

The Valley Voice

Issue 43

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For further information about the Friends and our wonderful Park, visit our website: www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Exciting Developments!

As another difficult year comes to an end, we can look forward to some really exciting additions to the park. The evidence of which will be installed for all to see very soon! More on this inside...

It's wonderful to see so many folk using the park from the youngest community members to the oldest. It is obvious the comfort that having this wonderful green space on our doorstep has given us through this difficult time.

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the park's upkeep over the last year.

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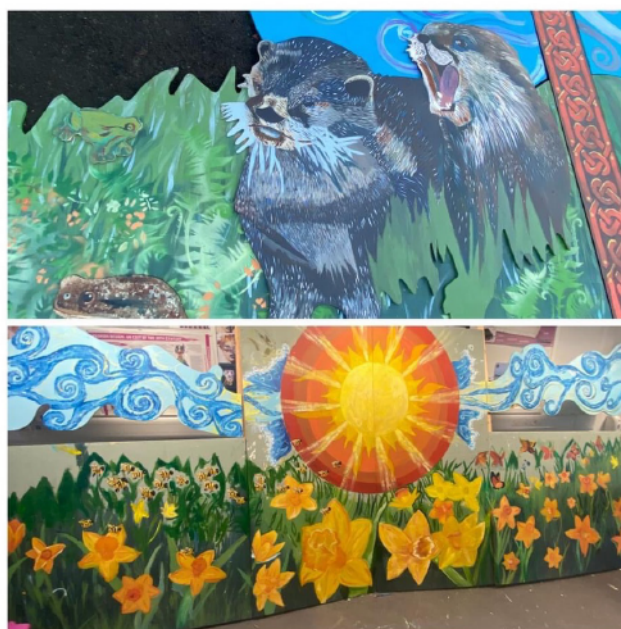
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Looking Ahead

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



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A tantalising preview of things to come for our Park!

Contact Us



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

Email: info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk
Website: www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Fun in the Park!

Staff and pupils from South Morningside Primary enjoying the resumption of their annual Reindeer Run in the park in December - looks like they had fun! No Mums and Dads attending this year but hopefully next year.



Huge thanks to...

..the many people who have kept the park beautiful over the past year! Hoping to miss nobody out, they include:

- The Council, who despite so many restrictions and staffing difficulties, maintained the park so well!
- Volunteers who have helped improve the Wildflower Meadow and Community Orchard, with scything and new planting – members of FOBVP, and also students in their final year of a Landscape degree who came forward with offers of help. Not forgetting Alan Fleming, who leads both activities! Also pupils from South Morningside Primary School for raking sessions.
- Three young men working towards a Duke of Edinburgh award, who have undertaken regular litter-picking over the past year.
- The Conservation Volunteers, who contacted us with an open-ended offer of help, and spent one session tidying Dianne's Garden, then more – very energetic! - work on widening the paths which had become overgrown.
- Volunteers from the University of the Third Age: Dianne, after whom the garden is named, was a leading light in U3A, and a member saw the need for help and circulated an appeal. This resulted in a group who have been pruning and splitting plants as well as weeding on a regular basis.
- And not least, the many people who take a bag and pick up litter on their regular walks – we don't know who all of them are, but thank them warmly.



Dianne's Garden in all its early Spring finery

Exciting News! A Mural for BVP!!

The Friends' relationship with Chris Rutterford, the muralist responsible for the Colinton Tunnel, has been formalised and our treasurer, Paul Bailey, has secured some funding from the Council. Many thanks also to our former chairperson, Andrew Swann, who initiated the project. The project has been limited to a 'first phase' that will cover the electricity substation, up high on the Fly Walk, with a mural. Should the results get the approval of the wider community we will look at further phases, the first of which will probably be the gas regulator building close to the main entrance.

In practical terms a broad brush design concept was produced and commented on by members of the Friends' Committee and those on the mural working party. That concept was presented to Firrhill High's S6 art students, all 26 of them, who developed it further. Marine ply boards have been acquired and primed by those with Community Service obligations. Easily handled elements of the design were transferred on to the boards and then cut out. The various elements have been painted by the Firrhill students and when they are finished they will be coated with epoxy varnish by the Community Service team. The boards will be fixed to the substation in early 2022 and there will be some on site painting, primarily of those parts of the building that have not been clad by the boards, before the mural is finished.



The photographs show Firrhill High S6 students working on the cut out elements, with artist Chris Rutterford. We can't wait to see the final result! For more pictures visit our website: www.tinyurl.com/ycknhshy

Fruit Tree Plans

Thanks to a generous donation from Greenbank Church Eco Group we will be ordering 10 fruit trees - pears, plums, apples and eating cherries - to expand the park's orchard. When a date is fixed for the planting, likely a weekend in February, we will be letting people know on the membership list and anyone who'd like to come and help will be very welcome.

Picnic Tables

Inspired by the Wednesday Greenbank Brownies, who secured funding from Tesco, we planned three tables for the park. We are grateful to the Council for a neighbourhood grant of £2400. The further expenses of delivery and installation were met from the parks budget, with great support from Mike Shields, our parks officer, in planning and setting them up. We went for robust tables which should withstand misuse and weather. Two were installed in the Summer, and the third will follow in the Spring. They have proved popular with a variety of users – perhaps unexpectedly, students with laptops!



AGM & Membership Matters

In a difficult year it is clear that many have been extra appreciative of 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, understandably, did not get round to renewing their subscription. The current membership total stands at 206. Please continue to recruit friends and neighbours!

Most subscriptions are renewed in January and many members will already have done so. 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 easier for us; 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.

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 to say so. Please do this if you can.

For reasons all too obvious, at this year's AGM we will not be able to gather in the church hall as usual. Instead, members are encouraged to join us in an online (Zoom) session, which is scheduled for Sunday 27th February at 2pm. Invitations will be sent out by email in the week before the meeting; they will include instructions (it's easy!) for those unfamiliar with Zoom.