

# Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee  
10.00am, Tuesday 7 March 2023



## Motion by Councillor Walker – Cultural and Events Sector (Loony Dook) (Ward Affected: Almond)

In response to a motion by Councillor Walker to Council on [24 November 2022](#) and an amendment from the SNP Group in relation to the Loony Dook, officers have been investigating how best to address the requirements and responsibilities for this event.

The Loony Dook has previously been incorporated into the 'official' Hogmanay programme and delivered by the Hogmanay producers. This was the result of a request from the community organisers to provide assistance after the event had grown significantly and required increased resources at the request of Police Scotland. More recently, the Loony Dook has reverted to being delivered by the community. In 2022, Unique Events approached the community in Queensferry to establish any request for assistance; the community decided to organise the event from their own resources. There is a strong feeling within Queensferry that this is a community event and, in the past, that message has sometimes been lost through an external organiser stepping in.

Moving forward, officers recommend that the community organiser is asked to complete a 'Public Spaces Event Application Form', which would allow the Council to make the organiser aware of any restrictions/requirements and direct them towards appropriate information sources. This allows officers to treat all events equally and follow due process for events of this nature. If additional safety measures are required, including toilets, then these will be highlighted to the organiser in line with current guidance in the Purple Guide.

Unique Events, the current Hogmanay producer, will speak to the organisers during the course of this year to see if they can offer any assistance. Regardless of who delivers the Loony Dook, it will be advertised in official Edinburgh's Hogmanay communications and the Council will continue to promote its [advice on swimming safely in open water](#). The most recent Loony Dook organised via Edinburgh's Hogmanay cost £17,000 (with a net cost to the Hogmanay organiser of £7,000) so there is a budget implication to the Hogmanay producer, which will need to be met from an as yet unidentified budget.

## Amplification of Sound (Wards Affected: All)

On [13 December 2022](#), Committee received an update on the Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces.

Committee requested a further update on the following actions:

- Continue to erect notices to indicate and signpost appropriate busking locations, and to ensure that the Environmental Team would be working with the police to identify busking hot spots;
- Provide a web form for residents to report busking concerns;
- Adopt learnings for management of busking from other Scottish cities and to work with the Scottish Government to address gaps in legislation; and
- Verify with Police Scotland the number of convictions for noise offences after 9.00 pm and to liaise with Councillor Doggart.

### Notices at Hotspots

Notices have been erected at identified hotspots and the Street and Environmental Enforcement team will continue to put up notices relating to the management of busking at any emerging hotspots and/or if existing notices are no longer visible. Officers continue to work with the Police and other stakeholders to manage and identify new and emerging hotspots.

### Webform

Officers have investigated the options to create a web form for members of the public to report busking concerns. However, as reported to Committee on [26 April 2022](#), officers have looked at the feasibility of this (and other ways in which residents and businesses could report disturbances) but concluded that it would not be appropriate to create a further mechanism for these issues to be reported directly to the Council as this might raise expectations that the Council will be able to take action for which it currently does not have the powers to do.

There has been limited contact with the Street and Environmental Enforcement team relating to nuisance busking but where these have been received, they have been submitted to a generic mailbox ([streetenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:streetenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk)). These reports are logged for officers to follow up by visiting the relevant location. Officers will improve the contact information on the Council website and will publish the mailbox address on the website for any reports of busking concerns.

### Information from Police Scotland

Officers have liaised with Police Scotland who have agreed to provide information they have gathered relating to busking data, location, number of complaints and type of busking. They have also agreed to provide information on the number of convictions for noise offences after 9pm.

### Legislation and Learning

The report to Committee on 13 December 2022 outlined the existing legislation to deal with the amplification of sound in public spaces.

As requested by Committee, the Festivals and Events All Party Oversight Group (APOG) will shortly meet to design engagement with residents and businesses to seek evidence of the issues associated with the amplification of sound in public spaces. The Busking working group will

support the APOG

This will involve engaging with target groups, gathering evidence from stakeholders, Scottish Government and other Scottish cities, identifying best practice, solutions to potential gaps in legislation.

An update on the engagement will be prepared for Committee in in May 2023.

## Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) (Wards Affected: All)

Several successful HVM trials of physical equipment were undertaken during 2022, including during the Summer Festivals, Autumn Rugby Internationals, Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay. This ensured over 2.5 million people were kept safe and secure within city events this year.

2023 is shaping up to be another very busy year for events in the city and planning is already underway, with plans to look at security for events holistically and draw up an overall plan for HVM. This will involve key stakeholders with the aim of making savings due to economies of scale.

This approach, if successful, will be used again for 2024 before a longer term and more permanent protection can be considered with the introduction of the Transient Visitor Levy.



## School Library Improvement (SLIF) Award (Wards Affected: All)

Edinburgh City Libraries (Schools) have recently been successful in a SLIF bid, receiving £29,000 for the development of a toolkit for school librarians "This Library is Anti Racist". Committee is asked to note that a key condition of the bid was that the proposal must be capable of being replicated in other libraries.

As a group, Edinburgh school librarians have contributed to the City of Edinburgh Council's Support Materials for schools to develop an Inclusive, Diverse and Decolonised Curriculum. Informed by diversity training they received in June 2022, they met to collaborate on the creation of documentation to support an audit of school stock collections so that they might better tailor them to readers needs and more easily identify any gaps in stock. In addition to the toolkit, it is intended to provide a book group collection which will be passed between libraries and made available to the "This Library is Anti Racist" book groups for Broad General Education, Senior Phase and staff within schools.

Young people from across the high schools will be involved in the book selection process for both collection diversification and book groups, ensuring that the library collections and supporting resources reflect the diversity of our communities.

## **Levelling Up Fund Update (Wards Affected: All)**

### **Update on Inch Park Regeneration Project and Cultural Regeneration Project**

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.

Unfortunately, the Council was informed on 19 January 2023 that both of these bids were unsuccessful. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have indicated that feedback on these bids will be made available but not immediately. The Department also indicated that there will be a further round of Levelling Up funding and details on that will be made available shortly.

Officers will now reflect on how the ambitions for these projects.

## **City Operations Capability Project (Public Realm CCTV Project) (Wards Affected: All)**

The City Operations Capability project (otherwise known as the Public Realm CCTV project) is now largely complete. The project has performed a digital transformation of the public realm cameras, video management systems, fibre transmission and created the modern Edinburgh Operations Centre.

Harnessing technology to help keep the city safe and moving, the new centre will position Edinburgh as a leader in the UK for smart security tools. The investment has been delivered in partnership with IT service and solutions provider North as part of a £2.6m contract which was funded by the Council and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme (known as 'Scotland's 8th City – the Smart City'). ERDF contributed £712,000 in grant funding towards the project. A further £164,000 has also been secured for expansion of the projects scope, due to complete by June 2023.

Replacing an outdated control centre which was no longer fit-for-purpose, the new smart Operations Centre will be manned and receive real-time data from the CCTV network 24/7. This will integrate other technologies which will help to improve traffic flow, transport infrastructure and



city planning - subsequently improving the city's collective carbon footprint.



## Warm and Welcoming – Edinburgh Libraries (Wards Affected: All)

Creative physical layouts have been developed across our libraries to create a comfortable and relaxing space, encouraging members of the public to feel welcome and encouraging a longer stay. Based on the idea of replicating a living room, library staff have added comfortable seating, warm lighting and plants to many libraries. The spaces have been enhanced with popular activities that can be accessed throughout the day such as board games, jigsaws and colouring in for adults. Positive feedback received highlighted customers engaging with new initiatives: “It’s a brilliant idea to have a collective jigsaw. I can come here and spend hours completing the puzzle. This is a real stressbuster for me.” (Customer, Stockbridge Library)

Promoting the spaces and attracting new people into our libraries has built on our core service offer and libraries are currently delivering a diverse programme of new and exciting events throughout the winter months including movie matinees, craft and colouring in groups for all ages and regular coffee mornings. Our libraries have been working with a wide range of partners including Health in Mind, Homelink Family Support and Citizens Advice to provide targeted provision including information drop ins, dementia support groups and family events and activities. Throughout February, Leith, Drumrae, Gilmerton and Oxfords libraries hosted Family Fun Days, specifically targeting those in need. Working in partnership with the Culture Diversity Officer, each library hosted workshops and activities to encourage service users to come to the library. In addition, information stalls were provided by a wide range of third sector and community organisations to answer enquiries to help support people with the cost of living crisis. These sessions were held in a fun filled, relaxed, warm and welcoming environment.

As a key information service, it is important that library staff can support our customers to access the correct and relevant services and information to support them through the cost-of-living crisis. Working with the poverty prevention team and the advice shop, two training sessions have taken place that have provided frontline staff with an understanding of poverty and different ways that it can affect people’s lives with a view to ensuring appropriate and balanced conversations. Staff are

also better equipped to find the right information to signpost customers.



## Careers in Film School Pilot Project (Wards Affected: All)

In March 2022, Film Edinburgh commissioned Screen Education Edinburgh (SEE) (affiliated to the Council's Creative Learning activities) to deliver a pilot project introducing a series of workshops in Council high schools about careers in film/TV, with the aim of inspiring the next generation of Edinburgh's production workforce.

Since the launch of 'FirstStage Studios' in Leith and the Pyramids Film studio in Bathgate, the clamour for local production workforce has grown in volume. Each studio-based production hires between 200-400 crew over an 8-10-month production period, with lucrative earning potential and excellent prospects for continued work in Scotland given the continued growth of the screen industries. Screen Scotland's 2022 report into the [Economic Value of the Screen Sector in Scotland](#) found that in 2019 the screen industries contributed £567.6m to the Scottish economy and created 10,280 FTE jobs.

With a budget of £3,000, SEE brought on board 11 industry professionals in roles including production design, construction, scenic painting, props, editing, producing, special effects and hair and make-up to talk about their work to young people from S4 to S6. High schools with a high percentage of diversity and those serving SIMD 1 and 2 communities were prioritised, with SEE successfully delivering nine 'careers in film' talks between August and December 2022 in Liberton, Craigroyston, Royal High, Boroughmuir, Wester Hailes, Leith Academy, St Thomas of Aquin's RC, Gracemount, and St Augustine's high schools, reaching over 880 young people.

Production crew are, with few exceptions, freelance and career paths into the industry varied, with many of the general craft skills developed in colleges while screen skills are honed through short courses and on-the-job learning over a series of employment contracts. Employment contracts may themselves last only a few weeks at the start of a career. The sessions looked at the work and skills required, routes into the industry, entry level roles through to heads of department roles, the reality of freelance working, working hours and settings, and salaries. As part of the evaluation, young people were asked if they had considered a career in film/TV Production before this session: 29.03% stated that they hadn't considered a career in production, with 88.71% of pupils curious about a career in Film and TV following the talk.

SEE concluded that building the sessions into a regular annual programme across the city would be advantageous to young people as well as the industry. For the pilot there were more schools interested in taking part than could be accommodated, showing clear demand for information and activity focused on Film and TV. Further, since launching the pilot, raising industry awareness among young people in school has become a priority both for Screen Scotland (part of Creative



Scotland) and ScreenSkills (UK screen training funding body), with the ambition of encouraging young people to seek out training and opportunities upon leaving school.

With this in mind, Film Edinburgh is investigating funding options to allow the delivery of Careers in the Film and TV industry talks in all 23 of the City of Edinburgh Council's high schools on an annual basis from the next academic year.



*Careers in Film, St Thomas of Aquins, with producer Clare Kerr and SEE Sean Young*

## **Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums of Edinburgh Golden Jubilee (Wards Affected: All)**

On 9 November 1973, the Friends of the City Art Centre was formed. At that time, the city's art collection was housed in the Royal High School until the building closed in 1976. Significant donations in the 1960s formed the basics of the outstanding Collection of Scottish art that the city now owns. Miss Jean F Watson gifted and later bequeathed money to create a collection of Scottish art, forming a fund that remains a primary source of finance for acquisitions. Over 300 paintings were gifted from the Scottish Modern Arts Association, which included many acquisitions familiar to visitors today.

For four years from 1976, most of the Collection was in storage and faced an uncertain future. It was thanks to the tireless efforts of the first keeper of the Collection, Dr Elizabeth Cumming that permanent premises were obtained to house the Collection. During this period, the Friends met in the City Chambers and various other venues while continuing to add to the city art collection. By 1980, the conversion of the present handsome building on Market Street was completed, and the City Art Centre began its new life.

In 1982 the Friends changed their title to Friends of City Art Centre and Museums of Edinburgh, enabling them to expand the collections of the museums along with art. In 1994 the Friends joined the British Association for the Friends of Museums. 1996 saw the Friends being recognised as a Scottish charity number SC003449.

Currently, 466 Friends continue to support acquisitions for the City Art Centre and museums. Commencing at £15 per annum, members can attend our monthly events, including lectures, tours, outings, coffee mornings, with annual holidays. Friends also receive a shop and café

discount, invitations to exhibition previews, and free entry to paying exhibitions.

To celebrate their Golden Jubilee, the Friends have printed a booklet, 'A brief history of the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums of Edinburgh' as a gift for every member. The Friends are holding a golden Jubilee buffet lunch on 6 June 2023 in the presence of Honorary President, the Right Honourable Lord Provost and guests. So far, the Friends have pledged a 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary photographic prize for the Scottish Landscape awards in the City Art Centre and are also purchasing a welcome corner sofa for the entrance of the City Art Centre as a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary legacy gift, and are delighted to sponsor a prize for a digital school art competition on the subject of 'Friends' organised by Hannah Nugent, our Schools Engagement Officer.



City Art Centre and Museum Friends on a day visit to Newbattle Abbey

## Important Photographic Artworks Donated to City's Fine Art Collection (Wards Affected: All)

The City Art Centre kicked off 2023 with a trio of photographic exhibitions showcasing a fascinating range of work by historic and contemporary Scottish photographers. While this winter photographic season is now coming to an end, the City Art Centre's ongoing commitment to Scottish photography has recently been rewarded with two new donations to its permanent collection of fine art.

In January curators received a black and white photographic print by Robert Blomfield (1938-2020). *Bespectacled Boy with Ball, Leith* dates from 1966. It depicts a young child standing in a street in Leith wearing a duffle coat and clutching a football. The image is one of several hundred that Blomfield took during the 1950s and 60s, while he was training as a doctor in Edinburgh. Inspired by pioneering French street photographers like Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Doisneau, Blomfield balanced his passion for everyday subjects with an appreciation for careful composition, creating images that are truly memorable. *Bespectacled Boy with Ball, Leith* was donated to the fine art collection by Graham Stronach, a regular visitor to the City Art Centre who had greatly enjoyed the 2018 exhibition *Robert Blomfield: Edinburgh Street Photography – An Unseen Archive*. The City Art Centre now holds three examples of work by the artist.

In the same month, another significant gift to the collection was made by the artist Wendy McMurdo (b. 1962). *Avatar (i)* is a large-scale colour photographic work from the series *The Skater*. Produced in 2009, it depicts a teenage figure skater practicing a routine at Camperdown Ice Arena in Dundee. The photograph captures the skater in a mid-action jump, as if suspended magically in the air. McMurdo has long been interested in the role of technology in the lives of young people, and for this series she wanted to explore the virtual reality world of gaming avatars.



Some of the skaters who posed for the artist had also served as models for 3D motion capture data used by computer game developers. McMurdo's images reference the place of avatars in modern-day society, examining the sometimes blurred relationship between reality and fantasy. In *Avatar (i)* the extraordinary pose of the skater and her colourful costume combine with the theatrically-lit setting to make her look almost more like a computer game character than a real person. This striking artwork is a major addition to the City Art Centre's holdings of contemporary Scottish photography.

The City Art Centre's fine art collection continues to grow every year through donations, bequests and purchases. A selection of recent additions to the collection can be seen in the current exhibition *Incoming: New Acquisitions at the City Art Centre*, which runs until 28 May:

<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/incoming-new-acquisitions-city-art-centre>



Robert Blomfield, *Besppectacled Boy with Ball*, Leith, 1966. © Robert Blomfield Photography



Wendy McMurdo, *Avatar (i)*, 2009. © Wendy McMurdo

## Museums and Galleries Funding Success (Wards Affected: All)

The Museums and Galleries service was successful in applying to the Museums Galleries Scotland Resilience Fund and has received £23,633 to support the development of an Income Generation Plan. The project will take place over the next 12 months and will engage sector relevant consultants to undertake a strategic review of Museums and Galleries income generation opportunities, provide bespoke staff training, and support the implementation phase to ensure delivery is integrated into the wider service model.

## Ukrainian Translator Supported by Edinburgh City of Literature Residency (Wards Affected: All)

Elena Marinicheva, the premier translator of contemporary Ukrainian literature into Russian, is

being hosted by Edinburgh City of Literature for a six-month residency which was made possible by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Welcomed to the city in September by the Lord Provost, during her time in Edinburgh Elena has been meeting with the local literature community including attending a translators' lunch at Push The Boat Out, Edinburgh's international poetry festival. The residency has given her the important time and creative space needed to work on a new project: *After The Third Bell*, a collection of Ukrainian contemporary short stories, essays and diaries from the interwar period which are to be published by IASH in Ukrainian, Russian and English.

Part of Edinburgh City of Literature's wider residencies programme, this work has forged links between the local and international communities, allowed Elena's voice to be heard at this crucial time and highlights Edinburgh's role as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature.



## **Edinburgh Nature Network (Wards Affected: All)**

As part of the Council's Thriving Greenspaces project, the Council and our bid partners Scottish Wildlife Trust and the University of Edinburgh worked together to develop a Nature Network for the city. The Edinburgh Nature Network (ENN) is the first of its kind to be developed for a local authority in Scotland and will be a requirement for all local authorities under the soon to be adopted National Planning Framework 4. The ENN maps a range of priority habitats and ecosystem services and identifies action to create and connect green and blue spaces with a view to enhancing these habitats and ecosystems to the benefit of people and nature.

Following a successful bid to the Future Parks Accelerator programme, the Thriving Greenspaces team has received additional funding to further develop the ENN and to pilot its implementation in Leith, one of the ENN priority areas. This phase of the project started in December 2022 and will run for 18 months. Project officers are in place, action plans have been developed and work has begun on engagement with relevant stakeholders and communities. Funding and financing options are also being pursued. The ambition is to replicate successful elements of the Leith pilot and roll out implementation of ENN actions across the city.

## 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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## Upcoming Exhibitions and Events

### When the Apple Ripens: Peter Howson at 65: A Retrospective (Wards Affected: All)

The news is out about the forthcoming retrospective of one of the UK's leading figurative painters, Peter Howson, which opens at the City Art Centre in May 2023. The exhibition will bring together around 100 works spanning the artist's career, many never seen before in Scotland.

Howson has established a formidable reputation in the art world. His heroic portrayals of the mighty and the lowly confront subjects of human conflict and destruction that offer a penetrating insight into the human condition. His experiences of abuse - whether self-inflicted and substance-related, or the traumatic events of his childhood - have moulded his world view and afforded him an affinity with individuals on the margins of society.

Planning for the exhibition began in 2019, working closely with Howson and his London gallery, Flowers. Howson has previously shown at the City Art Centre, when his critically acclaimed solo exhibition devoted to Scotland's patron saint Andrew was displayed in 2007.

Emerging from Glasgow School of Art in the 1980s, Howson quickly proved his skill of capturing the maverick, the excessive, the non-conformist and his own personal understanding of the struggles of everyday life. In 1992 he was commissioned by the Imperial War Museum to record the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He was appointed official British war artist for Bosnia in 1993 and in 1996 was awarded Doctor of Letters at The University of Strathclyde. He has exhibited internationally, most recently in Hong Kong, and his work is included in numerous national and international museum collections.

*When the Apple Ripens: Peter Howson at 65: A Retrospective* opens at the City Art Centre in Edinburgh on 27 May 2023 and runs until 1 October 2023. A new book will accompany the exhibition, published by Sansom and Co. and a varied events programme will accompany the show. Tickets can be purchased in advance at <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/when-apple-ripens-peter-howson-65>



*Portrait of Peter Howson at Flowers Gallery, Cork Street, London in 2021 in front of his painting **Phlegethon (The Fiery Third River of Hell)**, 2021.*

## New Exhibition About Migration at Museum of Edinburgh (Wards Affected: All)

A new exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh intends to challenge negative stereotypes of immigration. Titled '*Local Foreigners: the human face of immigration*', the exhibition will feature portraits and stories of 12 people who have moved to Edinburgh from other countries. These will be displayed together with personal objects chosen by the people photographed. There will also be a case featuring objects and stories from City of Edinburgh Council staff who have made Edinburgh their home. Visitors too will have an opportunity to share their own stories about migration.



*Local Foreigners exhibition image © Maryna Sulymn*

The exhibition is open from 11 March – 10 September 2023 at the Museum of Edinburgh.

## Travelling Gallery 2023 (Wards Affected: All)

In 2023 we're launching a new environmentally sustainable touring model which will see us working with long-term partners across Scotland to tour in geographical clusters, returning annually to communities with fewer arts and culture provisions.

Under the creative theme of care, the first exhibition ***To avoid falling apart*** will launch on Calton Hill on Friday 10 March.

***To avoid falling apart*** is an exhibition of new work by Emmie McLuskey and Janice Parker made especially for the Travelling Gallery. This two-person show explores and illuminates our human capacity for mutuality, connection and interdependence through movement, language, and film. Together Emmie and Janice have developed a movement workshop in collaboration with an invited mix of friends and colleagues. From this they will create several short films focusing on the active state of counterbalance – the physical act of two or more human bodies leaning against or leaning away from each other. The films will invite the viewer to witness shared and reciprocal acts of support, capturing the details and nuances of these movements in the moment as they dynamically unfold between people.

Check our website for touring dates <https://travellinggallery.com/tour-dates/>

## Marking the Makars (Ward Affected: City Centre)

Makars' Court, the national monument next to the Writers' Museum commemorating the best of Scotland's writers and writing, celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. To mark the occasion and raise the profile of the Makars represented, the Museums and Galleries team will work in

partnership with Edinburgh residents, other Council departments and a range of literary stakeholders throughout the year to highlight the breadth and significance of this unique literary heritage.

The full programme is currently being developed and will include a range of activities, such as:

- Hosting a Makar-focused event in the Court on World Poetry Day 21 March 2023;
- Creating a Writers' Museum display showcasing Makars and aspects of their work;
- Partnering local walking tour companies to ensure the Court, its history and significance is highlighted to visitors;
- Sharing stories on our digital platforms about Makars' lives and most famous quotations; and
- Profiling the stonemason's craft and process of designing and laying of new stones in the Court.

## Usher Hall (Wards Affected: All)

Details of the upcoming events at the Usher Hall can be found here -

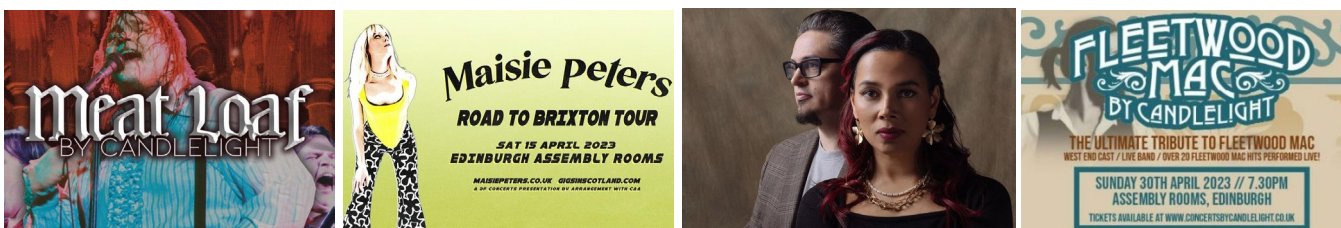
<https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on>.



## Assembly Rooms (Wards Affected: All)

Details of upcoming events at the Assembly Rooms can be found here -

<https://www.assemblyroomsedinburgh.co.uk/whats-on>





**Churchill 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

### Film Edinburgh – BBC Winterwatch

(Wards Affected: Inverleith, Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart and Almond)



*BBC Winterwatch filming 'live broadcasts' in Warriston Cemetery, January 2023*

Film Edinburgh facilitated the filming of BBC Winterwatch in Edinburgh in January 2023, coordinating activity across the Council. Edinburgh was chosen thanks to being the 'greenest city in Scotland' with an abundance of parks, open spaces and off-road paths (which the presenters celebrated every night!) and because of the wealth of urban wildlife.

Warriston Cemetery, the Water of Leith near the visitor centre and South Queensferry's Longcraig Pier were chosen for live broadcasts, giving the presenters the opportunity to delve into our river habitat, coastal wildlife and the natural urban heritage. Pre-filmed segments studied the insects in the cemetery and pond mud snails in the Pentlands (both a vital part of the ecosystem), birds including peregrines, kingfishers and corvids, eels and eel ropes in the Water of Leith, plastics in the river and the Conservation Trust's work to clean up, otters, foxes, seals and badgers. Not only was it an invaluable reflection of the city's green agenda, promoted naturally through Winterwatch to two million UK viewers a night for a fortnight, but it also had legacy interservice benefits: the Water of Leith visitor centre's takings increased threefold over the middle weekend of the programme, and our Bereavement Services colleagues took pride in recognising their role as conservators of sustainable wildlife habitats in cemeteries. Low impact but high yield!

### 20 years of the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Archaeology Conference

(Wards Affected: All)

November's Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Archaeology Conference held at Queen Margaret University Musselburgh marked a special anniversary - its 20<sup>th</sup>. Since its inauguration in 2002 by the City of Edinburgh Councils Archaeology Service and the newly formed East Lothian service, this annual event has grown and established itself as one of Scotland's largest such conferences. The event brings together professional, community groups, researchers and members of the public with an interest in our region's rich heritage to hear first-hand the results of current work primarily undertaken through the auspices of the Local Authority Archaeologists in developer funded work.

To mark this special occasion the conference was jointly opened by the City of Edinburgh's Lord

Provost Robert Aldridge, the Provost of East Lothian and the Convenor Watson McAteer of Scottish Borders Council, photographed with the regional archaeologists Keith Elliot (Scottish Borders), John Lawson (City of Edinburgh), Andrew Robertson and Stephanie Leith (East Lothian Council). The day was attended by over 160 members of the public.

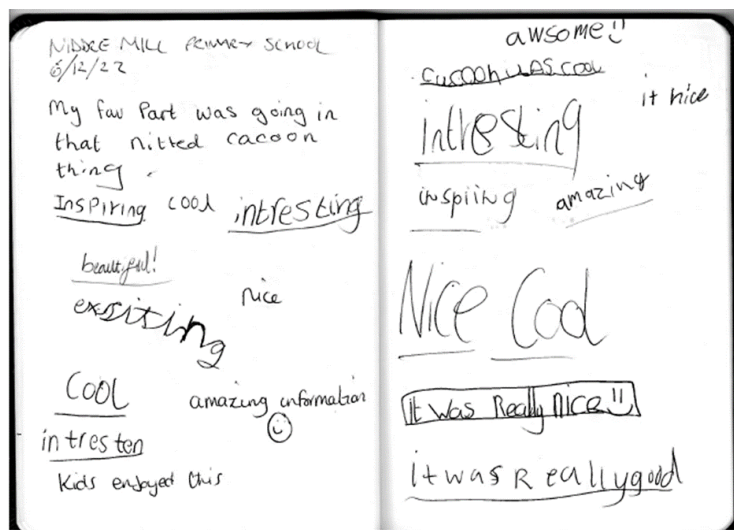
Over the years the conference has explored the results of often nationally important archaeological projects which have changed our understanding of our past. This year's programme followed this tradition discussing a wide range of recent projects across the region, spanning work from the early prehistoric ritual landscapes outside Gilmerton, through evidence for Dark Age Conflict all the way up to the excavation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century "Sea Serpent" in George V Park.

Work is already underway to organise this year's conference to be held at Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh, on Saturday 18 November 2023.



## Travelling Gallery 2022 (Wards Affected: All)

In 2022 Travelling Gallery toured 86 days to 68 venues, received 8,777 visitors, 4,068 of which were school pupils, and delivered 312 exhibition talks. December ended with a fantastic day at Niddrie Mill Primary School in Edinburgh where the pupils left some great comments:





## Spring Chickens – Visit to City Art Centre (Wards Affected: All)

Staff hosted a group from North Edinburgh in the City Art Centre recently – Spring Chickens – who spent the day talking about the Paul Duke exhibition. The exhibition contains photos representing their community, and the group were full of chatter about growing up in that community, full of positivity about that community. Most of the group had never been in the City Art Centre before and loved the visit. It is hoped that this connection is the start of relationship with the group, with promises of similar sessions for every exhibition at the City Art Centre and a visit to Lauriston Castle is also being planned.



## Caledonian Brewery – Museums Update (Wards Affected: All)

Museums and Galleries staff have been working with the Caledonian Brewery to salvage objects prior to the full closure of the brewery next month.

The brewery opened in 1869 and until closing its doors late last year, “The Caley”, as it’s known locally, was the last operational Victorian brewery in Edinburgh. Perhaps best known as the home of Deuchars IPA, over the years the brewery had suffered two hugely destructive fires and had undergone several business take-overs. Since 2008 it had been operated by Heineken who made the decision last year to close the brewery and to move production of some of the beers to the Belhaven Brewery in Dunbar. The Caledonian Brewery is iconic to Scotland’s brewing heritage and along with colleagues from the National Museum of Scotland, the Scottish Brewing Archive and the Ballast Trust, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh were invited to view material which might be of interest to our collections. Along with material relevant to the social history collections we were surprised to find a number of original artworks hanging in the public areas of the brewery which were of great interest to colleagues from the City Art Centre who were keen to acquire some pieces for the art collection.

The work is ongoing but material collected so far includes barrel ends, brewing equipment, marketing and publicity material, safety equipment and staff uniform as well as a fine selection of old beer bottles showcasing the range of beers produced at the site. Still to be collected are the artworks and some larger items including a branded pub mirror from the brewery function room.

## Museums and Galleries Schools Programme Updates (Wards Affected: All)

Last year, 1,042 pupils from primary and secondary schools in SIMD1 areas of Edinburgh benefitted from exciting, in-person workshops with our Schools Engagement Officer - 912 pupils were welcomed to our Museums and Galleries venues to take part in creative workshops that facilitated meaningful engagement with our exhibitions and collections and 130 pupils from Sighthill Primary School benefitted from bespoke art workshops when the Schools Engagement Officer visited their school for two days in November.

Since January 2021, we have delivered digital workshops to over 1,200 pupils in SIMD 1 schools. Partnerships have continued with Granton Youth, North Edinburgh Arts and Edinburgh Young Carers and a young people's placement programme has been established in partnership with the charity Impact Arts. The Schools Engagement Officer was filmed for a case study for Museums Galleries Scotland's website to talk about our inclusive work with Edinburgh Young Carers and its value to local families. You can watch the film here: [Ten Years of Going Further \(musemsgalleriesscotland.org.uk\)](https://musemsgalleriesscotland.org.uk).

The service is grateful to KPE4 for their financial assistance for the programme, and in particular the funding provided to meet transport costs.

In 2023, our Schools Engagement Officer will be continuing to welcome pupils to our venues, visit schools, run online workshops and competitions and take on more young people placements.



## Libraries Update (Wards Affected: All)

### Tinderbox – Partnership Working

#### *Westerhailes Library*

The Tinderbox Collective hosted an hour-long session in Westerhailes library to introduce children in the community to a variety of instruments and gave them a quick introduction on how to play them. The aim is to encourage young people who may not be able to afford their own instruments the chance to play and borrow them. So far Edinburgh Libraries have benefited from approximately 40 donated musical instruments. Our partnership means Tinderbox service the instruments and

make sure they are safe and working before libraries make them available for loan. The instrument collections have been launched in six libraries across the city.

The workshops, on average, attract 30-50 participants.



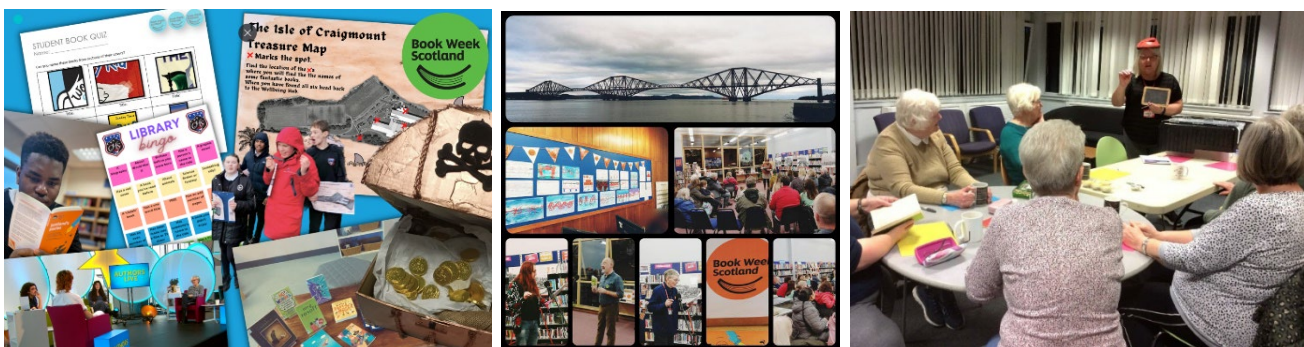
## Music Library

Our service users were treated to an energetic and upbeat performance with a range of pieces, many written by Tinderbox members. This orchestra with a difference, comprised of some of our most talented young musicians and singers, rappers. Following this lively set, the Tinderbox Orchestra held an open mic session

## Book week Scotland – Edinburgh Libraries Celebrations

All Libraries in Edinburgh were involved in Book Week Scotland celebration. Events for all ages were arranged across the city, including specific Storytimes. Guest authors included Harry Fisher on his latest book about Leith, treasure hunts and a Book Week Forth competition took place in South Queensferry Library.

Sighthill Library also involved their older service users in telling “their” stories.



**Blackhall Library** launched their beautiful new art collection, donated by Picture Hooks. This consists of new and original illustrations produced by upcoming illustrators. In celebration, Vivien French and Laura Darling hosted a workshop for our younger library users, followed by a Q&A. The artwork is now on permanent display.





## Library Link 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Libraries across the city celebrated the Library Link Service's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday and used the opportunity to advertise the service to as many people as possible in order to encourage new members.

The Library Link service is a vital part of Edinburgh Libraries to reach people who need additional help and support to visit their local library. RVS volunteers collect vulnerable and older people from their homes every fortnight to transport them to the library so that they can meet others, choose books, and enjoy a cuppa.

Stockbridge

Oxgangs

Blackhall

Leith



## Spanish Film Festival 2023

**Central Library** were privileged to host the end event of the Spanish Film Festival for 2023 with the screening of *Intemperie*, based on the 2013 novel written by the English PEN Award winner Jesús Carrasco. This was followed by a Q&A with author Jesús Carrasco chaired by Professor Alexis Grohman (Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, University of Edinburgh) and was watched by a full house. Another screening took place in Craigmillar Library and was attended by members of the local school's Spanish classes.





## Ukraine Children Photo exhibition in Edinburgh Libraries

Library colleagues were pleased to offer exhibition space to a small charity who had curated a photographic display of images taken by children in Ukraine. The photographs were taken by children from a recently liberated village in Ukraine where they used disposable cameras to capture their everyday lives and show the rest of the world what growing up during wartime is like. The portraits of friends and pictures of flowers and pets sit alongside images of destroyed houses, burnt military equipment and rocket shells. Each of the shots, at times illuminated or defocused, tells a story. The exhibition which was curated by Zhenya Dove was initially on display at Central Library through November and December and then moved to Leith Library for the month of February.



## Manga Club - Westerhailes

Wester Hailes Library have been running a successful Manga club for children and young people with up to twenty participants enjoying activities on a regular basis. The Club members range from primary to secondary school ages and include young people who would otherwise not be involved in traditional literacy focused groups and activities. Library colleagues had noticed that Manga was gaining popularity in the west, particularly with younger readers, so responded by starting up the Club which has continued to grow in popularity. Activities range from movie nights and relaxed reading sessions to more artistic endeavours such as colouring in manga characters, creating designs with Hama beads, and making our own manga.



## Greek Book Collection

**McDonald Road** launched a new city Greek Book collection - With over 40 people in attendance, we officially unveiled our brand-new Greek language section at McDonald Road library. With dozens of books donated to us by the Hellenic Community of Edinburgh, the launch event featured speeches from important dignitaries such as Georgios Drakopoulos, second secretary to the Embassy of Greece.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

American historical fiction writer, Elizabeth Wein, recently visited three of our school libraries – Westerhailes, Forrester, Holyrood where she hosted workshops and discussions on the inspiration behind writing her novels which are set during the Holocaust and other historical periods. Pupils responded very positively to the events and Elizabeth commented – “Thank you SO VERY MUCH for making these Holocaust Memorial Day events happen. I don't think I've ever had such a group effort come together so seamlessly. I can't tell you how much it means to me to be able to share my knowledge of the Holocaust with young people in a new generation.”

## Active Schools Update (Wards Affected: All)

### Servicing of Cycles at Edinburgh Special Schools

Throughout January 2023, staff from the Council's Bangholm Outdoor Centre have serviced over 80 cycles at the following Special Schools in Edinburgh: Rowanfield, Kaimes, St Crispin's and Pilrig Park.



The work has resulted in more children in our schools being able to use cycles for a variety of purposes ranging from Bikeability cycle training to fun cycle sessions during the school day.

### Lowland Leader Walking Qualification

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unite (SOLU) via the Bangholm Outdoor Centre in Edinburgh has for many years delivered various hill walking qualifications on behalf of Mountain Training Scotland. <https://www.mountain-training.org/about/structure-and-governance/mountain-training-scotland>. SOLU's training programmes allow the Council to build capacity and develop the breadth and depth of outdoor learning across the City. Regarding numbers, 2023 is shaping up to be one of our best yet. There is a training course planned for the 25-26 March with a couple of places left and an Assessment on 25-26 Feb that is almost full.

The Lowland Leader award is an ideal qualification for anyone that wants to lead groups of people in some of the outstanding countryside around Edinburgh and beyond.

### Outdoor Learning support for Ukrainian young people

Since the beginning of November, SOLU via the Bangholm Outdoor Centre has been supporting the Young People who are hosted in our schools as refugees from the conflict in Ukraine. Our programme aims have been based around enhancing the young people’s experiences, promoting positive mental and physical wellbeing and fostering a sense of connection to nature in their host country.

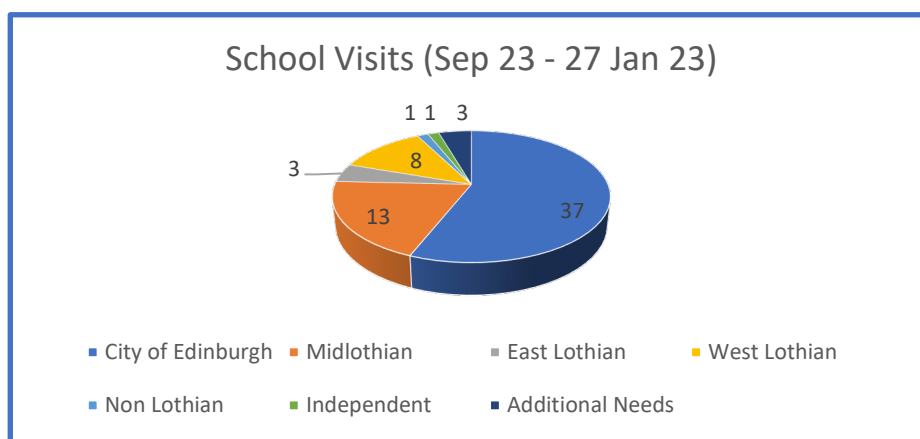
The newly rebuilt Bangholm Outdoor Centre has acted as the hub for our Tuesday and Friday programmes; pupils from Leith Academy and Trinity and Victoria Primaries have come to Bangholm for on-site activities and as a base for exploring the City’s greenspaces by foot and bike. Groups have also accessed local venues such as Alien Rock for climbing and bouldering.

On Wednesdays our instructors have travelled to Craigmillar to deliver bike-based adventurous activities to young people at Castlebrae Community High School and Castlevie Primary School. We’ve been delighted to work alongside partners from The Green Team and Water of Leith Conservation Trust to deliver these programmes, and this has led to a greater richness of activities for the young people to take part in, including cooking a traditional Ukrainian breakfast dish on an outdoor fire.

### The Risk Factory

Between September 2022 and the 27 January, the Risk Factory has welcomed pupils from 65 primary / special schools comprising 2,452 pupils and 279 staff / parent helpers. Feedback from teachers has been very positive with many expressing how good it is to be able to visit again.

Schools that attended were split as follows:



Between now and the end of June, a further 84 schools are booked.

All visits to the centre are delivered by our volunteer team. Their numbers had reduced following COVID, however, we are working with the Council’s media and web teams and are about to launch a new media campaign aimed at increasing our volunteer base. Currently, we have 35 fully trained volunteers, with a further two completing their training and another about to start. Anyone interested in volunteering will be encouraged to get in touch and come and see what is involved. No skills are necessary as full training is provided.

Lothian Buses who have been long-time supporters of the Risk Factory are very generously replacing the half bus they donated when we first opened with a new double decker. This scenario looks at safe travel and antisocial behaviour on buses including the throwing of stones. The new

bus has been cut in half and wrapped and we are currently looking at dates with them for the old one to be removed and the new one to be moved into position.

## **Broughton University Partnership (UP) Programme**

The Broughton UP programme is a targeted intervention initiative aimed at improving outcomes for learners living in our lower SIMD areas who have the potential to do well academically with the aim of reducing the attainment gap.

The specific aims of the programme are to:

- Improve the attainment and achievements of learners living in our lower SIMD areas;
- Improve the confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy of these students;
- Raise the aspirations of the targeted students; and
- Support the participants into a positive destination.

The programme was introduced in session 2014 – 2015 and involves collaboration between teachers, learners, parents and local University partners to deliver an ambitious programme of activities including: the provision of basic equipment; study guides and past papers; a mentoring programme; confidence-building activities and an annual residential experience at our local Universities. University partners are Napier, Heriot Watt, Queen Margaret and Edinburgh. Our partners have been instrumental in the design and delivery of the programme. In addition to supporting with University campus visits and residential experiences, they deliver workshops and one-to-one support for our students in school.

The programme works with pupils from S1 through to S6. The school have tracked the attainment of the students who have participated in Broughton UP and indications are that this work has had a positive impact on their attainment and on destinations.

Staff have now decided to bring the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) into the programme for this year's S3 Broughton UP group. The group meet for one period a week with their Broughton UP teacher. For the first six weeks of this academic year, staff guided the group through the three sections, taking them to try squash (for free) thanks to Edinburgh Sports Club, helping them to find free and cheap opportunities in our community, getting their profiles started and getting them into the habit of entering details into eDofE on a weekly basis. Throughout the year, the group will have 10 minutes at the beginning of every lesson (that they are in school) to update their profiles and staff will be on hand for some additional one to one mentoring for any pupil that is struggling.

Expedition training will commence in the spring during their timetabled period. The group have already taken part in an intro into DofE excursion in the Pentland hills, which they loved. They didn't even seem to mind the mist! Their training and expedition will be during school time in May.

We know that cost can be an obstacle for participation in DofE so the school plan to run this at zero cost to the participants. They can do this due to the kind help of the DofE Resilience fund, by using outdoor qualified school staff and Lifelong Learning staff to run expeditions so that we have no staffing costs and by using our DofE savings in the school account to pay for additional costs.

Moving forward, the school's plan is to offer Silver and then Gold DofE levels to those interested in the group as they progress through school. Less support will be timetabled as they get older due to the additional time required for study and university help but we hope that the skills and good habits regarding profiles that they learn in S3 will prepare them for a more independent approach in S4-S6. In addition to this, we wish to start the Bronze DofE Award with each new S3 Broughton UP group each year.



## Community Sport Hub Developments

### *YMCA, Leith Rugby – Ukrainian Project*

As part of our new city wide Community Sport Hub Plan, we enable physical activity community impact projects. One of our new weekly Leith Community Sport Hub programmes is partnering YMCA Edinburgh with Leith Rugby to support Ukrainian families. Young people participate in sport and outdoor play utilising Leith Academy sport grounds where parents get a space to socialise and connect in Leith Rugby Club's clubhouse.

### *Ripple Basketball Project*

Leith Community Sport Hub is being an enabler to a support community impact projects. Leith Community Sport Hub have formed a relationship with The Ripple Project based in Lochend/ Restalrig. The Ripple project have identified a number of their young people who cannot afford to pay for activity but really enjoy basketball. We have made this happen. Every Friday at Leith Academy, we provide a basketball playing space at Leith Academy which is free in partnership with Active Schools. The basketballscotland Foundation (Charity arm to the national governing body for basketball) have provided some free equipment and will be offering some coaching to these young people.



## Care-experienced pupils flourish in volleyball partnership project

As Active Schools Coordinators (ASCs), our success often depends on the quality of partnership working across schools, departments and community organisations. A recent project highlighted the tangibly positive outcomes of good collegiate working for vulnerable young people in greatest need of focussed support.

Alex and Taylor (names changed for safeguarding purposes) are two care-experienced young people with ASN (autism, dyslexia and mental health) who had previously not taken part in any extra-curricular sport or physical activity and had limited engagement with PE. They became known to the ASC thanks to a piece of work to establish better links with Guidance and Support for Learning (SfL) colleagues across the six James Gillespie's cluster schools. This partnership helped the ASC to build a database of 'priority pupils' who would receive reserved spaces in extra-curricular school sports clubs based on referrals from their Guidance/SfL teachers.

The ASC met with Alex and Taylor to discuss their potential interests, one of which was volleyball, so the ASC arranged 'priority places' to ensure their participation in the James Gillespie's High School club run by their CSH partner NUVOC Volleyball Club. Since joining they have become enthusiastically consistent attendees and have really started flourishing! Alex and Taylor even invited another friend to join volleyball club – a female pupil who had also previously not participated in sport. Taylor bounced up to the ASC in the corridor the other day and said they were going to join NUVOC Volleyball Club outside of school and hoped to play competitively for the team one day.

With their increased confidence, Alex and Taylor have asked about volunteering and the ASC is now planning to support them in delivering a volleyball club at their old Primary School, Royal Mile, whose learners are among those most in need of extra-curricular recreational opportunities in the cluster. There will also be a transition benefit to Royal Mile pupils who will see former pupils returning to the school in young leader roles.

The biggest celebration is the positive change in Alex and Taylor. Their friendship circle has increased and their general demeanour is more upbeat. They feel really invested in the volleyball at JGHS and are keen to continue growing as young people and volunteers.

The ASC is grateful for the ongoing support of school colleagues and community partners in helping to continue creating possibilities for the young people who need them most.

### **Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association (EPSSA) Update**

EPSSA is delighted to return to a full calendar of events for the school year 2022 - 2023. For the majority of our pupils, it has been the first time that they have been able to represent their school at a sporting event, competing against other pupils from across the city. All pupils have approached the events with a positive mindset and displayed good sportsmanship and respect throughout - well done to all our young athletes!

We are pleased to offer our popular Cross Country, Sportshall Athletics, Football, Netball, Basketball, Rugby and Interscholastic Sports events, with this year also seeing the introduction of new Beach Volleyball and Mixed Netball competitions. A highlight has been the return of events to the newly refurbished New Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium. This stunning sports complex offers the perfect base for our pupils to sample their first experience of sports competition.



This year has also seen EPSSA affiliate itself with sporting organisations from across Scotland including Scottish Volleyball, Netball Scotland, Edinburgh Rugby and City of Edinburgh Netball Club amongst many others. Our strong links with Scottish Disability Sports continue to develop and we look forward to offering a range of inclusive events to our large Interscholastic Sports event in May.

### **Using Parkour to Support Motor Skill Development in Children with ASN – Parkour at St Crispin's**

Parkour has frequently been shown to support building confidence and motor skills in children who struggle to engage in competitive learning environments which makes it particularly suitable for children who have ASN.

Following on from positive feedback received from teachers and parents in mainstream Active Schools opportunities, we decided to take a next step and develop Parkour based sessions for children who require a significantly modified learning environment in the Special School Learning

Community. This pilot was done in collaboration with Active Schools coach, Kirsten Altenbach, who over recent years has focussed on developing her skills and knowledge base working with children with ASN including training and shadowing PE within the special schools. With the support of PE and support staff at St Crispin's we delivered a five week pilot project teaching basic Parkour skills using movement songs and incorporating jumping, balancing and vaulting. The pupils engaged really well with the sessions and enjoyed the playful approach applying the skills they had been introduced to through parkour.

Due to the success of the project Active Schools will expand this opportunity to involve the wider Special School Learning Community.

