

# Juniper Green and Baberton Mains News

## April 2010

### The story so far—

Juniper Green Community Council has started with a committee keen to work for the improvement of local amenities. We have been joined by representatives from Juniper Green Parish Church, and staff and parent members from Juniper Green Primary School. We would welcome nominees from other local groups. Some members of the public have already attended our monthly meetings – you would also be very welcome. Everyone is invited to the AGM at Baberton Golf Club on 6<sup>th</sup> May

#### Walking the walk..

JGCC members have participated in several local walkabouts with Edinburgh City officials helping to point out where improvements can be made, for example to the drainage of the pathway beside the school grounds where recent work has hopefully solved the flooding problem. The gradient of the Baberton Mains path, the state of the wood and parkland at Curriemuir, and the potholes and blocked drains in our roads have all been highlighted at meetings with officials.

#### Digging deep..

Topics under discussion are the adequate provision of allotments in our area and the housing development on the golf club site.

Indeed, JGCC carefully monitors all planning applications in Juniper Green and Baberton Mains as one of its monthly tasks. An energetic sub-group of JGCC is investigating all aspects of health that affect the well-being of residents. Soon, we will be asking all residents in a short questionnaire about their issues of concern – we need to know what is important to you and what you would like to see us raise on your behalf.

#### Getting to know you

The creation of an interactive Community Council website has attracted a grant, so that work on its development can now begin. We hope you will use it to help us understand what you would like us to do for the good of our community. The grant also enables us to erect a new noticeboard likely to be sited beside the pathway near the school, print and distribute a couple of newsletters like this one and to acquire the software to produce future posters and newsletters.

#### Around our area.....



*The Water of Leith*



*Belmont Avenue*



*Lanark Road*



*A back garden in Baberton Mains*

Juniper Green  
Community  
Council serving  
Juniper Green  
and Baberton  
Mains



© Paul Watt Photography

Juniper Green Community Council (without Neil Ingram whose photo you can see overleaf)

We were formed in November 2009 and had our first meeting in the Village Hall. We are here to serve the people in Juniper Green and in Baberton Mains and with your input we would like to make the whole area a cleaner, safer and greener place to live in.

Please come along to our meetings and let us know what you think about local issues.

#### MEETINGS

JGCC meets on the second Wednesday of each month—details posted on the Notice Board in Juniper Green, temporarily on the Juniper Green Village Association Website, soon to be on a board near the school and in "What's On" in the C&B News.



## Walks of Discovery 3rd – 9th May

### Trees, Birds and History of Juniper Green and Front Gardens of Baberton Mains



#### Monday 3rd May

##### Tree Identification

A circular walk including Dr Mackay's Woodland and Curriemuirend. Eric White will discuss the identification points for each tree species we pass, taking in native species as well as exotics planted in gardens.



#### Tuesday 4th May

##### Birds of Juniper Green, Residents and Spring Migrants

A circular walk taking in Dr Mackay's Wood, the Water of Leith valley, the village and Bloomiehall Park. Richard Watt will help you identify our birds by sight and by their calls and songs.



#### Wednesday 5th May

##### Juniper Green in the 19th Century

Explore the evidence of the village's nineteenth century history: a time of energy, cooperation and commercial growth. See the private, commercial, leisure and public buildings of our earlier community. Share, with Liz Beevers, what we know of our area.

#### Sunday 9th May

##### Front Gardens in Baberton Mains

A casual stroll around Baberton Mains to observe the differing styles and design in the modern suburban front garden.

#### Book Your Place Now

Walks on 3-5 May start at 7.00 pm, and on 9 May at 2pm with a maximum number of 20. To book, phone Cliff Beevers on 453 4517. Cliff will give you details of the meeting point for each walk and answer questions about the route. Walkers who don't like steeper paths will be offered alternatives, and if two hours is too long you can opt out at any point. Strong footwear is advisable.

## JGCC –Planning, Transport and Environment

Planning issues feature significantly in many of our lives - whether we are generally concerned about developments around us, affecting the immediate areas we live in or the sensitive environment of the Water of Leith and the Pentlands, or we wish to modify or extend our own properties. In commenting on proposals which affect our area, the Community Council will endeavour to present a broader yet still local view of the issues raised, taking into account local knowledge and views. We therefore welcome your views and ideas, both on individual developments and on wider plans for the area.

Recent changes to the planning system give increased powers to Community Councils, in particular making us statutory consultees on major planning appli-

cations. This procedure would involve us in discussions with the developer before the planning application is submitted.

We will also be taking an interest in transport and environmental issues, such as our bus services and local road developments. We also intend to pursue with the City of Edinburgh Council an increase in the range of materials which can be recycled, either through regular household collections or at the Council's recycling centres.

Neil Ingram

*Neil Ingram, our Planning convenor, who was missing from our original group photo.*



## Events—past and present

In the week of our first AGM on May 6<sup>th</sup> we are organizing several walks around our village to spot the natural wildlife, identify the indigenous trees and hear some of the history of our neighbourhood with three local experts. (Details above). Further, in collaboration with Balerno and Currie CCs arrangements are well advanced to hold a hustings in Juniper Green Parish Church on Wednesday 28th April.

Members of JGCC were pleased to help with the monumental day in Juniper Green on March 7<sup>th</sup> when Dr Alison Sheridan of the National Museums Scotland was joined by old and young residents to unveil the carved stone. Local artist Mick Brett had designed the carving executed by stone carver Ian Newton. It was a great occasion when residents were able to meet and greet one another in and around the tennis courts and enjoy the food and drink prepared by Val Hawkins.



## Healthy Living in Juniper Green and Baberton Mains

## Hosting a Hustings in Juniper Green

BALENO, CURRIE AND JUNIPER GREEN  
COMMUNITY COUNCILS BRING YOU

# HUSTINGS 2010

YOUR UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY  
TO HEAR AND QUESTION  
ALL THE CANDIDATES  
IN THE WESTMINSTER  
ELECTION

All the candidates will address  
you, the voters directly  
and their details and answers  
their questions.

Information and question forms from  
[www.westminstercouncil.co.uk](http://www.westminstercouncil.co.uk)  
Parking is limited - so come first!

**WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL**

**AT 730 SHARP JUNIPER GREEN PARISH CHURCH**

Tickets and question forms from  
Baleño Post Office and Scrimdi  
Currie Post Office, Scrimdi and Cooperative  
Juniper Green, Scuffs and the Village Shop Café  
or on the night on a first come basis - overflow bottles are available



## Juniper Green Community Council

Contact details: Eric White, minutes  
Secretary  
Phone: 0131 453 4814  
Email: white@ericjpat.wanadoo.co.uk

*We aim to be your voice on local  
matters*

*Coming soon ....our own  
Website—tell us what you  
would like to see included on  
it*



**Our new logo — look out for it on future  
communications!**  
It features Baberton House and the former  
Woodhall Mill as reminders of our community's  
rich history.

### Juniper Green Community Councillors

**Chair**—Cliff Beevers, OBE

**Vice Chair**—Helen Ogg

**Secretary**—Richard Watt (correspondence) Eric White (minutes)

**Treasurer**—Neil Wheelan

**Elected Members**—Maxine Magee, Norma McGeever, Vic Stewart,  
Robert Ogg, Neil Ingram

**Nominated Members** — Ian Gilmour (JG Parish Church), Katrina  
Donaldson (JG Primary School PTA)

**Co-opted member**—Karen Noble, Headteacher, Juniper Green  
Primary School

### City of Edinburgh Councillors

**(also ex officio members of Juniper Green  
Community Council)**

**Alastair Paisley (Conservative)** 529 4066  
alastair.paisley@edinburgh.gov.uk

**Ronnie Cairns (SNP)** 529 3278  
ronald.cairns@edinburgh.gov.uk

**Ricky Henderson (Labour)** 529 3269  
ricky.henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk

### Other Useful Contact Details

**South West Neighbourhood Office**  
Westside Plaza  
EDINBURGH  
EH14 2ST  
527 3800

## A Monumental Day in Juniper Green

Something new has appeared by the Tennis Courts in Juniper Green! A green rough hewn rock looks as though it has been there for ever but it was only set in its place on 3rd March 2010.

Images on it were designed by local artist, Mick Brettle and the stone itself was carved by Ian Newton, stonemason from Nine Mile Burn.

On it you can see the juniper sprig of the village's name, the river and a mill wheel, symbolising the mills which flourished along the Water of Leith and a Bronze Age beaker and skull recalling the settlement here of our ancestors from over 4000 years ago. A man's skeleton found near the Lanark Road in 1851 was dated around 2000 BC. The skull of the skeleton remains in the National Museums of Scotland, whose scientists have worked out his age and diet! More Bronze Age urns were found in 1898 on Woodhall Terrace which is close to the monument site at the junction between Baberton Avenue and Belmont Road.

The monument had its ceremonial unveiling on Sunday March 7 at 2pm. This

event was attended by about 200 people, and the sun shone! The guest speaker and Bronze Age expert was Dr Alison Sheridan of the National Museums Scotland. Representatives of the oldest and youngest residents, all past or present pupils of JG Primary school, unveiled the monument to the strains of Christopher Grieve's bagpipes. A team of 12 of Anne Bangham's dancers, provided a stunning performance in the Village Hall.

The refreshments, served in the grounds of the Tennis Club, were themed to our community's past: juniper and lemon flavoured biscuits shaped and decorated like Bronze Age beakers, and "mill wheel" biscuits fla-

voured with cinnamon. More up-to-date cuisine, in the form of pizza, was donated by Silvia Carpico of Al Borgo! It was all washed down with a choice of lemon brose made with real lemons, or Atholl brose, a heady concoction of oats, honey, cream and whisky. A photographic record of the whole event was made by Paul Watt.

Most important of all, there was a really good feeling of people meeting and greeting each other as part of a related community. Thanks are due to our sponsors: the JG300 committee, JG Village Association and the makers of Juniper Green organic gin, London and Scottish International Ltd; to Juniper Green Tennis Club; and all those, too numerous to name, but including volunteers from the new JGCC, who gave their time, talents, energy, money and equipment to make this event such a success. VH

