



# The VALLEY VOICE

## *Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park*

I would like to thank everyone (the weatherman included!) for making our Autumn Bulb Planting such a great success. The list is endless but here goes:- The Scouts for providing, erecting and then removing the two Marquees; the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows for working so hard planting the bulbs; the "Original Guides and Brownies" for turning up in such numbers and making a day of it; all the Friends and visitors who came along - especially those who brought their spades and helped with the planting (there were quite a few blisters and sore backs to be nursed the next day!); Greenbank Parish Church, who provided toilet facilities, chairs, tables and hot water; all of you who helped clean away all the rubbish afterwards; James Hunter, Parks Development Officer and Karen Hayes from Urban Forestry who gave up their own time to help; all the committee's relatives who gave of their time especially Pauline's Mum who helped with the teas and Karen's Mum who helped with the wee ones; all the companies, organisations and individuals who gave so generously; and last but by no means least, a huge thanks to each and every member of the Committee without whose unstinting help and wholehearted support the event would never have taken place.

**Jim Lavin**  
Acting Chairman.



**Cllr Lindsay Walls takes a break from digging, while Jim McKay, Acting Head of Leisure Development, surveys the work!**

### **Can you Help ?**

We will require nominations for new Committee Members before the AGM. If you would like to help in this very worth while work, and can spare a few evenings per year, please give your name to Jim Lavin, 447 5109.

***This is your chance to help make a difference!***

### **The Day Arrived**

The Council Park's Department had made a start the previous day by turning back some turf ready for planting the bulbs.

**10.00am** - Those who arrived started preparing more holes – we had 50,000 bulbs to plant! Others went to help the Scouts who were supplying and erecting the marquees and to collect the tables and chairs from Greenbank Parish Church. James Hunter, Parks Development Officer, arrived with the bulbs and spades and Karen Hayes, Urban Forestry, arrived with more spades.

In no time at all, the marquees were set up, the tables and chairs were put in place, the refreshments were laid out, the bulbs and spades placed at strategic points and everything put in order. Time for the workers to have a “cuppa” and a bite before the guests arrived.

**1.45pm** - The guests started to appear. “Friends” and neighbours complete with spades made themselves useful cutting more holes, the Guides and Brownies from 1935 started to arrive - a bit shy at first, then gradually they saw faces they recognised and the tongues started wagging!

**2.15pm** - Fiona Watt and her present day Guides, Brownies and Rainbows arrived and battle commenced! Everyone got down to the task in hand with such gusto! The poor diggers had a job on their hands trying to keep one hole ahead of the planters! With an estimated 250 people there we certainly drew a lot of attention from the passers-by. By the end of the day we had planted approx 23,000 bulbs!!!

In the mean time, the 1935 troop planted some bulbs, went off to see if

they could find their cherry tree or just sat in the Marquee and had a cup of tea and a chat.

It was good to see the Minister for the Environment, Transport and Life Long Learning, Iain Gray MSP and his wife Gil, Councillors, Lindsay Walls and Daphne Sleigh and Jim McKay Acting Head of Leisure Development giving up their Sunday afternoon to come along and give their support. I think they may even have planted a bulb or two!

**4.00pm** - After a hard afternoons work the young planters broke off for some much earned refreshments, kindly sponsored by McAdam's SSC, while the 1935 Troop, our Guests of Honour retired to the Braid Hills Hotel for some (more) tea and refreshments.

**5.00pm** - Everyone had left and surprise, surprise, there was not one piece of litter left to show we had been there! What a magnificent effort from everyone.

The whole committee sincerely hope you all enjoyed the day as much as you seemed to, I know we all did. After such a successful day all I can say is. let's do it again, in the Spring!!!



**Iain Gray and his wife, Gil, help with the planting.**

*“What a Swell Party that Was”!!!*



**The guests start arriving.**



**Now tell me which troop were you in?**



**The bulb planting in full swing.**



**Our own Park Ranger, Athol, marches the 1935 Troops off to find their cherry trees.**



**The Guides, Brownies & Rainbows enjoy some well earned refreshments.**



**The 1935 Troops enjoy the hospitality of the Braid Hills Hotel and they are still talking!**

### **A.G.M. - A Date for your Diaries**

Our first Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in South Morningside School. This will be followed by a slide presentation on the Park and its Environs by local historian, Malcolm Cant, himself a "Friend".

A copy of the constitution will be sent to you early in January, prior to the A.G.M. At the meeting we will bring you up to date with all that has happened since June 2002, outline our identified objectives for 2003, highlight actions already in the pipe-line, hear your views and take on board your concerns.

As per our constitution, the committee is re-elected annually. Those of you who can spare a few evenings per year and are willing to help by serving on the committee please send your name and address to:- The Secretary, The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park, 21 Greenbank Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 5TE, prior to the meeting.

This is a very worthwhile opportunity for each of you to have some input into the future development of the Park and we sincerely hope that a number will put their names forward. The wider the spectrum of input the better the outcome should be. The commitment is only for one year at a time, therefore the burden is not too onerous.

### **Your Views**

Do you have something to say? If you have any views or news that you think would be of interest to our readers then please drop us a line and we will be happy to publish them.

### **Some jokes for your parties**

These are from a book called Disorder in Court, and are things people actually said in court, word for word.

**Q:** What is your date of birth?

**A:** July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Q:** What year?

**A:** Every year.

**Q:** What gear were you in at the moment of impact?

**A:** Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

**Q:** So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8<sup>th</sup>?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** And what were you doing at the time?

**Q:** Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a depositor notice which I sent to your attorney?

**A:** No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

**Q:** Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Did you check for blood pressure?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Did you check for breathing?

**A:** No.

**Q:** So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

**A:** No.

**Q:** How can you be sure, Doctor?

**A:** Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

**Q:** But could the patient have been alive nevertheless?

**A:** Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park gratefully acknowledge the support received from the following organisations:-

**The Pavillion Lounge Bar & Restaurant  
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