

Juniper Green and Baberton Mains News

February 2011

And furthermore—

The nine months since Juniper Green Community Council's last Newsletter have passed quickly and much has happened in that time. The extraordinarily successful hustings we held in the parish church on 28th April ahead of the general election; the Walks of Discovery, looking at the trees, the birds, and the history of the village and at the gardens of Baberton Mains early in May; the environmental clean-up with Juniper Green Primary School pupils later in the same month; a public meeting about the Transition Towns initiative in November; the Farmer's Market every month since September, and, most recently, anticipating Bloomiehall Park's centenary this year, a walk from the Park in December's wintry weather, followed by lunch at Al Borgo – the community council has certainly made an im-

pact on the social life of Juniper Green during its short existence.

The Routine

Much else is going on that may not have such a high profile. Road repairs in Baberton Mains, the cutting back of vegetation on footpaths and the improvements to the u n d e r p a s s at Clovenstone roundabout have occurred or been speeded up because of community council representations to the local authority. We closely monitor planning applications in our area and respond where appropriate; we are investigating the possible provision of allotments for would-be gardeners; regularly go on walkabouts with city officials to look at road and pavement repairs, and liaise constantly with the police on all safety matters. During November and December's icy weather we

conveyed residents' concerns daily to our city councillors. We attend lots of neighbourhood meetings on everything from health to the environment.

Sock it to us

Altogether, although we are not smug about our record, we do think we can be proud of what we have achieved in our first year. Please let us know what else we should be doing: you will soon be able to tell us online at www.junipergreencc.org.uk.



Having a break during the "clean-up" in the Park

Planning Issues

In the first full year of our existence we have seen 35 completed planning applications, of which 31 have been approved, one was withdrawn and three were refused, though one of these was successfully resubmitted. Nearly all of our applications concern extensions or modifications to existing houses. Those falling within the Juniper Green Conservation Area are subject to additional restrictions, mainly concerning

the appearance of the property from the road.

Major planning issues in adjacent areas also come to our attention. Two significant ones in 2010 were the proposed redevelopment of Curriehill School as a major shopping site, and the long term proposals for development of the Green Belt north of Baberton Mains by Murray Estates. We are also likely to see significant developments in

Juniper Green later this year, with proposals from McCarthy and Stone for a retirement complex on the site of the existing Baberton Golf Clubhouse, and the redevelopment of the old primary school building for residential use. Look out for more information about these developments during 2011.

**Juniper Green
Community
Council serving
Juniper Green and
Baberton Mains**

Issue 2

February 2011

Special points of interest: Forthcoming Events for Juniper Green and Baberton Mains

The next 3 **Farmers' Markets**;
Kinleith Arms car park
09.00 – 13.00:

4th Saturday of each month:-
February 26th,
March 26th,
April 23rd

Digital Switchover: How You
will be Affected by the Switch
from Analogue to Digital TV;
Juniper Green Parish Church
7.00 – 9.00pm.

Tuesday 22nd March

Environmental Clean-up with
Juniper Green Primary
School, 10.00 – 1.00. Please
Volunteer. Contact Richard
Watt at relwatt@hotmail.com
or phone 538 0352.
Saturday 2nd April

Other Events are in the Pipeline: if you want to be kept up to date with what's happening, ask to join our mailing list and send your email address to cliffbevers@blueyonder.co.uk

Public Meetings of the Community Council are held every second Wednesday of the month, except July and August, usually in the Village Hall, from 7.00 – 9.00pm. All are welcome.

KEEP UP TO DATE

All activities and reports of the Community Council are published monthly in the Community Newspaper, the C&B News.

Primary School Report

The autumn saw a busy term at Juniper Green PS. Primary six enjoyed an exciting outdoor residential experience in Speyside in October. They were able to face their fears over physical challenges and enjoy time away with classmates. The children had the surprise of some extra days off school during the snowy weather when access to the school was extremely challenging; however this did not curb the preparations for and successful performances of the two nativity shows enjoyed by parents of Nursery and P1-2 children. With Christmas and New Year now a pleasant memory there are new challenges ahead, including a focus on Fairtrade Fortnight, an inter-

school Euro Quiz and a P4-7 concert. The school is sad to lose our DHT Mr Paul Ewing who has been a member of staff for over six years; he moves on to take up the headship of Liberton PS. Our eco group have been keeping busy ensuring responsible recycling throughout the school and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Spring bulbs they planted to enhance our school grounds. Hopefully Spring is just around the corner so they won't have too long to wait.



Canoeing at Abernethy

Local Winter Heroes

Two radio amateurs from Juniper Green have been nominated to attend a reception for winter heroes by the First Minister. Charlie Duncan and Vic Stewart, a community councillor, manned their radios day and night during the icy weather in November and December to provide vital communications links for and to coordinate the movement of volunteer 4x4 drivers in Fife, the Lothians and Falkirk who provided essential transport for hospital patients, care workers and nurses, and for medical supplies, when the usual vehicles were unusable. The

"Come in XYZ, patient in Kinghorn requires assistance."



Lanark Road in the bleak mid-winter

operation of the scheme was entirely dependent on Charlie and Vic's expertise and willingness to give time to help others.



Bloomiehall's Igloo

Bad Weather Brings Communities Together

It was, perhaps, picturesque, but our recent snow made it hard to get about and even the buses were badly affected. These conditions brought a new appreciation of our local shops, but highlighted risks of getting from A to B. Despite the many negatives, the weather provided more chances to talk to one another and forced us to slow down.

During this period many made a huge difference to neighbours' lives with a phone call or a visit. The snow left the elderly, frail or housebound particu-

larly vulnerable to food shortages when family or carers were unable to reach them. It is important to know who your neighbours are and whether they need extra support in such circumstances. In this situation many realise they don't know who their neighbours are and who might be vulnerable. So why not make your New Year resolution to get to know your neighbours and call or introduce yourself before the next snowfall? If you are concerned about someone's wellbeing during bad weather you can phone social care direct on 0131 200 2324.



A cul-de-sac in Baberton Mains kept clear of snow by all the residents doing their bit —and having some fun too!

Juniper Green's New Road Signs

Early one morning at the end of November 2010, on schedule despite snow and ice, two new road signs were set up on Lanark Road. The Signage Group, which grew out of JG300, heaved a sigh of relief at the culmination of three years' work. One sign is at Gillespie Cross Roads and the other by the village's western boundary.

Designed by former resident, Jane Brettle, the signs refer to village history. Its name, first recorded in 1707, is emblazoned on the central area and symbolised by the juniper sprig in the roundel at the top and the green colour of the background. The strap line underneath refers to the long associa-



Julie Watt (far right), a member of the signage group, with the installers of the road signs

tion of Juniper Green with the mills that used to line the Water of Leith. Additionally a discreet reference to our Bronze Age past is encoded in the colour used for the font. In the interests of legibility, the bronze had to be made yellower!

We hope everyone likes the new signs and wish to thank the sponsors, Juniper Green Village Association; the manufacturers, Dee Organ, and the Council and Highways Department for their helpful support.

Bloomiehall 100 years old!

Location: Off Baberton Avenue and entered by Juniper Park Road, Juniper Green. Area: 6.2 acres (2.511 hectares)

Our park, north of Juniper Green village and overlooking Baberton Golf Course, has exceptional views of the Pentlands and the Forth valley. However, it is tucked away and unknown even to some locals.

Edinburgh's Parks & Gardens Strategy classifies Bloomiehall Park as a community park, with most visitors arriving on foot or by bicycle. Its an-

nual Parks Quality Assessment marks it against Green Flag criteria including welcoming, facilities, cleanliness & safety and maintenance. The current scoring for Bloomiehall Park is good.

It came into the hands of the Local Authority in 1911 and now has football pitches, a creative play park and varied plants for wildlife. Recent improvements are the resurfacing of both entrances, new litter bins, benches and a new set of goal posts. 2011 should see resurfacing of perimeter footpaths and tree planting.



Old Bloomiehall



Great Goals

The community council is seeking ways to mark the park's centenary. Imaginative ideas will be welcomed. Maybe you could help to found a Friends of Bloomiehall Park group?

Farmers' Markets in Juniper Green

Following requests from residents last year the Community Council started a Farmers' Market in Juniper Green in September 2010. The market meets on the fourth Saturday of each month beside the Kinleith Arms from 9am – 1pm. The market of up to ten stalls has included bread, game, vegetables, meat, fish, preserves, soap, chocolate and wood-turned items. Musicians from the village have entertained the shoppers and the gatherings have allowed Round Table, Church and a local scout group to fund raise for a number of charities. As in ancient times the market place is a good opportunity to meet and greet your

neighbours, chat about the weather, be entertained by your fellow citizens and enjoy the quality tastes of a variety of fare sourced locally and providing an alternative gastronomic experience.



Happy shoppers

If you have yet to try the market do come along on **February 26th, March 26th, April 23rd, May 28th, June 25th, July 23rd or August 27th** and enjoy all the fun of the fare!



Market music

Juniper Green Community Council

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

We're on the Web
www.junipergreencc.org.uk

We aim to be your voice on local matters



NEW Police Surgery—Report or
chat over any concerns, or just
get to know your local officers
March 24th,
Juniper Green Village Hall, 7.30pm

Right First Time

The "Right First Time" Team from Edinburgh City's Roads Department started work in Baberton Mains Drive in July 2010. Partly this was in response to the Community Council's request for an inspection of the roads in the Baberton Estate.

The team worked efficiently for three months with minimal disruption to traffic. During the main work the team also performed emergency repairs at various locations identified by our local roads' manager of CEC during subsequent walkabouts.

We learned that inspection routes are divided into 3 "walks". Initial work was allocated to "walk 1" mainly on Baberton Mains Drive and some of the streets leading off the Drive. Walk 2, in the Drive, Hill and some of the Way is scheduled for late August or early September 2011. We have no timescale yet for Walk 3, which could well be affected by the severe damage caused to the roads by the recent very bad weather.



The
team in
action

Community Safety

On 23 September 2010, the south-west Community Safety Team and Neighbourhood Action Team merged to form the new Safer Neighbourhood Team. The new team is committed to tackling everyday issues which may affect the quality of your life. Typical issues covered are fly-tipping, trade waste, littering, noise nuisance, youth disturbances, graffiti, vandalism, abandoned vehicles, dog-fouling and vehicle emissions, as well as the reporting of crime to the

tel: 0131 311 3131 (24hrs)
tel: 0131 311 3131 ext 2601 (office)
email:
ADivSNTPentlandHills@lbp.pnn.police.uk
web: lbp.police.uk

police who are part of the team. Advice and assistance are available on a range of questions, including environmental crime, anti-social behaviour and other community

Update on the Underpass

Many of you will have seen the note in the C&B News about the underpass just north of the Clovenstone roundabout. Since the autumn, each of the underpasses on the Wester Hailes Road has been upgraded, which is most welcome. The walls have been made good and the lighting has been repaired. Despite this, the environs of the underpass in which a lady was assaulted last year are still not very pleasant. The lighting on the Baberton side is, thankfully, due to be repaired very soon. Community Councillors have suggested, with the support of the Crime Prevention Officer, that some of the shrubbery be cut back to give a clearer line of sight to anyone using the footpath and/or the underpass itself. Hopefully Edinburgh City Council can find some funds to do this. Underpasses have never been popular, but we are grateful to the City and Police who have tried to make the best of it.



Before



After

Clovenstone underpass



safety issues, so do ask for help should you need it.

If there are any issues you would like to raise through the Community Council rep on the Community Safety Sub-Group of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership, please email

helenrenfrew@live.co.uk or
telephone 0131 442 2135.