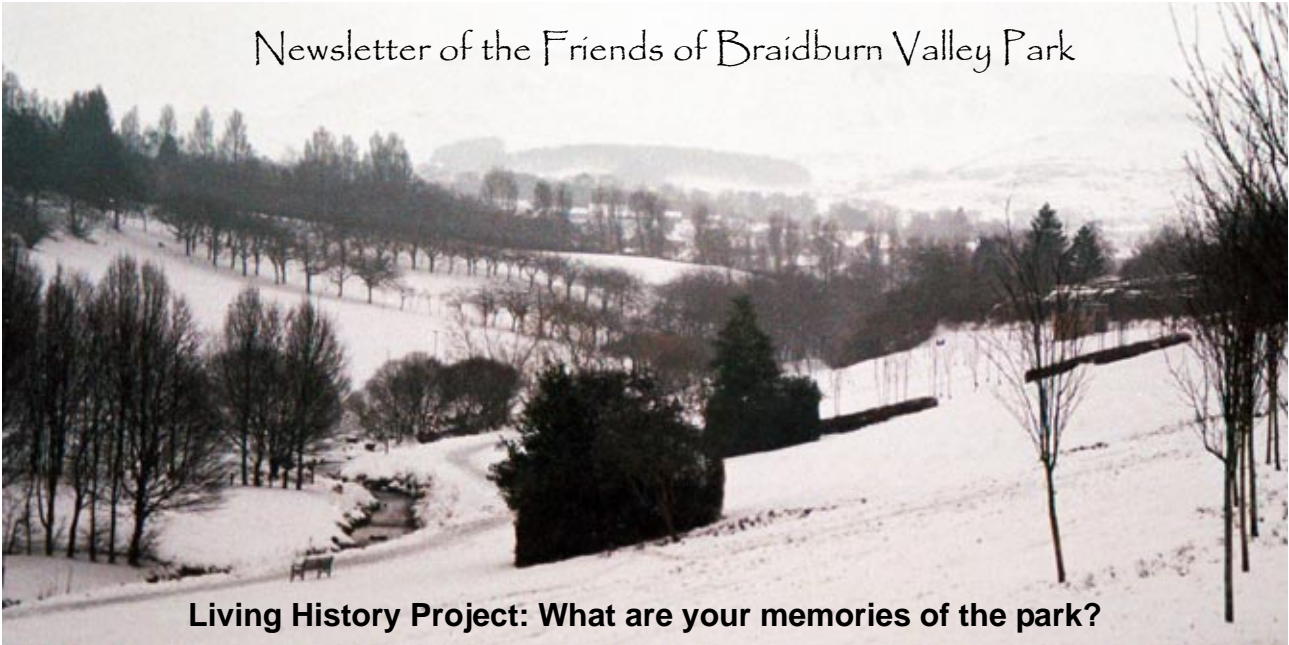




The VALLEY *VOICE*

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park



Living History Project: What are your memories of the park?

Braidburn Valley Park is a place with a lot of memories. Can you remember planting the cherry trees, working an allotment, shows in the amphitheatre, crossing the park to get the tram, or even particularly memorable times you sledged or fell in the burn? These are all personal memories, but the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are keen to make them community memories too.

The Friends would like to hear from anyone with any photographs, stories to tell about the park, or memorabilia. We would like to hear from you, or if you would prefer, we could visit you to hear and record your story. The Friends plan to create an archive of material about the park that will help us to tell the park's story locally and further afield.

The Friends will be writing to our Life Members who planted the original cherry trees for their memories, but the request goes to everyone – **we would love to hear from you.** Please get in touch with any of the Friends office bearers – see the back of this Valley Voice for details.

Fancy helping to keep your park clean?

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Annual Braidburn Valley Park Spring Clean

Saturday 16th April 2005

10am – 12 noon

Gloves, litter pickers, bin bags and waders provided.

Bring your own wellies and waterproof clothing.

We will be starting at the Oxgangs end of the park and working north.

ALL WELCOME!

**Braidburn Valley Park:
More than Meets
the Eye!**

If you have been in the park in the last year, you will have wondered about the two stone cairns that appeared overnight at the main entrance off Greenbank Crescent, and in the middle of the cherry tree trefoil in the south east corner of the park. The two cairns were built to house two interpretation panels that the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have been developing.

At last the wait is over and on 23rd April, the panels will be unveiled. One panel describes interesting aspects of the park's history including its connection with Robert Louis Stevenson, and its previous life as a farm and allotments. The other panel describes some of the more unusual plants and animals to be found in the park.

All members are very welcome to come along to the unveiling ceremony. It will be at 12:00pm on Saturday 23rd April at the stone cairn near the main park entrance on Greenbank Crescent. The panels will be unveiled by Cllr Ricky Henderson, Edinburgh Council's Executive Member for Culture and Leisure.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the panels and to the City of Edinburgh Council Pentland Local Development Committee and Scottish Natural Heritage who paid for them.

We will look forward to seeing you there or next time you are in the park, please look out for both panels and you will find that there is more in the park than meets the eye!

Limited Edition Prints of Braidburn Valley Park

The two attractive views that appear at the top of the new interpretation panels in the park are available in a single limited edition print (2ft x 6 inches) from Athol Pirie, Studio Services, tel: 0131 447 3500 for the reasonable price of £65. 10% of the proceeds

from each print will be donated to Friends of Braidburn Valley Park. If you would like to see a full size print, with no obligation, please contact Athol who would be delighted to let you see it. Enjoy a view of the park in your home!

Braidburn Valley Park

More than meets the eye!

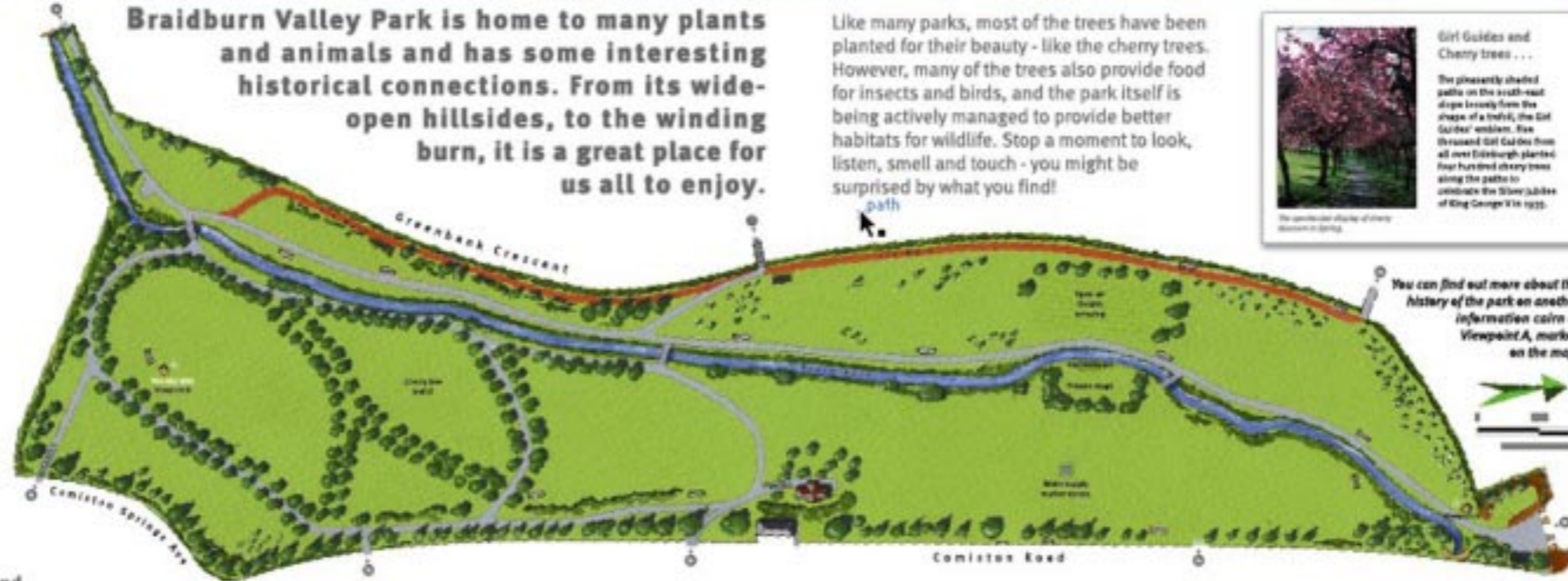


Braidburn Valley Park is home to many plants and animals and has some interesting historical connections. From its wide-open hillsides, to the winding burn, it is a great place for us all to enjoy.

Like many parks, most of the trees have been planted for their beauty - like the cherry trees. However, many of the trees also provide food for insects and birds, and the park itself is being actively managed to provide better habitats for wildlife. Stop a moment to look, listen, smell and touch - you might be surprised by what you find!



Girl Guides and Cherry trees ...
The pleasantly shaded paths on the south-east slope lead from the steps of a bridge, the Girl Guides' emblem. Five thousand Girl Guides from all over Edinburgh planted four hundred cherry trees along the paths to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George VI in 1935.



You can find out more about the history of the park on another information cairn at Viewpoint A, marked on the map.

Legend

- Park entrance / exit
- Tarmac path with tree drop grates
- Lawn surface path with tree drop grates
- Steps
- Burn
- Information cairn and viewpoint

'Good to eat, and wholesome to digest, as a worm to a toad, a toad to a snake, a snake to a pig, a pig to a man, and a man to a worm'

The park is like a restaurant - the animals and plants that live here are the diners and meals. And like a restaurant, the more variety there is on the menu, the more diverse the diners. Planting new plants and trees, and managing the park, provides both.

All of the plants and animals described here can be found in the park. Some of these species are indigenous to Edinburgh, but others are new and need to be looked after.

Plant: Red Admiral
The Red Admiral butterfly is a common sight in the park. It is a member of the Pieridae family and is known for its striking black and white wings with a red band. It feeds on a variety of plants, including nettles.

Animal: Toad
Toads are common in the park and are known for their ability to absorb water through their skin. They are often found in damp, shady areas.

Animal: Snake
The Common Adder is the only venomous snake found in Scotland. It is a member of the Viperidae family and is known for its distinctive zig-zag pattern on its back.

Animal: Pig
Pigs are often found in the park and are known for their ability to root out for food. They are a member of the Suidae family and are often used for meat.

Animal: Man
Humans are the most intelligent of all animals and are known for their ability to use tools and language. They are a member of the Hominidae family.

Animal: Worm
Worms are important for the soil and are known for their ability to burrow. They are a member of the Annelida phylum and are often used as bait for fishing.

Food Cycle: A fly lays an egg which hatches into a worm. A toad eats the worm. A snake eats the toad. A pig eats the snake. A man eats the pig. A worm eats the man.

Acknowledgements
The information on this panel was prepared by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park, with thanks to the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Edinburgh City Council. The panel was designed and illustrated by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park. The panel was printed by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park.

Calling all carpenters and wood workers!

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are planning to put up bird and bat boxes in the park. **We need your help to build the bird boxes.** We have the designs and could pay for wood, but we need DIY enthusiasts to make the boxes. Can you help?

Contact Karen Young on 0131 446 9795

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park AGM 27th January 2005

The AGM of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park took place in the Main Hall, Greenbank Parish Church on 27th January 2005. There was a good turn out of members.

After a Welcome from the Chairman Lindsay Walls and apologies, there followed reports from the Chairman,

Secretary and Treasurer. Karen Young (our new Chairman) gave members an update on the soon to be unveiled interpretation panels, and Secretary Rona Ferguson described the "Samba in the Park" event that had taken place in the summer 2004.

The Secretary advised that two committee members were standing down namely Pauline Ramsay and Claire Dorren. Nominations had been received from members Lesley Trew and Louise Maguire. They were welcomed onto the 2005 committee. The contribution of the retiring committee members was acknowledged.

There was an opportunity for members to ask questions about any issues involving the Park. On the question of the theatre steps, James Hunter, Parks Development Officer addressed the implications of the different ways of cutting this area.

After a refreshment break Fergus Cook, City of Edinburgh Council Countryside Ranger Service gave a very interesting slide show on spring in the Hermitage of Braid.

Rona Ferguson, Secretary

What is happening in the park?

Colin Anderson is the new City of Edinburgh Culture and Leisure Department contact for Braidburn Valley Park replacing James Hunter. Colin reports on various things happening in the park:

Greenbank Crescent Main Entrance

You may have been surprised to see that the left hand gate and some of the stone work has been knocked off. This was damaged by the contractor carrying out the stonework on Fly Walk. The contractor has promised to fix it.

Shrub Bed at the Greenbank Main

Entrance

Work is completed on the right-hand shrub bed as you enter the park. There are plans to improve the bed on the left to complement the new planting and make the entrance more attractive.

Scottish Water

Scottish Water has nearly completed the repair work to their pipes on the east side of the park, just down from

the Braid Hills Hotel. Scottish Water has promised to reinstate the grass and railings.

Trees around the Stage

The hornbeam trees that were planted around the stage are due to be thinned out. They will still mark out this historic feature, but the more poorly developed trees will be removed to allow those remaining to flourish.

Braid Burn Edge

Some work has taken place on replacing the willows next to the Braid Burn, and more work is planned. We will also be looking at the management of the burnside vegetation with the advice of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Some additional strimming of the vegetation may take place in front of seats and viewpoints. However, this will be balanced against the need to have vegetation that is

attractive to the wildlife in the park.

Flood Prevention Scheme

Notices recently appeared in the park about the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme. This will mainly affect the southern, Oxgangs end of the park and will involve the creation of a bund on the south western side of the path. Plans can be viewed at City of Edinburgh Council.

Pavilion

A structural survey of the pavilion was carried out recently, which gave the cost implications and options for reinstatement and use of the building. The committee of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are currently considering the report and have already carried out a questionnaire survey of Friends members to gather views about what should happen to this building.

If you have anything to report about the park, please contact the office bearers of the Friends – see back page – or Colin Anderson - 0131 664 1753.

Friends of Braidburn Valley Voice Committee 2005

Chair: Karen Young, 13 Greenbank Loan, tel: 0131 446 9795

Secretary: Christine Johnston, 18 Pentland Gardens, tel: 0131 447 2138

Treasurer: Colin McCulloch, 27 Greenbank Crescent, tel: 0131 447 0915

Membership Secretary: Lindsay Walls, 8 Buckstone Wood, tel: 0131 445 5415