

# The Valley Voice

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park



Winter 2017/18

Issue 35



## TESCO Bags of Help

### Work on Community Garden has started

We publicised our success in achieving a grant from **Tesco** in our last Valley Voice.

You may have noticed that work has started on the Community garden on both sides of the main gates to the Park. The Council has supported the project by arranging to clear the site. The rather unhappy shrubs have been removed and some top soil has been added. We hope you agree that both beds already look better.

Shortly our appointed contractor will be adding compost into which we can plant.



The contractor is also laying some stepping stones which will be a feature for the larger

bed to enable people to walk among the plants. In the Spring we will be looking for volunteers to join the planting parties, guided by our designer John Frater of Plantforms. We also will need people to be involved in regular maintenance. Please register your interest by sending us an email. We won't be able to do it without volunteers

and we hope that you will want to be involved in this major improvement to the Park.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR PLANTING PARTIES WILL BE NEEDED IN THE SPRING  
ALL OFFERS OF HELP APPRECIATED**

#### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on  
**Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>.**

If the weather is good enough, 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 2.30 pm. If the weather is poor, we will meet in the church at 2 pm.

**All welcome.  
New Friends can join on the day.**

#### Friends Need Help for Tea in the Park

Due to the key resignation of the Tea in the Park Organiser the Friends need to find more volunteers to lead and be part of the organising team. It may be an ideal role for a parent or parents of young children who can network with other parents to stimulate a stream of volunteers. It's hard work but great fun. Have a bash and please email your interest. Lots of help available.

**Sadly, if we don't get some volunteers, the event will have to be scaled down or even cancelled to reflect the resources available.**

# Camera Shy?

The Friends have invested in a camera trap as a pilot to see what wildlife we can 'capture' in the Park – or rather still photographs of them. We are still trying it out to see where it works best, which sensitivity setting to use for good results and how to mount it etc. So far, we have not trapped an



elusive otter or badger but we have spotted foxes (pictured), squirrels, birds, dogs and cats. We hope in due course to be able to share our more interesting sightings with you on the website and on Facebook.

## Jim Lavin

We were saddened to read of the death of Jim Lavin on 10th October 2017. Jim and his wife Sheila were members of the working party of local residents who worked along with the Head of Parks, Jim Mackay, to establish the planting of the "millennium forest" trees. When Jim urged the members of the working party to form a Friends Group, all were delighted when Jim announced that he had ideas about what could be achieved and that he would work to create the Group. Jim got a story in *the Edinburgh Evening News* inviting any former Girl Guides, who had planted the cherry trees in 1936, to come along to a bulb planting in the park on 13th October 2002. He encouraged local Guide



and Scout organisations along with local residents in Greenbank to participate. He set up a stall and asked for volunteers to join the group and The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park was formed.

So, it is thanks to Jim that we now have this well-established group. Jim had good credentials for the task. He had worked as a sales executive with a global company and, after early retirement, set himself up as a sales advisor. Once the Friends group was established, he withdrew to the background, and Lindsay Walls was elected Chair for a stint, finding that Jim had left a good committee to oversee the work. Jim and Sheila moved to Bo'ness a few years ago.

## Name the Bridges

### Final Decision

As some doubts were raised about the choice of wildlife themes for the bridges, the Friends Committee decided finally to name them after the trees near to the bridges.. Moving North to South **Rowan, Hornbeam, Willow and Cherry.**

The Council has agreed to fabricate some signs so that we will all remember which bridge has which name. Thanks to all who participated in the competition and shared memories and stories about the bridges with us.

## Orienteering in the Park

On a sunny Saturday in October the Park was buzzing as over 90 people took part in an orienteering event organised by the Interlopers orienteering club. With three courses available within the park itself there was something for everyone from complete novice to more seasoned participants, irrespective of age or level of fitness. Some ran, some walked. Some went round on their own, many were in family groups or with friends. All seemed to enjoy their afternoon out in the sunshine and fresh air facing the challenge of locating just where the controls marked on their maps were situated.

For further information about the Friends and Park see website [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)  
Email [info@braidburnvalley.org.uk](mailto:info@braidburnvalley.org.uk). Publicity for events on posters, website and Facebook.