

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday 14 September 2021

• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Return of the Summer Festivals



Last month the city welcomed the return of the summer festivals and the Convener and Vice Convener thanked all those who made it possible - recognising teams from across the Council, from public safety, licensing, events and environmental health to roads teams and waste services. Together, in preparation for the launch of the Art, Book, Fringe, Film and International Festivals, they worked in close partnership with festival operators, the Scottish Government, Event Scotland, NHS, Essential Edinburgh and the Emergency Services, who collaborated to bring festivals back safely and with a new emphasis on outdoor sites.

The Council has always had an important role in supporting the Edinburgh Festivals through strategic funding, processing the significant Licensing requirements and undertaking safety inspections of the hundreds of Festival venues. This year required the Council to lead a new city-wide partnership of festival producers, venues, public health experts and other key stakeholders to ensure that the events could return safely. This process began months in advance of the Festivals with continuous updates and adaptations to align with the latest clinical advice and guidance from the Scottish Government.

Alongside that of partners, festivals and stakeholders, the commitment from the Council's officers to contribute to, and facilitate the safe reintroduction of the festivals in such an unpredictable and challenging environment was exceptional. It has ensured a successful reintroduction for 2021 and a good reason to very much look forward to a successful August 2022.

In addition to the planning and technical support, the Council provided £385,000 in new funding to deliver outdoor venues at Summerhall, MultiStory at Castle Terrace and Fringe High Street. This was in addition to the £2.371m in Strategic Partner funding provided to the summer festivals and £745,560 provided through the PLACE programme.

Sir Walter Scott – 250th Birthday Events

In August we celebrated the 250th birthday of Sir Walter Scott and Public Programmes had a series of events on the birthday week which were delivered digitally.

On 17 August, 348 booked to enjoy a lecture on “Sir Walter Scott and the History of Children’s Literature” given by Sarah Dunnigan (Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh) and Gerard Carruthers (Francis Hutcheson Professor of Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow). Scott’s library at Abbotsford was home to a literary treasure trove which contains a fascinating history in miniature of children’s literature, containing items which speaks to the transformations in children’s literature across two centuries, and brings new perspectives to Scott’s roles as antiquarian, collector, and imaginative writer.

On 19 August a second lecture took place, hosted again by our Learning and Public Programme Manager and booked by 109 people, on “Sir Walter Scott and the Sense of Place”. The lecture, by Penny Fielding (Grierson Professor of English and the University of Edinburgh), took attendees on a geographical tour of Scotland and looked at how Scott’s characters move between places and across borders, and how Scott described the Scottish landscape.

“The Gothic Rocket: The Scott Monument” was the subject of the third lecture on 20 August given by Jackie Sangster (Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland) and booked by 240 people. The Scott Monument is the second largest monument to a writer in the world and the

lecture examined archives, from early photographs to souvenir postcards, to see how this iconic landmark has endured on Prince Street since its completion in 1846.



There is a talk on “Haunted Scott” on Friday 29 October and more digital talks are arranged for early 2022. We have a talk at Halloween on haunted Scott! A few more digital talks are also arranged for early 2022 – for further information please visit our [website](#).

Culture Service Diversity Programme Launches the Second Edition of its Governance Scheme

Eight ethnically diverse artists and creatives embark on a journey into company governance and board membership with the aim of increasing representation and visibility across local arts and culture organisations.

Developed and delivered in partnership with Queen Margaret University and Arts and Business Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council’s Governance Training and Board Membership Programme facilitated by the Culture Strategy Service (Diversity Programme) welcomes new participants and partner organisations this August. WHALE Arts Centre, Craigmillar Now, Magnetic North Theatre Company, Cutting Edge Theatre Company, SCO (Youth Advisory Council), Take One Action Film Festival, Starcatchers and Prewired+ have all responded to our invitation to be programme partners and will offer board membership opportunities to ethnically diverse artists and creatives based in Edinburgh.

This edition follows on from the successful delivery of board appointments with Capital Theatres, Just Festivals, North Edinburgh Arts, Edinburgh Printmakers, Out of the Blue. Capital Theatres appointee has also agreed to establish a Youth Advisory Board.

A great example of participation in the Governance Scheme is Tony Mills, the recently appointed Artistic Director of Dance Base. In addition to participating in the Scheme, Tony joined leadership workshops with Asif Khan, and international working sessions with Isabel Moura Mendes which were hosted throughout autumn 2020 as part of the Professional Development Programme designed by the Culture Service Diversity Officer. Tony was also one of the recipients of the [Diversity and Inclusion Fund 2020/21](#) that supported the development of ‘The Cave’, an immersive physical theatre piece, in partnership with Magnetic North.

Schools Engagement through Museums and Galleries

From April to June, four primary schools in Edinburgh took part in our City Art Stars programme. Our Schools Engagement Officer delivered a five-week interactive art programme to pupils from Dalry Primary, Craigentinny Primary, Clovenstone Primary and Royal Mile Primary via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 165 pupils were involved in these creative sessions that were inspired by our Museums and Galleries Edinburgh collections such as paintings from the City Art Centre and toys from the Museum of Childhood. Feedback from pupils and teachers was overwhelmingly positive. City Art Stars will begin again in September with new sessions focusing on our current exhibitions.

Over the summer, our Schools Engagement Officer has worked in collaboration with local charity People Know How, Edinburgh University's Museums, SCRAN and Historic Environment Scotland to develop and deliver a six-week creative summer programme for young people titled Dear Lothian. The aim of the programme was to increase confidence and resilience in the young participants as they prepare for high school. Digital workshops were delivered to a group of nine young people inspired by the current Donald Smith and Ian Hamilton Finlay exhibitions at the City Art Centre. In addition, the Schools Engagement Officer has been hosting City Art Stars digital sessions with a group of children from WHALE Arts as part of their summer programme.

Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums Project

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh have been contributing to the Scottish Government funded project Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums led by Museums Galleries Scotland. The project is a review on how Scottish museums and galleries can better address the legacies of slavery, empire and colonialism at every level. This nationwide project will build on existing work from within the equalities sector and from across Scotland's museums, to explore the mechanisms of how Scotland can confront challenging histories within museum spaces. Lyn Stevens, Curator at the Museum of Childhood, has participated in the project's Collections Sub-Group and one of the Museum of Childhood objects features in the newly launched Empire and Slavery Resources for Museums – [Museums Galleries Scotland | Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums: Resources](#)

Funding Award and Exhibition Sales Success

The City Art Centre has secured a £3,000 grant from Bòrd na Gàidhlig which will go towards an education and events programme linked to the exhibition *Islander: the paintings of Donald Smith*, which is currently on show at the gallery in Market Street. Donald Smith (1926-2014) was a Gaelic speaker, so the aim of the programme is to develop opportunities for usage of Gaelic in Edinburgh, to strengthen networks between Gaelic community groups and our young people, and to create a positive image and environment for Gaelic language and culture. The programme will involve adults, families and schoolchildren, and encompass music as well as art (see item below).

The Donald Smith exhibition is part of an ongoing strategy to showcase Scottish artists of original talent who have largely been overlooked in the story of Scottish painting. This exhibition, organised in partnership with An Lanntair in Stornoway, includes works which are for sale. While the Art Centre does not customarily sell artworks, we've been delighted at the response. So far 19 of the exhibits have been sold, testament to the pleasure the exhibition has been giving.



Donald Smith (1926-2014), *The Big Net*, oil on panel, Private Collection

Public Engagement Programmes – Museums and Galleries

Public Programmes have developed a digital programme consisting of 15 storytelling sessions, six art workshops, five live music sessions and a digital Visually impaired tour for our Donald Smith exhibition fully funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. We are working hard to involve the Gaelic community in Edinburgh and most social media posts are going out primarily in Gaelic. All of these events will stream on Facebook in August and September. Information can be found on the Museums and Galleries website – [here](#).

Floating Exhibition Features Young People's Artwork

This summer, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh worked in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland and SCRAN, the University of Edinburgh's Museums, St. Cecilia's Hall and local charity People Know How to support young people in their transition to high school through a programme of arts, culture and heritage activities designed to increase their confidence and resilience as well as strengthen their relationship with their local area. As part of the six-week programme, children took part in digital art workshops, producing watercolour paintings and text artworks inspired by our current Donald Smith and Ian Hamilton Finlay exhibitions at the City Art Centre.

On 11 August, People Know How held an exhibition showcasing the artworks, soundscapes, oral histories, and scrapbooks of young people who participated in the programme. The exhibition took place on People Know How's jointly owned canal boat, All Aboard.

"It's been wonderful to collaborate with partner organisations to bring these sessions to life. The summer before high school, particularly during the pandemic, can be a stressful time for P7s, but through Dear Lothian we have witnessed first-hand the excitement and increase in confidence that can result from opportunities to engage with their local community through the arts." Claudia Baldacchino, Communications and IT Officer, People Know How.



Travelling Gallery Re-launch

The Travelling Gallery is delighted to be back on the road again after a lengthy period of closure as a result of the pandemic. Their exhibition, *Shapes of Water*, had just launched last year when the gallery had to close towards the end of March. Now, with extra safety measures in place, the gallery will be out and about from early September. *Shapes of Water* was part of Scotland's 'Year of Coasts and Waters' and the partnership allowed the gallery staff to invite three thought provoking and exciting emerging artists to respond to the theme. The exhibition features work by Suzie Eggins, Amy Gear and Rhona Mühlebach. It will tour local Edinburgh venues for the first few weeks before travelling further afield. Further details can be found on the gallery web site - <https://travellinggallery.com/current-exhibition/>

Reopening of Museum of Edinburgh

The Museum of Edinburgh re-opens to visitors from Monday 30 August and we look forward to welcoming you back. Pre-booking is no longer essential, however we do advise it as numbers will still be restricted to ensure social distancing can be observed for the comfort and safety of all. For more details about opening hours, the venue and its collections, and to book a slot that suits you, please visit our website at: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/>. Admission is free.

Museums and Galleries Kickstart Placements

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh is pleased to be hosting four Kickstart placements over the next few months. The Kickstart Scheme is a UK Government-funded scheme that provides funding to create new job placements for 16-24 year olds who are on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment. Our placements are supported by Museums Galleries Scotland, who is acting as the Kickstart Gateway and will provide employability support and top up each opportunity to the Real Living Wage. Over the next few months a series of Kickstart blogs will appear on our website – here (link to be added) – starting with an introduction to Claire Robertson who has joined us as our new Digital Outreach Assistant.

Edinburgh Recipients of funding from round two of the Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund

Assembly Festival Ltd (Assembly Roxy) - £85,000.

Capital Theatres (Festival Theatre and Kings Theatre) - £500,000.

City of Edinburgh Council (Usher Hall) - £182,445.

Dance Base Scotland (Dance Base) - £223,827.

International Entertainment Holdings Ltd (Edinburgh Playhouse, Theatre Royal Glasgow and Kings Theatre Glasgow) - £350,000.

Leith Theatre Trust (Leith Theatre) - £342,800.

The Queens Hall (The Queens Hall) - £97,500.

Traverse Theatre (Scotland) Ltd (Traverse Theatre) - £150,000.

Usher Hall Reopening

Following the easing of Covid restrictions, our cultural venues have been given permission to reopen.

Forthcoming events:

Elbow – Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 September

Teenage Fanclub – Tuesday 14 September



Black Stone Cherry – Saturday 18 September

Paloma Faith – Sunday 19 September

A Celebration of the Music from Game of Thrones, Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit – Monday 20 September

Rumours of Fleetwood Mac – Wednesday 22 September

A Question of Sport Live – Friday 24 September

Dr Hook starring Dennis Locorriere – Saturday 25 September

Manic Street Preachers – Tuesday 28 September

Erasure – Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 October



Rufus Wainwright - Unfollow the Rules Tour – Saturday 9 October

Belinda Carlisle – Tuesday 12 October

Joker In Concert - The Film with live orchestra – Friday 15 October

What's Love Got To Do With It? A Tribute to Tina Turner – Saturday 16 October

Wet Wet Wet – Saturday 30 October

OMD – Tuesday 2 November

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

Assembly Rooms Reopening

Following the easing of Covid restrictions, our cultural venues have been given permission to reopen.

Forthcoming events:

Aldo Kane - Friday 1 October

Fi Glover and Jane Garvey: Did I Say That Out Loud - Saturday 23 October

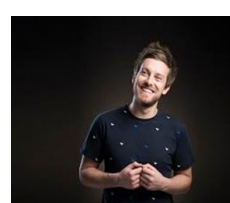
Moving Adventures – European Outdoor Film Tour 2021 - Friday 12 November 2021

Chris Ramsey - Saturday 20 November 2021

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



moving
MEDIEN adventures



Update on City Centre Graveyard Investment and Cemetery Tour Guide Operators Scheme

A range of works have been carried out in the five city centre historic graveyards at Canongate Greyfriars, New Calton, Old Calton and St Cuthbert's. These include:

- installation of bronze entry plaques in English, Gaelic and Braille;
- entrance gates painted;
- interpretation panel installed on the bothy wall in Greyfriars Kirkyard;
- granite copy of Greyfriars Bobby on a plinth installed as a focal point on entry to Greyfriars Kirkyard for 150th anniversary of the death of Bobby on 14 January 2022. A granite name plate has been added with the date of 1562 when the council was given the land by Mary Queen of Scots;
- Bum the Dog statue, a gift from twin city San Diego, has been moved temporarily into St Cuthbert's Kirkyard from the closed Kings Stables entry road below castle rock and bare earth turfed;
- some worn paths in Greyfriars repaired with gravel; and
- with Captured Realities Ltd created 360 virtual Wizard Walk and Bobby tour of Greyfriars.

The Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Scheme went live on 1 June 2021 and now has 29 tour company registrations so far. Two contactless donation boxes have been installed in Greyfriars with a point to follow in St Cuthbert's. As an alternative a text to donate facility is operational.

Footfall of visitors though the graveyards in the month of July was as follows:

- Canongate - 7,000;
- New Calton - 9,000;
- Old Calton - 11,000;
- Greyfriars - 57,000;
- St Cuthbert's - 93,000 (actual number of graveyard visitors can't be defined with many using it as a cut through to Princes Street Gardens).

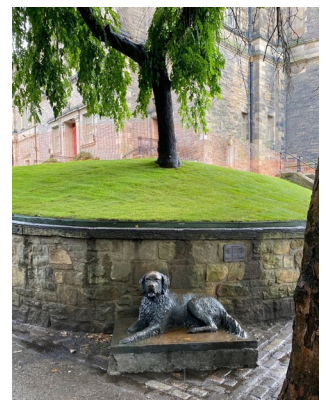


Thank you for your visit. Please consider making a text donation to help support the UNESCO World Heritage Site Graveyards at Canongate, Greyfriars, Old Calton, New Calton and St Cuthbert's

Text GRAVEYARD to 70450 to donate £1
Texts cost £1 plus one standard rate message

Thank you for your kind donation

The City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with Greyfriars Outreach on the Dore platform.
Enquiries to bereavement@edinburgh.gov.uk or 0131 664 4314



Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit – A Chance to Shine

The Drummond Cluster has been working with Cricket Scotland and the charity a Chance to Shine to give Primary 5 and 6 pupils a chance to learn cricket skills during curriculum time. The pupils received 90 minute sessions a day for 5 days by qualified coaches who were funded by the charity. The official launch of the initiative took place on Thursday 24 June at Princes Street Gardens with pupils from Broughton Primary in attendance. This has been a great initiative with local clubs receiving an influx of enquiries from the Drummond Cluster Pupils as this is the first time a block of cricket has been delivered to this age group.



Get Into Summer at Juniper Green Tennis Club

Local school pupils from Currie, Balerno and Colinton have had a fun-packed summer holiday at Juniper Green Tennis Club through the Accelerate Tennis coaching programme. The programme delivered morning and afternoon sessions open to players aged 5 - 11 of all abilities with a focus on introducing and developing essential motor skills, basic technique, fun games and match-play.

Week three of the programme saw a partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit called 'Get Into Summer' with funding made available through the Scottish Government to deliver summer activities for children and young people across Scotland. The aim is to help address negative impacts arising from extended periods of isolation and the lack of participation in normal activities during the pandemic. The priority is to improve children and young people's wellbeing, providing opportunities to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer. The offer of a free tennis camp was presented to local schools with places on the camp filling up within a



week!

“Juniper Green Tennis Club were more than happy to partner with The City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit programme 'Get Into Summer', recognising the opportunity to improve children and young people's wellbeing, providing opportunities to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer. Thanks to Ryan Harrower – Racquets Development Officer, for facilitating this fun week of tennis activity.” Kenny Petrie – Club Coach.

The club has applied for further funding to provide more opportunities for local families to access the tennis programme.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Incremental Restart of Overnight Camping Expeditions

During June, the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) gained council approval to restart overnight camping, including Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) expeditions. This is a prompt and proportionate response to a recent change in Scottish Government offsite visits advice. SOLU delivered an online safety briefing session and devised a risk assessment template to ensure a swift and safe return to overnight camping. Whilst national [DofE flexible expedition arrangements](#) continue to be available to participants, the incremental return to overnight expeditions brings additional benefits and experiences. Council schools, community groups like the Citadadel Youth Centre and key partners such as the [Friends of the Award \(FOTA\)](#), all operating via the council's DofE Licence, have organised recent overnight camping expeditions.

The SOLU and DofE Scotland recently welcomed The Earl of Forfar and Lord Provost to the Bonaly Scout Centre. They spoke with DofE participants from Trinity Academy, [SCOREscotland](#) (Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland based in Wester Hailes), and FOTA. His Royal Highness enjoyed working with the young people, some of whom were preparing for their first overnight expedition.



Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Epic Day Adventures for Primary 7 Pupils

The council's Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit is delivering an innovative P7 Epic Days programme during the Summer and into the Autumn; taking place at the Bonaly Scout Centre and Pentland Hills Regional Park. This is helping to compensate for no school residential visits during the pandemic; as required by Scottish Government guidance. Pupils are experiencing a taste of some elements of a residential. The programme includes an extended day (10:00 – 21:00) and involves more than 3000 P7 pupils undertaking a wide range of outdoor activities including hillwalking in nearby Pentland Hills, archery, climbing wall, bushcraft, crate-stack, nightline and low ropes course. This is then followed by a hot meal, games and making a camp fire. The Outdoor Learning staff, including those from Benmore and Lagganlia staff, are being supported by Active Schools Coordinators and the Council's school catering team who provide hot meals to everyone taking part.

A P7 parent said: "My son came home on a complete high "the most epic of all epic days". You're all awesome for taking that on in the crazy weather they had that day. My son had just the best day out, and he has now decided that lentils are a good thing to eat - phenomenal!"

Jacqueline Scott, Head Teacher of Trinity Primary School said: "A huge thanks to everyone for providing such a memorable day for our Trinity P7s. From the minute we arrived to the minute we left, the organisation was incredible. The day provided absolutely the right balance between allowing the pupils some independence and an element of risk taking whilst also encouraging co-operation and ensuring safety. They arrived back at school buzzing with excitement. 'The best day ever' was reported to many parents and carers. The commitment and enthusiasm of the group leaders were infectious."

Recent media coverage, including photographs:

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/education/over-3000-edinburgh-schoolkids-descend-on-pentland-hills-outdoor-adventure-area-for-epic-day-out-3282860>

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/06/epic-day-out-for-thousands-of-edinburgh-schoolchildren/>

Incremental Restart of School Residential Visits to the Council's Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres

The council has recently approved the restart of school residential visits to Benmore and Lagganlia, subject to ongoing national advice and assessment of local infection rates. These will restart in the Autumn term and represents significant planning and preparation to ensure a prompt and safe return.

The council is at the forefront of reintroducing residential visits, which is in line with Scottish Government advice. Council officers have participated in national work supported by the Scottish Government, including creating and updating national guidance and resources: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance to support the reintroduction of school residential visits](#)

School residential visits are an important part of a progressive approach to outdoor learning via the Curriculum for Excellence. They produce significant and unique outcomes, for example: [Educational value of Scotland's Outdoor Education Centres.](#)

The council operating its own centres is as important as ever, allowing it to directly control the safety, availability and quality of its services; guaranteeing the best provision to Edinburgh children and young people. The centres are a beacon of good practice throughout the UK and beyond.

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit has recently started its periodic review of the Excursions Policy. The review of this framework for delivering offsite visits will focus on pandemic adaptation and renewal; safety; equity; equality; environmental sustainability and educational effectiveness.

Swanston Golf Club Girls Initiative

CEC Community Sport Hub officers have been working in partnership with Swanston Golf Club to support the development of girl's golf.

The club volunteers are hugely committed and have created a very welcoming and supportive environment for girls and their families. They have organised girls only sessions and camps and now have 40 girls as junior members.

Funding from the Golf Foundation has enabled the club to put in new tee markers to aid the transition to the full golf course for all juniors as they develop. Last week they held an Adult and Child Launch to promote the new tees, which was a fun and social occasion.



Opening of Libraries

18 libraries are open for an appointment-based service, with a mobile library service in operation at Ratho as alternative service provision while the new Library and Nursery hub is developed. In line with the Scottish Government's 'careful, cautious and sensible approach', an extended service offer alongside an incremental extension of opening hours will continue over September and October. This will see the requirement to make a booking for browsing being removed (except for bus pass applications and public computers), the introduction of dwell time, group and 121 activity, study space, and public access to toilets. Promotion of the service is taking place to align with a fines and charges amnesty running to end December. The proposed changes will also support the creation of dual function spaces (where building allows) to support the Asymptomatic Test Centre process and reduce disruption across the library service offer.

The resumption to pre Covid opening hours is planned to be in place by December.

Muirhouse will open its Edinburgh College Granton Campus library service by the end of October and the Muirhouse staff team will be running activities and services from schools and partner locations throughout the community: for example, Bookbug sessions will start on the 6 September from West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre. Granton has some health and safety issues (requiring building adaptation) which are in the process of being resolved. At Balerno, discussions are taking place with the school with regard to managing a COVID safe click and collect service. Corstorphine's planned asset works are complete and subsequent cupola paint work and internal reconfiguration will see the library opening from 25 October onwards.

A pilot digital library, offering supported People's Network (PN) free public computing and internet, will open in South Neighbourhood Office, to coincide with the refreshed PN offer citywide to be launched in January 2022.

Four libraries - Oxfgangs, Sighthill, Newington and Leith - are currently in use as Symptomatic Test Centres until November 2021 and this requirement from Scottish Government is likely to continue beyond this. However, a review will be conducted of the use of these test centres and a consideration of potential alternative venues.

Libraries Update

Health Information Week 6 – 12 July

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a huge disruption to cancer care, affecting diagnosis, treatment and support for thousands of people across Scotland. In Edinburgh the temporary closure of our Libraries meant that we haven't been able to support people face to face but that hasn't stopped us doing everything we can to be there for people and their families affected by cancer. Macmillan @Edinburgh Libraries appreciate that, for some, this has been an incredibly isolating, lonely and frightening time with people not knowing who to turn to for emotional, practical or financial help. Often what people need is a friendly voice, someone to talk to and understand what they're going through at a time when they feel very alone. We are aware of the impact this can have on our volunteers too who provide that support, that's why we felt it important to keep connected and share links which we hope in some way, will help people look after themselves both mentally and physically. From mindfulness to getting active, from burnout to emotional reliance, we hope that there is something for everyone. Feedback has been extremely positive with people telling us that it has made them more "self-aware" helping them to take stock and move forward positively. Our Information and Support Service is still available over the phone or via email to ensure that we offer support to people at a time when they need it most. Please get in touch:

0131 242 – 8125 voicemail service (alternatively every Monday, Margaret – 07710 854579, every Wednesday, Gaynor – 07894 802557, every Friday, Angela – 07562 437727)

Macmillan.libraries@edinburgh.gov.uk

Here are some of the health sites the Macmillan Team and their volunteers benefited from:

- <https://www.getcheckedearly.org> – link to NHS Scotland encouraging people to get checked early including signs and symptoms of the various types of cancer.

- [BBC Springwatch](#) – Mindful moments, a compilation of visual and acoustic sounds to encourage us to sit back and relax.
- [Fit For Health - Edinburgh Leisure](#) – Keep active and feel better, a range of classes designed for anyone with a long term condition to help improve physical activity and mental health.
- [SAMH is the Scottish Association for Mental Health | SAMH](#) – Support for individuals and workers working on the frontline.
- www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09by3yy - Michael Mosely TV Dr explores a series of bitezise life style changes we can all make to feel better, a opportunity to learn, reflect, motivate and inspire people to manage their health and well-ness.

Wellbeing Book List

Edinburgh City Libraries have partnered with Young Scot to allow the Escape, Connect, Relate, our school librarian's wellbeing book list, to reach as many of our young citizens as possible.

[Check it out here.](#)

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Under current restrictions Edinburgh Librarians were unable to participate to the level we usually do, there was no Edinburgh Libraries day in the Story tent or Dr Book sessions. We were however able to assist in providing Bookbug the character performing and hosting a sing a long for attendees.

The Digital Team created online ebook/audiobook collections for adults, teens and children written by authors appearing at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We featured these on our Libby app and OverDrive website as well as advertising them on social media.

Our school libraries ran their book festival programme and watched author talks from this year's festival.

World Alzheimer's Day 21 September 2021

Bronwen Brown, Development Officer for the Music Library has undertaken to participate in the Scotland wide "Playlist for Life", making the soundtrack of a person's life to keep them connected to themselves, using music to help and support people with dementia. She will be looking at how to give this opportunity to libraries across the city, specifically for the Library Link customers who have dementia. Each Library will have the opportunity to display leaflets from Playlist.

Upcoming Events

National Poetry Day - 7 October 2021

Libraries Week - 4–10 October 2021

COP26 Glasgow – 1–12 November 2021

Black History Month – 1– 31 October 2021

Book Week Scotland – 15– 21 November 2021

Culture and Communities Committee



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Vice-Convenor

Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

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Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convenor*)
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