

THEN & NOW TALK SLIDE NOTES

Talk for the Then and Now Slide Show

David Geary/Cliff Beevers

JGPC, Thursday 21st June 2007

These notes should be read in conjunction with the images prepared for the talk and also available on this site.

S01 Title slide showing at the start

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome once again to Juniper Green Parish Church for the last in our series of history talks and walks.

David Geary and I would like to cover 3 main themes tonight:

1. provide a kind of retrospective of the last 6 months of activities;
2. take you around a tour of the village by lantern slide, well the modern day equivalent that is; and
3. look ahead to what does and might follow on.

There is some sadness in that this is the end of what has been an intense but intensely enjoyable part of this special year of celebration. It is true that we are not halfway through the year but many of our events have been programmed into this first 6 months, the actual birthday of the village remains several months away on Sunday November 18th as those of you with your commemorative calendar will already know! In fact, that day there will be a special service here in the church and all are welcome.

Let me start with a short story. As you know I don't see too well but have always fancied playing golf so I approached Baberton Golf Club and said "Can you help, if I come down to the Club how would I manage to track the ball?" "No problem" said the manager "There's old Harry, he's 95 years old but he has eyes like an eagle, he can accompany you around the course." So, I went along, met with old Harry, went up to the first tee, addressed the ball with my newly acquired Tiger Woods finest, duly walloped the ball, hundreds of yards at least. Then, I turned to old Harry and said "Did you see that?" and he said "Yes", so I added "Where is it then" and he replied "I've forgotten!"

Now, that's quite a funny joke, well it might have been had it been told more professionally, but it contains a truth at the heart of JG300. We all "see" things as we go through life but then we "forget" them. What JG300 attempted from the start was to record some of those forgotten truths about our village and its community over the years.

We started by uncovering some of those stories through a combination of research and reminiscence and much credit must go to the diggers, those people who spent

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time recording our past and then to our webmaster, Dr Helen Ashton, who converted the information onto the website. The website started JG300 off well and so back on March 1st we began this present series with some of the stories from the website, its structure, features and some of the improvements that would follow. We've not managed to do them all yet but the ideas such as the interactive map, a proper search facility and the inevitable blog are still to be realised.

One of the most exciting re-discoveries for me was to learn that JG had been the location of a Bronze Age burial site, possibly close to where a place of a settlement might have been and all of this properly documented back in the nineteenth century, known to many of the inhabitants of JG in the twentieth century (a talk given by headmaster J J Malloch in the 1920s and a visit by JG school to the National Museum in the mid 1950s for example) but it was news to me in 2007. Those of us fortunate to be here when Dr Alison Sheridan of the National Museums Scotland shared her story of Bronze Age Scotland with us all back in mid March are now unlikely to forget that episode in our past.

There was a pattern to the history series of talks which you all noticed: Bronze Age ancestors, the big house story of Baberton and Woodhall from the fourteenth century onwards ably told by John Scott and Fay Cumming, the history walk by Liz Beevers which took in the first 150 years of the village story from 1707, onto the big part of our past with the mills, the workers therein and the ancillary businesses researched by Julie Watt and assisted that evening by Sarah Bromage. Finally, two weeks ago we were provided a tour de force by the director of research at Colinton Local History Society when Alistair Davidson filled in the background to some of the people and events that punctuated the second half of the nineteenth century here in the village.

In the middle of the series we heard all about junipers and sampled some juniper biscuits made by Val Hawkins. Don't forget to try out the juniper in tyme sausages available at Scott's the butcher.

So, by a tenuous but identifiable thread we arrive at the start of the twentieth century and almost the living memory of some if not all of us, I'm younger than I look by the way. The last time I saw my face in a mirror I was 33 and 33 is how I'll stay! Seriously, what David and I would like to do is to go through some slides that take us around the village, showing images from the past alongside their modern equivalents, pausing here and there to hear some of your stories. We have a roving mike so that any comments will be heard. For practical reasons and so that we are out of here before midnight can I suggest we take the slides in sensible sets so that we will stop six times en route to take comments.

What better than to take a route not far from the one our recent gala parade took, use a little magic carpet here and there with the benefit of modern technology and finish our tour in the heart of the village back at the 1849 school on Baberton Avenue. So, let's begin in Bloomiehall Park.

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S02 Bloomiehall Park	Boundary with the old Curriemuir. Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have stayed in one of the houses in the park but there is no direct record of that fact.
	The scenes show the park as it was some years ago and as it is today with the children's play area moved from east to west.
	Many of the old images are thanks to collections of old postcards owned by Gordon Renwick or Bill Blair and the images of today's Juniper Green are due to the cameras of Jim Adam or Gordon Renwick.
S03 The Village Hall	We don't have a very old photo of the Village Hall. This one is probably from the 1970s but we think it hasn't changed much over the years. Then, a modern image of today's impressive edifice is shown too!
	Volunteer Drill Hall acquired 1910
	JG Village Association formed 1957, hall was then in need of repair. That is probably true then and now. So, the Village Association is also celebrating a significant birthday this year having formed in 1957.
	Centre of life in the village in the 1900's and much activity today too
	Clubs: snooker, shooting, cards, dancing, badminton, cinema.
	British Legion, Burns Suppers. Playgroup from 1966.
S04 Tennis Courts & Cookhouse	Courts have existed for over 100 years. On land owned by Sir John Foulis until 1989.
	Who would have thought that the tennis courts would provide such a great and safe venue for an event until Val Hawkins had the idea of using them for Art in the Park on June 3 rd .
	Cookhouse was used to prepare meals for schools in the surrounding area

Let's make our first pause here and request contributions from the audience. Stories of leisure: outside activities memories of the park or tennis courts, any indoor reminiscences from times in the Village Hall.

S05 Belmont Road	One of the most beautiful streets in Edinburgh. Every house different. When living there in the 1970s and 1980s the 44 and 45 bus services would use it to turn around before returning to Edinburgh.
	It was part of the route of past Gala Parades.

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S06 Juniper Avenue looking south	Formerly Belmont Avenue. Bryce sisters had dairy & sweet shop halfway up on the right as we look south up the street.
S07 Juniper Avenue to Belmont Road	<p>Smiddy on the right as we look north down the street. Anderson family 100 years until 1950s. Old residents of Juniper Green still remember the Andersons who were the village blacksmiths for over one hundred years. The Andersons hailed from Tullieardie in Perthshire and moved to Juniper Green in the 1840s. Well into the twentieth century the business was run by John Anderson who lived at Fernielea later called Rivendell, the Victorian villa next to the former St Margaret's Church Hall.</p> <p>Prior to moving there John Anderson and his family lived with his father-in-law Gilbert Meikle's family at Fernieflat Farm where at one time there were nearly twenty people living under the same roof. Gilbert Meikle had his own en suite blacksmith. John Anderson who was also a pillar of St Andrew's Church died in 1935 and the business in the Smiddy continued at the top of Belmont Avenue for another twenty years or so by his sons Willie and John.</p>

Again, let's take stock here and talk a little more about the houses of the village: the ins and outs of Belmont Road and the homes of Belmont or Juniper Avenue. {Possible story: one of the jobs of which to be wary is taking on a paper round along Belmont Road, there are so many houses around the back. Some of you will remember Councillor Fraser who was a colleague of mine at Heriot-Watt. Hugh was a lovely man who could make you feel present with him when he recited the Burn's poem about the horse. I remember him asking me if I would deliver leaflets ahead of a forthcoming election, he said "You live on Belmont Road, don't you? Would you like to deliver some leaflets for me along there.". I said "Hugh, good fellow that you are, it's not even clear I'll vote for you."}

S08 The Store	Turn right and let's go up to the village boundary. Do take a look at the new sign there and of course all the wonderful flower tubs donated by the various village enterprises and that whole project driven through by Leslie Hannaford. I think he is responsible for the new railings too.
	You can see The Store & Dougie Stuarts. (1961)
	Old well in the back garden behind the hairdresser's shop. When we next pause if anyone can tell us where the other wells were in the village that would be helpful.
	Bakery, Butchery, Grocery, Clothing, Shoes & Hats
	Closed 1982, Brown Derby Restaurant, then sign shop and now the Scottish Hockey Association in part of the building.

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S09 Kinleith Arms	Built around 1830, evidence of horses resting here on old turnpike road
	Painting of Burns reciting poetry to old regulars by local artist William Forrest painted in the 1940s still hangs in the bar today.
	Affectionately known as the Top Shop
S10 Gillons	Still evidence of meat hooks outside present Electrician
	Gillons also once situated at Pentland Fry
	Also was Mrs Todd's sweetie shop
S11 Bryce's Petrol Station	Site of old lorry yard and petrol station
	Major business in the 20 th Century. Mills provided business.
	Heavily involved in local pageants for the Royal Infirmary
	The building known as Gossart's or Leishland and of course now Iceland.
S12 Dawn's Café	This has been Miss Martin's shop, and in the 1970s it was a hardware, paint and wine store.
	The house above now the home of Rab and Della Purves was home to the Juniper Green nightingale: Margaret Tweedale. Margaret born in 1910, first noticed by headmaster J J Malloch, won the gold medal at the Edinburgh Music Festival of 1926.
	Margaret went on to sing for the Bohemian Opera in the 1940s and 1950s. Della Purves is the world famous botanic artist so perhaps this house is reserved for artists!
S13 The Dairy Cottage	Sold milk to the entire village, known as a dry dairy.
S14 Scott's the Butcher	Scott's for over half a century, formerly known as Cattanachs,
	Site Of old chemist, Milne.
	Deli opened in the 1980's by Michael & Eileen Scott
	Possibly where the Bronze Age skeleton was found behind the buildings in 1851.
S15 Graham's	Graham's, then became Marshall's selling confectionery
	Then Allison's the Baker, a building society, solicitor and now Mark Porteous' undertaking business.
S16 Bert Porteous	Bon Marche was Granny Hutton's before Grandson Bert took over in 1934
	A place to spend your pocket money and Bert would take time with

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	some child spending 2p. He wrote everything down, even if only buying 2 items using a pencil taken from behind his ear and always with a flourish.
	One day a lady rushed into the shop and she said “Oh, Mr Porteous I’m in such a hurry, do you have a mousetrap, I have a bus to catch”. Quick as a flash Bert retorted “Well, I’ve got a mousetrap but I doubt if it is big enough to catch a bus!”
	Notice in the modern image the rose in the garden. The rose was given to Bert on his retirement in 1981 by the Village Association and typically he planted it where it would be seen by villagers.

Another pause here to check on any further information about the shops and buildings down to Bert’s old shop, also any idea where JG’s wells could be found.

Now, over to David for the next stretch of the route.

S17 Old Manse	Let’s pick up our tour at Gowanlea, the dower house of Woodhall House. It became the St Margaret’s manse for many years. Now converted into flats.
S18 Old Bank	Opened 1898 by Commercial Bank of Scotland there until
	New bank opened in 1965 on the site of the house Montpelier.
	Ian Marshall a reminiscer, spoke of being involved in the surveying of the house when it was being converted to private use in the middle 1960s.
S19 Lawries	Site of sweet shop, Gillon’s 1900s on the corner, and Roberts the Butcher.
	McNab’s for a while, Ruby Bush had a vegetable shop here and now Al Borgo’s restaurant. As Dougie Stuart would say, you could just nip into these shops and get everything you needed in the village. No reason to go into the big city.
S20 Railway Inn & Chemist	Inn opened along with the Caledonian railway line 1874.
	Past owners Borthwicks. Mrs Borthwick donated the font that was in St Margaret’s Church, lost for a while and now restored in Hanover House on Lanark Road. Known as Bennets Bar & Middle Shop. Was good for your darts and doms.
	Chemist now opposite the Post Office, and the shop has changed from video rental to Simply Fix It computer shop. The bookies was once open land.

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S21 Up Baberton Avenue	Old road to Baberton House, possibly oldest in village. Probably the route between the two grand houses.
	Miss Benson Sweet shop where Baberton Park now is. Ian Marshall looking for bubble gum, not allowed in 1950's. Went back with mother, Miss Benson announced she finally had some. He was caught.
	Montpelier House now the new Bank. The owner of this house sent a letter to the Scotsman in 1933 in which he talks of having it "on good authority" that Thomas Carlyle, the writer, had lived in the village. His story, so the Scotsman recorded, derived from Watt the snuff manufacturer in the village.
	Also on the right was Howitt the joiner, made allsorts, like to give wood chips to kids for their rabbit hutch.
S22 Buildings of B Avenue	Street full of history, the old school house or the 'wee school' between 1825 (lady Mary Seaforth) and 1922 then converted into the janitor's house. Became private dwelling 1992.
	Baberton Square or it's old nickname 'The Barracks' is a typical example of a mill house which would have been split into small rooms with an outside toilet. Feu duty payable on this land until very recent times to the Foulis estate. Another link to the past.
S23 The Post Office	Past Owners: Grahams, Scotts, Middletons, Fisher.
	Now a modern but still small village Post Office owned by Ashraf and Zahida.
S24 P Smiths	Run by another village worthy Peter Smith along with Margaret. Before him Mr Scott had run the shop, he lost 2 sons in World War 2 as recorded on the Roll of Honour in the church. Michael Scott the butcher of course stressed that this Mr Scott and the Scott from the Post Office were not relations of his.
S24a Candy Box	Candy Box run by Wilma Baxter, also formerly small café. Before that Willie Forsyth ran it as a fruit and veg shop. Not sure of old picture here and subsequently believe it to be Miss Benson's shop on Baberton Avenue.

Our fourth brief stop at this point in the village main street in case there are more stories. Back to Cliff.

S25 Old Station House	Some will remember this cottage and we all recognise today's use of that space.
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S26 St Margaret's	105 members of Colinton kirk set up in 1892
	Temporary Iron Kirk from Craiglockhart across road until building completed in 1890s.
	Known as village church for the workers, closed 1974
S27 Hunters & The Bield	Hunter's House was built in 1825 for a surgeon James Hunter. Present owners Mick and Jane Brettle. last previous owners were Reverend Robert Murray Leishman and Honourable Marista Muriel Leishman. Marista's book "Lord Reith, my father" was published recently.
	The Bield was the home of Miss Huffel who ran a girls' club in the early part of the last century. Dr Tam Sellar, the local family doctor lived there from the 1920s and had his surgery there. Joined in practice by Dr John Ross before John ran the practice from his house Southernwood further down the Lanark Road and on the opposite side.
	Sir Michael and Lady Hazel Woodruff lived there from the middle 1950s. Sir Michael was an excellent doctor, performed the first kidney transplant here in Edinburgh. There is a piece of research needed on the doctors of JG including Professor Davidson of Woodhall House, Dr Ross of present times and the unfortunate Dr Wilson who was murdered in 1851 as we heard in the last talk.
S28 St Andrew's	Built 1845 after Free Church of Scotland formed after the disruption in 1843.
	Expanded 1880 as the village numbers increased. While still under construction William Ewart Gladstone was due to attend a political meeting in a hall behind the church here on March 20 th 1880.
	An audience of 1000 people packed into this building that day. There were no pews and the people were like herrings in a barrel according to the report in the Scotsman on Monday March 22 nd 1880.
	One of the people on the platform that day in March 1880 was Frederick Sohns who was born in Prussia, a Landscape Artist, he lived in Nahant on Belmont Road and was the person who painted the image of the original church shown here on this slide. There were several other notables on the platform that day including the medical practitioner, Dr Gordon who lived in Muirhouse later the home of Dr MacKay. Chairing that day was the person living in Woodhall House, Mr John Usher described as a distiller & wine merchant.

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S29 Lanark Road looking south-east	Expansion of the village after Mills arrived then JG became part of Edinburgh from 1920
	Grand Houses formed along Lanark Road with commuters taking the train to trade and business in Edinburgh.
S30 Caledonia Cottage	Once the site of a farm. Tommy Notman's relatives lived here? The present houses where Caledonia cottage stood.
S31 Lorrimer House	Named after local architect Robert Lorrimer of Colinton? Now a nursing home for retired folk.
S32 Woodhall Grain Mill	First mentioned as Denholm's Mill 1704. Closed 2001. Dr Reggie Mackay donated the land 1939 "kept as an open space.. for ornamental pleasure" Juniper among the plants now there and where the eco walk began. Just below here on the river an otter was spotted, that's not a spotted otter, rather a sighting of an otter about 3 weeks ago and recorded on film by Richard Watt.
S33 The Manse	Built around 1845 too for Rev Anderson. Rev MacFarlane was in residence when this old image was taken. Today the home of the Dewar family, Jim, Jean, Alistair, Kersty and Fiona.
S34 Old Bowling Club	Made way for the Bypass in late 1970's. Now, the JG Bowling Club 120 years old is to be found behind Iceland in the heart of the village. It has had some excellent bowlers over the years.
S35 Curriemuirend	The area up by Gillespie crossroads is still known by many residents as Curriemuirend.
S36 The Pentland Arms	Bottom Shop is more than 160 years old Previously known as Old Ship Inn and Pentland Arms Site of first meeting of Colinton & Currie Pipe Band in 1887. Previous owners Wallace, Greiner, Davie Simpson. In 1851 census both public houses in the village were being run by women: Ann Downie at the Kinleith and Mrs Wallace at Tanners.

Another stop to discuss this end of the village. Tommy Notman used to keep a lorry up at this end of the village. What about wells up here?

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S37 Woodhall Drive	Site of house donated by WRI for veteran of WW2. Torphin quarry can be seen in the background. Another source of employment for JG residents.
S38 Woodhall Terrace (Fence)	Taken before Foulis Crescent connected.
S39 Old Lodge	The lodge house for Baberton House, here John Fisher used to live.
S40 Big School	1849, new school built 1976. One of the pleasures this year has been the way the school have got behind the whole enterprise. They obtained their own funding and put on a show that left not a dry eye in the house, they have produced a book and a cd of songs written by the children themselves. Two of the songs are particularly poignant: the Same Sun and the Same Moon referring to the Bronze Age dwellers in this area and the one I like: I'm a Lucky Duck ... swimming and living on the Water of Leith. The ducks and the people are very lucky living here.
S41 Down Baberton Avenue	Looking back down towards the original or wee school taken from the corner of the tennis courts where the gala parade gathered recently.
S42 Gala Parade	An old shot of the parade coming along Belmont Road and the parade from twelve days' ago.

This brings us to the end of our tour so let us again pause for comments.

Now, let's summarise some possible ways forward.

1. More detailed history of the houses, shops and pubs of the village: when built and who has lived therein before putting them onto an interactive map on the website;
2. is there any demand for further talks like the ones in this series? If so, what topics? {Advert for Colinton and Currie LHS at this point: for example Colinton and Currie LHS both start on October 1st with both John Scott on the Currie programme and Alistair Davidson on the Colinton programme. On October 15th Colinton have Alison Sheridan talking again about the JG Bronze Age finds presumably with an update on the tooth results. On November 12th at Currie LHS Scott Anderson is taking the story from the book of fiction Misty Morning and comparing it with actual events in this area.};
3. Other walks, a geology walk, a repeat of the history and eco walks? And, what else?

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We should end by thanking lots of people and organisations: the Church for hosting this series, the Council for making the grants available to start the whole process off, our other sponsors including London and Scottish who have provided lubrication for our speakers and the army of folk who have prepared tea afterwards to give the chance to meet: the Blairs, Maureen Heathwood, Sheila Hanson, Alison Buchanan, Christine McBean. The person who tonight has run the sound system and Douglas Buchanan who has throughout faithfully prepared the room, looked after the money so a big thank you is due to him. I hope I haven't missed anyone but what has become clear as the year has rolled on is that we live in the village of many talents and this 300th year has enabled many to show those talents. We move into the holiday season now but next up is Gardens Open on August 12th when others will show off their green fingers.

It only remains to end in the time honoured way in our family by leaving the last word to my wife ... who will present a vote of thanks.