

The Valley Voice

Newsletter of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park



Summer 2017

Issue 34



TESCO Bags of Help

Our Community Garden came **first** in the **TESCO** vote for and we bagged **£4,000**.

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park commissioned **Plantforms** to design a planting scheme for the areas on both of the path immediately inside the main gates of the Park. We applied for a grant from **TESCO Bags of Help** for up to £4,000 to assist us to implement the scheme.

TESCO provide this community funding scheme, from funds raised from the 5p carrier bag levy. Grants are awarded to local community projects. Three groups in every Tesco

region were shortlisted to receive the cash award. The **fantastic news** is that, thanks to those tokens you used to vote for us, we



came **first** in our local section. This means that we were the project with the **highest number of votes** across Edinburgh. This allows us to proceed with the project. We have a year to finish so will be looking for

lots of support with planting.

BULB PLANTERS WILL BE NEEDED IN THE AUTUMN
OFFERS OF HELP PLEASE - EMAIL ADDRESS OVER

Tea in the Park 2017

The sun smiled on our annual community event **Tea in the Park** on September 2nd. We had record numbers who enjoyed Viking re-enactment, dancing, bootcamp, a Samba band and not forgetting the Famous Duck Race.



Our aim is to provide a day for the community in our lovely park and hopefully cover the costs. This year we made a surplus of £1,500 to boost our funds to use for the benefit of the Park. Thanks to Linda Bendle who is stepping down as the organiser after many years.

ORGANISER (OR TEAM OF ORGANISERS) NEEDED TO RUN TEA IN THE PARK 2018.
It's hard work but great fun! Contact the info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk if interested!

Keeping the Park Clean

Having a clean local space is important to us all. The Friends organised two annual Clean Ups. In April we



Local Guides with the litter haul

had one of the best attended events in recent years. The Girl Guides came out in force to do their bit and got very wet removing litter from the burn. Thanks to all who helped make our patch much

cleaner and to Greggs who supplied 'goodies' again. The most interesting request we received was from a local snake rescuer who needs a regular supply of limbs of trees for his charges.

Why has the dog poo turned orange?

Despite the efforts to clean up, sadly the Park is not as clean as we would like. We had noted that the amount of dog poo has been increasing, particularly in the long grass. Most dog owners using the park are responsible but there are always a few who need to be reminded of the health hazards and unpleasantness of dog waste. We have embarked on a controversial policy of drawing attention to this menace by spraying it orange. This is intended to keep all alert and remind people to pick dog waste up and bin it. While some have commented that our time could be better used picking it up and disposing of it ourselves, we understand from surveys elsewhere that these methods do work.

What do you think?

Council Matters

Mike Shields Parks Officer and our local contact has provided the following update

Wet area under the Pavilion

We are still unsure if it is a natural spring or a leak from a main water pipe under the main road, but Scottish Water could find no evidence of a leak. Our drainage contractor put in a natural soakaway and new drainage pipes which are now linked into existing drains. This seems to have worked. We also over-seeded and repaired the ground



Corporate Volunteers

Corporate Volunteers have been working in the park have made a big difference to the

path edges. I hope to use for several other projects within the park in the future.

Keeping the Park Clean

We have replaced 3 bins this year. Unfortunately, some uplifts were missed in the summer because of vehicle breakdown for which we apologise.

Naming of the Bridges

I think the suggestion of named bridges after wildlife in the Park is a great idea. We wouldn't need any other permission for this. When the names are finalised I would be happy to fund the signage through Council workshops.

Outdoor Gym Equipment

If the Friends are able to raise funds to buy equipment, the Council is happy to install and maintain it.

Name the Bridges

Readers may remember that we had hoped to name the bridges after writers with a Morningside connection. As two of them are still very much alive it would contravene our Council's policy. We have therefore adopted another Friend's idea of using the names of wildlife seen in the park – if not recently – at least in the last 20 years. Suggestions so far are Dipper, Trout, Heron, Fox, Water Vole, Bat **Which would you prefer?**

New Committee Members

The plea for some new blood to join the Committee was heard and we now have **four** excellent new Committee Members - Alastair Bruce, Richard Bush, Adrienna Quail and Matt Ball. All are already bringing fresh ideas and energy to looking after our park.

Alastair is Membership Secretary which allows Dianne Savage to share the role of chair with Karen Young. We are now looking for Tea in the Park Organiser for 2018 and any other interested people.