



FRIENDS OF BRAIDBURN VALLEY PARK

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC040192

Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 31 October 2024

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 October 2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of Friends of Braidburn Valley Park for the year ended 31 October 2024

Reference & Administrative Information Charity name

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

Charity number

SC040192

Contact address

Steve Ambler, 105 Greenbank Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5RS

Management Committee (Trustees)

Steve Ambler	Treasurer
Paul Bailey	Chair
Alastair Bruce	Membership Secretary and Website
Margaret Bruce	Minutes secretary
Alan Fleming	Honorary Tree Warden
Robin Harper	
Claire Jellema	Tea in the Park coordinator
Barbara Richardson	
Brian Smith	Volunteer coordinator
Arthur Trew	
Ian Vandeppear	

Other roles and representatives on the Management Committee (not Trustees)

Lucy Frankel	Valley Voice editor
Brian Barron	Greenbank Parish Church
Vacancy	Schools Liaison

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution and membership

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its Constitution which was adopted in January 2003 and last amended in February 2017. Charitable status was granted by the Office of the Scottish Charities Registrar on 15 January 2009. Membership of the Friends is open to any person who supports the objectives of the Friends on payment of an annual membership subscription which remains unchanged since 2002 at £3 & £5 (family).

Appointment of Trustees

The management committee, which normally meets quarterly, are the charity's trustees. Membership of the management committee is open to all members of the Friends. Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of five and not more than eleven elected committee members. The committee may co-opt two members of committee during the year to fill any vacancies.

Management

The Management Committee is responsible for policy decisions and general management of the charity. Post Covid-19 we have continued to have committee meetings online, occasionally with one meeting in the park itself.

Aims and charitable purposes

To conserve, enhance and promote the Park for the benefit of people and wildlife, to encourage community involvement in the Park and to work with the Local Authority and other organisations to achieve these aims.

Chairperson's report

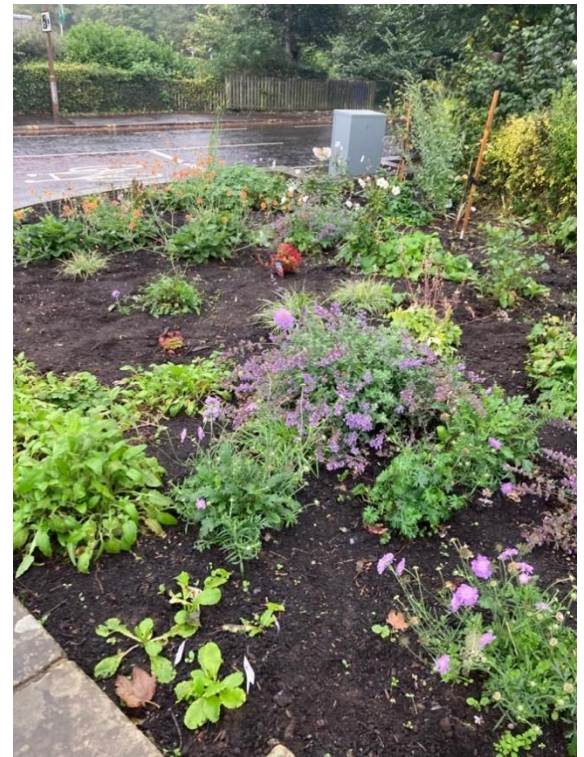
2024 has been a very good year for completing several improvements in the park.

Awards, events and projects

Play equipment: The most significant project was to install play equipment in two places - for toddlers at the Willow Arch near the Oxfangs exit - and for older children near the theatre. Despite very wet weather in April the council managed to complete the work very proficiently. The Parks Department paid for the equipment while we have paid for an extra picnic table by the Toddler equipment.



Shrubbery: We received a request from the public to tidy up the area outside the park (at the main entrance). Therefore we teamed up with the Parks department, a wonderful group of University volunteers (the Dirty Weekenders), our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers and a local Garden designer, Elisabeth Quinn, to restore the area. The Dirty Weekenders cleared the invasive few-flowered leek, our Parks Manager provided new compost, Elisabeth suggested a plan with suitable plants and your committee paid for £320 worth of shrubs. In the autumn the Inch Nursery provided further plants and we bought and planted 300 bulbs with the help of volunteers. Teamwork!



Dianne's Garden: Volunteers look after this garden just inside the main gate. To save volunteers having to bring their own tools we purchased a metal shed and a sizable collection of tools. We also bought various compost bins.



The Wildflower Meadow: Alan Fleming again deserves praise for his energy and ability to enthuse his teams for work on the Wildflower Meadow. Former chair, Andrew Swann, built an impressive bug hotel in the meadow. The council have plans to leave another nearby section uncut and planted with wildflowers to attract butterflies and other insects. A group of our own volunteers respond to the call to scythe the wild meadow and the willow arch each year.



Bridges: Despite previous work to strengthen the Rowan Tree Bridge with wooden timbers over the gabions, the stringers beneath the bridge are in such poor condition that it needs replacing. Money is of course very tight.



The Exercise Equipment: We keep on reminding the council that the cross trainer needs repairing. Also we are waiting for the council to divert the water ingress on the site where the derelict park-keeper's house was demolished.

Green Flag: This was the eighteenth year that our park has been awarded the Green Flag - welcome recognition of the healthy state that the Council, Friends and volunteers have managed to maintain over the past year.

Park Quality Score: The council inspects all its parks and grades them on about 25 criteria. Our park improved 2 points this year to 82% and is now ranked third in the city (out of 141) behind Easter Craiglockhart Hill & Woods (88%) and Starbank Park (85%). Braidburn is the highest scoring park in the South East ahead of Bauk's View (81%), Dunbar's Close Garden (80%) and Seven Acre Park (79%). None of this could have been achieved without the help of our Friends group, committee members and volunteers, together with our Parks officers, David Kyles and Peter Davidson.

Tea in the Park:

This year's Tea in the Park and Dog Show on Saturday 31st August were both great successes. A huge thank you to all the many volunteers who gave up a Saturday afternoon. We couldn't do it without you! But more importantly it has all been masterminded for several years by Claire Jellema who has decided that the time has come to step down from that role. So we need someone else to step forward if it is to continue.

Volunteers: We are indebted to Brian Smith, a committee member, for co-ordinating volunteer tasks this year. The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme volunteers have now finished their stint; meanwhile another group from Kaimes School has been doing great work in the burn and trimming back overgrown branches.



The Burn: The Conservation Volunteers have been strengthening the banks of the burn near the south end of the park. Rather than use stone gabions, they weave willow round stakes – called ‘spiling’. Nearby they have been ‘coppicing’ an area of hazel trees – a conservation technique involving good use of materials and promotion of new growth.

Communications

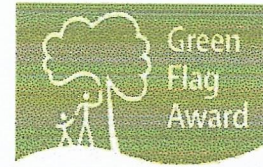
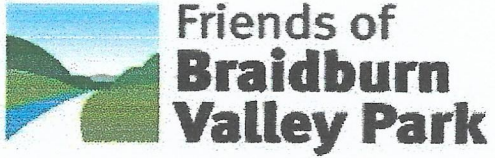
Email: All members are encouraged to provide an email address. The resulting members mailing list (maintained in membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) allows us to notify members about park developments and membership matters; and to receive feedback from members.

Website/Facebook: Our website (www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk) provides an archive of material about the park. The website and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BraidburnValleyPark) allow postings about park developments (matching those communicated directly to members by email) which are then accessible to those who are not members. We now have 2,200 residents following on Facebook – an increase of about 300 in a year. Feedback from the public comes by email through the website email account info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk, through postings on Facebook, together with suggestions from members bumping into committee members in the park.

Newsletter: Two editions of our newsletter, *The Valley Voice*, are produced annually and distributed to members (either electronically or on paper). Lucy Frankel does a spectacular job, combining text and images to produce a professional document. An [archive of all editions](#) is maintained on the website and is well worth a read to reflect on our achievements.

Membership: In the course of the year we welcomed 14 new members. The current membership total stands at 216, up 9 on last year. Please continue to recruit friends and neighbours. Most subscriptions are renewed in January and many members will already have done so. Those in the habit of paying by cash or cheque, are asked to consider setting up a standing order for future payments. It makes our administration easier; and will ensure your membership does not lapse accidentally! When you are doing so, please consider paying a little more than the stated subscription: subscription rates have not changed since FOBVP was formed more than 20 years ago! See the item [What your friends do](#) on our website for examples of how your money is used.

The number of members we are unable to reach by email keeps dropping pleasingly and is now down to 16. Any member able and willing to (re-) establish email contact with us needs only email membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk to say so. Please do this if you can: it helps save paper and trees!



FRIENDS OF BRAIDBURN VALLEY PARK

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC040192

Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 October 2024

Financial review

This year we held our Tea in the Park 'Fun' Day on 31st August, raising £1,172 after expenses. Our significant expenses included £320 on plants for the shrubbery, £275 on a perching bench and £144 on new gazebos.

Membership fees income this year was only £10 more than last year (2023/24 - £949). Remarkably the fees have not changed since the Friends group was launched in 2002 at £3 / £5. Over a quarter of our members add a donation – which makes a big difference: in 2023/24 members' donations totalled £365.50.

Other donations amounted to £1570 from Edinburgh Council's Community Grant. We spent this on the Asgard shed (now in Dianne's Garden) and associated tools.

We resumed our insurance payment to Zurich of £157.88.

Our end-of-financial-year balance stands at £11,389.27, an increase of £866.04 over the year.

Approved by the trustees on Jan 25th 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Steve Ambler

Steve Ambler, Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2024 which are set out in succeeding pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

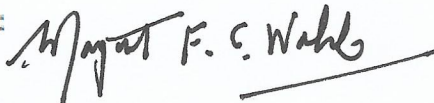
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



24/1/25

M Walsh

Name: Margaret F C Walsh

Relevant Professional qualification/professional body: Self Employed Accountant

Address: 21 Gillespie Road, Edinburgh EH13 ONW

Date: 24/1/25

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 October 2024

	Note/Table	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24
		£	£
Receipts			
Membership subscriptions		939	949
Membership donations		259	366
Grants and Donations from others		500	1,570
Gift Aid		245	239
Fund raising		1,823	2,030
Total Receipts		3,766	5,154
Payments			
Charitable activities	Table 2	2,666	3,673
Governance costs	Table 3	636	616
Total Payments		3,302	4,289
Profit for the year		464	866

Statement of Balance at 31 October 2024

Assets

Cash at Bank **£11,389**

Approved by the Trustees on January 25th 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Steve Ambler

Steve Ambler, Treasurer

1. Basis Of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Charities Accounts (Scotland) 2006 (as amended).

2. Table 2 – Cost of Charitable Activities

	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24
	£	£
Annual fun day	320	858
Picnic benches and seats	1,390	275
Mural	125	145
Printing - Valley Voice/cards/facebook	140	94
Postage, stationery & telephone	28	6
Tools and materials	663	2,295
Totals	2,666	3,673

3. Table 3 – Governance

	Total 2022/23	Total 2023/24
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fee/honorarium	80	80
Rent (Greenbank Church)	250	250
Insurance	170	158
Web site	86	128
Retirement gift to Parks Officer	50	0
Totals	636	616

4. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

The trustees do not receive any remuneration but claim expenses for stationery and postage etc. These are recorded in Table 2.