



The VALLEY VOICE

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Progress with the Wildflower Meadow

Previous Valley Voices have described the start of the wildflower meadow project. The meadow is located at the south of the park, on the slope between the stone cairn and the Braid Burn.

So far, over 130 children from Pentland Primary and South Morningside

Primary have helped to plant the wildflower meadow in a series of events run by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park, Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The most recent activity involved 30 children raking the cut hay from the meadow, to encourage more wildflowers to seed and grow. This will be an annual activity.

The good news is that several species appear to be sprouting in the meadow despite the weather extremes during the summer - heat and downpours - neither of which are ideal for the new plants.

In the spring, please go and have a look at the meadow. Wildflowers that are particularly obvious include Yarrow (white flower), which in Scots folklore was widely used as a love charm. Self-heal can also be seen which has a variety of medicinal uses including as a remedy for chest ailments, sore throats, internal bleeding and haemorrhoids! Field Scabious with its pretty blue flower can also be found. When



made into an ointment, it is thought to improve dandruff and breathlessness amongst other things!

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are also in the middle of producing an education pack about the wildflower meadow for use by local schools and groups. Some

of these fascinating facts about the plants and their traditional uses can be shared with today's generation. Any thoughts and suggestions about how we can use and promote the meadow would always be welcome.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BRAIDBURN VALLEY PARK

followed by

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON
"THE EDINBURGH CITY HOSPITAL" BY DR JAMES GRAY

Thursday 1st February 2007
7.45pm
Greenbank Church Hall
Braidburn Terrace

All Friends are welcome
Refreshments

LAST CORPORATION TRAM CELEBRATED

It all came about from a discussion at our committee meeting in September.

Now that the old tram stop shelter opposite Riselaw Road has been replaced with the modern shelter on the footpath, the question was asked, "What can be done with the old shelter?" As it is fifty years since the last Corporation Tram ran, I reminisced



about the last night, when I had travelled in one of the cars in the procession from Braids to Shrubhill.

In the discussion that followed, it was decided that I should approach the powers that be

to see if the shelter could be used to commemorate the former tram network. Since then, I have contacted the Directors of Lothian Buses (as successors to the tram system), Council officials

and an Edinburgh tram historian. Assuming that there are no planning problems, we hope to put together some panels about the network in general and the Braids Terminus in particular. There is a wealth of photographs around Edinburgh but, if any reader has views of the system (with a particular emphasis on the routes to Fairmilehead) and they would like to make them available, please contact me.

The Edinburgh Transport Group (a commercial vehicle enthusiasts' club of which I am a member) had its own celebration on 16th November 2006. We brought over from Fife one of the buses which replaced the trams (see photo) and followed the original route to Shrubhill (as nearly as possible), returning to Princes Street via Newhaven and Granton Road Station (the 23 tram terminus). Louise Maguire was able to join us to represent The Friends. It was a fitting tribute to the old system and to the Braids Terminus which had seen the transition from cable cars to electric to buses over a period of about 100 years.

(Lindsay Walls)

Stevenson's Way

If you have been in the park recently, you will have noticed the addition of four new way-marking signs. These point out the new Robert Louis Stevenson Way, which starts at the north end of Braidburn Valley Park and leads the walker, as close to Stevenson's original route as possible, to his family home in Swanston nestling in the Pentlands.

This route has long been lobbied for by local groups, and has been carried out for City of Edinburgh Council by ScotWays - the Scottish Rights of Way Society. It will become part of Edinburgh's core path network, and offers walkers, cyclists and riders an opportunity to use Braidburn Valley Park as a key green space connecting the city centre to our surrounding countryside.

More information about Stevenson's connection with the Park can be found on the interpretation panel at the north entrance to the Park.

Bulb Planting 2006

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have enjoyed a record year for people involved in planting bulbs in the Park. In November 2006, 245 children plus adult helpers were involved in planting a mixture of bluebells and daffodils in the Park. All of Primary 3 and 4 of South Morningside Primary, Primary 4 of Pentland Primary, and all the Sunday Schools of Greenbank Church enjoyed largely benign conditions while planting some 6,000 bluebells and 8,000 daffodils. Thanks to everyone for their help and the Friends look forward to going back with groups in the Spring to see how their flowers are doing!



Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive Members

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