



The VALLEY VOICE

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

You'll be having your Afternoon Tea in the Park 2006 – or Singing in the Rain!

Well – it had to happen sometime! The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have been blessed for a number of years with excellent weather for our community events, so we should not have been surprised when it



turned against us for our big annual get together in early September.

In fairness, it wasn't

raining when we made the decision at 8.30am to go ahead, and our back up plan fell about our ears when we discovered the day before that Greenbank Church Halls were being painted so we couldn't use these in the event of bad weather.

So.... the show went on! Thank you to everyone who supported the event – hats off to the 100 or more people who put on their wellies and cagouls and were determined to have a great time!

What a good start we got off to, with our local quartet of pipers and drummer playing tunes to stir the blood, and particularly to Robert Kay for his first solo public performance. The Scottish theme was built on by the Linda Ann Gillan School of Highland Dancing who made the most of the marquee

and proved that you can sing and dance in the rain!

It was disappointing but understandable that the 7 Stanes Mountain Bike Display Team was not able to perform, but hopefully we can persuade them to come back next year. It was also disappointing that the jazz band couldn't use their PA system, but the few people in the marquee enjoyed the music.

The craft activities, face painting, raft building and duck race proved to be as popular as ever, as was the tea tent – probably because it was the driest place in the park! Amazingly, we sold 100 scoops of ice cream – mainly in the 15 minutes when the rain slowed to a drizzle! Thanks also to Henderson's Wines, whose contribution was much appreciated by our volunteer helpers!

The loudest noise of the day was provided by the fire engine. We thought that they had arrived in the park to help bale us



out, but no! As well as letting lots of children play with the bells and sirens, they had a serious message. They will provide a free home safety visit and free 10-year guaranteed smoke alarms if you call 0800 1690320. Not to be outdone, Mike Brooks – the park's local policeman – will mark bikes with a special pen detectable only with ultraviolet light. Please contact him at Howdenhall – 666 2222.

The Friends Committee is totting up the final

bills for the event. We anticipate making a small loss because of the weather. However, we do have some reserves for a rainy day so we should stay afloat....!

Thanks again to all who supported the event in the face of adversity, especially the Tusitala, Morningside Lawnmower Services, South Morningside Primary and St Peter's Primary PTA for the ducks. Fingers crossed for a better 2007!

Access to Stone Cairns Complete

The stone cairns for the park interpretation panels were installed at the end of 2003. It was always intended that there would be a hard surface around the cairns to make it easier for wheelchair users and buggy pushers to get close to the panels to find out more information about the park. This is particularly the case at the southern cairn, which is some distance from the nearest path.

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are delighted that Edinburgh Council have completed the job and have installed the hardstanding around both cairns. The access path at the southern one should enable all of us to get better access to the splendid views of

Edinburgh from the viewpoint; to read all about the park's wildlife from the information panel; and to venture beyond the panel, down the slope past the wildflower meadow to see what has been going on there.

Unfortunately, the interpretation panel on the northern cairn was removed by vandals at the start of the summer and thrown in the burn. Fortunately, an eagle eyed member spotted it and retrieved it. The panel has now been restored. Job done!



Batty about Bats!

The Pipistrelle Bats who make their home in the park received a boost when the Braid Cubs and Beavers recently made 10 bat boxes. In a visit to the park, the 40 boys found out more about bats during a Friends of Braidburn Valley Park bat quiz and chose the best location for their bat boxes. The highlight was when we used a bat detector to spot bats catching insects at dusk

around the north bridge.

Bats eat 3000 midgies an hour, so the more bats that make their homes here, the less midgies there will be to bite us! Thanks Cubs and Beavers for your help. If any other groups want to use our bat quiz or to help make bat boxes – please get in touch.

HELP NEEDED

The orienteering course posts and markers are being delivered shortly. We need some help to cement these into the ground in the park. If anyone can lend a hand on a week day, please could they contact Karen Young - details below.

Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive Members

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