EDINBURGH MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
October 2026

Compiled from stories published online in October 2026



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On the cover: Dynamic Earth Celebrates £250,000 Funding Milestone for Arthur's Seat Gallery, page 6. Photo: Robin Mair Photography.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in October 2026. Edinburgh Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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Photo supplied by Converge

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Innovators Celebrate National Success at Converge Awards

Edinburgh innovators have secured a string of national awards for university-developed ideas spanning women's health, the creative industries and disease detection.

Leading the region's success is WombWise, developed by Edinburgh Napier University Data Engineering graduate Emily Youngs, who was crowned winner of the Create Change Challenge at the 2026 Converge Awards.

The system has been developed to tackle the long delays many women face in securing a diagnosis of endometriosis and polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS). Endometriosis is a chronic condition where tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows elsewhere in the body. It affects around one in 10 women of reproductive age, according to the Endometriosis Foundation.

Through combining data from wearable devices such as smartwatches with an AI symptom tracker, WombWise aims to give women objective evidence they can take to their GP.

Emily Youngs said:

What we're doing at WombWise is using wearable devices that are already on the market, like Oura Rings and Apple Watches, repurposing that data and looking for pain markers.

We're tracking women for pain rather than

fertility and pregnancy, trying to see if they've got potential signs of endometriosis or PMOS and helping them towards a potential diagnosis.

I'm just so shocked to even be here, never mind win. I'm very happy

WombWise was joined by fellow winners in the Edinburgh region, Stage Analytics from Queen Margaret University, which secured the Creative Fusion Prize, sponsored by Mark Logan, for technology that helps event venues and producers make better use of their data. Its real-time dashboards streamline information and provide stronger evidence to support decisions around scheduling shows.

Heriot-Watt University also celebrated success through RecoverPX, led by Helen Bridle, which secured the Ventures Lab Prize as well as a Blue Economy Prize for technology designed to help water companies detect potentially harmful contamination more reliably. Its first focus is Cryptosporidium, a parasite which can contaminate water supplies and the technology has already been tested by several UK water companies.

Winners from universities across the Edinburgh region continued with Pleiades Dynamics, led by Stephen Spice from the University of Edinburgh, who secured the Space Challenge award in the first year of this new category, funded by Space Scotland and the Higgs Centre for Innovation.

The region's universities also claimed a runner-up place in the Converge Challenge category, with Heriot-Watt University's TissueMetrics, led by Michael Crichton and Sara Medina-Lombardero, also picking up The Data Lab special prize. The Data Lab works with Scottish universities to advance innovation and skills in data and artificial intelligence. TissueMetrics is developing technology to help improve the treatment of inflammatory skin diseases, such as eczema.

AI for the Eye, founded by Michaela Thorne, has developed a non-invasive, AI-powered retinal imaging system designed to transform how bovine tuberculosis is detected in cattle. It rounded off a strong showing for Edinburgh region universities across healthcare, the creative industries and animal health.

Michaele Thorne said:

The money is going to be used to make the retinal imaging prototype for cattle, which means we'll be able to take the device onto farms and image live animals. It means we can validate the business and push things forward.

It was unexpected and really exciting to win. It's going to do a lot of good for the business.

Juto Bio, represented by Commercial Lead Jude Taylor from the University of Edinburgh, won the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre special prize (IBioIC). The company uses waste from Scottish whisky distilleries to grow tiny algae, which are turned into natural products that help crops grow. It offers farmers a cheaper alternative to treatments made from seaweed.

Adam Kosterka, Executive Director of Converge, said:

Edinburgh has an extraordinary concentration of academic and entrepreneurial talent and this year's results demonstrate the breadth of innovation emerging from universities across the region.

By Barbara Parker Online 8 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-innovators-celebrate-national-success-at-converge-awards**

EDINBURGH

Dynamic Earth Celebrates £250,000 Funding Milestone for Arthur's Seat Gallery



6

Photo: Robin Mair Photography

Construction work has officially begun on an innovative new permanent gallery at Dynamic Earth, dedicated to one of Edinburgh's most iconic natural landmarks, Arthur's Seat.

The announcement comes as the charity celebrates reaching its £80,000 public fundraising target this month. This will be boosted by a further £173,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, bringing the total funding to more than £250,000.

To mark the milestone, Caroline Clark, the Heritage Lottery's Director for Scotland, visited Dynamic Earth on Friday 2 October for an exclusive update and preview of the gallery's development. The visit offered an in-depth view of the project as it transitions from capital fundraising into active construction.

The Arthur's Seat Gallery will be a free, fully accessible space exploring the volcanic origins, scientific significance and environmental future of Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat. Combined, the landmarks receive millions of visits each year. However, relatively few people know the 300-million-year story beneath their feet, or the growing pressures facing the site, from erosion and biodiversity loss, to wildfire risk and climate change. Dynamic Earth's new gallery aims to change that, and educate locals and tourists alike on the area's fascinating history.

By Zoe Walker Online 18 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/dynamic-earth-celebrates-250000-funding-milestone-for-arthurs-seat-gallery**

Edinburgh Landmarks Selected for Historic 2027 Tour de France Opening Route



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Edinburgh will host the grand depart of the 2027 Tour de France on Friday 2 July, following the official announcement in Paris of the historic opening stage from the Scottish capital to Carlisle.

The 184km opening stage of the Grand Départ will take riders from Edinburgh through Midlothian and the Scottish Borders, before continuing through Dumfries and Galloway to Carlisle. It will mark the first time the Tour de France has visited Scotland, bringing one of the world's biggest sporting events to the country.

The Edinburgh leg of the route will begin at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, then: Royal Mile, North Bridge, Princes Street, The Mound, Lawnmarket, Castle esplanade, Johnston Terrace, Castle Terrace, Lady Lawson Street, Grassmarket, Victoria Street, George IV Bridge, Chambers Street, South Bridge, Newington Road, Cameron Toll, Liberton Road, Gilmerton Road, then on to Midlothian.

Council Leader Jane Meagher attended today's official route reveal in Paris, alongside students from Portobello High School who have been taking part in the Girls Cycling Programme.

Council Leader Jane Meagher said:

Hosting the Grand Départ is a huge moment for Edinburgh and for Scotland. Our city has built a strong reputation for delivering major international events, and the Tour de France gives us another incredible opportunity to show the world what makes Edinburgh such a special place.

But this is about more than the race itself. We want people across our communities to feel part of the occasion and to benefit from the opportunities it brings. From celebrating our city on the international stage to inspiring more people to get on their bikes, I'm confident the legacy of the Tour will go well beyond the opening day.

By Albert Nelson Online 23 October 2026

Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-landmarks-selected-for-historic-2027-tour-de-france-opening-route**

Your turn

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Edinburgh Care Leavers Launch 'Cook Like a Champ' Cookbook to Support Young People



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A group of care-experienced young people has launched a cookbook filled with accessible recipes for all cooking abilities.

Featuring original recipes, illustrations, and photography, the book will be given to every young person as they transition out of care.

Released during Care Experienced Week (26 October–1 November), all proceeds from sales will go directly towards supporting care leavers.

By Albert Nelson Online 30 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-care-leavers-launch-cook-like-a-champ-cookbook-to-support-young-people**

EDINBURGH

Portobello High School Welcomes Tour de France Trophy Ahead of Historic Scotland Grand Départ



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Pupils at Portobello High School, including a group of girls set to travel to Paris to showcase their cycling initiative, welcomed the Tour de France Grand Départ Trophy on Monday 19 October to mark the race's historic first Scotland start.

The Tour de France will begin at Edinburgh Castle in July 2027, and ahead of the history-making departure the trophy was brought to Portobello promenade to recognise the work to encourage cycling within Portobello High School.

By Barbara Parker Online 21 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/portobello-high-school-welcomes-tour-de-france-trophy-ahead-of-historic-scotland-grand-depart**

EDINBURGH

19th-Century Griffins Restored to Their Former Glory at Granton Waterfront



Two 19th-century griffin sculptures have been lovingly restored and returned to Edinburgh's Granton Waterfront after spending more than 50 years in storage.

Originally positioned at the entrance to Muirhouse Mansion, the historic sculptures have found a new home at Silverlea, the City of Edinburgh Council's affordable housing development, celebrating the area's rich heritage and reconnecting the community with its past.

By Albert Nelson Online 27 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/19th-century-griffins-restored-to-their-former-glory-at-granton-waterfront**

EDINBURGH

Edinburgh's Hidden Treasures Revealed in New Free Museum Exhibition



Photo supplied by City of Edinburgh Council museums

Fresh History: Objects Recently Added to the City's Collection showcases a fascinating range of artefacts acquired since 2024, bringing together fine art, decorative pieces, archaeological discoveries and historic objects spanning Roman times to the present day.

Among the highlights are a Roman gold coin discovered near Cramond, prints by Edinburgh-born artist Eduardo Paolozzi, 18th-century Edinburgh silverware and a 1950s doll's pram from the Museum of Childhood collection, illustrating how plastics began transforming everyday household products.

By Albert Nelson Online 22 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburghs-hidden-treasures-revealed-in-new-free-museum-exhibition**

In brief



EDINBURGH

Children's Artwork Marks 30 Years of Edinburgh World Heritage Site

Children from Granton Primary School have created a colourful exhibition of artwork to mark the 30th anniversary of Edinburgh's Old and New Towns World Heritage Site.

By Barbara Parker Online 12 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/childrens-artwork-marks-30-years-of-edinburgh-world-heritage-site**



EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Launches 18-Month Bus Lane Trial Between Milton Road East and London Road

A new trial assessing whether bus journey times and reliability can be improved by extending bus lane operating hours launched on Monday, 12 October.

By Catherine Wilson Online 14 October 2026
Continued at **edinburghmagazine.com/edinburgh-launches-18-month-bus-lane-trial-between-milton-road-east-and-london-road**



ABERDEEN

Torry Men's Shed Opens New Community Home in Aberdeen

Torry Men's Shed has officially opened its new home at Aberdeen City Council's former Torry Depot on Mansefield Place, providing a welcoming community space where members can socialise, develop new skills and build friendships.

By Barbara Parker Online 20 October 2026
Continued at **aberdeenmagazine.co.uk/torry-mens-shed-opens-new-community-home-in-aberdeen**



ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Secures Prestigious Purple Flag Status for Record Thirteenth Consecutive Year

Aberdeen has secured prestigious Purple Flag status for an unprecedented thirteenth consecutive year, celebrating the city's excellence in managing its evening and night-time economy ahead of the full award next year.

By Albert Nelson Online 15 October 2026
Continued at **aberdeenmagazine.co.uk/aberdeen-secures-prestigious-purple-flag-status-for-record-thirteenth-consecutive-year**

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