

SANTA'S COMING TO PENNYWELL!

Pennywell's getting in the festive spirit.....again!

Last year was the first time ever there was a Christmas tree put up in the Muirhouse Shopping Centre. After such a warm welcome we've decided to do it again!

So come and join us for a magical light switch on at 5.00 pm on Monday 5th December.

With a special appearance from the man himself...SANTA – who'll be on hand to give out special treats to Pennywell's youngest!

For more information contact us at info@urbanunionltd.co.uk



WHO ARE URBAN UNION?

Urban Union is a unique partnership formed, by McTaggart Construction and Robertson Group Holdings, to specifically deliver large scale regeneration projects. Both partners have a proven track record in delivering mixed tenure projects and working to deliver 'community benefits in procurement' in Glasgow, Edinburgh and further afield. Urban Union is currently delivering three large scale regeneration projects – Laurieston Living, Glasgow, Pennywell Living, Edinburgh and Muirton Living in Perth. The consortium supports the priority given to targeted recruitment, training and supply chain opportunities presented by the Pennywell project. Both Urban Union partners have extensive regeneration experience and share a common view on social responsibility.

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Newsletter
December 2016

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of everyone at Urban Union working on the Pennywell regeneration project I would like to welcome all residents who have already moved into the Phase 1 development.

After breaking ground in late 2014 I am pleased to announce that building work on the first stage of this extensive development is almost complete.

I'd like to thank residents and the local community for their continued support as we move ahead with plans to provide over 700 new homes in the area and we look forward to welcoming even more residents in 2017.



ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE URBAN UNION'S NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR – NEIL MCKAY

Towards the end of 2016, we welcomed Neil McKay as the company's new managing director.

Neil, who took up the post formally in October 2016, brings 30 years' construction industry experience as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with expertise in developing major building and civil engineering projects in the UK and the Middle East. He also has a depth of experience in overseeing the contractual and commercial requirements of projects and partnering consortium arrangements.

Neil will now lead Urban Union as the company continues to deliver ongoing large-scale regeneration projects across Scotland, including the award-winning housing development at Pennywell in Edinburgh.

Urban Union has significantly evolved since its formation in 2011. This latest appointment marks the start of a new chapter for the company – which is a partnership of two renowned Scottish companies, McTaggart Construction and Robertson Group Holdings – as it continues in its ambition to create quality homes and communities throughout Scotland.

MUM AND TODDLER FIND A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN

Louisa Drever and her young son now have their very own place to call home – Pennywell!

Louisa had previously been living in Leith with her mother and two and a half year old son but felt that she needed somewhere of her own to raise her son as he was growing quickly and it was becoming a little bit cramped at mum's.

Louisa already knew the Muirhouse area well but initially heard about Pennywell through an acquaintance that had moved into one of the Phase 1 homes. Louisa was impressed by the look and feel of the homes at Pennywell so decided that she would like to live there too.

Louisa successfully applied to the City of Edinburgh Council's mid-market housing scheme and moved into one of Pennywell's apartments with her son this year.

Her two bed apartment comes complete with a Paris balcony detail to both bedrooms and the main living area. It also benefits from an open plan dining and cooking area. Louisa commented: *"I was surprised by how bright and spacious the flat was, particularly my son's room – it's huge! I like knowing that the home is newly built so feels fresh, clean and new. I'm really excited to have somewhere for me and my son to call our own. I've met some of the neighbours and they are all very friendly, and the stair is nice and quiet which is a bonus!"*

Overall Louisa says she is thrilled with her new home and is so happy to have her own space and room for her to raise her son. She said she is excited about the future of Pennywell and is looking forward to the park being completed so her son has somewhere nice to play.

Louisa's housing officer was Jane Dalrymple. Louisa said Jane had assisted her with the application to the mid-market scheme and that she was very helpful and friendly throughout the process.

If you'd like more information on how you can find your next home at Pennywell please contact: 0131 343 3391.

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT FOR MUIRHOUSE SHOPPING CENTRE

The Council and its design team have been consulting during October and November on plans to redevelop Muirhouse Shopping Centre and the surrounding area. Proposals to transform this area include new energy efficient homes, shops, 'hub' for co-location of key services, including the library and new open public space which will include seating and areas to relax and play. This project will be delivered in a phased manner over the next three to four years, creating a much needed new 'civic heart' within this neighbourhood.



Plans showing ways in which proposals have been shaped through community consultation will be exhibited in the Muirhouse Library from early December prior to the submission of a planning application.

If you would like further information on this, please contact Michelle Fraser 0131 529 3150; michelle.fraser@edinburgh.gov.uk

177 NEW 'HOMES FOR LIFE' TO BE BUILT AT ONE OF SCOTLAND'S LARGEST HOUSING-LED REGENERATION PROJECTS

Most recently, you may have noticed work has started up around Phase 2 of the development just south of the shopping centre. Work started on 28th June 2016 and marks the beginning of the company's next round of houses offering 102 private and 75 affordable homes and apartments.



This latest collection of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bed properties has been carefully designed by award-winning architects Barton Willmore to provide contemporary living space with classic proportions derived from the historic tenements and townhouses of north Edinburgh. Prices start from £197,000 for a 3 bedroom mid terraced property.

Neil McKay, managing director, Urban Union, said: "The start of work on Phase 2 marks two years working with the City of Edinburgh Council to create a vibrant area in which people not only desire to live but are proud to be part of the local community.

"Urban Union's regeneration of the Pennywell area aims to help create a great place to live for everyone from young professionals to families, offering easy access to transport links and within close proximity to city centre amenities.

"Following the success of Phase 1, buyers should act fast to snap up a stylish new Pennywell Phase 2 property."

To celebrate, Housing Leader for City of Edinburgh Council, Councillor Joan Griffiths paid a visit to Pennywell to help us get things going.

ST DAVIDS PRIMARY BUILD GIANT TETRADEHDRON

Urban Union has been out and about in the Pennywell community recently sharing their knowledge and expertise of the construction industry.

In November we spent the day with a class of Primary 6 pupils from St David's Primary, working on developing teamwork skills. The class was tasked with building a geometric giant tetrahedron structure – from scratch!

The aim of the activity was to teach the pupils about the processes of a construction project, helping them to understand the similarities with everyday scenarios they are familiar with. The activity tied in with and helped deliver key themes from the Curriculum for Excellence and aspects of maths, science and design, together with lateral and creative thinking.



The pupils also learned all about the importance of recycling materials, health and safety and quality control, as well as getting an early insight into the world of work!

Have a look at the build timeline opposite!