



# **FRIENDS OF BRAIDBURN VALLEY PARK**

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC040192

## **Annual Report & Financial Statements**

**for the year ended 31 October 2021**

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 October 2021

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of Friends of Braidburn Valley Park for the year ended 31 October 2021

## Reference & Administrative Information

### Charity name

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

### Charity number

SC040192

### Contact address

Paul Bailey 170 Braid Road, Edinburgh, EH10 6HU

### Management Committee (Trustees)

Margaret Bruce	Co-Chair
Claire Jellema	Co-Chair & Tea in the Park coordinator
Paul Bailey	Treasurer
Alastair Bruce	Membership Secretary and Website
Richard Bush	
Alan Fleming	Honorary Tree Warden
Lucy Frankel	Social Media and Communications; Minutes secretary
Robin Harper	
Alice Nelson	Valley Voice editor
Brian Smith	

### Local organisations' representatives on the Management Committee (not Trustees)

Brian Barron	Greenbank Parish Church
Vacancy	Schools Liaison

## Structure, Governance & Management

### Constitution and membership

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its Constitution which was adopted in January 2003 and last amended in February 2017. Charitable status was granted by the Office of the Scottish Charities Registrar on 15 January 2009. Membership of the Friends is open to any person who supports the objectives of the Friends on payment of an annual membership subscription

### Appointment of Trustees

The management committee, which normally meets quarterly, are the charity's trustees. Membership of the management committee is open to all members of the Friends. Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of five and not more than eleven elected committee members. The committee may co-opt two members of committee during the year to fill any vacancies.

### Management

The Management Committee is responsible for policy decisions and general management of the charity.

## **Aims and charitable purposes**

To conserve, enhance and promote the Park for the benefit of people and wildlife, to encourage community involvement in the Park and to work with the Local Authority and other organisations to achieve these aims.

## **Annual report from the chair**

With Covid-19 still on the scene, the Committee have continued to meet on Zoom and to keep in touch with each other and the membership on matters of concern. While we were unable to bring large groups together for social events, smaller work parties were recruited as described below, and most of the comments received from members and park users on the state of the park were positive. During the year, many local people have told us how much the park has meant in allowing exercise for all ages during a time when getting outdoors became so vital.

## **Awards, events and projects**

**Green Flag:** This was the fifteenth year that our park has been awarded the Green Flag, welcome recognition of the healthy state that the Council and Friends have managed to maintain over the past year.

**AGM 2021:** This was performed held via Zoom, and we were pleased to have some 20 members attending.

**The Mural Project:** Andrew Swann, a previous Chair of FOBVP, identified a need and a possibility: the need was for the eyesore of the electricity substation opposite the Pavilion to have a radical facelift. It has over the years been cleaned by members, only for graffiti to reappear. The possibility was inspired by the Colinton Tunnel: he envisaged murals on the substation depicting images related to the Park, with the community involved in their creation. A sub-committee was formed, and Chris Rutterford, the artist responsible for the Colinton murals, was contacted. He has a lifelong connection with our park, and suggested themes. The Sixth Year pupils from Firrhill High School have been working with Chris, and we expect their work to appear in the coming months.

We thank Andrew – who has been involved hands-on! - and the other members of the sub-committee whose enthusiasm and vision have driven the project, Tracy Graham, Head of Expressive Arts at Firrhill High School, and her pupils for taking up the challenge, and of course Chris himself. He has generously allowed photos of the work in progress to appear on our website, and they say more than any words could!

We also thank Edinburgh City Council, who agreed to a grant of £5000 through their neighbourhood funding scheme to support FOBVP in going ahead with the project.

**Picnic tables:** The Wednesday Brownie Pack raised funding from Tesco to support them in bringing the pack together outdoors, and a picnic table seemed the best option for a meeting place in the park. FOBVP were awarded a generous grant from the Council to add to this, enabling not just one but three tables to be funded. We acknowledge gratefully the financial support from this grant, and also the contribution from Mike Shields, our local parks officer: he advised on siting and the most robust tables, and used his budget for the delivery and installation of the benches. They have been appreciated by a variety of park users, and we hope will be for many years to come!

**Upkeep of the park:** We thank the Council, and Mike in particular, for their amazing work, despite all the restrictions in staffing and practicalities, in maintaining and improving the park. They have been responsive when alerted to a need, such as overflowing bins and trees brought down by the storms, and have carried out work on painting over graffiti on the Pavilion, cutting overhanging branches at the Comiston Springs end of the park, and providing drainage for the South path which had had a constant flow of water for some years – here they dug up a section and installed a drain to direct the water under the pathway. They also contributed financially to enable the Conservation Volunteers to clear the overgrown pathways, and provided the wraparound Pathways for All notices.

We had planned to have a socially-distanced version of our Autumn Clean Up in October, but found there was hardly any litter at that time, so decided against it! This is thanks to the three volunteers carrying out regular litter-picking for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and also to the many regular park users – we don't know who they all are, but hope they know how grateful we are! - who pick up litter on their daily walks. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our communal clean-ups in the course of the next few months.

**The Wildflower Meadow and Orchard:** Alan Fleming deserves particular mention for his energy and ability to enthuse his teams for these! Scything and planting have renewed both these areas; new species of wildflowers and

fruit trees have been added. We thank the newly formed Eco Group at Greenbank Church, who raised £250 through a sale of plants and books; this was donated to pay for more fruit trees which will be added to the orchard early this year.

**Volunteers:** Three final year students working towards their degree in Landscape Gardening came forward to offer their services and made a great contribution to the meadow and orchard.

We were contacted by The Conservation Volunteers, who brought their energy and enthusiasm first to tidying Dianne's Garden, which had become somewhat overgrown, then to several sessions restoring the paths: grass had encroached on the edges and narrowed them considerably, and they now are back to their original width, and look so much neater.

Dianne Savage, after whom the garden is named, was a leading light in the University of the Third Age as well as FOBVP. A member who remembers her asked who tended the garden, and offered to recruit volunteers from their ranks for this. A group of around 7 now co-ordinate so that there is regular input, and have been splitting the plants to cover the bare patches as well as clearing unwanted growth.

**Cherry tree replacement:** We are most grateful for a generous award of £5000 from AEB, who support voluntary environmental work locally. This award will be augmented by park funds, drawing on some generous donations from members. Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust expect to carry out the planting in March, once the Council have removed the dead and dying trees.

**Demolition of Pavilion:** We are advised that the work has been approved, and that a flat area will be left after demolition. The Committee hope this can be used in some way.

**The Burn:** Robin Harper has worked on this over the year, to channel the flow so as to mitigate against erosion of the banks. He liaised with the Council over more shoring up, and hopes with voluntary help to continue to do this.

## Communications

**Email:** All members are encouraged to provide an email address. The resulting members mailing list (maintained in [membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)) allows us to notify members about park developments and membership matters; and to receive feedback from members.

**Website/Facebook:** Our website ([www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk)) provides an archive of material about the park. The website and our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/BraidburnValleyPark](https://www.facebook.com/BraidburnValleyPark)) allow postings about park developments (matching those communicated directly to members by email) which are then accessible to those who are not members. Feedback from the public comes by email through the website email account [info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk), and through postings on Facebook.

**Newsletter:** Two editions of our newsletter, *The Valley Voice*, are produced annually and distributed to members (either electronically or on paper). An archive of all editions is maintained on the website.

**Notice boards:** The static notice boards at the main entrances to the Park hold Council contact information, and the Friends add news and announcements.

## Committee membership

We welcomed Brian Barron to the Committee, replacing Hugh Cowan, whom we thanked for several years' service to the Committee, helping notably at Tea in the Park and Clean ups. We know Hugh continues his interest in the Park. Richard Bush is standing down from the committee at this AGM. We are very much in his debt and will greatly miss his presence; but are heartened to know he'll still show up to do some digging and help with deliveries! We hope to fill the two vacancies on the committee, either at the time of the AGM or shortly afterwards.

## Membership

In a further challenging year it is once again clear that many have appreciated having a park nearby, with 31 joining FOBVP as new members, most of them using the online form on our website, which makes the joining process easy. That boost to our membership was offset by a large number of members who, perhaps understandably, did not get round to renewing their subscription. The current membership total stands at 206. We encourage members to continue to recruit friends and neighbours!

Most subscriptions are renewed in January and many members will already have done so. Those in the habit of paying by cash or cheque, are asked to consider setting up a standing order for future payments. It makes administration easier for us; and will mean there is one less thing to remember! A mandate to send to your bank can be found on our website. It contains the FOBVP account details needed to set up the payment through online banking.

We have 26 members we are unable to reach by email. Any member able and willing to (re-) establish email contact with us needs only to email [membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) to say so.

## Financial Review

Once again the Covid-19 virus meant that we did not hold the annual Fun Day.

Nominally we made a profit of £6,338.48 but £5,250 can be accounted for by donations which have not yet been spent – for Cherry Trees and Fruit Trees.

Membership fees remain low at £3 / £5 and the income this year was £59 more than last year (2020/21 - £907). Several members pay more, and in 2019/20 members' donations totalled £499 including three generous donations; without two of these in 2020/21 it is not surprising that members' donations were £150 lower at £349.

Other donations amount to £7650. £2,400 came from the council who paid for picnic benches; we received a grant of £5,000 from Turcan Connell Trust to replace some of the aging cherry trees which the scouts planted in 1935; we also received a donation of £250 from Greenbank Parish Church for Fruit Trees. Both schemes are due to be completed in the Spring.

The profit is £1088.48 if we exclude these unspent donations.

Once these donations are spent in 2021/22 we will have a little over £10,250 in our accounts, £1,960 of which will soon be spent on the mural on the electricity substation; another grant from the council will pay for the balance of this mural, led by Chris Rutterford with considerable help from pupils at Firrhill High School.

We resumed our insurance payment to Zurich of £170.35; in the past our annual was fee was paid in August, but since Zurich extended the policy by 3 months in lieu of Covid lockdown, no payment was necessary in the 2019/20 financial year.

Website costs last year ran for two years; there is no expenditure this year.

Approved by the trustees on January 10th 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Paul Bailey, Treasurer

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2021 which are set out in succeeding pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

*Margaret F. C. Walsh*

M Walsh

Name: Margaret F C Walsh

Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: Self Employed Accountant  
Address: 21 Gillespie Road, Edinburgh EH13 0NW

Date: 15/1/22

## Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 October 2021

	Note/ table	Total 2019/20	Total 2020/21
		£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Membership fees		848	907
Donations from members		499	349
Grants from others		0	7650
Gift aid		213	284
Insurance rebate		170	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>1,730</b>	<b>9,190</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Charitable activities	Table 2	804	2,477
Donations to other bodies	Table 3	250	125
Governance costs	Table 4	289	250
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>1,343</b>	<b>2,852</b>
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>387</b>	<b>6,338</b>

### Statement of Balance at 31 October 2021

#### Assets

Cash at bank **£15,554**

Approved by the trustees on January 10th 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Paul Bailey, Treasurer

## 1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

## 2. Cost of charitable activities

	<b>Total 2019/20</b>	<b>Total 2020/21</b>
	£	£
Annual fun day (previous year)	379	0
Clean up days	0	0
Covid Competition awards	85	0
Nature trail project	26	14
Picnic benches	0	2400
Media (Printing, postage, zoom)	55	63
Returned cheque	5	0
Tools and materials	74	0
Trees	180	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>2477</b>

## 3. Donations to Other Bodies

	<b>Total 2019/20</b>	<b>Total 2020/21</b>
	£	£
Greenbank Parish Church	250	125
<b>Totals</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>125</b>

## 4. Governance

	<b>Total 2019/20</b>	<b>Total 2020/21</b>
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee	80	80
Insurance	0	170
Website	209	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>250</b>

**5. Trustee remuneration and expenses** The trustees do not receive any remuneration but claim expenses for stationery and postage etc. These are recorded in Table 2.

