EDINBURGH MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
November 2026



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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Edinburgh CIC asks for donated Christmas trees, jumpers and decorations, page 8. Photo: The Leith Collective.

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Your story here



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Photo: Sassy+ and Claire

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh mum shares story of bereavement to help others this Christmas

A mother whose 10-year-old son died suddenly after contracting Coronavirus is sharing her story this Christmas, highlighting how support from Child Bereavement UK helped her navigate life after loss and find moments of hope.

For Claire, based just outside Edinburgh, Christmas will always be a time filled with memories of her son Jamie.

Funny, super kind and famous for his squishy hugs and infectious laugh, Jamie was a loving boy whose sudden death at just 10 years old turned Claire's world upside down.

Losing Jamie

Jamie died after contracting Coronavirus. He tested positive on a Thursday, and Claire kept him off school the following day. On Saturday, he woke up feeling great and wanted to go back out with his friends. But by Sunday, he was being sick and complaining of a sore head.

"By half past four, the ambulance had arrived. By half past five, we were in hospital. By twenty past eight, Jamie had passed away."

Claire shares this. The suddenness of Jamie's

death left Claire facing a future she could never have imagined.

"It was really tough, not to have him in the house anymore. I went to stay with my parents after Jamie died and returned home just before Jamie's Farewell. I hadn't been back since. I sat in the car for a while before finally walking through the door and starting this new life without Jamie."

A last special Christmas

Christmas had always been a special time for Claire and Jamie, and their last Christmas together was no exception.

"Our last Christmas together was special. Every Christmas with Jamie was special."

Claire explains:

"We went on a Polar Express trip. It was our favourite Christmas movie. Jamie was 10 years old and was on the verge of not believing, and mummy was not ready for that. I thought the trip might be an extra bit of Christmas magic for Jamie before he stopped believing in Santa. But he heard that bell ring, so he still believed. I'm just glad I managed to make these memories with him."

Finding support

Following Jamie's death, Claire found herself with countless questions, feelings and emotions to navigate. Knowing she needed support, she reached out and discovered Child Bereavement UK.

"When Jamie passed away, I had so many questions, wonderings and feelings. I felt I needed to reach out to someone to help me navigate my way through this nightmare I had been thrown into. "I had to find my own support, and fortunately I came across Child Bereavement UK."

The charity supports children, young people, parents and families when a baby or child dies, or when a child is bereaved. Through its specialist support, it helps grieving young people and parents find ways to cope and feel less alone.

She continues:

"The support that I got from Child Bereavement UK has helped me massively on my journey. The care, compassion and respect I received from my very first interaction with someone from the charity, right up to my last counselling session, will stay with me forever. It has helped me, guided me and given me hope for the future as I still navigate my way through life without Jamie.

"They were so supportive and helped me to try and find those pockets of joy whenever you can, and I have carried that with me every single day. Knowing that Child Bereavement UK is there, it makes me feel less alone. There's lots of love and support out there if you need it."

Christmas today

Four and a half years on, Christmas continues to look different for Claire and her family.

Claire states:

"We made so many memories and shared so much love and laughter. It's just not the same now, going into Christmas Eve and realising that on Christmas Day he's not going to be there. So we choose to go away, me and my parents, so we're not at home. Wherever we go, on Christmas Eve, we light sparklers to wish Jamie a Merry Christmas."

By Mica Bale

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-mum-shares-story-of-bereavement-to-help-others-this-christmas**

Edinburgh schoolchildren's Christmas artwork brings festive cheer to Princes Street

Twelve winning designs from the City of Edinburgh Council and JCDecaux Christmas card competition are on display at a Princes Street bus shelter this weekend.



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Edinburgh's Princes Street is set to receive a colourful festive makeover this weekend, as twelve Christmas card designs created by local schoolchildren go on display for shoppers and visitors to enjoy.

The winning artwork was selected through a Christmas card competition organised by the City of Edinburgh Council and outdoor advertising company JCDecaux. Young pupils were invited to capture the magic of Christmas through their own creative designs, with the twelve winning entries earning a special place on bus shelter displays along one of the city's busiest shopping streets.

The Winners

Now in its tenth year, the annual event is open to learners across all City of Edinburgh Council schools, with this year's theme being Festive Favourites. The contest received a great response from schools, and the winners are:

By Catherine Wilson

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-schoolchildrens-christmas-artwork-brings-festive-cheer-to-princes-street**

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh veteran finds purpose again after RNBT support



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Photo: RNBT

A Royal Navy veteran from Edinburgh says he has “a life and a purpose again” after support from The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (The RNBT) helped his family tackle financial difficulties and move into a home where they feel safe to raise their daughter.

50-year-old Anthony Russell, who lives with his wife Lauren and their three-year-old daughter Faye, had been unable to continue working as an industrial cleaner following shoulder surgery.

With Lauren caring for him and Faye, the couple had relied on credit cards to keep the household afloat and fallen behind with bills.

Following encouragement from his family, Anthony, who served as an Able Rate in the Royal Navy, decided to ask for help.

He had been receiving support from Help for Heroes when his caseworker referred him to Emma Gration, The RNBT’s Regional Casework Manager for Scotland and Northern Ireland, to explore what further help the family could receive.

After a period of homelessness, the family had found a small flat, but were still struggling to get back on their feet when Emma visited.

The RNBT provided grants towards rent arrears and council tax, as well as a replacement tumble dryer, helping to ease the pressure on their finances.

Emma also helped the family apply to Veterans Housing Scotland, which provided their new home.

By Aaron Wise

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-veteran-finds-purpose-again-after-rnbt-support**

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh CIC asks for donated Christmas trees, jumpers and decorations



8

Photo: The Leith Collective

Whilst many Edinburgh residents may be looking forward to indulging in the season of excess, there are countless others who will struggle to simply make ends meet this Christmas.

It is something local CIC The Leith Collective is witnessing on a daily basis as desperate demand for their free winter coats outstrips supply.

So to help spread a little extra warmth, sparkle and joy this season, they are expanding their winter coat collection points to include everything one might need to create a comforting Christmas.

By Rebecca McCosh

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-cic-asks-for-donated-christmas-trees-jumpers-and-decorations**

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Exhibition Celebrates 60 Years of Artist Kenneth Dingwall's Remarkable Career



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A major new exhibition celebrating the remarkable 60-year career of artist Kenneth Dingwall will bring together more than 70 artworks, including previously unseen pieces, offering visitors a fascinating insight into his creative journey.

Opening to the public on Saturday 21 November, Kenneth Dingwall: Being will showcase a diverse collection of abstract drawings, paintings, prints and constructions. The exhibition features works from public and private collections across the UK, including pieces from the city's own collection and the artist's studio.

By Catherine Wilson

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-exhibition-celebrates-60-years-of-artist-kenneth-dingwalls-remarkable-career**

EDINBURGH

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo welcomes two new Board members to strengthen leadership



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Photo: Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is strengthening its leadership team with two new Board appointments, bringing valuable experience in business, governance and strategic planning to support the organisation's future development.

Sir Stuart Atha KBE CB DSO and Malcolm Leask have joined the Board, bringing a wealth of professional expertise and leadership experience. Their appointments mark an important step in the Tattoo's plans to build on its international reputation and continue delivering one of Scotland's most celebrated cultural events.

By Albert Nelson

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/royal-edinburgh-military-tattoo-welcomes-two-new-board-members-to-strengthen-leadership**

EDINBURGH

Bethany Christian Trust Launches Caring Christmas Trees for 2026



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Edinburgh shoppers are being encouraged to spread a little extra kindness this festive season by choosing a Caring Christmas Tree for 2026, helping to support people experiencing homelessness.

National homelessness charity Bethany Christian Trust is inviting residents to make their Christmas celebrations more meaningful, with the initiative raising vital funds to help those facing homelessness and hardship.

Freshly cut and grown on a farm in West Lothian with sizes starting from 4ft, the Grade A Nordmann fir trees bring festive warmth into customers' homes while helping fund care and practical support for people who need it. Prices start at £47.50, with all proceeds going towards Bethany's work to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

By Zoe Walker

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/bethany-christian-trust-launches-caring-christmas-trees-for-2026**

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Creates New Career Opportunities as Housing Apprenticeships Reach Record High



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The City of Edinburgh Council is investing in its housing repairs service while creating valuable career opportunities for young people through its Modern Apprenticeship programme.

Nine new apprentices have joined the team, bringing the total number of trainees to a record 25. Working across trades including painting and decorating, joinery and plumbing, the apprentices will gain practical skills and hands-on experience while helping maintain and improve council homes across Edinburgh.

By developing its in-house team, the Council aims to grow its skilled workforce to support the investment needed to improve the quality of its homes across the city.

By Zoe Walker

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-creates-new-career-opportunities-as-housing-apprenticeships-reach-record-high**



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EDINBURGH

Edinburgh's Iconic Mound Christmas Tree Lit Up in Ceremony Marking 40 Years of Friendship with Vestland

The lights on Edinburgh's iconic 18-metre Christmas tree on the Mound were officially switched on last night (Monday, 16 November) during a special ceremony led by Lord Provost Robert Aldridge and Vestland Deputy County Mayor Stian Opedal Davies.

By Zoe Walker

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburghs-iconic-mound-christmas-tree-lit-up-in-ceremony-marking-40-years-of-friendship-with-vestland**



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Photo: Cards for Good Causes

EDINBURGH

Charity Christmas Shop Returns to St John's Church on Princes Street

Cards for Good Causes pop-up Christmas shop is now open in St John's Church on Princes Street, Edinburgh.

By Laura Hayward

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/charity-christmas-shop-returns-to-st-johns-church-on-princes-street**

In brief



Photo: Common Coffee

EDINBURGH

The Pathhead roastery brewing on Edinburgh's doorstep

Common Coffee roasts every bean at Rosemains Steading in Pathhead, a small community of independent businesses just south-east of Edinburgh.

By Scarlett Buckley
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/the-pathhead-roastery-brewing-on-edinburghs-doorstep**



EDINBURGH

Edinburgh's City Art Centre Celebrates 15 Years of Artist Ade Adesina's Remarkable Work

A major new exhibition celebrating 15 years of creativity by Aberdeen-based artist Ade Adesina is set to open at the City Art Centre on Saturday 7 November 2026, showcasing the remarkable work of the acclaimed printmaker.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburghs-city-art-centre-celebrates-15-years-of-artist-ade-adesinas-remarkable-work**



Photo: Sanctuary Care

EDINBURGH

Camilla House care home in Edinburgh rated good by inspectors

An Edinburgh care home is celebrating after receiving praise following an unannounced inspection.

By Kate Yates
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/camilla-house-care-home-in-edinburgh-rated-good-by-inspectors**



EDINBURGH

Scottish Charity Helps Young Ukrainian Refugee Follow His Passion for Aircraft Engineering

Fourteen-year-old Dmytro Miskov is building a bright future in Scotland, with dreams of becoming an aircraft engineer and the support of Scottish charity Mission of Innocents helping him along the way.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/scottish-charity-helps-young-ukrainian-refugee-follow-his-passion-for-aircraft-engineering**

In brief



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GLASGOW

Glasgow's George Square returns to the heart of city Christmas celebrations following £20 million transformation

Glasgow's iconic George Square is returning to its traditional place at the heart of the city's Christmas celebrations.

By Albert Nelson
Continued at **glasgowmagazine.net/glasgows-george-square-returns-to-the-heart-of-city-christmas-celebrations-following-20-million-transformation**



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ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Reopens Union Street Central to Buses Ahead of Festive Shopping Season

Buses are set to return to the newly revamped Union Street Central in just a couple of weeks, coinciding with the city centre lighting up for the start of its Christmas events programme.

By Catherine Wilson
Continued at **aberdeenmagazine.co.uk/aberdeen-reopens-union-street-central-to-buses-ahead-of-festive-shopping-season**



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Photo: Sandy Butler

ABERDEEN

Eddi Reader and Karen Matheson join Christmas Songbook show in Aberdeen

Scottish Christmas Songbook will bring a cast of Scottish folk stars to Music Hall in Aberdeen on Monday 21st December 2026.

By Corrie Campbell
Continued at **aberdeenmagazine.co.uk/eddi-reader-and-karen-matheson-join-christmas-songbook-show-in-aberdeen**



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Photo: Sanctuary Care

GLASGOW

Double awards success for East Kilbride's Forefaulds

A Sanctuary Care home in East Kilbride is celebrating double awards success after both its team, and Lifestyle and Wellbeing Coordinator were shortlisted for prestigious care sector accolades.

By Kate Yates
Continued at **glasgowmagazine.net/double-awards-success-for-east-kilbrides-forefaulds**

In brief



Photo: World Extreme Medicine

GLASGOW

Astronaut Dr Mike Barratt inspires Glasgow's St Mary's Ukrainian School

Over 100 children from St Mary's Ukrainian School in Glasgow had a unique and unforgettable opportunity to join a live interactive Q&A session with a NASA astronaut.

By Bethany Skinnard
Continued at **glasgowmagazine.net/astronaut-dr-mike-barratt-inspires-glasgows-st-marys-ukrainian-school**

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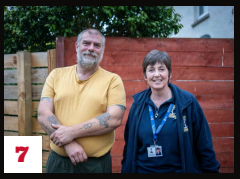



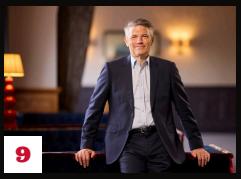







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