



The VALLEY VOICE

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park



Samba in the Park

Our Carnival in the Park on 4th September was a great success. The Edinburgh Samba Band entertained all those who came into the park that afternoon. There was something for everyone with very popular craft activities and face painting for children, drumming workshops with the Samba Band, treasure hunt and refreshment tent. The day would not have been the success it was if it hadn't been for the help and assistance of a number of people. We would like to record our special thanks to :-

- The Scout leaders of 60th and 114th Morningside Scout Groups who at very short notice let us once again have the use of their

- tents and gave of their time
- Greenbank Church who let us have the use of tables and chairs
- Tusitala for the generous donation we received
- Tesco, Colinton Mains Road who gave us cash vouchers which we used to stock the refreshment tent
- Hendersons, Wine Merchants who participated in the event and made a kind donation
- Our local Councillor Mark McInnes who arranged for the port-a-loos
- Those members who volunteered to help out on the day.

Finally we would like to thank all our members for their support. It was great to see so many enjoying our beautiful Park as these photos show.

Following this year's success a similar event is planned for next year.



Braidburn Valley Park More than meets the eye!

If you have been in the park since Christmas, you have probably wondered about the mysterious looking stone cairns that appeared overnight. One is just down from the main Greenbank Crescent entrance and the other is at the top of the slope amidst the cherry trees in the park's south east corner.

They have not been put there for some strange ritual, but are awaiting (long awaiting!), the arrival of two different panels that will help to tell the story about some of the valley's more unusual history and wildlife. And what an interesting story is it too! For instance, did you know that in 1935, 5000 Girl Guides planted the cherry trees to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V, or that the park is home to Pipistrelle bats, which help us by eating around 2,000 midges per night.

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have been working on the panels for some time, and are grateful for funding from the City of Edinburgh Pentlands Local Development Committee and Scottish Natural Heritage. When the panels are mounted on the cairns, we hope that you will take the time to search out both of them and discover that there is more than meets the eye in Braidburn Valley Park.

A Message from the Chairman - Lindsay Walls

As the year draws to a close, it is traditional for the Chairman to reflect on the achievements of the Friends over the past year. However, as I have seen my original aspirations for the Park reach a momentum that I know will continue, I feel that it is time to step down as Chairman and let someone younger take the reigns.

That said, I can reflect, not only on the past year, but on the events which lead up to the establishment of the Friends. It was in January 1998 when, as the councillor for South Morningside, I was invited by the Recreation Committee to endorse a report for the establishment of an arboretum within the park.

From this the steering group

was set up which grew into the established Friends Group that exists today. The momentum really got under way with the successful bulb planting in 2002. Local residents flocked to join up as members and the original committee was established in January 2003. Since then, matters have progressed apace.

Our half yearly clean ups are well established and they are great fun and extremely rewarding. In September we held our second 'Fun Day' following on last year's "Story Telling in the Park". Rona's article on the front page gives you an idea of what fun this year's 'Samba in the Park' was. Karen and Christine, joined latterly by Andy, have put in stalwart work with the Interpretation Panels

(see Karen's article).

Many more ideas are flowing from the committee but we do need some more 'new blood' to maintain these. Please come along to the **Annual General Meeting on 27 January 2005** and put yourself forward. It is great fun getting the work done, as we all have a common goal, and that is to see Braidburn Valley Park as the jewel in Edinburgh's green crown.

Finally, may I thank committee members, past and present, who have supported me through my period as Chairman, James Hunter of the Parks Dept. and those of our members who have turned up, sometimes in the most appalling conditions to help with our projects.

James Hunter of the Parks Department writes:

The Department is carrying out planting during the autumn, initially with shrubs in October, followed by daffodils, narcissus and bluebells in November. Willows and Alders have been ordered to replace those unsafe trees which were recently removed from the burn side.

Costing has been obtained for the planting of a wildflower meadow in the south east corner of the park, near Comiston Springs Avenue. This is a naturally wet area, whose environment easily lends itself to such a project.

The department is looking at ways of improving access paths to the newly installed cairns and further works have been arranged to continue another phase of walling and path repairs at Fly Walk.

**A.G.M of the Friends of
Braidburn Valley Park and
Talk**

**Thursday 27th January 2005 @
7:45pm Greenbank Parish
Church, Braidburn Terrace**