



The VALLEY VOICE

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

New Panels Show that there is More to the Park than Meets the Eye!



At last they are here! As we reported in the last edition of the Valley Voice, the two empty stone cairns in the park have now been finished off by the addition of two splendid new interpretation panels. The panels, which tell stories about the history and the wildlife of the park, were unveiled on 23rd April 2005. True to form, the Friends were lucky in having a glorious day for the noon ceremony. A stirring tone was set as local piper, Andrew Ratter (10), piped the proceedings to attention. Around 60 Friends watched Councillor Ricky Henderson unveil a panel with a flourish, and he went on to describe the vital role that parks play in Edinburgh, and the importance of involving local people to help improve them.

Local councillor Mark McInnes and Karen Young, Chair of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park also spoke, along with Alistair Eadie – Head Teacher of South Morningside Primary – who was delighted to show off the three birch trees that had been planted the day before by 10 of his Primary 7s – hopefully the first of many.

Speeches over, the best part about the day was enjoying a buffet generously provided by the Council, in the sunshine. Around us, people walked, ran, paddled and enjoyed the park. However, now all of us can read the panels to find out how much more there is in the park than meets the eye.

You'll be having your afternoon

TEA IN THE PARK

Saturday
3rd. September, 2005
Braidburn Valley Park, 2-5pm

*Bring a picnic
and join us for
music, theatre
and children's activities.*

Live jazz from
The Braidburn Valley Stompers
★★★★★

Stolen Stories Theatre Group
performing 'Stuck up a tree'

Make a model raft to race in the burn!
Tea tent, baking and refreshments

Free entry, All welcome!

Note, some activities require payment.

Organised by The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

What is Happening in the Park?

The Committee of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have been hard at work, and can report a few successes for the park.

In June, six volunteer friends walked through the park carrying out an audit of the condition of the trees. There are a number of particular concerns such as what is the pest that is eating the cherry leaves and how can it be stopped? Did you notice that the cherry blossom appeared to be much poorer this year?

Of concern is the poor state of many of the newer trees – mainly rowan, alder and cherry. Many have died or failed to thrive because of what looks like damage by strimmers, too tight

Tree Audit

tree guards, vandalism and being planted too close to the older trees. Concerns about the replacement of the Wheatley Elms on Comiston Road, the decaying willows next to the burn, the newly thinned hornbeams around the stage, and what is happening to the trees on Fly Walk

and around the open-air theatre were all noted.

A short report has been written up and sent to various Council staff, who have agreed to work with the Friends to identify the priorities from the audit and develop a phased approach to implementing remedial works.

If you have any particular thoughts about the trees in the park – please let the Tree Warden, Christine Johnston know at
Christine@pentland.globalnet.co.uk

The Friends have been successful in receiving a grant from the Scottish Executive Biodiversity Action Grant Scheme to create a wildflower meadow in the park. The meadow will be at the south-east end of the park, on the steep slope between our new interpretation panel and the burn.

The wildflower meadow will be created in the autumn by the Friends

Wildflower Meadow

with the help of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It is hoped that school children from the new Pentland Primary and South Morningside Primary will also be involved, helping to plant the seed

and in future years to rake an annual hay crop from the meadow. If anyone would like this hay from 2006, and could remove it from the park, please could you get in touch!

The Friends have applied to Edinburgh Council Biodiversity Implementation Fund for the balance of the funding to enable this exciting project to go ahead

Bird and Bat Boxes

A huge "Thank You" goes to Alan Smith, who, along with two others kindly replied to the request in the last *Valley Voice* for volunteers to help build bird and bat boxes for the park. Amazingly, Alan has built the first 13! We hope the boxes will have been installed by the time you read this newsletter.

Another chance to help keep your Park clean!

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Annual Autumn Clean-Up

Sunday 9th October 2005

2 - 4pm

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!



Friends of Braidburn Valley Committee 2005

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

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