

# The Valley Voice

Issue 44

July 2022



Friends of  
**Braidburn  
Valley Park**

For further information about the Friends and our wonderful Park, visit our website:

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

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## *Mural Opening Day*

April 2nd saw a small crowd gathered to hear Chris Rutterford, the artist, speak about the project (top photo). With characteristic enthusiasm, he spoke of the vision behind it, and the team work with Firrhill High School pupils.

Daniel Johnson, MSP, then cut the ribbon to declare the mural open, watched by some of the pupils.

Congratulations to all concerned! And our thanks to Edinburgh City Council for support through their Community Grants Fund.

If a picture paints 1000 words, the mural surely paints millions! So if you haven't yet seen it, go, or if you can't go, check out:

[www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/photos-braidburn-valley-park/photos-mural-project/](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/photos-braidburn-valley-park/photos-mural-project/)

## *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)



Green  
Flag  
Award

## *Volunteering: because everyone gains!*

Brian Smith, inspired by the belief that volunteering has all-round benefits for individuals, organisations and communities, has begun work as our Volunteer Coordinator.

FOBVP taps on members for various tasks, and in addition local schoolchildren and uniformed organisations have regularly taken on projects. Recently we have also had offers from workplaces, such as the Lloyds Banking Group, who sent 50 volunteers; they were tasked with cutting back overhanging growth outside the railings at the South East end, and despite a wet day, set about it with a will! Other highly visible examples of volunteer activity include the re-painting of the gas regulator building within the Main Gate, very efficiently carried out by the Scouts, and the ongoing work on Dianne's Garden by the U3A volunteers.

Brian plans ahead, maintaining a list of work to be done, and fitting the task to the season and to the size and age of the group when approached with an offer of help, as well as asking our own members for assistance with specific projects. Watch out for requests for workparties: these can be for skilled work such as scything and pruning, or just general 'pitching in' such as clean-ups. He can be contacted at: [volunteering@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk).



## *SMPS Sports Day*

It was such a delight to see our park awash with colour recently when South Morningside Primary resumed their traditional sports day alongside the burn. Lovely to see not just the kids in their house colours, but teachers and parent supporters enjoying themselves and cheering on the children! It's been a while since we've heard those cheers ringing out! A real feeling of community again in the park after several years' hiatus due to Covid. Here's to many more!

Likewise, we heard the school bells ringing out this year's P7 cohort on the last day of term as they continue their onward journeys to high school - we're sorry to see them go but wish them all the very best! Come back and visit the park soon!

## *New Cherry Trees*

Visitors to the trefoil will have seen 15 sturdy cherry trees, planted in May. They, with a further one to be planted in the Autumn, include 10 varieties new to the park: the variety will offer more both to the eye in terms of shape and colour of the blossom, and to a wider range of pollinators.

We are grateful to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, who managed the planting, to the Council for identifying suitable varieties and removing the old trees – and in particular, to the AEB Charitable Trust, who in 2021 generously awarded us £5000 to cover the trees, planting and after-care, and have been patient over the year's (Covid-19 related) delay in completing the project.

For more on the history of the trefoil, see: [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/trees](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/trees)



## *Demolition of the Old Pavilion*

As many members will have noted, the old Pavilion has finally bitten the dust. The FOBVP committee has begun to think about how to use the site (which measures about 6m x 15m). Possibilities floated so far include tables for chess or table-tennis; a pétanque court; a communal sitting area. If you like (or strongly dislike!) these ideas, or if you have suggestions of your own, please let us know with an email to: [membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk).



## *Bird Boxes*

A huge "Thank You" goes to Alan Smith, who, along with two others kindly replied to the request in the last Valley Voice for volunteers to help build bird and bat boxes for the park. Amazingly, Alan has built the first 13!

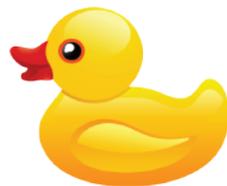
Recently several boxes had worn out or fallen down; so our new chairperson, Paul Bailey, checked the 2005 Valley Voice, noticed that Alan was still a member and asked him if he could make some new ones. Lo and behold within days Alan had completed 11 stunning new bird boxes and even installed the boxes at various points himself, avoiding marked trees which are due to be demolished. Blue tits wasted no time in making use of them.



## *Membership Matters*

Thanks to the members (the great majority) who have renewed their subscription. If you haven't, please do not delay! For motivation, see where your money goes here: [www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/what-your-friends-do/](http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/what-your-friends-do/)

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.



***Tea in the Park - Saturday 3rd September - Save the Date!!!***