



The Valley Voice



For further information about the Friends and Park see website

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

July 2019

Issue 37

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- Openings and dedications - Dianne's Garden and the David Wright memorial
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- Save the dates -

Tea in the Park 31 August 2019

Autumn Clean-up 29 September 2019

New members welcome -

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

A wee bit about 'the Friends' - openings/ dedications/ comings and goings - oh and some important 'green stuff'



For many of you 'the Park' is somewhere you go and do stuff - walk the dog, take a shortcut - walking running or cycling, take the children or grandchildren, or maybe just to get a bit of space and peace and quiet.

Edinburgh is a beautiful city with many green spaces and we are constantly reminded of that which we often take for granted. For years the 'good old council' could be relied on to look after things but budget cuts have meant service cuts (not a political statement!) and the growth in demand for other services is squeezing green space funding. And that is where the Friends step in. The trustees of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park (meeting as a committee) try to make sure the Park we all enjoy is as good as we can manage within our limited time and abilities, while at the same time trying to promote the notion of community for all users. You can be the judge of the success or otherwise of that mission.

In the last year we have had some changes and we now have two co-chairs - Claire Jellema (who also leads on Tea in the Park) and Margaret Bruce. Our long standing and long suffering leader and mentor, Karen Young (who has been involved in and chaired the Friends Group for a long time), has stepped down as chair but is as interested as ever. In the following pages you will see the fruits of some of this labour but there is too much to tell in just four pages, and anyway, you'd get bored. All we ask is that you enjoy the Park and do whatever you can to help. Use the bins, pick up your dog poo and relax!

Being green...

We like to use email wherever possible: it saves on pounds and trees, and makes it easy to let you know about park events. Most of you will have received this newsletter by email. If yours arrived in a brown envelope it means that we can't communicate with you by email, either because we don't have an up to date email address for you, or because we didn't get the permission to contact you by email required by the data protection regulation (GDPR) that kicked in last year. If you are not an email user at all, then please don't worry: we'll continue to send our newsletter in paper form. But if you are an email user do please add your name to our email list. All you need to do is send an email with the words "Include in email" to membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Dianne's Garden and the David Wright Memorial Cairn and Bench



Prior to the Friends' AGM in February we had a short but well attended walk round the Park, during which we formally opened & dedicated the garden and the cairn. Our outgoing chair, Karen Young, highlighted the achievements of both these well respected individuals who will be long remembered with these lasting memorials.

New Trees for Old



On Friday 5th April, thankfully a bright and sunny day, Guides past and present joined to help plant new cherry trees in the Park. The original trees were planted in November 1935 by 5000 Guides, Rangers and Brownies, for the Silver Jubilee of King George V. They were planted in a trefoil shape, the emblem of the Guide movement.

In 2002 and 2008, cherry trees were planted by some of the original planters and present Guides, Brownies, Rangers and Rainbows for the centenary of the Guide movement. 84 years on and one of the original planters was again able to help with planting a new batch of trees – an inspiration to us all! Thanks to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust for the invaluable support.



Willow weep for me – not this one it's a happy place!



*"Willow weep for me
Bend your branches green
along the stream that runs to sea
Listen to my plea
me willow and weep for me"
(Ann Ronell 1932)*



Hear

And another big thanks to Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust for providing two workshops on willow planting. These were held in early April and the result is a beautiful willow dome at the Oxgangs end of the park and a herb planter near the orchard. The willow has sprouted and the kids seem to love it. Well done to all who took part.

Outdoor Gym – Play and Fitness Date

When we last wrote the Gym was newly installed and it was *cold!*



Since January and the (late) onset of spring a lot of new species of exercisers have been spotted in and around the new equipment and it is proving to be as popular as we hoped.

Thanks to Claire Jellema, Lucy Frankel and Alice Nelson for organising a very successful play and fitness date in late June, centred around the gym equipment but including other activities. Fun was had by all and if you are sorry you missed it watch the park notice boards, facebook and the website for updates – there may well be more of these!

The kids know what's what! - South Morningside Primary School Posters



If you have been through the park over the last few weeks you will have seen the posters which our young people have designed to remind us all how to behave in our green spaces. The messages are clear and blunt - keep it clean and respect what a special place we have in Braidburn Valley. Well done to them all and special thanks to the school for making time for this work in a busy curriculum.



AND – we don't forget that lots and lots of park users do their bit – thank you all



Diary Dates – Tea in the Park and the Autumn Clean up

Tea in the Park will be on 31st August this year and more fun than ever is planned. Watch for the posters and if you can help on the day or before please get in touch via the friends email address below.

The Autumn clean up is diared for 29 September – as many helpers as possible will be welcome to get the park ready for the 'long winter sleep' – how sad!

Did You Know?

Apart from the main items in this newsletter the trustees are pursuing many other subjects including:

- Responding to the development of a formal cycling route passing through the park and the need for the safety of all in the implementation of this in the spirit of considerate shared use
- Fitness activities and children's 'bootcamps'
- Improving schools involvement in Park development initiatives
- Scouts and other youth group involvement in park activities
- Coming up – new nature trail and more schools' involvement

Your pictures

This from Lindsay Walls – a long standing friend of the park. Please send in your pictures of anything to do with park life.



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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