

Garden transformed at Juniper Green hall



VAL HAWKINS

A delightful ceremony took place on Saturday 27 September amid milling children, parents, officials and other interested parties in a small area adjacent to Juniper Green's Village Hall commanding stunning views of the Pentland Hills.

Brainchild of the Juniper Green Village Hall Organisation, Juniper Green's latest green space was officially opened by local resident Val Hawkins, whose original inspiration the garden was. People power ensured the retention of the site of the derelict old janitor's house for community use, and a plan was drawn up with the help of the ecologically minded Urban Pioneers. Designed to attract wildlife as well as people, it materialised in only two years, thanks to input from local developers and

the City of Edinburgh Council, and in particular to generous sponsorship from Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership and Menzies plc.

After an introduction by JGVHO Chairman Malcolm Brown, Val gave a potted (!) history of gardening in our area, starting with those famous Bronze Age beakers under our feet, continuing though Sir John Foulis's plant purchases in the late 17th century, and finishing with the 19th and 20th century parks, sports clubs and private gardens that give our area its rural character. She referred to the inspirational year of 2007, when the village's tercentenary celebrations galvanised the community to dig further into their past, resulting in the street side flower tubs, new signage on the Lanark

Road, the monument by the tennis courts, and most recently the upgrading of Bloomiehall Park and the digging into the history of Baberton.

We have succeeded in retaining an important new space, not only for ourselves but for our children and their children, and their children! We look forward to using it to inspire interest in gardening, to meet and greet our neighbours, for outdoor events like the monthly Farmer's Markets and simply to enjoy those stunning views.

Juniper Green Village Hall will soon have its own website, but in the meantime, some information can be found at www.youredinburgh.info or on Juniper Green Community Council's website (www.junipergreencc.org.uk).

