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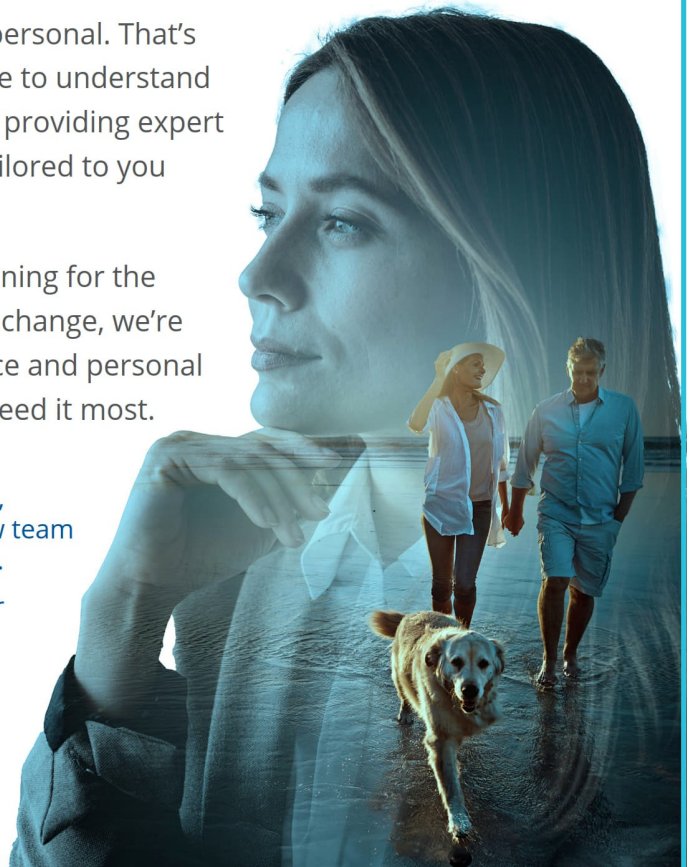
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Blackhall magazine

August 2026

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Christopher Cowdy

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VIVE LE REVOLUTION!

As I write, the sun is shining, weather is warm and I am looking forward to a short trip to visit family on the island of Ireland. I am in high spirits.

However, the News items in this month's issue are not so cheery. Although Blackhall library has a temporary building, it is still just that and not permanent. Other reports are of burglary, car crash, gang war, assault and roadworks. All this gives me concern that the poorly run city, and country, is having a very real effect on our local community. I would really like to see Westminster, Holyrood and the Council take a serious look at what is going on and focus more on getting the basics right. Politicians spend too much time on grand plans like Tram extensions, pedestrianising George Street and Foreign Affairs; or on ideology by banning weedkiller and putting in cycle lanes - and not thinking about how to deliver better public

services for our local communities.

So, let us strive in our own way to improve our community. Tell cyclists to get off the pavements and dog owners to pick up after them. Let us follow the lead of the congregation of Blackhall Mosque who refused to let haters ruin their fun day (see news item on page 7). Let us not rely on the Council or Government to solve all our problems but stand up for ourselves, support each other to become more self reliant, and take personal responsibility in making our community stronger.

Stronger community is what this magazine is built on and by supporting local organisations we make our community stronger.

Vive le Revolution!

Regards

Christopher Cowdy
(Editor)

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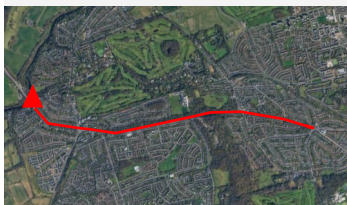
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Here is a summary of some of the main articles reported by a range of media outlets online and that relate to our local area for Blackhall, Silverknowes, Craighleith, Ravelston & Orchard Brae



North Edinburgh News announced the **Blackhall Library** has reopened in a new temporary facility next to Davidson's Mains Primary School. Having had to close the library in 2023 because of concerns about failing concrete (RAAC), the Council had put in place a temporary fix by way of mobile van before this more robust interim measure.

Another crash on Queensferry Road held up rush hour traffic. The incident, involving a car and a van, near Miller &



Carter created a **tailback to Blackhall Junction** and 30 minute delays.

Indian families in Edinburgh are "living in fear" after the community was hit with a series of "targeted" burglaries

this June. **Rajnish Singh, who lives in Silverknowes**, described the robbery at his home in June as "quite sophisticated" with the



perpetrators obviously knowing when he would be at meetings and that there was jewellery in the house.

Ravelston was name checked in **The Sun** with the heading "Dopey gang war footsoldier snared after dropping used tissue at Scots home of rival's gran". Apparently a Dubai based criminal sent someone to Edinburgh who then dropped a tissue with DNA that was used to track him down after CCTV footage

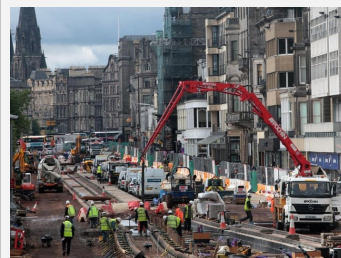


proved unhelpful.

Convener of the Council's Transport Committee blocked

a move by the Conservative group who wanted to reject a controversial plan to extend the **Tram service that could include the Roseburn Path**.

Instead, **Edinburgh Reporter** suggests, the other political parties agreed a Strategic Business Case report be brought to the next committee in September



A particularly shocking headline on **STV News** caught my attention - **“Community rallies together after suspected faith-based hate attacks”** - The article went on to explain that 3 out of 5 “Faith-based hate” attacks in Edinburgh took place near Blackhall **Mosque on Telford Road**. A planned fun day at the mosque looked to be in jeopardy after Friday’s attacks due to safety and security concerns but the community decided they would rally together.



Planned roadworks in the area

Craigcrook Road

Queensferry Road closed to southbound traffic for installation of telecoms cabling

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The puppy will normally be placed at 7 weeks old and will leave for formal training at 12-14 months. It is still possible to become a puppy walker even if you have a pet dog. To find out more, call Emma Murton on 0345 143 0203 or visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/ volunteering.



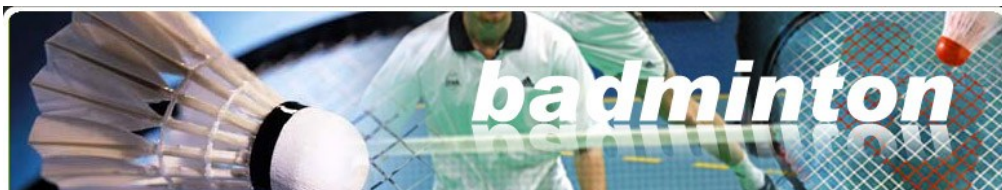
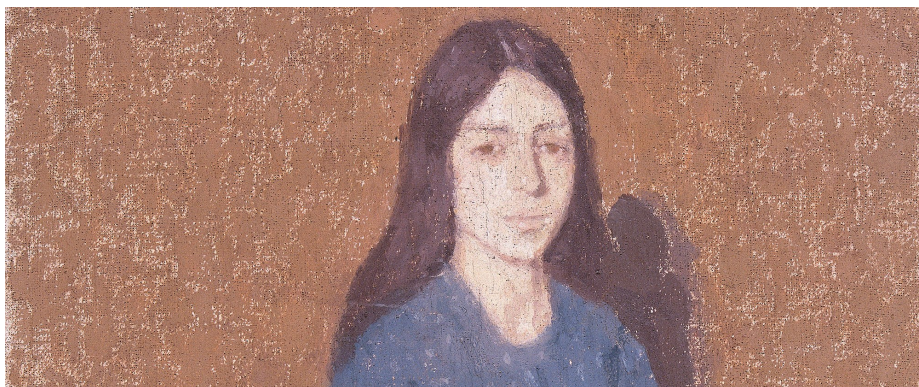
Every month we publish a selection of things to do in the local area. This is usually found as a result of an online search and we may not have had time to verify all details are correct but we try to set out a good spread of interesting activities and local organisations. So if you see

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The Junior club is currently suspended

something of interest and want to join in, please do some of your own research and contact the organisation in plenty of time to make sure the event is still on and the details are accurate.

Lauriston Castle

1920s Style Family Scavenger Hunt [Special Family Event]

Sunday 30th Aug, 14:00

Lauriston castle and grounds were gifted to the nation by the last private owner, Mrs Margaret Reid, in 1926. Scavenger Hunts were very popular in the 1920s so an apt event to celebrate 100yrs. Follow the clues and meet some characters from the past whilst enjoying the beauty of the grounds. Is the Mineral Well hiding a secret? What clues can be found lurking in the Japanese Garden?

Costumed performers from Edinburgh Living History will be around the site to point you in the right direction and you

are invited to get a team together and come in 1920's dress (optional!). £15 per team of up to 5 people.



Lauriston Agroecology Farm

Market Garden Volunteering

Tue 4th Aug, 10:00 - noon

Please try to arrive on time for explanation and set up of all the tasks at the beginning.

Share a coffee and biscuit after, or you can bring your lunch to enjoy in the gardens.



You don't need any specific knowledge or skills. You do need energy and to be steady on your feet. The tasks are usually 'big jobs' where many hands make light work (eg. weeding, wheelbarrowing woodchip for paths, planting a big area with transplants).

If you're worried about your body's stamina or mobility, you might prefer to start with the Community Garden drop-in sessions instead.

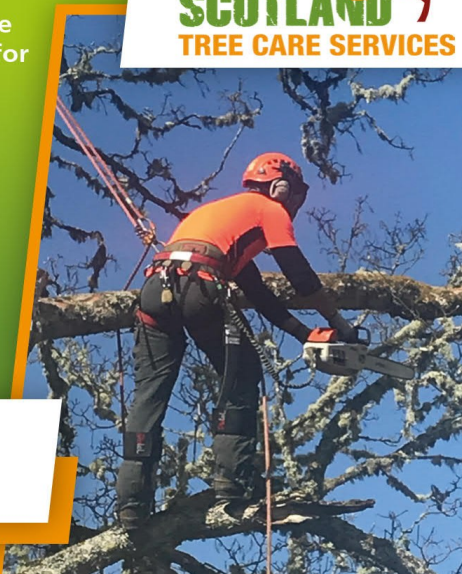
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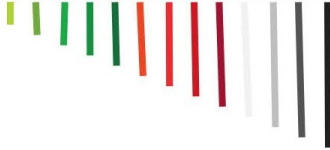
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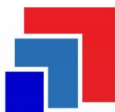
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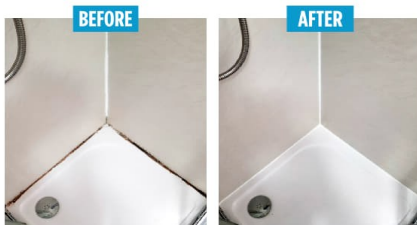
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Community Councils are set up by statute and run by local residents to act on behalf of its area. As the most local tier of elected representation it plays an important role in local democracy and the volunteers are always keen to hear from other residents about local issues and concerns.

Meetings are usually at 7:30pm on the third Monday of the month, in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall, Queensferry Road.

They are always open to the public and are attended by Inverleith and Murrayfield Ward Councillors and Police Scotland. All local residents are welcome to attend.

Next meeting: 17th August

For more info:

Visit: www.craigleithblackhall.org

Email: sec.cbcc@gmail.com





The Agenda for the June meeting was as follows:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
5. Meeting of 18 May 2026 - approval of minutes
3. Police Report
6. Community Council matters:-
 - Engagement Plan
 - Blackhall Playgroup
 - Community Funding Grants

Report backs and Updates:-

- TRO Consultation - Strachan Road area
 - Maidencraig Crescent
 - Flytipping
 - Service 13
 - Craigleith Tunnel
6. Ward Councillors' Reports
 7. Any Other Competent Business

Date of next meeting - 17 August 2026

to be held in Blackhall St Columba's Church Small Hall at 7.30 pm

Preparing To Sell Your Home? Presentation Is Key Both Inside And Out

When it comes to selling a home, presentation has always mattered - but what buyers value most has evolved. Today, two areas that consistently shape first impressions and final decisions are the garden space and the interior presentation. Together, they tell a story about lifestyle, comfort, and the potential of a property.



Is Your Garden Helping to Sell Your Home?

In recent years, demand for private outdoor areas has surged. Whether it's a compact courtyard, a balcony, or a generous lawn, buyers increasingly see these spaces as essential rather than optional. The appeal isn't about size alone—it's about how usable and inviting the space feels.

A growing trend is the idea of "bringing the inside out". Gardens are no longer just lawns or planted borders; they are extensions of the home. Thoughtfully arranged seating areas, soft lighting, outdoor rugs, and features like fire pits or pergolas can transform even modest spaces into appealing outdoor rooms. For buyers, this helps them imagine relaxing evenings, social gatherings, or quiet morning coffee in their

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future home. Even small touches - like well-placed planters, attractive seating or a tidy, freshly maintained lawn- can significantly elevate the perception of a space. And don't overlook the front of your property. The entrance sets the tone for everything that follows. A clean pathway, weeded borders, a freshly painted door, and a few carefully chosen potted plants can create an immediate sense of care and welcome.

Interior Presentation: Creating a Space Buyers Can Visualise Living In

While the garden may draw buyers in, the interior is where decisions are made. Presentation inside the home should aim to create a sense of space, light, and possibility. Start with the basics: decluttering and depersonalising. Buyers need to imagine themselves living in the property, so overly personal items can be distracting. Display attractive ornaments, soft furnishings, plants and artwork. Neutral tones, clean surfaces, and well-arranged furniture help highlight the home's features. Lighting plays a crucial role. Maximising natural light by opening curtains and blinds instantly makes a room feel larger and more inviting. Supplement this with warm, well-placed artificial lighting to ensure every corner feels welcoming. Attention to detail matters. Simple updates - such as fresh paint, modern fixtures, or neatly presented flooring - can make a significant difference without major investment. Kitchens and bathrooms, in particular, benefit from a clean, well-maintained appearance, as these spaces often carry the most weight with buyers. Finally, think about flow. Each room should have a clear purpose, and the layout should feel intuitive. Even small adjustments to furniture placement can improve how a space is perceived.

The Lifestyle Factor

Ultimately, both your garden and your interior should work together to present a cohesive lifestyle. Buyers aren't just purchasing walls and land - they're buying into the feeling of what it might be like to live there. A well-presented home with an inviting outdoor space stands out in a competitive market. It creates emotional engagement, helps buyers connect with the property, and can even influence the speed and value of a sale. If you're thinking about selling, take a moment to view your home through a buyer's eyes. A few thoughtful changes can enhance your property, which will help you achieve a successful sale.

For advice on preparing your property for market and a free pre-sale valuation please contact our estate agency department on **0131 312 7276** or email us at **property@elpamsolicitors.co.uk** and we will be delighted to help you.

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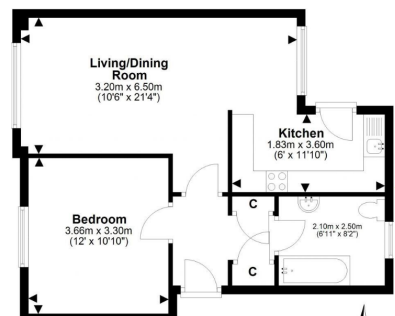
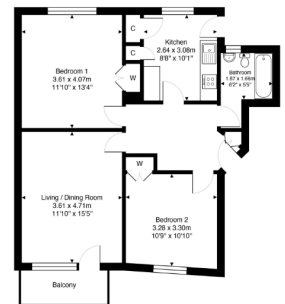


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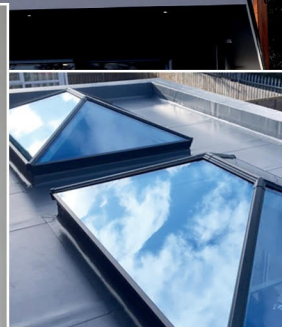
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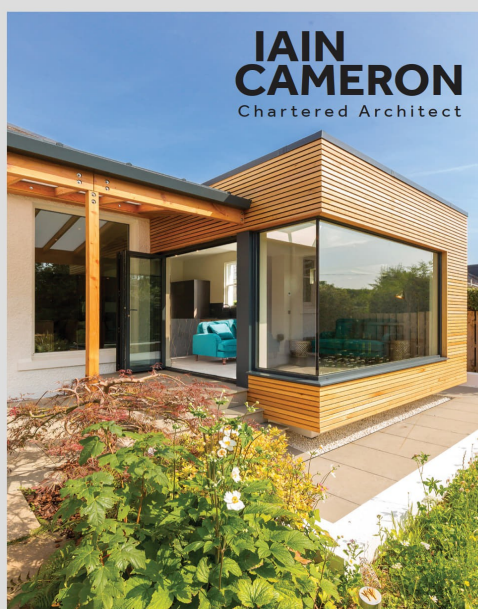


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TERM DATES



HOLIDAYS

Holidays

Apr - 12 days	May - 3 days	June - 2 days
July - 31 days	Aug - 7 days	Sep - 1 day
Oct - 6 days	Dec - 9 day	Jan - 3 days
Feb - 5 days	Mar - 4 days	

Total: 83 days holiday

Term 3 (46 days): April, May & June
Term 1 (86 days): Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov & Dec
Term 2 (56 days): Jan, Feb & Mar

Total: 188 days of school



2026/27

Aug					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Sep		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
Oct				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Nov						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Dec		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Jan					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Feb		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						
Mar		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Apr				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
May					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Jun		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
Jul				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Distribution of the Barnton magazine covers 5 Primary school and 4 High School catchments and I thought you might be interested in a brief overview. I have given contact details for each one including Phone number and addresses for websites, email, Twitter plus where they have a Facebook Page. There is a whole range of info available on their online Pages but let me know if you think any else specific should be mentioned here.

Davidsons Mains PS - 336 1184

DmainsPrimary.com
admin@davidsonsmains.edin.sch.uk
@MainsDavidson

Flora Stevenson PS - 332 1604

theFloraStevensonPrimary.com
admin@florastevenson.edin.sch.uk

Blackhall PS - 336 1023

BlackhallPrimary.co.uk
admin@blackhall.edin.sch.uk
@BlackhallPS

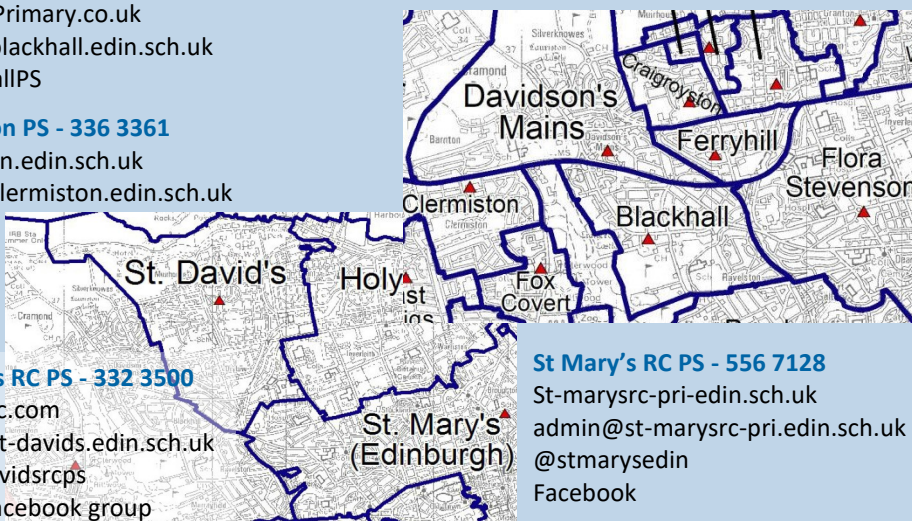
Cramond PS - 312 6450

admin@cramond.edin.sch.uk

Clermiston PS - 336 3361

Clermiston.edin.sch.uk
admin@clermiston.edin.sch.uk

Primary schools



St David's RC PS - 332 3500

Stdavidsrc.com
admin@st-davids.edin.sch.uk
@saintdavidsrcps
Private Facebook group

St Mary's RC PS - 556 7128

St-marysrc-pri-edin.sch.uk
admin@st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk
@stmarysedin
Facebook

Secondary schools

St Augustine's RC HS - 334 6801

Staugustinesrchs.uk
admin@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk
@staugustineshs



Royal HS - 336 2261

Royalhigh.wordpress.com
admin@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk
@Royal_High_Sch

St Thomas of Aquin's RC HS - 229 8734

St-Thomas-of-aquins.org.uk
admin@st-thomasaquins.edin.sch.uk
@thomasofaquins

Broughton HS - 332 7805

Broughton.edin.sch.uk
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Mostly the Puzzle page hosts Brainteasers but I like to change things around from time to time. The last couple of months have been on local bus stops and this month I decided to see if Artificial Intelligence could come up with anything interesting. Here is what it suggested:

A

Unscramble these local place names.

1. HALLKCBLA
2. SEOWSKNILREV
3. TONLEHSRAV
4. NASDMIDVO AHIS

The Local Trail

Can you identify the place?

I have seen trams come and go.
Once I echoed with the sound of trains.
Today walkers, cyclists and runners pass through me every day.
I help connect Blackhall with Davidsons Mains, Silverknowes and beyond.

B

Who Am I?

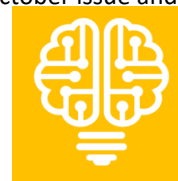
I was once home to a famous Scottish family.
Today visitors enjoy my grounds, tower and Japanese Garden.
I'm just a short walk from Silverknowes.

C

I thought AI a poor puzzle setter but I will post the answers in the October issue and you can let me know if you agree.

Last month's answers:

A: Telford Drive
B: Hillpark Way
C: Corbiehill Road





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Traveline	0871 200 2233
Airport	0844 448 8833



SCHOOLS

Clermiston Primary	336 3361
Cramond Primary	312 6450
Royal High School	336 2261
Stew Mel	311 1000
St Andrew's Fox Covert	339 2383
St Augustine's	334 6801
Mary Erskine	347 5700



HEALTH

Western General	537 1000
Minor injuries	537 1330
Royal Infirmary	536 1000
Sick Kids	536 0000
Childline	0800 1111
Parentline	08000 28 22 33
Cramond Surgery	336 5432
Parkgrove Surgery	312 6600
Barnton Pharmacy	339 3449
Omnicare chemist	336 2861
NHS 24	111

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Why a stretch goes a long way

As we age, our muscles tighten and range of motion in our joints decreases. This can impact even the most active lifestyle and hinder your normal day-to-day activities. Tasks that used to be simple, like zipping up a dress or reaching for a can off the top shelf, may become extremely difficult.

A regular stretching program can help lengthen your muscles and make daily activities routine again.

The word flexible comes from the Latin word flexus, which means "to bend." Flexibility is the degree to which an individual muscle will lengthen. Stretching increases flexibility, which will help you perform daily activities and reduce the risk of muscle, joint and tendon injuries. Stretching also improves circulation, increasing blood flow to the muscles. Increased blood flow provides more nourishment to the muscles and gets rid of more waste by-products in the muscle tissue itself. Improved circulation can also help speed up recovery time if you suffer a muscle injury.

What's more, stretching can help eliminate or decrease low back pain, one of the most common kinds of structural pain, affecting a large percentage of the population. Muscle tightness in the quadriceps, hamstrings, hip flexors, and low back muscles is a common cause of low back pain. Stretching these muscles will often eliminate the pain. Keep in mind that every joint is tied to another joint, so if one muscle is tight, it is going to affect another joint or muscle.

One of the greatest benefits of stretching is that you're able to increase your range of motion, which means your joints can move further before an injury occurs. Stretching after you exercise (at least after you've warmed up a bit) has proven to be much more effective than

pre-workout stretches, because by the time you've completed your workout, the muscles are "warm." Post-exercise stretching also helps reduce soreness, improves workout recovery, and ensures muscle and tendons are working properly.

There are no disadvantages to stretching - unless, of course, you do them improperly, which is actually easy to do if you don't know what you're doing. Here are a few tips to keep in mind before starting any stretching program:

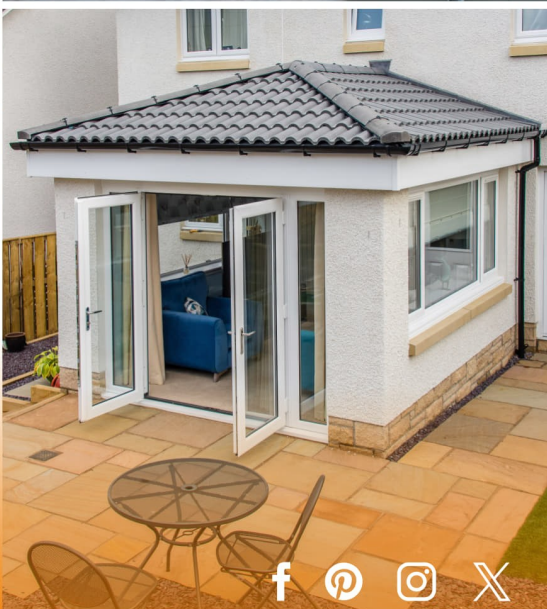
DON'T bounce when stretching; hold your position for the specified time.

DON'T stretch cold muscles; always do some type of warm-up for at least five minutes: jogging in place, walking on a treadmill, light jump rope, etc.

DON'T overstretch. There should be a little discomfort, especially if you're not used to stretching, but it should not be painful.

DON'T stretch a muscle improperly. If you are not sure of the proper stretch or how to perform it, get some assistance from a professional.

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