

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk



Summer 2011 Issue 23



New Style AGM Park Tour

Belgian Link

In March, the Friends received an invitation from Micheil Verledens, a Belgian student of journalism at Artevelde University College in Ghent, to take part in his 'project from abroad' at Queen Margaret University. He had to make a short video of a specific subject and had been intrigued with the concept of Friends of

Parks Groups, as all Belgian parks are State maintained. He had surfed the web for Friends Groups in Edinburgh and our website had caught his fancy as being the most progressive. Micheil asked if he could interview us to discuss our work and our interrelation with other agencies.

Ever willing to oblige, Louise Maguire, Charles Black and Lindsay Walls met Micheil on a cloudy bright morning. We had a great hour being filmed and taking Micheil for a tour along the valley floor, pointing out where the Friends had been involved.

The five minute video was very well produced and it can be seen on web page

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spu_hLeEWt8

What A Difference Volunteers Make

Our monthly work parties continue to make a difference to the park with regular attacks on the invasive Japanese butterbur by the Braid Burn, and recent extensive planting of young bare-rooted shrub whips to produce an under-storey beneath the tree canopy. Japanese butterbur has been hit hard at the bridge beneath the electricity sub station. A good number of whips were planted to the north of the old toilet block, taking care not to interfere with established sledge runs in the area.

The continuing efforts of the Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers and their supervisor, Charles Black, merit particular mention as they are key members of any work party. A typical session included piling cherry logs for wildlife (not burning!), checking young trees, and clearing shrubs on the Fly Walk.

Our work parties are social affairs and not hard work!
Please join us for an hour on the second Sunday of the month. Meet at the main gates at 2pm.

**Afternoon Tea in the Park 2011
Braidburn Valley Park Open Day
Saturday 3rd September, 2 - 4.30pm**

Unicyclists, duck race, bouncy castle, face painting, arts and crafts, home baking, plant stall, games, beat the goalie, fire appliance, music, refreshments and much more



Popular Pooh Sticks

Margaret Ramsay Remembered

We were saddened last October, to learn of the death of Margaret Ramsay. She lived in Greenbank Crescent most of her married life and brought up her children to love the park, for its nature, its views and as a safe place for them, and for walking the family dogs.

Margaret was a founder member of The Friends and, although she did not serve on any committees, she was our 'eyes and ears' for any 'goings on' in the Park; the first to alert us of rubbish in the burn, tree damage and on one occasion that the Interpretation Panel at the Greenbank Entrance had been pulled from its fixing.

It was only proper that Margaret should be remembered in a tangible way, and so a tree was dedicated in her memory on the day of the Annual General Meeting. Margaret's family took part in the planting. Andrew Swann our Chairman said a few complimentary words about Margaret, before her children and grand-children planted the tree. David, her son, spoke fondly of his mother and of the good times that the family had enjoyed in the park.

The tree is situated on the east bank of the burn between the stage and the middle bridge marked by a memorial plaque – a fitting tribute to a very special park user.



Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive

Chair: Andrew Swann, Tel: 0131 447 5473

Secretary: Peter Weeks, Tel: 0131 447 1874

Treasurer: Christine Johnston, Tel: 0131 447 2138

Membership Secretary : Lindsay Walls,
Tel: 0131 445 5415

Honorary Tree Wardens:

Keith Knight, Tel: 0131 447 2138

& Louise Maguire, Tel: 0131 445 3126



Sticks coming through!

400 more Plants in our Wildflower Meadow

On the same day as the Spring Clean this year, over 400 mixed flower plugs were planted in the wildflower meadow at the south end of the Park. The plugs had been grown from seed last year and over-wintered in a local garden. Species including cranesbill, harebell, bellflower and toadflax were planted to augment the existing range of these flowers, and eight adults and four children had an enjoyable time sharing the planting work among them (left). Since then the plugs have established themselves very well and are growing fast, so that the young plants are already improving the habitat for wildlife .

The Guides and the Bumble Bees

The Fairmilehead Guides and two Committee members, Karen Young and Keith Knight, spent a very successful May evening in the Park providing underground nests for increasingly rare bumble bees. Keith designed a prototype bee box that has not been used before. The Guides were very enthusiastic at making nests, and even more keen about burying them. There are six boxes on the south side of the stakes that mark the southern boundary of the wildflower meadow. There is only a small part of the entrance tube sticking up when you have buried the nests properly, and so the sites are marked with a discrete cane, meaning the entrances can be found again even when the bumble bees have not begun to use them.

For further information about the Friends and Park see

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

or email info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Look out for up to date details on posters before **Tea in the Park** and other events. If you supply an email address you can also be sent details by email.

Charity registered in Scotland (SC040192)