

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Thursday 7 December 2023



Gorgie Farm Site Update (Wards Affected – 7, Sighthill/Gorgie)

Following the closure of the Gorgie Farm site in spring due to the collapse of the *Love Gorgie* organisation, EVOC were engaged in this interim period to both maintain and explore options for the site.

A steering group was established in May 2023. This meets monthly and initial works have focussed on assessing the site and the immediate health and safety issues, establishing contact with former volunteers and service users, supporting those who re homed small animals following site closure, and establishing a small gardening group made up of former volunteers.

The steering group is now beginning to explore options for the future of the site.

Integral to this process is engagement both with local stakeholders and with the local community. EVOC have been able to bring in external resources to support this and initial stakeholder discussions have taken place. The next step will be a wider community consultation led by EVOC and partners. A subgroup of the steering group has been formed to lead this.

This will take the form of two phased engagement periods.

- October to November 2023 – Discover and Define- This will focus on people's aspirations, ideas and visions for the site. It will be based on experiences and will take the form of guided walks on site, cuppa conversations, discovery sessions and questionnaires, plus school visits.
- December 2023- January 2024 – A process of deliberation and collaboration will take place involving the sharing of findings, and an exploration of what is feasible and viable. This will result in the development of a final report and blueprint for the site.

An update report will be prepared for the February meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee.

Customs House Update (Wards Affected – 13, Leith)

At its meeting in December 2022, Committee [agreed](#) that the preferred development option for the Custom House was to become a mixed-use community, creative and engagement hub enabling the accessible display of heritage artefacts relating to the history of Leith will be progressed. Due to the extended leave and subsequent departure of the Trust's Director, these discussions have been extended. Officers have met with the Chair and a Board Member in November to revisit the space requirement and design solution for the heritage element of the building, with opportunities identified for working with the Museums and Galleries new hub and spoke delivery model.

Blackhall Library – RAAC Update (Wards Affected – 1, Almond)

Investigations to date have confirmed that the roof structure of the whole building contains RAAC. While the detailed assessment of the condition of each RAAC plank is ongoing, many of the panels already assessed are in poor condition. In a large section of the building the ceilings and services require to be removed in order that the detailed assessment of each plank can be completed. This is likely to require removal of the library stock.

The poor condition of the RAAC inspected to date, and the level of propping which has been required to be put in place, means that the building will not be able to reopen until the RAAC which is in poor condition has been replaced. The options to address the RAAC require further analysis and will then be presented to Committee for consideration. While an overall update report on RAAC in Council buildings will be submitted to Finance and Resource Committee on 25 January 2024, the full options appraisal for Blackhall Library will take longer to complete.

Temporary library service delivery arrangements are in place as follows:

- Every fortnight there is a daily mobile library service located in the car park at Davidson Mains Church at the following times: Monday and Wednesday 2.30pm-7pm; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.30am-3pm, timetable available at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1229171/blackhall-library>
- Visitors are able to borrow and return books, collect reservations, apply for bus passes, collect hearing aid batteries, free sanitary products and buy waste food bags.
- Other activities have been relocated to nearby Drumbrae Library including the Library Link Service and Blackhall Writers Group

More robust interim arrangements for service delivery are currently being explored.

Culture Service Funded Organisations – Carbon Management Update 2023 Wards Affected – All)

It is a condition of funding through the Culture Service that organisations report on their carbon emissions.

All 26 organisations reported emissions data and carbon management plans. There was greater engagement in the emissions reporting section of the survey this year with 46% more emissions data points reported compared to last year. Creative Carbon Scotland provide each organisation with a personalised carbon footprint report and detailed feedback on their carbon management plans. This year, the focus of the carbon management plan was on the actions that the organisations are planning to implement by 2026 to reduce their carbon footprint. Below are some highlights:

Organisation	Proposed actions
Edinburgh Art Festival	By 2030, reduce travel related emissions by 40%, reduce emissions from printed materials by 69%, and reduce emissions from office energy use by 40%. Offering coach or bus travel included in ticket pricing structures for events outside Edinburgh.
Lung Ha Theatre Company	Influencing people they work with and their audiences to consider low-carbon travel. Emissions reporting will be a requirement in their contracts with co-producers and artists. They are also keen to acknowledge the barriers to environmental action that exist for disabled people.
Imagineate	In collaboration with Creative Carbon Scotland, they are using a travel forecasting tool for the first time to plan their year-round activities for 2023-24 and their festival for year 2024-25. They hope to use this to keep in line with a 20% staff travel and 10% artist travel reduction each year.
Stills: Centre for Photography	Decided to only hold exhibitions requiring international shipping biannually. Replacing non-LED lighting and exploring feasibility for draught proofing, insulation upgrades, and a new heating system.
Traverse Theatre	They will aim to reduce their kgCO ₂ e by 5% each year. This will include replacing lighting stock in theatres with LED equipment and refreshing their touring strategy to focus on local community impact. They also influence public behaviour through the platforming of climate emergency stories.
Edinburgh International Festival	Reduce staff travel emissions by 20% and artist travel emissions by 10% against the baseline each year. Reduce overall energy emissions by 30% and general waste by 20% each year. Reduce freight emissions by 10% against the baseline each year.

Royal Lyceum Theatre Company	<p>Refurbishment of windows.</p> <p>Replacement of all remaining non-led lights with LEDs.</p> <p>Changing the heating controls in their workshop and improving the insulation.</p>
North Edinburgh Arts	<p>Installation of an air source heat pump and solar PVs.</p> <p>Replacing theatre lights with LEDs.</p> <p>Cut meat use in their cafe and use local produce via partnership with Lauriston Farm.</p>
Edinburgh Printmakers	<p>Engaged in climate aware projects with their members and with young people for example 'Drawing Down The Sun' led by artist member Alison Grant which seeks to cultivate creativity and connection to the non-human world and 'Fledglings' a project with 3 local primary schools which researched and interpreted the impact of climate change on bird migration.</p>

This information will continue to be required on an annual basis from all revenue funded organisations. This information will continue to be shared with Council officers responsible for Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting.

Parks and Open Spaces Investment Programme 2023/24 Update (Wards Affected - All)

Park Lighting Improvement – A new street lighting engineer post has been created and recruitment has concluded, with the candidate expected to have started around the time of this Committee meeting. This new role will be responsible for the park lighting investment programme. The park lighting guidance document is nearing completion and will include liaison with planning, heritage, police, and other stakeholders. The guidance will include a case study proposal for Hailes Quarry Park that will be taken forward in early 2024 following community engagement. The four park lighting projects will be completed by the end of the financial year.

Public Toilets in Parks – Discussions are underway with potential suppliers over the provision of more permanent public toilets at Leith Links, Meadows, and Inverleith Park, with the intention of these being installed by, at the latest, summer 2024. Procurement colleagues are engaged, and appropriate specifications have been drafted.

General Accessibility Improvement to Paths

- Works complete on a section of the John Muir Trail (within Corstorphine Hill Local Nature Reserve) and along the Water of Leith path near Bonnington Road.
- 8km of flexi pave path (between Lanark Road and Balerno) is nearing completion.
- Contracts have been established for the replacement of Magdala Crescent Steps, Juniper Green Fish Shop Steps, and the path network within Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park.



Water of Leith Path Bonnington (before/after)

Priority Investment (rated Priority 01)

- At the request of contractors, the tender return date for the replacement of Katesmill Pipeline Bridge was extended.
- The remediation of walls at Miller Row is ongoing, with vegetation removed and walls that were in danger of collapse taken down for rebuild.
- Electrical safety work within Inch Park Nursery is now complete.
- A contract has been issued for the urgent refurbishment of Hermitage House roof.
- A final section of unstable wall, within Inch Park, was dismantled and rebuilt.
- Bloomiehall Park boundary wall has been refurbished.
- Sighthill Park car park was resurfaced.
- An assessment and the remediation of walls within Spylaw Park is complete.
- A licence is being pursued with SEPA to refurbish the Water of Leith/Saughton Park boundary wall. Due to environmental/licensing constraints delivery will be delayed until later in 2024.



Miller Row Clearance and Issues (during)

Other Investments

- The refurbishment of Inverleith Park, St Margaret's Park, Victoria Park and Leith Links tennis courts is complete with a new gate access and online booking system operational at all venues.
- Improvements to the car parking facilities with the Pentland Hills Regional Park is ongoing.
- Essential grounds maintenance equipment has been purchased.



Inverleith Park Tennis Courts (after)

Physical Activity and Sports Strategy Update (Wards Affected – All)

Officers and partners are continuing to take forward the development of the Physical Activity and Sports Strategy with pre-consultation engagement work with Council departments, key stakeholders and equality groups planned to take place throughout November/ December in advance of the formal consultation phase which is due to begin in the New Year. The previous indicative timeline for the completion of the Strategy which was reported to Committee in December 2022 has been subject to delay, with the updated timeline for completion by end 2024 when it is anticipated that the Strategy will be presented to Committee.

Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay - Free Tickets (Wards Affected – All)

The organisers of Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay have been developing and delivering plans to distribute free tickets for both events to community and charitable organisations across the city.

Over 5,000 free tickets for Edinburgh's Christmas will be made available this year to allow more Edinburgh residents to experience the festivities. This is on top of the EH postcode discount being offered on rides, attractions and events at both Christmas and Hogmanay. The organisers released details on how to apply for the tickets and over 100 community organisations will receive tickets for Edinburgh's Christmas including the Big Wheel, funfair and Santa's Grotto. Details of an offer for Edinburgh's Hogmanay are currently being finalised and will be communicated shortly.

During the application process, it was identified that no applications had been received from three Wards within the city. In this case, the organisers contacted the local Ward Members to alert them and seek suggestions for suitable organisations that they could contact directly to follow up and ensure that every Ward in the city was represented.

In addition to the free tickets, the Edinburgh's Christmas 'Winter Windows' competition for Edinburgh schools has received a large number of applications. As a result, the number of Windows on display at this year's event will double from 12 to 24.

Management Rules for Public Parks and Openspaces 2023-2033 (Wards Affected – All)

The existing management rules for parks and greenspaces are in need of review. Although not a mandatory requirement, management rules allow local authorities to regulate the use and conduct of persons while in or on Council land and premises to cover minor offences not justifying the immediate criminal sanctions of byelaws.

The importance of public parks and openspaces is widely recognised. Management Rules give clear direction on what is acceptable behaviour for users of these sites and help keep places safe for all to visit.

Some amendments are proposed, and as such, a public engagement exercise needs to be undertaken. The consultation period would be 12 weeks and is anticipated to be underway at time of publication. A future report to Committee is planned with the final draft of the proposed management rules for approval prior to statutory advertising.

Warm and Welcoming Initiative Update (Wards Affected – All)

Following the successful delivery of last year's Warm and Welcoming initiative by the Council and partners, plans are underway to take forward a new refreshed initiative for winter 2023/24.

Officers have continued to build on the positive partnership approach, which was established last winter, linking across a number of networks to plan a new programme of events and activities aimed at encouraging people to spend time in the city's free spaces. The programme will include a wide range of opportunities planned to take place at libraries, community centres, places of worship, third sector, community and voluntary organisation spaces, inviting local people to visit, connect with others and participate, alongside easily accessible advice and information which will provide additional support where needed.

The web pages and interactive map promoting these spaces and activities, which last year listed over 100 participating organisations will be updated to ensure the information is current and as easily accessible as possible, and the communications campaign will be refreshed to develop a message that works throughout the year,

Further progress updates on the initiative will be provided in the Business Bulletin.

Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe (EFFE) Festival Cities Seal Update (Wards Affected – All)

Edinburgh is a founder signatory of the [Festival Cities Seal](#) along with Belgrade, Bergen, Ghent, Krakow, Leeuwarden and Ljubljana. This initiative is a recognition and an invitation to cities and regions that wish to associate and integrate their development with a strong festival, cultural - and European - commitment. The Seal provides Edinburgh and its Festivals with opportunities to position themselves at a European level and to retain Edinburgh's prominence in Europe. The Festival Cities initiative was launched at the Arts Festivals Summit in Yerevan, Armenia, in September 2022 to which the Lord Provost sent a video message.

Since signing the Seal in 2022, a working group of the signatory cities has been formed to identify opportunities for collaboration and projects that the Seal can address. Member cities have been asked to identify 10 key priority action areas that they wish to develop with the other member cities.

The 10 key areas that Edinburgh has identified are:

5 Challenges

- Use of public space for events
- New investment models
- How festivals can help Edinburgh hit its 2030 net zero target
- Equitable community partnerships
- Integrated city planning for events

5 Opportunities

- Visitor Levy as potential funding stream for Festivals and culture
- Data/digital project partnerships with Higher Education
- Shared metrics/evaluation models across public funders
- Maximise access to skills, employment and development opportunities
- Championing global solidarity

With regard to our identified challenge around Net Zero, there has been consensus across the festivals cities for building a European Catalogue on the topic of festivals and environmental sustainability – developments in this area will be monitored and opportunities sought to contribute given that this is an area of joint priority for the Council and Festivals Edinburgh.

Edinburgh's participation is being delivered jointly with Festivals Edinburgh as representatives of the 11 major Festivals. Beyond these Festivals, we are continuing to explore the possibility of one or two other 'unique to Edinburgh' festivals that could join the European Festivals Association as a condition of Edinburgh's participation in the Seal. This would allow them the opportunity to network with other European festivals and to collaborate with international partners.

One further element of the Seal designation is a dedicated space on the new European Festivals Finder website, which is an online search tool for audiences to discover all arts festivals, steered by the festivals community with the support of the European Union. Within this, Edinburgh has its own profile page to promote its Festivals.



World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF) – Kyiv Membership (Wards Affected – All)

At the recent WCCF summit held in Sao Paulo, the Mayor of Kyiv was presented with a letter from the Lord Provost marking the three-way partnership between Edinburgh, Bloomberg and the Mayor of London ensuring Kyiv's membership of the WCCF for the next three years. This serves to reinforce the commitment of our cities to the value of culture to our own people and the citizens of Kyiv, especially in such times of stress and in due course, recovery.



Filmhouse Redevelopment Project Update (Wards Affected – All)

The option to support a renewed Filmhouse was included in the [report](#) agreed by the Culture and Communities Committee on 11 May 2023, as part of an allocation of resources committed to the sector for 2023/24. Working in partnership with Screen Scotland, on-going positive project development updates over the past few months have provided the feasibility evidence required. Therefore, a funding contribution of £60,000 has been allocated to support the renewal of the Edinburgh Filmhouse building at 88 Lothian Road. Officers will continue to monitor progress in the coming months and work with Filmhouse (Edinburgh) Ltd, Screen Scotland, the Scottish Government, and other partners.

Reuse of Tennis Balls at Council Facilities (Wards Affected – All)

On 11 May 2023, Committee requested the siting of tennis ball recycling bins at Council-run tennis courts and the collection of balls from them.

Following investigation, officers have confirmed that a used tennis ball collection service is provided to leisure facilities (such as tennis clubs) by [Recycaball](#). Recycaball's primary focus is targeted collections of reusable high quality used tennis balls from sports facilities, coaches, etc.

Balls are graded and redistributed for either reuse or reprocessing for use in other industries, with options to raise income or donate funds to charity. They can also provide collection containers, but a charge applies to these. Clubs can also provide their own collection containers.

The Council is registering with Recycaball to collect balls onsite at the unstaffed courts at Inverleith, Leith Links, Victoria and St Margarets. However, due to the restrictions on quality, these will not be actively promoted more widely as community recycling points for tennis balls.

Edinburgh Leisure already have a system to give old tennis balls to dog owners as these can provide enjoyment and exercise for pets. This will be further investigated by Council officers to consider if a similar service could be introduced for tennis balls collected at Council facilities.

Operation Sceptre (Wards Affected – All)

Following on from the [update](#) to Committee in October 2023, the Scottish Government have confirmed that the costs for Operation Sceptre rest with the organisation which incurred the cost and therefore will not be reimbursed. The Scottish Government and other partners, including Police Scotland, have similarly incurred costs for this event which are not being reimbursed and are therefore being met from existing resources.

Culture and Communities Committee



Convener

Councillor Val Walker

Members

Councillor Walker (*Convener*)

Councillor Cameron

Councillor Glasgow

Councillor Heap

Councillor McFarlane

Councillor McNeese-Mechan

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Upcoming Exhibitions and Events

Deep Rooted: City Art Centre 18 November 2023 - 25 February 2024 (Ward Affected – All)

This winter, the City Art Centre presents *Deep Rooted*, a group exhibition featuring work by eight contemporary artists - Dalziel + Scullion, Anya Gallaccio, Andy Goldsworthy, Andrew Mackenzie, Naomi McIntosh, Katie Paterson and Hanna Tuulikki. Together, they explore the relationship between people and the natural environment using a variety of media and approaches. The artworks range from a surround sound audio and digital choreography to a sensory experience; from paintings and photographs to hand-crafted objects made from wood. Some of the works reflect on current ecological issues, others explore our fragile coexistence with nature and capture its beauty.

The artworks all focus on trees, a plant form which sustains the existence of ourselves and other species. Our relationship with the natural world hangs in a balance, with climate change, increased levels of extinction and large-scale deforestation threatening the existence of our biodiversity. For many of us, the pandemic changed our relationship with nature. It led to a growing appreciation of our gardens, allotments, woods, and public parks. Lockdowns, in particular, reminded us just how important access to nature is for our physical and mental wellbeing, underlining the value of protecting it. In order to help fight this urgent climate crisis, we need to modify some of our deep-rooted behaviours.

The exhibition is accompanied by an exciting events programme. For further information please visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk



Dalziel + Scullion, *'Unknown Pines (Digger)'*, 2007.
© the artist



Naomi McIntosh, *'Lost Song (Cuckoo)'*, 2021.
© the artist. Photo: Ben Addy

Usher Hall, Assembly Rooms and Churchill Theatre upcoming events (Wards Affected: All)

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

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

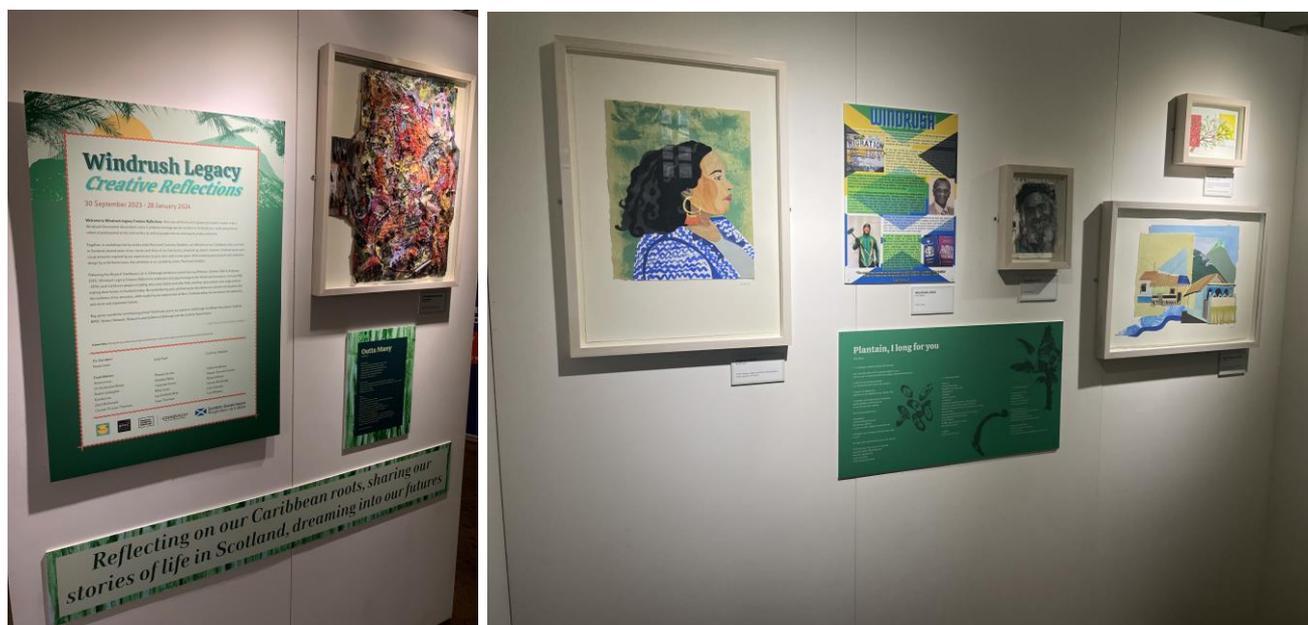
Details of upcoming events at the Church Hill Theatre can be found here - <https://churchhilltheatre.co.uk/whats-on>.

Recent Events and Activities

Windrush Legacy Creative Reflections (Wards Affected – All)

An exhibition [‘reflecting on our Caribbean roots, sharing our stories of life in Scotland, and dreaming into our futures’](#) has opened at Museum of Edinburgh. Part funded by Scottish Government, it builds on the work of the recent 'Respect! Caribbean Life in Edinburgh' exhibition and project which ran from October 2022 to February 2023. In this exhibition, co-curated by partners, Edinburgh Caribbean Association and Scottish BPOC Writers Network, works of poetry, prose, and artworks by people of Caribbean descent are showcased. Co-Curator and Scots-Caribbean Writer Jeda Pearl said: “Windrush Legacy Creative Reflections celebrates and pays homage to the Windrush Generation (arriving 1948 - 1971), the Belizean lumberjacks and Caribbean people who came before and after 1948, and their descendants who made their homes in Scotland. By remembering and celebrating the abundance of cultural contributions and the resilience of our ancestors, while exploring our experiences of life in Scotland today, we can dream into optimistic, anti-racist, and reparative futures.”

The exhibition runs from 30 September 2023 to 28 January 2024, and booklets featuring the artworks will be distributed to each of Edinburgh’s schools.



Museum of Edinburgh Courtyard Project (Wards Affected – 11 City Centre)

This year Museums and Galleries Edinburgh has partnered with Access to Industry to host an employability project in the Museum of Edinburgh courtyard.

Access to Industry support people facing complex barriers to employment through courses, practical advice and support. They have run their gardening course in the museum courtyard between June – October 2023. The group has been led by a professional gardener who has guided participants to breathe new life into the space by clearing weeds and adding new plants

and herbs. Participants have learned new skills and enjoyed their time outdoors, while making the courtyard a greener and more vibrant space.

The project has built on the museum service's existing partnership with Access to Industry. Groups regularly take part in visits to museum venues and exhibitions, enhancing wellbeing through learning and social connection.



Textile Objects in the Museums Collection (Wards Affected – All)

The Museum of Childhood and the University of Glasgow have been continuing a partnership that sees the improved storage and care of fragile textile objects in the Museum collection. The University of Glasgow runs a post-graduate textile conservation course [University of Glasgow - Postgraduate study - Taught degree programmes A-Z - Textile Conservation](#)

The Museum curators and the course lecturers carefully select museum objects that can be cleaned, repaired or repacked by the students as part of their practical work. The students gain access to objects they wouldn't otherwise have experience of and the Museum gains textile conservation hours not available from the in-house team. This year 17 objects were returned to the museum, beautifully packed and cleaned – they included nineteenth century samplers, children's silk shoes and bonnets and some early twentieth century soft toys.

Peter Howson Exhibition – City Art Centre (Wards Affected – All)

The Peter Howson Exhibition at the City Art Centre was a huge success, attracting widespread critical acclaim, an overview of which can be found here:

coveragebook.com

It attracted 96 pieces of media coverage – online and offline – resulting in 7 million views of those articles. The in-person attendance figures were 22,000 and exceeded the estimated target by a long way. The impact on the service is such a positive one, not only for the artist and team at City Art Centre who put the exhibition together, but commercially it brought in much needed income

through admission charges, retail and increased footfall at the CAC Café. The associated public events programme was an excellent complement to the exhibition and reached many diverse groups, providing engagement and understanding of the work.

Black History Month in Libraries – Celebrating our Sisters Black Literature Timeline (Wards Affected – All)

Our Community and School Libraries hosted excellent displays and events for BHM over the month of October. Across the city there were displays, competitions, themed book group talks and our School Librarians linked with the English Depts. within their schools. There were Treasure Hunts, Poetry competitions, themed wellbeing cafes activities for both Adults and Children.



Central Library Exhibition – Witches in Word, Not Deed (Wards Affected – All)

The exhibition - Witches in Word, Not Deed by artist and interpretation designer Carolyn Sutton remembers 13 women persecuted for witchcraft in Scotland under the Witchcraft Act of 1563 through personalised dresses imprinted with the words that condemned them. Each artwork is accompanied by a short text outlining the circumstances and treatment of the woman represented.

The exhibition was launched on 25 September and ran the end of October, with a panel discussion featuring the artist Carolyn Sutton, the writer Allyson Shaw – author of *Ashes and Stones: a Scottish Journey in Search of Witches and Witness* and chair Stephanie Shakay Tierney, currently studying for a PhD at the University of Edinburgh focusing on the memorialisation and remembrance of the people accused as witches in early modern Scotland.



Libraries Activities and Events (Wards Affected – All)

Libraries Week – Go Green in Libraries

Stockbridge Library - Engaged their younger customers in making hotels for bees using recycled materials, twigs and clay. They were very excited with their Architect and Builder badges and were not the least afraid of getting their hands dirty with clay. The muddy part of the job proved to be very popular indeed! They included a display showing Autumn Crafts and books related to bees (fiction and non-fiction), which had a very good response. We talked about how important bees are for the environment and what we can do to protect them.



Sighthill Library planted spring bulbs and made bug hotels.

Gilmerton Library had an informative display looking at our planet and ways we can help look after it. They also hosted a craft using things we would normally throw out, letting the kids see everything can have a second purpose.

Moredun Library, held a design your own book cover and bookmarks from recycled materials.

NSPCC Partnership

Edinburgh, Talk PANTS is a partnership between the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and NSPCC Scotland. The aim is to protect children from sexual abuse by encouraging parents, carers and professionals to have conversations with children in an age-appropriate way about how to stay safe. Holding our first Family Funday at McDonald Road Library on the 17 October, local families were invited along to meet Pantasaurus, take part in a range of fun free activities which included Bookbug sessions, arts and crafts, face painting and Halloween themed snacks. With over 100

people attending from within the local community, a great day was had by all, with lots of information shared about the TalkPANTS campaign and what the library has to offer.



Stockbridge Library Events

Hosted Dr Tom Russ from Alzheimer's Scotland, for World Alzheimer's Day, Dr Tom is the author of "FAQs on Dementia" followed by question and answers. Tom created a very informative presentation to highlight risk factors, what can be done to reduce risk of developing dementia, useful tips for carers of dementia patients.

Opening the Summer Reading Challenge - Children's local author, Rachel Huggins "Keeper the Sea Dragon" book launch and story telling event was hosted with book, puppets, craft, storytelling and songs as a part of Fringe festival.

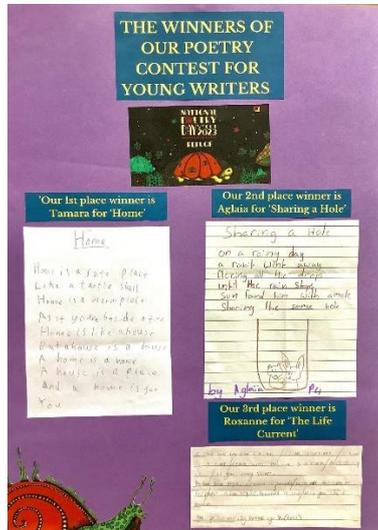
Closing the Summer Reading Challenge - children and their families were delighted to have author Maxine Bryce for an interactive reading of her new book, "Voyage to planet dream" this was an interactive and fun session. Kids and their families joined the storytelling and songs enthusiastically and also participated in craft related to the story.

Marking Dyslexia awareness week a display was created to promote children's dyslexia friendly stock. Displayed were children's dyslexia friendly books from Barrington Stokes and audiobooks. There were posters of famous people with dyslexia on display to allow children to realise even dyslexic people can be successful in their careers.

National Poetry Day

Stockbridge Library celebrated with a children's competition; the winners are below.

The Royal High School had a display of poetry books in the library to support the English department who were running a poetry week with their BGE classes. The library book group also undertook some redacted poetry, using old and damaged book stock. Redacted poetry is a form of found poetry characterised by the use of a marker pen to redacts or "blacks out" from existing text (e.g. newspaper, magazine, book, etc.)



The Royal High School also introduced **Warhammer Club** – table top gaming club. After attending the schools' extra-curricular clubs fair in August the new pupils who signed up started this month. With donation of models and materials, donated by the Games Workshop school Alliance, the new pupils got to build and paint their own 40K and Age of Sigma models in the library. The club is run by the librarian and with help from a science teacher. The club revolves around Reading: the lore behind the game, rules and books, Building: of the models to play and Painting: the models and learning the painting skills to bring their models to life.



Tech Donation Box

The Council sponsored The Edinburgh Remakery to place the Tech Donation Box into Central Library for one month, after which it will be moved to Wester Hailes Library then on to the South East Neighbourhood Office. The box allows members of the public to donate their old unwanted and broken items like laptops, tablets, and smart phones – the Edinburgh Remakery will then repair what they can for community need and recycle what can't be repaired.

The box has been a tremendous success: in the first two weeks 114 items had been donated, helping to save 13,760 Kg (CO₂e) in carbon emissions.



Craigmillar Library continues to host activities that embrace their community.

Fiesta of Spanish cinema - In partnership with the Spanish Film Festival, Craigmillar library has provided screenings to local school children of 'The Kids are Alright 2'. The young people enjoyed practicing their Spanish and being immersed in this screening shown with subtitles. This fits well into Craigmillar Library's established adult programme of Spanish cinema in partnership with Cinemattic, who show the best of Spanish and Iberian short films on the first Wednesday of every month.

Craigmillar Library is a hub of new writing - Library staff have been delivering writing workshops to the young people of Castlebrae high to support their entry into the Johnni Stanton writing prize, in partnership with the Craigmillar Literacy Trust. Creative writing will also play a part for the young people completing the Bronze Arts Award throughout the October break, earning a qualification equivalent to a NAT 4 through their creative offerings. Adult writers haven't been forgotten, as Craigmillar Library prepares to formally launch their writer's group later this month.

Craigmillar Library welcomes People's Know How and the Craigmillar Senior Computer Club - Craigmillar Library increases its offer of digital inclusion through two new services. People's Know How are on site every Monday from 1-3 for drop-in support with using technology and getting online. For our more silver surfers, the Craigmillar Senior's Computer Club will meet every Thursday from 10-12.

Cozy Cuddles in the winter at Craigmillar Library - Craigmillar Library has a wonderful friend in local organisation Stories for Sharing, part of the Craigmillar Literacy Trust- and we are so excited to start our new 'teatime tales'. This cozy story-time features breathing exercises, soft lighting, and calm stories while we snuggle up under the stars with our favourite teddy bears. Every Thursday until Spring at 4pm for children aged 4-6 and their families.

Wester Hailes Library are reaching out to their communities with new initiatives.

Brunch Club - Wester Hailes Library has started a new brunch club. This has been running on Saturday mornings and during school holidays (and strike days). Thanks to support from the Greggs Foundation the library is providing access to healthy brunch snacks for young people using the library.

Citizens Advice Drop In - Wester Hailes Library has been delighted to welcome an advisor from Citizens Advice once a month to host a drop in surgery offering advice of all kinds to residents of Edinburgh. Ranging from support around benefits, to legal issues and medical issues. The trial sessions supported a total of 11 residents to have an opportunity to seek advice from the trained

CAB Advisors. We aim to continue running this once a month between 1.30-3.30pm on the last Thursday of the month (not Dec).

Sewing drop in - As part of Wester Hailes Library's new Lend and Mend space, a new sewing drop in group has begun on Thursday afternoons between 2-4pm. The group comprises some expert amateur sewers alongside other sewing newbies! It has been great for people of all abilities coming together to share their knowledge and skills with each other supported by a volunteer tutor.

Tinderbox and Big Noise Workshop - 25 young people from Wester Hailes Library took part in a collaborative workshop to promote the musical instrument library with Tinderbox Orchestra and Big Noise, two charities working to bring music to young people in disadvantaged areas. The workshop saw young people get a chance to try out playing guitars, ukuleles and keyboards and come together to perform as a group, as well as having the opportunity to write a rap that they performed in the library space. "What do you love? We love the Library!" being the songwriting hit of the day.



Moredun Library celebrated maths week

There were a few challenges for our service users to attempt, such as an activity booklet for children and young people to take home and complete, and a pack filled with fun maths themed challenges. A challenge with Maths coding with Lego where children had to solve maths puzzles using the number key and writing their names using the Lego alphabet key was held.



Macmillian@Edinburgh Libraries

This year's Macmillan coffee morning hosted by Macmillan @ Edinburgh Libraries was held in the Rose Garden, Saughton Park on Friday 6 October. We raised an incredible £691. A huge thank you to everyone who baked, baked and donated to our wonderful event.



Girls Project – Murrayburn Primary School (Wards Affected –)

P5 and P7 girls at Murrayburn Primary School shaped the development of a girl's programme to help build confidence, resilience and social support for primary 6-7 girls to get active and stay active. This project has been made possible by the programme for government funding, which allows Active Schools to work with girls in schools in areas of deprivation to help develop and sustain good health and wellbeing which is achieved through being active.

A toolkit has now been developed to use in other schools alongside a volunteer programme to empower women and girls in their communities to support others to become more active. In consultation with women and girls, a mums and daughters programme has now been set up at Forrester and includes different fitness sessions and other information sessions on social media and menstruation.

The girls programme will continue with schools in Craigroyston and Castlebrae in January 2024. Thanks to all partners involved in the programme including SHE Scotland, Napier University, jump Edinburgh, let's talk, Murrayburn primary school.

