



# Item 6.1 - Business Bulletin

## **Culture and Communities Committee**

**10.00am, Tuesday, 12 September 2017**

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

# Culture and Communities Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Donald Wilson</p>  <p>Councillor Ian Campbell (Vice-Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillor Wilson (Convener), Councillor I Campbell (Vice-Convener) Councillor Brown, Councillor K Campbell, Councillor Doran, Councillor Graczyk, Councillor McNeese-Mechan, Councillor Miller, Councillor Mitchell, Councillor Osler, Councillor Staniforth</p>	<p><a href="#">Lynne Halfpenny</a> Director of Culture Tel: 0131 529 3657</p> <p><a href="#">Andy Gray</a> Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning Communities and Families Tel: 0131 529 2217</p> <p>Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p><a href="#">Ross Murray</a> Governance Officer Tel: 0131 469 3870</p>

## PANTO STARS' ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF EDINBURGH

On Thursday 2 March at the City Chambers King's Theatre panto stars Allan Stewart, Andy Gray and Grant Stott were invited to a special reception with the Lord Provost in recognition of their contribution to the City of Edinburgh.

Now one of the best-selling pantos across the UK, the King's Theatre Edinburgh panto owes its success to the dedication of its audiences and the unique chemistry between 'dame' Allan Stewart, 'eejit' Andy Gray and 'panto villain' Grant Stott.

*Cinderella* in 2017/18 will mark their lucky thirteenth panto together at the King's; Grant Stott's eighteenth consecutive King's panto and Allan Stewart's seventeenth. The comedy threesome's fabulous energy, the special effects provided by The Twins FX, stunning choreography and sensational musical scores combine to make a spectacular family show to remember.

The **Lord Provost Donald Wilson** said: "The King's Theatre Panto has been bringing the house down for over 100 years. This winter - in *Jack and the Beanstalk* -the trio of Andy, Allan and Grant provided us with comedy gold and the whole cast and crew ensure thousands of people get into the festive spirit every year. It really is the best panto in Britain but for it to earn this reputation the company puts hours and hours of planning and hard work in to every performance. I thought the cast deserved a well-earned break and a big thank you from their city for the smiles they brought to our faces night after night this winter."



For further information please contact: [Catherine Bromley](#), Head of Press and Communications – Festival and King's Theatre on 622 8088

### Volunteer and student led research in museums

The Museums service offers a range of volunteering and student placements. This work is coordinated by The Volunteer Coordinator, funded currently by Museums Galleries Scotland (until May 2018).

Volunteers with Museums & Galleries Edinburgh assist with a range of roles. These include: carrying out visitor surveys and assisting visitors in exhibitions, running living history events, giving tours, assisting with outreach programming, carrying out collections research, researching access in our venues, documenting and inventorying collections, assisting with social media and many other roles.

One of the key aspects of this work has been gaining feedback on our services. To this end volunteers have been involved in several research programmes:

#### Visitor research and the Museum of Edinburgh and Writers' Museum

In 2017 the volunteers assisted with carrying out visitor research within the Museum of Edinburgh and Writers' Museum.

Some of the keys finding from this research are:

- The overall experience of visitors to both museums was rated as either 'excellent' or 'good' by almost all visitors. Visitor comments on the overall experience were almost entirely positive.
- Staff appearance, staff friendliness and information given by staff were each rated either 'excellent' or 'good' by almost all visitors to both museums.
- 10% of visitors to both museums are from Edinburgh, and over half of visitors to both museums are from outside the UK.
- There is a relatively high number of young visitors (those aged 16-24 and 25-34) to both museums. 51.8% to the Writers' Museum and 46.9% to the Museum of Edinburgh.

#### Access research

As part of a student placement with the University of St Andrews, the Museums service has developed Museums 4 All a survey of access within our city centre venues. Some of the key findings include:

- A lot of the main measures are already in place, for example we offer signage outside of buildings, good front of house staff, marketing materials, ramps, handrails, accessible toilets, automatic doors etc. (the exception is the Writers' Museum due to the nature of the building).

For further information please contact: [Gillian Findlay](#), Curatorial and Engagement Manager on 529 4502.

- However, there are some aspects which would make a different to visitors including: updating the website to include access information (this is now in process with the development of a new museums website), staff training, improving signage and working with access groups amongst suggestions.

This research will form the basis for ongoing access work

### Volunteer research

The Museums service also carried out research to ensure that we are offering good quality placements to volunteers. To this end a volunteer survey was developed. Some of the results have been summarised below:

- The average time commitment of volunteers is between 5 and 10 hours a month.
- Most volunteers said the recruitment process was a very positive experience.
- Most volunteers said the induction/training was good or excellent.
- Most volunteers said the support/supervision is effective or very effective.
- Large numbers of volunteers describe their volunteering as 'interesting', 'enjoyable', and 'satisfying', with a smaller number describing it as 'challenging'.
- More than half of volunteers rated their overall experience as 'excellent', and most of the others rated it as 'good'.
- Almost all volunteers said they were 'very likely' or 'quite likely' to recommend Museums and Galleries Edinburgh to others as a place to volunteer.

### **Volunteer Thank you event**

On 27 August Museums & Galleries Edinburgh held a special event at Lauriston Castle to thank volunteers for their help and support. 52 attended and took part in an afternoon offering tours of the castle, croquet and music. Cllr Donald Wilson attended to give a speech



## Art in the City

Art in the City is a project run by Museums & Galleries Edinburgh to provide an opportunity for people whose lives are affected by dementia to share a gallery visit and discuss art (and other things) in a friendly and supportive environment. The group meet monthly to visit venues in Edinburgh and are supported by a dedicated team of volunteers. A new autumn programme has been launched which will take in a range of venues from the City Art Centre to the National Gallery of Scotland along with a special session for Luminate, the creative aging festival, at the Museum Collections Centre.

## Proud City

Proud City: Celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) Edinburgh was a community project and exhibition at the People's Story Museum. The exhibition aimed to tell the stories of LGBTQIA+ people living and working in Edinburgh. A small version of the exhibition will now tour libraries in Edinburgh in autumn 2017-summer 2018.



**NEW COUNCIL CULTURE FUND - GRANTS AWARDED**

The 2017/18 Culture Project Fund was awarded to the following groups working across a range of art forms, from circus and dance to theatre, digital arts, film and new writing. The grants were reviewed by a specialist panel featuring performing arts industry professionals and Council officers with the awards then approved by the Convenor and Executive Director:

- £5,000 to support the Village Pub Theatre develop a vibrant, grassroots theatre scene in Leith. Working with Grid Iron Theatre Company, the project will see pub goers encounter snippets of live theatre.
- £5,000 awarded to Lyra to research and develop A Christmas Tale, a project to broaden Edinburgh's Christmas offering with a specially made production working with young children and their families through the Craigmillar and Southside Community Centre.
- £5,000 towards Sinking Horses, an endurance performance from Creative Electric to take place in Leith and City Centre. Working with the Hidden Door Festival, Biscuit Factory and the Foundation for Mental Health Scotland the project aims to open up dialogues surrounding mental health, informed and performed by women aged 18 – 64.
- £5,000 awarded to Creative Carbon Scotland for their Culture/SHIFT programme, which will commission Edinburgh-based theatre maker Alice Mary Cooper to develop new work in association with the Edinburgh International Children's Festival and Catherine Wheels Theatre Company.
- £4,990 towards 'The Albanauts – Adventures In Time!' This steampunk take on contemporary circus from Circus Alba's performance troupe will support youth activities and performances in partnership with the Grassmarket BID.
- £4,892.20 to support Strange Town with an Acting for Stage course with Screen Education Edinburgh. The opportunity in Leith and City Centre for young people to develop screen acting and filmmaking skills by making short films will result in public screenings at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.
- £4,895 to support 'Champion's Tale', a dance and discussion project by BE United journeying to South Africa in Muirhouse in association with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival, Champions Dance Crew and North Edinburgh Arts.

**For further information please contact:**  
[Lisa Kapur](#),  
Cultural Development Officer on 529 7988

- £4,800 towards 'Connecting Lives', a theatre project in Craightinny by Active Inquiry. Partnering with the Bethany Christian Trust, Shakti Women's Aid, the Alma Project and Out of the Blue Arts and Education, the project will bring together and tell stories about those affected by homelessness, mental health and domestic abuse.
- £4,790 towards Dance Ihayami's I AM HERE summer school. The project will aim to address access inequalities and give 7-16 year olds the opportunity to participate in Indian dance, martial arts and visual arts in a project with WHALE, resulting in a final performance in Wester Hailes.
- £4,233 towards WILDFIRE THEATRE, which will work with women in Leith, Pilton, Royston, Wardieburn and Wester Hailes to listen to their views, share information on creative opportunities and support women's creative writing and involvement in theatre.
- £3,800 to support research and development collaboration between Red Note Ensemble and Matthew Hawkins for a re-imagining of the iconic Peter Maxwell Davies work Vesalli Icones in the City Centre.
- £3,450 towards Let's call it Love, an early development performance project by artist Andy Manley, facilitated by Red Bridge Arts in a mini residency at North Edinburgh Arts.
- £3,000 awarded to Janice Parker Projects with Luke Pell, to develop In the Ink Dark. Made from memory and conversation, the project aims to create a space to engage with a wide range of people from different demographics and communities and result in a series of podcasts, poetry, publications and dance, in partnership with a range of organisations including the Scottish Poetry Library and Leith Late.
- £2,080 towards 'Leith's Multicultural Music', an innovative project from Citizen Curator engaging new migrant and established Black and Ethnic Minority groups in 'multicultural ceilidh' music-making workshops culminating in public performance.

Caitlin Skinner, Artistic Director of the Village Pub Theatre, a grant recipient, added: "The Village Pub Theatre is over the moon to have been awarded a grant from the Council's Culture Project Fund. We have been bringing theatre to pub-goers in Leith since 2012, presenting short plays written by our diverse community of playwrights and this funding will allow us to turn what we have been doing informally on a small scale into a fully-fledged theatre production.



“With this grant we will create a site-specific piece, using individual short plays to create an intimate and unusual theatre experience. We are really looking forward to challenging ourselves with this project and to be working with the incredible Grid Iron who will be offering advice and mentoring support for the project. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to create dynamic and exciting theatre in Leith and it wouldn't be possible without the support from the Culture Project Fund.”

### **Learning and programmes, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh**

#### **Lauriston Castle Programmes 2017**

We have launched our dynamic and diverse programme for Lauriston Castle in 2017. Lauriston Castle is a multi-award winning education venue. The 2017 programme consists of our popular historical lecture series, a family programme, an adult creative art programme, a programme of special events, theatre, and we are working with a series of partners like New Media Scotland, Edinburgh International Magic Festival, The Universities, theatre companies and Edinburgh Horror Festival. The link to the programme is below:

[http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/Venues/Lauriston-Castle/Events-\(1\)/Lauriston\\_Castle\\_final](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/Venues/Lauriston-Castle/Events-(1)/Lauriston_Castle_final)

As well as the programme we are also busy at Lauriston Castle with our ongoing school programmes and a new volunteer programme of extended tours for the Castle.

#### **Edinburgh Alphabet Programme at the City Art Centre**

A large and varied programme of events accompanies our Edinburgh Alphabet exhibition at the City Art Centre. The programme launched with a bang on 20 and 21 May with a varied programme for the national initiative Festival of Museums. We had cartoon drawing sessions, optical illusion drop in, animation workshops, Newhaven Community Choir, An Edwardian Tea Party, a street ceilidh, two fashion shows and a concert by Edinburgh Gay Men's Chorus. Hundreds of members of the public flocked to the City Art Centre to participate in the events. You can view some of the photos on this link:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/City.Art.Centre.CAC/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10155218387746760](https://www.facebook.com/pg/City.Art.Centre.CAC/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10155218387746760)

**For further information please contact:**  
[Margaret Findlay](#),  
Learning and Programmes  
Manager on 529 3963

The programme continues with a series of lectures on varied aspects Edinburgh's history, spotlight curatorial tours, a curatorial lecture programme, family events, adult creative classes and special events like living history themed tours, magic shows, pottery demonstrations, themed music events, poetry events, street tours and school events.

The link to the first half of the programme is below. The second half of the programme is planned for September and October and contains a series of similar lively events.

<http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/Events/Whats-On-May-to-August>

Also as part of this exhibition, we ran partnership projects with students of Edinburgh College resulting in a series of fashion shows inspired by the exhibition, and a project with the animation department of Edinburgh College of Art.

We will be encouraging school visits to the City Art Centre and in the exhibition a family and school Activity Area has been created which is crammed full of exciting art activities, quest sheets and detail detectives. There is also a little reading corner. All this has been designed to engage young people with our collections.

### **Working in Partnership**

#### **Edinburgh Art Festival**

We are working with Edinburgh Art Festival on a series of school workshops in August running at the City Art Centre. These workshops provide a learning experience for schools combining the Edinburgh Alphabet exhibition at the City Art Centre and also the Edinburgh Art Festival artist's commissions based around the Royal Mile.

#### **Edinburgh International Magic Festival**

This year we are hosting eight events as part of the Edinburgh International Magic Festival - four at Lauriston Castle and four at the Writers' Museum. This exciting collaboration brings a diverse audience into our venues and interpretation of the history of our buildings are at the heart of each magical performance.

The events can be viewed below:

<http://www.magicfest.co.uk/event-item/the-secret-room-lauriston/>

<http://www.magicfest.co.uk/event-item/secret-room-writers-museum/>

### **Edinburgh Makar and Edinburgh Poets**

We have worked with the Edinburgh Makar and a group of Edinburgh poets on poetry readings linking to our collections. A series of new poems have been specially written and performed to the public. Performances were staged throughout August in the Museum of Edinburgh courtyard and will take place across September at the City Art Centre linked to the Edinburgh Alphabet exhibition.

### **Archaeology Scotland**

As part of the year of History Heritage and Archaeology we are working in partnership with Archaeology Scotland on a series of events. We are running a family study day at both Lauriston Castle and the City Art Centre and a series of archaeology lectures at both Lauriston Castle and as part of the City Art Centre programme.

### **Travelling Gallery Spring 2017 exhibition.**

Travelling Gallery's Spring 2017 exhibition, EAT SLEEP WORK REPEAT, was received by 9773 visitors at 60 venues over 71 days.

The exhibition showcased artwork by Scottish based artists Tessa Lynch and Jamie Green alongside international renowned contemporary and modern artists Amalia Pica and KP Brehmer.



Image: school children leaving at Auchenblae Primary School, Aberdeenshire

EAT SLEEP WORK REPEAT launched in Aberdeen as part of the City's Creative Learning Festival and toured to schools and communities across Scotland in Renfrewshire, Stirling, Glasgow, East Lothian, South Ayrshire, Falkirk, Dumfries and Galloway and included visits to our colleagues at Edinburgh Libraries and finishing at the Leith Late Festival.

"It's lovely to have the art come to us rather than going to the art. I often feel that we get forgotten so this is a breath of fresh air!" visitor, Ratho Library, Tuesday 4 April 2017.

"It's BIG! Friendly and on sunny days it's very cool!" visitor, Leith Walk, Friday 16 June 2017

### **Travelling Gallery Autumn 2017**

Travelling Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition by Glasgow based artist Lauren Printy Currie in collaboration with Glasgow Women's Library. The exhibition launched at Glasgow Women's Library on 17 August before coming back to Edinburgh for the Art Festival and then touring Orkney, The Highlands, Argyle & Bute, Dundee and Angus until December 2017.

The new artwork made especially for the Travelling Gallery couldn't have been possible without support and funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and Outset Scotland.



## Edinburgh City Libraries

### 8<sup>th</sup> EDGE Conference



Councillor Norma Austin Hart opened the EDGE 2017 Conference at Radisson Blu Hotel 2 March 2017. EDGE is now a regular fixture in the UK libraries calendar attracting delegates and speakers from Scotland, the UK, and Europe. “I enjoyed the opportunity to spend

time learning about projects, developing new ideas and meeting new people...” was just one of many positive comments from delegates. Presentations included The Netherlands Reading and Writing Foundation, Scottish Local Government Digital Office, and Open Library projects in the UK.

### Ratho Library

Ratho Library have been hosting a Young Writers Competition in partnership with community who have organised ‘Ratho’s Got Talent 2017’. The competition was open to young people and children in the area from the age of Five to the age of 14. Winners were awarded at Ratho’s Got Talent show on Friday 17 March.

### Central Library Music events



The Music Library celebrated Scottish music with a series of events in February. Two ‘Singing for All’ events, led by community musician Ellie Logan, on Saturdays 11 and 25 February focused on the songs of Burns, Scottish folk songs and traditional singing. A concert featuring the Spencer-Strachan duo on 23 February organised in partnership with Live Music Now Scotland was attended by 119 people.

Octavoce returned to the Central Library on 16 March to perform for an audience of 110 people. The programme featuring a mixture of choral music included Hail Mary, an arrangement of The Star of Country Down, Fever, Feeling Good, and a medley of African music.

For further information please contact: [Grainne Crawford](#), Lifelong Learning Libraries Development Officer (Income) on 529 7791.

### Wester Hailes Library: A Kind of Seeing



Wednesday 22 March saw Wester Hailes Library hosting a spectacular local history event, “A Kind of Seeing”. Making use of the cinema screening equipment and a wealth of local history material stored in the library, “A Kind of Seeing” featured films and documentaries that were made by

or with the cooperation of local residents detailing life and community in Wester Hailes. The screenings were followed by a short discussion about the films, and the history of the local area. Alongside the film screening, there is a photo exhibition of images taken around the local community.

“A Kind of Seeing” was funded by Film Hub Scotland and is part of projects being piloted in Scotland under the Film Education in Libraries Project. The £190,000 initiative was made possible through Creative Scotland as part of their Film Strategy and aims to improve the provision of film and moving image education across the country. This screening was commissioned by Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC).

### The Sky’s the Limit 15 March, 2017 – Central Library, George Washington Browne



Andrew James, Education Officer from SCRAN (now part of Historical Environment Scotland) delivered a talk to an audience of 50 people. His presentation of over 60 aerial images, covered aspects of Edinburgh and Scotland’s historical and social diversity. This included images of military, industrial and archaeological interest. Andrew also raised awareness about access to this resource on the YourLibrary website, and how access is freely available via library

membership.

## World Book Day Celebrations in Edinburgh Secondary Schools 2017



School Librarians across the city put the final touches to their wide variety of World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 2 March. Tynecastle, Gracemount, St Thomas of Aquin's and Wester Hailes Education Centre (WHEC) tested the pupils' skills with quizzes and puzzles, others involved pupils and staff in handicraft and artistic skills, designing and creating origami bookmarks.

Liberton Librarian, Christine Babbs, appeared as Dolores Umbridge from Harry Potter. Holyrood played host to author Cat Clark, two brilliant sessions with S4 and S5. The incredible Great Broughton Book Bake Off returned this year after last year's runaway success. Paddington Bear and Lord of the Rings themed cakes were just two of the winners.

## Autism Week 27 March – 2 April 2017



Film Club put together a series of free autism friendly film screenings as part of World Autism Awareness Week. Craigmillar, Gilmerton, Wester Hailes, and Muirhouse Libraries all took part, showing free film screenings specially catered for people with autism and their carers.



**Alan Gardner – Channels 4's Autistic Gardener** spoke to an audience of 130 at Central Library on 30 March. Alan spoke openly about his autism and coping mechanisms. The audience applauded Alan for his honesty and many remained to have "selfies" taken with Alan. Alan also took time out on 31 March to speak to the young interns of Project Search.

**Autistic Librarian** – Central Library – This is a three-part series of blog posts written by Hope, who is a member of library staff and who is on the Autistic Spectrum. <http://talesofonecity.wordpress.com/>.

### Colinton and Currie Libraries - Explore Learning

There was an extra visit from Explore Learning to do a young writers workshop for 7-14 years olds in conjunction with the National Young Writers award 2017. Children aged 4-14 were challenged to write a short story taking place in the year 3017. The author of the best story will be announced on 5 May, and awarded a family trip to Disneyland Paris as well as £500 worth of books for their school.

### Puppet Festival



Libraries were recently visited by amazing puppet shows including the explorer Sir Moustache Bristleby and his companions The Ed-Splorers, The Wonderful World of Lapin, Little Dawn Caravan, and The Tin Forrest. Shows were fully booked with 153 children in total attended the festival. We had recanted tales, songs, poetry, and shadow puppets. There were shows in English and French and we received some wonderful testimonials:

“Fabulous show!”, “Loved it! Really inventive!”, “So impressed to see that libraries (the Council) are still able to put on free events for kids of this high quality considering the current (funding) climate!”.

### NappiRunz

Various libraries have been supporting the local charity NappiRunz, by providing donation points for nappies, which are supplied to families in need. A recent message of thanks from the charity: “Our pick-up this week at Moredun, Newington and Wester Hailes Library #467 nappies. Thank you!!! Brings our total for this year to 2,327 nappies. Imagine how many families we have supported with your donations!”





### Ratho Library Canal Trip 26 April

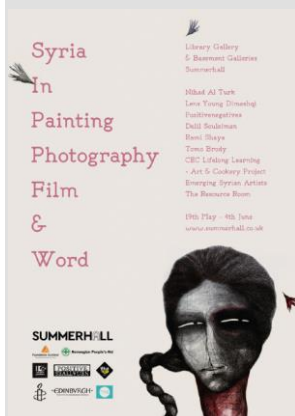


Ratho Library's groups were treated to a trip on the canal. Ladies from the fortnightly 'Book and Blether' group and from the weekly knitting group enjoyed a cruise with the Seagull Trust, based in Ratho Village. They enjoyed the view along with refreshments. The ladies in these groups are long-standing regulars in Ratho Library and see the library as integral to the community, and we try to ensure that we support them to make the most of the opportunities in their local area, to get out and about and to socialise.

### Rosie Nimmo's Concert 27 April

The concert formed part of Edinburgh's annual TradFest (26 April – 7 May), celebrating and promoting the city's rich heritage of traditional arts. Rosie Nimmo is a Scottish singer songwriter who sang songs from her albums Home, Lazy and Mellow, and Scrapbook. Rosie was accompanied by Tommy Nimmo on bass and Stuart Allardyce on guitar. 79 people attended, with feedback being extremely positive. Comments made included: "The events in the Edinburgh Libraries give a great deal of joy. We also enjoy the lectures and have gained knowledge". "The Central Library is an excellent venue for events like this".

### Syria in Painting, Photography, Film and Word, Summerhall Library & Basement Galleries – 19 May – 04 June



*Syria in Painting, Photography, Film and Word* brought together a broad selection of new works by both Edinburgh and internationally-based Syrian artists with contributions from other Syria-centric collectives. Each artist presented a highly personal reflection of their homeland and their people through works in a variety of media.

In addition, **The Resource Room** contained a wealth of information pertaining to the *Children's War Museum* provided by its founder Brian Devlin, as well as contributions from *Syria Aid*, *Amnesty International* and others.

**Edinburgh Libraries** took part in the first [Together We Read](#) UK Digital Book Club that lets readers across the UK read the same ebook at the same time. From 11-25 May, our users could borrow ***Whisky from Small Glasses* by Denzil Meyrick** from our OverDrive ebook site and participate in a country-wide version of a local book club.

### **The Grange Fair 6 May**

Newington Library and Fountainhall Road hosted treats and activities including stalls and games; plants, books, and DVDs; and a mini zoo. Proceeds will go to local charities and Newington Library.

### **Teenage Writers Group 12 May**

Fountainbridge Library welcomed budding writers aged 12-16.

### **Goblin Debut 18 May**

New author Ever Dundas talked about her debut novel *Goblin* at Edinburgh Central Library. The event was chaired by Stuart Kelly.

### **David Greig's first season featured on Radio 4.**

On Monday 31 July 2017, Radio 4 aired a programme following David Greig's first year as Artistic Director of the Lyceum Theatre. It is a unique insight into the production process and workings of a theatre and well worth a listen. The programme (42 minutes) can be accessed on catch up on the link below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08zc0qx>

### **Archives of the Society of Free Fishermen of Newhaven**

A varied collection of items were deposited recently with the Museum of Edinburgh, which included a substantial and significant collection of nineteenth and twentieth century archives for the Society of Free Fishermen of Newhaven. Whilst Newhaven is a key collecting area for the museum service it was determined that a more suitable repository for the ten volumes and folder of loose papers is the National Records of Scotland, who already hold an extensive archive collection for the venerable and important society spanning the period 1572-1990. By collaborating we have been able to reunite this important archive collection.

**For further information please contact:**  
[Lisa Kapur](#),  
Cultural  
Development  
Officer on 529  
7988

**For further information please contact:**  
David McClay,  
History Curator  
on 529 4502

## It's Alive opens at Museum of Childhood



The Museum of Childhood's summer exhibition, It's Alive, opened on 22 June, with a packed private view attended by over 120 people. The exhibition showcases more than 40 antique automata from the collection of the House of Automata, plus specially commissioned etchings from artist Robert

Powell. The exhibition has also received extremely generous sponsorship-in-kind from Glasgow-based design company Timorous Beasties.

As well as seven hands-on automata in the exhibition, the public can see these mechanical marvels come to life in free automata performances on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer.



For further information please contact: [Anna Sage](#), Collections Engagement Officer on 556 2879.

**Assembly Rooms – May – September 2017**

**5 May – Princes Trust Financial Lunch** – welcoming back supporters of the Princes Trust’s biggest investors to celebrate the past year and find out more about the charity.

**12 May – Local Heroes Awards Dinner** - There are numerous reasons why we should all be proud to live in and around Edinburgh. But the most important one of all is the incredible people who live and work here and who make it one of the greatest cities on the Planet.

The Local Hero Awards aims to honour the talented and the brave, the compassionate and the determined. The people who make Edinburgh and Lothians what it is today.

**17 May – ETAG** - 2017 was the Edinburgh Tourism Showcase’s 5th Birthday!

The Edinburgh Tourism Showcase is a “one day, one-stop shop” event which gives the opportunity for everyone in the tourism sector to network, exchange information and share knowledge.

**29 May – City Vision** – by Allan Little – our Edinburgh Lecture.

Also celebrating:

**1 July - Rebusfest:**

Hosted by IAN RANKIN and the Orion Publishing Group REBUSFEST was a weekend of literature, art, film, music and more to celebrate 30 years of the iconic detective. Taking place in Rankin and Rebus’ hometown of EDINBURGH, this was a chance to step into the world of Rebus for an unmissable weekend.

**August – Assembly Fringe Festival****1 September - HIRPRA**

HIPRA is a veterinary pharmaceutical company dedicated to the research, production and marketing of products for animal health.

**4 September - Annual World Poultry Congress Conference**

Taking place at the EICC 4– 8 September. The Congress will attract a wide range of delegates, including both poultry research scientists and practitioners, and will include leading speakers from across the world.

**12 -16 September - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lindy Hop Exchange**

Edinburgh Swing Dance Society and the Edinburgh University Swing Dance Society

For more information please contact: [Anna Murrucane](#),  
Business Development Manager Cultural Venues on 220 4348

**16 September - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lindy Hop Exchange**

The Edinburgh Lindy Exchange is brought to you by the Edinbop, Edinburgh Swing Dance Society and the Edinburgh University Swing Dance Society

**29 September – The Rum Festival**

Travelling rum festival – takes place in many cities around the UK. Showcasing over 100 different rums including new and exclusive rums.

**Church Hill Theatre updates****MGA Academy of Performing Arts****15 and 16 May - Boeing Boeing**

A classic farce written by the French playwright Marc Camoletti

**17 and 18 May - Ritual**

A contemporary dance routine performed by MGA's graduating students

**August – Edinburgh International Festival****6-9 September – High School Musical**

Lothian Youth Musical Company bringing Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical to life on the stage.

**22 September – City Sixers****23 September – Sing in the City Linkers**

An exciting show through the decades. Enjoy music of all genres as the choir sings along with the sing in the City - 5 piece band.

**26-30 September -Showcase Musical Productions – Showcase 2017****11 October – 14 October – Opera Camerata – ‘La Belle Helen’ by Offenbach**

The performance parodies the love story of Helen and Paris which sparked the Trojan war.

**31 October – 4 November – Rock of Ages**

Rock of Ages tells the story.

**7 November – European Outdoor Film Tour 17/18**

The European Outdoor Film Tour is the biggest film festival of the European outdoor community.

For more information please contact: [Julie Abrahams](#), Events Co-ordinator, Culture Venues on 226 9907.

### **Ross Pavilion and West Princes Street Gardens Project**

The search for an outstanding team for the £25m Ross Pavilion and West Princes Street Gardens project commenced on the 9 February this year and attracted first stage submissions from 125 teams (made up of 400 firms) from 22 different countries. With just 7 teams making it to the final stage to create a concept design.

On the 1 August, the Ross Development Trust together with the City of Edinburgh Council announced the winner of the Ross Pavilion International Design Competition.

US based design practice wHY whose team included Edinburgh based design studio GRAS, Arup, Studio Yann Kersalé, O Street, Stuco, Creative Concern, Noel Kinsbury, Atelier Ten and Lawrence Barte were the jury's unanimous winner.

The jury praised the team's concept design as a 'beautiful and intensely appealing proposal that complemented, but did not compete with, the skyline of the City and the Castle. They liked the concept of the activated community space with a democratic spirit, potentially creating a new and welcoming focus for the City's festivals while appreciating that the team's design balanced this with a strong approach to the smaller, intimate spaces within the wider Gardens.

wHY will work closely with the Council, the Trust, and other stakeholders, as well as consult with the public, to take forward the project to revitalise this space. Further information will be shared as the project progresses.



For more information please contact: [Karl Chapman](#), Service Manager, Culture Venues on 228 8589

**Usher Hall and Ross Bandstand: May – June 2017**

Scottish Chamber Orchestra will be recording throughout May in the Usher Hall

Usher Hall launched its new International Classics Season on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017 with the Moscow Philharmonic Concert.

RSNO Amadeus Live – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May: Winner of eight Academy awards, four BAFTAs and four Golden Globes, Amadeus is more than just a classic period drama with the best soundtrack of all time – it is a romantic comedy, a mystery and a tense psychological thriller. With Tom Hulce as Mozart and Oscar-winner performance by F. Murray Abraham as Salieri, it is also one of the most entertaining films ever made about classical music. A remarkable screening with Mozart's incredible music performed live by the full Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus.

An Audience with Prem Rawat on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017: Prem Rawat is an internationally renowned speaker who presents a fascinating and practical perspective about 'Understanding the business of life'. Having inspired and helped millions of people around the world. Prem began addressing audiences as a young child in his native India over 50 years ago. Since then he has addressed over 15 million people at live events all around the world.

Raiders of the Lost Ark: 24 June: Edinburgh International Film Festival teamed up once again with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to present Steven Spielberg's first great Indiana Jones adventure – Raiders of the Lost Ark – accompanied by John Williams' iconic score performed live to screen by the RSNO. One of cinemas greatest heroes has never looked or sounded better!

We welcomed back Edinburgh Napier University at the end of June for their Graduations.

Other artists we hosted over this period included: Imelda May and Anastacia and two sold out concerts with Paramore and Kraftwerk.

For tickets and full listings for the Usher Hall please visit our website: [www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk)

For more information please contact: [Emma Patterson](mailto:emma.patterson@usherhall.co.uk), Events Co-ordinator, Culture Venues on 221 6336

**Ross Bandstand Highlights: May - June 2017**

- 13 May 2017 – Fair Trade Gathering
- 21 May – Heart & Soul
- 29 May – Gardens Scottish Country Dancers (Every Monday night – weather permitting from 29 May – 31 July 2017)
- 31 May – Edinburgh University Wind Band
- 18 June – Edinburgh Pipe Band championships
- 2-3 August - Edinburgh Social Enterprise – Social in the Gardens
- 13 August - Ceilidh For Wishes
- 28 August - SCO Fireworks to mark the end of the Festival

For more information please contact: [Emma Patterson](#), Events Co-ordinator, Culture Venues on 221 6336