



The international Jane's Walk community building movement is coming to Scotland with neighbourhood walks in Edinburgh on 6-8 May 2022. We invite hosts to step forward!

[Jane's Walk](#), a community-based approach to city building that uses volunteer-led walking tours to make space for people to connect around their neighbourhoods, is coming to Edinburgh this May. [Sunday Assembly Edinburgh](#), the city's 'secular congregation', are acting as city hosts to organise and encourage walks on the weekend of 6-8 May 2022 as part of the international Janes Walk Festival.

Jane's Walk was founded in Toronto in 2006 in honour of community urban activist Jane Jacobs (1916-2006). Over the next decade, the movement saw rapid global uptake. In 2017, 1,700 Jane's Walks took place in 225 cities around the world, spanning 37 countries and 6 continents. The movement continues to grow every year.

This is the first time that Janes Walks have been hosted in Scotland. Since 2013 Sunday Assembly Edinburgh have been meeting in the city to celebrate life with the *motto Live Better, Help Often, Wonder More*. Chair Mark McKergow says "Janes Walks offer a great way for people to reach out and connect with people in their neighbourhoods. These walks are inclusive and offer ways for different voices to be heard."

Jane's Walks encourage people to share stories about their neighbourhoods, discover unseen aspects of their communities, and use walking as a way to connect with their neighbours. They are:

- Free, volunteer-led, and open to everyone
- Non-commercial and non-partisan
- Seek to promote dialogue – they are not 'walking lectures'.

Sunday Assembly Edinburgh is calling out to anyone who would like to organise and host a Janes Walk in Edinburgh on the weekend of 6-8 May 2022. There are already hosts for walks in the West End and in Willowbrae. Training, advice and non-financial support is available. If you would like to host a walk, please contact Mark McKergow via (<http://sundayassemblyedinburgh.org/janes-walks/>) or the Janes Walk Edinburgh Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/janeswalkedinburgh>).

Hosts do not need to be experts, professional tour guides or anything else. They should have a desire to connect with people in their neighbourhood, plan a route, welcome them on the day and share stories as they walk for an hour or so.

Potential lead organisers in other cities in Scotland can also step forward via the Janes Walk website at <http://janeswalk.org/add-a-city/>.

Notes for editors

[Sunday Assembly Edinburgh](#) meets on the first Sunday of the month at Lifecare Edinburgh in Stockbridge. We aim to restart face-to-face assemblies on Sunday 1 May, having been meeting online during the pandemic. We are part of the [worldwide Sunday Assembly movement](#), with dozens of assemblies around the world who meet to provide a non-religious and inclusive alternative to 'church' with singing, talks, poems, reflections, and tea & cake.

- Web: <http://sundayassemblyedinburgh.org>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sundayassemblyedinburgh>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SunAssemblyEdin>

For more information contact Sunday Assembly Edinburgh Chair **Mark McKergow** at mark@swork.com, or on 07976 936086 (anytime). Mark is also an organiser of the [Edinburgh West End Residents & Businesses Facebook group](#), which has grown to over 1500 members during the pandemic. He lives in Atholl Crescent in the West End, is a leadership author and speaker and also leads [Village In The City](#), an online hub providing connection and support for people to build and enhance their own neighbourhood communities.

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