



Duddingston magazine

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Nov 2025

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Duddingston magazine

Nov 2025



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Benjamin Cowdy

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HAVE YOUR SAY

This month we have a bit of a theme of "Have your say".

Firstly is the ongoing engagement we are having with readers about the closure of Duddingston Low Road. Unsurprisingly there are differing views and, having published a letter last month, we received further in response and they are anonymised and published on Page 11. We remain happy to continue publishing letters on this or any other issues readers feel inclined to write in about.

The second part of the theme is about the Scottish Elections due in May next year. It might seem a long way away but time flies and our journalism student (Shaun McGeachan) is keen to hone his skills so we have started what I hope will be a series of interviews with each candidate. The first (Page 18) is local Councillor Tim Jones who has been selected as the Scottish Conservative candidate for the new Edinburgh Eastern,

Musselburgh & Tranent Constituency.

Finally, an issue not otherwise mentioned as it doesn't have particular local relevance but nevertheless important to mention, is a Consultation by the City Council on a proposed Tram extension between Granton and Little France. All views are sought by the deadline 17th November and I encourage you to take part. Best way is to search online "Edinburgh Tram Extension" then click on the "Council seeks views on tram expansion plans". The £3Bil project would need an initial £44Mil to produce a business case report before anything can be done and at such huge expense it is important to get as many views as possible before a decision is made.

Ben Cowdy
Editor

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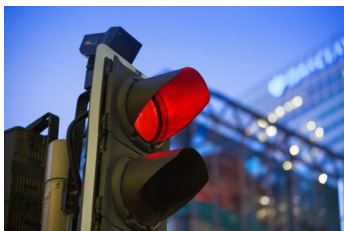
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Here is a summary of some of the main articles reported by a range of media outlets and posted on our Facebook Page that relate to our local area including Duddingston, Brunstane, Portobello & Willowbrae.



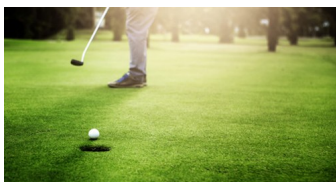
A new community garden, **Jock Tamson's Gairden**, has **opened in Duddingston**, turning unused land into a shared space for growing food and supporting wellbeing, especially for people with cancer. Named after the local figure behind the phrase "we're a' Jock Tamson's bairns," it was created by local volunteers with support from the council and Macmillan. The garden includes a café, report **Deadline News**.

A new red-light camera went live on 22 September 2025 at the A6106 **Duddingston Park South junction** to improve road safety. The site was chosen after 11 collisions in four years and a survey showing 190 red-light offences in 12 hours, over half



on Duddingston Park South. The move is part of Police Scotland Safety Cameras' efforts to reduce serious road injuries and fatalities, say The **Edinburgh Reporter**.

Edinburgh News report that **Duddingston Golf Club** have won the Edinburgh Summer League title for a record 11th



time, defeating Craigielaw 5–4 in a close final at Bruntsfield Links. The victory capped an unbeaten season, with standout performances from players like Shaun Gordon and Jamie Duguid. Team manager praised the squad's commitment, and Duddingston will now face Glasgow in the Inter-Cities Cup.

Edinburgh **MP Chris Murray** **temporarily closed his Portobello High Street office** after a security incident on October 3, 2025. Police attended following reports of a disturbance, though no link

was found to recent national events. Police Scotland said officers gave advice at the scene, and the MP assured constituents appointments



would be rearranged, report **Edinburgh Live**

Edinburgh Live report that Edinburgh residents have been surprised to see Christmas **decorations erected in areas such as Portobello** as early as October. Many took to social media noting that festive treats like Christmas chocolates had already appeared in shops.





Two potential Duddingston sites are being considered to replace **Marionville Fire Station** in Edinburgh, which faces closure due to unsafe RAAC concrete. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) says Duddingston would be the best alternative location, though locals and the Fire Brigades Union fear longer response times report Edinburgh *Evening News*.

Following an August wildfire on Arthur's Seat, rockfalls have increased, forcing the continued closure of the High Road for safety reasons. Historic Environment Scotland says geologists are assessing the area, but no reopening date has been set.

Earlier, **Duddingston Low was Road also closed** due to similar risks and remains shut to traffic, with full repairs expected to take 12–18 months. HES has yet to decide what level of access will be allowed once the works are complete, say *Edinburgh News*.





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Yoga Now are classes run by

Lucy Brownhall, which aim to bring yoga to as many different age groups as possible to ease the mind and provide key exercise.

The studio can be found in St Margarets House, London Road, where inside, a diverse range of equipment is on display that can be used for the taught traditional and accessible style, Iyengar yoga.

Lucy has taught yoga for more than 20 years and believes participating is undeniably advantageous:

"I have attended a yoga class more or less every week for 39 years. After making the original commitment, it has been easy, joyful even, and so beneficial. Whatever else has been going on in my life, once a week I have taken time out for myself, to move my body, reset my nervous system, and connect to a calmer inner space. The effect of this is



cumulative and also preventative."

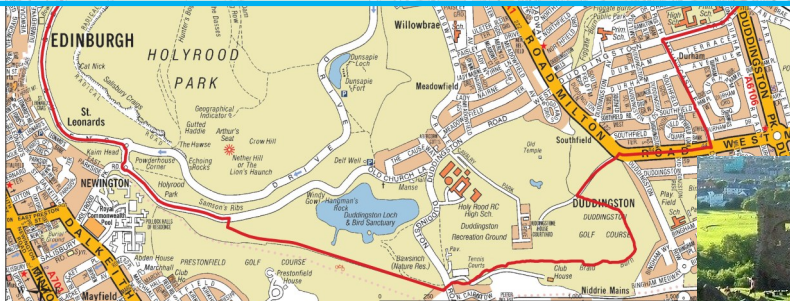
Yoga Now offers classes for any level, from beginners through to advanced. Beginners' classes prioritise physical health and tend to be physically challenging and relatively fast-moving; however, regular rests and relaxation are included at the end, and each class is adapted to suit the people there.

Their Under 30 pass gives 6-7 classes for just £30.



The district of the **Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council** stretches from almost the beach at Portobello to the walls of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The ancient village of Duddingston mark one corner; 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.



Summary of minutes from the meeting on 9th Sept. - 9 in attendance

1. Matters arising - Hamilton Terrace, Piershill flat, Cavalry Park, Willowbrae Church sale, Local Place Plan, Environment Fair, Morrisons Car Park, Community Centre management, Resilience Planning,
2. Police Report - Anti-Social-Behaviour at Northfield Broadway & Baronscourt, Drug incidents, Bus damage.
3. Treasurers Report
4. Planning - Window replacements & Short-

Term-Lets

5. Subgroups - Social Media
6. Marionville Fire Station
7. Student flats at Meadowbank
8. Public Forum
9. **Next meeting** - Tuesday 11th Nov, 7pm, at Northfield Community Centre.

Facebook: @nandwcc

Twitter: @WbraeNorthfCC

Web: www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk
secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk

Northfield & Willowbrae Community Council recently received 'Greenlight' funding from Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Network to host a climate resilience workshop to hear key community voices. The workshop on Monday 24/11/25 aims to explore climate actions that can be taken in our area towards a climate resilient future. Further work on Community Resilience will be rolled out to the wider public thereafter. Look out for more information on our website soon (www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk). If you are a local group interested in helping to explore climate actions in our area, please email our Engagement Officer at engagement@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk for more information about the event.

27th June

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

13th August

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.

3rd Sept

Hi there,

I'd like to respond to a couple of recent letters on the Low Road closure. I'm frankly flabbergasted by the entitled attitudes of some drivers — and I say this as a driver myself. Convenience should never come before community safety and environmental impact.

The Low Road is closed due to an extreme risk to life from rockfall, as confirmed in a Historic Environment

Scotland report. As a resident of Duddingston Road West, I welcome the peace it has brought, especially in Duddingston Village which I now use more often. Access to the Low Road through the village was always horrendous, with cars beeping, weaving, and queuing - both in the village and past my house. If the Low Road were ever to be reopened, the council must address the access issues through Duddingston Village as currently, it's not fit for purpose.

The Low Road closure is not to blame for perceived and over exaggerated congestion at Peffermill. This has always been a congested crossing. I drive through daily and have seen no increase. Drivers must consider closures at Niddrie Road, the Fort, the Commonwealth Pool, and Cameron Toll — plus terrible light sequencing. As for idling, vehicles do this whether stuck in the village, on the Low Road, or on Duddingston Road West.

For the first time, I feel safe walking and cycling on the Low Road and now cycle to work most days, it's also great to now see so many other people walk and cycle along a road that was previously a risk due to the volume of cars and vans. Not to mention the potential rock fall. The village is calmer and safer as a result also — something worth preserving.

Further Duddingston resident



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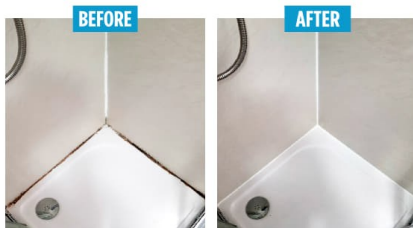
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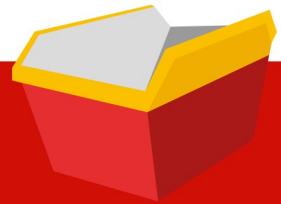
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We scour the internet for interesting things that you could do or see locally and list them here.

Holyrood Park

Arthur's Secret Ranger led walk

Tue 11th Nov, 13:00 - 15:00



A guided walk teaching about Arthur's Seat's turbulent past, created by fire and ice!

Find out about the people who lived and worked in the Park from seven thousand years ago up until the present day and learn more about the rare wildlife that makes the Park so special.

This event includes a moderate grade walk. The route contains rough tracks, uneven and boggy terrain, steep inclines and declines. Local roads and car parks may be subject to closures.

The event is free but booking is essential - through Eventbrite



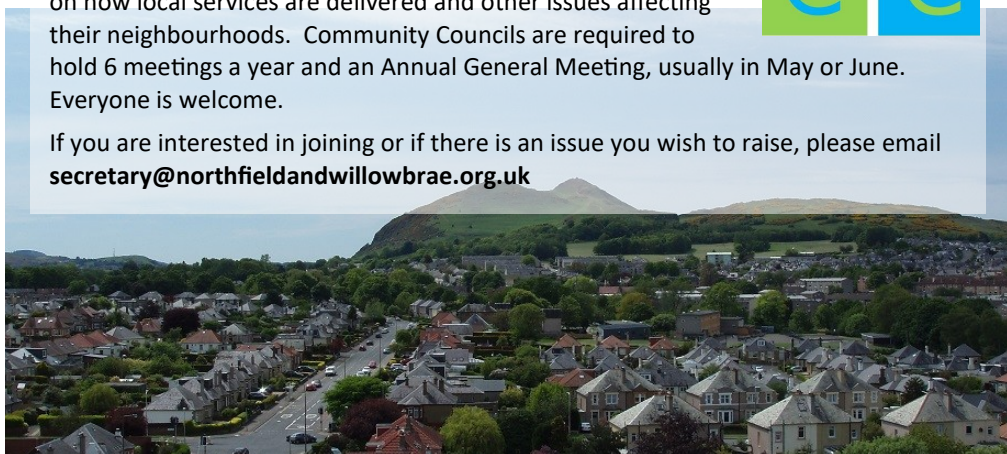
Northfield/Willowbrae Community Centre

Northfield Willowbrae Community Council meeting

Tuesday 11th Nov, 7pm

The local authority has a duty to consult Community Councils on how local services are delivered and other issues affecting their neighbourhoods. Community Councils are required to hold 6 meetings a year and an Annual General Meeting, usually in May or June. Everyone is welcome.

If you are interested in joining or if there is an issue you wish to raise, please email secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk



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

Duddingston Kirk

Duddingston Kirk Players

Mondays, 7pm, Millar Hall

A drama group which meets every week as a social gathering with occasional inputs into worship. No experience of acting required! You do not need to be a member of the congregation to join one and you will be made welcome.



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Friday, 7th November, 10:00 - 16:00

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For more info visit - www.scot-art.co.uk/events/needle-felting-birds/



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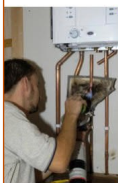


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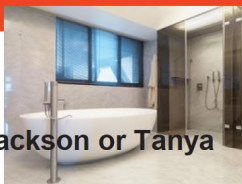


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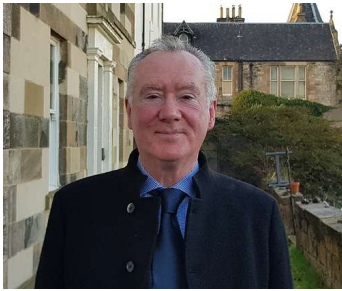
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Tim Jones has been serving as Councillor for Portobello and Craigmillar since 2022.

However, next year he will be running for election as an MSP to represent Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent at Holyrood.

Cllr Jones believes that, with his experience and knowledge of the area, he would be an effective representative in Parliament and focus on issues that matter to locals. Whilst representing the ward during his council term, he has been a lead campaigner for the reopening of Brunstane Road, which affects travel and everyday life for locals. He also disputed the proposal of controlled parking measures along King's Road to Joppa, which many residents appeared to be severely unhappy with, showing he is not afraid to stand up for those he represents and aims to avoid neglecting their

opinion. This is something he hopes to continue on a national level, should he be elected as an MSP, as he believes it is vital to gain trust of the public.

One of the Committees Tim has been a part of during his Council term is the Culture and Communities Committee and believes Portobello Community Council needs to be reinstated in order to connect people and enhance the representation of the public when decisions that affect them are being made.

Another Committee Tim is currently a part of is Policy and Sustainability. During this stint he has worked to prevent vulnerable structures on the coast, such as buildings near Portobello Beach, facing major damage from storms, which had a large impact on many people at the start of this year. However, this is something he believes needs

more work, time and money in order to assist as many affected households and business as possible.

As an ex-teacher, Tim is very passionate about education, something he believes needs immediate change and improvement. He thinks the education system needs restoration after a dramatic decline, partly connected to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and feels a need for more alignment between the curriculum and assessments, that should feature outcomes for children to achieve through stages.

Cllr Jones is a real admirer of one of the biggest landmarks in the constituency, Portobello Beach, and particularly enjoys visits on busy, hot days, when a walk along the promenade, enjoying the grand beach and its glistening sand, can be a real help.



By Shaun McGeachan -
Student of Journalism at
Napier University

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TERM DATES



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

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	29	30	
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			
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			
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			

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

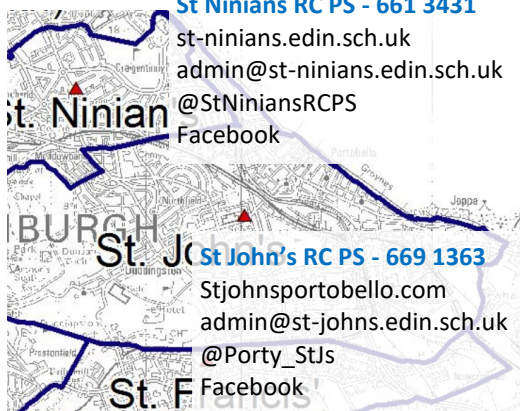
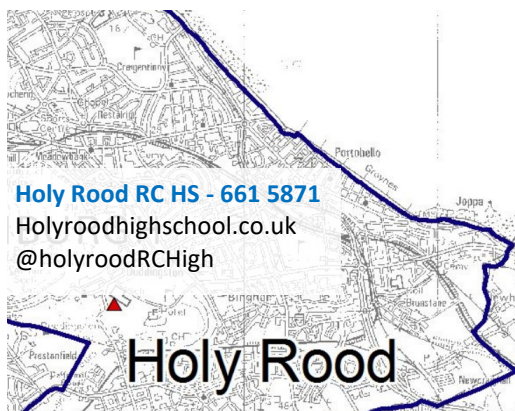
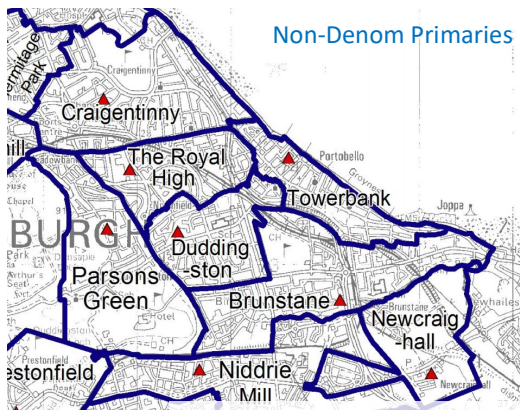
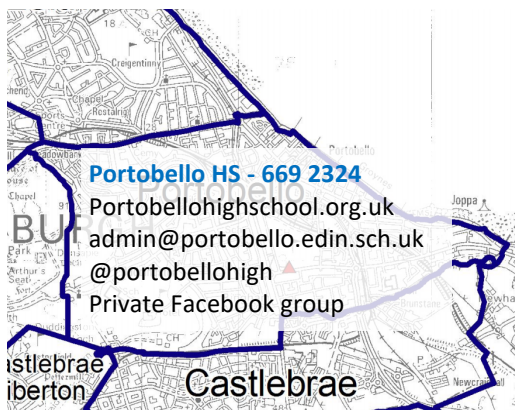
Brunstaneps.com
admin@brunstane.edin.sch.uk
@BrunstanePS
Facebook

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
rhsparents@gmail.com





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- use a study space
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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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Phone: 0131 661 7688

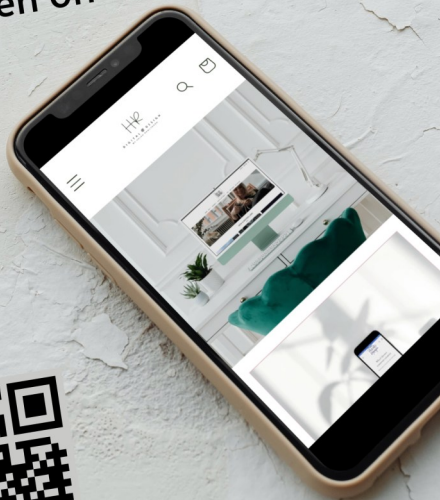
Web: greenscatering1.co.uk

**Address: 137, 139 Duddingston Road West,
EH15 3QD**



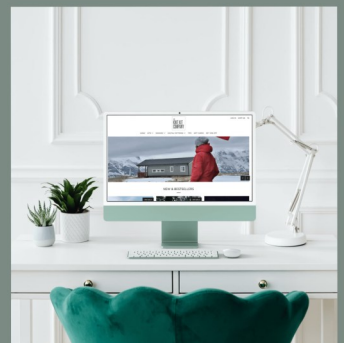
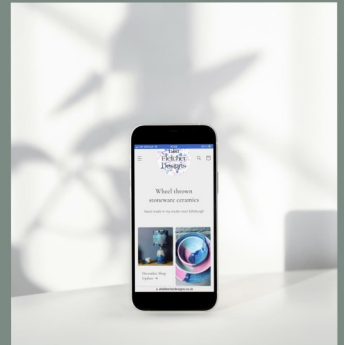
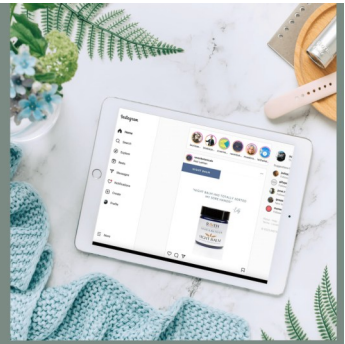
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- 2 bathrooms
- Driveway and garage
- 1,997 sq.ft

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Yopa

Meadowfield Terrace

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- South-facing garden
- 2,335 sq.ft

Offers over: £750,000

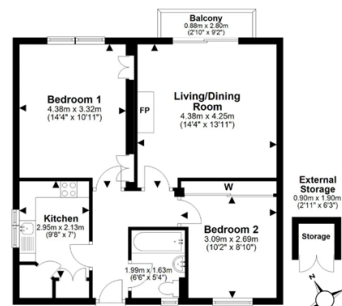
Knight Frank

2 OF THE SMALLEST

Lady Nairne Loan, EH8**2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, top floor flat**

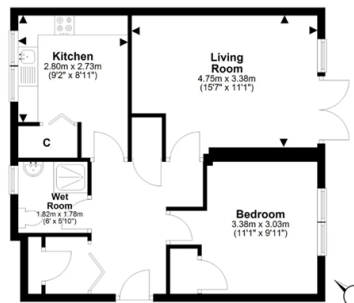
Offers Over £165,000

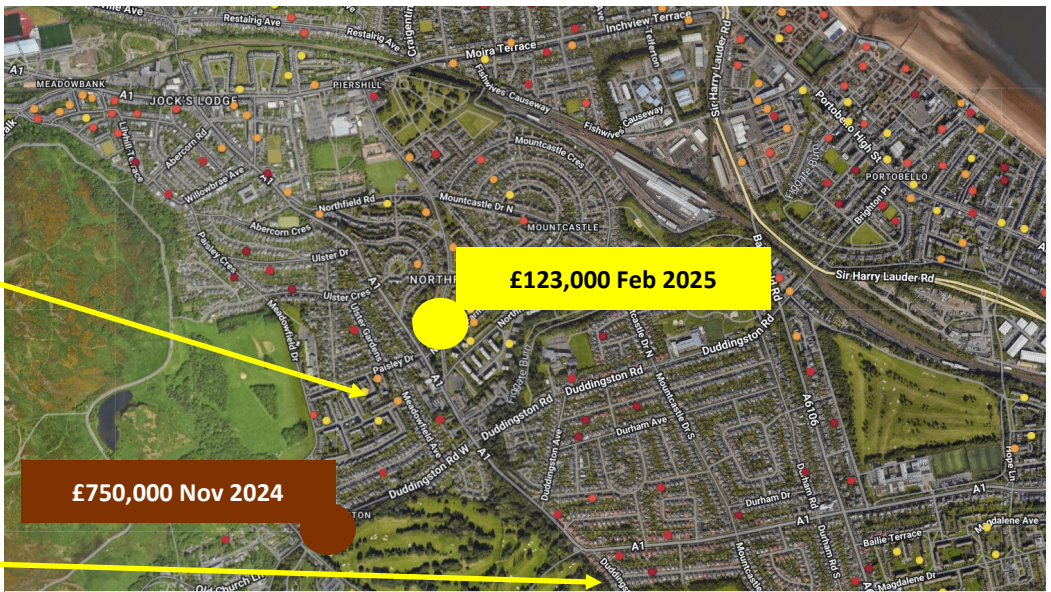
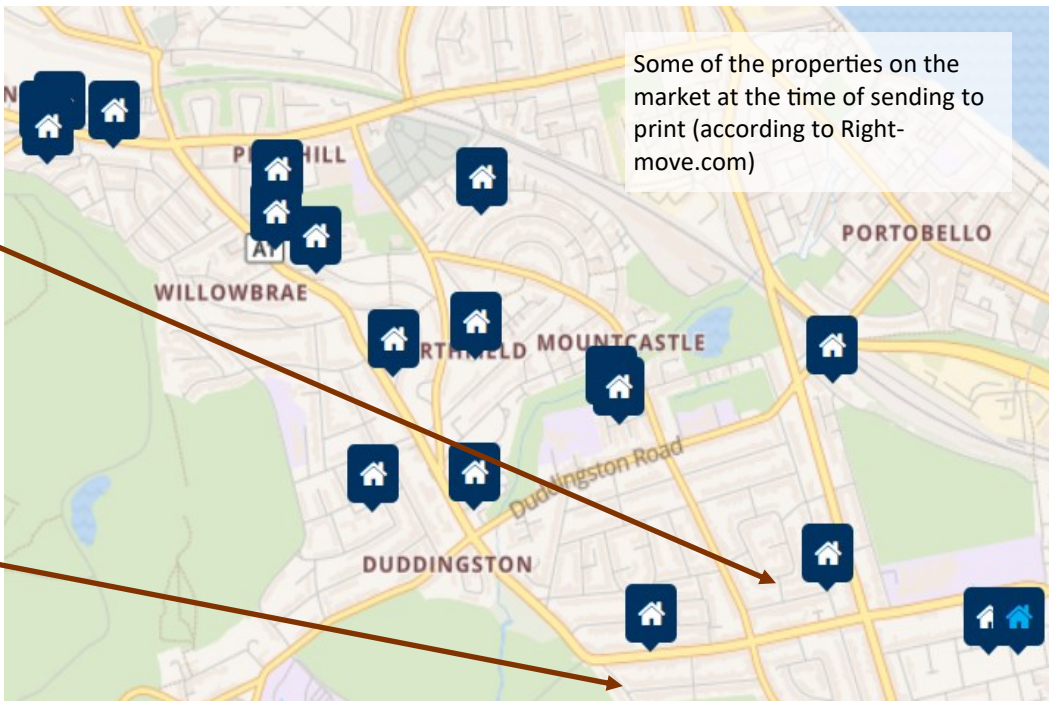
Warners

**Duddingston Row, EH15****1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, grd floor flat**

Offers over: £115,000

Warners





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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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



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Sick Kids	536 0000
Childline	0800 1111
Parentline	08000 28 22 33
Portobello Surgery	669 8406
Milton Surgery	549 7300
Well Edinburgh, Craigentinny	661 2523
Lindsay & Gilmour, High St	669 4331
Wooton Pharmacy, High St	669 3100
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CHRISTMAS AT THE BOTANICS

A magical after-dark trail for everyone

20 NOV – 30 DEC

rbge.org.uk/christmas



Christmas at the Botanics returns, promising new lights, enchanting sounds and a touch of romance

Festive fans can get a head start on the season as tickets go on sale.

Now in its ninth year, the beloved light trail will bring winter magic, transforming the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh into an immersive world of light, colour, and festive cheer.

This year's trail will run for 35 nights, featuring three dedicated quiet nights.

New installations include:

Night Birds – featuring a flock

of five oversized birds that spread their neon-lit feathers to illuminate the night sky.

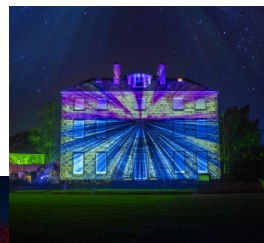
Heart Arch Walk – a tunnel of love made from large LED hearts that set the Christmas mood with a jolly red glow, making a perfect picture spot.

Laser Lights – displaying thousands of slowly rotating coloured beams that burst through fog adding a truly immersive experience.

Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Simon Milne said: "Each year, our trail organisers work tirelessly to transform our Garden into an exciting

nocturnal showcase, and this year is no exception.

Tickets for this year's show are on sale now. With limited slots and popular dates expected to sell out, early booking is strongly advised to avoid disappointment.





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Debussy: *Preludes for Piano, Book 2*
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Each question contains a number and some initials for a common phrase, or an item that has something to do with that number,. The number is your best clue - think about things that start with those initials that involve that number!

EXAMPLE: 16 O. in a P.

Answer: 16 *Ounces* in a *Pound*

And remember...this game does not measure your intelligence, your fluency with words, and certainly not your mathematical ability. It will, however, give you some idea of your mental flexibility and creativity.

5 f. on a h.



12 N. on a C.



A S. in T. S. 9



Last month's answers:

What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less? - **A hole**

What kind of running also means walking? = **Running out of gas.**

Rebus Puzzle = **Travel overseas**

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