

# The Valley Voice

Issue 42

July 2021



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)

## Contents

**A Return to Normal (of sorts)**

**Pavilion History**

**New Cherry Trees**

**Picnic Tables**

**Mural Project**

**Litter Picking Hero!**

**Schools Heritage Project**

**Membership Matters**

**Bring Out Your Old Anecdotes!**



## Summer is here at last!

...and with it, some sense that life is returning to normal.

Sadly, we're not quite at the point of being able to organise large group events at the park but we hope to get some smaller scale events back on track towards the end of the summer. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and our website for more info when the time comes!



## 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)

## *Demolition of the Pavilion*

The Council have decided this old building near Comiston Road is unsafe, and we hear that demolition is imminent. This set us wondering about the history of the building: so far we have established that it was used by the tram crews as a rest stop – it had toilet and kitchen facilities – and also as a base by the park keepers, back in the day when there were dedicated ‘Parkies’ to oversee the larger parks. So far we have not managed to find any photos of the Pavilion in better days: please contact us if you have any photos or memories of it!

## *Funding for Cherry Trees*

We were delighted to receive a generous award of £5000 from the AEB Charitable Trust! This will enable us to continue replacing the cherry trees which form part of the Trefoil, originally planted in 1935 by members of the Guiding organisation.

We hope with this funding, together with some donations from Friends, to be able to plant around 18 to 20 new trees. The Council’s tree officer will select species which will give a variety of colour and blossom times, and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust will help with the planting and after-care – this should take place late in the Autumn.



## *New Picnic Tables!*

The Wednesday Brownies received a Tesco Community Award to assist with “combatting loneliness through outdoor meetings”. We agreed to support them with setting up picnic tables as a base for their outdoor meetings, and were fortunate to receive a further award from the Council’s Community Grants Funds. The combined funding will cover the cost of three robust and vandal-proof picnic benches.



Two will be sited fairly close together so larger groups can use them (one will be wheelchair-friendly), near to the main entrance. The third will be further into the park, past the theatre. We thank our local parks officer, who has helped with the planning and sourcing of the tables, and the expenses of setting up the bases for them. What we want now is a glorious Summer so they will be well used!



## *Mural Art in the Park?*

Inspired by the recent transformation of the Colinton Tunnel a small group of Friends have come together to understand the difference that some art work could make to the Park. We have made contact with the professional muralist who worked on the Colinton Tunnel, Chris Rutterford. He would seem to be an obvious choice as he has known the Park all his life and at one stage lived in a house that backed on to it.

Whilst the relationship between Chris and the Friends is yet to be formalised he has already opened our eyes to some of the possibilities far beyond what started out as a simple desire to replace the graffiti on the buildings with something relevant and attractive that would deter those armed with spray cans. Chris has ideas for all areas of the Park but we believe we should work on a small area first that will help us understand how best to deal with all the interested parties, the schools and school children, the Council and the audience. Look out for updates on the Park noticeboards and in future editions of the Valley Voice.



## *Litter Picking Hero!*

Our thanks go to a young man, who offered the Park litter-picking sessions over a 3-month period as part of his Duke of Edinburgh scheme Bronze Award. He worked through Winter weather, very methodically, solo or with a friend, and photos he sent us showed what a difference he made to the Park and the Burn! We wish him well with his future exploits!



## ***SMPS P7s heritage project***

As another school year draws to a close, another cohort of young folk at South Morningside Primary School make the big leap from primary school to secondary. It's a big exciting transition for them but it's with a small pang of sadness we see them move on! As always, keep your eyes peeled for their heritage project at our park to mark their onward journey and reflect on their many memories of fun times here as South Morningside pupils. Good luck P7s!!



## ***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.

## ***Bring Out Your Old Anecdotes!***

We're been feeling nostalgic lately and have been on the hunt for old photos of the park over the years. Have you got any vintage snaps in a drawer somewhere? Have you a story or a memory of the park from the old days? We'd love to see or hear all about them! Email us at: [info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk](mailto:info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) or send them via our Facebook page.



*Tree creeper in the park*

***Look out for next issue (Issue 43) of the Valley Voice in January 2022!***