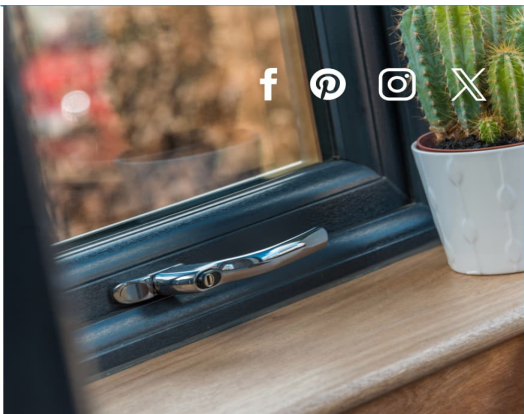




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May 2025



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Duddingston magazine

May 2026



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ITS NOT JUST BIRDS SINGING IN MAY

As May begins, we see longer, brighter and warmer days that really seem to give a sense of optimism, and with the winter firmly behind us, I will be trying my hardest to make the most of the nicer weather while it lasts. If you are struggling for ideas of things to do this May (indoors or outdoors), check out our 'What's On' segment on pages 14 & 15.

Looking slightly wider than the Duddingston area, the Scottish Parliament Elections take place on 7th May and, if you have not decided how to vote, you might like to check out our Editorial Focus on Pages 22 & 23 - a brief round-up of some of the candidate by our resident student of journalism.

Wider still, the Eurovision song contest is held this month, from 12th-16th May, if that is something you are

interested in.

The period in which spring shifts into summer tends to be a popular one for people looking to do a bit of spring cleaning, gardening or other home improvements. If you are looking for help with any of those kinds of things, we have a great list of trusted local businesses, specialising in trades such as gardening, pressure washing, paving and other home improvements. Just take a quick moment to flick through the magazine to find more information on what local businesses have to offer.

The May bank holidays are a personal favourite of mine, and however you plan to spend them along with the rest of the month, I hope you have an enjoyable and prosperous time.

Ben Cowdy

Editor

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Here is a summary of some of the main articles reported by a range of media outlets and posted on our Facebook Page that relate to our local area including Duddingston, Brunstane, Portobello & Willowbrae.



Local residents and fitness enthusiasts have launched a petition against Edinburgh Leisure's plans to relocate the **yoga studio at Portobello Swim Centre**. As part of a £15m refurbishment of the Category A listed Victorian building, the current studio is said to be replaced by the gym, and moved to a part of the building without the same panoramic sea views- a key reason as to why so many enjoy the yoga sessions, say *The Edinburgh Reporter*.

Local favourite **The Portobello Bookshop** has been honoured



as one of only 20 Bookshop Champions for Independent Bookshop Week 2026. Selected by the Booksellers Association, the seaside shop was recognised for its

community engagement and popular initiatives, such as its children's summer book club, report *The Herald*.

Portobello is set to host its very own dedicated arts festival this summer with the launch of the Portobello is set to host its very own dedicated arts festival this summer with the launch of the Porty Fringe.



Running from 5 to 16 August 2026, the event aims to bring the magic of the Edinburgh Fringe directly to the neighbourhood's doorstep, using the historic Portobello Town Hall as its central hub, report *Deadline News*.

Four Eastern-Edinburgh fathers are preparing to swim the English Channel this July



in a relay challenge to **raise funds for Action Party**. The team, consisting of Alistair Smith, James Lewis, Bruce Kidd, and Andrew Leiper, will take turns swimming one-hour shifts for an estimated 14 to 16 hours, report *Edinburgh Evening News*.

Portobello High School student Joe Mathieson enjoyed a sensational Great Britain debut at the World Water Polo Championships Division 2 in Malta.

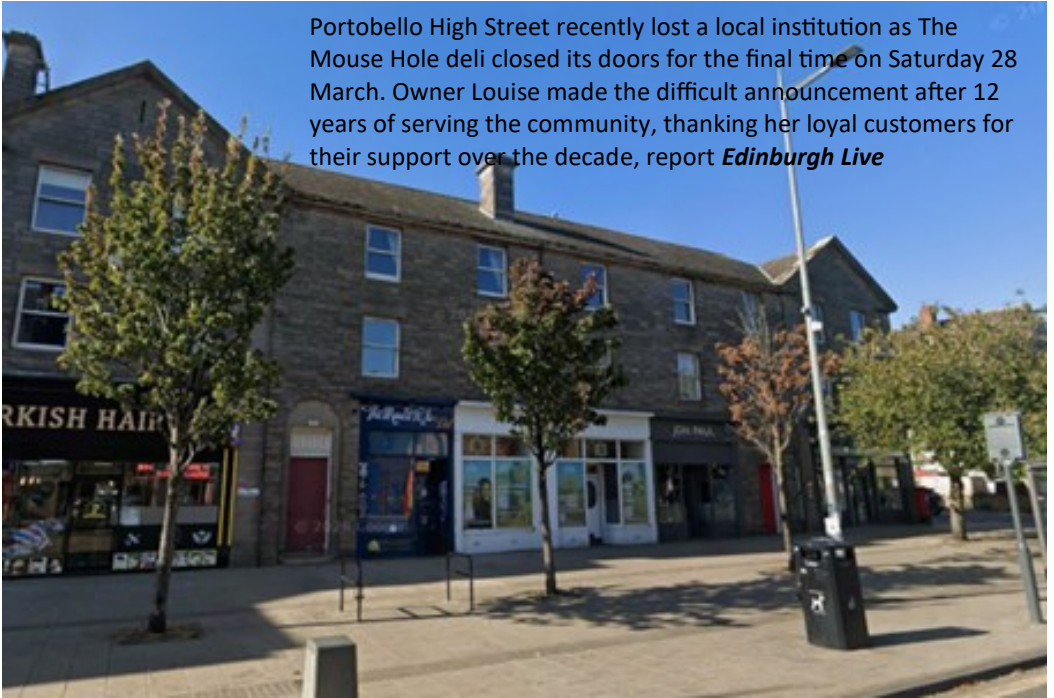
The 18-year-old followed up



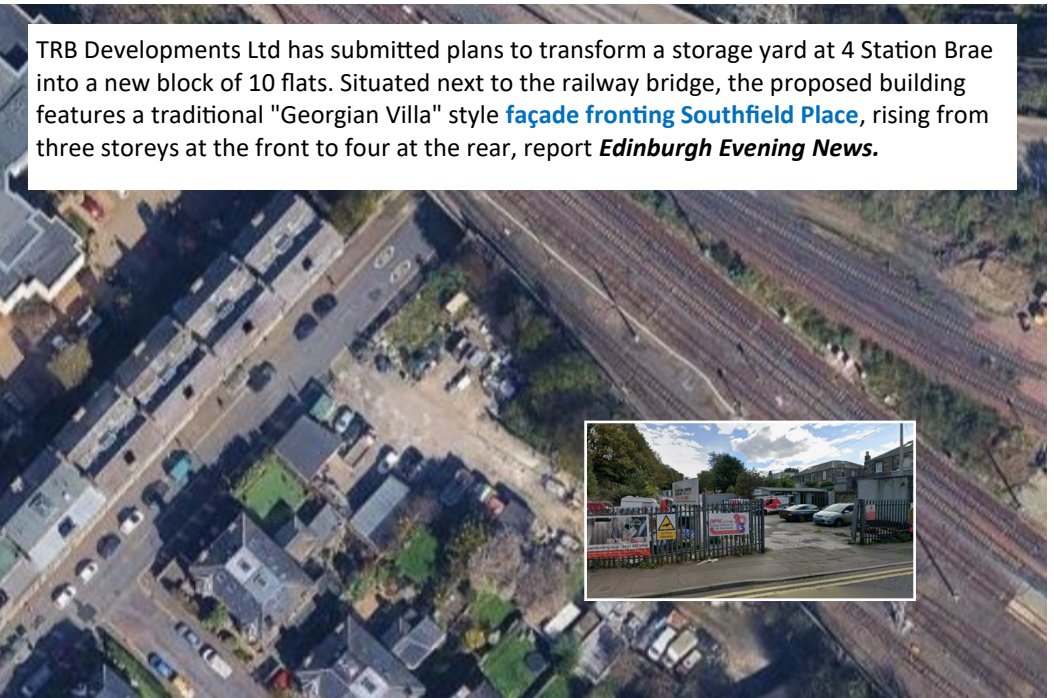
**WORLD AQUATICS
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his first international goal against Slovenia with a brilliant hat-trick in an 18-8 victory over South Africa. His standout performance earned him the Player of the Match award and helped Great Britain secure a tied 21st-place finish. It is a proud moment for the east of Edinburgh as one of its own makes waves on the global stage, say *The Edinburgh Reporter*.

Portobello High Street recently lost a local institution as The Mouse Hole deli closed its doors for the final time on Saturday 28 March. Owner Louise made the difficult announcement after 12 years of serving the community, thanking her loyal customers for their support over the decade, report *Edinburgh Live*



TRB Developments Ltd has submitted plans to transform a storage yard at 4 Station Brae into a new block of 10 flats. Situated next to the railway bridge, the proposed building features a traditional "Georgian Villa" style **façade fronting Southfield Place**, rising from three storeys at the front to four at the rear, report *Edinburgh Evening News*.



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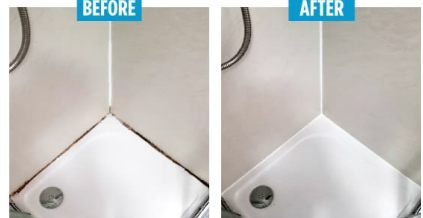
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Northfield & Willowbrae Community Council



What is a Community Council? It is a non-party-political organisation run by local residents to represent the views of the community to local authorities and other public bodies. Members are elected and their role is voluntary. There are 47 Community Council areas in Edinburgh.

What area does the NWCC cover? The NWCC covers Willowbrae, Piershill, Mountcastle, Abercorn, Lady Nairne, Meadowfield, Northfield, the Hamiltons, Southfield, the Durhams west of Mountcastle Drive South, and Duddingston. If you get the Duddingston Direct magazine through your door, it is highly likely you live in the NWCC area.

Can anyone become a member? Anyone aged 16+, who is a local resident and has an active interest in helping their local community can stand for election. In 2025 we elected ten members, but we are also able to co-opt up to four more. In particular, we are looking for younger members and those from minority communities. If you are interested in joining us, please contact: chair@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk

How often do you meet? Meetings are held bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.

When is your next meeting? Our next meeting (which will also be our AGM) is Tuesday 12th May 2026 from 6.30-8.30pm at Northfield Community Centre.

How do I get something on the agenda for discussion? Email our secretary at least fifteen days prior to the next meeting date (secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk).

Can anyone go to the meetings? If you are a resident within our area, you are welcome to come along and observe what happens at our meetings. There is time at the end of our meetings under the Public Forum agenda item where you can have your say.

How do I keep up-to-date with NWCC issues? Our agenda and meeting minutes are posted on our website (<https://www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/nandwcc>).



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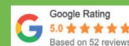


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Bingham Community Centre

All Weather Children's Play Training

Monday 25th May, 10:30 – 13:00

Cost: £45 (Eventbrite)

Don't let the dramatic Scottish weather keep the kids indoors! Calling all schools, community groups, and play practitioners: join this inspiring training session to learn how to embrace the rain, sleet, and snow. Discover how to create safe, magical, and engaging outdoor play experiences for children all year round.



Duddingston Nature Reserve

Forest Bathing Walk & Sencha Tea Experience

Monday 25th May, 10:30 – 13:00

Cost: £27.80 (Eventbrite)

This experience invites you to step away from everyday busyness and enjoy a slower pace in a private woodland setting. Moving unhurriedly through the forest, you'll be guided through gentle forest bathing invitations and nature connection practices that support mindful walking, sensory awareness, and shared moments of quiet. The experience concludes with a sencha tea ritual inspired by Japanese tea traditions, offering a calm, grounding pause to reflect and reconnect.

Contact creativerootsinnature@gmail.com for more info.



If you know of a local community event to promote, drop us a line.

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council

Finance for Non-Financial Managers

Wednesday 6th May, 10:00 – 16:00

Cost: £130.50 (Eventbrite)

Comprehensive training day for anyone involved in, or responsible for, financial planning for funding applications, setting budgets and financial reporting to your board. Master the money: plan, budget, and report with confidence - finance essentials for non-financial managers who need to lead with numbers. You'll cover several key elements of financial management in this course, including full cost recovery, estimating costs and building in sustainability.



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Scottish Election

Thursday 7th May, 07:00 – 22:00

This is your reminder to vote in the Scottish election on Thursday 7th May at the polling place stated on the polling card you will have received in the post. This election, as with any, is crucial for determining the future of the country so make sure you have your say! Polling places will be open between the hours of 7am and 10pm, and you will have 2 votes; one for a local constituency candidate, and one for a party on the wider regional ballot



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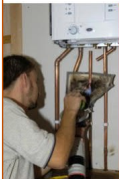
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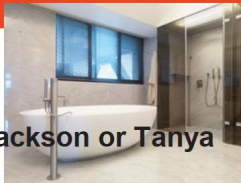


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Summer Term 3 (46 days): Tue 21st April - Fri 26th June 2026

Autumn Term 1 (84 days): Wed 13th Aug - Fri 17th Dec 2026

Total: 189

HOLIDAYS

- 16th - 20th Feb 2026 (5 days)
- 3rd Apr - 20th Apr 2026 (12 days)
- 4th & 5th May (2 days)
- 18th May (1 day)
- 29th June - 11th Aug (32 days)
- 14th September (1 day)
- 12th - 19th Oct (5 days)
- 21st Dec - 5th Jan (12 days)

Total: 70 days



2025/26

Month	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		
May				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		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		8	9	10	11	12		15	16	17	18	19		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	
Aug				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		17	18	19	20	21		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sep		1	2	3	4		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		9	10	11	12	13		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		18	19	20	21	22		25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Distribution of Duddingston magazine covers 6 Primary school and 2 High School catchments. I have given contact details for each including Phone number and 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.

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Parsonsgreenprimarieschool.co.uk
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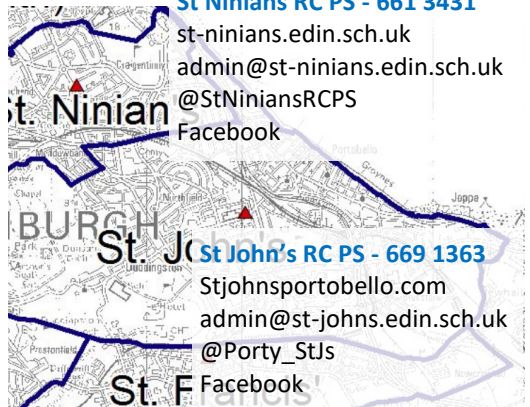
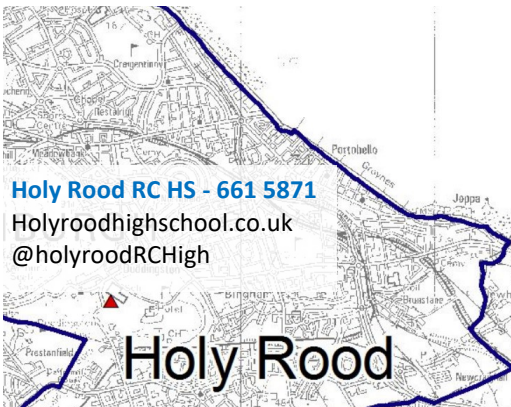
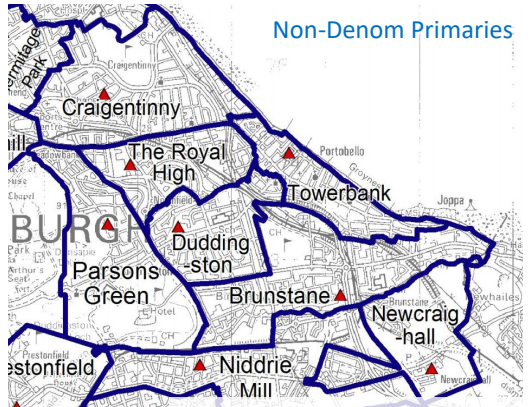
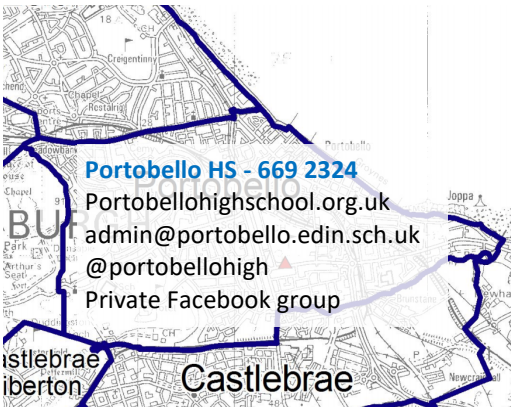
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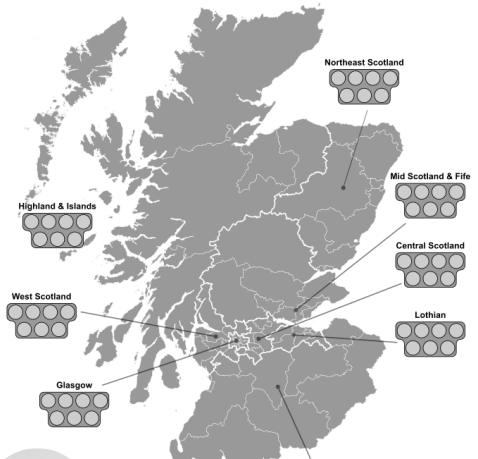
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Final Election Round-Up for Edinburgh East

With under a week remaining until voting opens for the Scottish Parliament, the candidates for Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent have had their campaigns out in full force for the past number of months. Each of them have been presenting their plans for the area and how your vote for them would impact important issues. To round-up before the day comes, here is some of the key information of those running in the constituency and the policies that they and their parties are promising for locals:



By Shaun McGeachan -
2nd year student of Journalism at
Napier University

Alan Grant – Runs a political



communications firm having worked for the Conservatives before running for the Lib Dems at the 2024 General Election in East Renfrewshire. He

moved to the front line of politics having been disappointed that previous Holyrood governments “let down” people in education, healthcare and policing. Grant also believes that more houses need to be built to accommodate the number of people moving into the area, and work must start as soon as possible. The Scottish Lib Dems want to recruit 2,000 pupil support assistants across the country.



Kate Campbell – Kate has been a City



Councillor for the Portobello and Craigmillar Ward since 2017 and previously worked for local MP Tommy Sheppard. She aims to bring in policies that help the lives of

constituents whilst also working towards making Scotland an independent country. One of Campbell’s main motivations is that Scotland needs control of energy costs, which is something she wants to bring right down to save constituents money. The SNP have also committed to reducing the cost of living; their manifesto states that bread, milk and cheese will be capped at a price in supermarkets to help ease the spending of food shopping.



Angela Ross – A former teacher who was born and still lives in the area whilst now owning a digital learning business. She wants to improve public services and make the cost-of-living



crisis easier to deal with. At the Reform UK party conference, Ross said her main focuses were battling with the high levels of poverty and raising the standard of education. Reform UK in Scotland are promising to bring tax rates to a level below those in England.



Tim Jones – Another Councillor for the Portobello and Craigmillar Ward, Tim previously working as a teacher abroad and as a playwright whilst



living in the capital for the last 20 years. He is keen on working closely with communities on issues that matter to them most. Jones is also passionate about reforming the education system as he feels it has been worsening recently and not serving young people the way it should. The Scottish Conservatives want to cut taxes for a number of bands and would like to raise the threshold of when income tax is paid on workers earnings.



Katherine Sangster – Worked as the head of office for MP's Martin Whitfield and Chris Murray. She has lived in



the constituency for 25 years also volunteering for a number of charities and organisations. She has run a campaign based on solutions to improve public services for communities within the area. One of Sangster's biggest pledges is to deter anti-social behaviour, continue work to increase the presence of police, and make the place feel safer. Labour have promised to bring in childcare tax breaks and fix potholes.



Joe Smith, Alliance to Liberate Scotland – Joe is a technical architect and is politically motivated by his drive for independence. Being a member of the ALBA Party until it dissolved in March this year, he was invited to join the Alliance to Liberate Scotland to campaign at this election. The party does not have a Whip and say their “representatives will vote with their conscience on all matters.”



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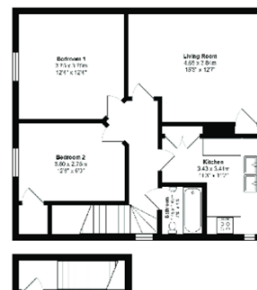
Northfield Square

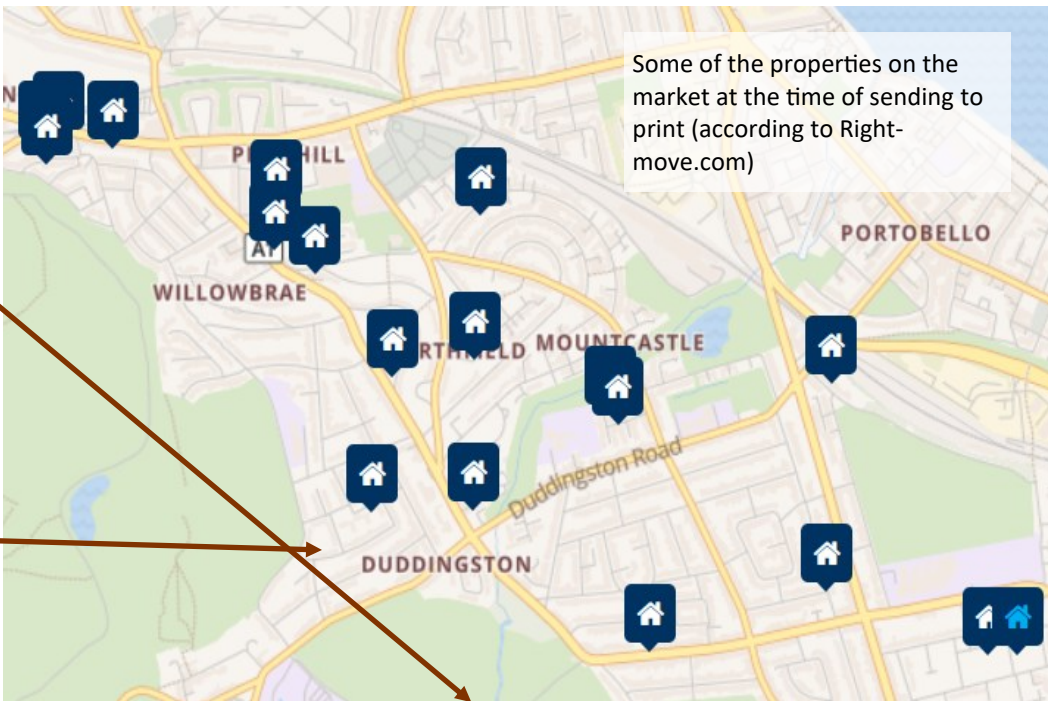
2 bed, 1 bath, Upper flat



Fixed Price £205,000

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Rightmove.com produce maps of house prices and I count 1 in our area for over £1Mil in the last year (darkest brown circles) and 28 for less than £200k (lightest yellow circles) The remainder were all "mid level".





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Photocopying is also available with assistance.

Bookbug - Every Wednesday, 2-2:30pm in the children's area.

Storytime - Every Friday, 10.30-11:30am

Shared Reading Group - Last Wednesday of the month, 6-7pm

Lego Club or Craft Club, alternating every other Saturday from 11am

Knitting Group - Every Saturday, 2-4pm





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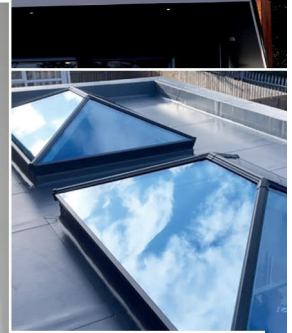
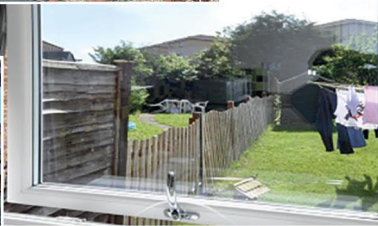
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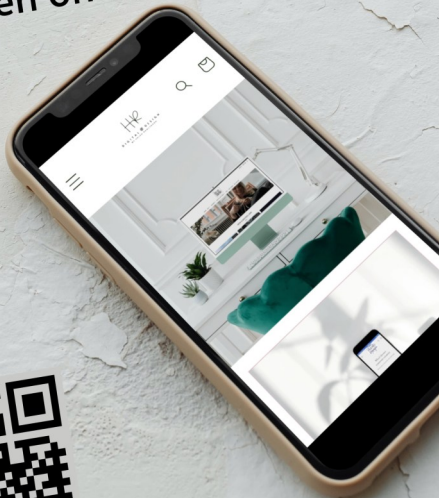


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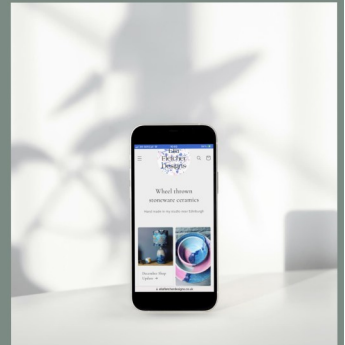
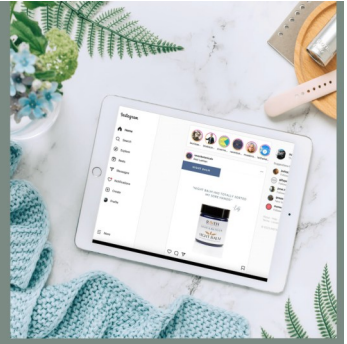
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Guide Dogs is seeking volunteers to raise a puppy for a year

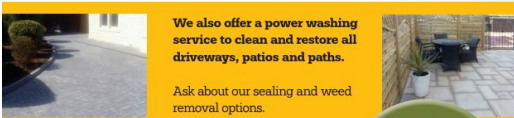
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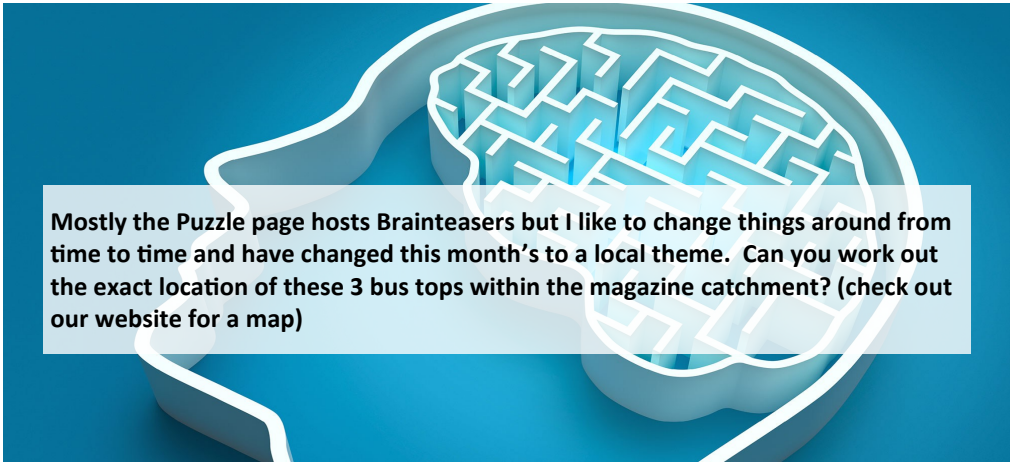
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Last month's answers:

- Q1: What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less? - A hole
- Q2: What is faster, hot or cold? - Hot, because you can catch a cold
- Q3: What has a bottom at the top? - Your legs



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Electricity	0345 270 0700
Gas leak	0345 058 0002
Scottish Water	0800 0778 778



COUNCIL

Customer Service	0131 200 2000
Pest Control	666 2623
Blackhall Library	529 5595



SCHOOLS

Towerbank Primary	669 1551
Craigtinny Primary	661 2749
Brunstane Primary	669 4498
Newcraighall Primary	669 3598
St Ninians RC Primary	661 3431
St Johns RC Primary	669 1363
Portobello High	669 2324
Holy Rood RC High	661 5871



HEALTH

Royal Infirmary & Sick Kids	536 1000
Childline	0800 1111
Children First	08000 28 22 33
Portobello Surgery	669 8406
Milton Surgery	549 7300
Well Edinburgh, Craigtinny	661 2523
Lindsay & Gilmour, High St	669 4331
Wooton Pharmacy, High St	669 3100
Boots, Porty High St	669 1883



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