

# Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee  
10.00am, Tuesday 16 August 2022



## Update on Levelling Up Bids

Bids for The Inch Park Regeneration Project and the City Wide Cultural Regeneration Project were submitted for the UK Levelling Up Fund (LUF) in August.

### Background to the UK Levelling Up Fund

The UK Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was announced by UK Government at the 2020 Spending Review as a £4.8bn package of funding to provide capital investment in local infrastructure projects over four years from 2021/22 to 2024/25. Funds are allocated through an annual competitive bidding process open to all UK Local Authorities. In [June 2021](#) the Council approved a forward pipeline of six projects to be developed for application to the fund. In line with fund criteria, these include town centre regeneration, transport, and cultural infrastructure projects.

Applications for funding for three of the six projects were submitted during Round 1 of the LUF in July 2021.

- One of these projects – Granton Gas Holder – was successful in securing £16m of capital investment from LUF;
- Two projects – Pennywell/North Edinburgh Arts, and City-wide Active Travel – were unsuccessful. Outstanding elements of these bids have been further developed for inclusion in other projects (where possible);
- Two projects – Wester Hailes and Craigmillar Regeneration – are still under development with potential bids planned for application to LUF in the 2023/24 bidding round; and
- One project – Inch Park Regeneration – has been developed and is ready for application to the second bidding round for submission in July 2022.

In response to the change in LUF criteria this year, a further proposed project has been developed for submission in Round 2. The change invited local authorities to consider large bids of up to £50m under the Fund's culture and heritage investment theme. Only two bids across the UK will be successful under this theme in this funding round and the criteria notes that bids should be for

flagship projects and be in line with the Fund's focus on highly visible interventions that boost local pride in place. A City Wide Cultural Regeneration Project proposal has been developed in response to this invitation for submission in July 2022.

In [June 2022](#) the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee approved the two projects proposed as Council priorities for application to the UK Levelling Up Fund Round 2 in July 2022:

- Inch Park Regeneration Project; and
- City Wide Cultural Regeneration Project

All bids will be assessed by UK Government officials and Ministers, with final announcements of fund allocations for this round expected in Autumn 2022.

### **Inch Park Regeneration Project**

This project will be submitted under the Culture theme of the LUF prospectus. The £18m to £20m bid builds on an outline Concept Master Plan now finalised following community consultation and engagement, and through close working with key community stakeholders.

A regenerated Inch Park will be a major destination park in the south-east of the city. The development will bring significant improvements to the health and well-being of adjacent communities, some of which suffer significant levels of deprivation. The Park will be an important venue for sports, culture and a range of community activities and events. The Park will also be an exemplar site for climate mitigation and adaptation through the use of "greenspace" renewable heat, and through the use of green infrastructure for flood mitigation and will be a nodal point for the city's Nature Network and Green-Blue Network. In addition, it will be a significant asset for the proposed Craigmillar/Bingham 20-minute neighbourhood.

The master plan proposes:

- **The restoration of Inch House** to improve its current function as a community centre, with consideration being given to additional functions such as a cultural space. Significantly, the plan also proposes the restoration of the historic walled garden and associated buildings and integrating them back into the curtilage of the grade A listed Inch House. This will involve relocating the Plant Nursery, including the glasshouse, outside of the historic walled garden into a new location within the wider depot site.
- **A new Performance Venue** which can cater for 200 people This flexible venue will be used for cultural performances and larger events, exhibitions and social gatherings. Together with the cultural spaces offered by Inch House and the Walled Gardens, as well as the larger greenspaces in the site, Inch Park will be able to host neighbourhood scale festivals, bringing arts and culture to this part of the city while linking with the larger city centre festivals and so bringing new people and economic prosperity to the area.
- **The Plant Nursery** will be re-developed, and its function expanded to include a retail and café space. The restoration of the walled garden and redevelopment of the Plant Nursery will bring much of the depot site back into the public realm and provide a range of volunteer and training opportunities as well as the chance for those needing support and/or suffering mental health issues to carry out meaningful work.
- **Inch Park Community Sport Club** provides sports activities for children from low social income families and the Master Plan proposes to enhance facilities through the development of an all-weather sports pitch and, budget permitting, extending the existing Inch Community Sports Club facilities to include a gym hall for indoor training. This will meet the asks of the

major on-site stakeholder, Inch Park Community Sports Club (representing the football, rugby and cricket clubs), and wider community.

- **Inch Park** will benefit from a range of improvements and enhancements to greenspace and associated infrastructure (paths, signage, benches, etc.) to make the site more welcoming and easier to access. There will also be enhancements in terms of biodiversity, multifunctional Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and net zero energy solutions. Finally, the playground will be relocated to a more suitable location in the park and significantly upgraded.

### **City Wide Cultural Regeneration Project**

This project meets the ambition of the Council's response to the City Vision 2050 programme which articulates the aims for Edinburgh to be 'fair, thriving, pioneering and a welcoming city to live in and visit'. The festivals will deliver engagement as well as employment opportunities at a local level to areas which currently have less cultural provision – Leith Theatre, the Macmillan Hub, National Galleries of Scotland Art Works and WHALE Arts are in areas of deprivation with poor social and health outcomes, as well as being the home for some of Edinburgh's most diverse communities.

In doing so, the project will deliver a coherent programme of investment to:

- Renew and revitalise cultural infrastructure in the UK's leading festival city, and
- Enhance access to the culture and the opportunities it creates in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Edinburgh

Meeting these aims requires investment in a number of cultural venues across the city, including:

- **The King's Theatre** – part of Capital Theatres Trust - hosts performances ranging from the International Festival to Scotland's most popular panto and runs extensive community participation programmes. The grade A listed Edwardian building requires a major redevelopment to meet the needs of today's audiences and performers.
- **Leith Theatre** is part of a civic complex that includes Leith Library, Registrar's Office and Thomas Morton Hall. The Theatre lay derelict for nearly 30 years but has recently hosted major festival programmes and other events. This stunning, art-deco building is on the cusp of transformative restoration as a world-class music venue and cultural destination.
- **The Macmillan Hub** – jointly led by City of Edinburgh Council and North Edinburgh Arts - is the focal point of one of the most significant urban regeneration projects in Scotland, tackling poverty and inequality in north Edinburgh. A new state-of-the-art community arts hub will promote culture and well-being in Pennywell and Muirhouse and the across city.
- **The Queen's Hall** is a cross-arts performance venue which hosts festival events. With the creation of the new Dunard Centre, improvements are needed to complement the new venue as well as help the Queen's Hall achieve its new vision.
- **The Usher Hall** is Scotland's only five-star concert hall and home of the Edinburgh International Festival since 1947. It is a unique blend of historical and contemporary architecture and has been Scotland's premier concert hall since its opening in 1914. Extended in 2010, it requires further investment to improve facilities for performers and audiences
- **WHALE Arts** in the western part of the city, is a community-led arts charity and social enterprise and the creative heart of the vibrant, thriving community of Wester Hailes. A planned extension will create a new café and social space.

Nine of the 11 official festivals run year-round community engagement programmes to reach new audiences. This project will provide new opportunities to attend and participate in the wealth of Edinburgh's culture.

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in West Princes Street Gardens – Sunday 5 June 2022

Thousands flocked to Princes Street Gardens to enjoy a picnic in the sun, alongside live music and entertainment which took place on and around the Ross Bandstand on Sunday 5 June. The celebration, which took place between 12:30 and 5.00pm, included live music from the Royal Marines Band Scotland, as well as a specially created Carnival Parade and singers from Edinburgh's Love Music Choir. The live entertainment was followed by a big screen broadcast of the Jubilee Pageant from London, which many stayed on to enjoy in the sunshine.

Colleagues from the Culture service worked with local culture partners including the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival and Love Music, as well as the department for Culture, Media and Sport (London), to put together this large scale celebration.

Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: *"The Platinum Jubilee is a truly historic event and it was important to find a fitting tribute here in the capital for those who wish to come together and celebrate the occasion. In the tradition of Jubilee street parties our big picnic in the gardens invites citizens to come together to enjoy some fantastic local entertainment and music. Watching the celebrations on the big screen will be a great way for people to be involved and soak up the atmosphere of this extraordinary day."*



## Filming in Edinburgh, July 2022

Amazon TV/BBC's production of Neil Gaiman's fantasy TV series 'Anansi Boys' wrapped at FirstStage Studios in June 2022 following 10 months of production. Set in Brixton, Florida and an imaginary universe, Amazon/BBC chose to bring the production to Edinburgh, making use of FirstStage Studios in Leith which offered the comfort of multiple, controllable sound stages into which complex sets for the many stages of the production could be built. Film studios give productions full control of the environment and, while Covid was affecting cast and crew, allowed the production to change the schedule at short notice. While many sets were filmed in the studio, the production took every opportunity to make use of the fantastic array of locations throughout



the city.

While Anansi Boys was filming in the city, Edinburgh hosted two additional drama productions: 'Borderland', about a retired Irish paramilitary who is recruited to infiltrate IRA activity in 1970s London, which filmed for a day in Calton Road. The film office coordinated a joined-up Council approach alongside Network Rail, Police Scotland and emergency services to ensure that the production's aims to recreate a gun attack and bombing sequence were carried out safely and without causing public alarm; 'Six-Four' a crime drama for ITV by BAFTA award-winning screenwriter Gregory Burke who took inspiration from a best-selling novel by Hideo Yokoyama, which filmed a sequence at the rear entrance of the City Mortuary in addition to (on foot) chase sequences through the Old Town and in Waverley Station. Six-Four will be broadcast in 2023.



*Filming of Six Four*



*Hosting of Network Event in June*

In addition to drama productions, the city has hosted over 30 factual TV shoots so far this year including: Songs of Praise at Canongate Kirk, Antiques Road Trip, Trials that Shocked Scotland, a BBC Bitesize Geography on tourism (filmed in the Pentlands and on Princes Street and the Royal Mile), Dancing on Ice, Britain's Got Talent 2022, a new Darren McGarvey series on additions, Hobby Man (a new take on Travel Man), 'The Fringe in 12 Jokes' celebrating 75 years of the Fringe, Scotland the New Wild, series 3 of Cold Cases, Location Location Location which provides an hour's free on-screen prime time promotion of the city, Landward, Mary Berry's Cooking and Sharing which filmed at the Edinburgh Marathon, and a number of international documentaries about Edinburgh's history and culture.

In addition to dealing with active productions, Film Edinburgh has made a return to hosting in-person events for the film/tv sector. At the start of June, Film Edinburgh hosted its first networking event since 2000 for Edinburgh's production community. Attended by 120 local film/tv practitioners, we host this to widen awareness of the local crew base and production services within our very own neighbourhood – we are the best ambassadors for our city after all. Film Edinburgh partnered with one of the city's traffic management companies and the Moxy Fountainbridge Hotel who offered us their splendid rooftop bar as the venue. Then, at the end of June, Film Edinburgh organised a one-day familiarisation trip for four London-based film producers to visit Edinburgh's FirstStage Studios and highlights of our outstanding city locations, and to meet some of our local film production heads of department. The event was sponsored by the British Film Commission and Screen Scotland. As well as being impressed by the scale and scope of the film studio and locations, we had time to enjoy an ice-cream on Portobello promenade. We will look forward to seeing what emerges.

On 1 July, the [Edinburgh Festivals](#) published a joint Vision for the future together with their stakeholders on the [Edinburgh Festivals Forum](#), including the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Communities Convener and Chief Executive. Launched in the festivals' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, [Edinburgh: City of Imagination](#) is a vision for a resilient and ambitious Festival City by 2030 – based on the unique value the festivals bring in connecting people, inspiring creative ideas, and bringing places alive in concentrated moments of communal celebration. The 2030 Vision is to be a **world leading sustainable festival city**, based on six ambitions and an accompanying series of twelve actions across festivals and their stakeholders - a collective effort and leadership aimed at ensuring that Edinburgh's Festival City flourishes even in uncertain times.

**Edinburgh: City of Imagination** tells the story of how and why Edinburgh came to be a world leading festival city and the impact our major festivals have had – locally, nationally and internationally. As truly global assets for Edinburgh, they have worked with 80 countries and 20 international governments each year. Pre-pandemic, this directly created 5,660 full-time equivalent jobs across the city; attracted two-thirds of residents to events; engaged with 130 community groups and 90% of schools; and more widely, supported the 44,000 city jobs in entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food and other services. The 2030 Vision reflects on how the world around us is changing, and the challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed. It recognises that in order to renew and rebuild after two damaging years, there is a need to adapt in this changed era while holding onto fundamental purposes. At the heart of the 2030 Vision are the six collective ambitions:

1. **Global Solidarity:** Edinburgh's Festivals are proudly internationalist, a defining value since their foundation – and it will be vital to see festivals, national agencies and governments at all levels working together to push for the best possible conditions for the free exchange of people and ideas across borders.
2. **Valuable Skills and Work:** the Festivals rely on, and help nurture, Scotland's wealth of cultural talent, connecting them with international peers and ideas – and it is imperative to rebuild opportunities for Edinburgh's artists, workers and traders, along with Scotland-wide pathways for creation, production and participation, and the national events supply chain.
3. **Connected Local Communities:** Prior to the pandemic, Edinburgh's Festivals had developed extensive links with city community groups and schools – and for festivals to create deeper relationships with community and education partners will require sustainable longer-term resourcing of wider cultural and social services, as well as of the programmes themselves.
4. **Vibrant, Sustainable, Gathering Places:** Edinburgh's citizens value their festivals for the communal joy they bring, the pride they create, and the livelihoods they support – and to redevelop successfully will require investment for works of excellence, innovation and risk, and integrated multi-year planning from local and national authorities.
5. **Net Zero Carbon Future:** Edinburgh's Festivals recognise that in order to flourish, they need to find innovative, sustainable ways of operating in a net zero carbon future – and they have created a shared carbon reduction route map which identifies how they will reduce emissions in line with Edinburgh's goal to be a net zero carbon city by 2030.
6. **Increased Resilience, Partnership and Investment:** the Covid-19 crisis brought into stark relief the fragilities of the entire culture sector, especially its long-term financial sustainability

and ability to invest in change – and it is a priority to identify new investment and partnership models that can support maximum resilience and public value.

*Edinburgh's Festivals are vital to Scotland's culture, economy and place in the world, and they will be at the heart of the recovery and renewal of our capital city. The ambitions and actions set out here will help forge the renewed leadership and collective effort needed to support a renaissance for Edinburgh's Festival City.* **Susan Deacon, Chair, Festivals Forum**

A blue-tinted photograph of the Edinburgh cityscape, featuring the castle on a hill and various buildings.

## **EDINBURGH: CITY OF IMAGINATION**

**2030 Vision for a Resilient and Ambitious Festival City**

### **Travelling Gallery – Water Patterns Film**

During 2021 Travelling Gallery received additional funding from Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters to commission film-maker Emma Bowen to make a film documenting *Water Patterns*, an exciting learning project linked to the *Shapes of Water* exhibition. The link to the film is here:

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/698209783> And it is also on our website here:

<https://travellinggallery.com/archive/shapes-of-water/>

The *Water Patterns* project involved working both remotely and in person with our partners, and the film created a lasting legacy of the resulting artwork which brought together all the individual pieces from our various collaborators across Scotland. Emma explained how the artworks were combined in the final installation: *“Once built, the shapes were connected in a branch-like form, which hung inside each buoy. It was important that the built structures actively engaged with nature. Like a plant or a landscape, in constant flux. I used simple materials that were close to hand; rubber balls, tent rods and inner tubes. By reframing and repurposing these, I tried to develop a dialogue and awareness of contemporary environmental cultural practice.”*

Travelling Gallery worked with partners and their creative communities to create the artwork for the film; East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure, Lochwinnoch Arts Festival, North Lanarkshire Visual Arts, Thurso Community Cafe, Orkney Young Carers, Edinburgh community art projects and primary pupils in South Ayrshire.

### **Travelling Gallery Exhibitions**

#### **Spring 2022 Exhibition and Tour**

The Travelling Gallery's spring exhibition *What's for Tea?* was a partnership with BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead. The *What's for Tea?* exhibition explores food production and consumption, what we eat and how our eating habits could help combat the climate emergency.

The exhibition began touring to venues across North East England on Tuesday 22 February and ran until July. Travelling Gallery returned to Edinburgh for two weeks in June, to give visitors a



chance to see the exhibition at Muirhouse Library (at Edinburgh College), Grassmarket, Bridgend Farmhouse and for students at UPMO, a charity which provides support and opportunity for adults with learning disabilities, to visit at Leith Links. The gallery then returned to Gateshead in July to join BALTIC's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The partnership gave the Travelling Gallery team the chance to showcase their experience, knowledge and skills, and the evaluations from the exhibition, tour and partnership will support ambitions for a Travelling Gallery model in the North East of England emulating Scotland's unique commitment to the Travelling Gallery.



### Autumn 2022 Exhibition and Tour

Travelling Gallery's Autumn 2022 exhibition will be a group show, featuring work by 4 artists who participate in Project Ability's *ReConnect* programme. Project Ability are a visual arts charity and gallery supporting people with learning disabilities and mental ill-health to create art. Artists who work in the *ReConnect* studio at Project Ability have lived experience of mental ill-health. The exhibition will feature work in a range of media, and will be accompanied by a learning programme and resource pack. The exhibition will be touring in Travelling Gallery across Scotland between September and December, including visits to community venues in Edinburgh.

### Archaeology Service

The City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) provides a cross-council service to promote, manage and protect the region's Archaeology and Historic Environment.

Central to this is providing advice on behalf of the Council to the Planning Authority on planning applications and policy. In 2021 CECAS was consulted on 387 planning and listed building applications, up 2.5% from 2020, and of these 187 required further archaeological mitigation to be undertaken. In addition to this case work, the service provided advice and contributed to the production of City Plan 2030, and provided advice on the Council's response to the Scottish



Governments National Planning Framework NPF4. The service were also engaged in developing new policies to ensure the historic environment and archaeology were considered within new policies to tackle the impacts of Climate Change and with Planning on the new Blue Green Network initiative and engagement in the UNESCO Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) workshops for the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (ONTE) and participating in workshops around COP26.

Due to Covid pandemic, fieldwork was reduced by 35% in 2020, but as the economy and society opened up in 2021 this activity increased by around 21% although still around 22% down on the pre-pandemic average. Despite the ongoing effects of Covid, 2021 proved to be another important year in terms of archaeological excavations and discoveries. The following projects demonstrate the range and some of the main highlights:

### **30 South Fort Street**

Prior to the redevelopment of the site for housing the site of the former late 19<sup>th</sup> century Tay Engineering works was excavated by AOC Archaeology Group. As well as recording the surviving industrial buildings prior to their demolition the site was excavated to record evidence of the former Georgian country House known revealed in earlier work. The excavations revealed a complete footprint for this important house and for its use and development. However, excavation significantly revealed a large curving ditch (see photo below) containing fragments of 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Initial research would indicate that this ditch formed part of the besieging works undertaken during the 1559-60 Siege of Leith as depicted on the 1560 Petworth Map of the Siege.



*Excavation of large 16<sup>th</sup> ditch by AOC Archaeology thought to be part of the siege works of the Protestant Armies during the Siege of Leith in 1559-60. Copyright AOC Archaeology Group*

### **Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Kids**

As part of the redevelopment of the former Edinburgh's Victorian Royal Hospital for Sick Kids a detailed programme of archaeological building recording and conservation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, Turley and Scottish Wall Paintings Conservators. This included the conservation of the nationally important wall paintings undertaken by Phoebe Traquair in 1895 in the hospital's Mortuary Chapel.



*Image of part of the Phoebe Traquair murals decorating the former mortuary Chapel of the Royals Sick Kids Hospital at start of conservation. Copyright AOC Archaeology Group*

## **Whitemoss Steading Kirknewton**

Prior to its conversion into new housing a detailed historic building survived was undertaken AOC Archaeology Group. This survey provided detailed evidence for the construction and development of this historic steading from its construction in the mid-18th century possibly from an earlier farm into a courtyarded steading, with a threshing barn and horse gin to the south-west side and a cow byre to the northeast, through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, a farmhouse was constructed to the south-east of the steading and the horse-gin was replaced, probably by a small steam engine, to power the threshing machinery.



*Main East range of 18<sup>th</sup> century Whitemoss Steading prior to conversion. Copyright AOC Archaeology Group.*

## **CEC Project Management: Edinburgh Trams**

As an integral part of the Tram project's management team a significant focus of the service's work has again been taken up in helping successfully deliver the Trams to Newhaven Project with project partners Turner & Townsend, SFN, Morrison Utilities and archaeological contractors GUARD Archaeology. During 2020 excavations along the line of the tram route provided important new evidence for the development of the port and Leith and Leith Walk. Final excavations of the medieval South Leith Parish graveyard were undertaken with a further 20 burials being exhumed bring the total number of complete burials unearthed to 385. The number of individuals will increase during post-excavation research due to start in 2021 as analysis of the charnel



(fragments) is undertaken. Together with the similar number from the 2008 excavations, these remains constitute one of the largest excavated assemblages of medieval inhabitants of not only Edinburgh but also Scotland. The ongoing research and interest in the study of these which are proving to be of National archaeological importance have generated significant public interest. In addition to our projects archaeological YouTube Vlogs (see Trams to Newhaven website <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven/faqs/project-archaeology>) and undertaking public talks the project was followed by the BBC. The excavations and the remains of a 15<sup>th</sup> century woman who survived significant blunt force trauma to the front of her head were featured the key project on the last episode of Digging For Britain shown on BBC 2 in January 2022 ([BBC iPlayer - Digging for Britain - Series 9: Episode 6](#))



*Facial reconstructions by Viviana Conti and Elysia Greenway of 15<sup>th</sup> century woman (SK232) featured on BBC2 Digging for Britain. Copyright CEC*

In August 2020 the discovery was made of the terminus cable winding mechanism of the 1888-1924 Edinburgh Tram Cable system at the Junction of Leith Walk and Pilrig Street at boundary of the then Council areas of Edinburgh and Leith. These remarkable feats of Victorian Engineering were decommissioned in 1924 when Edinburgh and Leith Tram lines were joined together with Edinburgh becoming electrified. Up until this point passengers had to dismount at this location as Leith was electrified earlier. This became known as the 'Pilrig Muddle'. These important pieces of Industrial heritage have been retained and conserved with the hope that they will be re-erected close to their original location.



*Removal of one of the two 1888 Tram Cable wheels which formed the terminus of the Edinburgh Tram until 1924 line at Pilrig Street Junction Leith Walk and part of the 'Pilrig Muddle'.*



## **Partnership**

The service continued to work across Council departments and services and with outside bodies and community groups to promote, manage and conserve Edinburgh's Heritage including externally: Association of Local Government Officers (ALGAO:UK), Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS), Police Scotland, Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, BEFS, Historic Environment Scotland, Water of Leith Conservation Trust, Cramond Heritage Trust and Association, Archaeology Scotland, National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland, National Transport Trust, Friends of Granton Walled Garden.

## **CEC Bereavement Services**

Edinburgh manages over 40 historic cemeteries some of which date back to the early period. Our cemeteries are not only key historic sites but are increasingly playing an important role as open spaces for wellbeing and for heritage-based tourism and research. The sites are also under increasing threat from pressures caused by increased tourism, Climate Change and conservation pressures. As such the service has been working closely with Bereavement Services to assess the condition of all of our Council Owned graveyards advising on the creation of new CEC cemetery management plans, conservation of historic assets and gravestones, treatment of historic human remains preparing methodology and advising on re interment and advice on re exhumation as well as advising Friends Groups helping to develop CEC Cemetery Friends Group Guidance and participating the Greyfriars Stakeholder Group. A focus of the work in 2020 has been working with Bereavement Services in opening up the city centre graveyards in particular Greyfriars and Canongate which required new paths to be constructed to facilitate post-covid recovery. In addition to managing the reconstruction and conservation of attached memorials and gravestones of the South Leith Parish Graveyard wall as part of the trams works, we provided advice on conservation projects to be undertaken in Dalry, North Merchiston, Warriston and Newington cemeteries.

## **Police Scotland**

The service also provides Police Scotland expert witness advice arising from discoveries of human remains and was called out to four cases in 2021. The service continues to sit as an advisor on Police Scotland's Scottish Heritage Crime Group (SPARC) which reports directly to Scottish Ministers.

## **Association of Local Authority Archaeological Officers (ALGAO:UK)**

The service currently provides the elected UK Chair to this UK wide organisation which formerly represents the views of member Local Authorities and National Parks on Archaeological and the Historic Environment.

## **Regional Working: South-East Scotland Archaeological Partnership**

The annual Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders Archaeology Conference took place as planned on Saturday 20 November 2020. However due to Covid restrictions this was held live online with support from Queen Margaret University Musselburgh with 188 members of the public, professional and amateur archaeologists logging into the event. Although successful these numbers were down on the last few years. Anecdotally this reflects a general weariness by attendees of online events as they missed the networking opportunities provided by the event for community groups, professional and national organisations to promote their work and engage with the public. The 2022 Conference will be held at Queen Margaret University Musselburgh will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our regional conference.

## Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS)

2021 saw the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society. Although the hoped-for Civic reception was a casualty of Covid the then Lord Provost Frank Ross formally visited the site of the joint excavations at Cammo. To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a joint exhibition was opened on the 1 October 2020 at the Museum of Edinburgh which was extended until 21 February 2021. The Exhibition highlighted the national import work the Society has undertaken in partnership with CECAS at Cramond and across SE Scotland and show casing the individuals who have contributed to its ongoing success as one of Scotland's leading community archaeological societies.



*Ex-Lord Provost Cllr Frank Ross visiting EAFS excavations at Cammo 30 April 2021. Copyright EAFS*

## Collection Management

In 2021 Treasure Trove allocated 10 archaeological assemblages to CECAS ranging from important evidence for prehistoric occupation at Balerno (TT 21/21 and 23/21) through to remains from WW1 practice trenches excavated and preserved at Dreghorn (TT 20/21) and a small dump of wasters (TT04/21) from the 1917-27 Arts and Crafts Holyrood Pottery found at Moredun. Full list is shown below:

TT 04/21	Early 20th Century assemblage, 376 Gilmerton Road, Moredun
TT 17/21	Post-Medieval to modern assemblage, Parliament House
TT 20/21	Modern assemblage, Dreghorn Barracks WWI Military Trenches
TT 21/21	Prehistoric assemblage, Newmills Road, Balerno
TT 23/21	Neolithic assemblage, Ravelrig Road, Balerno
TT 28/21	Medieval to Post-Medieval assemblage, Broomhills Road
TT 52/21	Late Mesolithic to Modern assemblage, Newcraighall North & South
TT 71/21	Bronze Age to Post-medieval assemblage
TT 72/21	Medieval assemblage, Volkswagen Edinburgh, Plot 7A Newbridge
TT 77/21	Post-Medieval assemblage, Burdiehouse Mains (Phase 3)

## Auld Reekie Retold

The Auld Reekie Retold project is going full steam ahead with inventory and repacking. Since the last bulletin, we've also been able to host a number of sessions in our venues, including a Collections Live! event at the Museum of Edinburgh. Team members set up a mobile collection studio in the galleries at the museum and worked through collections relating to the [1822 visit of George IV to Edinburgh](#). It was great to be in one of our public venues again and chatting to visitors. People were intrigued by what was going on, and clearly enjoyed seeing museum work happen which they would not normally expect to see. Some really useful work was done too, with some high quality photographs of the collections which can be used later this year for the anniversary of the visit, a key date in the Edinburgh diary.



A report was submitted to Museums Galleries Scotland who funded the Collections Engagement Officer post, and the report was an opportunity to review key achievements of the project. To date, the project has hosted 15 events (online and in-person), attended by over 500 people. Bookings were taken on the Venersys CRM system and raised £700 in donations. April also saw the release of the second episode of our [Cooking up the Past](#) series exploring food rationing during WWII.

Work at the Collections Centre was given a boost when a delivery of packing materials arrived after pandemic-related delays. This meant the team could start repacking collections into approved conservation grade boxes and tissue. By June 2022, over 200 boxes have been repacked containing some 3000 individual objects.

Over the next few months, evaluation will assess the many ways the project has met many of its intended objectives despite the 15 months away from the stores and collections. Various threads are emerging already to inform a management strategy for our collections and collections information which ensures sustainable and resourced practice.

## Museum of Childhood

While the Museum of Childhood is closed for essential building repairs, collections staff have taken the opportunity to update one of the galleries. During the Covid lockdowns we thoroughly cleaned all of our displays, but the old lining fabric was dated and worn. In our hobbies and games gallery, we have refreshed the cases with museum standard fabric in royal blue and dove grey. This replaces the old brown and mustard felt. Our curators are now working on changing the objects on display, so that when we welcome visitors back to the museum there will be exciting new exhibits to discover. For example, some Lego and dinosaurs have found their way into our construction toys case! We are keen to update the cases in the doll and teddy bear gallery, and



the doll's house and toy vehicles gallery. Staff are currently working on a funding application for Museums Galleries Scotland to go towards more fresh new fabric for these galleries. We are looking forward to welcoming back visitors young and old as soon as possible.



*The old case lining*



*Selecting new objects*



*New Displays in Progress*

## Museum of Edinburgh Courtyard

The Museum of Edinburgh Courtyard has recently been upgraded by a Community Payback after more than two years of closure during the pandemic. Eight people carrying out community sentences have cut back weeds, improved pathways and built new planters.

Funding from Museums Galleries Scotland has also allowed us to make the space more environmentally friendly by adding a mixture of new plants and herbs to the space, putting biochar in the soil to store more carbon in the ground, and adding new seating made from reclaimed wood. New signage in the courtyard explains the changes that have been made and how they help the environment.



*Some of the new planters made by the Community Payback team*



*The museum's new carbon capture education bench. Made from reclaimed pallet boards, it has planters at the back and sides and an insect hotel underneath.*

## Friends of the City Art Centre Purchase John Henry Lorimer Painting for Fine Art Collection

Earlier this year the Friends of the City Art Centre & Museums purchased a major painting by the Scottish artist John Henry Lorimer (1856-1936) for the City's fine art collection.

The painting is a large oil on canvas portrait of Louis Joseph Butti, which dates from c.1920. Louis Joseph Butti was an antiques dealer of Italian heritage, whose family ran a series of businesses in Edinburgh between the early 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Butti family had premises at 7 Queen Street, from where they traded as James Alexander Butti & Son until the firm closed in 1924.

The artist John Henry Lorimer was a well-known painter in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Edinburgh, he was a member of the Lorimer family, a creative dynasty that also included the renowned architect Robert Lorimer. John Henry Lorimer trained in Edinburgh and Paris, and began exhibiting at the Royal Scottish Academy in 1873 while he was still a teenager. He focused on portraiture and genre painting, though portraiture was his main source of income. Over the course of his career, he is thought to have completed almost 130 portraits in oils.

The sale of this painting was brought to the attention of City Art Centre staff in early 2022 by the historian Professor Stana Nenadic. At the time the City only held one major oil painting by Lorimer, an allegorical scene entitled *The Flight of the Swallows* (1906). None of his portraits were represented in the collection. As such, the depiction of Louis Joseph Butti was identified as an important potential addition. The acquisition was considered especially appropriate given that the City Art Centre had recently staged the exhibition *Reflections: The Light and Life of John Henry Lorimer*. At this stage, the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums generously offered to fund the purchase of the painting in full. Sensing the significance of the opportunity, they determined to help acquire the portrait for the City.

This gesture is the latest act of kindness from the Friends; for almost fifty years they have supported the City's museums and galleries, providing financial assistance for a range of projects. Staff are extremely grateful to the Friends for their ongoing support.

The painting has now arrived at the City Art Centre and is currently being accessioned. It joins a collection of over 5,000 artworks, which together chart the history of Scottish art from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to present day.

For more information about the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums, and details of how to join, see: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/engage/friends-and-supporters>



Credit: John Henry Lorimer, *Portrait of Louis Joseph Butti*, c.1920. City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh.



## Pupils Explore New Exhibitions!

June was an exciting month for visits. Our Schools Engagement Officer welcomed 100 children from Niddrie Mill Primary, Clovenstone Primary and Craigroyston Secondary School to the City Art Centre to explore our new exhibitions. We have been having fun making clay models inspired by *Will Maclean: Points of Departure* and producing press prints inspired by artworks in our *National Treasure* show.



## School Visits to Lauriston Castle Grounds

It was a joy to welcome 200 children from Craigroyston Primary School and Pirniehall Primary School to Lauriston Castle grounds throughout the month of May. We explored our Japanese garden by taking part in a scavenger hunt. Classes also painted some beautiful landscapes of the view over the Firth of Forth. We investigated mark-making by taking crayon rubbings of tree bark and then using them to collage with and completed some fantastic drawings of the front of Lauriston Castle itself.

We hope that many pupils will re-visit Lauriston grounds with their families, friends and carers in the future.





### Edinburgh International Festival

This year sees the Edinburgh International Festival celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and this will be its first full programme since 2019. The Festival runs across the city in a variety of venues from - Saturday 6 August – Sunday 28 August 2022. The Usher Hall Series includes 21 performances by some of the following artists:

- BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- Philharmonia Orchestra
- Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- Pierre-Laurent Aimard
- Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra
- Les Siècles
- Hesperion XXI
- London Symphony Orchestra
- Australian World Orchestra
- Czech Philharmonic
- The English Concert
- The Philadelphia Orchestra
- Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra

Full details can be found online - [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

Further events scheduled for the Usher Hall:

- Fleet Foxes - Tuesday 30 August
- No Such Thing As A Fish - QI Podcast Live – Friday 2 September
- Adam Kay - This is Going to Hurt... More – Wednesday 7 September
- Queen Machine Symphonic – Friday 16 September
- Madeleine Peyroux - Careless Love Forever World Tour – Thursday 22 September
- Skipinnish – Friday 23 September
- Essential 80's featuring Paul Young, T'Pau, Hue and Cry – Saturday 24 September
- Don Mclean - 50th Anniversary of American Pie – Tuesday 27 September
- RSNO Season 22-23 Season Opener: The Rite of Spring – Friday 30 September

For full details of these events please visit the website – [here](#).

## Church Hill Theatre Events

### Edinburgh International Festival

This year sees the Edinburgh International Festival celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and this will be its first full programme since 2019. The Festival runs across the city in a variety of venues from - Saturday 6 August – Sunday 28 August 2022.

Shows at the Church Hill Theatre:

- The Book of Life – Saturday 13 August - 16 August
- The End of Eddy – Friday 19 August - 21 August
- When you Walk Over My Grave – Thursday 25 August – 28 August

Full details can be found online - [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

## Assembly Rooms Events

### Assembly Festival

**Programme runs – Thursday 3 August – Monday 29 August 2022**

After the cancellation of events in 2020 and 2021, 2022 will be Assembly Festival's 40<sup>th</sup> year at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The programme runs over nine venues including the Assembly Rooms. The Assembly Rooms plays host to six performance spaces with the Music Hall, Ballroom, Drawing Room inside and outside on George Street there is the Powder Room, Front Room and Bijou. The Assembly Rooms internal programme has 46 shows with 526 performances throughout the Festival period including some of the following performers and shows:

- Black Blues Brothers
- Watson: the final problem| Frankie Boyle
- Looking for my friend
- Rich Hall
- Chris Dugdale
- Friendsical| Kin
- Lion
- My Leonard Cohen
- Queenz
- Reginald D. Hunter
- Richard Herring
- We are traffic: an uber adventure
- Love, Loss and Chianti
- Comic Relief Live

- Godspell| Little Women
- Stand up for your Planet
- Tom Seals Presents

Further information can be found here - [www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on](http://www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on)

Further events scheduled for the Assembly Rooms:

- Queen by Candlelight – Friday 23 September and Saturday 24 September
- Bajm - Friday 30 September

For full details of these events please visit the website – [here](#).

### **Transfer of Management of Community Access at Wester Hailes High School to Edinburgh Leisure**

The transfer of management of community access to sport facilities at Wester Hailes High School to Edinburgh Leisure was completed on 1 April this year. This was the final secondary school to transfer to Edinburgh Leisure, who are now responsible for the management of community use of sports facilities across all Council secondary schools. Community access to Wester Hailes High School has been hampered over the course of the last two years due to Covid restrictions and Phase 1 of the school refurbishment. Phase 1 was completed in June this year and Edinburgh Leisure have put plans in place to re-open access to all sports facilities for local clubs and community.

### **Tynecastle High School – New 3G Pitch**

The refurbishment of the 2G pitch at Tynecastle High School with a new 3G surface will take place during the summer holidays. Funding from Axiom Education (Edinburgh) Ltd who manage and operate the school on behalf of the Council and Scottish Football Association's Grassroots Football Facilities Fund has enabled the pitch upgrade to take place this year. The new pitch will be used by the school and local community and will improve opportunities to take part in sport and be active.

### **Currie High School – New 3G Pitch**

A new 3G pitch has been built at Currie High School as part of the overall plan to construct a new school on the current site. The new pitch was opened in June this year for school and community use and replaces the existing 2G pitch which sits within the footprint of the new school. The 3G pitch is designed for football training and matches and compliments other 3G pitches in the southwest area of Edinburgh.



## Queen's Baton Relay at Taobh na Pàirce

Active Schools and Taobh na Pàirce were delighted to host the Queens Baton Relay while on its way to Birmingham for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. It was a fun filled day with a range of activities to inspire and motivate pupils to try any sports and to learn about the Commonwealth Games. The day started with classes walking to Pilrig Park to run the daily mile, the idea was for the school to run the distance from Taobh na Pàirce to Birmingham where the Games were being held, 312 miles away. The pupils took this challenge and ran with it and completed the miles with ease (and speed). When the Baton arrived Keith Cook, a former Commonwealth medallist, came and ran the last mile with pupils to mark the schools completion of the challenge. Other than the daily mile each class took part in taster sessions including football, volleyball and cricket. The C1 classes had their own mini sports days which was led by the C7's who did a fantastic job leading and organising it on the day. It was an incredibly special day for the school and pupils and it will be remembered for many years through a memories but also through a piece of art that was created to commemorate the day.



## US Open Tennis Trophy in Edinburgh

Active Schools alongside the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) welcomed Emma Raducanu's US Open Tennis Trophy to Broughton Primary School (PS). The US Open trophy made the special journey to Broughton PS as part of a UK wide trophy tour to celebrate Emma's success at last year's tournament. The mornings activity included a special message from Emma followed by a tennis session delivered by an LTA coach. Broughton PS was chosen as teachers at the school

had taken part in a recent continuing professional development for teachers and Active Schools had organised a tennis ECA which had proven to be very popular. It was an incredible opportunity for the pupils at the school.



### Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit – Primary 6 Swimming Initiative

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit identified that a significant number of Primary 6 children had missed out on their curricular swimming opportunity due to the pandemic and had therefore not had the opportunity to learn to swim. Due to this a focused initiative was set up for Primary 6 pupils who were unable to swim or were very weak swimmers and was delivered by partner swim providers during the curriculum. The initiative has been delivered for up to eight weeks in this summer term, to 17 targeted schools, with over 450 children being given the opportunity to take part. The project is currently being evaluated to measure the full impact. The initial anecdotal feedback is that the children have made significant progress in terms of their confidence, swimming ability and their enjoyment of the water.

### Edinburgh Community Sports Hubs – Using Sport and Physical Activity to Intentionally Bring About Positive Changes for People

We are delighted to see the return of the Community Women and Girls Swimming at Forrester/St. Augustine's Community Sports Hub. The session is fully staffed by female lifeguards and teachers and is delivered in partnership with Heart of Midlothian Swimming Club, it is also supported by Edinburgh Leisure. Many mums and daughters enjoy attending the session together. It is a very informal, relaxed and social session and has teacher support available for those who would like to improve their swimming or water confidence. It has been lovely to see participants returning to the session, many of whom have been unable to access swimming for over two years.

We were also delighted to see the Community Walking Netball session at Forrester/St. Augustine's Community Sports Hub back up and running. Following a successful Walking Netball - Welcome Back Event in partnership with Netball Scotland, the six week block started in May. Walking netball is a





great way to get more physically active, it is just like regular netball but played a little slower! The game is easy to play, even for people who have never played netball before and is great fun and very social. The sessions have seen many returners after over two years, as well as new participants trying the activity for the first time, which has been lovely to see.

## Football – Easter Camp 2022

Easter saw our first ever full-day football camp at Forrester/St Augustine's Community Sports Hub. All 100 spaces across the 5-8 and 9-12 years groups sold out within eight days of opening!! The players were fantastic and were rewarded for their efforts with a 'City of Edinburgh Council – Easter Camp 2022' t-shirt. Parental feedback was exceptionally positive with significant demand for a summer offering - as such, we are delivering three weeks of full-day camps in the summer, all 320 spaces for which have already sold out!! It promises to be an amazing summer!!



## Football – Sports Academy, Volunteer Pathway

Three of our excellent Sports Academy squad have now moved from participant to volunteer, supporting our Girls' Progression Academy and P7 Select squads, as well as assisting our Lead Coaches on the upcoming summer camps. Emily Shanks, Ollie Forsyth and Orlaith Shepherd's reliability, knowledge and leadership skills made them natural candidates to move into coaching and all three will begin their Scottish FA accredited coaching badges when they turn 16.

**Ollie** – “I had a great time with the training and really enjoyed the games that we had against the other academies. I got asked by Jack to volunteer and didn't hesitate to help out as I would be able to help the younger players. It's an opportunity I wanted as getting into the coaching side will really help my own game and give a greater understanding of football.”





**Orlaith** – “I made friends and got great training during my three years at Sports Academy. So I jumped at the chance to stay involved as a volunteer coach and help the Sports Academy. I also wanted to get coaching experience that would help me do coaching badges in the future. Coaching the younger players has made me think about football differently and has helped me to improve as a player.”



**Emily** – “I was a shy player but since attending Sports Academy for the four years I have met lovely people and become more confident on and off the pitch. It has helped understand tactics and positional awareness better, I have progressed so much. I am passionate about becoming a footballer but also interested in coaching and volunteering. Jack has given me an amazing opportunity by letting me come to his Progression Academy - this has shown me a great understanding of how coaches and their mindset work which is great for the future and I can help and pass on everything I have learnt from my experience at Sports Academy to help develop other players!”

## Successful Reopening of Libraries Used at Covid-19 Test Centres

Over the course of the pandemic four of our public libraries; Oxbgangs, Leith, Newington and Sighthill (within Gate 55) were repurposed as Symptomatic Covid Test Centres, to provide locations where testing could be accessed locally. In March of this year as testing changed the process of having the buildings handed back to Edinburgh Council by the NHS was able to begin.

We received the buildings back in a phased approach throughout April, and staff teams were able to immediately access the libraries to undertake the necessary preparatory work required for safe reopening of service. The preparatory work included:

- Reconfiguring the internal layout and decluttering to ensure the provision of a covid risk assessed service;

- Installation of screening and hand sanitisation provision;
- Updating of IT to enable service provision;
- Some repairs work undertaken by Property colleagues; and
- Replenishing stock collections.

The above work was completed in a short timescale and was only possible due to prioritised work from officers across a number of council teams who worked hard to support library staff to ensure they had everything needed to make the libraries safe and welcoming.

The libraries reopened over a phased period from the 25 April, with all four reopened by the 9 May. The libraries were able to reopen with a great selection of new books, access to computers and a range of other services such as free travel card application service and provision of the hearing aid battery replacement service. In the first month of reopening there were key activities taking place including Bookbug and Library Link, with this now expanded to a range of groups and one off events such as book groups, children's crafts, adult colouring in and libraries participating in local community events and galas. Library staff have received positive feedback from members of the public who have been delighted to be back in their local library.

### **Libraries: Breaking News (in collaboration with the British Library)**

The British Library are currently hosting the Breaking the News exhibition and displays are touring around the UK to Living Knowledge Network libraries, including at [Central Library](#) in Edinburgh. Edinburgh Libraries are proud to be a Scotland partner in Living Knowledge Network (LKN). We have various events for Breaking News across the city.

Our Digital team have an online [Competition from Tales of One City](#)

Our Community Libraries are hosting a Breaking News front page about your favourite animal.

### **Scottish Book Trust – Learning Professional Award 2022**

Julie Sutherland, who is the Librarian at Forrester's High School, has won the prestigious Scottish Book Trust Learning Professional award for 2022. The award comes as a result of Julie being nominated by her fellow professionals in the school teaching staff. Julie has worked incredibly hard at Forrester's to inspire young people with a joy of reading, learning and spending time in the library and fostering a welcoming space. Lindsay Craik Collins – Curriculum Leader of English and Media at Forrester's said "Julie makes a massive difference to myself and my colleagues here at the school, she has a perspective that is unique, creative and exciting. She knows children, she listens to them, she values their opinions and she brings all of this to the table. So, where things might be a bit stale at times, Julie will definitely liven things up for us" Pupils have commented that the library is a safe space before and after school. Julie was also commended for treating pupils as individuals and taking the time to get to know their barriers to learning, their personal situations and their personalities so as to provide a better service for them. "I think there's a book for everyone, it sometimes takes people a bit longer to find that but Julie will connect them with a book, an author, a genre that they can be interested in. I think that's down to Julie and her personality, her tenacity and perseverance" – Stephen Rafferty – Head Teacher Forrester High

School.

“There’s just not a better start to the day than chatting to a bunch of teenagers” – Julie Sutherland

[Announcing the winner: Learning Professional Award 2022 – Scottish Book Trust](#)



## No Going Back – Listening to Young People

The Scottish Government (via Scottish Libraries and information Council (SLiC)) made available £1.25m nationally to support libraries with the reintroduction of the service and to help target specific groups. Edinburgh was awarded £33,100 specifically to engage with young people. During the summer, the funding will support a range of opportunities across the city for young people aged S1 and above. They will be encouraged to provide their views of the library service both public and in school, to then help identify where improvements can potentially be introduced that they feel might benefit them. Workshops will be creative and will involve professional practitioners using different methods and tools. The funding will also support the purchase of new and improved digital hardware and software to enhance the delivery model.

All of the feedback received will be distilled to help identify key themes. Some of the young people that have participated will then be invited to help shape tangible and achievable actions for the service to take forward. It is intended that the project will help increase young people’s participation in decision making through a well-tested and meaningful youth engagement programme - YouthTalk. The end result will be the introduction of a Library Service Young People’s Improvement Plan 2022-2025.



## Keep the Heid and Read – 11 May 2022

For Mental Health Week 2022, Community Libraries held various events to celebrate the Keep the Heid and Read campaign. School Libraries also participated, by encouraging students and staff to read for six minutes, through different methods. This included speed book chat events, and keeping up displays, which would be up on Social Media.

**Stockbridge Library** – On 11 May, the Scottish Government Minister for Culture and International Development, Neil Gray, attended a lunch at Stockbridge Library as part of the Keep the Heid and Read campaign. He also listened to live reads from a well renowned crime author, Gillian Galbraith, who led a series of six minute reads and a Q&A session in order to inspire young people to read for their mental well being.



**Central Library** – Members of the Book Talk, a friendly and supportive reading group for adults, meet fortnightly to read and talk about books in Central Library. They visited Central Library on 11 May, in celebration of SLIC's Keep the Heid and Read campaign. Together with more than 400,000 people in Scotland, the members completed their six minute reading pledge to celebrate the power of reading, libraries and good mental health. The research shows that reading for just six minutes per day boosts mental health by as much as 68%. The Book Talk reading group members spoke about what reading together and libraries mean to them, why they enjoy it and how it helps them relax. [Click here to watch a short video.](#)

**South Queensferry** – At South Queensferry Library, they hosted a Scottish Speed Reading event, inviting the public to come and spend six minutes reading several different books (All Scottish!) consisting of various genres. They also held a display of brilliant Scottish books to support the event. In addition, for children, their Scribble & Scrawl creative writing group pledged their six minutes and attempted to write a piece of work that can be read in six minutes. They also had a fantastic children's display for mental health week, with an activity pack for people to take away.

## Edinburgh Libraries Teaming Up with Edinburgh Art Festival

Edinburgh Libraries are teaming up with [Edinburgh Art Festival](#) to host art workshops for children this August delivered by [Art Buds Collective](#). Free artist-led workshops for children and families across the city – and on the water – will take you on a journey filled with sensory fun and

big environmental questions. Use your creativity to rethink local green spaces and waterways and dream up a better world. Get set for adventures – exploring sound, movement, sculpture and sustainable art-making.

On offer:

**Shapes in the city – invent, construct, climb!** Make huge, recycled sculptures inspired by bridges, tunnels and waterways!

**Sounds in the city – listen, sculpt, get noisy!**

Make sound sculptures in the garden, give a noisy performance, then finish with homemade pizza.

**Wonder on the water – investigate, make, fly your flag!** Set sail on a boat along the canal as we create maps and flags inspired by the history of our waterways. You might even spot some wildlife!

## Giraffes About Town

Edinburgh Libraries have worked closely with the Schools and Community Lead at Edinburgh Zoo. Edinburgh Libraries are delighted to be hosting 7 of the Giraffes about Town in Libraries, called The Wee Herd. The decoration from local community groups has been funded by City Fibre.

- Balgreen will host Edi-B - decorated by Broomhouse Hub – Space Scot
- Craigmillar will host Richie – decorated by Richmonds Hope
- Leith will host Salam - decorated by Multicultural Family Base
- Oxbgangs will host Clovie - decorated by Clovenstone Food Bank
- Piershill will host Gemma - decorated by Craigentenny Community Group
- Sighthill will host Gertie-Gigi - decorated by Broomhouse – Space Scot
- Westerhailes will host Skittles - decorated by Westerhailes Community Group.



The Zoo have given us access to their online educational resource Zoodle and events will be run throughout the duration of our visiting Giraffes.

## Make Music Day is Back at Central Library

For obvious reason Central Library were unable to host Make Music Day for two years, however they returned with a huge event on Tuesday 21 June, 12 noon until 6pm. Hosting to name but a few – The Rolling Hills Chorus, six-piece band – Big Tune Machine, Tenement Jazz Band and musicians from The Tinderbox Collection. Full programme can be found [here](#).

Edinburgh Libraries are in partnership with Tinderbox on a wonderful project, The Instrument Library, to bring musical instruments to our libraries where they can be reserved, just like a book. The project is in its infancy, however already we have been donated saxophones, guitars, trombones, violins and more. Tinderbox are currently crowdfunding to enable them to repair and bring the instruments up to standard to be reserved within our libraries.

Our own Development Leader from Craigmillar, Hannah McCooke was interviewed by Radio Scotland on our Tinderbox project The Instrument Library. Start 57.33 [Listen here](#) Libraries participating will be Craigmillar, Westerhailes, Muirhouse, Drumbrae, Moredun and Central Music.

## Libraries – Autism Acceptance Week

Our schools participated in this Acceptance week and held group discussions and book displays, highlighting our Autism [book list](#). This year we worked closely with the Scottish Governments “Different Minds” campaign.



## Ukraine Welcome Event – Stockbridge Library

This event was held by Stockbridge Library to welcome those from Ukraine who had just arrived into the area. They wanted to welcome them to the library and the community, get to know them and offer help and support – introducing them to library services and explain to them what can be offered at the library, as well as provide a welcoming space for them to meet up regularly. The response back was overwhelming, as around 50 people of all ages attended the evening. There were also a few Ukrainian speakers who volunteered to help with translation during the evening and in future meetups. Following the response, it has been decided to hold regular evenings on the first and third Monday of every month at 6pm.



## Bookbug Week – 22 May 2022



All Edinburgh city libraries held exciting special sessions this week of May.

Highlights: On Libraries Blog, Tales of One City.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Emily from Moredun also took Bookbug on a trip to Lochrin Belle on the Union Canal, for a special session with children from Rainbow Kindergarten! Moredun also completed a “Reel a Day” on Instagram, creating friendly content all related to Bookbug. These had a huge reach and helped raise awareness of the Bookbug activities ongoing in the library. On Facebook they totalled a reach of 1664 and 118 engagements over the week, and on Instagram it totalled a reach of 6890 and 174 engagements over the week.

Blackhall Library ran an additional Bookbug session with a multilingual theme, with a selection of songs from languages other than English, including French, Czech, Polish and Russian.

## Finnish Library Visitors

After a delay of two years due to the pandemic, colleagues from Iisalmi Libraries and Cultural Services in Finland arrived in Edinburgh in May to visit Libraries in the City. Iisalmi's visit was funded by Erasmus+ programme.

The Programme reflected the interests of the visitors and Finnish colleagues met a number of library staff to find out about strategic delivery and service planning, Central Library, digital services, services for Children and young people and how we develop and market our extensive programme of events and activities to promote reading. They were also interested in how libraries worked in partnerships to offer new services and activities to Edinburgh's citizens.

Visitors spent a day with the Direct Services Team, as well as finding out about Libraries' Mobile Services they accompanied staff on a visit to St Joseph's RC Primary School. The programme also included visits to meet staff teams at Portobello, Stockbridge, Craigmillar, Wester Hailes and Moredun Libraries where they had the opportunity to find out about services to local communities and recent projects. There was also the chance to meet colleagues in Heritage, Culture Venues and Museums to find out about wider aspects of cultural services in Edinburgh.

## Flotilla Event 200

Newington Library celebrated the Union Canal's 200<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary on the 20 May. There was an Edinburgh Libraries information stall at Harrison Park, and staff were busy with promoting services and signing up new members. There was also a Name the Dragon competition held, and an Identify the 8 book characters quiz. Many members of the public came to see, and were given out daisy craft bags, bookmarks, pencils, free picture books, and badges. The wonderful Lorenzo also sang and played guitar during Bookbug Sessions.



## Volunteers Week in Libraries

Edinburgh Libraries celebrated Volunteers Week in partnership with Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) and Food for Life Get Togethers (FFLGT).

On 6 June in the RVS offices, volunteers were invited to come together to enjoy sharing food sponsored by FFLGT, with a two-fold celebration: a celebration of the Jubilee and also to say a massive thank you to the volunteers for all their dedicated work with the Library Service before, throughout and after the Covid pandemic. Volunteers enjoyed a picnic lunch followed by strawberries and cream, and a game devised to get people talking, having a chance to meet each other sometimes for the first time!



**McDonald Road Children's Garden** – McDonald Road Library hosted a fun community gardening craft session for kids and parents. They grew many types of different vegetables in the library and taught the children how to learn to take care of plants. Everything planted will be shared out when they are fully grown! This initiative is hoped to be shared across our City Libraries.



## Libraries – New Book Lists

Our Resource Team are constantly updating our Book collections linked to the Events Calendar. The latest collection is about [Walking](#). Two of our Libraries are in the early stages of host Wellbeing Walks around their areas.

## Libraries Successful Funding Bids

**STEM – Dinosaur sessions in libraries** - The CYP team received SLIC funding to allow us to run STEM Dinosaur workshops in some of our libraries. These workshops are aimed at 5–7-year-olds to come along for a fun informative session where they meet three baby animatronic/puppet dinosaurs, get a chance to feed them and learn all about their diets, habitats and behaviours. The visits also include a chance for the children to meet dinosaurs closest living relatives with snakes, tortoises and lizards visiting too for a hands-on experience. These sessions are being tailored to a library setting with a space at the end for library staff to do an introduction to our animals and nature section and talk the children through where to find dinosaur books and other books on things they like. The sessions were commissioned from the amazing Dino Man and were very successful.



These are followed up two weeks later in a session where children will get a chance to make clay dinosaurs using air dried clay, some which they can take home, but other will create a dinosaur trail which they can visit in the library. Moredun, Craigmillar, Wester Hailes Libraries have all had very successful first sessions and Granton will also be getting their soon as it had to be delayed due to Dino Man having Covid.

**Central Library** – Central Library bid for a grant of £300 from The Old Town Association, to help towards drawing boards and some other art supplies, in order to improve online services for children and young people. We are pleased to say that it has been successfully approved. Central Library also applied to the SLIC Children's Library Services, for a grant of £1000, to support family based learning activities. This will help families who are unable to afford attending these types of events e.g. Edinburgh Science Festival.



## Edinburgh Women's Mural

During Women's History Month in March, work started on a wonderful public mural dedicated to Edinburgh's women, celebrating past and present. It has now been finished and was displayed in the Central Library from 23 May – 2 July. This was achieved with £8000 funding from Creative Scotland. [Click here to find out more.](#)



Lily Alayah (former BHS pupil)  
Maths Pioneer



Annette Crossie (former BHS  
pupil)  
Actress



Alana Macfarlane (former BHS  
pupil)  
The Gut Stuff



Lisa Macfarlane (former BHS  
pupil)  
The Gut Stuff



Sarah Smith (former BHS pupil)  
Journalist



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
Author



Sara Sheridan  
Author



Muriel Spark  
Author

### Edinburgh Women's Mural

To celebrate International Women's Day, a mural of famous and pioneering women (using stencils) who are from or who have a connection to Edinburgh is being created. The final mural will be displayed in Central Library on George IV Bridge.

The BHS Equalities group have created these amazing portraits to appear on the mural.

## Culture and Communities Committee



### **Convener**

Councillor Val Walker

### **Members**

Councillor Walker (*Convener*)

Councillor Glasgow

Councillor Heap

Councillor McFarlane

Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Councillor Mitchell

Councillor Meagher

Councillor Munro

Councillor Osler

Councillor Staniforth

Councillor Thornley

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*Committee Services*

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