

# The Valley Voice

## Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

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



Summer 2014 Issue 29



### What Flavour is Our Urn?

Natural, low fat yoghurt flavour!

You may be familiar with the saga of the ornamental stone urn on the right hand pillar at the park's main entrance. After standing there for 80 years, in 2013 it was knocked off and smashed by a contractor's vehicle. Last summer, a replacement was created and put in place but it is much more yellow than its left hand counterpart. The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park came up with 'Project Yoghurt' to speed up the natural colonisation process and even up the colours.

Based on techniques developed by Historic Scotland, painting a thin layer of diluted yoghurt on stone acts as a spawning ground for bacteria and fungi - the initial biological colonisers. However, they have a hard time getting started when the stone is sterile. The yoghurt layer gets them going, then green algae come along, then lichen.

The Friends were delighted that Waitrose in Morningside were able to help by donating 5 litres of natural, low fat yoghurt (although we would have been happy with any flavour!). At the end of July, we got out the long ladders and painted and squirted the yoghurt on the urn to make sure that it was completely covered.

Historic Scotland advises that it will take at least six months before we see any lichens or algae starting to grow. Initially they will be tiny millimetre diameter pinheads. They will only grow a millimetre or so a year even with the help of the yoghurt, with lichens probably appearing on the sunlit (drier) side and green algae on the shaded (damper) side.

The Friends ask our regular park users to keep an eye on the right hand urn and when you are next eating yoghurt, think of its more unusual uses!



### Congratulations to Charles Black,

who received an MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to youth in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Edinburgh.



The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park benefitted very much through four years of Duke of Edinburgh endeavour, as has the Park thanks to the efforts of Charles himself, seen here instructing South Morningside Primary.

### Renewal of 5 Year Management Plan

Thanks to all the members and general public for their helpful responses and suggestions for the future of the Park which have all been fed back to the Council.



**Afternoon Tea in the Park 2014**  
**Braidburn Valley Park Fun Day**  
**Sat 6th September, 2 - 4.30pm**  
World famous duck race, bouncy  
castles, magician, ceilidh band,  
Morningside pipers, face  
painting, storytellers, crafts,  
games, raft building, tea tent,  
refreshments, bar



**The Green Team Extending the Bee Meadow**

## A Floral Success Story

The original wildflower meadows have been looking superb this summer with a good mix of plants spreading all over including some orchids, plus lots of yellow rattle in flower - this plant continues to suppress the original grass. (See photo below,) The bog area is also looking good and large clumps of flag iris bloomed this year. In the wet flush that runs down over the path at the south end we had put in some plug plants of water avens and these are now established and flowering.

The **Green Team** (part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award) did a great job in the park this spring, clearing an area of turf to extend the bee meadow on the east side of the park, south of the pavilion. The young people seeded part of the de-turfed area using the Grow Wild free seeds that we received from Greenspace Scotland. This action was then followed up when the **Greenbank Guides** completed the other part of that area using their Grow Wild free seeds. Finally **'With Kids' Family Volunteers** from Oxbgangs seeded much of the former rose bed.

## A Green Invitation to All Braidburn Dog Walkers

**Green Dog Walkers** (GDW) is a non-confrontational, friendly way to change attitudes about dog fouling. Volunteers wear a **Green Dog Walker** armband which signifies that they are responsible dog walkers who are committed to clearing up after their own dog(s) and trying to influence others to do the same.

The **green** arm band acts as a friendly reminder to others to please pick up after their dogs. Dog waste can be bagged and put in any public litter bin if a specific dog waste bin is not provided.

City of Edinburgh Council have adopted powers under the latest legislation to issue Fixed Penalty Notices of £60 for dog fouling.

A warning to those who dispose of the bags in bushes at the side of paths or hang them from trees. This could incur an even heavier fixed penalty notice because it would be treated as litter.

Find out how you can become a **Green Dog Walker** at the Braidburn Valley Park Fun Day on **6 September 2014**.



**Wildflower Meadow**

## Who Needs Trams?

Lindsay Walls has sent us another fascinating transport museum piece dating from 1962. This is a very amateur early colour shot of an experimental bus turning into Greenbank Terrace. Note the swing to get round the corner and the lack of trees in the background. No traffic lights or impatient queues either!



**1962 Experimental Bus**

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)**

You can also be sent details by email.  
Charity registered in Scotland (SC040192)

## Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive

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