

# Valley Voice

*For all the*



Friends of  
**Braidburn Valley Park**

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## Birdspotting

We are delighted to see **Dippers** enjoying the burn. Despite their being at 'moderate risk of extinction', we often spot these small birds fishing for stonefly and caddis fly larvae.

Dippers have a third, transparent eyelid that they can close, enabling them to see underwater.



## Come to our AGM

See you on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm** at Greenbank Parish Church? Arrive from 1:45pm for refreshments. All are welcome - members, non-members and friendly dogs!

Come for a cuppa, a biscuit and updates on park activities!

We'd especially love to meet anyone who can help organise **Tea in the Park**, our annual family fun day, dog show and duck race in late summer.



Other regular visitors include **Herons**, and a group of **Redwings** which were too quick for local bird lover Barbara to snap!

**Send us any wildlife photos from the park!**



## Tree trail progress

How many trees can you identify? With such a variety of beautiful trees, we hit upon the idea of a Tree Trail: an enriched and educational walk around the park.

Thirteen trees will feature in our tree trail: **Aspen, Cherry, Hornbeam, Wheatley Elm, Rowan, Swamp Cypress, Maple, Horse Chestnut, two types of Willow, Birch, Pine and Oak.**

These trees will be identified with a plaque, similar in style to the park's memorial plaques.

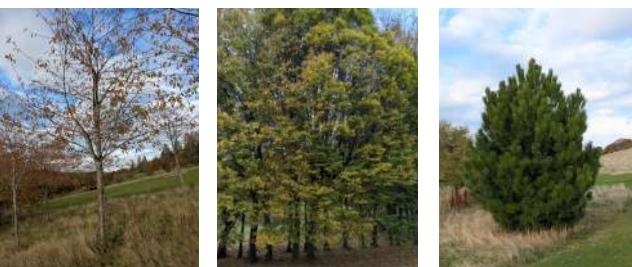


We chose trees which were significant to the history of the park, easily accessible, and not an issue for grass mowing. The trail will form a circular walk running along most of the length of the park, taking the walker on both sides of the burn.

As well as a simple map and on-tree plaques, we use What3words to record each tree's location. Once this project is complete, you'll find all this information on the park's notice boards and our website.

Edinburgh Council is very enthusiastic and supportive of this proposal. We are currently discussing plaque and post suppliers, and their subsequent installation.

We hope this work will be completed in spring 2026 so that the tree trail can soon be enjoyed by as many people as possible.





## We ❤️ Tea in the Park

Our annual family fun day was well attended, and the weather just about held out till the end!

As usual the highlights of the day were the **dog show** and **duck races**, both sponsored with excellent prizes by local businesses.

Huge thanks are due to the organisers led by **Tracy Brocklehurst**, who took up the baton from our previous star organiser Claire Jellema. We are indebted to the many volunteers needed for the various stalls.

## (Re)building bridges

For some time we have needed metal sheeting over the Rowan Tree Bridge due to rotten wooden beams. We are sad the bridge is beyond repair after only 15 years!

Recently though the sheeting slipped to reveal a hole which needed fixing promptly as a temporary measure until money can be found for a new bridge.

The Council's Peter Davidson and the wonderful parks team not only mended this bridge. They also did a full repair on the Hornbeam Bridge by the theatre which also had rotten beams. Wonderful job!





## Cross-trainer fixed!

One of our pieces of gym equipment, the cross-trainer, developed a fault in April 2022. The first attempt at fixing it failed after a few weeks, and new parts were ordered. Many delays ensued, and our parts were mistakenly used in another park!

Finally after many polite emails from us, Cllr Munro was a little more forceful in her request... Within days it was fixed in July 2025! Some 39 months after the initial fault! It still needed the handles reversing and broke down again after a week, but this time a simple loose part was promptly fixed. Phew!

## What we do

**Becoming a Friend just means paying £3-5 a year** - it's like making it official that you love our park. And that's it!

Got more time?

- A dozen committee members meet four times a year to decide on projects.
- Anyone interested volunteers their time to help weed, water, litter-pick or run events. Fun but optional!

## Friends' fiver fee freeze

Thank you to the 215 members who have joined or renewed your subscription. If you haven't, don't delay! Please recruit friends and neighbours too!

- We appreciate standing orders instead of cash or cheque - the admin is easier for us and you.
- Please consider **paying a little more** than £3-5 - these rates haven't changed since the Friends formed over 20 years ago!

See [What your friends do](#) on our website to learn how your money is used.

We now only have 15 members we can't reach by email. If that's you, please email

**[membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)** to say hi. Thanks for saving paper and trees! Most subs renew in January - thanks in advance!