

Diamond Jubilee Wood for 2012

A small "Jubilee Wood" was planted in the south west of the park with 420 trees supplied by The Woodland Trust. Children from South Morningside Primary planted the majority of the trees in December 2012, with the rest being planted by Friends on Boxing Day.

The tree species are hazel, elder, blackthorn, dog rose and crab apple, the fruits of which will be enjoyed by park users and birds in years to come. A special Royal Oak sapling grown from an acorn from the royal estate was also planted in the park. As the original cherry trees in the park were planted to mark the Silver Jubilee in 1935, it was good to keep up the tradition of Jubilee planting.



Planting the new Jubilee Wood

Butterbur Bashing Carries On

Regular park users will be aware of the spread of invasive Japanese Butterbur along the burn side in the park. This plant looks like giant rhubarb and shades out all other vegetation when it takes over.

The Friends have been working with local youth groups and in Monday evening work parties to cut down the butterbur. The plan is to contain it in its current patches and hopefully clear it from whole areas so that the original vegetation can re-grow.

In particular, we would like to thank Greenbank Scouts, Greenbank Q2 group and Guides from Oxfangs for their hard work in 2012. The Friends would also like to thank CSV Action Earth for a grant of £250 to help buy tools to control the butterbur.

Green Flag Success Continues

Braidburn Valley Park was awarded its 2012 Green Flag in July. Councillors Mark McInnes and Melanie Main raised the new flag at the start of the Tea in the Park event in September. The Friends would like to thank Edinburgh Council for continuing to enter the park for the award and all the hard work carried out by Mike Shields, our Community Park Officer, and his team.



All this and passing otters too!

Garden Design Help Needed

As you enter the park's main gates on Greenbank Crescent there is shrubbery to your left. This shrubbery is not something to be particularly proud of as it is a sad relic of municipal planting. However, it is the first thing that you notice when you enter the park and has the potential to be really special.

The Friends would like to hear from anyone who can volunteer their services as a garden designer to suggest a planting scheme that would brighten up this area. It would have to be low maintenance and robust. All ideas and suggestions would be welcome.

We look forward to hearing from anyone with garden design ideas and experience on info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk or 07801 443 765.

Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive

Chair: Karen Young, Tel: 0131 446 9795
Secretary: Peter Weeks, Tel: 0131 447 1874
Treasurer/Membership Secretary Christine Johnston, Tel: 0131 447 2138
Honorary Tree Wardens:
Keith Knight, Tel: 0131 447 2138
& Louise Maguire, Tel: 0131 445 3126

Edinburgh Ash Trees Threat

Ash Dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) has been in the news recently and could affect local ash trees. Please watch for this disease and if you do find it report it to Forestry Commission Scotland (0131 314 6156) and tell us at info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk. The Forestry Commission have a couple of good websites that give all the facts around the disease and very clear information on how to identify it. See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara> and <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8ZSS7U>

For further information about the Friends and Park see www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk and now follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**
Charity registered in Scotland (SC040192)

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk



Winter 2012-13 Issue 26



Celebrating ten years of the Friends in action

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Annual General Meeting Sunday 10th March 2013

Enjoy a guided walk in Braidburn Valley Park and see all recent activities. Meet at the Main Park Gates on Greenbank Crescent at 2pm. Followed by refreshments / business in Greenbank Church **All welcome**

Tea in the Park 2012

We are so lucky with the weather for our Tea in the Park events (touch wood) because in another damp summer, we got a fair day for the 2012 event. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported the event by joining in the activities, sponsoring a duck (**right**), or enjoying the refreshments and entertainment.

Thanks to our sponsors, without whom the event would not be what it is. In particular, thanks to the Tusitala, David Henderson Wines, Morningside Lawnmower Services, All Trades Network, JC Lindsay, Edinburgh Library Services, Lothian & Borders Police, Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Service, and a very big thanks to the many sponsors of our renowned Duck Race

Saturday 7th September 2013 is the next Tea in the Park – get it in your diary!



New Bridge at South of Park

If you have been to the park recently, you will have noticed a large, gray metal structure next to the path, near the stage. This is a replacement for the southern bridge (at the Oxfangs end) which had been condemned for vehicle use because part of the structure has cracked. The current bridge is safe for pedestrians, but ultimately needs to be repaired or replaced.

The Council's "Bridges and Structures" Department were donated a spare NHS bridge from the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and allocated it to Braidburn Valley Park. The Friends Committee were aware of the proposal, but not the style of the bridge until it arrived in the park.

The Friends have asked the Council to

1. Apply an anti-skid surface to the metal flooring
2. Paint the whole structure black so that it is less obtrusive
3. Remove the excess railings that will extend into the path further than the current railings
4. Make good any damage to the access paths and surrounding area by contractors' machinery
5. Install an otter holt to give local otters a helping hand

Contracts have been signed and work is due to start shortly. It will take five weeks and there will be contractors' cabins and equipment in the park. The bridge will obviously be closed while work takes place and no temporary structure has been proposed.

If you have any comments about the replacement bridge, please contact Mike Shields, Community Parks Officer on mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 529 5126.



Young raft makers