



The VALLEY VOICE

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Pupils Go Wild in the Park!

More than 300 children from South Morningside and Pentland Primaries have been rolling up their sleeves and getting their hands dirty in the Park over the last six months. The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have set up a number of activities to get as many children involved as possible, and to create more habitats that are attractive for wildlife.

South Morningside Environmental Day

November 2005 saw the biggest turn out of children in one day. Two hundred and fifty pupils from P3-7 took part in a series of environmental tasks. Seven thousand bluebell bulbs were planted on the slope across from the petrol station by mountain-climbing P3s. Forty small alder trees from the Council's tree nursery were planted along the banks of the burn.

P6s got disposable cameras from the Friends to take photographs of things that they liked and disliked about the park, and some seasonal shots for our developing website.



P7s worked with the Development Officer for the Edinburgh and Southern Orienteering Club and the Boroughmuir Active Schools Coordinator to map out an orienteering course in the park. You will hear more about this in future editions of the Valley Voice.



Wildflower Meadow

Ninety-eight mainly P4s from both Pentland and South Morningside Primaries have taken part in four sowing and planting events to create the Park's new wildflower meadow. This is on the slope between the southern interpretation panel and the burn. The Scottish Wildlife Trust helped the children with the planting, and encouraged them to think about why wildflowers are important. Twenty-two species, from red campion and yarrow to ever popular poppies, will be sprouting over the next few months. Please go and have a look!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friends of Braidburn Valley Park
Summer Community Event**

Saturday 2nd September

2-4pm in the Park

**Jazz Band, raft and duck racing,
refreshments, craft activities and lots
more surprises!**

Visit of Scottish Deputy Minister for the Environment

The word about the excellent joint working between Pentland and South Morningside Primaries, the Friends and the Council is obviously spreading. So much so, that Rhona Brankin MSP, the Deputy Minister for the Environment, visited the wildflower meadow on Thursday 25th May to launch Scottish Biodiversity Fortnight. Twenty-three children, teachers, visitors and the Friends, were proud to show her the meadow and other planting that has taken place. The Friends were lucky yet again, and the sun shone in what had otherwise been a horrible week! The wildflower planting activities were subsequently featured in the Evening News.

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in these events, and we look forward to lots more activity with our friends in the schools.



What's been eating our trees?

In the summer of 2005, the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park carried out a survey of the trees the park. We noticed that some sort of bug had been eating the leaves of the cherry trees in the trefoil, and on occasion stripping the leaves bare. This might explain why there was a poorer showing of blossom in Spring 2005.

The Council Tree Officers took leaf samples and had

them analysed. It turns out that the mysterious muncher is a Short Snouted Weevil! The Council plans to monitor the situation this spring, so please **could you help** by keeping an eye out for the blossom and leaves, and letting the Friends Committee know if holes start to appear.

The Friends and the Council are also looking in more detail at the work required on the

cherry trees, some of which are in a very poor state, as they are now 70 years old. The Honorary Tree Wardens of Braidburn Valley Park – Keith Knight and Louise Maguire (details at the back of this newsletter) – are always interested to hear about issues to do with the trees in the park, as this helps us work with the Council to improve the tree stock.

Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive Members

Chair: Karen Young, tel: 0131 446 9795

Treasurer: Colin McCulloch, tel: 0131 447 0915

Honorary Tree Warden: Keith Knight, tel: 0131 447 2138

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