

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park



Winter 2015-2016 Issue 32



Bark in the Park



What a lot of people

The 2015 Tea in the Park featured the first Dog Show in the Park for over 50 years. We thought that we would re-introduce this Braidburn Valley Park tradition and we succeeded beyond our wildest expectations with over 150 dogs being entered. Memorable moments included the four labradors

and one spaniel that came through numerous rounds to win the 'Best Biscuit Catcher' class and the group



Best in Show

of wee boys who chanted 'Wee Dug; Wee Dug' in support of their favourite entrant. Thanks are due to our local vet David Rimer who managed to spot the worthy winners among the many entries in a range of

classes which measured beauty, brains and skills. Louise Maguire generously donated the class medals and the cup for Best in Show. Proceeds went to [Green Dog Walking Edinburgh South](#). Find out more about this project on [Facebook](#)

More Highlights of Tea in the Park

While the dogs may have been well behaved, the **Vikings of Din Eidyn** who are a local branch of a national Dark Age re-enactment society gave us a demonstration of Viking arts, including the art of combat. We were entertained by Old Spice and the Morningside School of Music. Among the usual attractions, the infamous duck race sold out again and all had fun chasing their duck down the burn. The beautiful September weather attracted a bigger than ever crowd and people commented that they had never seen so many people in the Park.



Vikings commence combat



Ducks stream towards the finish



And the sun shone

Can You Help?

Due to key resignations, the Friends are looking for help with the following roles 1) **Treasurer** (normal income about £6k per annum); 2) **Valley Voice Editor** (2 editions a year), 3) **Website Manager** (a few posts each year). Only the Treasurer is a Committee post. It's good fun being part of our local patch.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on **Sunday February 28th**. We will meet at the Greenbank Crescent gates at **2pm** and walk round the Park to consider improvements past and future. The short formal part of the meeting will take place over refreshments in Greenbank Church from **3pm**. All welcome. You can join on the day.

Future Free Fruit for All



Planting the David Wright Community Orchard

On 1st November, almost 80 years to the day that Edinburgh Girl guides planted the Cherry Tree Trefoil in the Park, about 40 of us came together to plant the first trees in the David Wright Community Orchard. Our aim is that, in due course, the apples and plums will be for all. Braidburn cider, anyone? We were very fortunate indeed in having two of the original guides with us who were both still up for wielding a spade.

As the planting of the Orchard was so near the untimely death of our much loved local greengrocer, David Wright of Wright's of Comiston, we thought it was fitting to name the Orchard after him. We were pleased that David's widow, Louise, and daughter, Jennifer, were able to be with us.

News in Brief

Making an Eyesore Disappear



Young People from QII – a local Greenbank Church youth group achieved a small miracle in September by appearing to make the old and



sadly dilapidated Pavillion building disappear by painting it dark green. The Green Flag Judge this year has raised concerns about the state of the Pavilion which we will be discussing with the Council.

Shades of Grey (& Blue & White & Purple)

This year the Friends have collaborated with the Council to replace the rather tired annual bedding display at the main gates to the Park. The Friends



were consulted on the plants in the design. Weed suppressant fabric has been laid but any help with weeding from volunteers is appreciated.

Free Inaugural Friends Lecture 2016

This year we have decided to put on a lecture for **Friends of the Park**. **Jackie Watson Bat Ecologist** will speak on 'Bats - the Myths and the Reality' Monday April 18th at 7.30 in Greenbank Church. All Welcome! **Free** for Friends. £5 for others (or join the Friends for £3). Please support

Further Designs on Planting

The Friends are currently getting quotes for the design of a more ambitious planting project on the park side of the entrance gates. We will have to fund raise to achieve this. Come to the AGM to hear more about how you can help.

Competition – Name those Bridges

A Friend of the Park has suggested that we should have a name for each of the four bridges that now span the burn in the Park. We tend to call them things like 'the *New one*', 'the *expensive one*', 'the *old first one*' and 'the *old middle one*'. Do **you** have any ideas? Perhaps one bridge means something special to you or your family? Send us your story and ideas for names to info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk For these purposes let's number them 1 to 4 north to south ie Greenbank Crescent to Oxgangs.

For further information and to join the Friends of the Park see www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk Email info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk Or phone Membership Secretary, 447 2802. Look out for events publicity on posters Facebook and Twitter.

Double our Numbers

Members are requested to recruit one other member this year to give our membership numbers a boost to demonstrate to grant providers that the Friends have community support.