

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk



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Tram at Park Gates 1955

An Iconic Memory

The car was purchased by Edinburgh Corporation Tramways Department in 1935. It was one of a batch of 20 'streamliners' built by three manufacturers. No 15, the one in the photo, was built by Hurst Nelson and ran for all of its life from Depot Leith. It was scrapped in 1956, the last year of the trams. No 15 is on route 11 (Fairmilehead to Stanley Road – although the terminus was at the foot of Craighall Road) and it is approaching the tram/bus shelter at Greenbank Terrace. Service 15 had, by this time, been converted to buses and you can see the bus 'portcullis' stop sign at the north of the shelter, to allow the bus to pull up with its rear away from the junction. Tram stops were designated by a yard long red strip on the lighting column and bus stops by an orange strip. This stop was at the transition, having the old tram stop and the new free standing bus stop. Greenbank Crescent was, at that time, a cul de sac with a footbridge link.



Stonework Repairs

The ornamental stonework on the right hand pillar at the entrance to Braidburn Valley Park was knocked off by a bridge repair vehicle in February. At last their insurers have accepted the claim and a contract has been let by Edinburgh Council Bridges and Structures Department to have the stone urn and damaged pillar replaced. The complete structure which was originally the entrance to Comiston House in Camus Avenue can be seen in the 1955 photo on the left. The stone mason has sourced stone with as close a colour match to the original as possible and the new urn was put into position at the end of July.



Afternoon Tea in the Park 2013
Braidburn Valley Park Fun Day
Sat 7th September, 2 - 4.30pm

Cycle display team and cycle skills
area, bouncy castles, magician,
world famous duck race, ceilidh band,
pipers, facepainting, storytellers, crafts,
games, raft building, tea tent and bar

More Plaques to look out for

A new decorative engraved stone Park name sign is being erected at the Oxgangs entrance.

Also Braidburn Valley is one of 25 City parks which will be given a plaque because Edinburgh was awarded Landowner of the Year at the Inaugural Fields in Trust Awards 2012. This strengthens the case for the Park never being developed as it basically means the land will be preserved and not built on.

Tree Warden's Survey & Report

A few weeks ago I took a look at the trees that have been planted in the Park over the last few years. Full details are available on a spreadsheet with the locations indicated on a separate map. In general most are looking OK but a few have died or are in poor condition. Given the size of some of the trees planted the success rate is quite high. Success rates for the smaller whip planting are lower, surprisingly, and more variable. I have also put a few brief notes on the maintenance required - some of which the Friends group could tackle. I have forwarded the details to Mike Shields our Community Parks Officer and the Tree and Woodland Officers for their comments and hopefully this can be used as input to the new Park management plan.

Keith Knight



Majestic Wheatley Elms at Comiston Road

New Southern Bridge in Place

The replacement for the southern bridge (at the Oxgangs end) which had been condemned for vehicle use is now in place. The Council's Bridges and Structures Department were donated a bridge from the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and they allocated it to Braidburn Valley Park. Although the bridge was "free" the installation and consultancy costs came to over £33,000. The Friends asked the Council to apply an anti-skid surface to the metal flooring and paint the whole structure black so that it would be less obtrusive. The bridge was completed in the spring but the Friends are meeting the Council in August to see how the damage to the access paths and surrounding area by contractors' machinery will be fixed. The Council's Parks Department also offered to install an otter holt to give local otters a helping hand.

Compare the two photos



New Bridge at Oxgangs End

Farewell to Pete - Butterbur Basher



Butterbur uprooted

The Committee of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park will have great difficulty replacing Pete Weeks, our past Secretary. His stalwart figure has taken part in countless duck races, Burn clean ups and butterbur uprooting. Can you help instead? There are always Braidburn jobs to be done to keep that Green Flag flying.



**Pete Weeks
clearing rubbish at
the former Oxgangs
Southern Bridge**

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)

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