

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk



Winter 2010 Issue 22



Tea in the Park, 2010



“What a difference the sun makes! The best Tea in the Park yet” and “It was great listening to the music and watching the kids playing with rafts in the burn” were just two of the comments heard during the Friends’ eighth “Afternoon Tea in the Park” event in early September.

Rhythms from Pulse of the Place youth samba band fused with the Auld Spice Ceilidh Band and local pipers and drummers. Magic Ian (magician) entertained families with his bewildering tricks.

A bouncy castle was a new feature along with a bar to add to the refreshments. The duck race was the most competitive yet, as it was a sell out. Well done to all the lucky winners!

At least 500 people came along on the day and made the event the best attended yet. The funds raised will be used to subsidise future events and make them even better. The Friends would like to thank All Trades Network, Braid Hills Hotel, Cath Murray, City of Edinburgh Council, the Comerford Family, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, Edinburgh Leisure, George Heriot’s Parent’s Association, Henderson Wines, J C Lindsay & Co (painters and decorators), the Lewis Family, Loopy Lorna’s, Lothian & Borders Police, Margiotta Comiston Road, Morningside Lawnmower Services, Morningside School of Music, The Tusitala Bar and Restaurant, Sarah Menzies Flowers, Scottish Natural Heritage,

Toys Galore and South Morningside Primary School for their generous support and donations.

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Annual General Meeting Sunday 13th March 2011

Enjoy a guided walk in Braidburn Valley Park and see the improvements.
Meet at the Main Park Gates on Greenbank Crescent at 2pm.
Followed by refreshments in Greenbank Church **All welcome**

2011 Afternoon Tea in the Park will be on Saturday 3rd September.

Book the sun now!



Police team marking bikes

Braidburn Valley Park Cherry Tree Benches

The cherry trees in the Park are now over seventy years old and in decline. A replacement programme began in 2008 which will last up to twenty years. To celebrate the Centenary of Girl Guiding in 2010, a hundred new trees were planted in 2010. Some eighty trees were felled in 2009. Many had rot in their trunks but around twenty larger logs in good condition were saved.

These logs were converted into benches for the Park using a Community Grant from the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership. The benches were made by Julian Angus in his workshop at Cousland in Midlothian to a very high standard and finish. Each has the date of 1935 carved into a leg as a connection to the planting date of the trees from which the timber came.

The Friends Group decided to place the benches within the original cherry tree trefoil. One was installed below the ramped access off Comiston Road and two on the path to the east of the burn. The wood will darken and weather with time but the benches will be treated annually with teak oil to prolong their life of around ten years. We hope the hundreds of daily users of the Park will appreciate them as places to rest and enjoy the views. Recycling the logs maintains a Park connection with the original trees planted in 1935 by the Girl Guides and avoids sending the chipped logs to landfill.



Keep That Green Flag Flying

Enthusiastic Friends, Committee members, QII members and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteers have been busy over recent months on a variety of tasks in the Park. Good progress was made on each of the 'Work Party' evenings. If you have an hour for gentle exercise, fresh air and great company look out for notices in 2011.

Dead rowan trees have been removed from the areas originally planted by the Council. Broken and fallen branches have been lifted from paths and quick acting local residents have acquired some firewood! The battle against invasive Japanese Butterbur continues by the bridge beneath the Pavilion. It is impossible to remove all the roots and so follow up work is needed in 2011 but native species, especially grass, may now re-establish.

Turf encroaching on the path with lights that crosses the Park has been cut back to reveal all the tarmac which has made parts of the path significantly wider. This job falls in the 'painting the Forth Bridge' category and could last for ever! Similarly, we have regularly painted out graffiti on the gas governor and the electricity sub station. Finally a number of bat boxes made by the Cubs have been fixed to trees at the southern end of the Park.

The list of potential jobs is endless but many Park users have commented on how fine the Park looks, in part thanks to the volunteers. And how the Park is used! As a member told us, *"We've had all three grandchildren in the Valley this week in some of the worst weather we've had in a long while - and they (and we) had a grand time regardless!"* Long may such pleasure continue.



Samba Band

Membership Secretary's Report

We are grateful to all you readers for your continuing membership. This lets us pay towards our Liability Insurance which cover us for events in the Park; for insuring our equipment (over £2,000.00 worth); for the maintenance of the website; and for the costs involved in distributing the **Valley Voice**.

If you are not already on Standing Order, your Membership Renewal is attached with this edition and I anticipate receiving your subscription before the end of January. The renewal slip has a slightly different format from previous years with regard to Gift Aid. We have had professional advice that we should use this format. Once that is done, you will not have to complete it again, unless you have a change of circumstances.

Once again, many thanks. Without our strong membership base, we would not be able to keep up the high standards of work in Braidburn Valley.

Lindsay Walls, Membership Secretary

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& Louise Maguire, Tel: 0131 445 3126

For further information about the Friends and Park see www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk or email info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Look out for up to date details on posters before the AGM and other events. If you supply an email address you can also be sent details by email.

Charity registered in Scotland (SC040192)