

# Firrhill Community Council

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2010

## First ever Newsletter

**Heather Levy, Chair**

This is our first ever newsletter and we hope you find the information within the articles of interest. Community Councils are all about communicating and we hope this new media will assist us in that task. We look forward to your comments and contributions.

## What is a Community Council

A community council is a forum set up by group of elected local representatives through which people can have a say about what goes on in their area. Its task is to bring to the attention of the community, issues that may affect them and in return, promote the interests of the community to those seeking change.

Community Councils act as focal points enabling those who have a vested interest in the area or environment to speak out on issues that are of interest to them, whether it be through their work or place of residence.

Community Councils are non-political and membership is open to all sections of the community. Everyone has something to offer and that is what makes Community Councils work.

Community Councils have access to grants from the City of Edinburgh Council and other sources which may help fund activities and invest in issues that you feel are important.

*continued on page 2*

## Flood Prevention Scheme

*Update*

**Alistair Hunter, Vice Chair**

The Braid Burn Flood Defence Project is largely complete. Wall and fence construction in Reach 1, 2, 3 and 4 was finished mid May and now only some garden re-instatement and landscaping activities are outstanding. At Reach 2 a new chamber with an overflow arrangement will be (or is being) built (as part of a separate contract) such that when the burn level is high, excess water in the land drain will be piped under the school playing field to a new pumping chamber to be built adjacent to the floodwall alongside Oxfangs Road North. From here it will be pumped out to the burn. Any outstanding issues related to this project should be reported to the Flood Prevention Unit at Edinburgh Council or the Carillion Stakeholder Manager as appropriate. It must be noted that nearly 50% of the overall construction work occurred within these reaches and unlike other areas instead of huge concrete walls we got green embankments. During the project evidence of Otters was discovered and were spotted swimming up the burn in December 2009 as well as Voles another endangered species.

## This could be your SPACE

Do you have something to say or  
advertise let us know get in touch

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## **Firrhill Community Council**

is looking for people who care about their local area and who want to see changes for the better. By getting involved you can become the voice of your area and speak out about community concerns and issues.

Whilst we would welcome your attendance at our meeting in order to support the many tasks carried out by the Council, we recognise there are many people in the community who do care about the local area in which they live but are unable to become actively involved due to family, work and other commitments.

### **We would still like to hear from you.**

What is more important to us is to hear your views on matters concerning the area. Our chief role is representative, gathering the views of local people and relaying them to the City of Edinburgh Council and other bodies.

If you have concerns about community issues and wish to bring them to our attention, then please use one of the contact methods listed below.

If you are interested in joining us contact us now for information or better still come along to a meeting held the fourth Monday of each month.

## **How to Contact Your Council**

Contact details are held on our website at:

[www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btik.com](http://www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btik.com)

**If you wish to contact us by any other method, please contact our Secretary:**

Peggy Wright at 15 Colinton Mains Place, or phone her on 477 4400

**Firrhill Community Council  
Annual General Meeting  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre  
71 Firrhill Drive**

**7pm – 9pm**

**Please support us so we can support you,  
all are welcome.**

## **No Need to Shhhhh.....Oxgangs Library:**

### **Past, Present and Future**

It is 20 years this November since Oxgangs library first opened its doors to the local community. In recognition of this the library is hosting a series of events to celebrate the life of Oxgangs, its library and its people.

Starting in September a selection of poetry and photographs from the Oxgangs Archive will be on display, other events include sessions on Local and Family History. A poetry competition in conjunction with local primary schools is also in the pipeline.

Moving on a bit to November there are themed weeks such as Health and Well Being – we've even booked the Smoothie Bike courtesy of Scotmid.

Watch out too for Radio Scotland's current affairs programme – The Big Debate – an episode will be recorded live in the library at the end of November.

Finally, not forgetting the literary focus of the library there's an opportunity to have your say and tell us about your favourite book. It'll be interesting to find out the kind of reading enjoyed in Firrhill.

Details about events will be posted on the Oxgangs Library Page from September onwards or if you want more information contact Carol Marr on 0131 529 5547.

## **Website**

Firrhill Community Council's website has been live for approximately a year. Its purpose is to provide a means by which we can communicate with the people we represent.

We have stated that our primary function is to represent the views of the community and in order to achieve that purpose there has to be a two-way flow of information.

The website is one of the methods by which you, as a member of the community can ensure that we as your representatives are aware of your views.

**Please use it**

## Your Local Group on Your Edinburgh

**Your Edinburgh: Your Information** is a new community information website from Edinburgh City Libraries. Its aim is to allow people to discover what's happening in their neighbourhood. This easy to use site is available at [www.youredinburgh.info/engage](http://www.youredinburgh.info/engage).

The website continues to grow every day as we add new organisations and we appeal to all local groups and clubs in the Oxgangs, Firrhill, and Colinton Mains areas to provide their details on **Your Edinburgh: Your Information** website. An entry can help your organisation reach a bigger audience, gain new members and promote your activities.

We would like to represent the full range of clubs and activities available across Edinburgh. So if you belong to a community, voluntary, children's activity, sports, support or social group in the area, please get in touch.

It's easy and free to participate, simply contact **Your Edinburgh** on 0131 242 8047 or email [youredinburgh@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:youredinburgh@edinburgh.gov.uk) for more information.



## Local A.G.M's

Oxgangs Care- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010, 12 Firrhill Neuk, 445-3332

Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre-Tuesday November 2010, 71 Firrhill Drive, 441-7558

Pentland Community Centre- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010, Oxgangs Brea, 445-2871

Colinton Mains Community Centre- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Firrhill Loan, 441-6597

## Swanston Village - T Woods

### OUR LOCAL HISTORY



If you have ever stood outside Tesco's in Colinton Mains wondering 'where did I park the car'? You invariably look up at the Pentland Hills for inspiration and see the sight of the T Woods, which we just take for granted have always been there but have they? And why do we call them the T woods. Is it because of their shape or is there a more specific reason.

Swanston Village is a collection of white thatched cottages which were restored in the early 1960's. A memorial bench to [Edwin Muir](#) the poet (who frequented Swanston) was placed on the south side of the stream in 1962. The village is situated at the foot of the Pentland Hills on the southern boundary of the city of Edinburgh and were first made famous for supplying the city with its first piped fresh water supply. Swanston springs were owned by the 'Trotters of Morton Hall' who took the theft of their water by the City Council to court but they lost their case. So they planted the T Woods in 1766 next to Swanston springs so the people of Edinburgh could see whose water they were stealing to drink.

[Robert Louis Stevenson](#) spent several summers here in the 1870s, as a result of his father taking out a lease for a Swanston Cottage. It is alleged that Stevenson wrote [Treasure Island](#) under a tree within metres of his cottage.

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*Like to know more history about your local area or do you know why a lane or building have an unusual name and an interesting story behind it, then contact us and we will print it in the next issue*

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## LOCAL POETS

### *Firrhill Community Council*

To say it, is quite a mouthful  
But when a problem needs solved  
That's when they all get involved  
And with speed that astounds  
The solution is found and the problem  
Is now a mere trifle  
They meet at night to put things right  
A heated debate could put Heather on fire  
But no, it only helps to inspire  
Through the Chair she did retort  
As Peggy's report had hit the right spot  
And the problem is a problem no more  
Jim takes notes for his minutes report  
No shorthand for him,  
Because his writing is trim  
And he knows where to put his commas and  
dots  
The rest of the team are there in support  
To agree with decisions  
Or maybe not!!!!!!

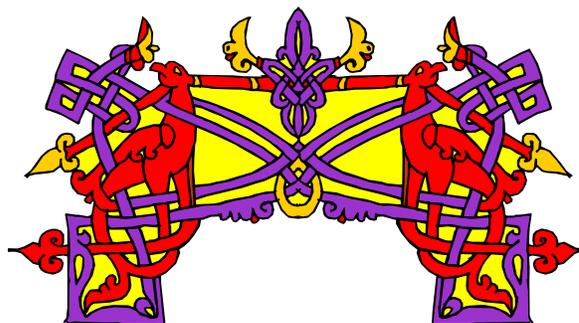
Alistair Hunter.  
Vice Chair Firrhill Community Council

## Competition

*Firrhill Community Council Motto*

### **'Nec Aspera Terrent'**

This is Latin for **'Undaunted by Adversity'**, Firrhill Community Council's new motto. We are looking for a crest/badge to go with it. Can your class or Youth group design it for us? All designs must be submitted by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Only groups from the ages of 5yrs - 12yrs will be accepted. There will be a cash prize of £75 for the badge/crest chosen, with runners up getting £50 & £25.



*This is an example of what you could design. Make sure the crest incorporates local themes which are unique to our area. This could be anything from the Pentland Hills or the Lochan from the New Build, Craiglockhart Hill the list is endless*

## Useful Contacts

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Oxgangs Primary School            | 441 3649 |
| St Marks Primary School           | 441 2948 |
| Pentland Primary School           | 445 1510 |
| Braidburn Additional Needs School | 312 2320 |
| Firrhill High School              | 441 4501 |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Police                                    | 311 3131     |
| Crimestoppers                             | 0800 555 111 |
| Community Beat Officer,<br>David Crawford | 441 1518     |

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Firrhill Medical Centre | 441 3119       |
| Oxgangs Path Surgery    | 445 1073       |
| NHS 24                  | 08454 24 24 24 |

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Pentland Community Centre       | 445 2871 |
| Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre    | 441 7558 |
| Colinton Mains Community Centre | 441 6597 |

Clarence - 0800 23 23 23 (Clarence enables you to report a wide range of faults/concerns on roads, pathways, lighting, drains etc)

## Contact your Councillor

Eric Barry - 529-3265  
eric.barry@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Elaine Aitken- 529 4282  
elaine.aitken@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Jason Rust- 529-4953  
jason.rust@edinburgh.gov.uk

## Contact your M.P.

Alistair Darling - 476 2552  
darlinga@parliament.uk.

## Contact your M.S.P

David McLetchie - 348-5659  
david.mcletchie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk