

# The Valley Voice

## Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

### South Morningside Primary School Orienteering

Thanks to Lucy, Kirsten and Hollie from the Edinburgh University Orienteering Club (EUOC) who helped, supported and herded 180 South Morningside Primary children round the Braidburn Valley Park Orienteering Course for the whole day on Monday 30th March as they were introduced to the sport. Everyone had a fantastic day in the good weather. The feedback from the teachers has been very positive. Consideration is being given to the most appropriate age group with which to run this event in future years, hopefully with EUOC's assistance.

With the arrival of spring the newly planted trees in the Park are now bursting into leaf. Four new specimen trees were planted last winter (oak, weeping ash, sweet chestnut and a birch), as well as new trees on the east facing slope below the electricity sub-station. We recently met with the Council Trees and Woodlands officers to discuss planting for next winter. Our main focus will be on the renewal of another section of the cherry trefoil. As many of you will know this was planted by 5,000 Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers in November 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. Next year is the centenary of the

Girl Guides association and we are planning a joint tree planting event to celebrate. In preparation up to 100 of the old cherry trees on the northern side of the trefoil will be felled. As with the replacements planted last year, large trees will be used that will flower in their first year.



### Annual General Meeting 2009

Congratulations to those hardy souls who braved the worst snow of the winter to attend the AGM in February. There was a round up of the last 12 months' a statement of our intentions for the coming year. We also appreciated a presentation from Stuart Mackay from Carillion about the next phase of the Braid Burn flood defence work and its impact on the park (more elsewhere).

The AGM also saw Karen Young stand down as Chairman after four hugely successful years. Andrew Swann has taken over as Chairman and is delighted that Karen will stay on the Committee so we can continue to benefit from her experience, knowledge and contacts. We were also pleased to welcome Jean Williams to the Committee.

### Afternoon Tea in the Park, 2009

#### Braidburn Valley Park

**Saturday 5th September  
2 - 4.30pm**

**Refreshments  
World Famous Duck Race  
Crafts  
Raft Building  
Face Painting**

**All Welcome!**

## Braidburn Flood Defence Work

Tree clearance has begun in Oxfangs in preparation for the flood defence work that will get underway in the park soon. A flood defence wall only needs to be built at the Oxfangs entrance. However its construction will necessitate the closure of the Oxfangs entrance for several months. A couple of sycamore trees will be removed from gardens on Greenbank Crescent, and crab apples and white poplars in the park will probably need to be coppiced

to allow access for the huge piling rigs.

The Friends have asked if the next most northerly access from Greenbank Crescent to Fly Walk can be upgraded by way of recompense. When the work is finished we will have input to the landscaping work that Carillion are obliged to carry out. We will pass on firm dates as soon as we have them.

## New Bridge

Many of you will have noticed the new bridge across the Braid Burn at the northern end of the park. We are delighted that the Council found the money to build the bridge that makes a circuit of the park a much safer and more realistic. We will be keeping a close eye on the wear and tear of the surfaces at either end of the bridge and on the path through the grass on the eastern side of the Braid Burn to ensure they remain both safe and navigable.



## Charitable Status

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Lindsay Walls, the Friends now have formally acquired charitable status. Not only have we proved ourselves to

be worthwhile and well managed but we can now also gain from a number of tax reclaims that will add to our financial resources.

### *Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive Members*

Chair: Andrew Swann, tel: 0131 447 5473

Secretary: Peter Weeks, tel: 0131 447 1874

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

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

For further information about the Friends and Park see [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) or email:

[info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)

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