

Autumn 2025

Inch House Newsletter 2025



The latest news and updates from Inch House Community Centre

Welcome

Welcome to the Inch Community Association (ICA) autumn newsletter. This edition provides local Inch residents, ICA members and friends of the historic Inch House, with an update on the schedule of activities planned at Inch House during the autumn months, and also on any new developments and initiatives of relevance to Inch residents and the wider community around the Inch Park area.

Included is information about the City of Edinburgh Council review of community centres and their new strategy for management which is due to be published in October 2025.

So that Inch residents and ICA members can have their say in shaping the future of Inch House we have included a community survey sheet with this Newsletter (see article below and survey sheet).

Edinburgh Council publish its new Community Centre Strategy – have your say!

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has been undertaking a review of all council community centres within the city over the last 18 months. The review looks at the buildings (the layout, condition and projected maintenance) and the activities which take place within them. It is being led by the council's Community Empowerment and Engagement (CEE) Team who are developing a strategy for the

management of community centres.

Inch Community Association (ICA), who currently manage Inch House in collaboration with CEC, has been liaising with the CEE Team and the Community Centre Forum in this process. The report on the new management strategy is due to be presented to councillors at the Council's Culture and Communities Committee meeting on 2nd October 2025 for approval and subsequent publication and implementation.

City of Edinburgh Council plans to introduce a bespoke approach to the future management of each community centre (including Inch House) in partnership with the management committees which run the centres. Following publication of its finalised strategy in October, the Council will commence detailed consultations with ICA trustees and staff regarding the lease arrangements, council input and the future plans for Inch House. Meetings and discussions are expected to take place over the next 12 months to formalise these new long-term arrangements.

Over the coming months, the ICA will be focussing on its vision for the future role of Inch House within the Inch community and the surrounding area. With this in mind, we have included a community survey sheet with this Newsletter and would encourage all residents to complete this and return it to us (see instructions below and on the survey form) so that your voice is heard and the ICA can ensure that the key needs and priorities of Inch residents regarding their local community centre services help shape the future role of Inch House. We intend that this will build on the results of the previous community survey carried out by the ICA in 2021.



IH summer fair cafe

What is the ICA?

The Inch Community Association (ICA) is a registered Scottish Charity (SC049401) that manages the Inch House community centre. Through a small team of trustees, volunteers and 2 part-time employees, we provide a range of services and facilities for the local Inch community, in accordance with our charitable purposes (as set out in the ICA Constitution). These include programmes of community education and activities for Inch residents of all ages and abilities, the provision of opportunities for community engagement and volunteering, and activities to support our senior citizens and those experiencing social isolation. We also aim to provide a range of activities at Inch House, including those to raise awareness of history, arts and culture as well as physical wellbeing.

Inch Community Forum (29/11/25)

Would you like to find out what's happening in the local Inch community, Inch Park and Inch House? Inch House will be hosting a special Inch Community Forum event on Saturday, 29th November (from 10.30am to 1.30pm), to enable local residents and users of Inch House and Inch Park to learn more.

The event is being organised jointly by Inch Community Association and Liberton Community Council and aims to bring members of the local community up to speed about what's happening locally. Local councillors and representatives of Edinburgh Council have been invited, as well as representatives of many local community groups and organisations to share details about their plans and activities and to answer your questions. There will also be a chance to meet representatives of some of the many groups which use Inch House, learn about their activities (everything from Salsa Dancing to Yoga), meet some of the organisers or teachers, and perhaps even get involved yourself or join up for a course.

An important focus of discussion will be the future of Inch House and Inch

Park and we hope it will be possible to update local residents on what the current situation is in relation to the Council's plans for the development of Inch Park (local residents will remember how, 5 years ago, the Council was giving serious consideration to designating land in the centre of Inch Park for building purposes, a fate which we helped avert by organising a public campaign against it, including an online petition signed by over 4000 objectors).

On the lighter side, local guitarist, Javier Buron, and his all-Spanish group, Little Gibraltar, will be giving a performance during the interval. We will also be running a cafe for visitors. We hope you will be able to join us!

Coming Soon: Work + Play Hub to Open at Inch House

We're thrilled to be able to share that we're planning to open our new Hub in Inch House in the final quarter of 2025, providing a co-working space for parents with children. Our mission is to remove the structural barriers that make it difficult for caregivers (especially mothers and single par-

ents) to access meaningful work. We believe that no one should have to choose between being a present parent and building a fulfilling career. This is a major step forward in our mission to create truly local solutions to care, work, and connection.

WHAT WE OFFER

Work+Play is more than just a space: it's a model for community-rooted support. Our core services include:

- Flexible, DBS checked and SCSW registered childcare, designed to fit around real working patterns and family life.
- Affordable co-working space with the tech, quiet, and support needed to get things done.
- Wraparound wellbeing and peer support, so no one feels like they're doing this alone. We'll be your village of support, or part of it!
- Pathways to employment and training, with a focus on sustainable careers and inclusive access.

Our model is based on lived experience and answers real struggles.

With a beautiful setting, easy access to green space, and strong community roots, Inch House will become a welcoming anchor point for parents and families across Southeast Edinburgh. We're currently working with local partners, funders, and the City of Edinburgh Council to ensure this space reflects the needs of the community. We can't wait to welcome you there!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Whether you're a parent, local organisation, funder, volunteer, or future team member: we'd love to hear from you. Stay tuned for updates on launch events, membership, and ways to co-design the future of Work+Play with us.

Or take a look at our website:

workplusplayhub.com



WHAT'S ON AT INCH HOUSE

Activity	Days	Time
ESOL	Monday to Friday	9:00 - 12:00 & 12:00 - 15:00
LASC	Monday to Thursday	15:00 – 17:00
Polish Scouts	Monday	18:00 – 20:30
Toy Library	Tuesday & Thursday	10:30 – 12:00
Dance Master	Tuesday	17:30 – 18:30
Qi Gong	Tuesday	19:00 – 20:00
Tai Chi	Wednesday	13:00 - 13:50
Pilates Taiso	Wednesday	18:00 – 19:00
Latin Dance	Wednesday	18:30 – 19:30
Ju No Michi	Wednesday	19:15 – 20:15
Indoor Bowls	Thursday	13:00 – 16:00
Art	Friday	11:00 – 13:00

* ESOL = English for speakers of other languages

Adult Education Classes at Inch House

Class	Day	Time	Start Date
Holistic Movement	Tue	18:30 – 19:30	23rd September
Art in Nature	Wed	9:30 – 12:00	24th September
Bridge	Wed	12:30 – 14:30	24th September
Yoga	Wed	17:30 – 19:30	24th September
Holistic Movement	Thur	9:30 – 10:30	25th September
Art: Mini Seascape	Thur	9:30 – 12:00	25th September
Self Defence	Thur	18:00 – 19:30	25th September
Self Defence	Thur	18:00 – 19:30	20th November
Ancient Greece	Fri	11:00 – 13:00	26th September
Ancient Warfare	Fri	13:30 – 15:30	26th September
Acoustic Guitar	Sat	11:00 – 13:00	27th September
500 Years of Dance	Sat	11:00 – 13:00	4th October
One Day Courses			
Knitting Fair Isle	Sat	10:00 – 15:00	4th October
Scotland in Dance	Sat	10:00 – 13:00	11th October
Planning Applications	Sat	10:00 – 16:00	1st November
Bayeux Tapestry	Sat	10:00 – 17:00	8th November
Knitting Cable	Sat	10:00 – 15:00	15th November
Scottish Place Names	Sat	10:00 – 17:00	22nd November



HOW TO BOOK - via the website:
<https://adulteducationedinburgh.spydus.co.uk>,
 by calling 01315567978 or the QR code.

The Inch House Summer Fair

Our Summer Fair, held on a beautiful sunny Saturday 12th July, was a huge success. Thanks to our volunteers and trustees, Inch House hosted a cafe in the vaulted cellar room, a selection of wonderful stalls in the main hall, a second hand book sale, a 'human fruit machine' in our front lounge and an exhibition of artwork by students from the Inch House art classes.

Outside in the sunshine, ice cream and hotdogs were served in the garden, while kids bounced on the cir-

cus themed castle, or had their faces painted. Older kids took part in an outdoor 'treasure hunt' in Inch Park. And we were delighted to welcome staff and a fire tender from Liberton Fire Station, providing a great opportunity for families to learn about fire safety, and for kids to explore the bright red vehicle and try on fire-fighters' equipment.

We want to thank our visitors, volunteers, stallholders and especially the Fire Service staff, for their generous support for our Summer Fair and helping make the day so enjoyable for everyone. This raised a considerable sum to support our future work at Inch House.

Coming to Inch House (dates for your diary)

- Saturday 20th September - Qi Gong Workshop 10am.**
 3-hour workshop exploring Taoist philosophy and its application in Qi Gong practice. Book your tickets on Eventbrite
- Saturday 20th September - Sewing workshop 13:30 - 16:15**
 Whether you're a beginner or just looking for a creative afternoon, Come for a relaxed, hands on workshop and leave with your very own handmade sewing project. All Materials provided, No experience needed. Spaces are limited. To Book, email: hello@bespokebybella.co.uk
- Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th September - Inch House Doors.** Open day – visit us ! Enjoy Historical tours of Inch House (every 20 minutes). Visits up to the Turret (weather permitting) with panoramic views of the surrounding area (NB: older children must be accompanied by an adult – not suitable for younger children). Café (with home baking)
- Saturday 19th November - St Andrew's Day at Inch House.** We will be hosting a celebration of St andrews Day this year with a Ceilidh or Concert. Keep an eye out for more information
- Saturday 6th December - Inch House Christmas Fair.** Start your December at our annual Christmas Fair. There will be a wide array of stalls selling goods, upstairs in the Main Hall. The Cafe is open for a refreshing break from the xmas chao and kids can come meet Santa.

Inch Park Community Orchard and Tree Care Project

Since our last article in the Autumn 2024 Newsletter, Friends of Inch Park have secured funding for a Community Orchard and Tree Care Project. Expanding on previous orchard planting – a ten-tree distributed orchard, co-designed and planted with the help of The Orchard Project – we now aim to plant 340 additional trees in the park (with some additional planting in the Inch Estate). At least 90 of these trees will be fruit trees, with a focus on Scottish heritage variety apple trees.

With funding secured from Future Woodland Scotland's Urban Forestry Programme, Friends of Inch Park have been working in collaboration with local artists and environmentalists Jonathan Baxter and Sarah Gittins (working under the title Every Inch Matters) to engage with users of the park, local residents and council staff. Jonathan and Sarah have also been working with Liberton Primary School to deliver a variety of tree-themed sustainability workshops, supporting a wider culture of tree care and food sustainability in the Inch.

Ian Robertson, Secretary of Friends of Inch Park, comments: "It's about enabling the community to help design and care for their environment. By creating a fully integrated community orchard and wider tree care project we can bring people of all ages together to learn, grow, and strengthen our connections. This project will elevate our work to a new level."

We're now in the process of finalising

our designs and ordering trees, but there's still time to inform the process; with our first planting dates due to commence in late Oct/early November – depending on weather conditions.

To share your views, request more information or arrange an in-person meeting, please emailing Jonathan at everyinchmattersedinburgh@gmail.com or tel. 07954123543.

More information about our planting plans can be found here:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/4kcbm-90q4GYHf50F?ref=Link>

(scroll down the page. Please note: these plans are under review).

To follow the project as it develops and get involved please see

<https://www.facebook.com/everyinchmattersedinburgh/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/333787312323217>

or send Every Inch Matters an email to join the mailing list.



Summer fair treasure hunt

Volunteer at Inch House

Volunteers are key to providing our programme of events, and to developing our community centre further. We are always looking for passionate and enthusiastic volunteers who want to get involved, whether that be in helping at events, or contributing to ongoing projects. If you want to play a part in bringing our local community together, we are the place for you. Please contact:

alicepalfreyman@inchhouse.co.uk



if you are interested in volunteering at Inch House, or visit our website to register.



Inch House Garden

Although already used by some of our user groups, the Inch House garden is generally underused and overlooked, so it was great to see it smartened up and used in July for our annual Summer Fair (face painting, bouncy castle, hot dogs etc). We are in the process of building on this to create an outdoor space that can be enjoyed by more house users and visitors alike. We hope this will include a regular Gardening Club! So please volunteer and get involved to help turn this area into a special outdoor space right in the middle of Inch Park, for the community to enjoy.

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