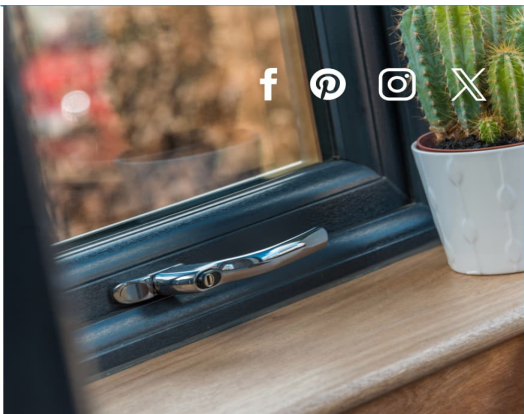




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July 2025



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## Duddingston magazine

July 2026



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## SUMMER IN FULL SWING

This month is often considered the finest for weather as it generally delivers most sunshine and least rain. This gives us opportunities to enjoy Scotland and Duddingston at their best, in the outdoors.

At the time of writing this appears to be true this year though I hope I haven't now "jinxed it" and this issue goes some way to reflect that with more outdoorsy news items including pieces about rent-a-bikes, golfing, and the beach. Things to Do this month also includes a couple of running events (one with a particular twist) along with an opportunity to go visit Dr Neils Garden that is generally glorious this time of year.

Don't forget that, if you find your garden or driveway getting over-run with moss, weeds or generally looking sad and tired, there are several advertisers this month that could help with pressure

washing, gardening, tree care, landscaping, or paving. Almost something for everyone, no matter what your ambition is.

Remember also, We are always on the look out to promote community events and activities so, if you are part of a club or know of a group that could do with some publicity in our next issue for August, or later, please do email me with details.

For now, please do enjoy this issue and keep supporting the loyal, trusted and respected businesses and organisations that advertise with us month in and month out.

*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.



**Scottish Daily Express** ran an article on the Reallyliving website that lists affordability of property. They produced a list of postcodes with the least amount of choice for first-time buyers in Scotland, based on the average budget of £159,000 and **Portobello/Duddingston** was included as having less than 10% of one-bedroom properties available for that price.

A boyband made up of teenagers from Edinburgh and Glasgow have racked up more than six million views on their World Cup Anthem. According to **EdinburghLive**, **Just The Brave surprised pupils at St John's Primary in Duddingston** on Thursday as they performed their single, Go Scotland Go. The band said the visit to the Edinburgh school was a special moment for them and the response was immense and brilliant to meet all the pupils at St John's ahead of the big Scotland

match against Haiti.

**Duddingston Golf Club**, widely regarded as one of the best parkland courses in the Lothians, has announced the appointment of David MacMullen as Head Professional, alongside



Assistant Professional Katie Graham. **Golf Business News** said the new team will lead on a golf operation designed to enhance the member and visitor experience and support the next generation of golfers.

Multi-award winning youth project Oi Musica celebrated 10 years of music making in east with a special **mini-festival at Portobello Town Hall** last month. 80 young musicians, part of Oi Musica's Brass Blast project, took to



the stage for **Brassed-Up**, showcasing two original tunes, and playing sing-along covers and feel-good anthems.

Plans have been lodged for a new 82-room hotel at the former Right Wing/ Radical Road pub **gap site in Willowbrae**.



Meanwhile, the **BBC** amongst other media outlets reported that people were advised against going into the sea at **Portobello Beach** due to an ongoing pollution incident. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) said routine water testing had found high levels of bacteria on Thursday. It has since been declared safe.

Edinburgh's booming new electric hire bike scheme could be expanded as far as Cramond and Portobello in time for the Edinburgh Festival in August, The Scotsman reported. The move is being considered by city council officials as they revealed the 800-bike operation had clocked up rentals at two-and-a-half times the rate of its ill-fated predecessor.



**Time-Out magazine** named Porty Beach as No 4 on its list of “Best beaches near Edinburgh” saying - The traditional seaside town draws in huge crowds on a sunny day, and it's easy to see why; with over two kilometres of golden sands, a lengthy promenade, amusement arcades and even Turkish Baths to explore, there's definitely something to keep everyone happy if the water gets a little nippy.



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- A chance to learn how you can make your community more inclusive

#### Interested in Volunteering?

We're always delighted to hear from people who would like to get involved. Whether you can spare a few hours a week or are looking to develop new skills, volunteering with us is a rewarding way to support your local community and make a real difference.

**We look forward to welcoming you**

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## Northfield & Willowbrae Community Council



Northfield & Willowbrae Community Council (N&WCC) has prepared a draft Local Place Plan (LPP) for the area. You can find a copy on our website under 'Useful Links'.

This LPP arose after a two-year consultation with over 900 people within the community, via over 30 different events including coffee mornings, walkabouts, specific issues meetings and ~5,000 questionnaires sent to all households within the area.

The LPP relates to Planning, Environmental & Transport issues within Northfield & Willowbrae area that the City of Edinburgh Council Planning Services must consider when preparing the next Local Development Plan for the City (covering the period 2030-40).

The Information Notice period for comment on the N&WCC draft LPP will run **from 12th June 2026 to midnight on 13th July 2026**.

To fulfil the statutory requirements of the Information Notice Period, notification of the opportunity to submit a representation was sent by email to the neighbouring active Community Councils, Ward Councillors and Key Groups and Organisations. Where no community council is present (e.g. Portobello and Craigmillar), local organisations have been contacted instead.

Please e-mail comments to: [secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk](mailto:secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk) listing the page number & your issue.

All comments will be considered by the Community Council when finalising the LPP for submission to City Planning in September 2026.



We are looking for new members to help us with our work on the Community Council. If you live within the Northfield and Willowbrae area (chances are you do if you have received a copy of Duddingston Direct!), have an interest in supporting our community and are over 16 years of age and with time to spare, we would love to hear from you. Please email [chair@northfieldandwillowbrae.org](mailto:chair@northfieldandwillowbrae.org).

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 7pm** at the Northfield Community Centre. Members of the public are welcome, but items for discussion must be sent to the secretary no later than two weeks prior to the meeting for inclusion on the agenda.



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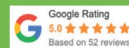
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Free exhibition exploring the healing art of craft and making, set within the tranquil surroundings of Thomson's Tower, overlooking Duddingston Loch.

'Tonic' brings together jewellers, artists and makers in a thoughtful presentation of contemporary applied arts.

The exhibition considers how acts of making, and the objects that emerge from them, can offer moments of restoration, presence, and connection.

The exhibition opens with a launch event on 2 July from 5–8pm



## Scot-Art, St Margaret's House

### Linux LXLE

Sunday 19th July, 1-4pm

Cost: Free

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For more information visit [www.raggeduniversity.co.uk](http://www.raggeduniversity.co.uk)

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

## Passing through Duddingston

### Run Mary, RUN!

Sunday 5th July, 2-4pm

Cost: £11.50 Eventbrite

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Run from Seamus's Pub in Tollcross to Dougal's Portobello all ticket proceeds go to Edinburgh Emerald Irish Social Group and their Mary from Dungloe entrant (comes with pint of stout at the finish line).

Show your ticket at Seamus's between 2 and 4pm, then run via the Meadows, Duddingston Road Lower, Duddingston

Village and then on to Dougals on Portobello High Street (its mostly downhill!)

\*NB - Please be aware this is a relaxed fun run, participants welcome to walk. This run is undertaken at your own risk and organisers are not liable for any injury or harm during the event.



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

**Total: 189**

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- 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						
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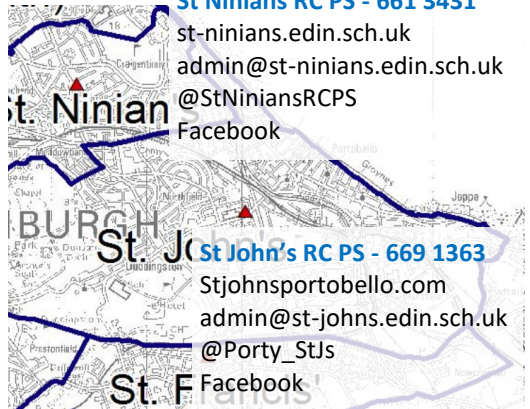
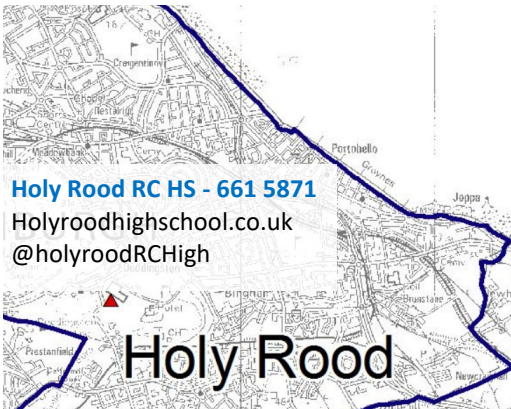
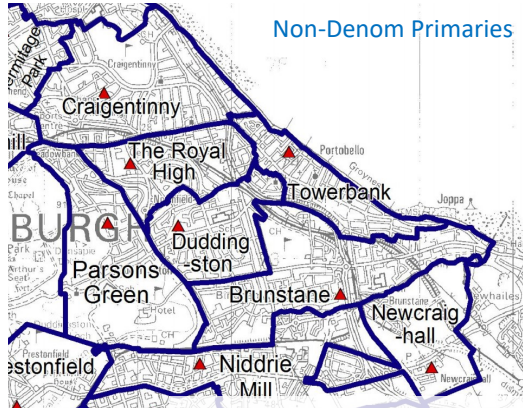
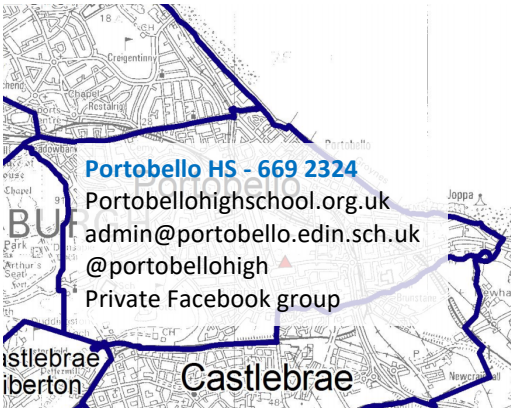
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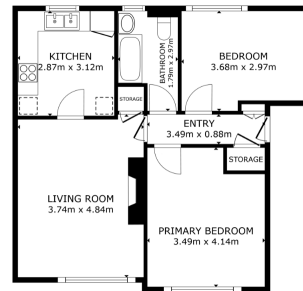
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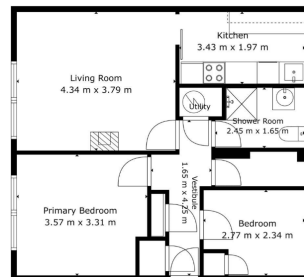


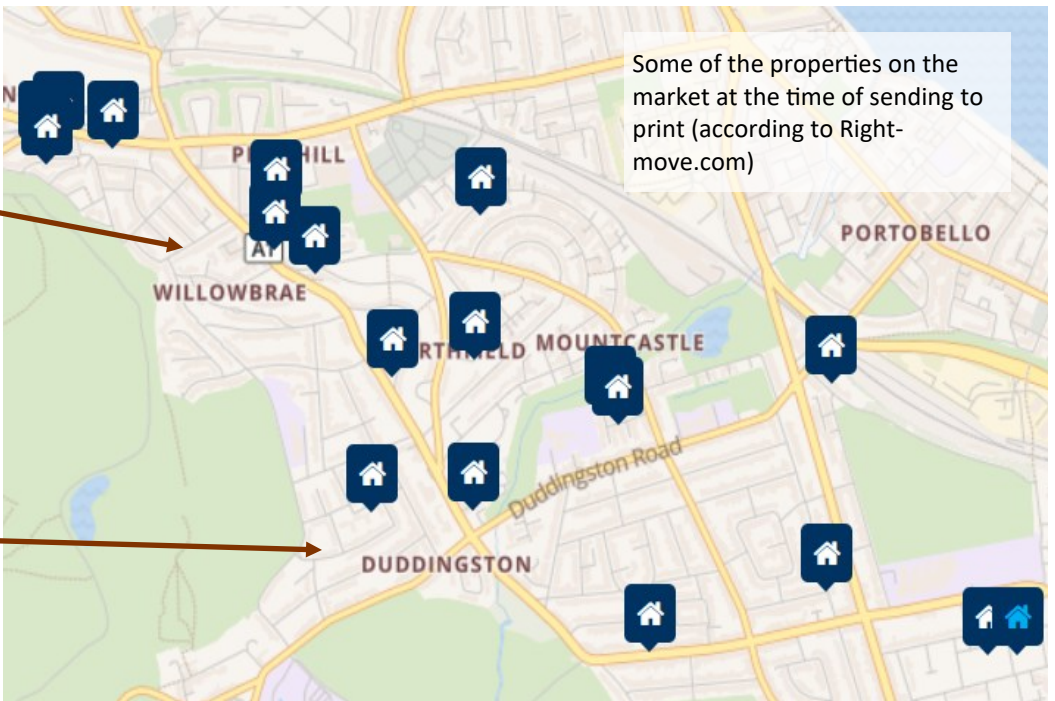
16 Christian Grove

2 bed, Grnd flat, 603 Sqft



Offers Over £150,000  
Simpson Marwick





Some of the properties on the market at the time of sending to print (according to Right-move.com)

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".



£123,000 Feb 2025

£750,000 Nov 2024

# MOVING HOME?

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**Wed** 1pm - 8pm

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- use a study space
- get a National Entitlement Card (bus pass)
- collect hearing aid batteries.

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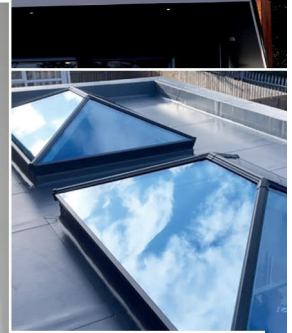
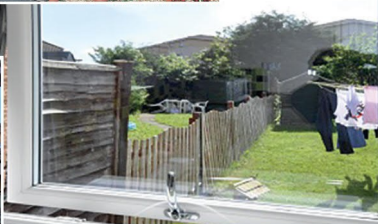
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**Guide Dogs is seeking volunteers to raise a puppy for a year**

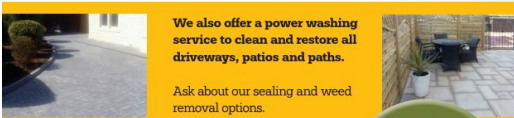
Puppy walkers start puppies on their journey to fully-fledged guide dogs, caring for them until they are ready for training school. Like all puppies, they start off as little bundles of fluff and mischief and you get to see them develop and grow.

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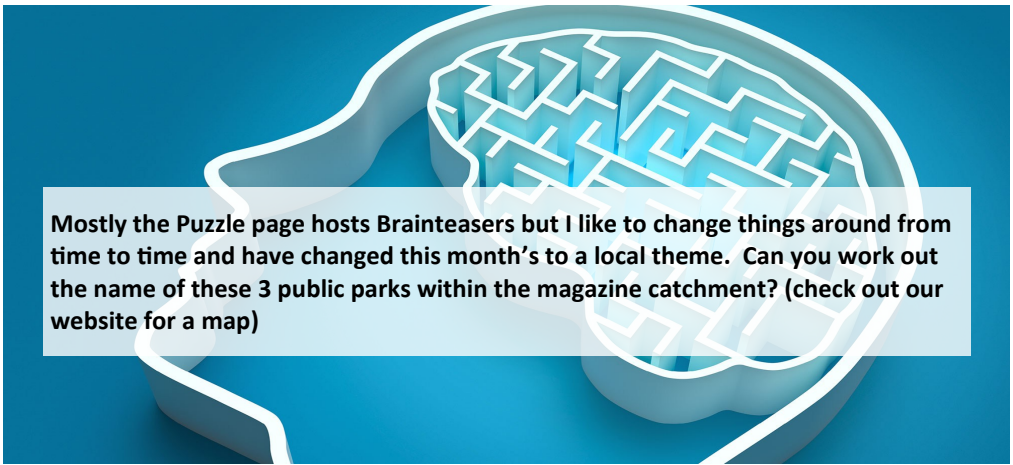
**Edinburgh Tree Care & Gardening Services**



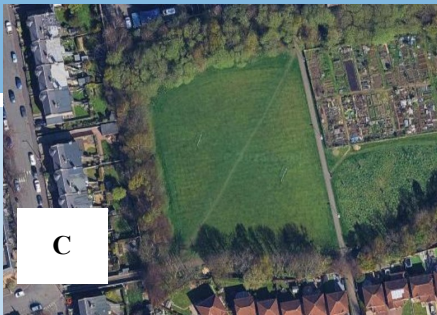
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Mostly the Puzzle page hosts Brainteasers but I like to change things around from time to time and have changed this month's to a local theme. Can you work out the name of these 3 public parks within the magazine catchment? (check out our website for a map)



**Last month's answers:**

**Where are the Bus Stops?**

- A: Ulster Drive
- B: Durham Terrace
- C: Magdalene Drive



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Gas leak	<b>0345 058 0002</b>
Scottish Water	<b>0800 0778 778</b>



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Pest Control	<b>666 2623</b>
Blackhall Library	<b>529 5595</b>



**SCHOOLS**

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Craightonny Primary	<b>661 2749</b>
Brunstane Primary	<b>669 4498</b>
Newcraighall Primary	<b>669 3598</b>
St Ninians RC Primary	<b>661 3431</b>
St Johns RC Primary	<b>669 1363</b>
Portobello High	<b>669 2324</b>
Holy Rood RC High	<b>661 5871</b>



**HEALTH**

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



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