

Autumn 2023

Inch House Newsletter



The latest news and updates from Inch House Community Centre



Disappointing News for Inch Park

In January, Edinburgh Council reported that their bid for UK Government 'Levelling-Up' funding for the Inch Park regeneration Master Plan had been unsuccessful (along with their other funding bid to support cultural venues across the city). Naturally this is very disappointing news for residents of the Inch area and Edinburgh City as a whole. However the Council's Thriving Green Spaces Team are to be applauded for the huge effort that went into the stakeholder consultation and development of this integrated Inch Park Master Plan, which is now the most advanced of the four masterplans for individual parks in Edinburgh.

On the positive side, the process of gathering views from local community groups, individuals and park users, and developing a future shared integrat-

ed vision for Inch Park, enabled a wide range of people to better appreciate the fantastic asset that Inch Park is for the local area and wider city, and the importance of protecting its rich heritage into the future. The Chairperson of the Inch Community Association, Diarmid Jamieson, commented "While this particular funding bid was unsuccessful, the process of developing the Inch Park Master Plan was extremely valuable, and the output provides an excellent template for the future of Inch Park that takes account of its multiple users, while also acknowledging the place of historic Inch House and its former walled garden at its core. We look forward to continuing to work constructively with the Council to further develop this vision and support future funding bids."

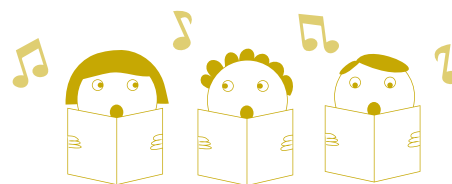
Details about the Inch Park Masterplan, including the public consultation process completed in August - October 2022, are located on the Council's Consultation Hub at: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/inch-park-masterplan/>

Daniel Johnston MSP Visit to Inch House

The Association was delighted to welcome Daniel Johnson, our local MSP, on a visit to Inch House recently. He was met and shown around by our Chair Diarmid Jamieson, Treasurer Witek Bobelak, and Development Manager Kevin Gibbons. Daniel expressed a keen interest in the activities of the Association and the challenges facing us and offered his support. Daniel has been a regular visitor to Inch House and an active supporter over many years and has expressed commitment to securing its long-term future. Daniel particularly enjoyed the fine view from the turret on top of the Inch House tower.



Inch Community Choir



In February this year we launched the BRAND-NEW Inch House Community Choir! We meet on Tuesday evenings, 7-9pm, termly. We're two terms in and we've had a lot of fun and a couple of public performances already - at the Inch House Easter Fair and at Bridgend Farm in July.

Now that the Inch House Community Choir has become a well-established feature, we look forward to regular choir performances at Inch House for residents of the Inch and surrounds to participate in, or simply enjoy attending. We are aiming to build on numbers for the autumn term – starting on **Tue 29 August** at Inch House. All are welcome to join and no previous experience of choir or reading music is necessary.

The choir is led by Heather Macleod, an experienced singer, vocal tutor and choir leader who has recently moved to the Inch area. Heather kindly agreed to answer some questions for our Newsletter.

‘Heather has a relaxed, fun method of leading, there is nothing technical, fussy or formal’

Hello Heather – and thank you for supporting this new initiative. Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself and your singing career?

I've sung, toured and recorded with bands since I was seventeen and, nearly 40 years later (!?!?!), I still do it, and still love it! Singing in harmony is my favourite thing and so I found myself working with lots of backing vocal sections and then forming The Bevv Sisters with three lead singers (a la Scottish Beverley Sisters). As my daughter has grown up, teaching singing has featured more. I teach 1-2-1 vocals for Edinburgh Uni and have my own roster of students. I've also loved working with choirs and have helped several choirs start up. I formed the Soundhouse Choir, also based in Edinburgh, in 2016. It's a very large choir and so I'm not scared of numbers! I hope lots of people turn up to try out our brand-new choir at the Inch! The bigger the better, and the easier it all becomes!

Are there any particular types of music / singing that you think will best suit our choir, especially at first while it is finding its feet?

Feel-good, uplifting and tuneful songs. These could be in any style. I tend not to work with classical or heavy metal! Apart from that, if it's a good singable song, then it's in! I do all the arrangements myself and make recorded parts for people to listen to after learning in the room (the best fun bit!). The main thing is to enjoy singing. It's not at all about having a 'good' voice. No experience is required and as I teach by ear, i.e. I sing it, you sing it back – there is no need to read music either.

Choir singing is quite often more popular with women; any messages for the men out there?

I don't know what makes this the case and there really should be a study done on why, but that is true. What I do know is that the more male voices there are, the better. The bass end of the choir is a vital part of the sound, giving a sure bedrock for the song and a huge contribution to the richness and balance to the tone of the choir. So come on the men!!

This will be an adult choir in the first instance; but is there an opportunity to widen this out to include young adults or children as well, in future?

Anyone over 16 could come along in the first instance. If it all goes well this term, then we hope to continue and have an informal performance in the Summer. If there is interest from younger groups we could look to involve them initially in that occasion,



by joining in with a couple of songs, which I could teach separately. I'd love to see Inch house have a provision for all to sing. In terms of programme and teaching, adult and children's choir are quite different.

What do you think about Inch House as a choir / performance venue?

GLORIOUS! It's an absolute GEM of Edinburgh. What a treat it is to be able to sing in the big main room with those windows overlooking the park. The acoustics are gorgeous we're feeling at home there already. It's a big room and it would be amazing to fill it!

ALL WE NEED IS PEOPLE TO COME ALONG AND GIVE IT A GO!

'The Inch House Choir is a lovely gathering of local folk! With Heather's enthusiastic encouragement we were making a beautiful sound from the off. It's a great way to listen, relax and focus your mind. And it's delightful meeting new folk too!'

Next term starts with a FREE taster evening on Tue 29 August – Tue 03 October 7-9pm.

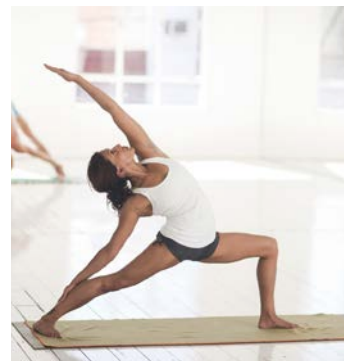
FOR MORE INFORMATION, REGISTRATION AND BOOKING:



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inch-house-choir-six-week-autumn-term-2023-tickets-689536120097?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

Inch House – Adult Education Classes

Starting in September 2023



- **Autumn Tree ID and Appreciation** (for All)
Sun, 10.30am – 3.30pm (starts 22/10)
- **Robert Fergusson and His Edinburgh** (for All)
Tues, 10am - 12pm (starts 26/9)
- **Pilates** (for Beginners)
Wed, 12.30 – 2.30pm (starts 27/9)
- **Hatha Yoga** (for All)
Wed, 6 – 7.30pm (starts 27/9)
- **Exploring Scottish Gravestones, 1560 – 1800** (for All)
Thu, 11am – 1pm (starts 7/9)
- **Scots Literature and Culture: “Guid Fer a Laugh”** (for All)
Thu, 12.30 – 2.30pm (starts 26/10)
- **Photography Workshop** (for All)
Thu, 1 – 2.30pm (starts 28/9)
- **Pilates with Mindfulness and Stretching** (for Beginners)
Thu, 6 – 7.30pm (starts 28/9)
- **Botanical Art in Watercolour** (for All)
Fri, 10am – 12pm (starts 29/9)
- **History of Art: Giotto and the Revolution in Italian Painting** (for All)
Fri, 2 – 4pm (starts 29/9)
- **Acoustic Guitar** (Post-Beginner)
Sat, 11am – 1pm (starts 30/9)
- **Dancing in Enlightenment Edinburgh** (for All)
Sat, 11am -1pm (starts 30/9)

ONE DAY COURSES

- **Art History in a Day** (for All)
Sat, 10am – 4pm (7/10)
- **Country Dances around the World** (for All)
Sat, 11am – 2pm (7/10)
- **Knitting – Fair Isle** (Post-Beginner)
Sat, 10am – 3pm (25/11)

HOW TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS

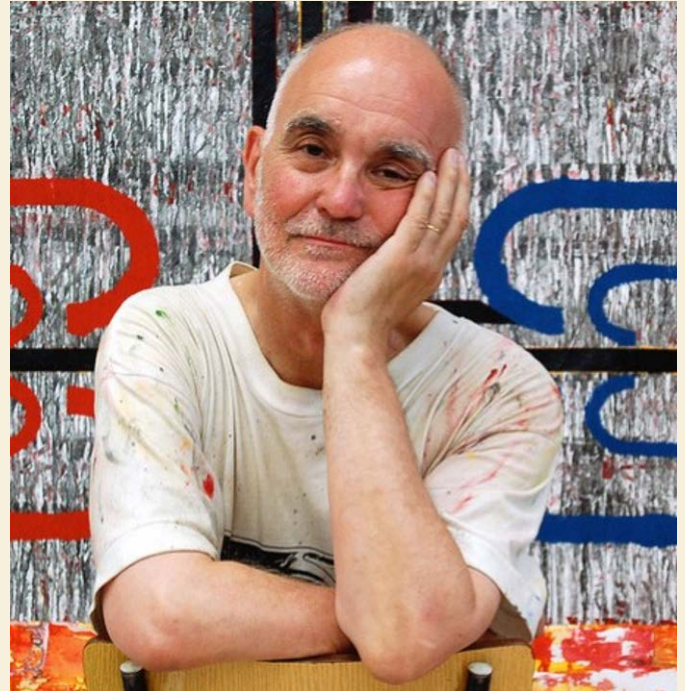
You can book a place on any of the above courses by going to <https://adulthoodeducation-edinburgh.spydus.co.uk> or by calling 0131-556-7978.

Inch House - Artist In Residence

The Association is delighted to welcome Bill Dick as Inch House's first 'artist in residence'. Bill now has his main studio at Inch House and will also offer art classes to the community, including a weekly Drawing & Painting Course, which starts on Friday 29th September and running until 01 December (refer course details elsewhere in this Newsletter). He will also be mentoring local artists.

Bill was born in Glasgow and graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, receiving a Fine Art Degree and a Post Graduate Degree, after which he continued his studies at St Martin's School of Art, London. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and bursaries: most notably from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the British Council.

He has developed his work in residencies in the UK, USA, Russia, Hungary and the Middle East.



He completed working residencies at the highly regarded Bemis Center, Omaha U.S.A., Triangle Artists' Workshop, New York and Yaddo Artists' Residence at Saratoga Springs, New York, USA. He presently lives and works in Edinburgh.

Inch House East Garden improvements



The Association has established a small sub-group to take on the much needed task of making improvements to the Inch House east garden. This fenced area (located between the House and Plant Nursery) is part of the original historic house gardens, but has suffered from neglect in recent years. Currently it is mainly used as an outdoor play area for the Liberton After School Club kids on school day afternoons, but we intend to also make it a pleasant outdoor space for others to enjoy. During the spring, this group carried out a general tidy up of the space, planted flower bulbs and made the space more accessible and enjoyable for users. Other initiatives are being planned for the coming months. **Please watch out for details on our website and Facebook page.**

Friends of Inch Park Group

A Friends of Inch Park group has been established, with its inaugural meeting held in late February 2023 at Inch House. Having its own 'Friends' group brings Inch Park into line with most other parks and

green spaces in Edinburgh and will be hugely beneficial to the future protection of the amenity and ecology of Inch Park. It should also help to halt the process of decline witnessed in recent years. This new 'Friends' group is open to all interested individuals. **This new 'Friends' group is open to all interested individuals. Details of activities and meetings can be found on their Facebook page ('Friends of Inch Park').**



Book a Room at Inch House

Inch House is taking bookings again for birthday parties and other private functions. The building contains a wide range of attractive rooms available for hire, including its magnificent Main Hall and the old and atmospheric stone-vaulted Dining Room, ideal for kids' birthday parties. Please check our website at www.inchhouse.co.uk, where you can find full details (including prices) and pictures of the various rooms available, or drop us a line at contact@inchhouse.co.uk to arrange a visit or make a booking.



Inch House Bowler Celebrates 100th Birthday



On 19th March, longstanding Inch House carpet bowler, Josie Moir celebrated her 100th birthday. To mark this special occasion, a party was organised by family members, friends and the Inch House Carpet Bowlers, which Josie attends every Thursday afternoon.

“Josie’s just extraordinary”, commented fellow Bowler, Janet Currie. “She’s got more energy than the rest of us put together. She just keeps on going.” In fact, Josie has been coming to the weekly bowling sessions for over 25 years and shows no sign of letting up. She likes to get out and about every day, so bowling is just one of many activities in her life. But it’s definitely one of her favourites. “There are some great people in the people in the Bowling Club and I enjoy the chat”, she said.

A life-long Inch resident, Josie seems to know nearly everybody in the Inch. Nevertheless, she told us “One of the best things about the bowling sessions is you get to meet new people”.

If you would like to join in the any of the meetings of the Inch House Carpet Bowlers, sessions are held every Thursday from 1 to 3.30pm, so just come along. New members are very welcome!

Scottish Poetry Feature

As another variable Scottish summer slowly changes into autumn, we have included a poem simply titled ‘Summer’ penned by Edinburgh-based author Alexander McCall Smith, which captures the calm of a perfect summer day and how sky and sea are so still that time seems to have permanently stopped.

SUMMER

*Rewarded now with summer calm,
Two lovers lie upon a Scottish hill
Beneath a sky that deepest blue
Bereft of limit to its end;
Oh, listen now, my dearest one
To all the things I’d wish for you:
A hundred lovely days like this,
A sun that lingers, hardly sets
And evenings that are barely dark,
The briefest pause before the dawn.*

*Behind them as he speaks these words,
The slow currents of the Sound of Mull
Move past the island’s shores;
There is so much to love in this country,
When it is like this, and is at peace,
When its crouching hills
Are the guardians of these hidden glens
Where heather and Scots pines
Remind us of evenings past
When the world was less a place of wrong,
When love, not distrust, was the key
In which the nations sang their song.*

*May soft winds blow about your head,
May sun caress your tender cheeks,
May tears of gentle rain then wash
The marks of fretful care away;
May you remember from this day
Good resolutions and great plans,
Our promises once made believed,
The sharing of our private hopes,
In letters that are signed with love,
With secret names, with pencilled signs.*

Looking for Volunteers

The Association has a growing need for volunteers, to assist us with our planned activities. Upcoming examples including painting of existing rooms inside the house during the autumn and winter months, and tidying up our adjacent east garden, to create an attractive external space for users and visitors alike to enjoy from next spring. So please do let us know if you have some spare time (even an hour or two each week) and you feel like assisting us with these and other tasks.

St Andrew's Night Ceilidh

Inch Community Association (ICA) will be celebrating St Andrew's Day this year in style. For the first time in many years, we will be holding a community ceilidh in the Main Hall of Inch House at 7pm on Sat 25th November, with live music provided by the Da Hooley Ceilidh band. If you've never been to a ceilidh before, this is your chance to learn how it's done, since dance instructions will be provided on the night. Tickets cost £12 (with a special discount of £10 for ICA members). **Please see our website and Facebook page for booking details.**

Drawing & Painting course

This 10-week course is suitable for complete beginners as well as the more experienced wishing to improve their skills and techniques. Develop your Drawing & Painting, using various media within a supported environment. Tutor-led demonstrations help develop individual styles and approaches. This studio-based class allows participants to work on their individual pieces at their own pace with encouragement, tips and critique from the Tutor.

TUTOR: Bill Dick
DATES: 29/09/23 – 01/12/23
TIMES: 11am – 1pm
LOCATION: Inch House Community Centre
PRICE: £70.00/ (£50.00 for members of the Inch Community Association) please bring your own materials
CONTACT: contact@inchhouse.co.uk

Bill Dick, Artist in Residence, Inch House



Tai chi Courses

11 am - 11:50am - Fridays

First taster session - FREE

£8 per session £6 for ICA members

Contact us: contact@inchhouse.co.uk

Inch House Community Centre

CONTACT US

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📘 @inchhousecommunitycentre

🌐 www.inchhouse.scot

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