

Business Bulletin

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 5 December 2024

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers



Convener



Convener

Councillor Val Walker

Members

Councillor Burgess

Councillor Doggart

Councillor Cameron

Councillor Glasgow

Councillor Heap

Councillor McFarlane

Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Councillor Munro

Councillor Osler

Councillor Thornley

Service Area Contacts

[Joan Parr](#)

Service Director, Culture and Wellbeing

[Gavin Brown](#)

Interim Service Director, Operational Services

Committee Services Contacts

[Andrew Rose](#)

Democratic Services Manager

[Blair Ritchie](#)

Assistant Committee Officer

Bingham Community Centre Engagement

The report on Bingham Community Centre, scheduled for Finance and Resources Committee in November 2024, has been deferred until their Committee meeting in January 2025 to allow further discussions to take place between local members, Council Officers and local interested organisations.

Contact: Andrew Field

Wards Affected 17 - Portobello/Craigmillar

Edinburgh 900 Update

Funding Update

As a result of the reallocation of £120,000 funding towards additional civic and community events, the Edinburgh 900 Programme Board agreed on 23 September 2024 to fund 21 previously unsuccessful applications. They are as follows:

Civic Fund Events

- Edinburgh International Magic Festival 'Magical Edinburgh' with Edinburgh Young Carers: An exhibition of photographic illusions;
- Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust Celebrating Edinburgh's Voices;
- Edinburgh Interfaith Association Our Faith Communities Our Edinburgh;
- Edinburgh March Riding Association Edinburgh Riding of the Marches – the People's Procession;
- The Royal Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh Programme;

Community Fund Events

- Media Education - Celebrating Creativity;
- Invisible Cities - Invisible Stories;
- The Welcoming Association - New Scots Burns Supper 2025;
- Edinburgh Chinese Arts Association - The Mound Chinese New Year Celebration 2025;
- Made for His Praise - eCITY Music Festival;
- Wester Hailes Community Trust - Wester Hailes Community Celebration;
- Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust - Canal Cruise 'Edinburgh 900' Celebrations;
- Ionad Gàidhlig Dhùn Èideann Gaelic in Edinburgh: Past, Present and Future;
- Leith walk policebox Policebox Museum;
- The Alma Project -Wildflowers - Moorlands, Muck & Meadows;
- Beetroots Collective - The dark side of the Southside;

- Sikh Sanjog - 35th Anniversary celebration event;
- Bridgend Farmhouse - 900 Christmases at Bridgend Farmhouse;
- The Cockburn Association - The Edinburgh that Isn't (or Wasn't); A digital reflection on an evolving city;
- Cramond Heritage Trust - Children's flag design competition; and
- Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre SCIO - Celebrating the Contribution of Oxfangs to Edinburgh.

Wider Engagement

The Lord Provost chaired the November meeting of the Royal Burgh 900th Anniversary All Party Overnight Group (APOG). Attendees discussed the possibilities of further partnership working to enhance the existing programme.

Programme Websites and Marketing

The Edinburgh 900 events [website](#) has now had over 39,300 page views. It is currently promoting 70 live events and has promoted a total of 116 events so far since its launch in August 2024.



The Council's Our Town Stories local history website has published its first set of Edinburgh 900 specific stories on City of David – exploring the city's complex governing arrangements over the last 900 years. Next in line is City of Finance, which will explore the city's role in finance and colonialism.

The programme's marketing plan has started, with a focus on online engagement and utilising existing channels and platforms.



Council Activities Update

Edinburgh Libraries are currently delivering their student poetry workshop programme, now called LitFlix, to four sites – Craigmillar Library, Wester Hailes High School, Craigroyston Community High School and Gracemount High School. Their Edinburgh 900 adult poetry workshops and Green Pencil 'Letter to Edinburgh' competition have also launched.

The Edinburgh 900 touring exhibition of books, maps, and images of the city's history is ready for launch and will be hosted in Leith Library, Morningside Library, Portobello Library, Liberton High School and Newington Library between January and August 2025.

10 collections (30 books each) featuring stories from and inspired by Edinburgh have also been distributed to the following libraries: Leith, Portobello, Wester Hailes, Currie, Moredun, Newington, Drumbrae, Stockbridge, Mobiles and Central.

Central Library also recently hosted Edinburgh 900 events. It is also displaying materials dedicated to the 18th century Scottish Enlightenment as part of the City of Ideas theme, as well as an exhibition of rare library materials from the Scottish and Edinburgh Room collections that explore all the themes of the Edinburgh 900 programme.

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh's lecture programme at the City Arts Centre continues to sell out, with new lectures being sought to add to the programme and meet the substantial interest of residents and visitors. A working group is now looking at creating a City Collections-focused exhibition at the City Arts Centre from June to October 2025, depending on the outcome of a funding application with Museums Galleries Scotland. An application may also be put in to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The 14 schools who received funding as part of the Schools Activity Stream are now working on their projects. Two Edinburgh 900 concerts involving school children have also taken place.

Contact: Henry Sullivan

Wards Affected: All

Safety of Off Street Path Network Update

Work has progressed with Police Scotland to identify access points along the off street path network where vehicles can enter. This has been highlighted following two recent incidents involving unauthorised vehicles driving at speed along the path, both caught on CCTV. The Council is replacing bollards to improve security at access points.

A separate assessment of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour aims to highlight locations for CCTV or improved lighting is being collated by Police Scotland. Preliminary findings may be available by the time Committee meets however a Briefing Note can be circulated if these are not available.

Existing locations of CCTV will also have been reviewed and works to increase coverage will have been assessed. Where this identifies maintenance work to vegetation is required, this will be progressed.

A dedicated team is now working on management of this path network. Over the course of the winter months, this team will cut all vegetation back from the pathways and will also concentrate on opening up entrance points to ensure safe sightlines etc.

Contact: Andy Williams

Wards Affected: All

Film Edinburgh

Local Cinema Network

The Local Cinema project returned for a second year with project funding from the Council providing the core funding of £30,000, plus an additional £10,000 to support a collaboration with the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF). With Council funding in place, organisers WHALE Arts leveraged additional funding (including £20,000 from the BFI and Film Hub Scotland) and a further £10,000 from Edinburgh Film Guild, to expand the Local Cinema programme. This year's winter/spring programme includes 25 films in 10 community hubs across the city, compared to 19 films in seven venues in the 2023/24 winter/spring programme. In the first two months of the 2024/25 programme, over 600 people attended screenings, with audience numbers ranging from seven (in a 15-capacity space) to 90 per event. The winter programme can be viewed [here](#).

In addition to this, Local Cinema supported the [Women's Collective](#) (who meet regularly in Space @ Broomhouse Hub) to screen a series of short animation films for children during the October school holidays. 72 women and children attended two back-to-back screenings of these short films from the Discovery Film Festival in Dundee. This makes the total Local Cinema attendance to date a total of 608 (averaging 34 people per screening).

The EIFF collaboration covered three groups of community members from Local Cinema venues attending EIFF screenings in August to select a film for inclusion in the spring portion of the 2024/25 programme. In addition, Local Cinema will also be supporting North Edinburgh Arts to present the third edition of the North Edinburgh Film Festival on 22 February 2025. They are also looking to support a series of screenings at Space @ Broomhouse Hub in the spring, some of which may include film titles from the Take One Action Film Club catalogue. Local Cinema is also

participating in the BFI's latest screen initiative *Art of Action* by supporting a series of Hong Kong classic action titles aimed at engaging Edinburgh's Hong Kong community and taking place in January.

Current funding is due to end in March 2025, and WHALE Arts will be seeking further funding in order to continue the programme into 2025/26.



Screening of Restless Natives at WHALE Arts by Oliver Benton

Film Edinburgh – ‘inspire’ schools careers workshops.

The Council has re-commissioned Screen Education Edinburgh (SEE) to deliver screen industry ‘Inspire’ workshops to S1-S6 pupils in Edinburgh’s High Schools over two years. The ‘Inspire’ workshops are funded by project funding of £17,000 which was set aside from the Cultural Grants programme.

Over a two-year period, the programme will:

- Develop and deliver a programme of Film and TV focused careers workshops, which include information and advice on career pathways, roles in Film and TV, local opportunities, as well as key organisations, locally and nationally that offer support, schemes, development, grants, etc., to aid young people in progressing into industry;
- Support 17 Edinburgh-based industry professionals to develop and deliver workshops, as part of a wider session, to pupils from S1-6 across a minimum of 17 High schools in Edinburgh, focusing on securing sessions with those who did not engage with the programme last year or in the pilot year;
- Focus on industry roles for which there is a recognised shortage of crew and/or roles that are overlooked/underrepresented in terms of careers advice in schools (ref Screenskills¹). SEE will spend time working with schools to engage with departments/subjects including and beyond Film and Media, pairing up roles with subjects that complement pupils’ chosen subject areas, such as for example Production Accountant with numeracy-based subjects; and
- Prioritise securing sessions in schools that have not engaged with last years’ programme and/or the pilot year.

Contact: Rosie Ellison

Wards Affected: All

¹ https://www.screenskills.com/media/a0bpc5kz/20240510_hetvskillsfund_workforceresearch_2023-2024_final.pdf

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Update

The Edinburgh Partnership, the statutory body for community planning in the city, publishes a Local Outcome Improvement Plan Annual Report.

The current plan, approved in March 2022, seeks to address deep-rooted poverty and inequality in Edinburgh through a partnership approach focused on three key areas: ensuring residents have enough money to live on, providing access to work, learning, and training opportunities, and enhancing the overall quality of life in Edinburgh.

The latest report, approved by the Board in September 2024, sets out the progress across the three priorities. Key activity during the period included:

- Securing funding to support and expand the successful 'Discover!' initiative which provides vital assistance to low-income families;
- Additional funding for the Cash First Funding initiative which seeks to improve access to emergency financial assistance, complemented by money advice and holistic support services designed to prevent future financial hardship;
- Delivery of 13 Money Counts Training sessions for 203 front-line employees from 47 different organisations, upskilling them to deliver financial support aimed at reducing stigma, promoting dignity, and fostering a supportive environment for those seeking help;
- Delivery of specific programmes for New Scots with almost 2,000 parents from an ethnic minority background given support to access work, education and training;
- Provision of extra support for young people to gain a foothold in education, training and work focused on areas such as sports, creative industries and construction.;
- Continued delivery of the Craigmillar whole systems approach work, including the production of a 'how to' guide focused on effectively involving children and young people in discussions about 'healthy places'; and
- Data driven approach In Liberton, focused on utilising data to enhance the understanding of the area's key issues and shaped into action plan for the area.

Whilst there is evidence of progress, the Edinburgh Partnership acknowledges that more needs to be done. Consequently, it is undergoing a Transformation and Improvement Programme to shape what it does and how it works in the coming years. This means some structural change but more importantly improvements to how it functions to ensure it can address the key challenges for the city. This will include the development of a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan bringing together into one plan the work of the whole partnership, with poverty prevention, just transition and health and wellbeing at its heart. A report on this work will be presented to Committee in the new year.

Contact: Gillie Severin

Wards Affected: All

Edinburgh Leisure Impact Report 2023/24

[Edinburgh Leisure's Impact Report 2023/24](#) highlights key achievements from the year and showcases the societal and environmental impact of services across Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Leisure (EL) is addressing the growing need for affordable, accessible access to physical activity in the city by providing services to tackle inequalities through health programmes for prevention and early intervention to improve the city's health at reduced or no cost access to those facing barriers to leading active lives. By working closely with partners, including the City of Edinburgh Council, the NHS, EIJB (Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board), and voluntary organisations, EL is helping to reduce the social and economic costs of ill health and inactivity.

Through collaboration, EL continues to align with national and regional goals, promoting sport, physical activity, health, and inclusion across the city.

As demand for services increases and economic pressures on the health sector mount, EL's partnerships remain vital. Research shows that every £1 spent on community sport and physical activity generates £4 back through healthier populations, improved education, reduced crime, and stronger communities.

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry

Wards Affected: All

Future Libraries Consultation

The Future Libraries consultation opened on 25 September and will close on 25 December 2024 (the consultation period has been extended by one week due to the unavailability of the public library computer network for one week in September). Feedback on the draft Future Libraries Strategy, and options for change to public library opening hours and how the service provides events and activities, is being gathered from a wide range of participants. Libraries are providing several ways for people to share their views including:

- [Online questionnaire](#);
- Easy read questionnaire for those who require the questionnaire in a more accessible, easy to understand format, available in public libraries ;
- Questionnaire for young people;
- Activities aimed at children and young people;
- Exit polls at selected libraries; and
- Group workshops .

Throughout the consultation, involvement levels are being monitored to ensure the activity is reaching key stakeholders, service users and non-users and under-represented groups and action taken to address any identified gaps. A report will be presented to Committee following completion of the consultation and analysis of the feedback received.

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry

Wards Affected: All

Bowling Greens Update

Following the [report](#) to Committee on 8 August 2024, surveys of the pavilions at Victoria Park and St Margaret's Park have been undertaken to determine if it is feasible to open the toilets to the public in the short term, while funding is secured to develop the buildings fully.

The poor condition of the building fabric and specific defects in the toilets in the Victoria Park pavilion would require extensive repairs and refurbishments to bring them up to a reasonable standard for public use. Costs are estimated to be in the region of £70,000. This would not address the condition of the rest of the building which would remain boarded up, thus making the property vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

The toilets in the St Margaret's Park pavilion are in better condition, although it will still need some repairs and refurbishment. The costs to do this work is estimated to be in region of £36,000. However, access to the toilets is through the main pavilion building; this unattended space would make the space vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and Scotland's Accessible Travel Framework (2024), it is imperative that public facilities include accessible toilets; and the current facilities do not comply with these standards. In addition, reopening would require the full reopening of the bowling greens and the installation of compliant ramps and pathways to facilitate proper access.

The installation of semi-permanent toilet units with temporary connections to utilities has been considered. A single Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant toilet with initial setup costs, including connections, installation, and delivery, is estimated to cost £17,900, with ongoing monthly costs for cleaning and rental (totalling £1,325). This option offers a more flexible and cost-efficient solution, though this is still unfunded. Access to the toilets would still need to be considered (e.g., adding a ramp/path to them). To connect to existing services, they could be located near the existing pavilions and, unless that space is activated, any semi-permanent structures would be vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

Therefore, reopening or retrofitting the existing toilets or installing semi-permanent toilets poses significant challenges and costs and is not currently possible.

Officers are now focussed on finding suitable organisations to take forward the development of the food growing aspects of the plans. Following an open and transparent process, invitations for Expressions of Interest have been issued for both sites. For St Margaret's, this includes the use of the pavilion to support any food growing initiatives and for Victoria Park the pavilion is being offered separately for use as a café, maybe linked to any food growing initiatives.

It is expected that preferred bidders will be decided by January 2025.

Once preferred bidders are selected, officers will work with them to plan a phased approach; this will include using the sites for meanwhile uses while any additional funding is secured.

It is noted that the budget allocated in 2024/25 for food growing can be used to kickstart the food growing projects at Victoria Park and St Margaret's Park, as well as the other project at

Prestonfield Park for which plans are currently in development.

How this funding will be split will be determined once the preferred bidders are in place and their operational and funding model is understood. This will also inform proposals for how public toilets can be incorporated at both parks, and how to take forward other aspects (such as the sensory gardens and community spaces).

Officers will work with the successful bidders to raise additional external funding as needed. Bidders will also have access to the Council's 'Food Growing' framework which may offer an affordable option for converting these spaces into community food growing gardens.

Further updates will be provided once the successful organisations have been appointed to run the food growing initiatives at both sites, and we have more information about the timescales, costs and budget allocation.

Contact: Andy Williams

Wards Affected: 4 – Forth, 6 – Corstorphine/Murrayfield; 15 – Southside Newington

Right to Grow Update

Following the [report](#) to Committee on 8 August 2024, an officer 'Right to Grow' working group has been set up to start planning how to map out 'grey' land available for community growing purposes and to develop 'Right to Grow' proposals. Meetings take place monthly, with plans in place to bring together the various food growing groups across the city to start mapping out what is taking place, what are the barriers to food growing and how to work together to help others on their food growing journey.

Work has also started to investigate the potential to use part the food growing budget allocated in 2024/25 to pilot a 'Grow Your Own' support fund to provide setup funding for community groups to purchase tools, create planters and establish management arrangements for community growing projects. It is expected that this pilot will be launched by the end of March 2025, ready for the growing season.

As covered in the Bowling Greens update, three former bowling are being developed for food growing at Victoria Park, St Margaret's Park and Prestonfield Park. Work is in progress to appoint appropriate food growing organisations to develop the old bowling greens for community food growing. It is anticipated that these organisations will be in place before April 2025. Part the food growing budget allocated in 2024/25 can also be used to kick-start these initiatives and this can be decided once food growing organisations have been appointed, and their operational and funding model is understood.

When details of a Food Growing grant scheme have been developed, a report will be submitted to Committee for approval for launching the pilot.

Contact: Andy Williams

Wards Affected: All

Community Sport Hub Success

A Community Sport Hub (CSH) is a collective of local sports clubs and other community organisations that come together to support and empower local people to improve sport and physical activity in communities across Scotland. It starts with understanding the needs within a community and then collaborating to facilitate and deliver activities and interventions.

On Friday 30 August, Leith Community Sport Hub ran a basketball and youth work event at Dalmeny Park in Leith, in partnership with **basketball**scotland, Active Schools Edinburgh, YMCA Edinburgh, The Ripple Project, Pilmeny Development Project, Boroughmuir Blaze Basketball Club and Pizza Geeks. This saw an estimated 70 young people (excluding parents/carers) participate.

Youth work, adult services and basketball sessions taking place in Leith were promoted at the event. More local youth work services utilise physical activity, in particular basketball, as a method to positively engage and influence young people. YMCA Edinburgh and The Ripple Project in particular have new community basketball programmes. In addition, Boroughmuir Blaze Basketball Club have extended their presence into Leith with the support of the CSH and Active Schools. Thanks to Pizza Geeks who provided free pizza, we were able to feed families on site.

It was a great example of Leith CSH coming together to make a difference to the local area. A short video of the afternoon which can be found [here](#).

Contact: Mel Coutts

Wards Affected: All

Pitch Strategy Development

Progress to develop a new Pitch Strategy continues with Council and Edinburgh Leisure completing a review of the consultant's feasibility study and developing a draft strategy which includes a shared vision, strategic goals and high-level actions. Officers delivered a briefing session for elected members from the Culture and Communities Committee and the Education, Children and Families Committee at the end of November, which provided an overview of progress to date. Officers will take member's feedback into account before presenting the draft Strategy to Committee for scrutiny and approval.

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry, Graham Croucher

Wards Affected: All

Sports Event Fund 2025/26

Applications are now open for the 2025/26 Sports Event Fund, which aims to support groups to run events that promote physical activity and sport within Edinburgh.

The fund has two tiers:

- Tier 1 grants to support events of a regional/ national standard to award grants of up to £7,500; and
- Tier 2 grants to support events that promote sport and physical activity in a community setting to award grants of up to £1,000.

The deadline for applications is Sunday 15 December 2024. The link to the application form is <https://forms.office.com/e/GwzpHyAbru>

The outcome of the application process will be reported to Committee in February 2025.

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry, Graham Croucher

Wards Affected: All

Parks and Openspace Management Rules

The City of Edinburgh Council can make management rules under Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. Following the expiry of the last set of management rules, proposed and updated management rules were shared with Committee earlier this year.

Following completion of an initial review of the draft management rules by Legal Services, the draft 'Management Rules for Public Parks, Beaches, and Green space' will shortly be published. Public engagement, via the Consultation Hub, will last at least six weeks from late November 2024. The link to the Consultation Hub will be shared with Committee when available.

After reviewing comments received from the public, further amendments will be made as appropriate. A final version of the proposed Management Rules will be presented to Committee for approval in May 2025 before being promoted by Public Notice and implemented across the city.

The management rules will remain in force for a period of 10 years unless revoked or amended.

Contact: Steven Cuthill

Wards Affected: All

Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Update

There is continued progress with the installation of hostile vehicle mitigation in the city.

Temporary measures

A small number of temporary measures (H Stop) have been purchased and will be factored into the events in public spaces process once they have been manufactured and delivered to site. This is used widely throughout the UK for events due to its flexibility, ease of use and security rating which will mean that more people can be protected at events whilst also saving money (compared to the cost of hiring this equipment).

Permanent measures

As part of the resurfacing works taking place in Lawnmarket, officers are working towards permanent measures being installed to replace the National Barrier Asset (NBA) in those locations (Johnston Terrace and Lawnmarket at Deacon Brodies). The options available have been narrowed down to two, based on the operational needs of the sites, security rating as well as the aesthetic and archaeological parameters required for any Royal Mile installation.

Product recommended by officers:



Suitable alternative product:



Elected member briefings and stakeholder engagement sessions, including heritage groups and local businesses, will be set up over the next few weeks to provide more details (including models of the equipment to view if possible). The installation is currently scheduled for April 2025 as part of the overall Lawnmarket programme. It is also intended to install four more sites on the Royal Mile as soon as possible using the same equipment identified. This will then allow for the replacement of three more NBA sites: Lawnmarket at the High Court, St Giles Street and High Street at Cockburn Street. Further briefings and stakeholder sessions will be set up for these locations in early 2025.

These works will be a very positive step forward, allowing the temporary equipment that has been in place since 2017 to be replaced and will put Edinburgh in a good position prior to the anticipated implementation of Martyn's Law. In addition to regular briefings, an update on progress will be scheduled for Committee in autumn 2025.

Contact: Claire Miller

Wards Affected: All, but specifically City Centre

Festive Lighting Programme 2024

The Council's contractor (Field & Lawn) have started to install festive lighting around the city, including the successful installation of the Mound tree on 1 November 2024.



Each year provision is reviewed and adjustments made, where possible, based on community feedback. As a result, the following installations are being progressed (*denotes new for 2024):

<p>18m Cut Christmas Tree The Mound</p>	<p>8m Cut Christmas Trees Craigmillar; Granton*; Grassmarket; Leith (Taylor Gardens); Marchmont; Morningside; Oxfangs; Parliament Square; Portobello; Roseburn; Royal Hospital for Children and Young People; Ratho Station; Ratho Village; Stenhouse; Stockbridge.</p>
<p>Planted Christmas Trees with lights (Approx 3m) Corstorphine; Drumbrae; Gorgie (White Park); South Queensferry</p>	<p>Living natural trees with lights Balerno; Bruntsfield; Canongate; Colinton; Craigentiny; Currie; Davidson Mains; Dean Village; Drylaw; Duddingston; East Princes Street Gardens; Goodtrees Community Centre; Gorgie (White Park); Holy Corner; Hunter Square; Kirk Brae; Leith Walk (Gayfield Square); Liberton; Longstone; Meadowbank; Oxfangs; Prestonfield; Portobello (High School); Portobello (High Street)*; Sighthill; St Giles Cathedral (High Street); St Patrick Square; Tollcross; Wester Hailes.</p>
<p>Lighting Column Motifs Corstorphine (25); Davidson Mains (13); Gorgie (33); High Street (19); Leith Great Junction St (6); Morningside (10); Newbridge (12); Portobello (8); St</p>	<p>Cross Street Catenaries Cockburn Street and Victoria Street</p>

Patrick's Square (2); Stafford Street (6); Tollcross (7).	
Lights - Wrapped Tree Trunks West Princes Street Gardens	3m Reindeer (x4) Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
Curtain of light City Chambers	Lights on building frontage Craigmillar
Lights on bridges Craigleith (Meggetland); Leith (The Shore); Roseburn	Giant "E D I N B U R G H" Letters East Princes Street Gardens
White Decorative Trees High Street x 2	Unicorn (Gifted from Field and Lawn)* Royal Hospital for Children and Young People

Each ward has festive lighting installed and some communities are organising their own switch-on ceremonies.

This year, the following communities are organising their own Christmas events:

Date	Location	Switch on time
18/11/2024	Mound Tree	1810-1820hrs
28/11/2024	Corstorphine	1845hrs
28/11/2024	South Queensferry	1900hrs
30/11/2024	Davidsons Mains	1700hrs
02/12/2024	Prestonfield	1610hrs
03/12/2024	Stenhouse	1800-1900hrs
04/12/2024	Morningside	1700hrs
04/12/2024	St Patricks Square	1800-1830hrs
04/12/2024	Eric Liddell	1800hrs
05/12/2024	Roseburn	1630hrs
05/12/2024	Portobello	1800hrs
07/12/2024	Marchmont	1600hrs
08/12/2024	Ratho Village	1700hrs
15/12/2024	Gorgie Dalry	1830-1845hrs

Contact: Claire Miller

Wards Affected: All

Successful Scottish Library and Information Fund (SLIF) Funding Bid

Edinburgh Libraries were successful in securing SLIF funding of £13,500 to deliver a “Back to Information Basics” project in schools across the city. The project aims to improve the core skills needed by young people to access information from digital and paper-based resources to help them complete school research projects.

A new learning programme will be created that covers core information and research skills in a format that will be delivered by all school library staff.

An initial pilot of the programme will run in eight school libraries across the city, with the pilot schools involved in the design and creation of the programme and will be delivered to pupils between August – December 2025.

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1 - Upcoming Exhibitions and Events and Previous Activities

Four Seasons in Faith: Worship in Edinburgh Throughout the Year Museum of Edinburgh – 29 November 2024 – 21 April 2025

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh are pleased to announce the launch of a new exhibition – “Four Seasons in Faith: worship in Edinburgh Throughout the Year” – which will open to the public at the Museum of Edinburgh on the 29 November and will run until April next year. The exhibition has been shaped by the Museums and Galleries Scotland funded project, “Keep the Faith”, where curators, together with the Edinburgh Interfaith Association, have worked with faith communities across Edinburgh to better understand how they would like to be represented within the museum collection. Working with a group of community curators from different faith backgrounds, this exhibition brings together objects which tell stories about the lives of those from Edinburgh’s faith communities and explores how faith is celebrated in the city throughout the year.

A short film about faith in Edinburgh today will be made during the exhibition period. The film will be shown at the closing event of the exhibition and will be made available online.



Museums and Galleries Edinburgh Curators working with Project Community Curators

Usher Hall (Wards Affected: All)

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

Assembly Rooms (Wards Affected: All)

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

Churchhill Theatre (Wards Affected: All)

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

Winter Season of Exhibitions at City Art Centre

This winter City Art Centre proudly presents three exhibitions, showcasing contemporary drawing, craft and some of the finest examples of printmaking from the City's Fine Art Collection.

POP LIFE explores the meeting of 'high' and 'low' art forms, bringing traditional figurative drawing together with popular culture elements such as social media, film, fashion and music. Now in its third iteration, following exhibitions in Sweden and the Netherlands, POP LIFE at City Art Centre showcases the work of Scotland-based artists, alongside European and international figures.

Through Line spans an array of artistic mediums including ceramics, drawing, jewellery, painting, printmaking, poetry and textiles. The 'through line' or common visual thread of this show is the use and exploration of line in the artists' diverse practices. The exhibition looks at the beauty and versatility of the line - from the simplicity of a single stroke to intricate linear patterns - and the impact it can have on our visual experiences.

Inked Up: Printmaking in Scotland celebrates the versatile artform of print, presenting a selection of works from the City Art Centre's permanent collection of fine art. The exhibition showcases both historic and contemporary prints, with examples of relief printing, intaglio printing, lithography and screenprinting.

The exhibitions are open now. POP LIFE and Through Line run until March 2025, and Inked Up until next summer. For visitor information see: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on>



Credit: Jamie Fitzpatrick, *Red in sweet Tooth and Sweet Boots 1*, 2022.
Bronze, acrylic, oil and crayon on paper. Courtesy the artist

The People Story Collection

New acquisitions in 2024

Since it opened in the 1980s, work has been ongoing to develop the People's Story collections and share the stories of Edinburgh's diverse communities through their working, domestic and cultural lives. So far in 2024 the number of items collected totals 185.

All of these acquisitions have involved site visits, and/ or welcoming donors to the museum collections centre, plus conservation assessments, photography, cataloguing and storage.

Highlights include:

- Parachute mine fragments from the bombing of Leith in WW2 (also subject of a forthcoming blog about the Leith Blitz, linked to Edinburgh 900 programming);
- A Hindu conch shell (to be included in the new Faith exhibition);
- A souvenir teapot from the Scottish National Exhibition held at Saughton Park, 1908 (blog published);
- A 1980s wedding dress bought on Rose Street at Joyce Dalgety;
- A model yacht from Inverleith Model Yacht Club;
- A bundle of 19th century pawn shop tickets from High Riggs with names, dates and prices paid (to be subject of a project to identify customers and locations);
- A blouse by Mary Quant bought at Goldberg's department store, Tollcross in the 1960s (blog published);
- A collection of items rescued from North Leith Parish Church including an embroidered kneeler, communion tokens and a snuff box made from the spire of St Giles (part of collection to appear in the new Faith exhibition); and
- A late-19th century patchwork quilt relating to the Tulloch family of Leith, ships' provisions merchants (blog forthcoming).



Libraries Update

One Bum Cinema Club

Edinburgh Libraries will work in partnership with Manipulate Arts to bring the "One Bum Cinema Club" to four libraries for two weeks each in February and March 2025. Gilmerton, Wester Hailes,

Muirhouse and Craigmillar Libraries will benefit from the initiative which will allow one person at a time to watch a series of short animated films from across the world. The films will be suitable for all ages and activated by pushing a button in the cinema “shed” which will be on site in each library.

Macmillan @ Edinburgh Libraries are the first in the UK to achieve Macmillan Volunteering Quality Standards Award

The Macmillan Volunteering Quality Standards is a framework that helps services to ensure a consistent and high-quality experience for volunteers. The MVQS are based on best practice and current volunteering legislation and volunteers came together as a group to celebrate at the Macmillan Coffee Morning recently held at Saughton Park.



Wester Hailes Library is temporarily closed for essential heating upgrade works so the library staff team have made excellent use of their time travelling to all communities and providing outreach services.

The team have promoted the library service at the Community Trust Harvest Festival, engaging with over 100 people. They also toured the Lend and Mend Hub service across the city, hosting 27 sessions in 15 libraries, reaching over 140 participants.



Summer Reading Challenge

Edinburgh had a great summer taking part in the annual Summer Reading Challenge - this year's theme was Marvellous Makers, with 1,960 children completing the challenge and receiving a certificate and medal with 229 new members joining. The theme was also used to support the Nursery to P1 transition project the Edinburgh Bear Hunt, where families were challenged to try something new, they were able to come along to libraries and take part in the marvellous makers bear themed crafts.



Doors Open Day

Attendees learnt about the architectural history of the historic Central Library which opened in 1890 and its expansion to the Henderson building next door in the 1930s with the opening of subject-based departments. Tours of our behind-the-scenes areas including the Reference Library gallery accessed by a spiral staircase through a hidden door, our Rare Book Room, and our stack areas housing older books not on open shelves.

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry

Wards Affected: All