

Inverleith green action

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Autumn 2010

Your Local Green Team



**Robin Harper,
Green MSP
for Lothians**



**Alison Johnstone,
lead Green candidate
for Lothians in 2011**



**Nigel Bagshaw, Green
spokesperson for
Inverleith**

www.
edinburghgreens.
org.uk

Greens back Alison for Scottish Parliament

Local Greens have selected Alison Johnstone as Robin Harper's would-be successor in the Scottish Parliament.

Alison, who is Green councillor for the Meadows and Morningside Ward in Edinburgh, has been selected to be the party's top candidate in Lothian in next year's Scottish Parliament elections. Her selection follows Robin Harper's decision to stand down next year, having served as Green MSP for Lothians since 1999.

If around 7% of voters back Alison then she'll follow in the footsteps of the hugely popular Mr Harper. If, however, 12% of people vote

Green with their second vote, then the Greens will have two MSPs in Lothian, just as they did in the 2003-2007 Parliament. This would mean fellow Green councillor, Steve Burgess joining Alison in Holyrood.

Alison said "I am delighted to have been selected. Of course, I realise that the hardest work is only now beginning: to persuade voters that I am worth backing as Green candidate

in just the same way as Robin has done over the last 12 years.

"However, I've worked in Parliament, with Robin, since 1999, so I have a good understanding of the challenge ahead.

"I am sure that people in Lothian will respond to the importance and urgency of the Green message and see through the weak choices that other parties offer. I am confident



Green MSP candidate, Alison Johnstone backs local traders in her council ward in Edinburgh

Picture: David Rintoul

that record numbers of people will vote Green."

Robin Harper gave Alison his full backing: "Scotland's Parliament needs Green MSPs, to challenge and inspire: campaigning

effectively on securing clean green energy; on efficient transport; on tackling pollution and waste; and delivering thousands of quality green jobs. I can think of no better successors than Alison and Steve."

The Scottish Parliament elections are on 5 May 2011. If you can help in any way with Alison's campaign please contact "Green Action".

Contact your local Greens

Inverleith Green Team is made up of Scottish Green Party members and other community-minded people in the area stretching from Drylaw to Warriston and south to Dean Village and Stockbridge.

You can contact us at

inverleith@edinburghgreens.org.uk

Or write to us at 5 Lennox Street EH4 1QB

You can also contact your Green MSP, Robin Harper on robin.harper.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or 0131 348 6421

This newsletter is also available in large print

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Parks for people

Green campaigners are fully behind calls for restrictions on large-scale events which block access to Inverleith Park. Local Green campaigner, Nigel Bagshaw, said:

"The park is a well-loved amenity used by a large number of people for a huge range of activities and should

be accessible throughout the year, rather than fenced off for large periods to accommodate an ever increasing number of commercial events which are charged only very small sums for its use. The park belongs to the people and they should take priority."

Climate challenge gardening

Inverleith green activists have praised the £103,441 community gardens project at Drylaw and Telford which has been launched with funding from the Climate Challenge Fund initiated by Green MSPs. The gardens project is aimed at developing community gardens in the area for use by local people and to raise awareness of the effects of climate change.

Spokesperson for the Inverleith Green Group, Nigel Bagshaw, welcomed the project. Nigel, who is also chair of Stockbridge Community Council, said: "This is a fantastic example of what can be done at a local level to both benefit local people and help our area play a part in tackling a massive global problem".

Save our shops

Inverleith Green Group has backed efforts to protect local shops. Greens say that all the evidence shows that local shops create more employment, preserve communities, encourage greater investment, help save services, and provide real choice. So that is why they are giving full

backing to local campaigns to protect the small shops and independent traders in centres such Stockbridge, Blackhall and Goldenacre, and also support varied local business taxation, with lower charges for small, independent businesses.

Inverleith Greens need your help!

Can you help us in our campaigns? Is there an issue that affects where you live? Contact us at inverleith@edinburghgreens.org.uk or at 5 Lennox Street EH4 1QB

- I can help deliver **Green Action** in my street
- I'd like more information about the **Scottish Green Party**
- I'd like to make a donation to **Edinburgh Green Party**

(cheques payable to Edinburgh Green Party)

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ E-mail _____

Information on this form will be kept private and used only for Green Party contact