

Valley Voice

For all the



Friends of

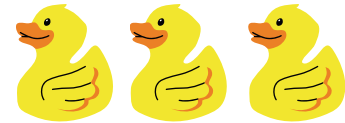
Braidburn Valley Park

In this issue

- **New play areas!**
- **Dirty Weekenders**
- **Anti-graffiti squad**
- **Floods**
- **Ladybirds**

Tea in the Park

Saturday 31st August - save the date for our annual family fun day. It's **cash only** - come and enjoy our popular duck race, kids stalls and more!



New play areas!

'Can't we have play equipment in the park?' Hearing this question over the years, we asked the Council. They were happy for natural play structures that blended in with the environment. And said there was funding for it, beyond what we could have afforded!



Our two new play structures serve two age groups. The one for smaller children promotes imaginative play - is it a house, a castle, a ship? The older children's area provides balance and climbing fun.

Thanks to Alan Grevers, the Council's play officer, for supporting this project!

Dirty Weekenders in the shrubbery

'The flowerbed outside at Greenbank is a real mess', pointed out a member of the public. It was true. Over the years the few-flowered leek had taken over.

Council funding no longer covers planting colourful annuals here; our efforts from a few years ago had been beaten by the weeds.

Our Park Manager offered us **the Dirty Weekenders**, wonderful student volunteers who tidy up various parks. They stripped out old geotextile and leek, and the council provided plenty of compost. Only the attractive Erythroniums remained.

Happily, a local garden designer offered a plan for easy-to-maintain plants, including:

- three small trees,
- plants which attract bees,
- repeating roses, evergreen grass.

We'll add other plants in the autumn.

Friends' volunteers planted all 53 plants and our regular Duke of Edinburgh lads kindly helped us water them in.

Can you help water or weed?

It's fun and satisfying! If you can, please email info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk.





New gardening shed

We love welcoming new volunteers.

To make life even easier for people who give their time, we have a new shed near the Greenbank Church entrance.

This lockable shed houses a few gardening tools for people to use when kindly weeding or improving our park.

Anti-graffiti squad

The park seems fairly clear of graffiti, all thanks to our local anti-graffiti squad.

The tram shelter, the gas and electricity substations, benches, bins, bridges and lamp-posts have all been sprayed with the same graffiti tags.

Thanks to members reporting it to us, a Friends volunteer can set off - armed with an anti-graffiti kit from the Parks Department.



Behind the tram shelter.

Spot graffiti? Let us know!



Wet wet wet

In May, the crazy rain swelled the Braid burn and the middle of the park turned into a huge muddy river.

Water flowed fast along many sections of the path, and reached as high as the bridges!



Ladybird spotting

Local biologist Barbara has been on the look out for ladybirds. They eat Blackfly, living on thistle stems. 'Although the thistles were plentiful all along the stream **I only found ladybirds on two plants**, near the older children's play equipment. I saw:

- 2-Spot Ladybird *Adelina bipunctata*
- 7-Spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7- punctata*'

Can you spot ladybirds? Send photos to us on Facebook or via email!

207 members!

Thank you to the 207 members who have renewed their £3-5 subscription. If you haven't, please don't delay! **Your membership fees go towards all the improvements you see around the park.**

- Standing orders make our life lots easier than cash or cheque!
- Find our account details and a bank mandate on our website

We still have 18 members we can't reach by email. If that's you, please email us on **membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk** to say hi. Many thanks!

What we do

Becoming a Friend means paying £3-5 a year - it's like making it official that you love our park. And that's it!

A dozen committee members meet four times a year to decide on projects. And then assorted individuals and groups volunteer their time to help weed, water, litter pick or run events.

Pic of the week

Mike Richardson's picture of our cherry trees was chosen as the Geograph's Picture of the Week in May. Congratulations!

