



Chance to buy house with bar and hot tub in garden

Bungalow's normal exterior hides party palace

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FROM the outside this Edinburgh home might look normal, but its special attractions that make it the perfect lockdown pad have made it become the city's biggest property website agent's most viewed and "must-see" home of the week.

The four-bedroom bungalow on Milton Road East is owned by the Kiernans who bought the home over 30 years ago and they are asking for offers over £535,000 for the chance to own their 1930-built home.

And, as trim and wonderfully presented as it is inside, it is their "party garden" that has interested people online, with its bar, hot tub and summer house.

The al fresco-themed bar, complete with four stools, barbecue and pizza oven is the undoubted star of the show.

The Chinese-lantern-lit bar also features exactly 2,844 corks which have been collected by the couple themselves as well as their family and friends throughout the years despite the fact that they had accumulated so many that they had to give some away.

Family and friends have also been warned not to leave any of their caps behind because

GARDEN PARTY ANYONE? The four-bed bungalow on Milton Road East has become ESPC's most viewed property

otherwise they will end up dangling from the bar's ceiling above them the next time they visit.

The couple have various memories from their unique back garden, with a highlight being their daughter Lisa's wedding reception six years ago with around 60 guests enjoying themselves there.

Helen Kiernan, 67, said: "I remember the Brownies Sausage Sizzle and kids running all over the place and I remember when the Musselburgh Rugby Club came to help tear down

the air raid shelter and all my friends wanted to come and watch them in their shorts in the sun!

"We're feeling mixed about leaving it, there's a lovely feel to this house which is the reason we bought it and we have loads of memories here but it's time to move on to chapters new."

The garden transformation began 25 years ago after the bar and BBQ area which now houses a hot tub were built to keep them dry while watching the fireworks on one of their daughters' birthday three

days before Bonfire Night in November.

It was also ideal for other winter celebrations including their other daughter, Mhairi's birthday in February when she was growing up.

Harry Kiernan, now 73, built the bar largely by himself but with some help from his future son-in-law for just £2 and said: "It's the end of an era, we've had a wedding party in that garden. Now it's on to the next chapter of our lives."

Estate Agent ESPC describes the property's garden as "fully enclosed by high hedging

which gives it optimum privacy from neighbouring properties and makes it ideal for entertaining."

It adds that it is "highly unique in that it hosts a large sheltered bar with seating and BBQ area, separate covered, sunken hot tub as well as a summerhouse/workshop."

The Milton Road East property is available at offers over £535,000 and can be found on <https://esp.com>.

To view the property, please contact 0131 253 2967 or 075958 20611 outside of office hours.

Dance show is hard to film under Covid

STRICTLY Come Dancing is the "hardest" show to film under current circumstances, the BBC's head of entertainment has said, but the professionals are already rehearsing the group numbers for when it returns later this year, with altered sets and changes to hair, make-up and costuming.

Kate Phillips, entertainment controller at the BBC, offered an update on the flagship entertainment show, which features judge Craig Revel Horwood, pictured, to the

virtual Edinburgh TV Festival, saying the dancing competition will be more special than ever.

She said: "Strictly is probably the question we get asked more than any other show. I can say it absolutely is coming back – it is a slightly shorter run, but apart from that I don't think it will be a lesser show at all."

"If anything I think it will



be special this series, there will be heightened emotions and a lot of the dances will have real poignancy. The pros have been isolating together for the last couple of weeks, they are now rehearsing together, the big dance numbers, it looks so good seeing them dance.

"We will announce the celebrity line-up at the end of this month, we are planning it now but they are all on board and very excited."

Fossil is named after Finnish rock singer

A NEW fossil species has been named after a heavy metal singer.

The species of Cretaceous brittle star was named in honour of Floor Jansen, the 39-year-old Dutch singer with Finnish heavy rock band Nightwish.

Palaeontologists from the Natural History Museums in Luxembourg and Maastricht discovered the previously unknown species of brittle star that lived in the shallow, warm sea which covered parts of the

present-day Netherlands at the end of the Dinosaur Era.

The starfish-like creature was unearthed more than 20 years ago, but has only now been identified as new to science.

The name of the new fossil pays tribute to metal vocalist Jansen, in recognition of the "mutual inspiration" between science and music.

The new fossil species had long passed unnoticed. It was a stroke of luck when a fossil collector noted the fossil of

a tiny, starfish-like creature during one of his excursions to the world-famous ENCI Heidelberg Cement company quarry near the Dutch city of Maastricht.

The specimen was much smaller than other brittle-star fossils occasionally found at the same locality, and so much less likely to be collected.

Dr John Jagt, palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum in Maastricht, soon identified the specimen as a long-spined brittle-star.