

# The Valley Voice

## Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

### Green Flag Success

It's official - Braidburn Valley Park won one of Scotland's first Green Flag Awards! The last Valley Voice reported that the park was nominated to be one of Edinburgh's two first pilot city parks to be assessed for the prestigious Green Flag Award in Scotland.

Judges examined all aspects of the park's management, facilities, wildlife, heritage and 'importantly' community use and involvement. Despite the fact that it poured on the judging day in May, we were delighted that P7s from South Morningside Primary still turned out for a litter pick. This, and accounts of all the community activities, gave the judges proof of our local community's commitment to the park.

The Friends' committee had to wait for over a month to get the result, but were delighted to hear of the Green Flag success. Articles in the Evening News and local papers made sure that word spread about Braidburn Valley Park's Green Flag success.

The Friends' Treasurer, Lindsay Walls, travelled with an Edinburgh Council delegation to receive the

Green Flag at a ceremony in Leeds. The next step is the imminent arrival of a flagpole for the flag. The pole is to be sited to the left of the main park entrance on Greenbank Crescent, behind the flower bed. Everyone going past will see that a treasure of a park awaits beyond the gate.

The Green Flag is an annual award, so the Friends Committee are already thinking ahead to 2008/9. If you have any suggestions for improvements in the park - please get in touch. Committee contact details are on the back page.



### Tea in the Park 2007

Amazing - it was dry! After the wash-out in 2006, the Friends' "Tea in the Park" summer event was better than ever. What a day we had with more people than ever before coming along from all sides of the



park and joining in the fun. The 7 Stanes Mountain Bike Display Team, hosted by the Forestry Commission Scotland, were stars of the show, giving three

breath-taking displays of skills and stunts. The have-a-go skills area run by Borders-based MB7 was also a big hit with a constant queue waiting for a turn.

The event started with a Scottish flavour with rousing piping and drumming from several talented local boys. After the rain last year, it was good to see the Linda Ann Gillan Highland Dancers perform, and to hear the Auld Spice Ceilidh Band.



A special treat was the display of classic and vintage cars organised by local enthusiast Alistair Dodds. All the cars came from very close to the park. Young and old alike chatted to the owners, took part in the quiz, and marvelled when the steam driven car



fired up!

The Duck Race was sponsored by David Henderson's Wines. Finlay Glidden with duck no 123 was the winner in record time, as the burn was

reaching Grand Prix speeds having been cleared of weeds single-handedly by our aquatic committee member Pete Weeks. Thanks to generous donations of prizes from Waitrose, Marks and Spencer, Polar Flame, Hermitage Golf Course and Hillend Ski Centre.

We wouldn't manage without the portaloos so thanks again to the Tusitala for sponsoring it. Thanks also to Mozolowski and Murray for sponsoring the Friends'

new gazebos and to Morningside Lawnmower Services for the generator. Thanks also to South Morningside Primary for the loan of the PA system and the tug-of-war rope.

What about tug-of-war across the burn next year?



## Cherry Tree Action

The subject of what to do about the Cherry Trees and other trees in the park is getting closer to being resolved. We need your opinions so would like you to complete and return the questionnaire attached to this Valley Voice.

To get the ball rolling, Edinburgh Council are funding a first phase of replacement of the cherry tree trefoil that was planted by Girl Guides in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Probably in January 2008, two peripheral sections of the cherry trees will be felled and the stumps removed. These sections will be replaced by new

cherry trees, which will be given tree protection to help them grow.

The Friends are keen to see people involved in the planting of the new trees, especially the Guides who were involved in 1935. We are working with the Council to make sure that this happens.

In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your returned questionnaires so that we can hear your specific views in making sure that the trees are a positive asset in the park in the future.

## Membership Information

Margot Gillon has reluctantly had to give up her Membership Secretary post. Everyone is grateful to Margot for her contribution both to the committee and her able running of the craft activities at most recent "Tea in the Park" events. The Friends' Treasurer, Lindsay Walls, will take over as Membership Secretary and all enquiries regarding membership should be referred to

him at the contact details below. If you do not receive your Valley Voice electronically, please let Lindsay know and he will add your address to his secure data base. Lindsay's email address is: [treasurer@morningside.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@morningside.org.uk) If anyone is interested in joining the committee, we will be looking for new people at the AGM early in the new year.

### *Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive Members*

Chair: Karen Young, tel: 0131 446 9795

Secretary: Lesley Trew, tel: 0131 447 3782

Treasurer/Membership: Lindsay Walls, tel: 0131 445 5415

Honorary Tree Wardens: Keith Knight, tel: 0131 447 2138 & Louise Maguire, tel: 0131 445 3126