

# The Valley Voice

Issue 40

July 2020



For further information about the Friends and our wonderful Park, visit our website: [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)

## Contents

The Park in Lockdown

Our Iconic Trees

Bike Safety in the Park

Photography Competition

SMPS P7 Poetry Project

Braidburn Valley Park's  
Shoal of Fish!

Other News

Membership Matters

## Looking Ahead

As soon as it is possible to bring people together in the Park, we will share our plans with you!



## The Park in Lockdown

These have been such anxious and uncertain times for everyone, and so many plans have had to be 'put on hold'. We should have been looking forward to our annual Tea in the Park and a repeat of last year's Activity Day, but rather than dwell on what has not been possible, we have brought people together through online reports and activities, as you will see!

We can also celebrate the pleasure the Park has brought to so many during lockdown. Many members have told us of the contribution it has made to their wellbeing, and so many families regularly come to enjoy their exercise. We welcome the new members who have discovered the park and want to support the Friends!



*One of our photography competition winners - more inside!*

## Contact Us



Join us on Facebook! To post or message us, search for *Braidburn Valley Park's Friends*

Email: [info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)

Website: [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)

## Our Iconic Trees

With the changing seasons, the various trees come into their glory! Here we focus on two particular features:

The boundary with Comiston Road is lined by Wheatley Elms. Despite the Dutch Elm Disease which killed so many elms, most of these thrive. Our Council tree officer alerted us to the many vigorous suckers they have put out, suggesting we harvest some for him to nurture as replacements for ones that have had to be cut down. We plan to do this as soon as such work can be carried out – a real heritage project!

The blossom on the cherry trees gave such delight throughout the Spring! We have reported on the ongoing project to replace ones which have reached the end of their life. As each tree costs some £280, we need to raise funds, but unfortunately our most recent application for a £5000 grant was not successful. The original trees will be 85 years old this Autumn – you can read about their history on our website : <http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/trees/>



## Bike Safety and Considerate Path Use in the Park

Bike safety and considerate path useage have become all the more important considering traffic changes to Braidburn Terrace. Following a constructive meeting between Councillor Neil Ross and Richard Bush, FBVP committee member, the following measures were identified and proposed formally to the Edinburgh Council including:

- Bike signs painted on the ground with the word SLOW, at north and south park entrances
- Speed reducing “rumble strips” at north and south entrances.
- Signage promoting considerate shared path use.

Mike Shields of the Council was happy to support the proposals but did not have the budget to implement them at this time. He suggested that the request should be passed on to the Council’s Active Travel Team. We will keep you informed on developments. You can read a more detailed report by Richard on our website here: <http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/shared-use/>

In the meantime, you may have noticed some temporary signage for the park in the form of lamp post wraps. This signage encourages responsible, considerate use of our shared spaces. (Thanks to the Spaces for People Initiative.)





## Photography Competition

Lockdown has made us all love the park even more. To celebrate our wonderful green space, the committee set up a simple photo competition inviting anyone to submit their park pic via Facebook or by email.

The theme changed every fortnight - Wildlife, Bright & Beautiful, Play. We had two winners for each theme - an adult and an under 16. The prize, a £20 voucher to redeem at any local business - a little gesture to support our local community.

We had some fantastic entries, from impressive experts to eager youngsters snapping a scene they love on their phone. Congratulations to all winners, and huge thanks to everyone who spent time capturing some really beautiful images of our park.

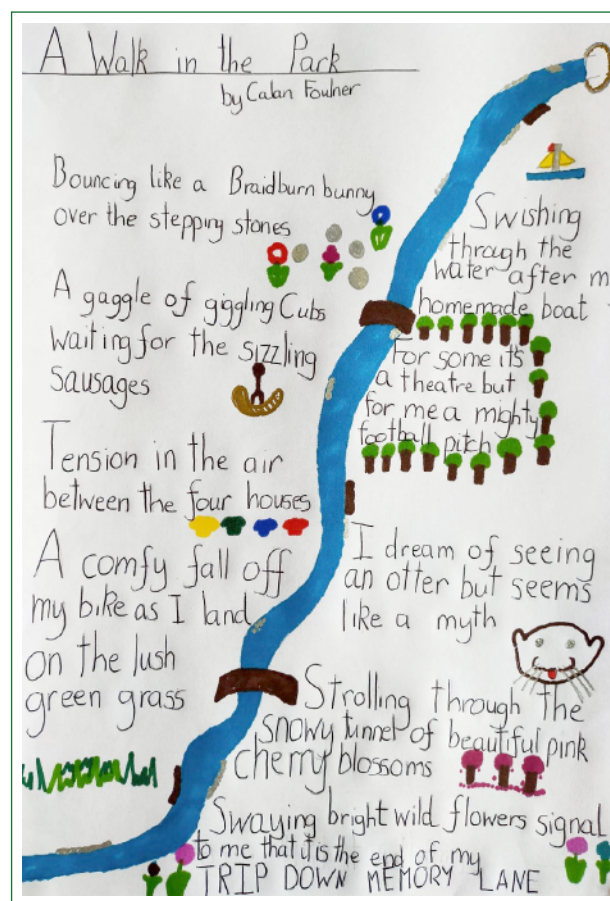


## South Morningside Primary School P7's poetry project

For many years, we have run a heritage project with South Morningside Primary's P7 group as they come to the end of their time at SMPS. This year has been such a different experience for this cohort of youngsters moving on to high school, we were keen to mark the moment for them, even if doing something in the Park itself wasn't possible under the circumstances.

Instead this year's P7s have been hard at work, under the remote guidance of their P7 teachers, writing poems inspired by the Park about their formative experiences as primary school pupils. The poems will be compiled into an online "book" which we will post a link to on our website for all to enjoy. We will also print and bind one copy of the book to present to the school for posterity.

We were overwhelmed by their wonderful poems – what a treat to read them all! We wish all the outgoing SMPS pupils the very best of luck with the move to high school! Watch this space for news on how to read their poetry book online.



## Braidburn Valley Park's Shoal of Fish!

Primary 2 children at South Morningside School have shared their art project with all local children: a site has been set up within the theatre in the park, where pebbles painted with pictures of fish can be placed forming a shoal.

The message is an antidote to lockdown: "We are all unique little fishes and we are all in this together. Add your little fish to the shoal and together we are stronger."

We thank them for bringing their positive message and adding colour to the park!



## Other news....

The tree that fell across the burn in August last year has been cleared so it no longer traps rubbish, both natural and man-made, leaving the course free for future duck races!

Members have been litter picking as part of their daily exercise and others have been weeding Dianne's Garden, also part of their daily exercise. One couple volunteered to clear the bed outside the Main Gate - not a task the Friends have taken on before; thanks to them for making this a more inviting entrance!

Our thanks also to Edinburgh Council who have continued to tend our park despite staff shortages and tricky work restrictions.

## Membership Matters

Thanks to the members (the great majority) who have renewed their subscription. If you haven't, please do not delay! Whether you have or haven't, if you are in the habit of paying by cash or cheque, please consider setting up a standing order for future payments. It makes administration painless; and will mean there is one less thing for you to remember! You will find a mandate to send to your bank on our website. It contains the FOBVP account details which you'll need if you prefer to set up the payment through online banking.

There will surely be many who have come to appreciate the park, perhaps for the first time, during these last weeks. So it could be an opportune time to recruit new members. If you've wondered about inviting a friend or neighbour to join the Friends, please seize the day! Just direct them to the FOBVP website, and tell them to go to the Join section. It's quite painless!