



The Valley Voice



For further information about the Friends and Park see website

<http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/>

January 2019

Issue 37

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- New outdoor gym – get fit in 2019
- Dianne's Garden – new growth in our park
- Heritage craft projects – spring workshops
- Save the date -Annual General Meeting and park walk – **Main gate, 2pm**
24 February 2019

New members welcome –

We are a small group of volunteers who would welcome new active members. If you are interested please make yourself known at the Annual Meeting or go directly to the "join" page on our website, given at the end of this letter.

Tea in the Park - Thanks for Coming!



It was another good year, with record numbers, for our annual Tea in the Park fun day in September and yet again the weather was kind to us. This year our thanks go to Claire Jellema who took up the reins of organising the event from Linda Bendle.

Some changes were introduced to improve the event and help with its smooth running. This year, science had a much higher profile with fire shows and slime making being just two of the attractions. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome to add to the further tweaks that our team have identified.

The event relies on the hard work and willingness of many volunteers, before, during and after the event. The Park Trustees would like to thank all those who gave their time to the event. Without these helping hands, the day simply wouldn't happen. As we approach summer we will be happy to hear from anyone who feels they can help for the 2019 fun day. Put the date in your diary – **SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST 2019!**

Outdoor Gym

In the last newsletter we wrote about the pending installation of the new exercise equipment at the Comiston Road/Riselaw corner of the park. It took a while but the gym was finally installed in time for the New Year and is available for all of you who made firm resolutions on January 1st to work off some surplus Christmas pud!



The equipment was chosen with advice from exercise practitioners and the Council who now have a great deal of experience in these installations. The selected items will improve cardio, toning and strength and there should be something for everyone. Any feedback would be welcome.

There are already encouraging signs that the equipment is being used by local regular park users, personal trainers, exercise groups and new visitors. We hope that this will continue and that more people will come to appreciate these new facilities in Braidburn Valley Park in the warmer months to come. Thanks again to Awards for All for the grant for most of this and for the additional funds provided by your Friend's subscriptions!



Dianne's Garden

We hope that you have been to the park to see the progress with Dianne's Garden inside the main north entrance. Although we only planted in early June, many of the plants were already spreading and flowering during the summer months. Even in winter, stems and grasses are colourful.





The 30th November saw a hardy group of volunteers planting over 4000 bulbs on a cold and windy day. Watch out for snowdrops and aconites, then crocus, scillas and narcissi in the early part of the year.

We went to Tesco at Colinton Mains to receive a 'cheque' for £4000 from their Bags of Help scheme, which made the whole project possible – here are some photographs, including the newly installed commemorative plaque for Dianne Savage, who was the driving force behind the garden.



Heritage Crafts



Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust have approached the trustees with a view to running four workshops in the park on Heritage Crafts. They are proposing three workshops to create a willow tunnel and dome near the Oxgangs entrance, and a hazel planter for herbs or wildflowers. They will run the workshops in March/April so check their website at <http://www.elgt.org.uk/>

Here's an example of a willow tunnel!

Diary Date - Park Walk and Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24th February 2019 will include the usual walk round the park but will be a special occasion as we will formally open Dianne's Garden and the memorial to David Wright, the late greengrocer of Comiston Road. It will also be a chance to see, and perhaps try out, our new Outdoor Gym. We also welcome ideas for the future.

We will meet at the main gate at Greenbank Crescent/Comiston Road at 2pm. We will then go to the Church Hall, Greenbank Parish Church at 3pm for the formal part of the meeting and refreshments.

All are welcome and if you have family or friends who may be interested as park users or newcomers to the area looking to make contact with some friendly local faces then please bring them along with you.

Did You Know?

Apart from the main items in this newsletter the trustees have discussed many other subjects over the year including:

- The development of further formal paths in the park, particularly a circular route around the park perimeter but unfortunately this cannot be progressed due to the high costs involved.
- Cycling and pedestrian signing – the need for considerate shared use of the main route through the park.
- Green Flag Award – once again the park was awarded the green flag award following the annual inspection which is a credit to park users and the volunteers who help with the twice yearly clear-ups and other improvements.
- Dog fouling control – we are continuing efforts to reduce dog mess in the park and change the behaviour of careless or inconsiderate dog owners.

Send in your pictures

We think the Park has been looking great over the first half of this mild winter (are we speaking too soon?). Send us your photos and we'll publish them here when we have space.



Contact Us

Website: <http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/>

Email: membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Facebook: to post or message us search for 'Braidburn Valley Park's Friends'

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