

# The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

[www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)



Summer 2010 Issue 21



## Girl Guide Centenary Cherry Tree Planting



The Cherry Tree Trefoil at the southern end of the Park was planted for King George V's Silver Jubilee in 1935 by 5000 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers in the shape of the Guide emblem. Over 400 cherry trees were planted as avenues alongside the paths. They provide a magnificent display of pink and white blossom in the spring but sadly after over 75 years many trees are in decline. A replacement programme was begun in 2008 with around 50 new trees planted.

To help commemorate the Centenary of Girl Guiding, the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park welcomed a large company of Girl Guides, including some of the original 1935 cherry tree planters, to replace another 100 trees in February 2010. The local community and friends were invited to join the celebrations. A piper and drummer led the colourful procession, including the Deputy Lord Provost and City of Edinburgh Councillors and officials, to the tree planting area.

Afterwards Margaret Winter, the Guide County Commissioner, commented, "***What a great afternoon! Many thanks to all of you for making the Centenary tree planting go so well and such a fun afternoon in spite of the weather trying to put it off! Everyone seemed to have a good time and I am sure the link with the Braidburn Valley and Guiding has been strengthened and will continue for another 75 years. Thank you for all your hard work - it is so appreciated.***"

**Afternoon Tea in the Park, 2010**

**Braidburn Valley Park**

**Saturday 4th September**

**2 - 4.30 pm**

**Samba Band      Refreshments**

**Mountain Bike Display**

**Plant Stall      Duck Race**

**Willow Crafts      Raft Building**

**Bouncy Castle      Face Painting**

**All Welcome!**



**Congratulations to Margaret Walker** (left), local youth leader at Buckstone Youth Club, who won her award as the Part Time Youth Worker of the Year at the Youthlink Scotland Awards, **and to Charles Black** of our Friends' Committee, who among other numerous duties directs the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers in their many practical activities in the Park. Charles deservedly won an Inspiring Volunteer Award.

**The Braidburn Valley Park Annual Spring Clean** took place on Sunday 25th April. 64 people joined in - 31 children and 33 adults. The Friends have been given a grant from the Edinburgh Council Waste Action grant scheme to buy our own litter pickers, handihoods, spikes, gloves and hi-vis vests. They were immediately put to good use as the volunteers collected 131 kg of mixed waste, not counting several items that were too large to weigh, from the burn at the Oxbanks end of the Park. We also collected 9kg of cans, glass and plastic bottles which were separated with the help of Anita Duffy and Justine Stansfield - Recycling Officers from Edinburgh Council. This recyclable material was taken by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park to Council recycling points.

**Foreign Invader Under Attack.** Have you noticed the spread of what looks rather like rhubarb along the banks of the Braid Burn in recent years? This is Japanese Butterbur and where it becomes established it crowds out all the native species. How best to control it is a matter of some debate. The Council will not spray it as all their resources are used to control Giant Hogweed. There is of course also a question mark over the environmental impact of the chemicals used, especially near the water. The Friends have started to regularly cut back the growth of one clump and have attempted to completely dig out the smallest clump by the Stage. We will be monitoring both areas closely with the intention of identifying the method of control that is most effective and demands the least effort.

**Quartermaster Required.** Over recent years the Friends have been steadily buying tools and equipment to be used by volunteers and local school children in Braidburn Valley Park. Everything is stored in part of the crypt of Greenbank Church. The area is secure and well shelved. However we now have so much equipment it is becoming ever more difficult to keep track of it all. The Friends are seeking someone, or perhaps two or three people willing to work together, who can give up an hour or so every month to carry out a 'stock check' and to chase up those who have borrowed equipment but not returned it. The job does not entail joining the Friends' Committee but is an important way of ensuring that members' subscriptions and other funds are not wasted through poor management of our physical resources. For more information please contact Andrew Swann on 447 5473 or email [andrewmswann@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andrewmswann@tiscali.co.uk)

**Treasurer's Report.** Very many thanks to everybody who has paid their subscription for 2010. Without your support, we would not have the necessary funds for our administrative costs and for improvements to the park. At the time of writing, there are a few outstanding subscriptions and it would help us if these were paid as soon as possible. The work of the Treasurer is made easier if members are prepared to pay each year by Standing Order. Forms are available by emailing Lindsay Walls on [jw011g6519@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jw011g6519@blueyonder.co.uk) or phoning on 445 5415. If S.O.s are returned by 1<sup>st</sup> December, they will be recorded and sent on to the member's bank. Electronic transfers are also welcomed.

**Watch for Park details of a forthcoming Moth Trapping and Identification Event one July or August evening & following morning**



### **Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive**

Chair: Andrew Swann, tel: 0131 447 5473

Secretary: Peter Weeks, tel: 0131 447 1874

Treasurer/Membership: Lindsay Walls, tel: 0131 445 5415

Honorary Tree Wardens:

Keith Knight, tel: 0131 447 2138

& Louise Maguire, tel: 0131 445 3126

For further information about the Friends and Park see [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) or email [info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto: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 email address.