

# Dr MacKay's Wood



**Dr MacKay**



The ground on which this woodland stands was donated to Edinburgh Council by Dr Reggie MacKay in 1939. Dr MacKay graduated as a doctor from Edinburgh University and served in the First World War. In 1921 he and his family moved into what was then called "Muir House" opposite this spot. In 1927 he purchased this field, partly to keep a pony and partly to preserve the views. In gifting the ground Dr MacKay stipulated that it was to be **"kept as an open space and laid out as an ornamental pleasure ground ... and that no buildings other than a small shelter shall be erected"**.

In 2004 the Juniper Green Village Association took responsibility for the site and undertook to create a woodland for the community to enjoy.

**This project was assisted by The Edinburgh Green Belt Trust with grant funding by the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Executive and Greenspace Scotland.**

The Association put in place a new path and planted the woodland in such a way as to ensure that the views to the Pentland Hills were maintained in accordance with Dr MacKay's original wish.

A new entrance was added at the bottom of the site to connect up with the Water of Leith Walkway, a railway line in Dr MacKay's day.

The tree species planted are rowan, gean, bird cherry, field maple, birch and juniper. The site will help to conserve some of the native species in the locality, and as the trees grow they will increasingly remove pollution from the air. Maintenance of the woodland, mainly involving weeding, grass-cutting and tree thinning, will be carried out by volunteers.