

# Latest News

**Culture and Communities Committee**  
**10.00am, Tuesday 28 January 2020**



## Green Pencil Awards

Aimed at all Edinburgh children in the P4 to S3 range, this year's competition was launched on 29 August at Blackhall Library by the author Vivian French. The Green Pencil award aims to promote literacy, in particular reading and creative writing, and is all about firing the imagination. It also helps raise awareness and encourages learning about nature and other important environment topics – this years theme was “Going, Going, Gone – Scottish Wildlife in Danger?”. Another aim of the competition is to encourage young people, and their families, to use and join their local library if they are not already a member.

There was a huge number of 1200 entries received from young people via their schools and local libraries across the city. The winners were announced at a ceremony hosted by the Convener of Culture and Communities Committee, Councillor Wilson on 28 November at the Central Reference Library. The overall winner was Charlotte Schlegel from Preston Street Primary School. The entries from the finalists and winners is attached to this bulletin.



## Book Week Scotland 2019

Edinburgh Libraries went all out for Book Week Scotland again. Events ranged from meeting over 400 school children with author visits and workshops, our E Read promotion attracting the highest ever check out at 472 times, adult author visits, creative writing workshops making our outreach for BWS to over 700 adults and nearly 900 children. One first time event which received extra funding from Scottish Book Trust was our Library Link “blether” events. Chippy was the favourite Scottish word at McDonald Road library, when six library links from across the city gathered together to celebrate Book Week Scotland. Launched in 1992, Library Link is a bus service which runs in nearly every library across the city for anyone who has difficulty getting to the library because of their age, disability or ill health. The link services from Corstorphine, Granton, Sighthill, Piershill, Wester Hailes and McDonald Road came together for a ‘blether’, a chippy and sing song, with entertainment provided by the Ceilidh Crew. Organised by Edinburgh Libraries, our partner The Royal Voluntary Service and with funding from Book Week Scotland, over 40 Library Link members arrived to some classic Scottish tunes from the Ceilidh Crew which had been requested by the guests beforehand, Mairi’s Wedding and My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean both really got the crowd going, before stopping for fish and chips and a blether. The time went all too quickly, and it was soon time for everyone to go home.



## Oxgangs Library – Green Spaces

For the past year Oxgangs Library have been working hard to improve the green spaces around the library. This has been done with the help of the community, especially the local children who have played a pivotal role in getting things done! Initially the kids seemed unsure, can gardening really be that exciting? Well it turns out... it can!

Our first project involved planting some lovely pollinator friendly bulbs at the front of the library, these were a mix of snowdrops, crocus and snakes head fritillary. Although the local earthworm population might be a bit disgruntled, it turns out they have played a key role in getting the kids involved. Who can find the biggest earthworm providing all the motivation needed to get stuck in do some digging. We then set our sights on bigger goals! Our attention was brought to the wonderful Free Trees scheme by the Woodland Trust, so we decided to apply for a hedging pack.

## Oxgangs Library – Green Spaces

This provided us with a whopping 36 trees, including Dogrose, Dogwood, Crab Apple, Hawthorn and Hazel. These arrived mid-November and were successfully planted once the ground had thawed, again with the kids providing a helping hand.

We are looking forward to these maturing over the next couple of years. Not only will our new hedge provide food and shelter for local wildlife, it will also provide a nice outdoor space where the community can feel closer to, and learn about, nature. If you would like free trees from the woodland trust scheme, please find more details here <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

## Yearly Awareness Weeks - Libraries

Over the year Libraries support those hard to reach customers by making the library more user friendly to these needing a little extra help;

- Dyslexia Awareness event was a musical event by Dyslexic musicians, over 60 people attending in a relaxed atmosphere in Central Reference Library with stalls of information for adults and children
- Autism Awareness took the form of a panel discussion with Autistic people training, helping Autistic people and again stalls of information.
- Deaf Awareness had us playing host to an amazing author, who went deaf, then regained her hearing, so was able to relate to all in our audience.
- The libraries have film clubs across the city and we now host accessible film events for deaf/hard of hearing with the aim of it being city wide in the New Year.

## Broomhouse Girls Triathlon Project

Broomhouse Primary School is in an area that is designated 3 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation with 43% of children qualifying for free school meals. Pupil attendance is well below the national average and annual pupil turnover is 33% of the school role. Over the course of five weeks a group of female coaches from Edinburgh clubs worked with a group of 27 P6 and P7 girls on all aspects of triathlon – swimming, biking and running, culminating in a mini event.

Having an all-female coaching team was critical to the success of this initiative and the coaches involved were positive female role models for the girls. As female coaches they are aware of the myriad of obstacles for girls and women in sport. Each week the coaches were challenged in different ways and were able to skilfully adapt their session plans and behaviours so that the participants could enjoy the most meaningful experience. Initially, 55% of the girls could not swim and around 40% could not ride a bike. However, by the end of five weeks every girl participating in the initiative felt confident enough to take part in the final event. This is testament to the coaches' belief in the initiative and the reason for becoming involved in the first place. It was

## Broomhouse Girls Triathlon Project

critical to the coaches that every girl involved with this project learnt new skills and had fun in the process. There needed to be opportunities for challenge and in order for these challenges to be accomplished the coaches created a supportive environment so that everyone felt they could, for example, fall off their bike and want to get back on it.

Outcomes of the course include: local triathlon clubs now have an ongoing relationship with Broomhouse Primary School and its pupils; an after-school triathlon club is planned for Forrester High School which the majority of participants will attend – this will be led by a young woman who is currently undertaking her UKCC level 1 Triathlon Coaching qualification; and young women from local clubs will be offered the opportunity to undertake their BTF Triathlon Young Activator Award should they wish to be involved with the work at Broomhouse/Forrester.



## Canal View Primary School and Outdoor Learning Team – Exploring the Local Community via Affordable Outdoor Learning and Active Travel

Throughout November, Primary 7's from Canal View Primary School embarked on an unforgettable adventure programme. They undertook their maiden voyage in canoes along the Union Canal. Initially, the Primary 7's (and some of the staff) were a little apprehensive given that this was a first-time experience for all. With the encouragement of the instructors from Bridge8 and participants' determination, they successfully made their way to Hailes Quarry Park. Meanwhile at the Park, a few other challenges were taking place, including Bushcraft and exploring / identifying the local wildlife. Pupils had to set up their own camp bases to stay warm and dry; using only a small selection of materials. They gathered around the campfire for snacks. Skills, knowledge and experiences were developed throughout the programme. To the delight of the pupils, every week there was a different treat to cook on the camp-fire. They made dough in School and enjoyed it toasted on the camp-fire along with toasted marshmallows. On their journeys back to School, the canoeists were set challenges along the way, which is one of their

## Canal View Primary School and Outdoor Learning Team – Exploring the Local Community via Affordable Outdoor Learning and Active Travel

greatest highlights. On arrival at School, they had a debrief and had to evaluate the day. They enjoyed sharing their experiences and creating next steps for the following week. Staff were impressed with the high levels of teamwork and problem solving evident during the adventure. Pupils constantly had to discuss, evaluate and adapt their designs. These negotiating and communication skills have now been transferred and used within the classroom setting. The pupils used their experiences to develop their writing.

*“I love all the cool bugs in the Canal. I love feeding the cute ducks and the beautiful swans. My best memory is when I went canoeing on the Union Canal.”* P7 Pupil at Canal View PS.

*“We would like to thank the Outdoor Learning Team for all of their support and look forward to continuing our outdoor learning experiences in the future.”* Canal View Primary School.

Congratulations to all the participants and staff at Canal View PS. The Outdoor Learning Team are supporting schools in developing onsite and local outdoor learning programmes. This provides affordable provision and contributes to the Council’s net-zero carbon target. Find out more at

<https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/images/Download/Outdoor-Learning-News-Winter-19.pdf>



## Football 4s and Soccer 7s Programme

Block 1 of our Primary School Football 4s and Soccer 7s Programme has now concluded for 2019/20. In Block 1 we had over 1500 P4-7 pupils from 56 schools playing trophy-free football every single week. Thanks go to the 200+ leaders who give up their time to take the teams and make this possible. As part of our Development Plan, over 100 leaders attended our inaugural Welcome Meeting and a further

EDINBURGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2019/20 BLOCK 1  
**FOOTBALL 4S & SOCCER 7S PROGRAMME**  **FOOTBALL FOR ALL**

**56** SCHOOLS      **183** TEAMS      **1500+** BOYS AND GIRLS EVERY WEEK

Thanks to everyone who has been part of our programme in Block 1! We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

*“To grow and sustain the value and benefit of Primary School football in Edinburgh for individuals, groups and communities, by providing better quality opportunities for everyone to participate and develop through the game”*

## Football 4s and Soccer 7s Programme

30 attended and completed their 1.1 Early Touches qualification. Block 2 registration for P3s and for new P4-P7 teams will open in January. Thanks to all schools, parents and pupils for making the programme such a success, as well as the Scottish FA, Hearts Community and Hibs Community Foundation for the partnership support.

## Football Performance Programmes



After a series of high-quality selection days, our 2019/20 Edinburgh P7 Select and P6-S1 Progression Academy squads were chosen. These squads receive a weekly performance session as well as participating in four South-East Region festivals across the year, alongside the equivalent squads of Midlothian, East Lothian and Borders. Six of our 20 Progression Academy girls have been chosen to form part of the South East Regional Performance Squad, along with five players from our S1-S3 Sports Academy squad. Furthermore, five of our former Sports Academy players have also been selected, meaning 16 of the 37 players in the South East Regional Performance Squads have come through our Performance programmes. Well done to all players and coaches involved.

## Outdoor Learning Team Planning and Development

During December, the Outdoor Learning Team held a planning and development day at Bonaly Scout Centre. This provided an opportunity to start work with colleagues from Schools and Lifelong Learning on the development of Bushcraft. Participants focused on how the Team can build capacity, improve guidance and develop competency across the Council; providing appropriate support and resources. Bushcraft can be used as a standalone activity or as part of a multi-activity programme, with significant benefits and outcomes. Colleagues also discussed and detailed initial ideas on how to create and deliver a new Outdoor Learning Strategy, which will include a significant focus on building capacity, reducing inequality, and contributing to the

Council's net-zero carbon target. There was a strong emphasis on how to consult and involve colleagues, families, volunteers and Outdoor Learning partners.



## Active Schools North West Dance Shows

The North West Active schools hosted two dance shows at Broughton High School for schools who have been delivering Active Schools Dance Sessions between September and December. With 29 different schools performing and over 250 participants over the two nights, It was great to see some of the dance skills learned and inclusiveness of all the dance groups! Edinburgh Dance Academy performed as special guests with a group performance with Ellie Ferguson, winner of The Greatest Dancer, performing as part of the group. Thank you to the dance providers and instructors for continuing to work in partnership and support the Active Schools programme!



## Stunning 1920s Portrait on Long-Term Loan to City Art Centre

The City Art Centre has recently received an important addition to its fine art collection – a portrait of the Scottish artist Cecile Walton (1891-1956) by her husband and fellow artist Eric Robertson (1887-1941). The portrait depicts Walton bathing outdoors at Crianlarich in the Scottish Highlands, a scene inspired by a holiday spent there in the early summer of 1920. Walton and Robertson initially met while studying at Edinburgh College of Art. They married in 1914, and had two sons, born in 1915 and 1919. Both Walton and Robertson were talented artists with promising careers. Walton is best known for her portraits and book illustrations, while Robertson made a name for himself as a daring painter influenced by Pre-Raphaelitism, Symbolism and, later, Vorticism and Cubism. They exhibited as part of the Edinburgh Group, alongside artists such as D.M. Sutherland, Dorothy Johnstone, W.O. Hutchison and Mary Newbery. Unfortunately, their careers went into decline after the failure of their marriage in the mid-1920s. *Cecile Walton at Crianlarich* is a major example of Robertson's work, executed when both artists were at the height of their creative powers. This stunning oil painting is privately owned, but an agreement has recently been made for it to be loaned to the City Art Centre on a long-term basis. Over the next five years the painting will be housed within the City Art Centre's collection, providing opportunities for it to be included in temporary exhibitions and displays, and to be accessed for research and education projects. The City Art Centre is extremely grateful to the owner of the painting for facilitating public access in this way.

Audiences will get their first chance to see the portrait in September 2020, when it goes on display as part of the new exhibition *Bright Shadows: Scottish Art in the 1920s*.



## Victoria Crowe - Fashion Shows

In the summer of 2019 Learning and Programmes developed a large and varied programme of events for our Victoria Crowe exhibition. We already have a strong established relationship with the School of Creative studies at Edinburgh College which spans a wide variety of disciplines. We work with the Textile and Fashion Department in the school, and for the past four years have staged student fashion shows connected to our exhibitions at the City Art Centre. This time the Fashion and Textile Department took direct inspiration from the work of Victoria Crowe to create garments which were part of their assessment, therefore we are directly supporting their Learning. Around 80 students benefited. In the weeks leading up to the shows in September the students visited the gallery to study Victoria's work and particularly looked at colours, forms and structure in her work. As well as 30 fashion and textile students, we had involvement from students across the school, hair and makeup, film and television and photography students were all involved to get direct experience of a public event.



The shows were extremely professional and very lively and brought even more people into the building for the closing weekend of the Victoria Crowe exhibition. Over 200 people attended each show and the majority of these were in the 18-25 group - an age that we struggle traditionally to engage with. It raised the profile of the City Art Centre with a younger audience, this was augmented by the young people engaging over social media and sharing the stories of their show and positive experiences in the City Art Centre. Victoria Crowe's daughter and husband attended the event and spent a long time engaging with the students at the end - they were delighted that Victoria's work provided such inspiration.



Gemma and Mike pictured with the students

## Victoria Crowe - Fashion Shows

The details below illustrate just how inspired the students were and the direct inspiration they took from Victoria Crowe's work. We are looking forward to 2 days of fashion shows in February inspired by our exhibition the 'Italian Connection'.



## There for Everyone to See - City Art Centre Winter Season

The City Art Centre's winter season of exhibitions is accompanied by a rich and varied events programme. For anyone interested in Edinburgh's architectural history, there is a wide-ranging lecture series accompanying our *Classical Edinburgh* exhibition. For contemporary art lovers, especially those fascinated by the minimalist approach of the artists featured in our *Beneath the Surface* exhibition, we have adult creative classes exploring abstraction and a tapestry masterclass. Linking with International Women's Day, there will be an array of events celebrating the Scottish woman artist Mary Cameron. Adding to the mix are family events with 'The Edinburgh Sketcher' Mark Kirkham, student fashions shows inspired by The Italian Connection exhibition,

## There for Everyone to See - City Art Centre Winter Season

curatorial talks, photography walking tours of the New Town, 'In Conversation' events, and tours for visitors with visual impairments and others which have a BSL interpreter present. Find out more at [www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk).



*Royal High School by Colin Mclean*

## Mary Cameron Exhibition Receives Enthusiastic Reviews at City Art Centre



Mary Cameron: Life in Paint, City Art Centre (Photo: Graham Clark)

This winter the City Art Centre is staging Mary Cameron: Life in Paint, the first major exhibition to focus on the pioneering woman artist Mary Cameron (1865-1921). Born in Portobello, Cameron began her career in Edinburgh, but later spent extended periods of time in Spain where she painted large-scale scenes of traditional peasant life. The current exhibition tells the story of Cameron's life and career, featuring over forty paintings from public and private collections, many of which have not been seen in public for over 100 years. Since opening in November, the exhibition has received a series of enthusiastic reviews in the press. The Herald named the show as its 'Critic's Choice', describing it as "a fine selection of landscapes, portraits and tableaux" by a "fascinating" painter. Meanwhile, The Scotsman gave the exhibition four stars, calling Cameron

## Mary Cameron Exhibition Receives Enthusiastic Reviews at City Art Centre

“one of our great artists”. The visual arts journal Studio International praised the City Art Centre for promoting this “highly accomplished and adventurous artist”, and for giving a much-needed platform to historical women artists. The exhibition was also covered recently by the Porty Podcast, with broadcaster David Calder interviewing the curator Dr Helen Scott on Cameron’s life and career: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/71622/2135189-146-mary-cameron-life-in-paint>. The exhibition is accompanied by the illustrated book *Mary Cameron: Life in Paint*, written by Helen E. Scott with a foreword by Kenneth McConkey (Sansom & Co, 2019): <https://sansomandcompany.co.uk/product/mary-cameron-life-in-paint/>

The exhibition runs at the City Art Centre until 15 March 2020, and admission is free.

## Archaeology Conference 2019



The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Archaeological conference was held at Queen Margaret University on the 16 November 2019. The event attracted a near record attendance of 228, the largest since its inaugural event held in Musselburgh in 2002. The day saw a range of talks from professional organisations working on developer funded projects such as Edinburgh Trams to community groups undertaking important research into the history of their areas and from projects such as the Ridge in Dunbar providing regeneration and employment opportunities. The talks highlighted the diverse range of projects in which the three regional archaeological services manage and participate in.

Planning for next year’s event is already underway which will be held at Queen Margaret University on Saturday 21 November 2020.

## Travelling Gallery Exhibitions

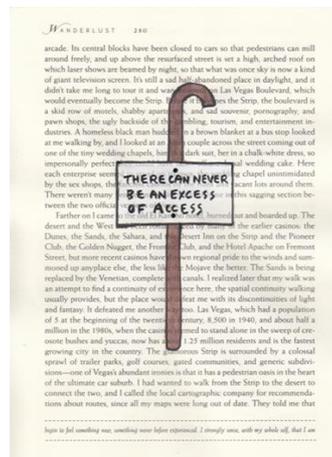
Travelling Gallery’s Autumn 2019 exhibition, *Day of Access*, by Alec Finlay has come to an end, with the final weeks spent in Edinburgh and East Lothian. *Day of Access* began as a powerful campaign to encourage estates to open their land to allow access for people affected by disability. By using hill tracks and four-wheel drives, people who have never been able to immerse themselves in wild nature were driven into the heart Scotland’s beautiful wild landscape. The Day of Access campaign passionately believes that everyone should have the opportunity to

## Travelling Gallery Exhibitions

experience wild nature. Travelling Gallery acted as the campaign bus touring Day of Access across Scotland; presenting information and artworks and allowing a space for discussions. Documentation from the pilot Day of Access, including work by young photographer Sam McDiarmid, were exhibited in an art installation created by Finlay.



The themes of disability, access and ecology are explored in Finlay's poems and artwork. Pages from books exploring illness, pain, walking and healing, including *A View from the Front Line* by Maggie Keswick Jencks, are used as paper for thoughtful drawings and commanding words "THERE CAN NEVER BE AN EXCESS OF ACCESS".



Alongside his own work Alec invited other artists and poets to exhibit including Hannah Devereaux, Alison Lloyd, Ken Cockburn and Mhairi Law; each bringing their own creativity and experience to the project. The work is collaboratively displayed like a scrap book or diary pinned on a garden trellis, alongside other domestic apparatus and soft furnishings, such as blankets, a clothes horse, and hankies.



## Travelling Gallery Exhibitions

Travelling Gallery toured Scotland, beginning in Edinburgh and reaching as far as the Isle of Tiree, Morey, Scottish Borders, Western Isles, Clackmannanshire, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire, Argyle and Bute, Renfrewshire and East Lothian.

**14 WEEKS**  
**47 VENUES**  
**5978 VISITORS**  
**1477 SCHOOL PUPILS**  
**126 GALLERY TALKS**  
**6 ARTIST WORKSHOPS**

As always, we were humbled by our audience's responses.

"Friendly staff and beautiful exhibition – interesting space 😊" visitor Dundee

"What a wonderful thought provoking exhibition with so many types of dimensions" visitor Tiree

"The gallery is a great way to bring something different to communities around Scotland and the people talking about the exhibition are very engaging and enthusiastic too" visitor Clackmannanshire

"Great to expose people to art on a scale that's not overwhelming" visitor Clackmannanshire



Primary school children visiting Travelling Gallery in Dundee

## Travelling Gallery Exhibitions

### Travelling Gallery 2020

Travelling Gallery has three exciting partnerships coming up in 2020!

February 2020

Travelling Gallery will be hosting a short tour of the Lothians in partnership with Edinburgh University's Collections and Curating students who have been given the task to make the University's art collection more accessible by curating an exhibition in the Travelling Gallery.

March – May 2020

Travelling Gallery are delighted to be part of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters (YCW) and will be commissioning three artists to respond to the years themes and tour their work across the country, tapping into other YCW celebrations and events.

August – December 2020

Travelling Gallery will be partnering with BALTIC Gateshead in a first of its kind collaboration. This is an opportunity for Travelling Gallery to showcase our unique skillsets and take on a leadership role to guide other organisations who are inspired by our vision that Scotland is a nation in which everybody has the opportunity to experience and engage in the arts. The BALTIC exhibition will be a cross Border tour beginning in the North East of England and finishing in Edinburgh.



Travelling Gallery in Lochmaddy

## Usher Hall Retains 5 Star VisitScotland Rating

The staff at the Usher Hall are once again pleased to report that the concert hall has, for 10 years in a row, achieved 5 stars for customer excellence both on and offline. This is an amazing achievement and it's wonderful that the staff take so much pride working at the venue. Congratulations are certainly due to all those involved within this historic building.

This 5 star award is recognised as the highest possible attainment across the country and is a benchmark for quality across Scotland's tourism industry.

However there is no room for complacency and the Council will continue to consider ways in which we can improve our standards across all areas of the business.



## Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

*Usher Hall highlights during December and January included:*

Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi - 1 December 2019

Snow Patrol – 2 and 3 December 2019

Lewis Capaldi - 5 December 2019

RSNO: The Nutcracker and the Mouse King – 6 December 2019

Bootleg Beatles - 11 December 2019

SCO: Beethoven Symphonies Nos 2, 4 and 5 - 12 December 2019

RSNO: Nicola Benedetti - 13 December 2019

Love Actually Live on Screen -15 December 2019

Dermot Kennedy - 16 December 2019

A Christmas Wish - 19 December 2019

Now That's What I Call Christmas - 21 December 2019

RSNO at the Movies: The Snowman - 22 December 2019

## Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Ronnie Spector & the Ronettes - 23 December 2019

The Music of Zimmer vs Williams - 28 December 2019

G4 Christmas 2019 - 9 December 2019

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra – Hogmanay Celebration - 30 December 2019

SCO: New Year Gala Concert - 1 January 2020

Edinburgh Royal Choral Union 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Year Messiah - 2 January 2020

Emerging Artists – Jacopo Lazzaretti - 6 January 2020

ELO Again – The Re- Discovery Tour - 10 January 2020

Emerging Artists - Armonio Duo – Eddy Betancourt and Valerie Barr - 13 January 2020

Believe – The Cher Songbook - 17 January 2020

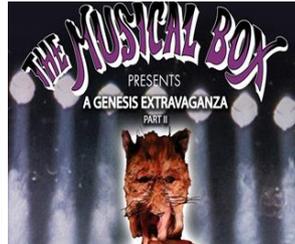
Sunday Classics: Academy of St Martin in the Fields - 19 January 2020

Emerging Artists - Hannah Rarity and Luc McNally - 20 January 2020

2020 Edinburgh Official Chinese New Year Gala - 21 January 2020

Kaiser Chiefs -22 January 2020

### *Forthcoming Events:*



A Waltz Across the Carpet - A Night of Music and Entertainment in support of Tiny Changes – 26 January 2020

SCO: Alma and Gustav Mahler - 30 January 2020

RSNO Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto - 7 February 2020

The Musical Box – A Genesis Extravaganza - Part ii - 8 February 2020

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Chopin - Piano Concerto No. 1 - 9 February 2020

Peppa Pig: My First Concert – 12 February 2020

RSNO Romantic Grieg - 14 February 2020

Party Like Gatsby - Cabaret Noir - 15 February 2020

## Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Sunday Classics: Iceland Symphony Orchestra - 16 February 2020

The Boys are Back! 5ive / A1 / Damage / 911 - 19 February 2020



Lighthouse Family - 20 February 2020

RSNO Beethoven Revolution: Symphony No7 - 21 February 2020

John Prine - 23 February 2020

La Boheme - 26 February 2020

Ellen Kent Opera Madama Butterfly - 27 February 2020

RSNO Beethoven Revolution: Eroica - 28 February 2020

Little Mix Experience - 29 February 2020

The Music of Prince - 29 February 2020

Susan Boyle - 1 March 2020

Jon Hopkins - 4 March 2020



SCO: Beethoven Symphonies Nos 6 'Pastoral' and 7 - 5 March 2020

RSNO Mahler's Song of the Earth - 6 March 2020

King Creosote with his 9-piece band - 7 March 2020

Jake Bugg - 8 March 2020

Elvis Costello & the Imposters - 10 March 2020

SCO: Benedetti plays Mozart and Mendelssohn - 12 March 2020

RSNO Beethoven Revolution: The Emperor - 13 March 2020

Sasha Velour's Smoke and Mirrors - 14 March 2020

Sunday Classics: Swedish Philharmonia (Gävle Symphony Orchestra) – 15 March 2020

## Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

RSNO at the Movies: John Williams at the Oscars - 20 March 2020



Anton and Erin – Dance Those Magical Movies - 21 March 2020

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Brahms - A German Requiem - 22 March 2020

Goldfrapp - 27 March 2020

What's Love Got to do with It? – A Tribute to Tina Turner - 28 March 2020

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

## Assembly Rooms Forthcoming Events



Burns and Beyond – Festival Club - 23 – 25 January 2020

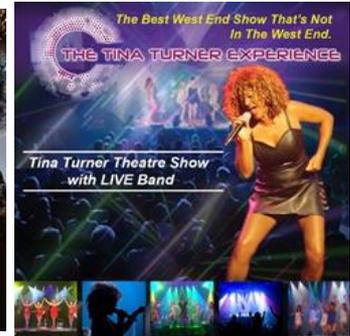
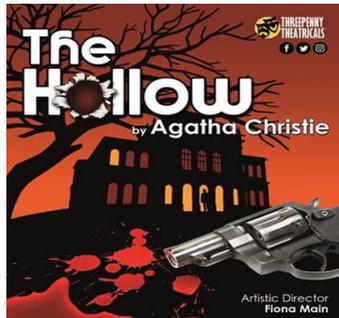
Edinburgh Wellbeing Festival - 1 and 2 February 2020

Scottish Chamber Orchestra: Family Festival: Stan and Mabel and the race for space - 8 February 2020

Sachiko Furuhashi-Kersting - 14 March 2020

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

## Church Hill Theatre Forthcoming Events



Varsity Vocals: The International Championship of Collegiate A Capella - 1 February 2020

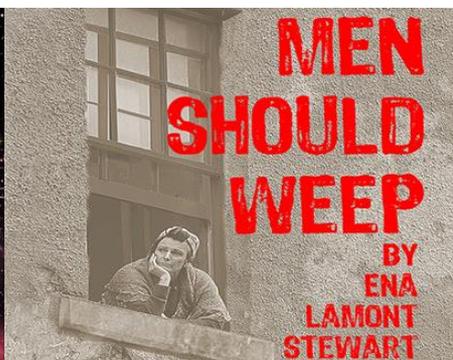
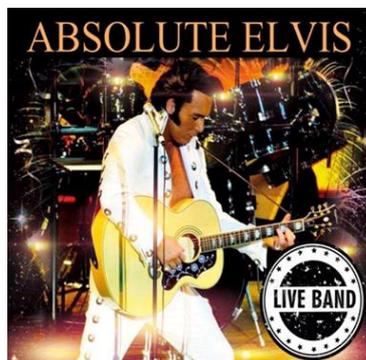
The Hollow by Agatha Christie - 6-8 February 2020

Cher & Shania Twain Tribute Show - 13 February 2020

The Tina Turner Experience - 15 February 2020

Absolute Elvis Johnny Lee Memphis - 27 February 2020

Men Should Weep - 18 – 21 March 2020



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

## Drones Policy Update

The Code of Practice for Filming was updated in early 2019, agreed by the Culture and Communities Committee on [29 January 2019](#) and referred to the Transport and Environment Committee in 5 March 2019. One of the significant changes to the Code of Practice was the addition of drone filming and the setting up of a permit system in order to ensure drone flights were logged and checked by the Council to ensure they were taking place safely. It was agreed as part of the report, that a review during a year-long trial period would take place after six months to ensure the new permit system was fit for purpose.

The permit system started operating on 1 April 2019 and since that time 35 applications have been received with 34 permits issued. One application was declined as it did not meet the CAA guidelines on the minimum safe distance from buildings. Applications have been processed in a variety of timescales ranging from one to 16 working days. Approximately 50% of applications

## Drones Policy Update

come in with the less than a week's notice and therefore had to be processed quickly. This is mainly due to operators seeking a degree of certainty around potential weather conditions. On occasion, applications can take longer to process. To date, this has been because of the number of applications submitted simultaneously. For example, Fast and Furious submitted nine applications at the same time as 14 Eurovision applications. The timeline to process is also affected by the need to go back to the applicant for essential supplementary information.

Whilst no formal feedback has been sought, the new permit scheme has proved popular with production teams, drone operators and council colleagues and no negative feedback has been received. There has been good partnership working between Film Edinburgh and the relevant Council teams to ensure that the permits are issued timeously. There has been a 50/50 split in drone flights applying for permission within parks and on roads. Public Safety have dealt with both teams ensuring permissions were in place before issuing the drone permits. There have been two key challenges affecting the introduction of the system: the initially limited number of officers trained in the policy and permissions process; and one drone crash. Currently, one public safety officer is trained to assess and process applications which is unsustainable. A drone crashed on University of Edinburgh land on 18 September 2019, and a report was received from the operator giving pilot error as the reason. They had not correctly completed the pre-flight check list. There were no injuries and it is being followed up by the University. There have been a few occasions where flights have been cancelled and rescheduled due to weather, and new permits have been issued. An invoicing process supporting the implementation of charges following the trial period will now be established to support the permissions process from April 2020. Feedback suggests there will be no resistance or impact on levels of use because of the introduction of charges.

## LeithLate19 Report

LeithLate made a triumphant return in 2019, thanks to funding from the City of Edinburgh Council and Baillie Gifford. In a change of format from previous years, LeithLate19 took place over a series of three dates across the year - working collaboratively with the following local organisations: Spanish Film Festival CinemaAttic, community festival Leith Festival, local organisation Pianodrome and the Leith Theatre venue. LeithLate19 events comprised: a Basque food and film crawl across Leith Walk venues in April; programming an all-female line-up for the mainstage at Leith Gala Day, with associated all-female gigs, performances and graffiti-jams in and around Leith Links in June; and an after dark light trail in the Kirkgate in November, followed by an immersive event in the Pianodrome, a 100-seater auditorium made out of recycled pianos situated in the main auditorium of Leith Theatre.

An estimated 3000 people attended the 2019 events overall, broken down as follows:

- Pintxos food and film trail: 250 people
- Leith Gala Day mainstage and graffiti jam: 2000 people
- Happiness Hotel: 60 people

## LeithLate19 Report

- Cricket Club: 180 people
- Mural tours: 100 people
- Glow Art Trail: 200 people
- Moon Party with Pianodrome: 200 people

Most of the events were free to attend, with around 500 people buying tickets for the paid events. Although all the statistics from November are not yet available, it is reliably predicted that at least over 50% of our audience live locally in Leith. The Happiness Hotel all-female gig was also featured in recent BBC Scotland documentary "Riot Girl Rock", currently on iplayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000bmj3>

You can view photos of the LeithLate19 events

here: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/leithlate/photos/?tab=albums&ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/leithlate/photos/?tab=albums&ref=page_internal)

LeithLate Producer is currently working on plans for 2020. As well as the return of the traditional art crawl in June, the programme will include events marking the centenary of the amalgamation of Leith with Edinburgh, including a singalong version of Sunshine on Leith (supported by the BFI) and associated events taking place in January/February 2020. LeithLate has applied to OSCR for charity status and is awaiting confirmation.

## Culture Service Funded Organisations – Carbon Management Update

The Culture Service is currently leading the way in ensuring that, as a requirement of funding for 2020/21, organisations have Carbon Management Plans (CMP) in place or are working towards having one. The Culture Service is working and liaising with Creative Carbon Scotland colleagues, and as a result, our revenue funded organisations have been asked to complete a survey on their CMP. Only five of 34 have not responded. The majority of organisations have reduced their carbon emissions over the last two years. Some examples of initiatives being delivered for 2020/21 illustrate their commitment to positive change as follows:

Organisation	Action in 2020/21
Centre for the Moving Image	LED lighting conversion in the Filmhouse Café Bar.
Edinburgh International Book Festival	Diesel generators during festival: Reduce their reliance on diesel generators during the festival and move towards using mains electricity in the gardens.
Imagineate	Encouraging Children's Festival delegates to choose lower-carbon forms of travel.
Lung Ha Theatre Company	To ask for touring performance venues CMP's and work together with them to reduce waste.

## Culture Service Funded Organisations – Carbon Management Update

Organisation	Action in 2020/21
Scottish Book Trust	Switching to green energy supplier.
Scottish Poetry Library	Building improvement - draught proofing.
Capital Theatres	Run an awareness raising campaign for staff and customers on travel
Edinburgh Festival Fringe	Minimising use of plastic.
North Edinburgh Arts	Replace Theatre 400V 20KW UPS Inverter > Target 4500 KWh Electricity Use Reduction. (ie envisages replacing their building UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) that uses around 15% of their annual energy consumption, with a modern UPS system using much less energy).
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	Staff travel reduction (ie encourage all UK travel by rail rather than flights. Purchase replacement vehicle (electric not diesel) for Creative Learning Department. This vehicle accounts for 20% of total fleet emissions. They estimate a 50% reduction in emissions and savings for this vehicle which means an overall reduction across the fleet of 10%).

We will continue to require this information on an annual basis from all of our revenue funded organisations and will also share it with our colleagues in Strategy and Communications, responsible for the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report.

## Bonfire Community Improvement Partnership

The Multi Agency Bonfire Community Improvement Partnership had been planning and implementing an overarching plan for supporting our communities in the days preceding and during the bonfire activities within our communities. The group worked together to reduce the amount of flammable material available, ensuring local households were able to dispose of bulk items in a safe and in an environmentally-friendly manner. Support has been provided to local youth providers to support local children, youths and families to enjoy the festivities in a safe and friendly manner. All services worked together on the 5 November to ensure that everyone's safety was paramount across the city and coordinated resources were deployed by all partners. As a result, Edinburgh saw a reduction in the level of emergency calls. Work has been ongoing with the Scottish Government around the public consultation and development of an action plan following the consultation. The Community Safety Minister Ash Denholm attended the City Chambers to Thank all the staff working on bonfire night for their hard work in enabling resident to feel safer and ensure a reduction in calls and Antisocial Behaviour within the city. A report will be prepared for the Edinburgh Community Safety/Justice Partnership following the formal lessons learned exercise.

### Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award scheme is a national benchmark that recognises parks of high quality. Administered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the scheme is judged on an annual basis and each park submitted for a Green Flag Award undergoes thorough scrutiny by independent assessors. Because of its exceptionally high number of Green Flag awards, the City of Edinburgh Council is part of the Green Flag Group Award Scheme. This means that existing Green Flag Award winning sites are automatically awarded a Flag if the standard is maintained following self-assessment and a peer-review process. In 2019, the Council achieved 32 Green Flag Awards out of a total of 71 across Scotland. The Friends of Corstorphine Hill have achieved a Green Flag Community Award annually since 2009 for Corstorphine Walled Garden.

### 2019 Parks Quality Assessment (PQA) Results

Using the Green Flag Award methodology we are able to assess the quality of all our public parks and major green spaces each summer. In 2019, Dundas Park was removed from the assessment list due to recent developments but Pike's Pool, Saughton Park, Little France Park and Barony Community Garden were newly added or reinstated for assessment, resulting in 141 parks being assessed in total. Overall, parks quality continues to improve with the average parks quality score now sitting at 68%, rising two points from last year. The average Park Quality Score increased across two Localities (North West and South West Edinburgh) whilst North East and South East Edinburgh remained static. South East Edinburgh has the highest average score of 71% closely followed by South West Edinburgh with 70%. North West Edinburgh currently sits on 66% whilst North East Edinburgh has the lowest average score of 64%.

Areas of improvement since 2018 include equal access, litter management, biodiversity and information provision but unfortunately appropriate provision of facilities, dog fouling and horticultural maintenance were judged to have deteriorated. 88% of parks now meet the Council's minimum quality standard, leaving only 17 sites across the city to be brought up to the mark.

Of the 141 parks assessed, Edinburgh has four (3%) Grade A, 59 (42%) Grade B, 61 (43%) Grade C, 15 (11%) Grade D and only two (1%) Grade E parks. Compared to those previously assessed, 23 improved a grade, three dropped a grade, and 111 retained their quality status.

## Parks Quality Assessments and Green Flag Awards

The city's "top four" parks in 2019 were:

1<sup>st</sup> Starbank Park

2<sup>nd</sup> = Easter Craiglockhart Hill Park

2<sup>nd</sup> = Pentland Hills Regional Park

4<sup>th</sup> Seven Acre Park

Notably, all have an active Park Friends Group.



Parks at the other end of the scale requiring attention are the two Grade E parks of Henderson Gardens Park and Hays Park, along with Leith Links, Rosefield Park and Cairntows Park all of which saw their quality score drop the most.

A copy of the Park Quality Assessments for 2019 can be found at -

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/26718/parks-quality-report-2019>

## Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003, Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 – River Almond - Dowies Mill Weir – Next Steps

The River Almond Barriers Project aims to ease fish passage at seven barriers which have a negative cumulative impact on fish populations in the Almond catchment. Two of the seven barriers (Fair-A-Far and Dowies Mill weirs) are the responsibility of the City of Edinburgh Council. Fair-A-Far improvement is complete, as are two others upstream of Dowies Mill in West Lothian,

## Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003, Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 – River Almond - Dowies Mill Weir – Next Steps

with further works on a third planned for 2020. The project's physical works are funded by the Scottish Government, with the support of SEPA, the Forth Rivers Trust and external engineering and aquaculture consultants. A grant of £673,250 has been offered to Council to improve or restore the physical condition of the River Almond by removing or easing barriers to fish passage at Dowies Mill Weir.

A 2015 Feasibility and Optioneering exercise determined that the most effective way of improving fish passage across Dowies Mill Weir is removal of the weir and creation of a boulder rapid that incorporates a pool-riffle sequence in low flow areas, bed reinforcement and a boulder bar across the channel to reduce the risk of erosion to the gas pipeline and sewer and Cramond Brig, and bank protection along vulnerable areas. However, a consultation exercise identified local resident preference for rebuild of the weir to safeguard the character of the water profile upstream towards Cramond Brig with the formation of downstream rock pools to ease fish passage. Both proposals are now being considered by specialists at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), who will shortly advise the Council on the relative effectiveness of these, along with recommendations for any additional analysis or project costing exercise that may be necessary. The grant offer from Scottish Government is to enable the provision of fish passage only, and funds will not be made available for any rebuild or structural improvement of a weir to enable its long-term retention. A report will be submitted to the Committee later this year.

## Coverage of Culture in the Media

A selection of stories that have appeared in the media:

Date	Item	Link
22 November 2019	3* review - Beneath the Surface review (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://freshair.org.uk/posts/beneath-the-surface-review/">https://freshair.org.uk/posts/beneath-the-surface-review/</a>
24 November 2019	Scotland's Insider Guide: Abbeyhill (Museum of Edinburgh)	<a href="https://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/18048485.scotlands-insider-guide-abbeyhill/">https://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/18048485.scotlands-insider-guide-abbeyhill/</a>
24 November 2019	Things to do in Edinburgh: Scott Monument	<a href="https://wanderingcrystal.com/scott-monument-in-edinburgh/">https://wanderingcrystal.com/scott-monument-in-edinburgh/</a>

## Coverage of Culture in the Media

25 November 2019	St Andrew's Fair Saturday: 'Kindness is about looking after the most vulnerable in society and including everyone in the conversation' (Travelling Gallery)	<a href="https://www.list.co.uk/article/112956-st-andrews-fair-saturday-kindness-is-about-looking-after-the-most-vulnerable-in-society-and-including-everyone-in-the-conversation/">https://www.list.co.uk/article/112956-st-andrews-fair-saturday-kindness-is-about-looking-after-the-most-vulnerable-in-society-and-including-everyone-in-the-conversation/</a>
25 November 2019	Festive Workshops: Winter garlands and country bunting, and personalised Christmas Stockings (Lauriston Castle)	<a href="https://newsletters.list.co.uk/seasonal/2019/xmas/2019-11-25/xmas-2019-11-25.html">https://newsletters.list.co.uk/seasonal/2019/xmas/2019-11-25/xmas-2019-11-25.html</a>
26 November 2019	Let's go to Scotland in the footsteps of Harry Potter! - translated from French (Scott Monument)	<a href="https://www.msn.com/fr-ca/voyage/idees-de-voyage/partons-en-%C3%A9cosse-sur-les-traces-de-harry-potter/ar-BBXbXB9">https://www.msn.com/fr-ca/voyage/idees-de-voyage/partons-en-%C3%A9cosse-sur-les-traces-de-harry-potter/ar-BBXbXB9</a>
27 November 2019	4* review - Classical Edinburgh (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art-reviews-scotland-s-photograph-album-women-photographers-from-the-amberside-collection-classical-edinburgh-1-5053121">https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art-reviews-scotland-s-photograph-album-women-photographers-from-the-amberside-collection-classical-edinburgh-1-5053121</a>
28 November 2019	At Lauriston Castle this December	<a href="https://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2019/11/at-lauriston-castle-this-december/">https://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2019/11/at-lauriston-castle-this-december/</a>
28 November 2019	Visual Art Recommendations: Mary Cameron (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://newsletters.list.co.uk/sftw/2019/11-28/sftw-2019-11-28.html">https://newsletters.list.co.uk/sftw/2019/11-28/sftw-2019-11-28.html</a>
30 November 2019	Open Streets in Edinburgh: Festive events as city centre closes to traffic (Museum of Childhood, Museum of Edinburgh, Writers' Museum)	<a href="https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/best-in-edinburgh/whats-on-news/open-streets-edinburgh-festive-events-17342494">https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/best-in-edinburgh/whats-on-news/open-streets-edinburgh-festive-events-17342494</a>
2 December 2019	Give the Gift of Travel: Cities Where Winter Rules (Museum of Edinburgh, Museum of Childhood)	<a href="https://www.thrillist.com/travel/nation/give-the-gift-of-travel-cities-where-winter-rules">https://www.thrillist.com/travel/nation/give-the-gift-of-travel-cities-where-winter-rules</a>

## Coverage of Culture in the Media

3 December 2019	MagicFest presents another dazzling programme of home-grown and international talent (Lauriston Castle)	<a href="https://www.list.co.uk/article/113114-magicfest-presents-another-dazzling-programme-of-home-grown-and-international-talent/">https://www.list.co.uk/article/113114-magicfest-presents-another-dazzling-programme-of-home-grown-and-international-talent/</a>
3 December 2019	Royal Edinburgh: what to see and what to do (Writers' Museum) - translated from Italian	<a href="https://www.marieclaire.com/it/casa/cool-travel/g19557694/viaggio-a-edimburgo-cosa-vedere-e-cosa-fare-nella-capitale-della-scozia/">https://www.marieclaire.com/it/casa/cool-travel/g19557694/viaggio-a-edimburgo-cosa-vedere-e-cosa-fare-nella-capitale-della-scozia/</a>
5 December 2019	Review: Mary Cameron: Life in Paint (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://www.studiointernational.com/index.php/mary-ronald-ferguson-life-in-paint-review-city-art-centre-edinburgh">https://www.studiointernational.com/index.php/mary-ronald-ferguson-life-in-paint-review-city-art-centre-edinburgh</a>
5 December 2019	The Scotsman Christmas Story: Chapter One (Nelson Monument)	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/books/the-scotsman-christmas-story-chapter-one-1-5057390">https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/books/the-scotsman-christmas-story-chapter-one-1-5057390</a>
8 December 2019	Museum search for traces in Carwitz, Edinburgh and in the Engadine - translated from German (Writers' Museum)	<a href="https://oe1.orf.at/programm/20191208/581909/Museale-Spurensuchen-in-Carwitz-Edinburgh-und-im-Engadin">https://oe1.orf.at/programm/20191208/581909/Museale-Spurensuchen-in-Carwitz-Edinburgh-und-im-Engadin</a>
10 December 2019	&GALLERY, Edinburgh: winter Exhibition - mentions Michael Craik and his involvement in Beneath the Surface (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://www.artmag.co.uk/gallery-edinburgh-winter-exhibition/">https://www.artmag.co.uk/gallery-edinburgh-winter-exhibition/</a>
16 December 2019	Luckenbooths (Museum of Edinburgh)	<a href="https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/luckenbooths">https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/luckenbooths</a>
17 December 2019	Ten things to do in Scotland this week (MagicFest / Lauriston Castle)	<a href="https://www.thenational.scot/news/18107714.ten-things-scotland-week/">https://www.thenational.scot/news/18107714.ten-things-scotland-week/</a>
18 December 2019	Link to: 'Classical Edinburgh' Photography Competition (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://us3.campaign-archive.com/?e=a3f75d75fc&amp;u=ae1b53e2bbe1849ce12939014&amp;id=f54aace1b9">https://us3.campaign-archive.com/?e=a3f75d75fc&amp;u=ae1b53e2bbe1849ce12939014&amp;id=f54aace1b9</a>

## Coverage of Culture in the Media

19 December 2019	4* review - Beneath the Surface (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art-reviews-hugh-buchanan-will-knight-beneath-the-surface-1-5064681">https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art-reviews-hugh-buchanan-will-knight-beneath-the-surface-1-5064681</a>
19 December 2019	Young homeless people create photo illusions (Museums of Edinburgh)	<a href="https://www.scottishfield.co.uk/culture/young-homeless-people-create-photo-illusions/">https://www.scottishfield.co.uk/culture/young-homeless-people-create-photo-illusions/</a>
20 December 2019	First look: Young Fathers star to help Edinburgh confront its slave trade past (Nelson Monument)	<a href="https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/first-look-young-fathers-star-help-edinburgh-confront-its-slave-trade-past-1346126">https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/first-look-young-fathers-star-help-edinburgh-confront-its-slave-trade-past-1346126</a>
20 December 2019	Message From The Skies 2020' Returns With Shorelines As Part Of Edinburgh's Hogmanay (Nelson Monument)	<a href="https://www.broadwayworld.com/scotland/article/Message-From-The-Skies-2020&gt;Returns-With-SHORELINES-As-Part-Of-Edinburghs-Hogmanay-20191220">https://www.broadwayworld.com/scotland/article/Message-From-The-Skies-2020&gt;Returns-With-SHORELINES-As-Part-Of-Edinburghs-Hogmanay-20191220</a>
23 December 2019	Review: Classical Edinburgh - Scottish Architectural Photography (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://booksandideas.net/ClassicalEdinburgh.html">https://booksandideas.net/ClassicalEdinburgh.html</a>
23 December 2019	Married to Magic: MagicFest Founders on What Makes Great Magic (Lauriston Castle)	<a href="http://www.edinburghguide.com/news/magicfest/magic/20314-marriedtomagicmagicfestfoundersonwhatomakesgreatmagic">http://www.edinburghguide.com/news/magicfest/magic/20314-marriedtomagicmagicfestfoundersonwhatomakesgreatmagic</a>
26 December 2019	The journey is more than 1,000 miles, driving around the UK by car (translated) (Scott Monument)	<a href="https://www.toutiao.com/i6774622399083053582/">https://www.toutiao.com/i6774622399083053582/</a>
28 December 2019	Message from the Skies 2020 returns with Shorelines as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay (Nelson Monument)	<a href="http://artdaily.com/news/119592/Message-from-the-Skies-2020-returns-with-Shorelines-as-part-of-Edinburgh-s-Hogmanay#.Xg8VfUf7RPY">http://artdaily.com/news/119592/Message-from-the-Skies-2020-returns-with-Shorelines-as-part-of-Edinburgh-s-Hogmanay#.Xg8VfUf7RPY</a>
29 December 2019	Where to Stay in Edinburgh (Museum of Edinburgh, Writers' Museum, Museum of Childhood, Scott Monument)	<a href="https://santorinidave.com/best-places-edinburgh">https://santorinidave.com/best-places-edinburgh</a>

## Coverage of Culture in the Media

30 December 2019	Arts review of 2019: Susan Mansfield and Duncan Macmillan on the year in visual art (Victoria Crowe, City Art Centre)	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/arts-review-of-2019-susan-mansfield-and-duncan-macmillan-on-the-year-in-visual-art-1-5068229">https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/arts-review-of-2019-susan-mansfield-and-duncan-macmillan-on-the-year-in-visual-art-1-5068229</a>
31 December 2019	Time Ball: an invention that inspired New York tradition	<a href="http://mfame.guru/time-ball-an-invention-that-inspired-new-york-tradition/">http://mfame.guru/time-ball-an-invention-that-inspired-new-york-tradition/</a>
1 January 2020	2020: The Year Ahead in Visual Art, by Susan Mansfield and Duncan Macmillan (City Art Centre)	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/2020-the-year-ahead-in-visual-art-by-susan-mansfield-and-duncan-macmillan-1-5069155">https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/2020-the-year-ahead-in-visual-art-by-susan-mansfield-and-duncan-macmillan-1-5069155</a>
3 January 2020	4* review: Message from the Skies – Edinburgh's heritage illuminated (Nelson Monument)	<a href="https://in.style.yahoo.com/message-skies-shorelines-review-edinburgh-090000544.html">https://in.style.yahoo.com/message-skies-shorelines-review-edinburgh-090000544.html</a>
4 January 2020	Hogmanay House celebrations combine magic and tradition (Lauriston Castle)	<a href="https://www.thenational.scot/news/18137172.hogmanay-house-celebrations-combine-magic-tradition/">https://www.thenational.scot/news/18137172.hogmanay-house-celebrations-combine-magic-tradition/</a>
9 January 2020	'Ghost' seen in window of Edinburgh landmark causes stir on internet (Lauriston Castle)	<a href="https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/ghost-seen-window-edinburgh-landmark-causes-stir-internet-1360409">https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/ghost-seen-window-edinburgh-landmark-causes-stir-internet-1360409</a>
12 January 2020	10 things to look out for across Scotland this week - The Power of Perspective (Museum of Edinburgh)	<a href="https://www.thenational.scot/news/18142428.10-things-scotland-week/">https://www.thenational.scot/news/18142428.10-things-scotland-week/</a>
13 January 2020	Is this the appearance of a Scottish Castle Ghost that makes a scene? (translated) (Lauriston Castle)	<a href="https://www.viva.co.id/blog/misteri/1195518-inikah-penampakan-sosok-hantu-kastil-skotlandia-yang-bikin-heboh">https://www.viva.co.id/blog/misteri/1195518-inikah-penampakan-sosok-hantu-kastil-skotlandia-yang-bikin-heboh</a>

## Culture and Communities Committee



**Convener**

Councillor Donald Wilson



**Vice-Convener**

Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan

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### Members

Councillor Wilson (*Convener*)  
Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convener*)  
Councillor Brown  
Councillor I Campbell  
Councillor Doggart  
Councillor Doran  
Councillor Howie  
Councillor Mitchell  
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# Green Pencil Award 2019



Going, going, gone:  
Scotland's wildlife  
in danger?

28 November 2019  
Central Library  
George IV Bridge  
Edinburgh

• EDINBURGH •  
YOUR COUNCIL - YOUR FUTURE



## Foreword



*I am delighted to have been asked to write the foreword for this twelfth annual Green Pencil Award booklet, showcasing the top 20 prize winning entries from this year.*

The Council's Green Pencil Award is our creative writing competition for Edinburgh children and young people in the P4 to S3 age range. The competition, which is organised by Edinburgh Libraries and our Edinburgh schools, was launched this year by author Vivian French with pupils from Davidson's Mains Primary at Blackhall Library. The competition has attracted a great response, with over 1,200 entries received from across the city.

The theme this year was **Going, going, gone: Scotland's wildlife in danger?** and it presented a great opportunity for our entrants to demonstrate their creative writing skills and incorporate their love of Scotland's diverse wildlife and their concern for protecting our native species from the harmful effects of climate change.

The shortlisted entries were judged by a panel drawn from our own Libraries and Literacy teams as well as Scottish Book Trust, Craigmillar Literacy Trust and National Trust for Scotland. Whilst the judging was no easy task, the exceptional quality of the entries this year ensured it was a very enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

I would like to thank all the schools, libraries, parents and carers who encouraged all our young writers to participate and I am grateful to the many people, including our generous sponsors, who contribute to the competition's success.

Finally, I would like to congratulate each of our 20 finalists. It is a fantastic achievement to be selected from so many outstanding entries and I look forward to reading more of your work in the future.

**Councillor Donald Wilson**  
**Convener of Culture and Communities Committee**  
**The City of Edinburgh Council**

## Green Pencil Award 2019

### P4—6 Category

Finalists	School	Title	Page
Ewela Obo-Idornigie	St Margaret's RC PS	The Mountain Hare	4
Isla Cannon	Cargilfield	Dolphin	5
Robyn Gilfether	Hermitage Park PS	The Hedgehog	6
Florence McKay	Hermitage Park PS	Seal's Playground	6
Marcus Caldeira	St Cuthbert's RC PS	Red Squirrel	7
Magnus Urch	Bruntsfield PS	Fox's Point of View	7
Isla Robinson-Gleed	South Morningside PS	Our Bees are Best	8
Alice Walker	Preston St PS	Going, Going, Gone	9
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
Miriam Forret	ESMS Junior School	Just Stop!	9

### P7—S3 Category

Finalists	School	Title	Page
Finn Sheldon	Leith PS	A Job for a Pine Marten	10
Lily Chazelas	Preston St PS	A Beautiful Place	11
Aliyah Faulds	Preston St PS	Sonnet of the Birds	11
Caoimhe Byrne	Blackhall PS	The Mountain Hare	12
Hannah-Louise Phethean	Edinburgh Steiner School	My Plea	13
Ailish Young	The Royal High School	Pine Marten	14
Yasmin Thornton	Broughton HS	Hope	15
Isobel Hendrie	Balerno CHS	Going, Going, Gone	16
<b>Highly Commended</b>			
Lucy Whitehead	Craiglockhart PS	Hedgehog	17
Malayka Hetherington	Cargilfield	Red Fox	18
<b>Overall Winner</b>			
Charlotte Schlegel	Preston St PS	The Different Perceptives	19

# Primary 4–6

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## The Mountain Hare

I am the mountain hare but there's something I think is so unfair ...

I am in danger ...

I can change my furry coat to white and brown – do you like the sound?

I eat the grass and dash super-fast ... like a flame.

Zig-zag to confuse the predators.

SAVE ME, SAVE ME, HELP ME, HELP ME!

I am brown like creamy milk chocolate and white as the winter snow.

I live in the upland heather where I like the stormy weather.

My powerful hind legs to propel – I can do it really well.

SAVE ME, SAVE ME, HELP ME, HELP ME!

Help me survive and keep me alive.

Or you will never see me, me ... me ... me.

I am the mountain hare but there's something I think is so unfair ...

**I am in danger!**

Remember my name – THE MOUNTAIN HARE!

SAVE ME, SAVE ME, HELP ME, HELP ME!

**Ewela Obo-Idornigie P4**

St Margaret's RC PS



## Dolphin

Determined animal in the water  
Oceans full of swimming dolphins  
Losing the species day by day  
Peacefully gliding through the sea  
Hiding all over Scotland's waters  
Interactive with one another  
No more ... I hope not!

**Isla Cannon P4W**  
Cargilfield

## The Hedgehog

Do you want children who only know Scottish wildlife as pictures?

*I have seen small eyes as dark as night*

*Noses as pink as the rubber on this pencil.*

If humans destroy the environment, they destroy the animals.

*I have heard snuffling and grunting in the leaves like miniature pigs rustling around.*

*500 spikes that are poisonous as poison ivy.*

If we poison our wildlife, we poison ourself.

*Dagger spikes; mini toothpicks.*

*Small as a brown spiky football.*

I am proud of our wildlife – let's not lose our Scottish wildlife.

*As gentle and shy as a snail in its shell.*

*Obsessed with shadowy spaces in leaves with the toads.*

We don't want the guilt; keep our wildlife safe.

*My favourite Scottish piglet, our little hedgehog!*

**Robyn Gilfether P5**  
Hermitage Park PS





## Seal's Playground

Sea green kelp forest playground.  
Big dark eyes staring into the gloomy water.

Protect our animals or they'll be gone.  
Save our wildlife.

Cat-like whiskers, super sense their way through  
The green kelp forest playground.  
A sensitive dog nose, leading them to dinner.

Lose our wildlife, lose our joy.  
Save Scotland's wildlife.

Quick as a diving spear.  
Robbed fish, trapped on jagged teeth.  
Don't destroy the food chain, don't overfish!  
Save Scotland's wildlife!

Chomping on fast food and fish suppers in the underwater  
takeaway!  
In the sea green kelp forest playground, spinning  
Swirling, somersaulting games of tig.

Do you want our children only to see pictures of this joy?  
We don't want the guilt!  
Save Scotland's wildlife!

**Florence McKay P5**  
Hermitage Park PS

## Red Squirrel

Nut cracker  
Fast runner  
Pro climber  
Seed nibbler  
Tree dweller

Sudden banging  
Tree falling  
Squirrel dead.

**Marcus Caldeira P5**  
St Cuthbert's RC PS



## Fox's Point of View

I was sitting outside my den watching an owl, a massive brown barn owl, fly low over the trees. I could only just make out the shape of it as it circled over and over again. When the barn owl disappeared from sight, I decided to turn in.

The next morning, I awoke to the sound of footsteps, loud footsteps. I hurried outside to see what was going on. What, or rather who, I saw was a man, someone I had seen before. This man in particular cut down trees in the forest I lived in. Cautiously I stepped back in to my den. About 500 yards away he started to cut down trees with the axe that he had brought with him. He swung his axe back and chopped down a tree, and another, and another!

When the man left, he also left the trees but came back with a massively monstrous machine! The machine had imprinted letters on the side which were F-O-R-K-L-I-F-T (and don't think that I can't read because I'm a fox. If you didn't know that maybe read the title please). Anyway, the man in the mechanical machine put something that looked like a gigantic fork under all the trees that he had cut down and pulled a lever and they were lifted into the air and carried out of the forest.

That night I went scavenging in some bins for food and I saw a hedgehog scuttle across the road and disappear from view. I returned to my den in the forest and ate the chicken I had brought home to eat and it was then that I realised how cruelly humans treated animals, with the problem of pollution and deforestation.

**Magnus Urch P5A**  
Bruntsfield PS

## Our Bees are Best

Less of us around  
No more of our species to see.  
I buzz from flower to flower, searching for nectar,  
My signals are confused  
I lose my route,  
I can't see my way home,  
Or navigate from plant to plant,  
Which means no food will grow.  
The extinction of us will mean  
No more humanity.  
My radar – it's failing.  
What is that smell which is killing us?  
We try and help but YOU stop us  
Where is our habitat?  
Destroyed ...  
To make room for you!  
Ignore our plight,  
And it will be you humans  
That will get  
Destroyed!

**Isla Robinson-Gleed P6A**  
South Morningside PS



## Going, Going, Gone

It starts off as a seed. Just a seed.  
 But one morning a magical thing happens.  
 The seed vibrates, getting louder and louder.  
 But then it stops.  
 Suddenly the seed bursts open,  
 Making the world shake and groan,  
 As a green shoot erupts from the seed.  
 Days pass as the rain thunders down, hammering the soil  
 where the shoot lies.  
 As the rain fades, a flourish of rainbows and colours come  
 out-the sun!  
 Weeks pass, the seed grows longer and longer until POP!  
 A leaf emerges from the soil.  
 The shoot carries on twisting  
 And turning until it is centimetres off the ground.  
 The end of the shoot sprouts a large round bulb.  
 The bulb cracks into quarters and  
 A burst of colour opens up as  
 The petal case falls away, revealing beautiful petals.  
 They spread apart, showing pollen inside.  
 But a shadow falls over this miracle and  
**CRUNCH!**  
 A human foot crushes it, and it's destroyed.

**Alice Walker P6**  
 Preston St PS

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**



## Just Stop

Think before you buy  
 More animals are going to die!  
 Look at all the plastics in the sea  
 It's totally destroying me!  
 We should be saving  
 All the animals  
 The wonderful sea creatures  
 And all of the mammals!  
 Single use is just an excuse  
 Harm to our planet we must reduce  
 So let's work together and take  
 small steps  
 We can all save our planet  
 And we can all help!

**Miriam Forret 4LB**  
 ESMS Junior School



# Primary 7—S3

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## A Job for a Pine Marten

I am one of those people who give ideas for jobs, so when they come in I ask them some questions and give them ideas.

'Mr Marten, do baby pine martens have beards?

Are they all called Marten? Wouldn't that be boring? What about Bob, Alice and Jeff? Oh, there's not so many now, so it's not as confusing. That's sad.

Do you all shave your beards – those strangely attractive beards?

Oh Tail, have you considered a job as a pipe cleaner? I hear it's quite well paid.

Mr Marten, what do you do for a living? Are you a lawyer in a monkey suit? A hairdresser in an apron covered in hair? Or are you a small mammal with a lovely fur coat?

Have you considered being a model with your luscious brown fur? I think you would be simply fabulous.

So consider your options – until then, goodbye!

Mr Marten: 'Hmm – small mammal? Bat it is then!'

Slam! (that was the door)

**Finn Sheldon P7A**

Leith PS





## A Peaceful Place

It was such a peaceful place ...  
The fresh scented breeze rustled the leaves,  
Vivid birds swooped and soared in a magnificent blue sky  
And below, the forest floor was littered with tiny, bright  
bluebells.  
Brilliant butterflies fluttered light-heartedly,  
And hairy bumblebees droned freely  
All over the place.  
In the trees, red squirrels scurried up and down so quickly  
That all you could see was an orangey-red blur with a  
bushy tail.  
It was such a peaceful place ...  
Until the humans came ...

**Lily Chazelas P7A**  
Preston St PS

## Sonnet of the Birds

Birds going back home, rushing and rushing  
Flying over hilltops, over tall trees  
Swooping down waterfalls, running, gushing  
Soaring smoothly in the cool autumn breeze.

Spinning finely in perfect harmony  
Soaring and diving, reflecting in lakes  
Conkers falling, a stream of burgundy  
All the beautiful things that nature makes.

But the trees are leaving, and the lakes are no more  
Now nature's not safe, all because of us  
Over tree ruins, the birds sadly soar  
Saving wildlife's now really a must.

Back at the nest at the crack of the dawn  
The birds have seen nature that soon will be gone.

**Aliyah Faulds P7A**  
Preston St PS



## The Mountain Hare

Up in the highlands  
Lives the mountain hare  
Their species aren't endangered  
And they're treated pretty fair.

They hop around  
With their large furry feet,  
Looking for something  
That they can eat.

Their diet changes  
Depending on the weather  
In summer it's leaves  
And in winter it's heather.

Mountain hares can get worried  
Just like you and me  
They run in a zig-zag pattern  
As fast as fast can be.

Though they're still not endangered  
They still have things to fear  
Because 38,000  
Get killed every year.

I hope I've persuaded you  
To help the mountain hare  
So stop them from getting shot  
And show you really care.

**Caoimhe Byrne P7C**  
Blackhall PS



## My Plea

When I look out into nature, a world that's pure and clean,  
The bluebells blooming in the woods, the contrast blue and green,  
And where the little foxes play, safe in their hidey den,  
Away from stuffy city air, the work of thoughtless men.  
But too soon their innocence is spoiled,  
The thought of safeness soon recoiled  
The trees are gone that hide their den  
When will they grow back up again?  
The mother birds are sad and weep  
The sadness from their heart does seep  
The deer peek out from dewy grass  
Can they come out now, has the danger passed?  
And all the bees are sad as well  
For there's no one here to tell  
How they lost their home and flowers  
The gorgeous sunny springtime hours

That once with love and life were filled  
Now, slowly are getting killed.  
So this is a plea to everyone  
Who's on this earth, beneath the sun,  
Help us save this pretty land  
The one on whose firm soil you stand  
Help us save our much-loved earth  
And give her what you know she's worth.  
And you alone can make a change  
A pot of flowers for bees to range  
Or a plate of milk for a little hedgehog  
A stick for an ant, or an ant for a log.  
So why not give a little thought  
To those who for so long have fought  
To keep their homes and keep their lives,  
To keep their children, mates and wives.  
Help them live, don't let them tear,  
Nature rewards those who care.

**Hannah-Louise Phethean Class 6 (P7)**  
Edinburgh Steiner School

## Pine Marten

It's terrifying how much twenty years can change a place. It only seemed like yesterday I was here last, racing through the coniferous forest, running away from Billy and his gang.

Billy and his gang had been the bullying type, picking on younger and weaker kids like me. However, I was never concerned by them. I was faster than they were and I always had the forest to run to. A towering maze of spindly trees and rocks which I know like the back of my hand.

It was on one of those evenings when I was leaning with one hand against the rough bark of one of the looming trees, catching my breath after another easy escape. I was out later than usual, the sun dipping low to the ground, extending the low shadows cast from the thin trees, and the first moths and bats were beginning to leave their daytime homes.

I remember slowly gaining my breath and soon I was slowly walking back

home, my footsteps muffled by the soft, needle-covered ground. And there it was, emerging from a hole in the tree in front of me, its long body and cream-coloured chest following after the head peering out of the hole.

*Martes martes*, pine marten.

I stood stock still, staring in curious wonder at the elegant creature before me. I remember my dad telling me about them, carnivorous mammals that were largely nocturnal, and lived in forests much like this one.

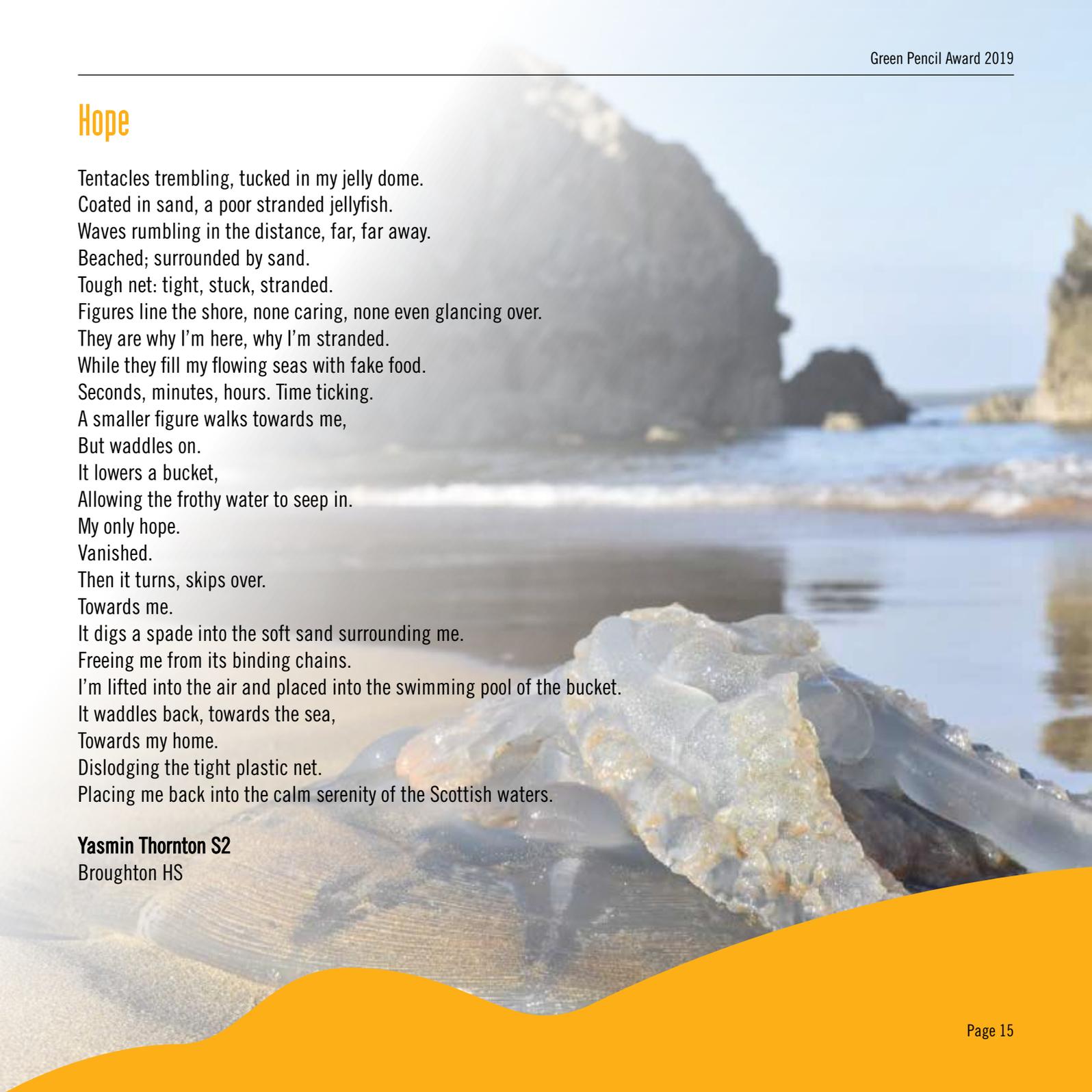
The creature's jet-black eyes snapped to me, and it climbed down the tree trunk with surprising agility before darting away to the left, bounding off into the forest.

And as I stood in that same spot twenty years later, staring motionlessly at the soulless tree stump in front of me, with dead twigs beneath my feet and the once magical trees reduced to rotting stumps, I couldn't help but wonder what happened to the pine marten.

**Ailish Young S2**  
The Royal High School



## Hope



Tentacles trembling, tucked in my jelly dome.  
Coated in sand, a poor stranded jellyfish.  
Waves rumbling in the distance, far, far away.  
Beached; surrounded by sand.  
Tough net: tight, stuck, stranded.  
Figures line the shore, none caring, none even glancing over.  
They are why I'm here, why I'm stranded.  
While they fill my flowing seas with fake food.  
Seconds, minutes, hours. Time ticking.  
A smaller figure walks towards me,  
But waddles on.  
It lowers a bucket,  
Allowing the frothy water to seep in.  
My only hope.  
Vanished.  
Then it turns, skips over.  
Towards me.  
It digs a spade into the soft sand surrounding me.  
Freeing me from its binding chains.  
I'm lifted into the air and placed into the swimming pool of the bucket.  
It waddles back, towards the sea,  
Towards my home.  
Dislodging the tight plastic net.  
Placing me back into the calm serenity of the Scottish waters.

**Yasmin Thornton S2**  
Broughton HS

## Going, Going, Gone

A single splash of red  
The broken wings hang over the nest, hidden in the  
woodlands of the Cairngorms.  
His feathers midnight black, lace the forest floor.  
He is an impressive sight, a fan of feathers at his back,  
and his head held high  
With one flash of red on his neck he is the boldest in the  
wood,  
Leaves tearing down beneath his talons.  
A journey to the top of a small mound, across the muddied  
grass.  
This is his kingdom – he looks upon the ground.  
This single bird, a taunting cry he stands on the twigs  
But now he spots an unfamiliar sight; the large feet and  
long legs is quite a daunting sight.  
An intruder to the forest. He turns his head and runs.  
What was this creature, the bird thought to himself?  
Interrupting his peaceful day and trampling through his  
woods.  
The woods are a dangerous place for this single bird.  
Slowly his home is destroyed, with deer fencing as sharp  
as thorns.  
This bird is brave and remains strong in the harshest of  
winters.  
So help this bird, and all its home – stand strong like the  
capercaillie.

**Isobel Hendrie S3**  
Balerno CHS



**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

## Hedgehog

Cloaked in spines, a hedgehog slumbers.  
In its sleep it softly mumbles.  
The autumn sunrise, streaked with gold,  
Shines upon the spiked ball.  
Its endless struggle through the night,  
Ends with the morning light.  
With the winter drawing near,  
The hedgehog must disappear.  
It must sleep alone for three months at least,  
Until the winter cold has ceased.

**Lucy Whitehead P7**  
Craiglockhart PS

HIGHLY COMMENDED



## Red Fox

Silky red satin coat  
Gleaming in the midnight stars.  
Sly. Stealth. Sneak.  
Catch. Caught. Eat.  
Elegant leaps!  
Dazzling dives!  
The red fox thrives!  
Into the thicket, into the trees,  
Red fox go wherever you please.  
Under the bush, over the hedge  
Into the garden, under the ledge  
Graceful jumps.  
Playful cubs.  
Red fox alive.

Lucky to live, lucky to thrive.  
Endangered once, you survived.  
Now you are of least concern  
But don't take chances,  
Times could turn.  
Red fox deprived.  
Red fox alive.

Sleek and shiny, soft as night.  
Watchful eyes, as green as the grass,  
Reflected in the silver stars.

Soft, damp ,black nose  
Sniffs at every corner.  
Full of surprise  
The red fox thrives.

Sly beauty.  
Roaming in the night.  
Rusty red runner,  
Running in the trees, in the dark,  
Over human boundaries.  
Red fox revived.  
Red fox survives.

Slowly, slowly, dawn is breaking.  
Silver stars disintegrating.  
Day will chase you,  
And encase you.  
Run fast, leap quick.  
Red fox quick.  
Red fox slick.

The red fox slows.  
Gives in, gives up.  
Take your last breath.  
Take your last leap.  
Dawn is nigh.  
Red fox slows.  
Red fox dies.

**Malayka Hetherington 8M (S1)**  
Cargilfield



## OVERALL WINNER

## The Different Perceptives

**Human**

A puffin you can see resting in a cosy nest atop the Bass Rock. It awakens and shifts around a little, yet it looks eager to set off and fly.

**Puffin**

I awaken. The urge to fall back to sleep washes over me, but the fighting feeling of wanting to fly drowns out sleep, so I leave the nest and walk off to the edge of the Bass Rock.

**Human**

I see a puffin. Perhaps I should describe it better, its beak a fiery red combined with charcoal black and daffodil yellow.

Let's move on to the rest of the puffin. Its feet are a vivid orange and his eyes a startlingly bright blue.

**Puffin**

I begin to flap my wings. Within a few minutes I'm off flying. I feel elated. I look down at beautiful cobalt shimmering sea.... but wait! I turn my beak to the ocean and dive, wings tucked close to my body. I am submerged. I see something. I swim towards it. I think it's a fish but now I am not so sure. I'll eat it anyway. Oh.....

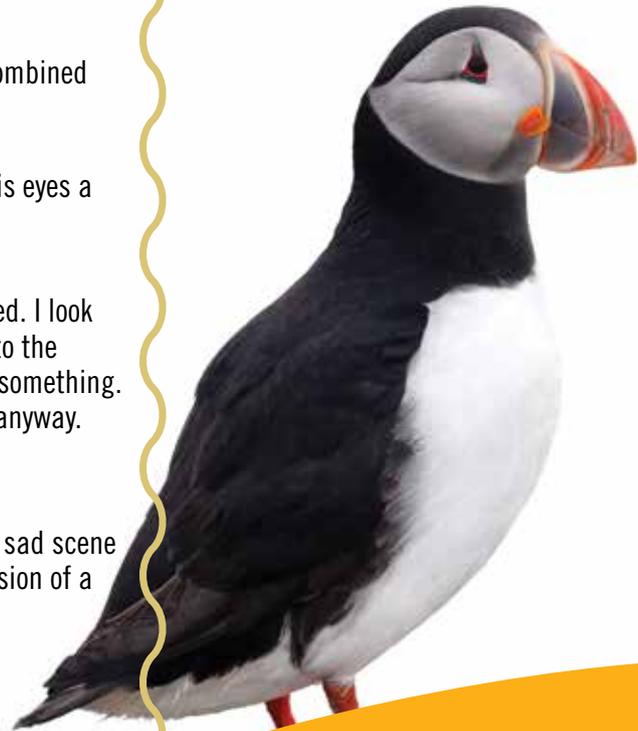
**Human**

I see the body of a dead puffin float to the surface of the water. What a sad scene to behold the other puffins crying out their lament as if it was their version of a funeral. As the day began to seep into nightfall, I trekked home.

STOP USING PLASTIC AND SAVE THE PUFFINS!

**Charlotte Schlegel P6**

Preston St PS



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