



We were excited to read of the completion in your latest Duddingston Direct for your readers to choose a charity to donate the £2,500 to, and we would now like to nominate Dr Neils Garden for this.

Because of Covid the garden being closed for most of last year. This is not only horribly sad for all of us here at the garden as we have not been able to meet and greet all the visitors who love the garden, or wo are discovering it for the first time, but for those visitors to the garden who take refuge there to find peace and tranquillity in their busy lives. The artists to love to use the garden for inspiration, and the families who regularly spend valuable outdoor family time together. We have also not been able to hold any fund raising events such as our Open Weekends, workshops, and the very popular monthly 'Duddingston Lectures'. All this has resulted in almost next to no income for the garden, with the exception of July and August when we were able open the garden on very restricted hours and numbers.

To add to this, during the lockdown just before Christmas the gardener's workshop was broken into and ALL our valuable power tools were stolen, and the workshop damaged. Petrol lawnmower, strimmers, power tree saws and more. We are hoping to recover some of this loss through our insurers but alas due to the garden being so isolated our insurance premiums are getting to be sky high.

We would be absolutely delighted if we were chosen as one of the shortlisted for this competition and given the chance to keep this beauty spot open to the general public and all visitors for years to come.

www.drneilsgarden.co.uk

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