



The VALLEY VOICE

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Welcome to the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park's first Newsletter.

It is only four months ago that the Steering Committee was set up but it seems longer! Following a long struggle by Cllr Lindsay Walls and the City of Edinburgh Council Parks Dept., and many rainy afternoons spent walking the Park and discussing the possibility of setting up a "Friends" group – here we are!

The Steering Committee was set up on 6th June 2002 to get the "Friends" up and running. It consists of eleven local residents, all of whom have worked extremely hard on your behalf.

Since June they have produced a constitution which will be available for all members at the Annual General Meeting, sometime in January 2003. They have also put the organization on a solid financial footing through your membership fees, donations and sponsorships.

The membership is now in excess of 180 and still growing but please tell all your friends – the more the merrier!

Thank you all for your support so far. Please keep it coming.

Jim Lavin
Acting Chairman.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Kim & Celia Prichard on the birth of their first child, a son, Callum. Kim is a member of the Steering Committee and knowing his enthusiasm I have no doubt that Callum (our newest member) will be there on the 13th October to plant a few bulbs.

To the new Mrs Katharine Mackenzie. Katharine was one of the original Brownies who planted the Cherry Trees back in 1935 and contacted us to say that she would not be able to come to our Autumn Bulb Planting as she was getting re-married on the 12th October.

We hope everything went well.

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Braidburn Valley Park

As Parks Development Officer for Pentlands Local Development Committee Area, I was pleased to see the formal establishment of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park. Over the past two years there has been a rolling programme of park improvement works and many more are planned for the future. In partnership with the Friends, the Department of Culture & Leisure hopes to be able to consult on proposed works and attract additional funding for parks development initiatives.

During September further upgrading of path surfaces throughout the park was carried out including the route from Greenbank Crescent to Comiston Road (via new bridge), Comiston Springs Avenue to western footbridge, two of the cherry tree walkways and the completion of the main path.

In addition works will be carried out to the western footbridge and twelve new park benches will be installed during October / November.

To support the Autumn Bulb Planting Day, the department will supply dwarf daffodils and bluebells for naturalised planting. Planted below the establishing tree groups, this will provide a splash of colour next spring.

Other improvement works for the future include refurbishment of park gates, repairs to railings, replacement shrub planting and tree planting. It is encouraging to learn of the volume of support for the park and these improvement measures particularly following decades of under investment within this splendid valley park.

James Hunter
Parks Development Officer

Do You Pick Up?

We would respectfully ask all those of you who walk their dogs in the park to give consideration to all the other park users and "pick-up" after your dogs. We all know how unpleasant it is to clean up our shoes or, worse still, our children's hands and clothes. Bins are provided and it is hoped that more and better ones will be forthcoming.

We have no desire to stop people from walking their dogs in the park. It is a beautiful place for them to play and run free. All we ask is that you act responsibly and keep the park a beautiful place for everyone.

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New Park Benches

You may have noticed that we now have a number of new park benches. As James Hunter said in his article, it is proposed that up to a further twelve will be sited soon.

If you would like to add to this number by way of a commemorative bench, the Committee will be pleased to hear from you. Giving others pleasure is a lovely and permanent way to remember a loved one.

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Your Views

We are very interested in hearing your views on the park. If you have any, please let us know. You can do this by contacting Jim Lavin on 0131 447 5109 or attending our A.G.M. in January – date, time and place to be advised.

It would be nice if some of them were complimentary!

The Scottish Parliament

A Message From Iain Gray MSP: Member of the Scottish Parliament for Edinburgh Pentlands and Minister for Enterprise, Transport & Lifelong Learning.

The formation of friends of Braidburn Valley Park is a great initiative. So is the idea for a very practical first venture – a bulb planting which will immediately make a difference to what is a bit of a hidden jewel locally. I am sure October 13th will be a great success, but what will make it really special will be the support of some of those who took part in the cherry tree planting in the 1930s. This celebration of a piece of local history gives a real added dimension to the planting and points up how Braidburn valley park runs through the history as well as the geography of Braidburn.

I was very pleased at the meeting of the Friends I attended to see the excellent partnership between the Council and local volunteers. I look forward to seeing the results on the 13th and even more so in the spring when the bulbs come up!

A. G. M.

It is proposed that we will hold our first Annual General Meeting in mid January 2003 at a venue, date and time as yet to be arranged. At the A.G.M. the constitution will be available for all members.

A progress report will be presented outlining what has been achieved so far. A list of future objectives will also be presented, as will the annual accounts.

We would ask that any member who is prepared to serve on the Committee for 2003 pass their name to Jim Lavin 447 5109. The committee consists of eleven members including - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Secretary.

Present committee members are free to seek re-election.

Don't be shy – Give it a Try!

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Autumn Bulb Planting Day

When the Steering Committee decided on our Autumn Bulb Planting as our first project, the Parks Department offered to supply the bulbs and we thought it would be nice to enlist the help of the Scouts, Guides, Brownies and local school children to help with the planting.

Malcolm Cant, a local historian who is also a member of the Friends told us that in 1935 5,000 Guides and Brownies planted the cherry trees in the Park in honour of the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

We thought it would be an idea to see if we could contact any of these original Guides and Brownies and invite them to be our Guests of Honour. We then wrote to the Edinburgh Evening News who featured the story.

What a response! We received calls from 65 ladies from Southampton to Grantown on Spey, most of whom were sure they could find the tree they planted.

This is when we thought - we need help! Fortunately, the Braid Hills Hotel came to our rescue and offered to supply our guests with tea and light refreshments.

CALA Homes kindly sponsored a mini bus to ferry our guests from the Park to the Hotel and back and Greenbank Parish Church offered to provide chairs, tables and toilet facilities.

In case they think we have forgotten them let me assure our helpers - Scouts, Guides & Brownies that we will have snacks and drinks available for them also.

Sunday 13th October 2.00pm - 4.00pm

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

gratefully acknowledge the support received from the following organisations:-

The Pavillion Lounge Bar & Restaurant
Majestic Wine Warehouses
Braid Hills Hotel
Morningside Community Council
Firhill Community Council
Fairmilehead Community Council
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