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The Violin: The Introductory Panel

The Violin Tapestry was the first panel that initiated the Craigmillar Tapestry Project.

This introductory panel not only brought people together to talk about the tapestries, it also tells the story of how The Craigmillar Festival Society started and how it helped bring the arts alive in our community.



The Craigmillar Festival Society began in 1962. It was initiated by local mothers, including Helen Crummy from the Peffermill School Mothers' Club. They were motivated by a lack of Arts education for their children and the general side-lining of their community.

Helens' son Philip Crummy wanted to learn the Violin at school but the Head Teacher told Helen "Its hard enough to teach these kids the three R's". Helen along with the Mothers' Club, decided to show how talented their children were, their first event was called the Craigmillar Pageant and as a result of the annual successes of this in 1969 The Craigmillar Festival committee was renamed as The Craigmillar Festival Society which grew to gain international acclaim.

Although Craigmillar Festival Society disbanded in 2002, the legacy of the CFS lives on in the form of Craigmillar Now, an arts and heritage organisation developed in 2020.

In 2021 the Craigmillar Festival was revived by over 20 local organisations and is once again a much loved yearly community event.



The Niddrie Stone

The Niddrie Stone is the second Tapestry in the collection.

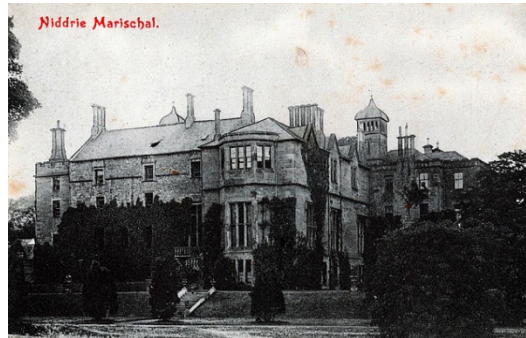


The stone itself is considered to be late stone age or early Bronze age, dating back to between the third and second Millenia BCE.

It is thought that it was once used as an entrance to the now disused historical Burial site nearby and as a gatepost throughout the years.

The burial site along with the stone, stood on the estate of Niddrie House (otherwise known as Niddrie Marischal House), which was home of the Wauchope family. The house itself was situated very near the current Jack Kane Centre having been rebuilt around 1636 on the site of an earlier medieval tower house. It was later demolished around 1968.

However the stone still remains today untouched by modern man. It is now listed as a scheduled monument being categorised as a 'Prehistoric Ritual & Funerary; standing stone'.



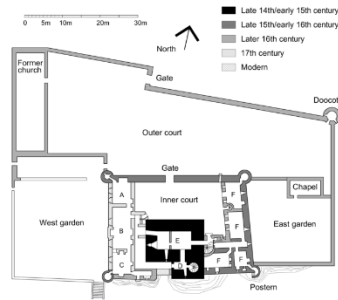
Craigmillar Castle

The Craigmillar Castle Panel is the 3rd panel to be added to the Tapestry Project.

Craigmillar Castle is one of the best preserved medieval castles in Scotland.

Originally a simple tower house residence built in the late 1300's, the castle grew into a complex of structures and spaces as each owner improved its comfort and facilities.

The Preston family of Craigmillar, the local feudal barons, began building the castle in the late 14th century not long after the courtyard walls had been erected.



Craigmillar Castle is best known for its association with Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary arrived at the castle on 20 November 1566 to convalesce following an illness after the birth of her son, the future James VI.

She used the castle as a safe haven, nevertheless a pact known as the

"Craigmillar Bond" was made, with or without her knowledge, to dispose of her husband Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. Ironically, the castle's current owner, Sir Simon Preston, a loyal supporter of Mary and now appointed Provost of Edinburgh by Mary, would turn her jailer just a year later suspecting her for the murder of her husband in 1567.

Craigmillar Tapestry Project

In 1660, the castle was sold to Sir John Gilmour, Lord President of the Court of Session, who began rebuilding the ageing castle starting with the west range as a family residence.

The castle was also linked to Witchcraft during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Mr John Preston of Haltree was commissioner during several witchcraft trials between 1661-1662.

The Gilmours left Craigmillar in the 18th century for a more modern residence, the nearby Inch House, and the castle then fell into ruin but not before a visit from Queen Victoria herself in 1886.

It is now in the care of Historic Environment Scotland as a scheduled Ancient monument, and is open to the public.



Reg Bolton



Reginald Ernest Bolton (13 November 1945 – 14 July 2006) was a pioneering clown, teacher, actor, and writer known for his significant contributions to the circus arts.

Reg worked tirelessly with children and communities both in the United Kingdom, and in Australia where he settled with his family in 1985. He owned and ran the Circus Shop,

selling a range of circus equipment such as juggling gear and unicycles. He was a pioneer in the area of educational community circuses.

Bolton pioneered new forms of circus performance and community development through circus skills in Craigmillar and Niddrie. This work grew into city-wide schemes such as The Children's Circus and The Edinburgh Summer Circus School, attracting students from across the UK and overseas.

Reg Bolton was also a director in the Craigmillar Drama, where they did the musical 'Gentle Giant'. He taught many people who were in the Drama Group, circus skills.



In 1985, Bolton moved to Australia, continuing this innovative model of social development – first pioneered in Craigmillar – on the other side of the world.

Bolton Place is named after Reg.



The Gulliver

The sculpture was commissioned by the Craigmillar Festival Society in 1976, based on a design by Jimmy Boyle while incarcerated at Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow, and participating in the pioneering 'Special project'. Widely remembered as 'The Giant that Shares and Cares', Boyle's depicted the 100-foot-long figure of the protagonist from Jonathan Swift's 1726 novel, Gulliver's Travels.

Built entirely by local people and completed by 1978. The sculpture was by the Scottish actor, comedian, artist, and musician, Billy Connolly at a public 1978.



Unit art
Gentle
design

satirical

unveiled
writer
event in

It was a 33-metre-long interactive play sculpture in the shape of a stylised human figure lying on the ground, with tunnel passageways

through its torso and its outstretched arms and legs. Gulliver functioned both as a play sculpture for children and as a symbol of social change and inclusion through community action and artistic enterprise. It became a well-loved space for both Art and play.



Sadly in 2011, after years of the statue taking damage from anti-social behaviour, it was deemed in a very poor state of repair, it was also not possible to relocate it elsewhere due to the horrendous acts of vandalism it incurred. What was left of the beloved statue, a fragment of the Left foot along with

a detached tunnel piece was removed and preserved, later being granted Category C listing by Historic Environment Scotland in 2023

There is a street named after this Gentle Giant called Gulliver Street just behind Castlevue Care Home.

Agnes Moffat



The Agnes moffat panel is the 6th tapestry in the project.

Women and Children could start working down the pits at the young age of 7.

Agnes Moffat worked down the niddrie pits in

the 1800's

In 1842, the Childrens Employment Commission Lord Shaftsbury listened to evidence of children across Scotland who worked 12 - 14 hour shifts down the pits Monday – Saturday.



Agnes moffat gave evidence about being one of the girls who carried the coal in a creel (basket) on her back climbing up the ladders, from the pit up to fill a four hundred weight tub. Agnes said that she climbed the ladders 20 times a day during her shift. When the foreman was asked how deep it was, he replied “about 365ft”

No.23 - Agnes Moffatt, 17 years of age, coal-bearer:- Began working at 10 years of age; works 12 and 14 hours daily; can earn 12s. in the fortnight, if work be not stopped by bad air or otherwise. Father took sister and I down; he gets our wages. I fill five baskets; the weight is more than 22cwt.; it takes me 20 journeys. The work is o'er sair for females...

(Extract from Children's Employment Commission Report 1842 by Robert Hugh Franks, Esq.)

Mrs Smith, who was with the high commissioner shouted “good god! That's like climbing St Giles Cathedral or climbing Ben Nevis up and back down again twice a day.”



Once the Children's Employment Commission gathered all the evidence from the pits in Niddrie and across Scotland. He ordered the removal of all Women, children and boys under the age of 10.

This ruling caused mass unemployment in the community. It was great that young children didn't have to work long hours underground in

harsh conditions, however, it did cause other problems within families due to poverty.

Agnes Moffat also has a street named after her, Moffat Way,



Helen Crummy & Philip Crummy Statue

Helen Crummys' panel is the 7th tapestry of the project.

Helen Crummys' Son, Philip' school "Peffermill Primary" refused to provide him with violin lessons, after helen heard that the headmaster had said " its hard enough teaching the kids at this school the three R's"

Helen and the Peffermill mothers' group was quite annoyed by this. The mothers group then went on to organise a festival showcasing the talent of Craigmillars children to advocate for the arts and music education in the area.



The festival flourished throughout the years and became internationally acclaimed as a model for social development through the arts.

In 1972 she was awarded an MBE by the Queen for the contribution she made for the regeneration of the area and an Honorary Doctorate by Heriot - Watt University in 1993.

Crummy served as secretary for the Society until 1982, where her infectious enthusiasm, iron determination and diligent research drew artists, filmmakers, academics, politicians, and social reformers from Scotland, the United States and across Europe to Craigmillar to witness the sensational effects of the festival.

The statue was created by Tim Chalk and unveiled in March 2014. Depicting Crummy handing her son

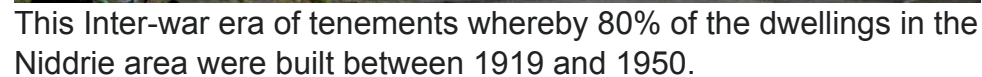
a violin bow through the doorway that opens into the arts centre.

Philip did learn to play the violin, he even brought it to the unveiling of the statue.

It is one of only three statues depicting named women in Edinburgh.



As the Wauchope family owned the majority of the area up to the 1930s. The mid-19th century saw the area redeveloped by the family with the help of the city architect, Ebenezer James McCrae in the 1920's and The Edinburgh Corporation from 1927



Almost 2000 homes once linked to a major slum clearance scheme in the St Leonards ward of Edinburgh. Families from these cleared areas were housed together with local coal mining families from Niddrie.

But by the 1980s, the densely-populated area was fast becoming a no-go zone, associated with high levels of deprivation, crime and drug problems.

Sadly there is only one of the last tenement buildings remaining at 65 Niddrie Mains Terrace.



Tenement Building no2

This is the second tenement building depicting the Craigmillar area started from the 1920's by the same architect but later from 1936 designed by the architect Thomas Smith.

By 2000 the area consisted mainly of high-density inter-war and post-war public housing schemes, ranging from 1920s tenements to high-rise tower blocks.



The late 19th and early 20th centuries also saw seven breweries being built in what was open country at Craigmillar/Duddingston, concentrated in a small area beside the railway line and taking advantage of the local aquifers providing excellent water for brewing.

Since the 1990s, the Niddrie/Craigmillar area has been almost entirely demolished and rebuilt.

Historic Scotland advised the loss of the original housing stock in its entirety, together with the proposed loss of remaining unlisted buildings of merit, for example St Francis school, as 'most regrettable'.

Notable survivors from the 20th century include the former Niddrie Marischal School - now **Castlebrae Business Centre**, the art deco

White House pub, and a single six-in-a-block tenement at 65 Niddrie Mains Terrace.



Niddrie Marischal Secondary School

(Now Castleview Business Centre)

The 10th panel in the project is Niddrie Marischal Secondary School, originally built by Reid & Forbes as a Junior Secondary School in the 1930s.

Reid and Forbes won the contract to design the new school in an open competition. The Art Deco design shows the influence of the German open-air school movement, emphasising the importance of daylight and fresh air. The design is said to have been influenced by American Indian motifs used by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



The school provided a practical education (metal and woodwork, motor mechanics and electrical science for boys, laundry, cookery and sewing for girls) for statutory school leavers. The design of the school is somewhat reminiscent of contemporary factory design.

Following the school's closure, it was awarded a Category B listing in 2003 saving it from destruction.

Under the heading as Castlebrae Business Centre, it then served as start-up business units, providing welcome employment opportunities for locals. The building suffered from ageing and general deterioration and with the rusting steel windows, it became

dangerous, so much of the building was unusable, meaning there were fewer tenants paying for its upkeep.



Steven Robb, within the Heritage Directorate, urged the council to use a conservation based approach to bring the building back into use. Winning a Scottish Government grant they returned the building to its former glory allowing Castlebrae Business Centre to return to full occupancy and financial independence, safeguarding its future.



Richmond Church



As the slums and church in Richmond Street, Edinburgh, were due to be demolished, the people including the congregation of North Richmond Street Church moved to the Craigmillar area then becoming Richmond Craigmillar.

The foundation stone of the church was laid by the Right Revd. P.D. Thomson, Moderator of the General Assembly, on 11 July 1934.

The Duke and Duchess of York had been invited to lay the stone, but could not do so as the Duke was ill. Mrs J. E. Stewart, wife of the minister of Richmond, laid a casket under the stone which contained signed documents and copies of leading Edinburgh newspapers of the time.

(An Excerpt from <https://www.richmondcraigmillarchurch.org/history/>)

Built in 1934 again by Reid and Forbes, opened in 1935 and listed as a Category C Building in 2003 by Heritage Scotland, Richmond Craigmillar Church has gone from strength to strength within the community, notching many 'firsts' and holding various unique events including the first commercial café known as "The Brew" opened in 1970 and closed in 1977 when the team ministry ended.



Since 1978 Richmond has been led by 3 consecutive female Ministers, with the present minister being the Rev'd. Liz Henderson who has served Richmond for over 25 years.

In 1999, the community café reopened as the Richmond Café Project. The café offers a welcoming place for low-cost food, serving the community for over 25 years.

The Richmond Cafe Project has always sought to live up to its mission statement, "Making the church a part of the community and the community a part of the church!"



A key development was the establishment of Scotland's first dedicated child bereavement charity, Richmond's Hope in 2003. The Church Minister and Jessie Douglas, a bereaved parent, recognised the need to support bereaved children. The charity offers play based

bereavement support for all children in a way that respects and supports their beliefs about life and death.



Newcraighall Miners Sculpture

Newcraighall, a small suburb of Edinburgh was established in 1827. It was formerly known as Whitehill, and was one of the city's main coal mining areas until 1968.



In 1989, the community of Newcraighall unveiled this sculpture commemorating the areas mining heritage and the struggles of the local community.

The sculpture designed by Jake Harvey under commission by the Councils of Scottish Arts and Edinburgh District, stands as a testament to the **“spirit of community”**

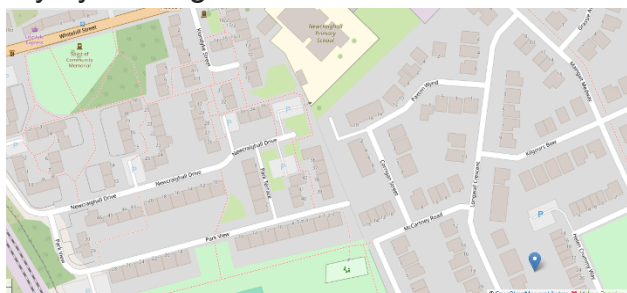
that sustained the miners and their families through hardship. This carved stone column depicts miners as well as several symbols crucial to this profession, such as a ladder, dog, and chainsaw.

The monument was designed to highlight the contributions of Agnes Moffat and other miners in the fight for better working conditions and workers’ rights in Scotland.

Behind the sculpture you can see Helen Crummys’ cottage. She became one of the first residents in a new council housing estate at Craigmillar in 1931.

With the regeneration of Newcraighall it was decided to honour Helens dedication to society by naming a street after her.

Helen Crummy Way is currently still under construction.



Craigmillar Now



Firstly built by the Scottish Episcopal Church as St. Andrews Church in 1901 and used religiously until 1976.

The building is constructed from Niddrie bricks, which were sourced from the



now-demolished Niddrie Brickworks nearby and then covered with a stone render: a unique architectural detail.

Craigmillar Festival Society then transformed it into a vibrant community arts space then becoming:

“Craigmillar Community Arts Centre” where many famous actors, musicians, comedians and artists have performed there over the decades.

For example Jo Brand, Bill Paterson and John Milligan (to name just a few) alongside local legends like Faye Milligan, Johnni Stanton and Alice Henderson.

Heritage Scotland listed it as a Category B building in 1996.



Craigmillar Now took over the building in 2020 continuing the building's legacy as a community-led arts space. With the help of the

late Johnni Stanton, they created the first publicly accessible home for the area's fascinating historic archives.

Rachael Cloughton and a team of Craigmillar residents have volunteered to help develop the archives, ensuring this resource is truly community owned. The group attended training sessions led by professional photographers and archivists to gain the skills needed to categorise, digitise and share materials. This project is still ongoing today.

In 2013 Dr Helen Crummy MBE was recognised in the Edinburgh Women of Achievement Trail, with a plaque in her memory within the Arts Centre at Craigmillar.



Diversity

The diversity tapestry is a way of uniting everyone who now lives in this amazing community.

Speaking with different people in our community, many said the community feeling or it being welcoming was what they liked about the area.

So I focused on ??? words and found out how to spell them in the language that went with their flag depicting the nationalities that make up the Craigmillar Community today.

Iona Stewart from the 'Stitch in Time Group' did the castle and the small building on the right. I did the rest of the tapestry with a couple of my neighbours kids putting stitches in their flags

Compiled by Heather Henderson



Faye Milligan

Actress and community activist Faye Milligan was born 9th April 1958 and raised in Craigmillar (Edinburgh). At the age of 5 yrs old a primary school teacher at Craigmillar Primary told her mum:



“you know for a wee lass, she has a big voice. Shes going to go far”

Faye began acting with the Craigmillar Festival Society from the age of twelve.

She was a serving wench at medieval banquets at Craigmillar Castle, then Helen Crummy asked her to start playing the Bugle at banquets. Faye went on to start drama classes with Johnni Stanton and they got involved with the Craigmillar Drama, through CFS. Faye continued teaching drama even after the CFS dispersed. She wrote the musicals and pantomimes herself. She taught drama on a Saturday morning calling the drama group Toast and Drama. Faye also did professional work as she went onto get her equity card.

(Heather Henderson recollecting her sisters life)

She went on to become a leading organiser and Chair of Craigmillar Festival society's' successor organisation Craigmillar Community Arts (which later became Craigmillar Now).

Faye was never formally trained as an actress, when she was auditioning for the Royal Scottish Academy for Music and Drama in Glasgow, she was treated shamefully because of her modest background.

However despite this Faye went on to gain minor roles in Summer Season (1985) for the BBC and then for Scottish Television The Steamie (1988) with Eileen McCallum (b. 1936), Dorothy Paul (b. 1937) and Peter Mullan (b. 1959), and the detective series Taggart (1989).

She also held roles in the “british midlands advert”, “knorr stock cube advert” and even the “Snow White” Pantomime twice working with celebrities such as John Murtagh, Billy McElhane, Joe McFadden and much much more

As an actress, playwright director, poet, singer and comedian. She was affectionately known locally as ‘Auntie Faye’ and never lost sight of her roots.

She died tragically in 2003 of heart failure while on holiday on Gran Canaria. She was a huge loss not only to her family but to the community as well.

Faye is remembered in Milligan Drive, Milligan Road, Milligan place, Milligan Street and Milligan Gait in Greendykes.

This is the 15th Panel in the project



Memorial tree at Richmond Church

Richmond Church has a memorial tree made of copper.

In 2002 The Richmond Church Memorial Tree was created by Peter Douglas, Colleen O'Neill and Justine Blair to honor those who have died within the community.

Designed in the shape of a Weeping Willow, the tree sits in the memorial chapel at Richmond church. Those who wish to remember someone can have one of its leaves engraved and hung on its many branches.



Children from Richmond's Hope Charity as well as people in the community have all put leaves on the tree over the years.

There are also books for photos, poems or other thoughts, linked to the leaves.

A memorial service is held on a regular basis which is open to everyone.

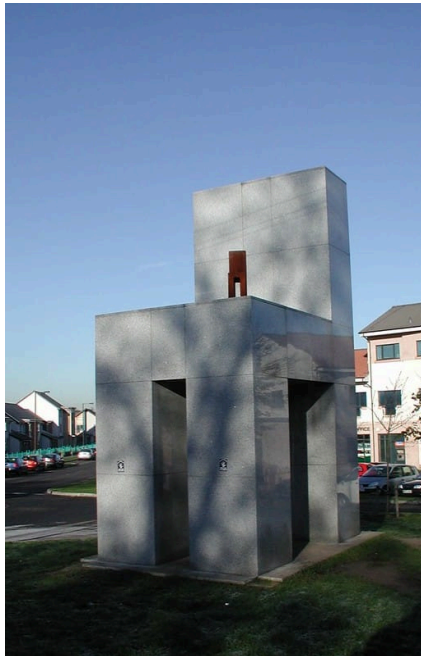


The tree has been a part of the church's memorial since its establishment and Richmonds hope, aim to have similar memorial trees at all their different centres.

The memorial tree is the 16th panel ion the project.



Hays Chair



This 18-foot-tall granite sculpture was created by Artist Doug Cocker in 2004 as part of the areas regeneration.

Its name being : “Here the Hays”

The design features a large granite armchair topped with a smaller metal chair inspired by King Arthurs Throne.

It is sited on Hay Avenue, however It can be seen from the nearby hill “Arthurs Seat”.



Thistle Foundation

Thistle

Between 1945 and 1950 the Thistle Foundation, a housing complex for disabled ex-servicemen was built, being designed in a traditional style by architects Lorimer & Matthew. Its centrepiece is the A-listed Robin Chapel built between 1949-52 in a Scottish Arts and Crafts style by the architect John F Matthew to commemorate Robin Tudsbury.

Tapestry Stitchers

The Violin: The Introductory Panel

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers:

The Niddrie Stone

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Shiela Skeldon

Craigmillar Castle

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Shiela Skeldon

Reg Bolton

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Johanne Kennedy
Jackie Jeffery
Barbara
Anne Marie Ward
Katie Quinn
Heather Henderson

The Gulliver

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Shiela Skeldon
Heather Henderson

Agnes Moffat

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Johanne Kennedy
Stacey Birks
Laura McNamee
Lauren
Jackie (teacher)
Alexander Kennedy
& a few other Kids

Helen Crummy & Philip Crummy Statue

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Johanne Kennedy

Tenement building in Craigmillar & Niddrie

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Johanne Kennedy

Tenement Building no2

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Margaret Ozturk

Niddrie Marischal Secondary School

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy

Stitchers: Heather Henderson
Shiela Skeldon

Richmond Church

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Marilyn Nicholson
Ann Waugh
Margaret Croal
Jennifer

Newcraighall Miners Sculpture

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Sheila Skeldon

Craigmillar Now

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Heather Henderson
Shiela Skeldon

Diversity

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy
Stitchers: Iona Stewart
Heather Henderson
Kids from Niddrie
Marischal Road

Faye Milligan

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy

Stitchers: Heather Henderson

Mary Keppe (Sister)

Janet Milligan (Sister)

Yvonne Reilly (Sister)

Cassandra (Niece)

Claire Clayton (Niece)

Emma (Niece)

Shelly Croal (Niece)

Melissa Hunter (Niece)

Laiya Grant (Great Niece)

Kaihlan Rowley (Great
Niece)

Alex west (Great Niece)

Special thanks goes to the Kids at Sandys
for the Covid Drawings

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Memorial tree at Richmond Church

Panel Design by: Andrew Crummy

Stitchers: Maryilyn Nichilson

Ann Waugh

Margaret Croal

Hays Chair

Panel Design by: Stacey Birk &

Heather Henderson

Stitchers: Gladys Chana

Kate Boyle

Heather Henderson

Sheila Skeldon

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New tapestry ideas?

The Brewerys

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw seven breweries being built in what was open country at Craigmillar/Duddingston, concentrated in a small area beside the railway line and taking advantage of the local aquifers providing excellent water for brewing. The first of these was the Craigmillar Brewery of William Murray & Co. Ltd built in 1886 and followed within a few years by [Andrew Drybrough's brewery](#), also called the Craigmillar Brewery (1892), the Duddingston Brewery built by [Pattisons Ltd](#) (1896), bought by Robert Deuchar Ltd in 1899 following Pattisons' liquidation, the North British Brewery (1897) which was taken over by Murray's in 1927 becoming known as Murray's No. 2 Brewery, Maclauchlan's Castle Brewery, Raeburn's New Craigmillar Brewery and Paterson's Pentland Brewery, all opening in 1901. These breweries stopped brewing at various times, mainly in the 1960s, but Drybrough's survived for several years and ceased brewing in January 1987