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Sep 2025

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Duddingston magazine

Sep 2025



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FESTIVALS/STUDENTS/RESIDENTS

The Fringe and The Edinburgh International Festival have been and gone and just like that, Edinburgh will return to the peaceful but exciting city we know it to be for the much of the year. Foot traffic will die down, busses might get back on time (hopefully) however we will lose the vast array of exceptional performers bringing their talents to our city. There was a host of fringe events being held in the east of Edinburgh, which Shaun McGeachan talks about in this months Editorial Focus.

As the wave of tourists move on to the next stop on their European tour, a new phase Edinburgh/Napier/Queen Margaret university students will take to the city, so as much as we can expect a calmness during September, there will still be plenty of people about and therefore plenty to do this month.

A lot has happened over the last month. Not only did we see

the return of the festival, but on a more local note, Scottish students will have received their exam results! As nerve-wracking as I remember SQA results day to be, there is a great relief if you achieve what you had hoped for and if you didn't, hopefully you can now get some more clarity in where you want to go- an equally good feeling.

As much as this month will be slightly less busy than August, I'm sure you'll still find plenty to do, and hopefully my 'What's On' section will give you a few options if you are bored.

We have also received letters from a couple of residents with differing views on the closure of Duddingston low road. Take a look at Page 9 and feel free to write in if you have views on any local issues.

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.



Jamie Duguid won the Lothians men's golf championship with a 4 & 3 victory over Scott McCandless at **Duddingston Golf Course** describe The **Edinburgh Reporter**.

The **Edinburgh News** reported on a meeting at the City Council that decided to postpone a decision (for the



second time) on whether to make cycle lanes around Duddingston permanent after there was confusion over the quality of proposed permanent upgrades. The **infrastructure along London Road, Willowbrae Road and Milton Road West** have been in place since the pandemic under temporary legislation that will fall away in October. If a decision to make them

permanent is not made by then, they will have to be removed.

An Edinburgh resident was astonished to find a giant lion's mane jellyfish, "the size of a dog," washed up on



Portobello beach. Lion's mane jellyfish, native to Scottish waters and among the world's largest, can deliver painful stings even when dead. The NHS advises seawater rinsing, warm water soaking, and painkillers for treatment, report **Edinburgh Live**.

NSPCC Scotland is launching a new Community **Fundraising Group in Musselburgh**,

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SCOTLAND

Portobello and East Edinburgh

, seeking volunteers to help raise funds for services like Childline. The role requires just 1–2 hours a month, with flexible tasks such as spreading awareness, organising small events, and encouraging donations. Volunteers will receive full support and gain valuable skills while contributing to child protection, say North **Edinburgh News**.

Sir Harry Lauder, Scotland's first global superstar and the first British artist to sell over a million records, was honoured for his 155th birthday. Tenor Jamie MacDougall **performed Lauder at Portobello town hall** and raised funds for



Erskine Veterans Charity, continuing Lauder's legacy of supporting veterans, with all proceeds donated to the cause, reported **BBC News**.



A fast-spreading **fire broke out at Arthur's Seat**, sending smoke visible for miles and forcing people to flee Holyrood Park. Police urged the public to stay away as fire crews tackled the blaze with witnesses describing flames racing across the hillside in strong winds. Arthur's Seat, a popular tourist spot and extinct volcano, overlooks the city from 250 meters above sea level, so the bellowing smoke was visible from across the city.

Deadline News report that padel **is coming to Portobello**. Dubbed the world's fastest-growing sport, Powerleague is installing three covered courts alongside its existing football pitches. The racquet sport, a mix of tennis and squash, is played mainly in doubles and is praised for being social, accessible, and fast-paced. Locals will be able to book games, join lessons, or take part in social matches, supported by full facilities including a clubhouse and bar.





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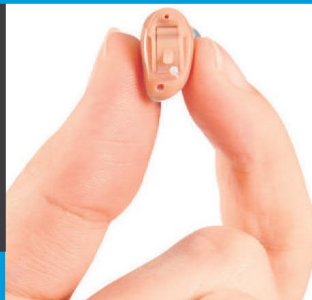


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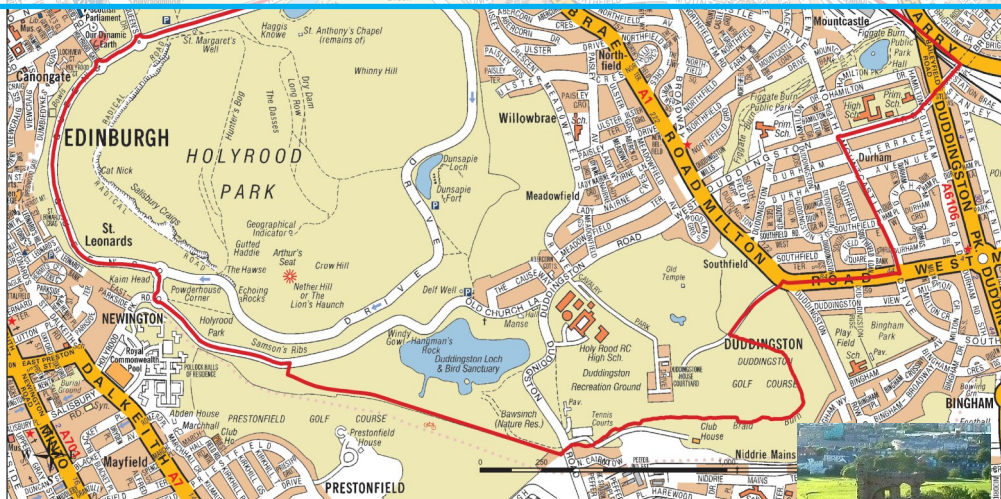




The district of the **Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council** stretches from almost the beach at Portobello to the walls of the Palace of Holyroodhouse where the boundary follows the Queen's Drive. The ancient village of Duddingston and the parkland of Duddingston House mark one corner; the old village around Jock's Lodge, the A-listed houses at Piershill rebuilt from 18th century barracks, and the Figgate Burn Park all lie

within its perimeter.

The area is home to about 13,000 people in the mid 20thC areas of Northfield, Mountcastle, Abercorn, Lady Nairne, the Hamiltons, much of the Durhams and Southfield.



Agenda points from the meeting on 8th July.

- Hamilton Terrace update (sign due to go up w/c 19/05/25)
 - Wall clearance and repair update
 - Piershill Flat update
 - Calvary Park update
 - Willowbrae Church Sale update
 - Local Place Plan update
 - Environment Fair update
 - Morrisons Car Park update
 - Community Centre management update
2. Police Report (WPC Morrison)
 3. Treasurer's update on financial position
 4. Planning update

5. Subgroup reports

6. Marionville Fire Station
7. Anti-social behaviour at Piershill
8. No 12 bus
9. Public Forum & any other business.
10. Date of next meeting - Check website

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Dear Ben,

I always enjoy reading Duddingston magazine, and the latest edition was no exception—thank you for your continued efforts in bringing local stories to life. One article in the news section particularly caught my eye: the call to reopen Duddingston Low Road. I felt it was important to highlight that there are also strong calls for the road to remain closed.

Holyrood Park is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Duddingston Loch is both an SSSI and a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve. The park is incredibly biodiverse, home to hundreds of species of birds, toads, butterflies, mammals, plants, trees, ferns, lichens, fungi, and mosses. This delicate environment is adversely affected by vehicle traffic through the park—especially through increased noise, light, and air pollution.

Many existing user groups, including pedestrians and cyclists, support keeping the road closed to motor traffic. There are numerous alternative routes into the city, and maintaining the current closure helps protect the park's unique natural character and tranquillity.

I would also encourage a



closer look at the claim that the closure has caused significant traffic delays. As a local resident, this has not been my experience, and it may be worth fact-checking for balance.

It would be wonderful if the magazine could explore the other side of this discussion, including the many environmental and community benefits of keeping the road closed.

Kind regards

*Duddingston
Resident*

Dear Ben,

Re your Duddingston resident's letter in the August edition, Can I presume your reader does not use Duddingston Road West for car travel on a frequent basis for if they do he / she could not fail to notice the large

question of traffic stretching from Holyrood High School to Craigmillar cross roads a journey of less than a mile which can take 20 minutes, longer at peak times, at what cost to the atmosphere having car engines continually running.

Before the road was closed, you could drive round this outside peak times and you would be lucky to see 1 or 2 people walking, hardly a reason to ban cars from there.

As for the park itself the environment has existed for hundreds of years without human intervention and will continue to thrive in its own natural way.

Yours,

*Another
Duddingston
resident.*

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We scour the internet for interesting things that you could do or see locally and list them here.

Thomson's Tower- Dr Neils' Garden

Jane Fletcher Art Exhibition

Sat 20th-27th Sept, 11:00-16:00

Jane Fletcher graduated from Edinburgh College of Art, after which she spent some time teaching. She enjoys painting and drawing using a variety of mixed media, oils, watercolour, charcoal and inks. She searches in her work for textures and contrast. This usually begins with rough sketches outdoors which can be developed back in the studio. Her recent work includes impressions while visiting Spain.

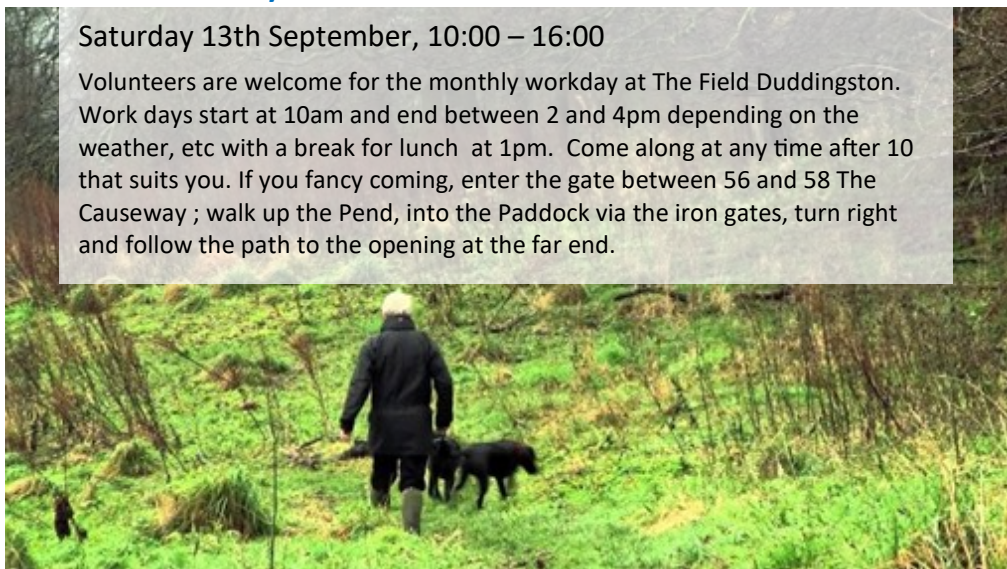


The Field Duddingston

Field Work Day

Saturday 13th September, 10:00 – 16:00

Volunteers are welcome for the monthly workday at The Field Duddingston. Work days start at 10am and end between 2 and 4pm depending on the weather, etc with a break for lunch at 1pm. Come along at any time after 10 that suits you. If you fancy coming, enter the gate between 56 and 58 The Causeway ; walk up the Pend, into the Paddock via the iron gates, turn right and follow the path to the opening at the far end.



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

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Thur 25th Sept, 18:30-20:30

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Tuesday 30 September - Tuesday 4 November, 13:30 - 16:00



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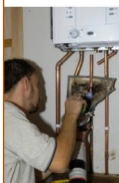
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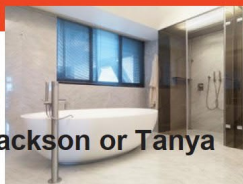
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Fringe in the East

If you were in the centre of Edinburgh last month, you would have no doubt found it impossible to ignore the various Fringe and Festival events taking place around you. However, although the majority of shows and experiences could be found in the middle of the city, there were also plenty of things on offer more locally in the east.

In Portobello, the Town Hall was one of the spaces used as a venue for the Fringe with its old-fashioned set-up, large stage and theatre-style balcony, creating a conventional experience for viewers. Despite these distinct features that would suggest performances such as Shakespeare, the events held at the hall were far from shows traditionally shown at such a place in previous decades, very much keeping up with the modern-day Fringe ethos. Types of performances at Portobello Town Hall included dancing, live music, DJ sets, food showcases, plays and children's shows. A busy month for the venue, with a maximum capacity of 800, meant plenty of tickets were sold, ensuring a great experience for all.

Also nearby, the Beach Lane Social Club got in on the action with a Fringe edition of 'The Portobello Comedy Night'. The 3-hour-long



special of the regular event, making its return from a summer break, starred Patrick Monahan to get the laughter flowing.

Closer to Duddingston, something completely different was going on over by Thomson's Tower at Dr Neil's Garden. In the ancient



structure, a much more relaxing experience could be had through the form of art viewing. After a venture through the incredibly scenic garden next to the just as picturesque Duddingston Loch, you could step inside Thomson's Tower and be greeted by art, which included textiles, ceramics, paintings, and tapestries that explore various themes throughout. This exhibition was suitable for all ages, which made seeing different groups, presumably with many different primary interests, all being in the same place at different times, with different takes, viewpoints and preferences of the artwork in front of them, a nice experience built around community spirit.

This is merely just a taste of what was



available and only a slight peep at the true experience. The Fringe is all about communities, and with events being local to residents outside of the centre of Edinburgh, people can come together and celebrate the arts locally. And as a result of the success of this year, it might be possible on an even larger scale in the East in 2026.



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





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Autumn Term 1 (86 days): Wed 13th Aug - Fri 19th Dec
Spring Term 2 (58 days): Mon 5th Jan - Thur 2nd April
Summer Term 3 (46 days): Tue 21st April - Fri 26th June
Total: 190

HOLIDAYS

5th & 6th May (2 days)
19th May (1 day)
27th June - 12th Aug (33 days)
15th Sep (1 day)
13th - 17th Oct (5 days)
22nd Dec - 2nd Jan (10 days)
16th - 20th Feb (5 days)
3rd Apr - 21st Apr (12 days)
Total: 69 days



2025/26

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			
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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					
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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				
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Jun	W	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				
Aug					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 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.

Parsons Green PS - 661 4459

Parsonsgreenprimaryschool.co.uk
admin@parsonsgreen.edin.sch.uk

Brunstane PS - 669 4498

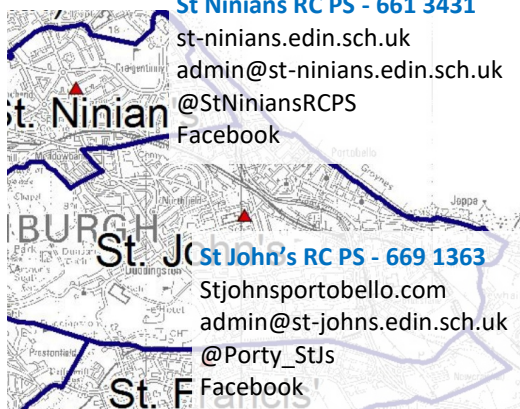
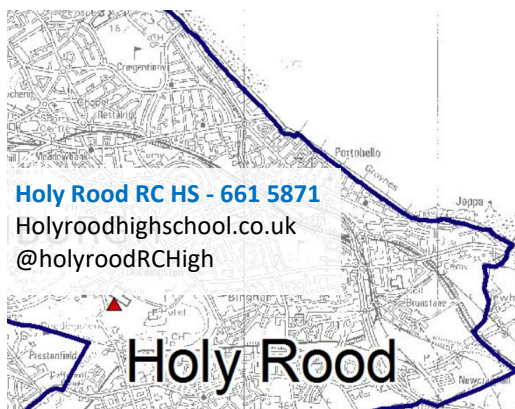
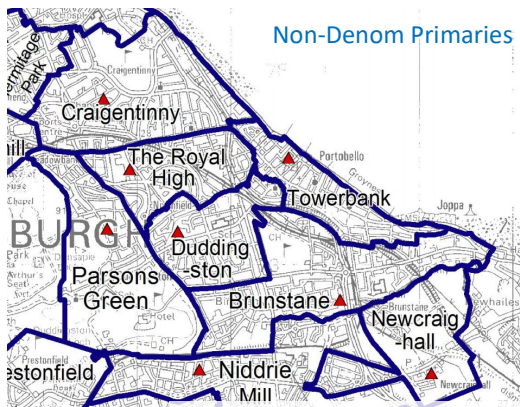
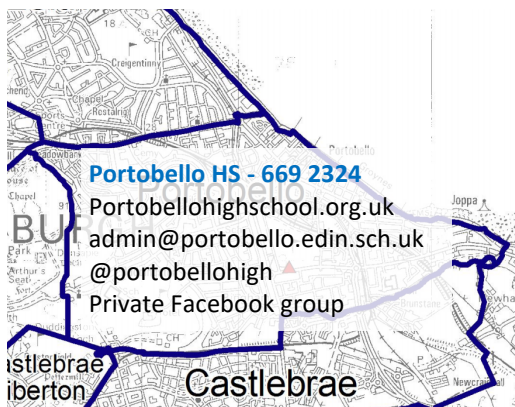
Brunstaneps.com
admin@brunstane.edin.sch.uk
@BrunstanePS
Facebook

Duddingston PS - 669 5092

duddingstonprimaryschool.wordpress.com
admin@duddingston.edin.sch.uk
Twitter: @DuddingstonPS

The Royal High PS - 669 3200

Royalhigh-pri.org
admin@royalhigh-pri.edin.sch.uk
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Wed 1pm - 8pm

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- browse, borrow & return books
- pick up free period products

You need to book a slot to:

- use a public computer and print
- 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

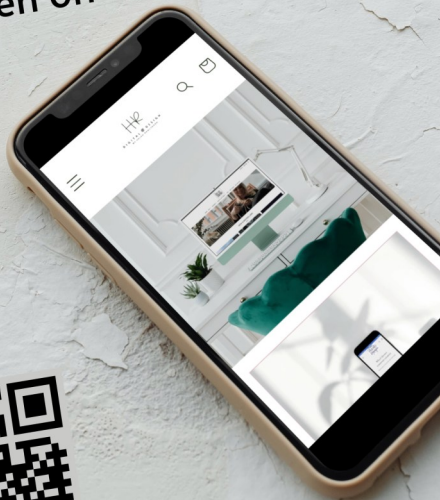
Lego Club or Craft Club, alternating every other Saturday from 11am

Knitting Group - Every Saturday, 2-4pm



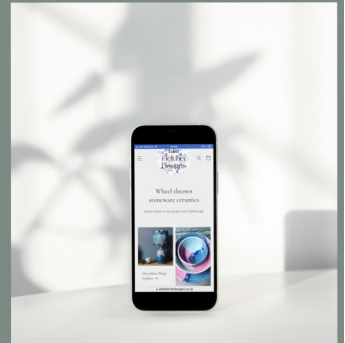
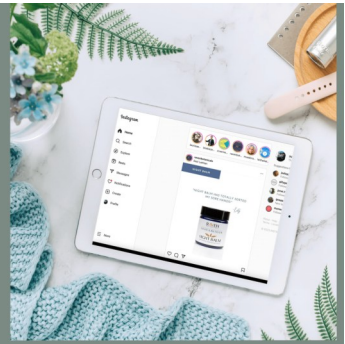
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Warners

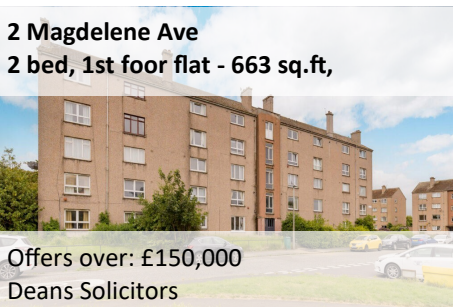
2 OF THE SMALLEST



22/6 Bailie Terrace, Brunstane
2 bed, 2nd floor flat - 678 Sq.ft.

Offers Over £145,000

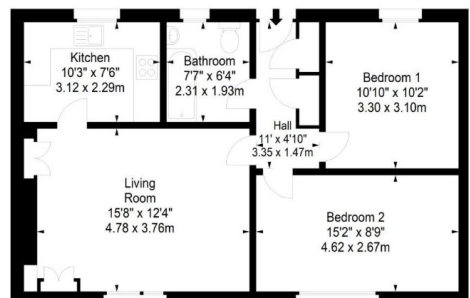
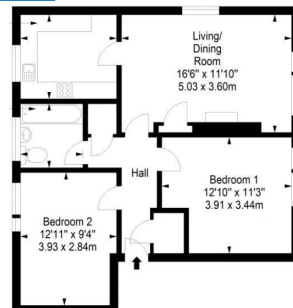
Gilson Gray

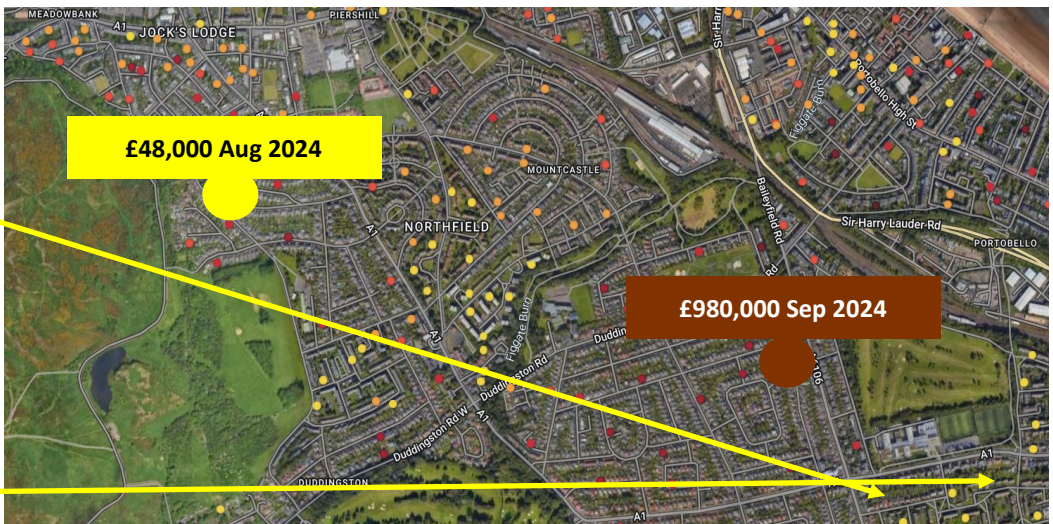
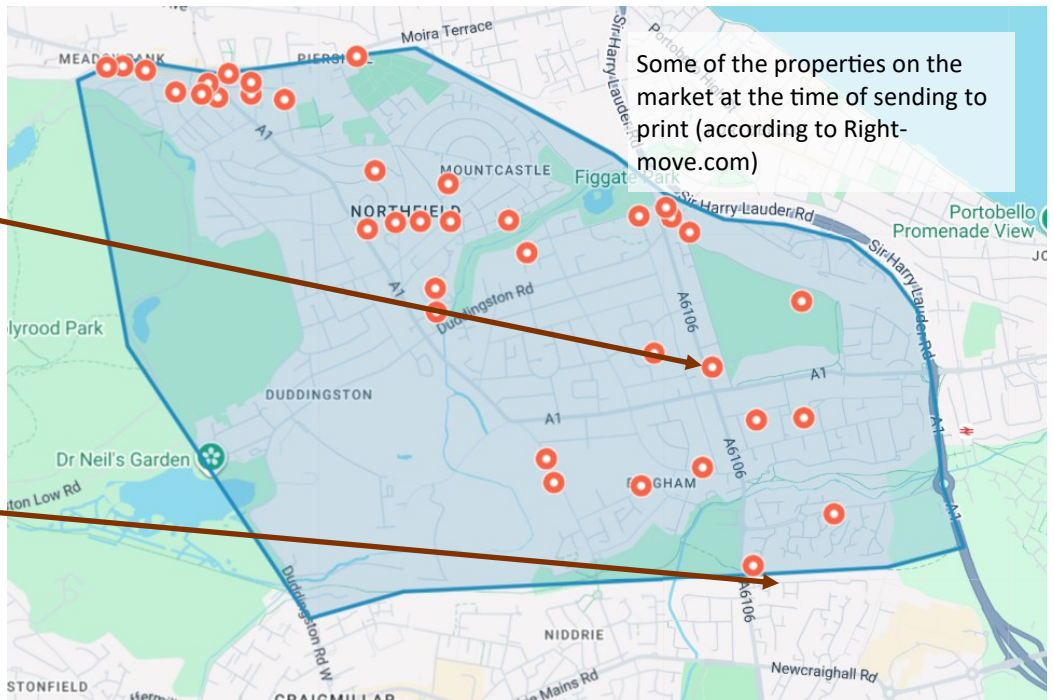


2 Magdelene Ave
2 bed, 1st floor flat - 663 sq.ft,

Offers over: £150,000

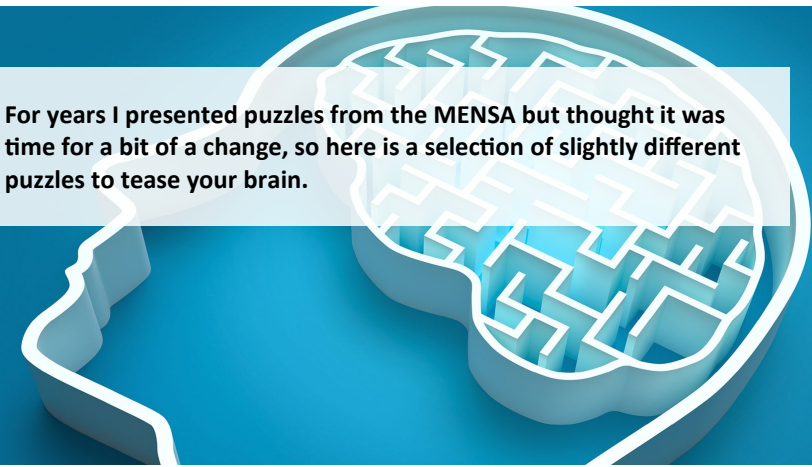
Deans Solicitors





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".

For years I presented puzzles from the MENSA but thought it was time for a bit of a change, so here is a selection of slightly different puzzles to tease your brain.



What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less?



What kind of running also means walking?



Here is a Rebus puzzle. What phrase does this picture represent?

TRAVEL
CCCCCC

Last month's answers:

When will the clocks show the same? Midnight, 10 days later @ 4 o'clock

When will the clocks show correct ? Midnight 30 days later at 12 o'clock

X - The last letters of the words one, two, three, four, five, six.

			4	1
	6	1	7	
5	9			
2				
3				

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Craigentinny 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 (ERI)	536 1000
Sick Kids	536 0000
Childline	0800 1111
Parentline	08000 28 22 33
Portobello Surgery	669 8406
Milton Surgery	549 7300
Well Edinburgh, Craiginny	661 2523
Lindsay & Gilmour, High St	669 4331
Wooton Pharmacy, High St	669 3100
Boots, Porty High St	669 1883

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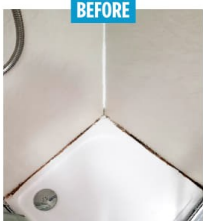
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