

## 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 – NEWS AND EVENTS IN NORTH WEST EDINBURGH

As you will expect, many usual activities and events will be postponed or cancelled in the current crisis. Many projects are sending out updates. Please see some I have received below, but please keep in mind that government advice is changing day by day.

### Coronavirus - how you can help

[Edinburgh partners](#) are supporting residents, businesses, communities and working hard to sustain essential and lifeline services at this incredibly challenging time.

Helping this is a growing army of volunteers from across the city.

- Neighbours
- communities
- voluntary organisations
- businesses

are doing what they can to direct support to those most in need.

Look within your own street and community first. See what your local charity is already doing. Just being a good neighbour will be a lifeline to many older, vulnerable or isolated people.

### What else you can do

If you're already a volunteer or want to know how you can volunteer, contact [Volunteer Edinburgh](#) for information and advice.

Voluntary organisations responding to COVID-19 in their communities should contact [EVOG](#) for advice and support.

We'll also keep sharing the advice and support being offered from other organisations on Twitter at [@Edinburgh\\_CC](#)

### UPDATE ON ADVICE PARTNERS (CITY OF EDINBURGH)

#### COMMUNITY HELP AND ADVICE INITIATIVE (CHAI):

Most advice provision has moved to telephone only and most staff are working from home. We maintain a core office staff at Riverside House and retain capacity to see some clients face to face where phone advice is not an option (usually if an interpreter is required, or if it is a complex form). Support via [Maximise!](#) for Care Experience families and in [19 partners schools](#). Contact info below for more information:

TEL: 0131 442 1009 (Advice Service)

EMAIL: [chai@chaiedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:chai@chaiedinburgh.org.uk)

#### GRANTON INFORMATION CENTRE (GIC):

As from 18 March this office is closed to the public. For appointments that are already booked clients will be offered a telephone appointment. There are a few clients that have to come in and as long as they answer a few questions then GIC are still seeing them.

All outreaches are closed (triage only) and these centres have been asked to pass on the GIC number or take a client contact number and pass it on – GIC will continue to maintain a telephone advice service for anyone seeking help. All staff will be used to dealing with telephone calls, cover for any sickness, deal with mail, essential papers that require signatures etc. and ongoing work. As GIC want to maintain a skeleton staff in the centre to deal with the afore mentioned they will be splitting the staff into teams between home working and centre based on a rota basis (in the hope that if one person becomes ill then there are others that will not have had contact with them). GIC will update any changes to the above.

Telephone 0131 551 2459 / 0131 552 0458

Email: [info@gic.org.uk](mailto:info@gic.org.uk)

#### CITIZENS ADVICE EDINBURGH:

Citizens Advice Edinburgh are implementing similar strategies, but with multiple sites it is being managed in a staged process. Most booked appointments are transferring to phone and future appointments are being offered/booked as phone only. Drop in services are still operating from Muirhouse and Dundas, but as of yesterday Leith was closed due.

Further updates available by the end of the week.

Phone advice by advice.scot: 0808 800 9060

Appointments/CAE info: 0131 510 5510

Email: [Contact@caed.org.uk](mailto:Contact@caed.org.uk)

#### CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL ADVICE SHOP:

The Advice Shop is moving to telephone only advice. They are seeking to honour existing appointments but will be contacting clients by phone to check they will attend and will offer advice by phone where possible. Their Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre provision has been stopped as the centre is now closed. There will be further updates very soon.

If other services are faced with clients in need they cannot cater for then the Advice Shop remains an option.

TEL: 0131 200 2360 (Advice Line)

E-mail [advice.shop@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:advice.shop@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/advice-shop](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/advice-shop)

**Please note information updated and correct as of 17 March 2020. Please contact relevant agencies for ongoing updates.**



Due to the recent government statement regarding non essential social contact Granton Hub will no longer be running any activities and will be closing the cafe. We apologise for any inconvenience however feel that this is in everyone's best interest.

Stay safe everyone and see you when this has passed. 🙏

#### ANNOUNCEMENT: UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH COMMUNITY GRANTS

We are pleased to let you know that the next round of our Community Grants opens on 16th March. New application materials will be available then, but **head to our website** to see previous grant recipients and get inspired.

#### HERBIES OF RAEBURN PLACE

Herbies of Edinburgh is on Raeburn Place and we are currently offering a free delivery service to those who can't get out to the shops - we can also link up with the Costcutter next door to coordinate deliveries. Please feel free to call the shop 0131 332 9888 if you would like to take up this service and pass on to those who might need help.

Dear church family at Granton,

In light of the recent government advice and following instruction from the national offices of the Church of Scotland I am writing to tell you things have progressed quickly even from yesterday.



We have been instructed to cease all acts of public worship for the foreseeable future alongside stopping other parts of our core activity. This means everything except Share 'n' Wear which we are deeming an essential community service will cease with immediate effect. That is only continuing with strict social distancing measures in place.

You can see here a copy of the instruction below so you can see what has been decided, plus further information: <https://mailchi.mp/7effa48f4517/coronavirus-a-message-from-your-minister-4820581?e=c28f06f146>

Granton Parish Church · 55 Boswall Parkway · Edinburgh, EH5 2DA

#### EDINBURGH COMMUNITY FOOD

During this difficult time, we would like to remind our valued customers that we offer a home & office delivery service throughout Edinburgh of essential food items including:

Fruit and Vegetables / Fresh Herbs / Bonaly Farm Milk / Bread / [Forth Free Range Eggs](#) / Red Lentils / Porridge Oats / [Craigie's Farm Shop and Cafe](#) Jams, Marmalade, Chutneys & Salad vinegars / Honey / Peanut Butter (smooth or crunchie) / Fresh Apple & Orange Juice / [Stockan's Oatcakes](#) / A range of dried fruit and snacks / [Bramik Foods Limited](#) Gift baskets



And of course our own range of nutritious [Take & Make DIY Meals](#) soups, mains and side dishes.

**Free home delivery on orders over £20. Contact: [kmiller@edinburghcommunityfood.org.uk](mailto:kmiller@edinburghcommunityfood.org.uk) or Tel: 0131 467 7326.**

Order Sundried Tomato, Kale & Butternut Stew and have the **Herby Cous Cous half price £1.50**

Order Caribbean Butternut & Lentil Stew and have the **Very nice Rice & Peas half price £1.50**



# What Can You Claim

## During the Coronavirus Outbreak?

### Community Help & Advice Initiative (CHAI)

5th Floor, Riverside House  
502 Gorgie Road  
Edinburgh EH11 3AF  
Phone: 0131 442 1009  
chai@chaiedinburgh.org.uk  
[www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.chaiedinburgh.org.uk)

Last Updated: 18 March 20

### Have you been made redundant or laid off?

- You may be entitled to the new benefit **Universal Credit**. This will cover your living costs and your rent.
- **How much you will get** depends on your circumstances, i.e. whether you have children, your partner's income, or any other income and savings you have.
- **Make a claim online** at: [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit) or **phone** 0800 328 5644.
- You normally need to **attend an appointment at the JobCentre** to provide proof of ID and proof of rent and any income or savings.
- Claiming as a jobseeker usually means **looking for work and signing on**, but follow the advice provided by the DWP/your work coach as Government advice about **social distancing** may change in the future.

#### EXCEPTIONS!

- **If you have worked without too many gaps for the last 2 to 3 years**, you are likely to have enough NI contributions to qualify for **contribution-based (new style) Jobseeker's Allowance JSA**. You can make a claim for contributory (new style) JSA by phone: 0800 055 6688. You may also qualify for a top-up of Universal Credit, for example for your rent (unless you already claim housing benefit).

### ABOUT CHAI

CHAI is a registered Scottish charity providing free and independent advice to people affected by housing, debt and benefit issues in Edinburgh and Midlothian.

Our objectives are:

- To relieve poverty
- To provide welfare assistance
- To provide practical help
- To provide information, advice and support on issues such as housing, debt, benefits and employability.

**If in doubt: Get Advice!**

### Are you self-isolating or ill due to COVID-19 (or caring for someone who is)?

#### CASE 1: If you are employed

- Claim **Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)** from your employer. You will be paid from Day 1. Your employer may also provide additional contractual sick pay.
- **Phone NHS 111** for a fit note (instead of your GP) to give to your employer.
- Once SSP comes to an end **after 28 weeks** (not before), see Case 2 →



#### CASE 2: If you have been laid off

- **If you have enough NI contributions**, you may be able to claim **contributory (new style) ESA** Employment Support Allowance. You can make a claim by phoning 0800 055 6688.
- **If you don't have enough NI contributions or if you also have rent costs**, claim Universal Credit. Apply online [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit) or phone 0800 328 5644.

You **won't** have to attend any **appointments** at the JobCentre to start your claim, and won't have to attend any **medicals** to prove you are unfit for work if you are affected by the coronavirus.

### Are you waiting for a medical for ESA/PIP?

All face-to-face assessments for sickness and disability benefits have been **suspended** for 3 months with effect from 17 March 2020.

You will be notified by the DWP about any alternative arrangements which may involve either telephone or paper-based assessments.

**If you claimed ESA because you are affected by the coronavirus because you have symptoms or are self-isolating** (or need to care for someone who is), you won't have to attend any medical to prove you are unfit for work.

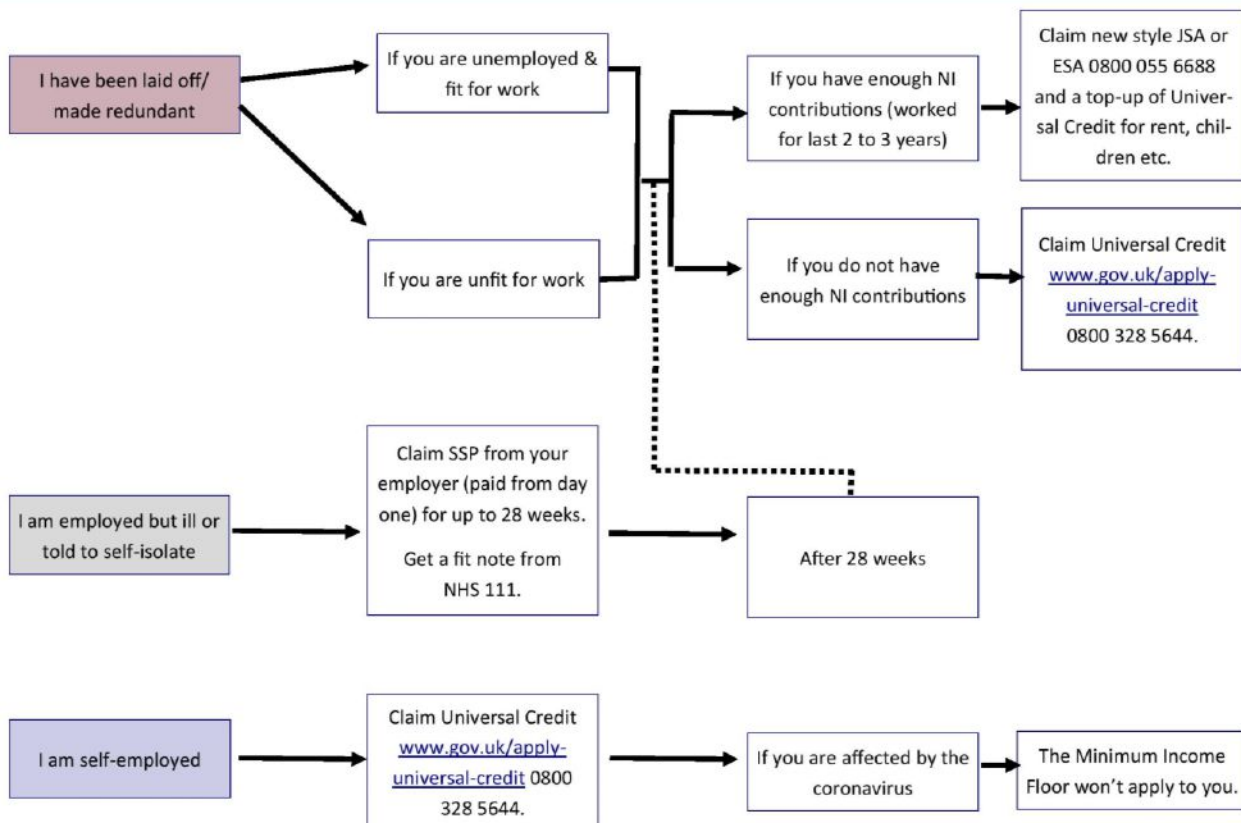
You can get a fit note from NHS 111.

### Are you self-employed?

- Claim Universal Credit. **Make a claim online** at: [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit) or **phone** 0800 328 5644.
- If you claim Universal Credit and you are directly affected by coronavirus or self-isolating, the **Minimum**

**Income Floor** won't apply to you for the duration of the outbreak. This means your **actual** self-employment earnings will be taken into account each month—not estimated earnings based on how much you're supposed to work each month.

### In summary



**If in doubt: Get Advice!**

## IAN MCINNES AWARD

The Ian McInnes Award is awarded to a Volunteer Involving Organisation in memory of Ian McInnes (1969 to 2017) in recognition of their contribution to improving equality and accessibility in volunteering. This may be as a result of their creative approaches to reaching and recruiting volunteers; their flexible and inclusive ways of engaging with and supporting volunteers or how they share these techniques with other organisations to improve volunteering for all.

*"I want councillors, politicians and people in power who can make a difference, to see the difference volunteering has made to my life and others like me and to acknowledge the part many organisations have played in this. If I can repeat the message enough times, maybe I will get them to sit up and pay attention and achieve something worth shouting about."* Ian McInnes

<https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/training-and-events/ian-mcinnnes-award/>

Ian's family and Volunteer Edinburgh very much hope that the Ian McInnes Award will encourage other organisations to think the same way and create roles for volunteers no matter what issues those volunteers have. As Ian would have said, "just go for it" as you never know what positive experiences it might lead to for both the organisation and the volunteer!

The Ian McInnes Award (IMA) is awarded at our Inspiring Volunteer Awards which are held every year in June. If you would like to get in touch with us about this award or to nominate an organisation, please contact us at [events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk](mailto:events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk).

## DRYLAW NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

# Help Us Help Others



Due to the current retail situation, we are preparing food and toiletry bundles for the elderly and vulnerable in North West Edinburgh

We would appreciate any donations of tinned, dried and long life products, as well as toilet rolls, toiletries and even chocolate!



A group of mums and dads are working together up in Drylaw neighbourhood centre to try and get some food and essential to elderly and vulnerable people. We are reaching out to the community for help and donations



We would appreciate any support and can collect all donations.

Thanks!

**PLEASE ALSO CONTACT US WITH ANYONE IN NEED AND WE WILL ARRANGE DELIVERY**

**Call 0131 315 4989 or Message us**

## COUNCIL EVENTS, CLASSES, LIBRARIES AND VENUES

All performances at the [Usher Hall](#), [Assembly Rooms](#), [Church Hill Theatre](#) and [Ross Bandstand](#) have been postponed or cancelled until the end of April.

All of our [Museum and Galleries](#) (City Art Centre, Museum of Edinburgh, Museum of Childhood, The People's Story, The Writers' Museum, Queensferry Museum, Lauriston Castle, Scott Monument and Nelson Monument) will be closed until the end of April.

The Wedding Fayre, scheduled for Sunday 29 March, at the City Chambers has been cancelled.

All our community-based Adult Learning classes have been cancelled until further notice. This includes; ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), Family Learning, Outlook, all Literacy/Numeracy classes including those for deaf learners and English classes for Syrian refugees.

All our Active School extracurricular clubs have been cancelled until further notice.

All organised events due to be hosted in our parks have been cancelled until the end of April.

Open Street days, scheduled to be held on 5 April and 3 May, have been cancelled.

### Libraries and Community Centres

We've taken the decision to close all of our public libraries and community centres.

For library users, there will be no additional fines from Friday 20 March until further notice. Services including eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers will be available online.

For all the information you need to get started, please visit our [library website](#).

## WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE DURING CORONAVIRUS



Residents self-isolating due to Coronavirus symptoms in their household are being urged to dispose of their waste as carefully as possible to keep Edinburgh's bin crews safe.

The advice comes as part of an update from Transport and Environment Convener Lesley Macinnes on how the Council is adapting in the context of the pandemic to deliver core services such as waste management, roadworks and parking to keep the city working as best it can.

Another waste-related update is the suspension of kerbside glass (blue box) collections from Monday 23 March until further notice to free up collection crews. Communal glass bins used in flatted and tenement areas will continue to be serviced, but should only be used by those properties.

[More info here](#)

Elaine Lennon, 18/03/20.

Please email [elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.lennon@edinburgh.gov.uk) if you have any community news to share. Preferred format is a jpeg or word document if possible. We will only use any data to provide you with updates associated with the North West Locality and your data will not be shared. This is in line with the City of Edinburgh Council's Privacy Notice. You can opt out at any time by using this link to unsubscribe. If you unsubscribe, we will not retain any contact details you have provided.

