



Winter 2007
Issue No.16



The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Children Help Green Flag Park Get Greener

This autumn, the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park were delighted to welcome over 150 local children to the park for the annual bulb planting and wildflower meadow work.

Thirty children from South Morningside Primary raked the wildflower meadow, removing hay that would otherwise enrich this area and making it ready for a fresh crop of wildflowers next year.

Eighty-five children from both South Morningside and Pentland Primaries, as well as 40 from Greenbank Church Sunday School planted 1,000 bluebells, 2,000 snowdrops and 7,000 daffodils in the banking down from the Braid Hills Hotel and at the Comiston Springs Avenue entrance.

The children of South Morningside took part in a story and picture competition about what they liked about the park, and this is one of the winning entries.

Thanks to all the children and their teachers for their hard work in mixed weather conditions, and to Mike Shields and the Council Task Force for helping to dig the holes.



BRAID BURN!
VALLEY!
PARK!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cherry tree replacement... Green Flag Award renewal... community events in the park... bulb planting.....
– have your say for 2008!

Followed by an illustrated talk about Edinburgh's Urban Forest by Alan Mitchell, Edinburgh Council Urban Forest Project Officer

**Monday 4th February 2008 at
7.30pm**

Greenbank Church Halls
Braidburn Terrace

Refreshments

All welcome!

Duke of Edinburgh Award Helpers for the Park

“Can we help in the park for a year?” was the request to the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park from four young people carrying out the Service section of their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. Calum Swann and Andrew Robertson are carrying out their Gold Award, and Ewan Swann and David Crummey are doing their Silver.

The Friends Committee are delighted to have some dedicated help and they have produced a long list of jobs for the young people. Bulb planting, tree planting and litter picking have already been carried

out and there are plans for building more bat boxes and for graffiti removal.

Charles Black from the Friends Committee is supervising the boys and he is delighted with all the hard work that they have put in already and their team work.

If anyone has any suggestions of jobs in the park which could be carried out by willing young people, please get in touch with the committee - see contacts below.

Orienteering Course Success

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are delighted to have received grant funding for £1,140 from Edinburgh Council’s Parks and Gardens Capital Programme to install a permanent orienteering course in the park.

Late in 2005, children from South Morningside Primary School mapped a 21 point course in the park. This will be marked out with low orienteering posts and stainless steel control plates, early in

2008. A map, prepared by Interlopers Orienteering Club, will be available through the Friends website (as soon as it is ready) and the Council website.

The Edinburgh and Southern Orienteering Club are preparing to train local teachers and youth group leaders who wish to learn about orienteering and use the course. More details about this will follow, but if you wish to register an interest, please get in touch with the committee - see details below.

Cherry Tree Replacement Work Starts

Readers of the Valley Voice will be aware of the proposals to replace the Cherry Tree Trefoil because the trees have just about reached the end of their lives. The trefoil was planted by 5,000 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of King George V, and it is an iconic feature in Braidburn Valley Park.

A tree questionnaire was circulated with the last edition of the Valley Voice and the results of this are being collated and will be reported on in the next Valley Voice. There is broad support for the phased removal and replanting of the Cherry Tree Trefoil.

In Phase One, 47 trees were earmarked for removal at the north end of the trefoil. These will be replaced by new trees in early 2008. It is hoped to involve the Girl Guide Association in planting the new trees, to keep their link with the park going for the next 70+ years.

If anyone has further tree questionnaires to return please send them to our Honorary Tree Wardens Keith Knight and Louise Maguire. If you did not get a questionnaire, please get in touch with the Friends Committee - see details below.

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