

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 12 September 2017

The Fifth Edinburgh Makar

Item number	8.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive Summary

This report gives the background to the civic appointment of the Edinburgh Makar. It notes the achievements of the outgoing fourth Makar, Christine De Luca, whose term of office comes to an end on 30 September 2017, and asks Committee to acknowledge those achievements. Alan Spence has been nominated as the fifth Edinburgh Makar, to take up the post from 1 October 2017. Committee is asked to approve his appointment.

The Fifth Edinburgh Makar

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To acknowledge Christine De Luca's achievements as Edinburgh Makar over her extended term from 2014 to 2017 and extend the Committees thanks and best wishes for the future.
- 1.2 To approve the appointment of Alan Spence as the Edinburgh Makar from October 2017 to May 2020.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 28 August 2001, the Council Executive approved the proposal to create the civic appointment of Edinburgh Makar, a 'poet laureate for Edinburgh'. The Edinburgh Makar is appointed in acknowledgement of his or her achievements in poetry.
- 2.2 This initiative built on the Council's existing commitment to the promotion of writers and literary projects through, for example, the Writers' Museum, Makars' Court, literary publications, Edinburgh City Libraries and designate at Unesco City of Literature.
- 2.3 The Scots word 'makar' originally applied to writers of the 15th century such as William Dunbar but has come to be used to stress the role of the poet or author as a skilled and versatile worker in the craft of writing.
- 2.4 The post is a civic appointment made by Council and overseen by the Culture service. The writer is selected and nominated by representatives of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Scottish Poetry Library, the Scottish Centre of PEN International and the Saltire Society in partnership with Culture. Eligible writers are required to be resident in Edinburgh, or to have a strong connection with the city.
- 2.5 The Makar is required to write one poem each year on Edinburgh and/or aspects of life in the city and assist in the promotion of poetry throughout Edinburgh, in partnership with the Writers' Museum, City Libraries, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish PEN, the Saltire Society and other literary organisations

- 2.6 Following a rigorous selection process, the poet and playwright Stewart Conn was appointed as the first Edinburgh Makar by the Council on 30 May 2002, taking up his post on 1 June 2002. He was succeeded by the poet Valerie Gillies who was appointed by the Council on 2 June 2005. Ron Butlin, poet, novelist, playwright and librettist, was appointed by Council on 1 May 2008 and became the third Edinburgh Makar. He in turn was succeeded by Christine De Luca, who took up her appointment on 1 June 2014.
- 2.7 An honorarium, currently £2,500 per year for a fixed period of three years, is awarded for this civic appointment.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Christine De Luca, the fourth Edinburgh Makar, took up her post on 1 June 2014. At its meeting on 20 March 2017, the Culture and Sport Committee approved an extension of her term although changed personal circumstances have required it conclude early, on 30 September 2017.
- 3.2 During her time as Makar, Christine De Luca has been a tremendous and enthusiastic ambassador for poetry and for the City. She has worked tirelessly, particularly to engage local residents, young people and other poets in Edinburgh and beyond. She is to be commended for her progressive, inclusive and committed approach. A detailed calendar of activities undertaken by the fourth Edinburgh Makar is provided in appendix 1; the range of the Makar's activities is illustrated below:
- readings of her work;
 - speeches as part of various events;
 - media interviews;
 - developing and co-ordinating a range of participatory poetry programmes, including the Twitter-based 'Tweet Your Street' campaign;
 - initiating development of a dedicated Edinburgh Makar website;
 - attendance at and participation in various civic occasions and events by cultural partners; and
 - creating commissioned work and profiling new works by other poets, for example, the poetry collection *Edinburgh Unsung* (2016).
- 3.3 The writer nominated to succeed Christine De Luca as Edinburgh Makar is Alan Spence, a highly respected poet, playwright and author who was born in Glasgow and is based in Edinburgh. He is widely published and was writer-in-residence at the University of Aberdeen in 1996, where he has held a personal Chair in Creative Writing since 2001. A biographical note is provided in appendix 2.

- 3.4 A civic reception will be held in the City Chambers for the outgoing and incoming Edinburgh Makars. A plaque in the City Chambers inscribed with the details of the previous Edinburgh Makars will be brought up to date to record the end of the fourth Makar's appointment, and the start of the fifth Makar's term.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The activities of the new Edinburgh Makar continue to impact favourably on Edinburgh, other literary partners in the city, and all other institutions, organisations and individuals associated with the post.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The honorarium of £2,500 per annum, the cost of updating the Edinburgh Makar plaque, and the costs of the civic reception can all be contained within the 2017/18 revenue budget held by Culture.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The Edinburgh Makar role is consistent with the Council's Cultural Plan, is part of the Museums and Galleries Service Plan, and complements activities by the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust. There are no risk, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report's recommendations.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The proposal detailed in this report is not relevant to the equalities and human rights duties.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The incoming Edinburgh Makar will continue to benefit Edinburgh's literary reputation. No negative impact is anticipated.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Culture service has worked in partnership with representatives of the Saltire Society, the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Scottish Centre of PEN International and the Scottish Poetry Library to select the nominee for the Edinburgh Makar appointment.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [The Edinburgh Makar 2005-2008](#), City of Edinburgh Council 1 May 2008
- 10.2 [The Edinburgh Makar 2008-2011](#), City of Edinburgh Council 1 May 2008
- 10.3 [Update on the Edinburgh Makar](#), Culture and Leisure Committee 26 April 2011
- 10.4 [Edinburgh Makar Update](#), Leisure Committee 28 June 2011
- 10.5 The Third and Fourth Makars, Culture and Sport Committee 27 May 2014
- 10.6 Edinburgh Makar: Update and Extension of Term, 20 March 2017

Paul Lawrence

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11. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Detailed calendar of activities undertaken by the Fourth Edinburgh Makar
- Appendix 2 Biographical note for Fifth Edinburgh Makar

Appendix 1

Christine De Luca – Fourth Edinburgh Makar

Calendar of Activities

2014

July

Poetry and singing community MEETING to progress an SPL initiative.

DEVELOPING two existing poems for a pre-Referendum event in Cardiff.

WRITING poem to mark 10th anniversary of Edinburgh's designation as the first UNESCO City of Literature.

MEETING with Ute Mörtl, Austrian journalist researching the state of writing, publishing and journalism in Edinburgh.

Contributed a talk about writing in Minority tongues at an EVENT at Golden Hare Bookshop.

August

Follow up poetry and singing community MEETING to progress an SPL initiative.

MEETINGS with various organisations to develop ideas for a poetry project for primary schools for the next academic year.

MEETINGS with CEC officials to explore a website initiative.

SUBMITTED the commissioned poem to mark the 10th anniversary of Edinburgh's designation as the first UNESCO City of Literature.

5/ 6

PARTICIPATED in two events (*Northern Idyll*), with Ron Butlin for *Trafika Europe* – the launch of a new multi-media, web-based magazine publishing work from across Europe, in English.

6

ATTENDED opening of the exhibition *Poetry for the Palace* at the Queen's Gallery.

ATTENDED book launches for Tessa Ransford, Elspeth Brown and Tom Pow.

24

RECORDING at Writers' Museum for book programme on Radio Ireland.

25 MEETING with a Norwegian linguistics / social anthropology researcher (James Costa) about issues surrounding the dialect / language dichotomy.

September

2 MEETING with City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Poetry Library and Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature about press release based around a Referendum poem, and possible article in *The Scotsman*.

INTERVIEWS with Shân Ross, *The Scotsman* and for article in a Welsh language magazine.

3 POEM (The Morning After) and article in *The Scotsman* and *The Guardian*.

4 READ Referendum poem at two sessions of Collaborative Scotland Day of Dialogue at Grassmarket Community Centre.

5 GUEST at the opening of an exhibition in the Museum of Childhood on children and amateur film-making.

7 REFERENCED by Andrew Rawnsley in his political column in *The Observer* and link with *The Guardian*.

8 INTERVIEW with Sonia Delesalle-Stolper, UK correspondent, *Libération*.

11 READING two commissioned poems in 4 home nations' event in Cardiff – poems and discussion about devolution and the Union.

READ *The Morning After* at the political event in the afternoon.

POEM The Morning After featured in BBC 1 Big Big Debate for 7,500 16 and 17 year old first time voters from secondary schools across Scotland. The closing sequence was the reciting of the poem by a selection of young people.

14 INTERVIEW with ITN and *The Morning After* READ.

15 BROADCAST on ITN news and PBR in the USA, BBC Radio Scotland, *The Shetland Times*, *Shetland Radio*, Estonian Teachers of English magazine, and 1,000 downloads from the Scottish Poetry Library website.

October

1 READING for the Poetry Association of Scotland at the Scottish Poetry Library.

- 6 MEETING with Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature to discuss input to KRAKOW DELEGATION visit.
- 7 READING for Fettes College students
- 11 READING for STANZA, in St Andrews, (Contemporary Palestinian poets in translation).
- 12 JUDGING the Luminate Poetry Slam.
- 15 READING for Scottish PEN event – inauguration of the University student branch (Contemporary Palestinian poets in translation).
- SHORTLISTING of 73 submissions for the New Writers' Awards (Poetry) for the Scottish Book Trust completed.
- POEM created Christine for Conrad Festival in Krakow, paying homage to the Poles who served in World War 2 in Scotland.
- 21 Selected and READ a 'Poem to wake up to' on BBC Radio 4.
- 22 Attended LAUNCH of Edinburgh's Old Town Trust's anthology *Evergreen*.
- 23 READ at City of Edinburgh Council meeting as 'Pause for Reflection', two poems: *Through the traffic of tongues* and *Edinburgh Gifts*.
- 25-27 PARTICIPATED with Scottish delegation at Conrad Festival, Kraków, Poland. Gave a TALK about poetry in Edinburgh (including reference to the Book Sculptures); and READ some poems, including one written for the trip, *Mapa Scotia**.
- MEETING to take forward a poetry project in 2015.
- November
- 1 TALK and poetry READING for the Royal Overseas League.
- 6 POETRY reading and DISCUSSION at the Just Festival on the topic of Death; with Richard Holloway, two doctors and a Buddhist. Robyn Marsack, Director of the Scottish Poetry Library, was chairing.
- 11 Participated in the JUDGING panel for the Scottish Book Trust's New Writers' Awards.
- 11 PARTICIPATED in the Saltire Society Literary Awards ceremony; PRESENTED prize for poetry.

- 12 MEETING about a possible poetry project.
- 13 POETRY reading and DISCUSSION with Prof David Herd at University of Edinburgh, as part of Palimpsest programme and linked to a series of readings to mark the publication of the anthology *Evergreen*.
- 19 READING and TALK on Makarship for the Dalkeith Rotary.
- 20 RECORDING, DISCUSSION and READING for Christmas Day for BBC Radio Scotland.
- 25 READING (short-listed poet) at the award ceremony for the Michael Marks prize, at the British Library, London.
- 27 READING at Taigh Chearsabhagh, North Uist, as part of Scottish Book Week .
- 28 Poetry WORKSHOP at Taigh Chearsabhagh, North Uist, as part of Scottish Book Week.

December

- 3 ATTENDED the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company's production of Roald Dahl's *BFG*.
- 4 ATTENDED *Hidden Stories Animation Competition exhibition launch* at Museum of Edinburgh.
- 5 ATTENDED launch of *The Cream of the Well: New and Selected Poems* by Valerie Gillies, previous Edinburgh Makar.
- 6 MEETING with another poet to discuss possible collaboration
- 10 READING as part of Strathclyde University Reading Series, Bar Gandolphi, Glasgow.
- 10 READING at Scottish Poetry Library reception.
- FEATURED poet of the month (December) on the website of Derbyshire Libraries.
- 10 SPOKE at closing event of Poetry Pamphlet Fair at the National Library of Scotland.
- 11 ATTENDED opening of 3 exhibitions, at City Art Centre, as guest.
- 29 INTERVIEWED by Edinburgh Evening News about Scottish reading habits (top ten books borrowed from Edinburgh Public Libraries).

2015

January

WROTE requested articles for the website of Edinburgh City Libraries on the role of the Makar and recent trip to the Conrad Festival in Kraków.

CREATED content for Makar website.

- 11 Completed draft of *Out in Front*, a POETRY COMMISSION by the City Of Edinburgh Council to honour Thomas Gilzean, recipient of the Edinburgh Award 2014.
- 12 MEETING with another poet about creation of a POEM for the Royal Mile Business Association.
- 20 POEM *Gifts* accepted by the City of Edinburgh Council for purpose of gifting(as a scroll) to visiting delegations.
- 21 Work on a POETRY COMMISSION for Edinburgh City of Literature Trust and others.
- 22 SPEECH - Reply to the toast to the lassies at Edinburgh Burns
- 23 Working on final tweaks to the Edinburgh Makar's WEBSITE with Stakeholders.
- 27 READ at STANZA preview event at the National Library of Scotland.
- 29 ATTENDED the Scottish Book Trust New Writers' Award Showcase event.

February

- 2 READING and DISCUSSION with S5 girls at Mary Erskine school.
- 3 READING at 'A Mischief of Makars' at the Golden Hare bookshop, Stockbridge.
- 6 MEETING with Chair of the Royal Mile Business Association, along with Poet Ingrid Murray.
- 11 MEETING with two emerging writers on behalf of Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust as part of the Digital Writers' Festival, linking Cities of Literature, and organised from Melbourne. It was broadcast worldwide on social media.
- 17 READ at a STANZA preview event at Craigmillar Library.

- 18 ASSISTED at Poetry Association of Scotland event at which Valerie Gillies, previous Edinburgh Makar, was reading.
- 20 MEETING with Shetland musician to plan a collaboration with her for the Edinburgh International Book Festival.
- 21 ATTENDED Royal Lyceum Theatre as guest at *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.
- 22 READ at Shore Poets, Henderson's @ West End.
- 23 MEETING with jazz musician Tommy Smith, in Glasgow, to discuss a poetry/jazz collaboration.
- 25 READ commissioned poem (*Act of Solidarity*) for David Robinson at event to mark his retiral as Literary Editor of the *Scotsman*, at Summerhall Arts' Centre.
- 27 MEETING discuss a contribution to The Three Rabbits (Fergusson, Burns and Stevenson) event planned for later in the year.
- March
- 4 ASSISTED at Poetry Association of Scotland event.
- 6 UNDERTOOK a Round Table poetry event at Stanza.
- 7 PARTICIPATED in panel discussion at STANZA with three other poets
- PARTICIPATED in St Andrews' launch of an anthology of WWI poems by the Italian poet, Ungaretti, complete with English translations and response poems by a range of contemporary Scottish poets.
- 10 ATTENDED launch of Jenni Daiches' book at Blackwell's.
- 12 PARTICIPATED in meeting regarding Makars' Court, chaired by Professor Ian Campbell.
- 13 MEETING to discuss launch of anthology of Scottish poems responding to the work of Italian WWI poet, Giuseppe Ungaretti.
- 17 READ the Edinburgh Award commissioned poem for Tom Gilzean at a reception in his honour at the City Chambers
- 18 MEETING at Central Library to discuss support for schools' project; also spent some time with the poetry reading group which was meeting there.

- 18 JUDGED poems from Mary Erskine School.
- 19 MET with committee of the Royal Mile Business Association to discuss input to their AGM.
- 19 ATTENDED launch of a new booklet (Food) at the Saltire Society HQ.
- 20 MEETING with Director of the Florence UNESCO office, who is visiting Edinburgh for the launch event and Director of the Opera di Santa Croce in Florence.
- 20 PARTICIPATED in the launch of the Ungaretti anthology – short interview, talk and poem.
- 24 ATTENDED AGM of Royal Mile Business Association to discuss poem as promotional tool.
- 25 HELPED at Poetry Association of Scotland event.
- 29 HELPED at Shore Poets.
- 30 PARTICIPATED in 10th anniversary of Edinburgh as the first UNESCO City of Literature. READ commissioned poem *Through the Traffic of Tongues* as well as *Edinburgh Gifts*, written as a possible gift from the City of Edinburgh to visiting delegations.
- April
- LAUNCH of Makar website.
- TRANSLATION of *Kalevala* excerpts for Edinburgh International Book Festival event.
- RECORDING new poems for a Tommy Smith – jazz saxophonist and composer - collaboration for June.
- PLANNING for the *Tweet your Street* poetry project with Edinburgh schools during April /May, including a web-based map of ‘pinned’ poems.
- 13 MEETING with Finnish linguist for advice re *Kalevala* translation and pronunciation in preparation for the Edinburgh International Book Festival event on the evening of 29 August.
- 16 MEETING with Council IT staff and Museums staff for fine-tuning the schools’ *Tweet your Street* poetry project.

- 17 Further LIAISON with schools to encourage them to take part in the poetry project.
- 17 ATTENDED launch of *Edinburgh: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide* Published by the Dorothy Dunnett Society.
- 20 RECORDED the long poem written for the Royal Mile Business Association with co-author Ingrid Murray. Sound files sent on request to RMBA and the Scottish Poetry Library.
- 22 MEETING with City of Edinburgh Council Education staff to check over arrangements for the *Tweet your Street* schools' project.
- 22 ATTENDED launch of *Peatlands*, a bi-lingual Spanish-English poetry collection (Pedro Serrano and Anna Crowe).
- 23 ATTENDED launch of *The Midnight Letterbox*, Selected correspondence of Edwin Morgan, edited by James McGonigal and John Coyle.
- 24 Hosted WORKSHOP for teachers participating in the *Tweet your Street* poetry project.
- 24 ATTENDED an Association for Scottish Literary Studies event and was made a Fellow.
- 24 ASSISTED actress Gerda Stevenson prepare for a part in a recorded drama which requires a Shetland accent.
- 25 ATTENDED Poetry and Music from Orkney and Shetland event
- 29 AUTHORISED Creative Scotland to use poem, written in Shetlandic, *Existential Paraglidin in Turkey*, as one of a series of postcards to help launch new Scots Language Policy.
- May
- 1 PHOTOGRAPHED for the newspaper *Scotland on Sunday* at the Adam Smith statue in the Royal Mile, to accompany a poem.
- 3 Poem *The Invisible Hand* PUBLISHED.
- 4 MEETING James Costa, linguist, to plan input to a seminar/conference in Oslo about Shetlandic.
- 5 ATTENDED seminar at the University of Edinburgh about issues Surrounding dialect/language in relation to Shetlandic, given by James Costa.

- 8 ATTENDED Mariscat book launch.
- 12 ATTENDED 'Make in India' at Napier University (Tagore book launch).
- ATTENDED seminar at the University of Edinburgh about issues surrounding language revitalisation in relation to Occitane, given by James Costa.
- 13 MEETING with a British Sign Language (BSL) student researching a BSL poetry project.
- 14 ATTENDED the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award ceremony at the National Library of Scotland for poetry pamphlet publishing.
- June
- 1 Joined by Councillor Lewis, guests and pupils for LAUNCH of the computer map of Tweet Your Street poems and vinyl display of poems on windows of Central Library.
- 3 ATTENDED launch of Scottish Language Policy at National Library of Scotland and met later with the four Scots Language Coordinators.
- 4 WORKSHOP and READING with Jim Mainland from Shetland at Woodend Barn Arts Centre, Banchory.
- 5 READING and TALK about the Makar role at *Write On* Festival in Haddington.
- 10 ATTENDED the launch of the Edinburgh International Book Festival programme at Central Hall.
- 15 PARTICIPATED in seminars on *Language, Standards and Literature in Shetland and Norway* at University of Oslo – gave TALK and a bi-lingual READING.
- 18 INTERVIEWED on Fountainbridge Show on STV about Scottish Poetry Library fundraiser event and Makarship.
- 19 PARTICIPATED in a poetry reading with Liz Lochhead and Ron Butlin at a fundraising event for the Scottish Poetry Library.
- 23 In Florence for re-signing of the twinning of Florence and Edinburgh after 50 years. COMMISSIONED poem (bi-lingual version, framed) was READ and handed over as a gift.
- 28 COMPERED the Shore Poets June event.

- 30 MEETING with Esther Rutter, new Project officer with EUCL.
- MEETING with the Community Council of Juniper Green to plan a mini book festival in November, during Book Week.
- July
- 2 INTERVIEW for Radio Shetland about up-coming poetry/ music events – Edinburgh Jazz Festival with Tommy Smith and Karma, and EIBF event with Catriona Macdonald.
- 4 MEETING with book designer to go over first proof of children’s storybook in Shetlandic.
- 8 MEETING with Ali Bowden at The Place, York Place to discuss possible ideas for a literary theme for the hotel and a commission.
- 9 In Newcastle all day MEETING with Catriona Macdonald, Shetland musician, to work out ways of integrating music into EIBF performance on 29 August (Shetlandic translation of some of the stories from the Finnish *Kalevala*).
- 18 PERFORMED in concert with jazz saxophonist Tommy Smith and his band Karma performing commissioned poems in Edinburgh Festival Studio Theatre as part of Edinburgh Jazz Festival.
- 23 Shore Poets planning MEETING
- 24 MEETING with fund-raisers from St Columba’s Hospice, to discuss planning/co-ordinating a fundraising event to celebrate Tessa Ransford’s contribution to the Scottish Poetry scene.
- VISIT to the hotel ‘The Place’ in York Place prior to writing a commissioned poem for them.
- 25 EVENT at The Bakehouse, Gatehouse of Fleet - *One Head, Two Tongues*.
- 28 RECORDED a podcast about for the SPL (Colin Waters) for their website.
- 29 ATTENDED *Mariscat* poetry event at The Golden Hare Bookshop, Stockbridge.
- 30 ATTENDED COMMITTEE MEETING of the Poetry Association of Scotland.
- 31 ATTENDED EVENT at the Netherbow *Reforging the Sampo*.

August

- 6 WROTE recommendation for SPL for the New Waverley project.
- 8 ATTENDED the Opening concert of the EIF as guest of the Lord Provost.
- 12 TALK, including the role of Makar, and poetry reading for 40 students from Göttingen University.
- 15 ATTENDED the Opening Night party for the EIBF
- 19 REHEARSAL for EIBF event with musician Catriona Macdonald, with preview slot at EIBF's cabaret *Jura Unbound* in the evening
- 20 MEETING with fund-raising staff from St Columba's hospice re poetry event in memory of Tessa Ransford, founder of the SPL
- READING for Amnesty International at EIBF
- 21 PROOFING Italian translation of *Dat Trickster Sun* collection (Mariscat) in preparation for publication and for trip to poetry festival in Sardinia
- READ poems and Wrote endorsement for poet, following on from SBT award process
- 22 Sent commissioned poem(s) to *The Place* which is to become a 'literary hotel'.
- WROTE a piece for *Les Animots: A Human Bestiary* by Gordon Meade, illustrated by Douglas Robertson.
- 24 ATTENDED ASLS reception (Gavin Wallace Fellowship Award).
- 25 MEETING with Abba Oudah to plan event for poetry reading at Edinburgh Arab Festival.
- 27 REHEARSAL for EIBF event with musician Catriona Macdonald.
- 28 POETRY READING at Edinburgh Arab Festival (Palestinian anthology).
- 29 Poetry and music PERFORMANCE of commission at EIBF.
- 30 ATTENDED tribute event for poet Elizabeth Burns.

September

3 MEETING with film-maker for Royal Mile Business Association poem (Michelle Hanzelova) to discuss project.

PLANNING AND LIAISING for the Tessa Ransford memorial event.

In Shetland, working in schools on a Hansel Cooperative Press project from 7 to 26 September

30 ATTENDED EUCL meeting to finalise the programme for the RLS week in November.

October

4 RECORDED poems with Tommy Smith jazz band in Glasgow

6 RECORDED BBC recording of winning poem for the banner project.

7 MEETING with Amy Macdonald, SPL, for briefing on the New Waverley, big banner project.

POETRY WORKSHOP for primary 7 at Forthview Primary school, West Pilton.

8 NATIONAL POETRY DAY – involved in unveiling of the poetry banner and press interviews.

9 MEETING with Ian MacKenzie re arrangements for 'Three Rabbits' event on 16 October at Canongate Kirk.

10 MEETING with Diane Barlee, a PhD candidate studying the sociology of literature at the University of Cambridge. Her thesis is about the social organisation and publishing practices of print-based British poets. The discussion focused on the Scottish situation.

14 'My Life in Poetry' – Desert Island Disc-type event with Robyn Marsack at the National Library of Scotland.

MEETING with fund-raising staff of St Columba's Hospice to plan logistics for the memorial event in December for Tessa Ransford.

15 ATTENDED launch of poetry pamphlet, *Second Wind*, at Saltire Society.

16 PARTICIPATED in the Three Rabbits event at the Canongate Kirkyard (Robert Fergusson)

- 22 TALKED to Sardinian students at the University of Sassari English Literature department, about translation.
- 23 LAUNCHED *Questo sole Furfante* (bi-lingual version of *Dat Trickster Sun*) at Ottobre in Poesia festival, Sassari; some poems also translated into Sardinian.
- 28 ATTENDED the re-opening of the Scottish Poetry Library
- STARTED several poems requested:
- two poems for a new Edinburgh anthology. (The editors beat me to it. My idea for a small web-based anthology of *Edinburgh Unsung* will probably have to be adapted or shelved.)
 - A Riding of the Marches poem.
 - A poem for the Scotsman for December – theme 'light'.
 - A poem as a possible contribution to a new SPL anthology celebrating milestones in old(er) age.
- 29 ATTENDED book launch (Peter France).
- 30 PARTICIPATED in the launch of the poem, requested by the Royal Mile Business Association, written with help from Ingrid Murray. Michelle Hanzelova was commissioned to create a promotional film around the poem.
- 31 ATTENDED a book launch (Bashabi Fraser) and read at the Linlithgow Book Festival.
- November
- 4 MEETING with St. Columba's staff at venue for Tessa Ransford Memorial event to finalise details; and follow up with family and participants.
- INTERVIEWED on the STV Fountainbridge Show about the RMBA poem, *A Month on the Mile*.
- 5 Poem request: Paolozzi's M.S. of Monte Cassino – studied the statue.
- 6 MEETING with CEC link, to hear about plans for the Writers' Museum. Request for a poem to mark the opening after refurbishment.
- 11 ATTENDED RLS event at the Anatomical Museum at Teviot Row.
- 12 ATTENDED RLS event at Trinity House, Leith (The Lighthouse Stevensons).
- ATTENDED PEN readings in solidarity with imprisoned Saudi writers.

- 13 RLS DAY – RLS poem will feature in the local Colinton press.
ATTENDED three events:
- NLS – RLS on screen
 - St Augustine's – discussion of *The Devil Inside* – Louise Welsh and Stuart MacRae
 - Screening of *Land of Counterpane*.
- 17 PARTICIPATED IN podcast at the Traverse with David Greig, Joyce McMillan, Lesley Orr and Alex Massie.
- 19 COACHING students for *Poetry by Heart* (SPL) at Central Library.
- 20 PARTICIPATED in event at Sri Chinmoy Centre, Canongate (Alan Spence) in honour of Tessa Ransford.
- 21 Planning MEETING for Pentlands Festival event.

ATTENDED SPL AGM.
- 22 Dealing with the Tessa Ransford event. Liaison between poets and the family.
- 24 PARTICIPATED in Book Week poetry event for 1st Pentlands Book Festival.
- 26 ATTENDED opening of the Advent Calendar exhibition at the Museum of Childhood.

PRESENTED poetry award at the Saltire Award ceremony.
- 28 RECORDED new poem for Scottish-Italian website (Carlo Pirozzi, St Andrews University).

ATTENDED book launch (Cinnamon Press) at the SPL.
- 29 HELPED at Shore Poets event.
- 30 MEETING with Scots Language Coordinator to discuss event in January for Edinburgh school-children.
- December
- 2 MEETING with Scotsman journalist Shân Ross to discuss possible contribution to the theme of *light* in Christmas week articles.
- 3 ATTENDED Mariscat book launch.

- 4 ATTENDED memorial event in Lancaster for Scottish poet, Elizabeth Burns.
- 7 MEMORIAL EVENT for Tessa Ransford at St Andrew's and St George's West Church.
- 10 ATTENDED morning poetry event at Henderson's café.
- 11 Sent final version of *The Writers' Museum* poem to CEC.
- 15 TOUR of Water Treatment (Sewage Disposal) Works at Seafield with a view to a poem.

SCHOOLS PROJECT 'Tweet your Street' – testing the computer map, liaising with CEC staff, Central Library staff and with teachers; selecting poems for display at the Central Library and preparing for the launch on Monday 1 June.

RESPONDING to a commission from CEC for a poem to celebrate Edinburgh's twinning with Florence and 2015 being the Year of Food.

PREPARATION work for Schools' project

Final end-to end testing of website and updating it.

COMMISSION from Tommy Smith (jazz musician) for Shetland Jazz festival in June, in collaboration with another poet, Alex Cluness – initial discussions and scoping.

COMMISSION for event at EIBF – translations for *Kalevala* into Shetlandic, collaborating with traditional musician, Catriona Macdonald – first meeting

WORKING ON poems based on statues in the Royal Mile : David Hume and Adam Smith to add to the one already done on Robert Fergusson.

WORKING ON project for Hansel Cooperative Press, a small not-for-profit organisation in Orkney and Shetland.

2016

January

WROTE poem for Seafeld Water Treatment Works.

DRAFTED Edinburgh Award Poem (Sir Tom Farmer).

COLLATED and EDITED poems for a possible Makar's collection of civic poems.

TRANSLATED *The Gruffalo's Child* into Shetlandic, on request

8 MEETING with Jim Tough to discuss possible publication of Makar poems.

10 Poem 'Bearing Light' and interview in *Scotland on Sunday*.

12 DELIVERED workshop for Granton Primary School at Granton Library.

13 TWO READINGS of the Shetlandic version of *The Gruffalo's Child* at Filmhouse for groups of primary 3-5 children.

14 READING of poem by Ashraf Fayadh, Saudi writer threatened with beheading. Event organised by Scottish PEN.

15 ATTENDED farewell party for Annie Bell from Central Library.

21 DELIVERED workshop at Simpson House for group of vulnerable adults, under their banner 'Choose Life'.

22 READ commissioned poem to celebrate the refurbishment of The Writers' Museum.

23 ATTENDED (Calder Wood) book launch at Word Power Bookshop

ATTENDED musical event to celebrate Burns at The Writers' Museum.

28 LAUNCHED request to selected Edinburgh poets for poems paying tribute to those who work in the less visible, but vital aspects of our literary city.

ATTENDED New Writers' Awards event.

31 HELPING at Shore Poets event – a Quiet Slam.

February

1

READ and DISCUSSED poems with Mary Erskine's Higher English classes.

- 4 ATTENDED *Evergreen* (Old Town) exhibition at Netherbow Story-telling Centre.
- 5 DELIVERED poem to the Sewage Works.
- ENTERTAINED a Dementia friendship group with Burns poems and songs.
- ATTENDED book launch for Claire Askew.
- 6 ATTENDED final of the SPL *Poetry by Heart* competition SPL at the National Gallery.
- 9 MEETING with Eleanor Pender, EUCL.
- ATTENDED book launch for Stewart Conn and Tom Pow.
- 17 ATTENDED committee meeting of Poetry Association of Scotland.
- 18 MEETING with Carlo Pirozzi, St Andrews University, regarding Paolozzi poems.
- RECORDED poem at SPL: a poem chosen for inclusion in the Scottish Poetry Library's annual *Best Scottish Poems* online anthology.
- READING 'Meet the Makar' at the Central Library.
- PLANNING associated with *Edinburgh Unsung* project.
- WRITING various poems incl Paolozzi ones.
- WORKING with artist Brigid Collins on her project for art students based on the poem *A Month on the Mile*.
- 12 PARTICIPATED in recording for Radio Scotland along with Robyn Marsack and Lorna Irvine on topic of *Poetry by Heart*
- 23 ATTENDED EUCL Wash Bar briefing & soir e.
- 24 ATTENDED and minuted AGM of Poetry Association of Scotland.
- 25 HELPED artist Brigid Collins in briefing Year 2 illustration students at Edinburgh College of Art as they start researching and creating 3D 'tunnel books' based the *Month on the Mile* poem for RMBA.
- 28 HELPING at Shore Poets event and looking after guest poet Jane Yolanda from USA.

March

- 2 POETRY reading for a concert with jazz saxophonist Tommy Smith and his band Karma as the opening event for StAnza Poetry Festival.
- 3 CONTRIBUTED to EUCL evening at Creative Exchange, celebrating the Cities of Literature and the Poetry Projections in Leith.
- 4 ATTENDED farewell lunch for Denise Brace, much appreciated CEC Museums' Curator and Manager, and my CEC link as Makar.
- READ poem commissioned to mark Sir Tom Farmer's acceptance of the 2015 Edinburgh Award.
- MEETING with Ottar Grepstad, General Director, Centre for Norwegian Language and Literature along with 18 of his colleagues from the Ivar Aasen Centre and museums in Western Norway for brief talk and poems.
- 5/6 ATTENDED StAnza Poetry Festival in St Andrews.
- 15 *Edinburgh Unsung* project - Parks and Gardens.
- 16 VISIT to Leith Walk Primary School to see Paolozzi-inspired playground mural with a view to a poem.
- Edinburgh Unsung* project: contact with *Evening News*.
- 17 SITE VISITS for *Edinburgh Unsung* project
- MEETING with Brigid Collins, artist, and illustration students at Edinburgh College of Art to see the results of their 'tunnel book' project based on poem *A Month on the Mile*.
- ATTENDED launch of R L Stevenson archive at Edinburgh Napier University.
- LIAISING with Evening News re article, poem, photos, permissions and gas poem.
- 21 RESPONDED to feedback on article in Evening News. (It was also picked up by The Sun on the 22nd)

- 22 SENT poem (Edinburgh Unsung Project) to gas network company SGN and signed it off.
- SENT poem (Paolozzi project) to Dr Carlo Pirozzi and Head Teacher at Leith Walk Primary School – poem on the Paolozzi tribute mural in their playground.
- 23 READ at the Peace event at the SPL. This event involved a visit from a group of people from all over Europe. They are taking part in a run for peace which will bring their torch and spirit to all European countries.
- 24 MEETING with Gillian Findlay, CEC, to plan the launch of the *Edinburgh Unsung* poems.
- April
- 5 GAVE TALK on Makarship and READ POEMS to clergy in retreat at Dunkeld.
- 8 VISITED the Hunterian Museum and met with Alan Riach with a view to writing a poem for an anthology he is orchestrating.
- 9 ATTENDED poetry reading by Donald Adamson and Chrys Salt at the Finnish Consulate.
- 14 ATTENDED poetry reading at Henderson's café.
- FINALISED poem for Leith Walk Primary School based on their Paolozzi link and will be presenting them with a signed copy.
- FINISHED two poems for the Hunterian Museum project.
- WORKING on administration of *Edinburgh Unsung* project.
- 19 ATTENDED *Poetry from the Yukon* event hosted by the University of Edinburgh
- 22 ASSISTED at the Poetry Association of Scotland event – Sasha Dugdale.
- May
- 3 READ poem and handed over a signed copy to Scotland Gas Networks at an event for staff at their Newbridge office.
- 4 MET with Norwegian poet Arne Ruste and his wife.

- 5 INTERVIEW for BBC Radio Scotland, touching on Makarship.
 PARTICIPATED in a poetry translation workshop at the SPL.
 WORKING on administration of *Edinburgh Unsung project*.
 PREPARING for the BBC interview and for tutoring at Moniack Mhor.
 TUTORING at Moniack Mhor
- 22 BBC Radio Scotland broadcast which touched on role of the Makar.
- 23 MEETING at Saltire Society to discuss future of Makars' Court.
- 27 ATTENDED Gavin Wallace event at NLS.
 PARTICIPATED in farewell event for Robyn Marsack as Director of SPL.
- 28 PARTICIPATED in an event – Religion as Poetry – at Mayfield Salisbury Church.
- 29 COMPÈRED poetry event at Shore Poets with Liz Lochhead as main guest.
- 30 LAUNCHED *Edinburgh Unsung* at The Writers' Museum.
- 31 ATTENDED Wash Bar event.
- June
- 2 MEETING with Carlo Pirozzi to take forward Paolozzi in Edinburgh/Scotland project and possible publication.
- 7 INTERVIEWED live on BBC Radio Scotland (Janice Forsyth Show) re *Edinburgh Unsung*, with Ian McDonough, one of the contributing poets, in the Edinburgh studio.
- 20 VISIT to Leith Walk Primary School to deliver framed poem on Paolozzi (playground) mural. Accompanied by Paolozzi's sister and by Dr Carlo Pirozzi.
- 21 MEETING with Eleanor Pender and Prof James Loxley to discuss EIBF *Writing Edinburgh* event.
- 24 MEETING with Carlo Pirozzi (St Andrew's University) and Neil Lebeter (Edinburgh University) to view Paolozzi maquettes and fragments of mosaics with a view to more poems.

- 26 HELPING at Shore Poets event.
- 29 – 4 July PARTICIPATED in conference in Brest as guest of the Université de Bretagne Occidentale, with a poetry reading. Travelled to Quimper to participate in another poetry reading hosted by the Association Bretagne-Ecosse.
- July 5 TALK for writers at the Scottish Writers' Centre, Glasgow on the Makarship, on writing 'to order' and on making a poem 'work'.
- 14 MEETING with Gillian Findlay, CEC.
- WRITING more poems on Paolozzi's work: his many maquettes, the bronze of Josephine Baker, the sculpture of Vulcan in the hall (café) at Modern 2 and that of Newton outside the same gallery. These poems are part of a larger Paolozzi project, the brain-child of Dr Carlo Pirozzi. He is currently investigating financial support for publication of a bi-lingual book about Paolozzi's Edinburgh art works. The poems will be translated into Italian by my Italian translator, Prof Lulli Paci.
- 24 Poetry READING for 60 American visitors.
- 25 MEETING with Dr Carlo Pirozzi to discuss the Paolozzi project. Planning a meeting with the National Galleries.
- 26 MEETING with Sally Kerr, Digital Innovation Manager, CEC, with a view to agreeing the future of the Makar's website under the new IT provider.
- MEETING with visiting Finnish poet, Helena Sinervo.
- 27 Practice with Shetland traditional fiddler Catriona Macdonald for our upcoming 'gig' (last year's EIBF commission – Tales from *The Kalevala*, Finland's national chronicle, translated into Shetlandic).
- August 2 (In Shetland) Poetry and music arranged to celebrate the life of Jean Pole, a pioneer of Shetland women fiddlers, a wonderful, semi-impromptu event – we erected a stone for her family.
- 3 Tales from *The Kalevala* event at Fiddle Frenzy, a week of coaching held in Shetland every summer.
- PREPARATION for the EIBF event.
- ATTENDED Book launches, Festival events and EIBF events.

- 16 MEETING with Kirstie Meehan at Modern 2 and Dr Carlo Pirozzi re Paolozzi art book project and further deliberations.
- 18 CHAIRED Edwin Morgan poetry Award evening at the EIBF.
PARTICIPATED in Unbound – cabaret at EIBF.
- 21 Shared 'Reading the City' event at EIBF with Ron Butlin and James Loxley.
- 26 ATTENDED EUCL reception for Story Shop at EIBF.
LIAISED with CEC staff about the future of the Makar's website.
EDITED a pamphlet of Makar poems.
PREPARING for a British Council poetry translation trip to Russia (4 - 9 September); selecting poems.
PREPARING to have an hour long recording made for The Poetry Archive.
PREPARING for the launch of two Julia Donaldson children's books, translated into Shetlandic
LIAISING with Juniper Green Book Festival about work in their 3 local schools.
PLANNING visit to see Dr Robin Spencer in York (Paolozzi project).
- 31 ATTENDED book launch for *New Writing Scotland*.
- September
4-9 3 days of poetry TRANSLATION with Russian poets, courtesy of The British Council, Scottish poetry Library and the Edwin Morgan Trust plus an evening poetry reading in Moscow and in St Petersburg.
- 11 ATTENDED the Civic reception for the Riding of the Marches.
- 13 ATTENDED planning meeting for Shore Poets.
- 14 ASSISTED at poetry event: a joint Poetry Association and Muriel Spark Society event at the SPL – talk by Stewart Conn on the poetry of Muriel Spark.
- 17 Poem in *The Scotsman*

- 21 PRESENTED the keynote address at St George's School for Girls (Diversity Day) and participated in two Question Time panels.
- 22 MEETING with teachers at Juniper Green, Currie and Nether Currie Primary Schools to plan for a 'Tweet your Street' project to coincide with their local book festival in November.
- 23 Poem in *The National*.
- ATTENDED the Saltire @ 80 celebration.
- 24 VISITED Dr Robin Spencer, retired academic and friend of the late Eduardo Paolozzi, in York, with Dr Carlo Pirozzi in relation to the Eduardo Paolozzi project we are undertaking. We were discussing a proposal for a potential publisher.
- 25 COMPÈRED the Shore Poets event at the Outhouse.
- 27 PARTICIPATED in a translation workshop at the SPL.
- October
- 1 READ poems for the conference of the Scottish Society for Northern Studies and the Scottish Place Name Society.
- READ poems at *Platform*, a poetry venue in Ladybank, Fife
- 5 PARTICIPATED in SBT's Book Week programme promotion.
- 6 SPOKE at assembly at Nether Currie Primary School to introduce pupils to the *Tweet your Street* project in their community.
- ATTENDED the RBS event to launch the first (new) £5 depicting a woman – writer Nan Shepherd.
- 12 READ poems on the theme of climate sustainability at a conference about Electric cars at Napier University.
- PARTICIPATED in the launch at the SPL of anthology *Whatever the Seas*.
- 13 ATTENDED the monthly poetry reading at Henderson's café
- 18 ATTENDED Saltire 80th anniversary event at the Kelpies.
- RESPONDED to request from Bill Herbert, Dundee Makar, for information on the role of the Makar

- 20 MEETING with Dr Carlo Pirozzi regarding the Paolozzi project.
- 21 MEETING with Gareth Barwell, Waste and Cleansing Manager for Edinburgh, with a view to writing a poem for his department.
- 25 VISITED Map Exhibition in preparation for running a workshop
- 26 MEETING with Councillor Gordon Munro to discuss possible uses of recent poem about Leith
- 28 ATTENDED a reception at the University of Edinburgh Library to mark the gift of books from Tessa Ransford.
- 29 ATTENDED launch of poetry collection at the SPL by David Cameron.
- 30 HELPED at Shore Poets – celebrated 25 years and the 80th birthday of Hon President, Stewart Conn (Edinburgh's inaugural Makar).
- 31 RECORDED an hour of poetry for the Poetry Archive
- November
2-7 In Shetland to LAUNCH two translations of children's storybooks by Julia Donaldson and to work in schools.
- 9 PARTICIPATED in selecting poems to mark 20th anniversary of death of George MacKay Brown and recorded one of the poems.
- SENT commissioned poem to Scottish PEN (to mark their 90th anniversary)
- 10 Went out on an early morning street refuse collection, with a view to writing a poem for them.
- 11 George MacKay Brown recorded poem on Radio Orkney
- PARTICIPATED in Scottish PEN filming in preparation for 90th celebrations.
- READ poems at The Museum of Childhood in honour of Robert Louis Stevenson.
- 14 MEETING with Vivian French and Carlo Pirozzi re Paolozzi project.
- 15 ATTENDED launch of anthology *Umbrellas of Edinburgh* at Blackwell's Bookshop.

22 SENT poem on Refuse collection to the Cleansing Department and to a student interested in possible film.

WROTE a piece for a Radio Scotland Christmas Eve programme based on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

PARTICIPATED in an Open University event based on anthology *Umbrellas of Edinburgh* at Blackwell's Bookshop.

23 MEETING with Chris Wilson, CEC, regarding the 2015 Edinburgh City Vision initiative – and received a commission.

ATTENDED 'summit' on International Promotion of Literature and Books, organised by the Literature Alliance Scotland.

ATTENDED reading at SPL by Don Paterson and Krystelle Bamford.

24 MEETING with Birlinn as possible publisher of Paolozzi project.

MEETING with RSA re possible involvement of artists in Paolozzi project.

ATTENDED Saltire Literature Awards and presented the poetry prize.

26 PRESENTED the keynote address at *The Poet, Nation and Narration* conference, organised jointly by the Scottish Centre for Tagore Studies, Edinburgh Napier University and Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace.

27 HELPED at Shore Poets event

29 FILMED stories for schools' intranet.

READ poems at the Poetry Association of Scotland.

30 READ poems at the Saltire Society 80th anniversary event at Oran Mor.

December

1 READ poems at Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.

2 READ poems and discussed theme 'Community' with writers' group at the Bethany Shop on Leith Walk.

3 REPLIED to a request from *The Daily Record* (via the SPL) for a poet's response to a speech by the Foreign Secretary in which he misinterpreted lines from *To a Louse* by Robert Burns.

5 MADE suggestions for a very short poetry extract, suitable for a wall display, in Óbidos, a UNESCO City of Literature in Portugal.

AGREED to become a Patron of The Federation of Writers Scotland.

15 RECORDED programme on *A Christmas Carol* for Radio Scotland's Christmas morning schedule.

ATTENDED the Saltire Society's Christmas celebration.

VISITED the Cleansing Department depot in Bath Road, Leith and deliver/read the poem written for the staff (available at <http://www.edinburghmakar.org.uk/>)

2017

January

1 PARTICIPATED in Scot: Lands event at Scottish Storytelling Centre to welcome the New Year.

4 ATTENDED event with speaker on the topic Edinburgh 2050 (for which a poem has been commissioned).

5 SENT draft of commissioned poem to Council (Edinburgh Award 2016 poem for Ken Buchanan, former Lightweight Boxing World Champion)

10-11 PRESENTED paper and poems at conference of the Scottish Church Theology Society at Peebles.

16 FINALISED the Edinburgh Award poem for Ken Buchanan.

17 FINALISED a poem for the Edinburgh 2050 'conversation'.

19 POEM for training of Librarians in digital security

20 ATTENDED exhibition opening at the Fruitmarket Gallery of exhibition marking the disastrous floods in Florence, one of Edinburgh's twin cities.

POEM 'Leith Swing' featured in magazine 'Leither' and incorporated into the Guide to Leith.

21 RECORDED poems for STANZA festival.

24 ATTENDED STANZA preview event at the National Library.

25 PARTICIPATED in the Scottish PEN 90th anniversary celebration at The Writers' Museum – unveiled the plaque and read a poem commissioned for the occasion.

- 29 HELPED organise a 'Quiet' Slam at Shore Poets.
- 30 ANALYTICAL READING of poetry for the Higher English year group at Mary Erskine School.
- 31 HELPED at AGM for the Poetry Association for Scotland.
- February
- 1 PLANNING possible summer readings with other Edinburgh poets, mainly for tourists.
- 3 SANG AND RECITED some Burns poems for a dementia community group.
- 8 ATTENDED meeting about Paolozzi in Edinburgh project with fellow contributors.
- 9 ATTENDED monthly poetry reading at Henderson's café.
- 13 MEETING with Rebecca Raeburn, EUCL, for information exchange.
- ATTENDED 90th anniversary celebration for Scottish PEN at the Playfair Library.
- 15 ATTENDED launch of a posthumous collection of poems by Elizabeth Burns.
- 16 RECORDED some poems at the SPL from the anthology *Umbrellas of Edinburgh*.
- ATTENDED leaving party for Jim Tough, CE of the Saltire Society.
- 17 MEETING with Margaret Findlay, City Art Centre regarding two summer projects themed around the *Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology*.
- 18 Poem in *The Evening News* highlighting the recent CEC online conversation with citizens about the Edinburgh they envision for 2050.
- 21 Leith poem now incorporated in the Guide to Leith.
- 22 FACILITATED poetry workshop for the National Library of Scotland based on the current map exhibition.
- 23 ATTENDED one-day seminar on Paolozzi's mosaics at the College of Art.
- 24 ATTENDED Neu Reekie poetry event.

26 HELPED at Shore Poets event.

PLANNING AND ORGANISING for 25-30 Edinburgh poets to participate in summer poetry events: 4 events at the Museum of Edinburgh (July-early August) and 3 events in September to coincide with the Edinburgh Alphabet exhibition at the City Art Centre.

March

3 PARTICIPATED in ceremony to mark the 2016 Edinburgh Award – read poem commissioned for Ken Buchanan.

5 ATTENDED Stanza International Poetry Festival, St Andrews.

7 HELPED at the Poetry Association of Scotland event at the SPL.

14-16 British Council (BC) reciprocal visit of Russian poets.

14 PLANNING of events: SPL blog, BC film interview, BBC Radio Scotland live interview.

READ at evening event at the University of Edinburgh.

15 ACCOMPANIED Russian group to Dundee for the afternoon.

READ at evening event at the McManus Galleries, Dundee.

16 READ at evening event in Glasgow at Aye Write Festival.

18 READ two commissioned pieces at 'Reel to rattling reel' (Glasgow Short Film Festival) at Kelvinhall.

20 DAY TRIP for the Arts Manager of the British Council Moscow office.

21 ATTENDED Alasdair Gray exhibition at Saltire Society office.

22 MEETING at the SPL.

HELPED at the Poetry Association of Scotland event at the SPL.

26 HELPED at the Shore Poets event.

27 ATTENDED planning meeting with Sian Bevan (EUCL) and Morvern Cunningham, LeithLate.

28 ATTENDED Scotland-Russia Forum lecture at University of Edinburgh.

- 30 ATTENDED book launch (Alan Riach) at the SPL.
- GUEST EDITING a Scottish edition of the American poetry journal *The Café Review*, featuring the work of 32 contemporary Scottish poets.
- April
- 11 ATTENDED book launch for Red Squirrel Press in Glasgow.
- 21 ATTENDED unveiling of commemorative stone for George Campbell Hay in Makars' Court.
- TALK for Med-Chi on Makarship, and poems.
- 25 MEETING with the Wilfred Owen planning group.
- MEETING with Dr Carlo Pirozzi re Paolozzi project.
- 26 WORK for the apolitical group 'Sceptical Scot' on their website:
<http://sceptical.scot/2017/04/widening-national-horizons-with-poetry/>.
- WORKING with Primary 4 classes at Murrayburn Primary School, Sighthill.
- ATTENDED Ron Butlin's book launch
- 27 SENT Makar manuscript to the Saltire Society.
- 29 PARTICIPATED in the Colonsay Book festival.
- WORKING on request for a 3000 word commentary on the theme of *Communication as a Human Right* – for a special edition of the International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- May
- 10-14 PARTICIPATING in the Vicenza Poetry festival in Italy.
- 11 READING and discussion for school pupils at Pigafetta School, Vicenza.
- 12 READING AND TALK to literature students at Venice University.
- READING at festival venue, Vicenza.
- 18 PARTICIPATED in the launch of exhibition at City Art Centre.

- 19 MEETING with Fay Young of Edinburgh City Centre Management Group to discuss possible ideas for the further development of Poetry Garden in St Andrew's Square.
- 22 PARTICIPATING in a literary translation study day for students at University of Stirling (Literature and Languages course).
- 24 TALK about Makarship and reading to U3A group in Edinburgh.
- 28 HELPING at Shore Poets event.
- 29 READING City Vision poem at event in the Assembly Rooms prior to the Edinburgh Lecture by Allan Little.
- June
- 2 ATTENDING Ingliston Gardening Show (Wilfred Owen Association) and evening reception at Edinburgh Castle.
- 4 PARTICIPATING in the unveiling ceremony of Sri Chinmoy statue in Saughton Park, organised by Prof Alan Spence.
- 19-21 Taking 2 Norwegian poets from Oslo around Edinburgh and environs.
- 24 UNDERTAKING EVENTS at the Solas Festival near Perth: a poetry reading, a poetry workshop and a story-telling event for children.
- 25 READING at Shore Poets.
- 26 PARTICIPATING in a full day of events and interviews to mark the centenary of Wilfred Owen arriving in Edinburgh. (Clips on BBC Scottish News and Forces' Radio programme)
- 29 READING at the launch at the SPL of Poetry Archive recordings.
- 30 READING at the Scottish PEN event (Interrobang Surveillance event).
- July
- 1-8 In Shetland, taking two authors from West Norway around. Their book will incorporate NyNorsk translations of many poems with a Shetland setting.
- 12 MEETING with representative of the British Council in Edinburgh, to discuss a commission for a poem to mark 70 years of the Edinburgh International Festival and the Spirit of '47.
- 15 ORGANISING poetry reading at the Museum of Edinburgh.

20 READING at The Golden Hare Bookshop.

21 ORGANISING poetry reading at the Museum of Edinburgh.

22 ATTENDING Saltire Society's ScotLit Fest at Summerhall.

PLANNING the launch in Edinburgh of a Scottish edition of *The Café Review*, a poetry journal based in Portland, Maine.

CREATING pamphlet of poems by Edinburgh poets for the readings in September.

WORKING on British Council commission for Edinburgh International Festival's Spirit of '47 theme.

Appendix 2

Alan Spence Biography

ALAN SPENCE is an award-winning poet and playwright, novelist and short story writer. Glasgow-born, he has lived in Edinburgh since the 1970s. Writer-in-residence posts have included Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh University and the Traverse Theatre. His most recent books are a novel, *Night Boat*, a play, *No Nothing*, and a poetry collection, *Morning Glory*. His play *Sailmaker*, first performed at the Traverse, is a set text in Scottish schools.

Awards include McVitie Prize for Scottish Writer of the Year, Glasgow Herald People's Prize and Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award. He is Professor Emeritus in Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen where he ran the prestigious WORD Festival for 12 years. He and his wife run the Sri Chinmoy meditation Centre in Edinburgh, and are involved in organising the Oneness-Home Peace Run - a global relay. They have also just opened a second-hand bookshop - Citadel Books - near their home in Abbeyhill.