

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk



Winter 2010 Issue 20



Girl Guide Centenary Cherry Tree Planting



The Cherry Tree Trefoil towards the southern end of the Park was planted in 1935 by 5000 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers in the shape of their emblem – a trefoil. Over 400 cherry trees were planted as avenues alongside the paths and make a magnificent display of pink and white blossom in the spring. These trees are now over 70 years old and in decline.

A program of replacement was started in 2008 with around 50 new trees planted. To help commemorate the Centenary of Girl Guiding, the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park will welcome 100 Girl Guides who will be replanting another 100 trees on the afternoon of **SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2010 at 2pm at the park's main gate on Greenbank Crescent**. All are welcome to join the celebrations.

In preparation for this, some of the trees towards the north end of the trefoil have now been felled. The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have been awarded a grant from the Edinburgh Council Neighbourhood Partnership to use some of the wood from the felled cherry trees to make benches for the Park.

The replacement trees will be of similar varieties and will be of sufficient size to enable them to flower in the first season. They should soon give as good a display of spring blossom as the original trees.



Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Annual General Meeting, 2010

Sunday 7th March

Come for a walk in Braidburn Valley Park and see the improvements taking place.

Meet at the **main park gates** on Greenbank Crescent at **2pm**. To be followed by refreshments in Greenbank Church at 3pm (or on the stage if the weather permits).

All welcome!

Flood Prevention Works

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are delighted that the flood prevention work is nearly finished and that the park's Oxgangs entrance is open again. The Friends' committee recently met Carillion who are carrying out the flood defence work. We discussed the grass seed mixtures that will be sown on both sides of the burn, and the distribution of the trees and shrubs that will be planted. We are confident that the end result will be an improvement. In particular we are pleased to have saved the distinctive White Poplar trees at the Oxgangs entrance and to have improved the southern bank of the burn.

Comiston Spring Avenue Steps

As soon as Mike Shields, our Council Community Parks Officer, looked at the park steps at Comiston Springs Avenue, he realised there was potential for an accident. This was mainly because the old timber risers had completely rotted away in places revealing anchoring metal stakes that were an obvious trip hazard. In the autumn, the new steps were installed very quickly and with minimum disruption. The marble edging to the steps has been retained. Does anyone know where this came from? Since then the shrubbery around the entrance has been cut back to reveal an enticing vista of the park. A useful hand rail has been installed along the side of the steps to help everyone, especially when it is wet, icy or simply covered in slippery leaves. We hope that it has been useful during our recent challenging wintery weather!

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk Web Site

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have changed our website to make it easier to see the "Latest News". The headlines are now featured on the right-hand side of the website. In addition to being able to read the latest updates you can also submit comments and questions, and read other people's comments.

With so much going on in the Park at the moment - the Flood Defence work, the next phase of the cherry tree replacement, even snow reports for sledging - this is the best way to keep up to date. The even better news is that you no longer have to keep looking at the website to see if anything new has been posted. You can now subscribe to have the Latest News from Braidburn Valley Park delivered straight to your Inbox by e-mail or via an RSS feed. Full details are on the website below Latest News.

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Annual Park Spring Clean

Sunday 25th April 2010
2-4pm

Waders, litter pickers and refreshments are provided

For further information about the Friends and Park see www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk or email info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk. We will always ensure that you get a paper copy of the Valley Voice if you want, but printing and delivery diverts valuable time away from jobs in the park. If at all possible please supply an e mail address.