

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday 13 December 2022



Fields in Trust Dedications – Ravelston Park and Orchard Brae Park – Clarification (Wards Affected: 5 - Inverleith)

Following on from the report which was considered at Culture and Communities Committee on [13 October 2022](#) and in response to the point raised by Councillor Osler at Committee, this bulletin update has been prepared to confirm that the park being proposed for Fields in Trust protection is known as Orchard Park (North and South) and not Orchard Brae Park was referred to in the October report.

A plan of the park is attached in Appendix 1. This details the park covered and will be used as part of the upcoming 12 week consultation on this proposal (the consultation will be published on the Council's Consultation Hub).

The Meadows Jawbones: Update (Wards Affected: 11 - City Centre and 15 - Southside/Newington)

In [February 2022](#), Culture and Communities Committee recommended that a suitable indoor location for the original Jawbone Arch should be explored. Committee agreed that the location should be both free and publicly accessible, and that funding should be sought to commission a bronze replica to be erected in its place.

The bones are currently in storage, but due to their fragile condition, officers are prioritising trying and find a new indoor location, preferably within proximity to the Meadows area of the city. This location needs to have easy access (recognising that the Jawbones are extremely large and need to be moved by crane) and that the chosen location needs to be easy to access and to have sufficient space for the Jawbones to be displayed. However, despite discussions both internally and externally, a new site has not yet been identified.

Until a suitable location is identified and funding obtained, it is not possible to address the request from Committee that a timeline for the project should be provided. Officers will continue to work on

this and to identify a funding for the project and will keep Committee and Edinburgh World Heritage Trust (as major stakeholders and co-funders of the project) updated.

Hunters Hall Park

(Wards Affected: 17 - Portobello/Craigmillar)

On [16 December 2014](#), Committee approved feasibility work to progress with the development of a masterplan for new sports facilities at Hunter's Hall Park. The masterplan includes an outdoor velodrome, competition-standard BMX track, pump track and synthetic sports pitches.

The delivery of the plan has been progressed on a phased basis, with the construction of new synthetic sports pitches and a pump track completed to date utilising Section 75 funding.

Officers have continued to explore options for the development of the remaining cycling elements of the masterplan and an opportunity has arisen to apply for funding from **sportscotland's** Cycling Facilities Fund to progress with the development of a competition standard BMX track at Hunter's Hall Park. The Council has a budget set aside in its Capital Investment Programme to provide match funding towards the cost of the track and discussions are on-going with Edinburgh Leisure and other partners on the new facility.

Officers will commission consultants to complete the final design work on the BMX track, estimate construction costs and compile the information required to apply to the Cycling Facilities Fund.

Committee will be kept updated on progress with this.

Museums and Galleries Schools and Young People Update

(Wards Affected: All)

The Museums and Galleries service provides a number of opportunities for schools and young people to gain experience of working within the Council's museums and galleries service and also to support learning. Recent activities have included:

- With financial support from **KPE4**, a young person from Craigoyston High School has been offered the opportunity of a paid work experience placement at the City Art Centre. This placement is focused on assisting primary schools from North Edinburgh to attend Funded Post: An amazing opportunity is being given to a young person from Craigoyston High School in North Edinburgh. KPE4 are paying Impact Arts to allow a young person to get a paid placement at the City Art Centre, to assist young people attending the City Art Centre from primary schools in North Edinburgh visiting the Centre. The service is grateful to KPE4 for their financial assistance for this programme, and in particular the funding provided to meet transport costs;
- In October 2022, the Museums and Galleries service began supporting the **Promising Young People** initiative, which offers the opportunity for care experienced young people to access placements to support their developed;
- **Crankstart** provides support to scholars, through the Oxford University scheme, to support and give experience to families with low income. One of the current scholars is developing a series of videos to help people engage more easily with the Council's Museums and Galleries

collections and another delivered a lecture during Black History Month, focusing on her research into the Council's collection on the legacies of Slavery and Colonialism; and

- A new **maths week** lesson plan was launched at Lauriston Castle in September 2022. This links to Edinburgh Napier University and the invention of logarithms. Over 50 schools participated.

Update on Building Works for the Central Library (Wards Affected: 11 - City Centre)

The programme of building works at Central Library is continuing, with the replacement of 95% of the internal lighting, an overhaul of the electrical system (with replacement of all of the electrical distribution boards) and new fire safety equipment now complete.

Externally, work to replace and repoint the stonework continues, as does refurbishment work to ensure all of the windows are wind and watertight. Scaffolding has now been completely removed from the Cowgate elevation of the building, and it is anticipated that the building work will be completed by April 2023.

Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM): Trial and Briefing (Wards Affected: All)

A trial of different temporary hostile vehicle mitigation equipment was launched during the Summer Festivals 2022. The trial involved two different suppliers, Crowdguard and Hormann, and four different types of equipment. It also involved a multi-agency team, with particular thanks going to Police Scotland, University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh International Book Festival for their contribution to the trial.

The aims of the trial were to:

- Raise awareness of some of the products available on the market, be able to see them working on site and evaluate their effectiveness;
- Encourage discussion on how venues, event organisers and landowners could work collaboratively to procure and install rated measures across the city in the future;
- Increase security at one of Edinburgh's busiest festival sites, which has the highest concentration of venues and therefore significant footfall; and
- Enhance Edinburgh's reputation as a safe place to host events by taking a proactive approach in providing and promoting counter terrorism measures for crowded places.

The findings of the trial will be reported to Culture and Communities Committee, the multi-agency CONTEST group and the HVM Partner Forum as well as the European PACTESUR project (EU commission led project intended to protect urban environments from terrorism of which is Edinburgh is an associate city).

Summer Festivals – HVM trial

Products in Edinburgh

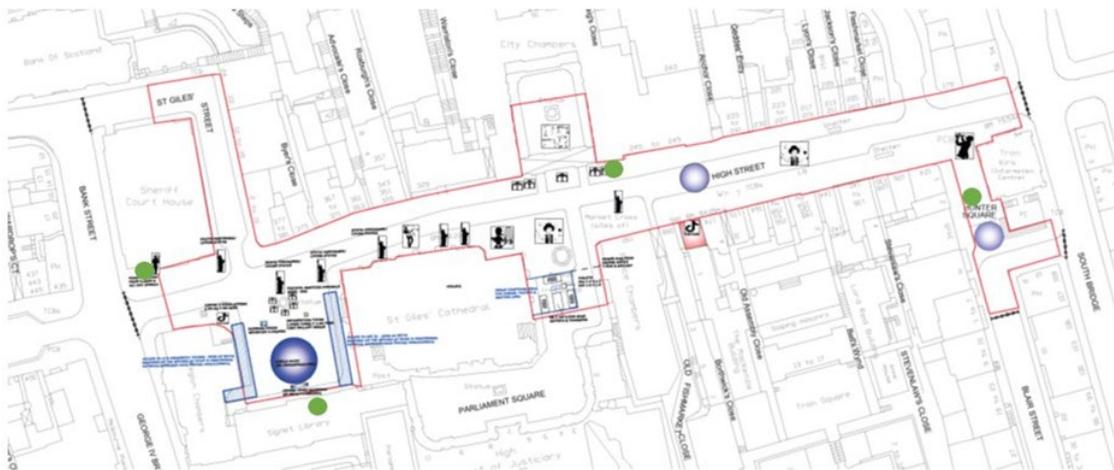


Turin Delegation: Crowd Sensors (Wards Affected: All)

During the summer festivals, Council officers and Police Scotland hosted a delegation from Turin trialling crowd sensors (www.dropper.ai), with the iconic Fringe High Street arena as their test site.

The picture shows where the sensors were positioned and they gathered data on peak attendance, most travelled routes (point to point), preferred entry points, dwell time and travel time.

The picture shows where the sensors were positioned (●). They gathered data on peak attendance, most travelled routes (point to point), preferred entry points, dwell time and travel time.



It is possible that this technology could help in matters relating to night time economy, smart cities and zone ex/grey space at events and sports grounds, however a full report on the trial is expected to be received shortly.

Edinburgh's Literary Women Recognised (Wards Affected: As noted below)

In partnership with the City of Literature, Edinburgh Libraries were honoured to be gifted stock

titles from a list of five over-looked women writers - Mary Brunton, Christian Isobel Johnstone, Elizabeth Sanderson Haldane, Lady Margaret Sackville and Rebecca West. One of each title will now be placed in Balgreen, Blackhall, Corstorphine, Craigmillar, Currie, Drumbrae, Fountainbridge, Leith, MacDonald Road, Morningside, Newington, Portobello, Piershill, Stockbridge and South Queensferry Libraries.

The Lord Provost kindly accepted the books at a ceremony which took place at Drumbrae Library.

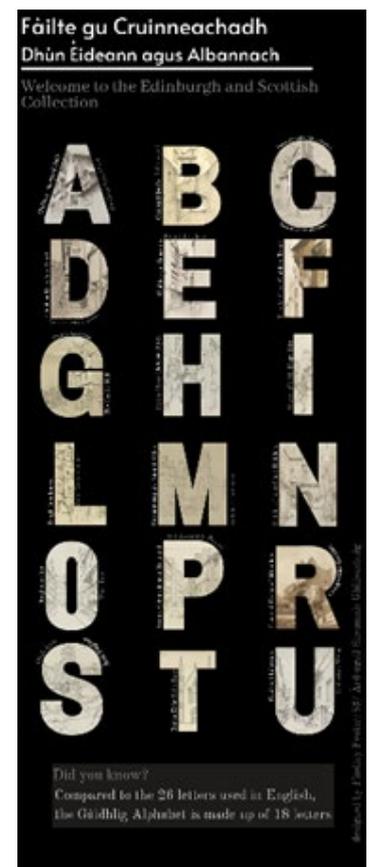
[Full Story](#)



Central Library – Gaelic Language Plan (Wards Affected: All)

Edinburgh Central Library has been supporting delivery of the the Gaelic Language Plan through:

- *Gaelic collection* – the Edinburgh and Scottish Library has a wonderful selection of Gaelic reading material to borrow, as well as many books on the history and culture of the Gàidhealtachd. The collection includes children's and adults' fiction and non-fiction titles, reading group sets and Gaelic language learning aids;
- Special signage for a part of the collection was designed by Findlay Foster, a student at James Gillespie's High School. The signage concentrates on the 18 letters of the Gaelic alphabet;
- *Children's activities* – a monthly Gaelic Bookbug session for 0-5 year olds is held, together with a monthly reading group for young children.
- *Groups for adults* - a weekly Gaelic Reading Group, meets on Tuesdays in the Library. A conversation group also meets monthly; and
- In September we held a successful book launch of Gaelic Neighbours by Dr Vincent McKee – his book explored the historic relationship between Scotland and Northern Ireland.



Update on Levelling Up Bids (Wards Affected: All)

Following a report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on [23 June 2022](#), funding bids were submitted to the UK Levelling Up Fund for two projects which fall under the remit of this Committee - The Inch Park Regeneration Project and the City Wide Cultural Regeneration Project. The outcome of these bids is not yet known but will be reported to Committee in the future.

Filmhouse/EIFF Update

A verbal update on Filmhouse/EIFF will be given at the Committee meeting.

Cemetery Tour Guides Registration Update (Wards Affected: 11 – City Centre)

The city has five historic city centre graveyards in the UNESCO World Heritage area. Three of those (Canongate, Greyfriars and Old Calton) are Category A listed for the national significance of their monuments, memorials and walls. These cemeteries are popular with visitors, but they require expensive ongoing conservation and maintenance to keep them safe (in 2021/22, the cost to repair paths in Canongate, Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's graveyards was £61,750).

In [September 2020](#) the Committee agreed to introduce a Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme, which included a registration fee, a Code of Conduct and a request for donated contributions from visitors to support the cost of maintenance. The Code of Practice highlights that it is the responsibility of each Cemetery Tour Guide Operator to either make a donation with respect to each paying customer, or to encourage each customer to do so themselves.

In 2021/22, the Council received income from Cemetery Tour Guide Operator registration fees of £3,309, which is lower than was anticipated. In addition, officers have noted that the number of donations to the graveyards is significantly lower than the number of visitors.

In September 2022, officers met with representatives of a number of the major tour guide operators to discuss the operation of and compliance with the Scheme. It is proposed to continue discussions with them in an effort to improve compliance with the requirements of the registration scheme before considering any review of the fees charged.

Cultural Grant Funded Organisations – Carbon Management Update (Wards Affected: All)

The Culture Service is continuing to lead the way in ensuring that, as a requirement of funding, organisations have carbon management plans in place or are working towards having one. Working with Creative Carbon Scotland colleagues, a survey of revenue funded organisations has been carried out on their Carbon Management Plans.

26 out of 27 revenue funded organisations responded (the remaining organisation received funding for the first time in 2022/23 and therefore will report in 2023/24).

Creative Carbon Scotland advised on carbon management plans for this year and most organisations also reported energy, utilities, waste, and travel information so that individual carbon footprint reports could be provided. Measuring and monitoring emissions is the best way to understand them and to develop plans to reduce emissions, so it is great to see organisations building this into their business processes.

This year, the focus of the carbon management plan was on the actions that the organisations are planning to implement by 2025 to reduce their carbon footprint. The table below provides a summary of the actions included:

Organisation	Actions by 2025
Artlink	Greater use of public transport and car-sharing to reduce emissions from car journeys.
Dance Base	Committing to using ground transport for all UK travel and, if possible, in Europe.
Edinburgh International Festival	Embracing new models of working with companies and orchestras, including increased engagement through residences in Edinburgh.
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop	Switching lighting to LEDs and exploring the options for renewables and replacing the boiler system.
Festivals Edinburgh	Setting a carbon budget of 30 tonnes for the next three years.
Imagineate	Setting a travel carbon budget that reduces by 20% each year and forecast travel associated with every project prior to it beginning to ensure the budget is stuck to.
North Edinburgh Arts	Installation of renewable energy sources: an air source heat pump and solar PV.
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	Bringing visiting artists into Scotland for 2 week blocks instead of 1 week projects.
Scottish Poetry Library	Switching lighting to LEDs and exploring installation of solar panels.
Stills: Centre for Photography	Full replacement of heating system and implementing a travel reduction process.
Traverse Theatre	Switching to a renewable energy provider.

This information will continue to be gathered on an annual basis from revenue funded organisations and will be shared for inclusion in the Council's the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report.

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

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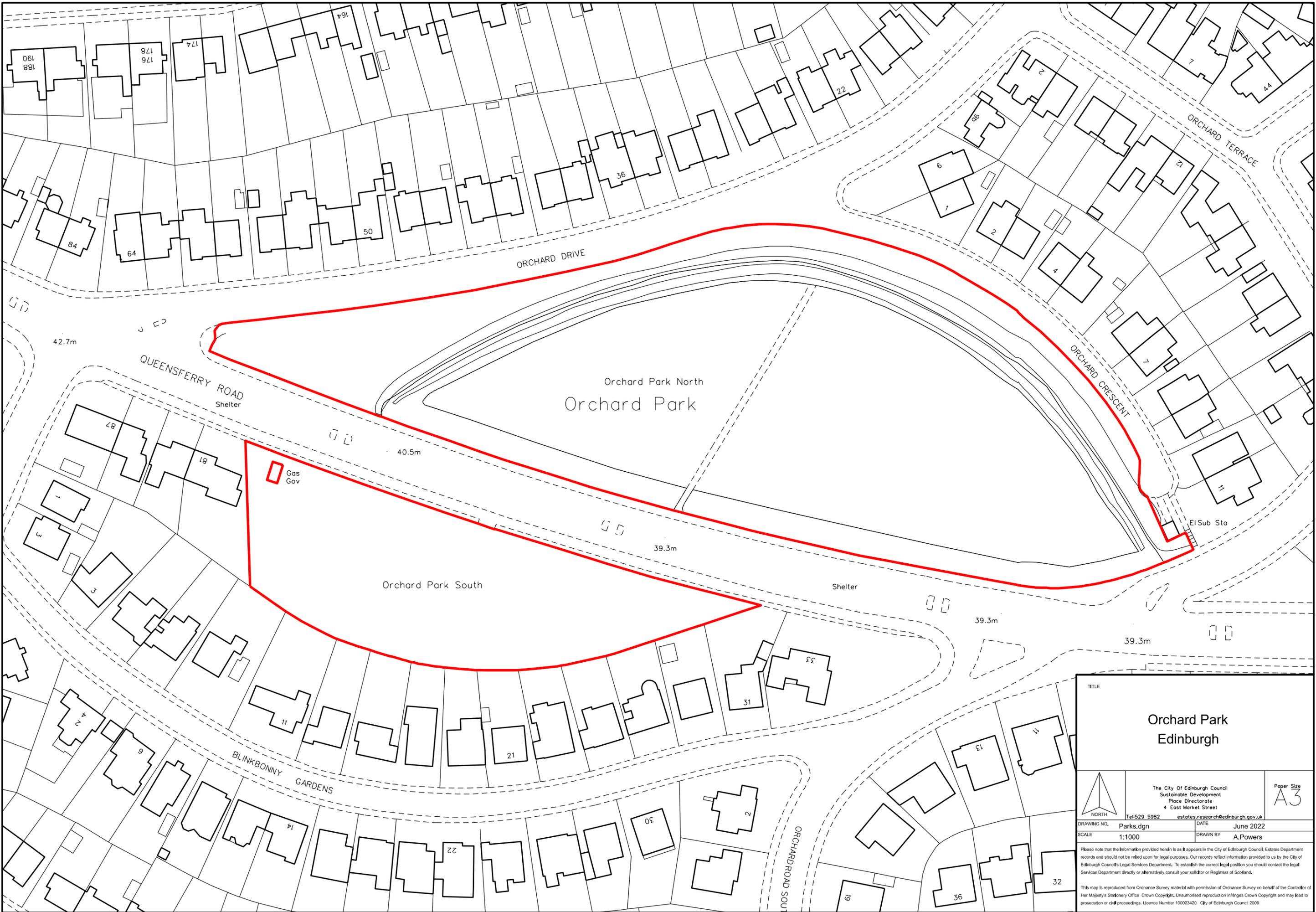
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TITLE		Orchard Park Edinburgh	
 NORTH		The City Of Edinburgh Council Sustainable Development Place Directorate 4 East Market Street Tel: 529 5982 estates.research@edinburgh.gov.uk	
DRAWING NO.	Parks.dgn	DATE	June 2022
SCALE	1:1000	DRAWN BY	A.Powers
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Upcoming Exhibitions and Events

Ron O'Donnell – Edinburgh: A Lost World (City Art Centre - 19 November 2022 – 5 March 2023)

This winter the City Art Centre presents an exhibition featuring black and white and colour photographs of unseen and forgotten Edinburgh interiors by Scottish artist Ron O'Donnell, taken during the 1970s and 1980s. The images are of unusual interiors such as prison cells, public toilets, and laundrettes as well as local shops such as grocers, fishmongers, and pet shops.

The *Edinburgh: A Lost World* highlights how many of these once bustling and thriving locations have now disappeared from the city's interior landscape. The exhibition is accompanied by an in person and digital events programme. For further information please visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk



Credit: Ron O'Donnell, *Laundrette, South Clerk Street, 1978*. © the artist



Credit: Ron O'Donnell, *Robert Cresser, Brush Shop, Victoria Street, 1978*. © the artist

Respect! Caribbean Life in Edinburgh Museum of Edinburgh - Sunday 16 October 2022 – Sunday 19 February 2023 (Wards Affected: All)



A new exhibition, *Respect! Caribbean life in Edinburgh* is a celebration of the Caribbean community in Edinburgh, represented through museum objects, poetry and film and has been

created in collaboration with the Edinburgh Caribbean Association (ECA).

The items on display have been chosen or loaned by members of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association to share their stories with museum visitors. A film has been made of the group discussing Scotland and the Caribbean and a playlist has also been created so visitors can enjoy Caribbean music. For more information on the exhibition, please visit the [website](#).



Put Your Thinking Cap On Exhibition Museum of Edinburgh – Community Area, Ground Floor until 26 February 2023 (Wards Affected: All)

The Put Your Thinking Cap On exhibition, is a collaboration between youth Samba band Pulse of the Place and Ferryhill Primary School.

Inspired by the drumming sessions hosted by Rohan Seilman at the School and spurred on by an invitation to perform in a music video for the Edinburgh Festival Carnival, the exhibition shows portraits of students wearing their 'thinking caps' that were used at the Pulse of the Place performance. The headgear was designed and fashioned by students with guidance and oversight from teacher and art specialist Dr Anke-Beate Stahl. The materials used were papier mâché, paper, wire, straws, pipe cleaners, pompoms, and glue. This provided an opportunity for pupils to express themselves creatively and experiment with different designs.

Many more pupils performed for Pulse of the Place than those whose portraits are displayed at the exhibition and their contribution should also be recognised. The portraits were shot in the school dining hall with this being the first experience of its kind for many students.



Events at Museums and Galleries (Wards Affected: All)

For more information on upcoming events in the Council's Museums and Galleries, please visit their website - <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on>.

Usher Hall (Wards Affected: All)

Details of the upcoming events at the Usher Hall can be found here - <https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on>.



Assembly Rooms (Wards Affected: All)

Details of upcoming events at the Assembly Rooms can be found here - <https://www.assemblyroomsedinburgh.co.uk/whats-on>



Church Hill Theatre (Wards Affected: All)

Details of upcoming events at the Church Hill Theatre can be found here - <https://churchhilltheatre.co.uk/whats-on>:



Recent Events and Activities

Digital Exhibition Explores How Edinburgh Was Made Fit For A King (Wards Affected: All)

On 10 August 2022, a new digital exhibition was launched that explores the impact and legacy of a landmark royal visit.

The Royal Visit of George IV to Edinburgh, 1822: Making a city fit for a King enables visitors to view objects made for the visit via a map showing the locations of pageants, ceremonies and other events held for the King, the first reigning monarch to visit the capital in nearly 200 years. You can view the exhibition here: [The royal visit of George IV to Edinburgh, 1822: making a city fit for a King - Our Town Stories](#)

Black History Month (Wards Affected: All)

Working with The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER), Museums and Galleries Edinburgh hosted an annual programme of lectures for Black History Month in October 2022, including:

- The Face of A Thousand Faces: Representations of Non-Whites in Western Culture;
- The Tartan Gandhi: Mahatma Gandhi and Scotland;
- Caribbean Life in Edinburgh: A Celebration;
- Scotland's Ties to Slavery; and
- Racializing Children: Addressing Anti-Black Racism in the Museum of Childhood Book Collection.

Taking the theme of Time for Change: Action Not Words, the Central Library installed a display in the staircase exhibition cabinets with selected reproductions of some of the placards and banners collected by Museums and Galleries Edinburgh, alongside books held in the collections of Central Library, promoting the contribution of people of colour to society and recounting their experiences. The collections reflect our wish to offer a broad range of material including works related to or created by those from under-represented groups. You can view a selection of placards and banners on [Capital Collections](#)

In addition, our community Libraries hosted book displays and the Central Library also Kate Phillips, author of [Bought & Sold: Scotland, Jamaica and Slavery](#) and broadcaster and journalist Stuart Cosgrove, telling the epic story of Black music and the White House from his new book

At South Queensferry High School, staff worked together with the Support learning department to inform students and staff with updates that happened twice per week. There was a Black History Month display and a smaller display which changed every week to fit with the School Librarians programme.



South Asian Heritage Month by Roshni Gallagher, Library Advisor (Wards Affected: All)

Shining a light on South Asian histories and identities – South Asian Heritage Month was founded in 2020 and ran this year from 18 July to 17 August. The theme was ‘Journeys of Empire’.

The journeys included the odyssey of indenture in the Caribbean and East Asia, the ones taken by Indian Ayahs paid to travel to Scotland in the 19th century, South Asian migration to Britain, and many others.

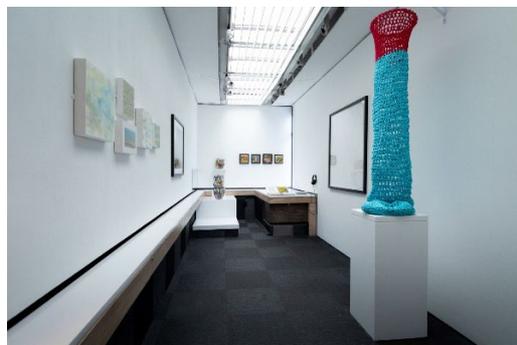
For Edinburgh Libraries, Roshni has collated a wonderful book list to celebrate the Journeys of Empire, which can be accessed here - <https://talesofonecity.wordpress.com/2022/07/21/journeys-of-empire-south-asian-heritage-month/>.

Travelling Gallery Autumn 2022 Exhibition (Wards Affected: All)

The Travelling Gallery’s Autumn 2022 exhibition, *ReConnect*, has been touring Scotland since September.

Reconnecting has rarely felt more vital, which is why Travelling Gallery is partnering with [Project Ability](#) (an open studio for people with lived experience of mental ill health) to exhibit four diverse artists from their ReConnect programme. Grant Glennie, Sian Mather, Simon McAuley and Bel Pye’s artistic practices bring a wide variety of styles, techniques and mediums to Travelling Gallery, all of which have been explored and nurtured in the ReConnect studio, allowing the artists to discover a sense of themselves.

ReConnect is both the title of this exhibition and the very notion that we are once again re-connecting, individually and as an organisation.



Travelling Gallery installation view

The exhibition successfully launched up Calton Hill before visiting Edinburgh venues (including Blackhall Library, The Ripple Project in Restalrig and Bridgend Farmhouse near The Inch), before closing on Portobello High Street as part of Art Walk Party.

Travelling Gallery is on the road until December, with venues in: North Lanarkshire, Argyll and Bute, Clackmannanshire, East Lothian, Glasgow, East Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde. For more information on Travelling Gallery, please visit <https://travellinggallery.com/>.

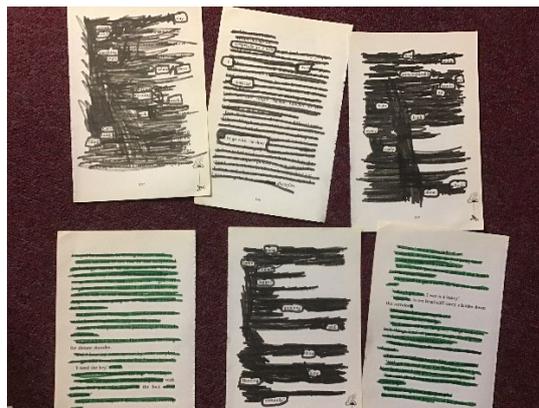
Libraries Service Update (Wards Affected: All)

National Poetry Day

On National Poetry Day (6 October), Stockbridge Library hosted an interactive event asking customers to come along to hear staff reading their favourite poems, to bring their favourite poems and take a look at our Poetry resources.

Central Library hosted a Poetry writing workshop, with Roshni Gallagher, and Drumbrae Library invited their children visitors to see how wonderful writing poetry can be and celebrate this art form.

Forester Pupils and P7 parents had a go at creating poetry from books at the P7 Parents Evening. Supplied with a marker pen and recycled pages from novels, they tried to create a poem from one single page by blacking out the unwanted words. It was a tough challenge, but the results were amazing!



Portobello library was the main venue for the 14th Portobello Book Festival, an annual free festival run by community volunteers in partnership with the library service. Library staff are part of the Organising Committee, distribute tickets and supporting delivery of the festival.

This year's festival ran between 28 September and 2 October, with a varied programme of 21 events, 19 of which were hosted by the library. The festival featured a range of contributors, including Portobello local historian Archie Foley speaking about his new book, thriller writer Christopher Brookmyre alongside romantic author Jenny Colgan, and *Songs From the Last Page*, an evening of music and conversation that has been specially created by songwriter and composer Gareth Williams for Chamber Music Scotland as part of EventScotland's Year of Stories.

There were over 600 attendees at this year's festival. This year for the first time the Portobello Book Shop ran the book stall in the library, a partnership with a local business that it is anticipated will continue in the future.



Libraries Events and Innovations

Prison Library - Gabriel Krauze, an author longlisted for the Booker Prize, read and talked to multiple groups at HMP Edinburgh (40+ in attendance) candidly answering questions about himself and his first book *Who They Was*: “An astonishing, visceral autobiographical novel about a young man straddling two cultures: the university where he is studying English Literature and the disregarded world of London gang warfare” (EIBF, 2022). Subsequently the library has received multiple requests for more author talks (and wish-listed names) and officers are currently exploring opportunities to deliver similar talks in the future.

Corstorphine Library hosted Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre, where children joined the library, puppet books were issued and materials were donated to the library to allow us to host our own future craft days.

Art & Design Exhibition – Dreams by Molly Kent - The Art and Design Library were thrilled to have a rising star of the contemporary art world, [Molly Kent](#), exhibiting in September with tapestry and weaving on show entitled “Dreams”. [Click here](#) for our blog

Macmillian@Edinburgh Libraries – Coffee Mornings Oxgangs Library is one of the MacMillan cancer care information locations and so Oxgangs Library staff participated in one of the big coffee morning celebrations in September. With the help of the MacMillan volunteers and friends, staff sold cakes alongside a cup of tea or coffee for visitors and raised over £100 in cash.

Blackhall Library also participated and raised over £200.



Drumrae Library are continuing to offer a wide range of activities and events for the local community including hosting the Junior Creative Writing Group, Gaming League, Funky Friday Craft, Legotime, Drawing Club, Chatterbooks for children and Colouring Group, Mindful Movement, Creative Writing Group, and Tabletop Knights for adults.



Sighthill Library hosted the Booster Cushion Theatre, a travelling one-man show that retells well known fairy tales in new and exciting ways. We invited Murrayburn Primary's year two and three classes along, since their class topic this year is fairy tales. There were forty-nine children in total, with five adults



Girlguiding Pencil Express

Edinburgh Libraries are working in partnership with Girlguiding Edinburgh to host the displays from their Pencil Express Initiative. This will hopefully lead to a great community connection between our two associations. This project inspires girls across Scotland, to express themselves. Girls are given a pencil and encouraged to express themselves in any way that they like, this can be through story, letter, zine or picture. Below are some examples of the activities taking place in our Libraries:

Blackhall Library were proud to be able to display the work of the Cramond Brownies during October., here is a sample of some of the fab work they have done.



South Queensferry and **Kirkliston Library** have exhibitions on display from local Rainbows and Brownies. They hosted open evening inviting in parents/carers and children to showcase their work. During the drop in event 48 adults and 75 children visited the Library and of those five adults and 12 children took out library memberships and immediately took out books. An outcome from this partnership will be that we will be having visits to the Library by the local Rainbows and Brownies groups, and we will host a family Christmas event at Kirkliston with crafts and refreshments following from the success of this event.



Maths Week Scotland

[Maths Week Scotland](#) took place throughout October and highlighted the importance of maths in our everyday lives. A number of our Community Libraries took part in the campaign with a wide range of events and activities to reach children and young people across the city. [See what we've been doing.](#)

Craigroyston HS - As part of Edinburgh International Book Festival, we hosted an event with Alex Wheatle, author of *Cane Warriors*, talking about his book *Kemosha of the Caribbean*. Both stories are set around the Caribbean during the peak of the Atlantic Slave Trade, which this year's S3s studied when they were in S2, and focus on untold stories of adventure, rebellion and resistance in the Caribbean, framing black protagonists as heroes rather than victims. This resonates enormously with this year's Black History Month theme of "Actions, Not Words"



Tynecastle HS - Lunchtime Partnership – Tynecastle High School Library is working in partnership with Dunedin Canmore Youth Projects to deliver an extra-curricular programme of creative crafts and media activities. This partnership is helping to create learner social networks, establish community links, and supports the school's application to become an accredited Scottish Book Trust Reading School.

Forrester High School Library has warmly welcomed the super-fluffy Archie the Therapet, who is working with pupils from English and the Wellbeing Hub. He's brilliant at listening to pupils who are building confidence in reading out loud. Teen Titles Magazine is back in print, after a short period of being digital-only due to the pandemic. Pupils from Forrester High School interviewed teen-guru Nicola Morgan about her latest title 'Be Resilient'. Other features include interviews by Broughton High School who interviewed Brigid Kemmerer, St Thomas of Aquins RC High School who met up with Alex Wheatle, Mark Jones was interviewed by Trinity Academy and Cynthia Murphy was interviewed by Castlebrae High School.



Forester School also have a display of the latest 'Cool Reads' - a collection of books requested by and purchased for pupils. The pupils at Forrester High School have selected a wide range of books that they want to read in the school library. These include dyslexic-friendly horrors, choose-your-own-ending stories, footballer biographies, cars, graphic novels and mysteries.

Active Schools (Wards Affected: All)



Rugby

Rugby has made a comeback thanks to a fresh connection between Linlithgow Rugby Club (LRC) and Active Schools. All P7 pupils received four weeks of brilliant taster sessions delivered by LRC Rugby Manager Dougie Thomson and his fantastic team.

Although there is some rugby delivered in the PE curriculum, the children really embraced the opportunity to be back having delivery from external providers and focus on learning skills and rules of the game. This culminated in a giant Touch Rugby festival for all 180 of them at Queensferry High (QHS) where they put their learnings into practice, all expertly refereed by 14 QHS Sports Leaders. The sun shone, the children smiled throughout and importantly made new friendships ahead of their next adventure transitioning to high school together. Next steps are a satellite club, promoting LRC for families to watch club games so children see the progression and hopefully join 'Tartan Touch'.

It was so satisfying to see that this new project and partnership between Active Schools, Linlithgow Rugby Club and the Schools ran so smoothly for the first time. P7 were targeted as that is where the club had capacity and it would be great to keep that momentum going each year and develop into delivery for more year groups once the local satellite club and coaching staff are established.

Leadership Academy

It's been another successful year with the Active Schools Leadership Academy with senior pupils involved from across the city of Edinburgh. Over 60 pupils engaged in the programme and there

was even a return to in person meetings.

The Leadership Academy compliments the SportScotland Young Ambassador programme with pupils gaining experience in leadership in sport, sports coaching and promoting sport opportunities in their school and community.

The senior pupils meet several times during the school year to learn and share their knowledge of motivating and inspiring others to get involved in sport. This was the first year that an SQA unit had been added to the programme with participants being offered the opportunity to undertake the 'Assisting an Activity' unit and eight completed this. This will hopefully be progressed with more SQA units offered next year. Along with this SQA unit participants also had the chance to complete SportScotland Introduction to Coaching Children Qualification with 48 completing this, Scottish Sport Futures Mental Health and Well Being Training and 13 of them also completed their Scottish Disability Sport UK Disability and Inclusion Training.

The Leadership Academy ensures young people are equipped with the right knowledge and confidence to take on any opportunity in the sporting world. Many participants who signed up to the programme completed at least 10 hours of voluntary delivery with Active Schools Edinburgh.

Outcomes of the programme were;

- Increased confidence in delivering sport;
- New relationships developed;
- Increased knowledge of sports coaching; and
- Improved understanding of Inclusion.



Epic Adventures – Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU)

SOLU has built upon the highly successful 2021 Epic Days (e.g. [CEC News](#) and the [Edinburgh Reporter](#)).



In partnership with the South-East Scotland Scouts/Bonaly Scout Centre, the 2022 programme was entitled Epic Adventures. This was a much more targeted programme to support specific groups of learners and young people and has recently concluded for this year (October 2022).

SOLU staff provided approximately 3,500 hours of instructor delivery with 2,470 pupils benefitting

from the programmes. Pupils ranged from P5 – S6 and provision included ‘school day’ visits, extended days and two-night stays. SOLU has piloted transition/induction activities and residential progression models, including a night-time star-watching walk for a class who have been learning the constellations. Epic Adventures instructors have also been deployed offsite delivering cycling days using two-wheel, three-wheel and adaptive bikes at five of our special school (two-days in each school).

The innovative Epics business plan and collaboration with Bonaly Scout Centre has also allowed SOLU to support wider Council initiatives including offsite and onsite holiday Discover! provision; cycling projects; and Edinburgh’s Job, Education and Training (JET) Programme.

SOLU is currently working on a business plan for 2023 and beyond (Phase 3 of SOLU’s ‘Epic’ brand development), which will commit towards a longer-term plan and partnership. Demand is significant on top of existing provision and opportunities. 2023+ work will focus again on targeted provision and complement SOLU’s existing portfolio of work. Epic Adventures provision is designed to supplement and complement existing work. It cannot and is not designed to replace existing provision. It will support a wide range of Council initiatives so that all young people can engage with and benefit from the great outdoors!

Trinity Academy Sports Campus / Bangholm Outdoor Centre

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre has recently opened and is shared with Trinity Academy.



SOLU staff are based onsite and are responsible for delivering a range of outdoor learning training; excursions support; related wider achievement awards and the delivery of adventurous activity and general outdoor learning provision. The site includes an office and bespoke annexe allowing SOLU to organise, store and maintain a wide range of general and specialist kit to support outdoor learning across the city and beyond. The new site and surrounding area provide many opportunities to enrich and deliver high quality outdoor learning.

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre staff are currently working in collaboration with local primary and secondary schools to design and deliver additional innovative outdoor learning provision for local Ukrainian pupils. This will include onsite activity focusing on the lagoon and bushcraft area, and extending to local resources such as biking on Edinburgh’s extensive cycle routes to explore and become more familiar with Edinburgh. SOLU is currently planning to work with outdoor learning partners to build capacity and extend provision. Direct outdoor learning delivery for Ukrainian families by SOLU staff across the city is likely to equate to approximately 3 days a week from November 2022.

Bangholm Outdoor Centre/Scottish Cycle Repair Scheme (SCRS)

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre is pleased to announce it received a further grant from Cycling UK under the Scottish Cycle Repair Scheme.

After two previous grants, Cycling UK were keen to extend the partnership with the Council to successfully target support to families who would not normally be able to get their bikes repaired, by providing free cycle repairs and maintenance work, up to the value of £50 per person (non-

standard cycles e.g. trikes, tandems or recumbent bikes excluding standard upright e-bikes are eligible for up to £100 repairs under SCRS). Basic service and mechanical repairs are covered by the scheme i.e. repairs that are necessary to make the cycle roadworthy and fit for purpose.



Cliff Smith (Bangholm Outdoor Centre/SOLU staff member) completing repairs to adaptive bikes at St Crispin's Special School

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

The DofE Award programme is continuing to benefit many young people in the city. Council staff and volunteers have and continue to be focused on delivering a strong pandemic recovery so that young people can access high quality provision and opportunities. This has been supported by the UK-wide [flexible arrangements](#). SOLU can report an impressive performance with the number of overall DofE enrolments (starters) and completions across all levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold combined) returning to pre-COVID levels and continuing to rise.

Volunteering is a key part of the DofE's Award and SOLU is delighted to report that DofE Scotland has recently estimated that our young people undertaking their award with this Council spent an estimated 9,685 hours volunteering in just one year. This equates to a social value of £44,745 within their local communities.

The Council and DofE are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of our young people making an impact in their community.

The city's developments continue, including ensuring all young people can access this award, including: starting a new DofE community group based at the Wester Hailes library; and the Broughton University (UP) Programme (involving a collaboration between teachers, learners, parents/carers and local university partners to deliver an ambitious targeted intervention initiative).

Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres

The Council's Benmore and Lagganlia outdoor centres undertook a prompt restart of residential school visits in Autumn 2021, and during the 21/22 academic year, a total of 5,773 young people visited Benmore and Lagganlia last year, including the delivery of a whopping 69,726 meals; a superb team effort by all involved! Additionally, Benmore delivered an innovative 2022 residential summer holiday programme via the Summer Holiday Food and Childcare Funding. SOLU, locality youth work and third sector staff and volunteers worked together to design and deliver provision, which included full board and a wide range of adventurous activity. 60 young people benefitted via a total of 6408 childcare hours. Evaluations involved locality youth work and third sector staff, and families. This demonstrated significant outcomes and very high satisfaction rates.



The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit staff are currently updating guidance and support to assist with the ongoing priority of reducing the cost of the school day. This will include planned workshops with schools during the Autumn, involving existing good practice on how to maximise attendance on residential. SOLU is continuing to liaise with schools to record and monitor attendance to support training and provision. Updated results will be included in a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee planned for early 2023.