

# The Valley Voice

## Newsletter of The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

[www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)



Winter 2014-15 Issue 30



### *Drumming in our Fun Day at Braidburn Valley Park*

### **Towards a Poopless Park**

An enquiry at the Green Dog Walker stall. For info see article in last VV, No 29. Or contact Dianne Savage at [Dianne.savage@gmail.com](mailto:Dianne.savage@gmail.com)



Once again the sun shone, for our eleventh annual Tea in the Park, making it the busiest we have seen yet. We enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon with music from the Morningside Pipe Band and the Auld Spice ceilidh band; magic and balloon tricks from Magic Ian; fabulous fables from our storyteller Fergus McNicol; messy art and craft activities courtesy of Greenbank Church; games including the hugely fun and successful coconut shy; bouncy and busy, bouncy castles; fantastic face painting; and as always the world famous Braidburn Valley Park duck race. Home baking, ice cream, the bar and refreshments did a roaring trade. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event, and to all of our sponsors, without whom we could not run the event. In particular, thanks to JC Lindsay's; David Henderson Wines; Morningside Lawnmower Services; Lothian & Borders Fire and Rescue Services. A huge thank you to all of the local businesses and families who donated duck race prizes. A date for your 2015 diaries - Tea in the Park 2015 will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September – book it in now!

### **Friends of Braidburn Valley Park Annual General Meeting Sunday 8 March 2015**

Enjoy a guided walk in Braidburn Valley Park and the chance to see all recent activities.

Meet at the Main Park Gates on Greenbank Crescent at 2pm. Follow up with refreshments / business in Greenbank Church at 3pm **All welcome**





## Obituary

Jean Blades, one of the "Original Guides" died recently aged 93. Jean was one of those intrepid former Guides, who kept up an active life and came to various re-unions. She was crestfallen when she couldn't get to the Centenary Planting, due to heavy snow. Jean and all the other Guides, Rangers and Brownies who planted the trefoil of flowering cherry trees in 1935 have left us a wonderful legacy. We have plans to continue their fine work by replanting cherry trees where necessary.

## Other News in Brief

A new Green Flag is flying for 2014. This is an honour which has to be earned yearly, and yet again the Park's appearance is to the great credit of members and volunteers working in the Park throughout the year.

The new Bee Meadow has been buzzing with activity all summer.

Lichen growth on the replacement urn at the Main Gate which we yoghurted in 2014 already almost matches the shade of the original.

The Friends of Braidburn Valley are looking for new Committee members to share their cheerful and not over strenuous activities. If anyone wants to find out more about the commitment or requirements, they can get in touch with [info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) or the Chair Karen Young on 07801 443 765 in the first instance.

## All You Wanted to Know about the Medal Routes Project

Following on from the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Medal Routes project was set up as a partnership project funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, Paths for All and Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust.

The Medal Routes project is designed to help people get to know the paths and green spaces in their local areas. Medal Routes are three short circular walking routes that start and finish at the same location (a 'Hub') and are designed to take approximately 15, 30 and 60 minutes. Medal Routes are available to download from the Ramblers Scotland website (<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/medalroutes>).

We have designed three walks through Braidburn Valley Park and the surrounding area which all start at the Greenbank Crescent entrance to the park. The shortest walk takes in the park only; the 30 minute walk takes you to Oxbgangs Lochan and the longest walk includes a visit to the Caiystane. Information and a downloadable pdf detailing the walks will be available soon online (<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland/what-we-do/promoting-walking/medal-routes/medal-routes-walking-hubs.aspx>).

Details of this will be posted on the Braidburn Valley Park website so keep an eye out!

## Honorary Tree Warden's Report

During the recent work parties in the Park we succeeded in removing around 40 dead trees (mostly rowans that had been damaged by strimmers, and replacement cherry trees that had died for various reasons including vandalism), planted 6 hawthorn, and a donated Norway maple, and cleared back a substantial area of bramble and raspberry that was overwhelming trees we received from the Woodland Trust a few years ago and which were planted by local school children. In addition we planted a few dozen water figwort, yellow loosestrife and monkey flower plants and 2 Aucuba shrubs, all donated. There are many opportunities for further tree work in the Park on a larger scale. I have been notified by the Council recently that they hope to have some funds to supply and plant up to 20 cherry trees.

*Keith Knight*



### *All previous Valley Voices are on our website*

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)  
 You can also be sent details by email.  
 Charity registered in Scotland (SC040192)

### **Friends of Braidburn Valley Executive**

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 Keith Knight, Tel: 0131 447 2138  
 & Louise Maguire, Tel: 0131 445 3126