

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

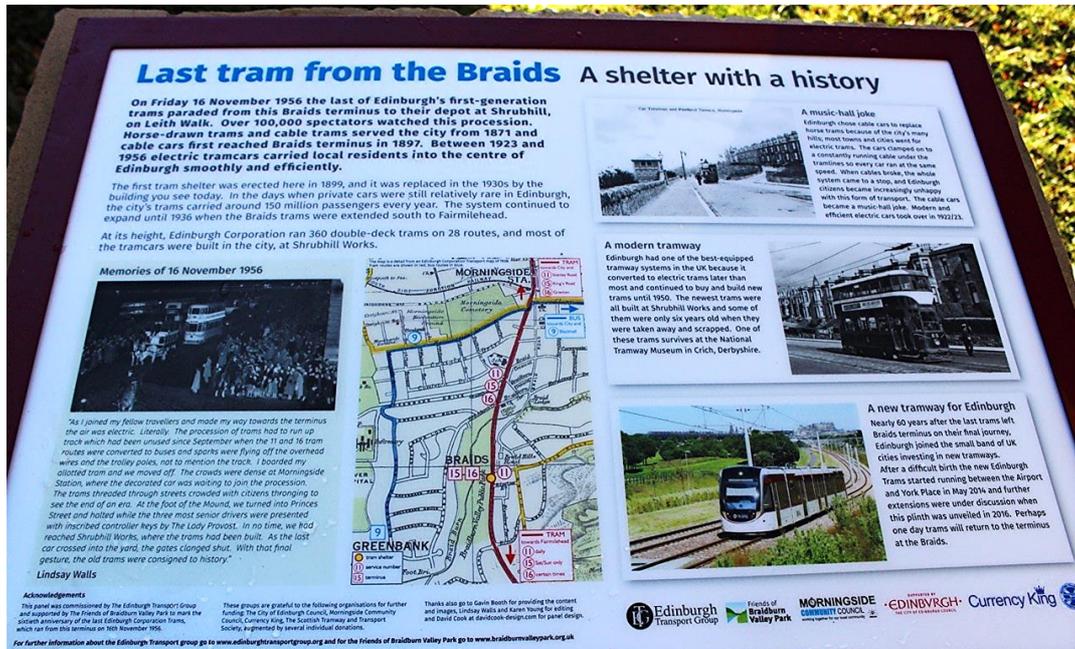


Winter 2016-17

Issue 33



Remembering the good old Trams



The interpretation panel

On November 19th 2016, almost 60 years to the day after the last No 16 tram left the Braids, Edinburgh Transport Group arranged the unveiling of an interpretation panel beside the **old Tram Shelter** in Pentland Terrace. As the Braids tram shelter is one of the last surviving reminders of the first generation trams, it is to be celebrated. The first tram shelter was erected there in 1899 and was replaced in the 1930s. For the unveiling, it was redecorated by a local firm. The event attracted over 50 transport enthusiasts and Friends, who listened to a

speech by **Gavin Booth** a transport enthusiast and author. Gavin shared his memories of the last tram journey from the Braids to Shrubhill Works. *“Dense crowds thronged the route to Morningside Station via the Mound and Princes Street before the tram car entered Shrubhill Works where it had been built and the gate clanged behind it for the last time.”* The Friends contributed to the cost of the panel which will act as a reminder to us all of the well loved first generation trams.

Help the Friends

Due to key resignations, the Friends are looking for new members with time and enthusiasm to help us take forward our **Projects** and help lead some of our **Events**. Karen Young is also hoping to be able to stand down as Chair some time. So **please** get in touch if you can help. It's good being part of your local patch.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on **Sunday February 26th**. 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.

New Friends can join on the day.

Planting Plans

In 2016, the Friends engaged John Frater of **Plantforms** to design a planting scheme for the areas both sides of the path immediately inside the Main gates. John worked collaboratively with us and has come up with plans which are works of art in themselves. We hope this will make a huge difference to the experience of entering the park. John says *"It is a naturalistic 'woodland edge'*

planting scheme to tolerate the conditions on the site and the rough and tumble of a public space. There is a range of seasonal interest with bulbs in spring and the main peak in the



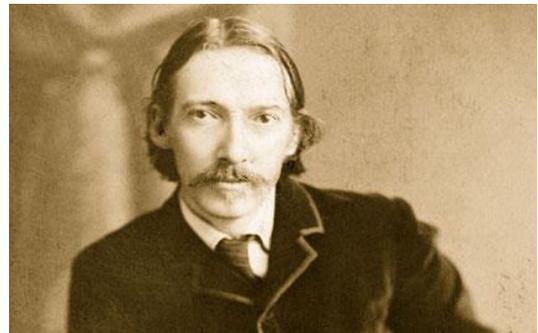
summer months." We will have to seek a grant so that we can purchase the plants and engage a contractor to do some of the heavy work. The Council's proposal of a cycle path through one of the beds has created a bit of a hiatus but we are working with Melanie Main and Council Officers on a resolution. Then we can arrange a planting day and hope it is as successful as the Orchard day.

John will help us by laying out the plants. Let us know if you are interested in joining a garden team to do planting and basic maintenance.

Outdoor Gym



For some time, we have been talking about establishing exercise equipment in the Park. Therefore, we jumped at the Council's kind offer to provide the first piece of equipment, here modelled by Friend Alan Smith. We intend to add to the gym equipment and will seek grant funding. Let us know what you think.



Robert Louis Stevenson

Alan Silcock and Eleanor Land have been working on pulling together an event to celebrate RLS's connection with the Park when he walked this way on his way to Swanston. Look out for more news later in the year.

Inaugural Friends Lecture



We held our first lecture for Friends in April 2016. About 40 people including some new Friends heard bat ecologist Jackie Watson provide an entertaining insight into the world of bats.

Some new members joined us on the day.

Name the Bridges

The winning suggestion from a Friend was to name the park bridges after authors, using the Stevenson connection. The other authors suggested were Muriel Spark and two living Edinburgh authors. The Council will let us know if we can use names of living people.

For further information about the Friends and Park see website

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Email info.braidburnvalley@gmail.com or call 0131 447 2802. Look out for publicity for events on posters, Facebook and Twitter.