## 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 6th 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 Curriemuirend, and the potholes and blocked drains in our roads have all been highlighted 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 wellbeing 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 applications. 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 6th 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 7th when Dr Alison Sheridan of the National Museums Scotland was joined by old and young residents to unveil the carved stone. Local artist Mick Brettle 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.

## Juniper Green Primary School News

building as we have been busy introducing the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

The children have been involved in creating stories inspired by sculptures at Jupiter Artland, at Bonnington House, Wilkieston where, in June, we will repeat a very successful February performance for parents.

By supporting our revamped tuck shop, open next term, which will sell healthy, tasty fair trade snacks, parents can help us attain Fair Trade School status.

Following UNICEF guidelines and learning about The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we plan to become a Rights Respecting School. Our RRSA champions children's rights in school. Each class has devised a

Time has flown by in our lovely new class charter. Tell us if you can help us achieve this award!

> Look out for our Press Gang's exciting first edition of the magazine, The Green Word, with coverage of news from the school, local community and the world, sport and films.

> On 27 March our Eco group publicised Earth Hour 2010. On 26 March pupils dressed to highlight the slogan, "Switch off a light - wear something bright!" The group needs your 2 litre clear plastic bottles, just 580 more to reach our 1500 target to build an eco greenhouse.



The Community Council and the school hope to organise an environmental clean up on 29 Maylook out for further information on posters and in local shops.

## Healthy Living in Juniper Green and Baberton Mains

We have discovered something you probably know already-that we are all are very fortunate to live in the Community Council area of Juniper Green and Latest Scottish Baberton Mains. Neighbourhood Statistics say that for all but one of the measured health parameters we have better than average outcomes. The only one surprising statistic was the rate of emergency hospital admissions for those over 65-which we are told was an unexpected "blip" for 2008.

Although we do not have any medical facilities actually in the area (excepting for a chemist) we are close to the site of 2 interesting new developments, one Last year your CC area had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions for over 65s in Edinburgh!

the Healthy Living Centre at Harvesters sufferers called Wester Haven, sited area. opposite the Wester Hailes Police Sta-

NHS Lothian say the Healthy Living cle on walks...... Centre will have facilities for physio-

therapy, dentistry, podiatry, speech and language therapy, midwifery, paediatrics, mental health, learning disabilities and substance misuse. Other Council services will share the site. A healthy eating café is just one proposal. Also close to our area, the new Firrhill Medical Centre will include many similar services.

More widely the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership runs a Health and Employ-Way and the other an exciting pilot pro- ment sub-group which aims to improve ject, initially a drop in centre for cancer health and social care in the Pentlands

> We hope in future to promote healthy living in our own area. To begin, see the arti-

## Hosting a Hustings in Juniper Green

Our first ever joint venture by Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green Community Councils happens soon.

Community Councils have only one mandate and that is to represent your opinions i.e. opinions on issues that directly affect us locally and our job is to try and communicate your wants and needs clearly to the City of Edinburgh.

We discuss amenity and planning issues, parking and buses, the environment and so on ... as well as arranging the Riding of the Marches, Fairs and other community events like this.

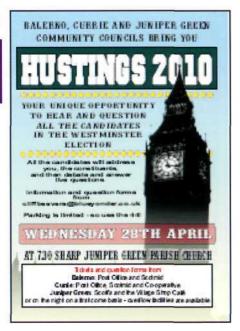
We hope this community event will allow local people to air their views and concerns to all of our prospective Westminster Parliamentary candidates.

Juniper Green Parish Church at 7.30pm 28th April 2010 Tickets from local shops See you there!

Look out for posters and tickets in local shops-and remember to send in your questions! At the time of going to press our speakers are:-

Caroline Bellamy-Communist Clare Cooney -Green Party; Alistair Darling - Labour; Colin Fox - Scottish Socialist; Tim McKay - Scottish Liberal Democrat:

Jason Rust - Conservatives; Kaukab Stewart - SNP



#### 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

#### 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

Tennis Courts in Juniper Green! 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 The refreshments, served in the grounds of really good feeling of people meeting 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. 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

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

Something new has appeared by the event was attended by about 200 people, voured with cinnamon. More up-to and the sun shone! The guest speaker and date cuisine, in the form of pizza, Bronze Age expert was Dr Alison Sheridan was donated by Silvia Carpico of Al of the National Museums Scotland. Repre- Borgo! It was all washed down with sentatives of the oldest and youngest resi- a choice of lemon brose made with dents, all past or present pupils of JG Pri- real lemons, or Atholl brose, a heady mary school, unveiled the monument to the concoction of oats, honey, cream and strains of Christopher Grieve's bagpipes. A whisky. A photographic record of team of 12 of Anne Bangham's dancers, the whole event was made by Paul provided a stunning performance in the Watt. Village Hall.

> the Tennis Club, were themed to our com- and greeting each other as part of a munity's past: juniper and lemon flavoured related community. Thanks are due biscuits shaped and decorated like Bronze to our sponsors: the JG300 commit-

Most important of all, there was a Age beakers, and "mill wheel" biscuits fla-tee, 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.

