly develop a Path Restoration Plan, to improve existing pathways (as above), which will improve access for all and the overall visitor experience.

Looking ahead, we also hope to make progress with plans for volunteering, new interpretation signage, improved car parking and the creation of woodland walks and green areas to support native flora and fauna. We will also continue to focus on the conservation of existing structures, including Commissioner's Cottage, as well as on plans to improve and protect the wider landscape and biodiversity.

The Vision Statement is our public pledge to you and you can read this in more detail at www.fomr.uk and on our Facebook page in the middle of May.

Volunteeringis coming soon

FoMR is awaiting final sign-off of Scottish Water's volunteer policy that will allow our team of volunteers and local partner agencies to roll up our sleeves and carry out some tidy-up work. We will, of course, be guided on any COVID – necessary safety measures and guidelines going forward.

Best wishes,
FoMR Committee

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