

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday, 15 June 2021

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Edinburgh's Community Sport Hubs Positive about Returning to Sport

All of Edinburgh's Community Sport Hubs (CSH) met virtually in April to discuss their excitement to provide for their communities in person, as community access to school sport facilities returns. The enthusiasm of the clubs and organisations, and the volunteer time committed, was inspiring. Discussions were excellent, reflective of the past year and the importance of targeting local people who have been adversely affected by the pandemic and may struggle to return to activity. As sport returns we're looking forward to restarting, and launching, these targeted projects which aim to improve local people's mental health, physical health and social connections.



Edinburgh Outdoor Learning Network support

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) facilitates a network for outdoor learning providers across the city; the Edinburgh Outdoor Learning Network. In November a small working group was established drawn from a variety of organisations. This group coordinated the production of a directory of Outdoor Learning providers and their COVID offers; the directory was shared with all teachers in January via the Edinburgh Learns bulletin.

The working group also coordinated a series of 3 webinars, each webinar comprising four short presentations from different providers. Presenters were asked to share something practical that teachers could take away alongside promoting the services that they provide to schools. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive with over 90% stating that the sessions would have a positive benefit to their own delivery of outdoor learning.

Recordings of the webinars can be found via: <https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/schools-communities/networks>

Outdoor Learning In-School Support

In November and December members of the SOLU supported schools by being placed in targeted schools alongside staff for a number of days. The placements were linked to our innovative resource; the [Outdoor Learning Map](#). Staff co-planned and co-delivered outdoor learning lessons and acted as a critical friend to reflect on the effectiveness of the sessions. For staff who had been largely working from home since the start of the pandemic, this was also a great opportunity to work with staff and pupils in a variety of outdoor spaces around Edinburgh. Visit the map to find details of what the classes got up to.

Coronavirus Excursions Toolbox

The SOLU continues to produce a Toolbox providing Council position statements and resources regarding offsite visits. This considers Scottish Government guidance and applies wider Council requirements to enable Communities and Families staff to forward plan safe and effective offsite visits. Outdoor Learning is a core part of Schools/Settings responding to the pandemic and the Toolbox is intended to provide clarity and confidence to staff going offsite. It is aligned to the Scottish Government Protection Levels and is updated regularly.

Outdoor Learning via Epic Days!

The SOLU was approved to deliver an extended outdoor learning day programme to Edinburgh P7 pupils from week beginning 17 May. In order to offer this to all P7s, SOLU will deliver provision to 67 schools before the Summer holidays and then coordinate a further offer to the remaining P7s when they are S1s via their secondary schools – the Epic Day programme has been organised via clusters to enable this. The Epic Days will be delivered by SOLU staff, including instructors from Bangholm, Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres, in partnership with the Bonaly Scout Centre. Each day will run between 10.00am and 9.00pm and include onsite activities at Bonaly and short expeditions into the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Activity will follow the latest Covid-19 safety requirements.

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) in a Virtual Setting

As part of our response to the pandemic, the SOLU has developed its virtual DofE Centre. This is assisting young people with advice and support. SOLU has created an online process to register participants and will support them using MS Teams meetings to make sure they can complete their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Expeditions will still need to be trained for and undertaken as part of the DofE incremental restart.

Barnardo's Hub Bike Programme.

During Easter, the SOLU delivered a bike programme at the Barnardo's hub. Sessions were delivered using a SOLU officer and bikes from our Bangholm Outdoor Centre. Simon Robinson, the Team Leader at Barnardo's had this to say about the sessions:

Bikeability has proven absolutely central to the success of the Hub in ensuring that the children and young people who come here have a positive experience. It supports them to develop skills and confidence in bike-riding as well as having fun. The staff have a huge amount of experience in encouraging children to become competent and safe riders and we really appreciate their input.

Future provision is planned for the summer holidays and beyond.

Edinburgh Active Schools Go Active for 24 Hours

Edinburgh Active Schools completed a 24 hour virtual #ASmoveathon to raise vital funds for Edinburgh based projects supported by the Scottish Mental Health charity, SAMH. The team started the 24 hours at 5.00pm on Thursday 1 April with an hour HIIT session and finished 24 hours later learning a dance routine as a team. We had coordinators running, cycling, walking, litter picking, skipping, hula hooping and more throughout the 24 hours. The journey was documented through the Active Schools Twitter account @ActiveSchoolsED to highlight to our followers the importance of physical activity on positive mental health. The team raised an incredible £2410. Well done to the Edinburgh Active Schools Team!



Thriving Green Spaces Project Update

The Thriving Green Spaces project will fashion a new vision for the city's green spaces, to be captured in an ambitious 30-year strategy which aligns with Edinburgh's 2050 City Vision and delivers a new way of working to ensure their on-going enhancement, protection, and care.

The project has been successful in passing its Mid-Point Review with the Future Park Accelerator programme assessors. Success at Mid-Point Review means that project extension to 31 March 2022 is confirmed; total grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Trust is raised to £1,223,723; and the project can move from its "co-design" phase to "transition" phase.

We received very positive feedback in all review areas, with high scores in each category. Specific review scores are as follows, where category scores are out of 5 and Pass = 30-45 total:

- Progress to date - 5
- Ambition, innovation and impact - 5
- Replicability and sector leadership - 4.5
- Sharing and collaboration - 5
- Deliverability - 4.5
- Sustainability – change for the long term - 5
- A secure financial future - 4
- Community and social benefits - 4.5
- Risk and risk management - 5

Total: 42.5/45

The project assessors said "Your project is a well-rounded and developed set of integrated proposals that is highly likely to deliver a vision and strategy that secures long term sustainability for Edinburgh's green and blue spaces and realise multiple benefits. We are very impressed by your and the wider partnership approach to this type of project where a collaborative, learning and sharing culture is strongly evident and yields powerful outcomes. You continue to be an exemplar project within the Future Parks Accelerator programme."

Some of the really exciting elements of the project include the ecological coherence plan, the design led-approach to placemaking focussing on people, developing ParkPower, the GI mapping tools and citizen science work, community participation approaches, the landowning and stakeholder agencies collective, the financial ecosystem model, experience design in an urban setting, the fast follower programme, cause messaging/communications and marketing and the workforce engagement and transformation plan.

Extended feedback is available for those Members who wish to see it. A presentation to Committee on the project and presentations to party groups will also be made following the summer recess.

The project has now entered its “transition phase” where the focus will shift to:

- Increasing awareness, advocacy and engagement;
- Developing outline proposals (processes/procedures);
- Piloting integrated proposals;
- Completing Financial Model;
- Finalising proposals (informed by pilots);
- Developing strategy; and
- Preparing for cultural change (Staff engagement, Staff development, Marketing and Comms Strategy, Cause Messaging, Branding, Operational structure).

The Key phases of work are:

- April – September Pilots phase / developing proposals
- Sept – November Finalising strategy / finalise proposals
- December – January Committee report / launch new branding and cause messaging
- February – March Launch strategy and implement approved actions

Dean Path Landslip Update (April 2021)

In 2016 a second landslip along a section of the Dean Path resulted in the route being closed. Following discussions with responsible parties and the Council an Engineering contractor was appointed in 2020 to deliver a solution that would stabilise the slope and reopen the path. As part of this solution rockfall protection netting (to aid further vegetation growth) will be installed and the contractor has recently submitted a planning application for the removal of tree, shrubs and vegetation from the slope to support this work. A tree survey will be undertaken in the coming weeks to ensure only necessary trees are removed and no nesting birds or other wildlife, including the otters active along this stretch of the Water of Leith, are disturbed.

The project remains on schedule for completion by October 2021 at which point the path below the slope will be reopened.

The City of Edinburgh Council's Continued Support to Ethnically Diverse Artists and Creatives

The City of Edinburgh Council's Culture Service has released a further £10,000.00 towards six freelance-led collaborative projects submitted to the Diversity and Inclusion Fund (Collaboration, Research and Development) by ethnically diverse artists and creatives. Six creative projects across various art forms will support the artistic practice of theatre makers, dancers, poets and filmmakers based and / or working in Edinburgh.

Jinling Wu together with Sean Wai Keung will continue their collaboration in exploring lived experiences of people of mixed heritage developing a screenplay based on Sean's poem 'The Proof' recently adapted for screen in the BBC Scotland's The Social series.

Flavia D'Avila, Catherine Bisset and Jairus Obayomi will partner with the Colonial-Era Caribbean Theatre and Opera Network to research stories and explore approaches to developing a solo theatre piece reflecting on the experiences of the Caribbean diaspora living in Scotland

Lubna Kerr will examine stories of narcissism and childhood trauma for her new theatre play 'Bella and Max' developed in collaboration with director Kolbrún Björt Sigfúsdóttir and dramaturge Jen McGregor.

Priya Shrikumar, of Dance Ihayami, supported by director Niloo-Far Khan and dancer Anu Joseph will develop an interactive Indian dance performance inspired by a 1985 musical drama film 'A Chorus Line'.

Jian Yi will embark on a further development stage of their queerbodylove project 'Weathervanes' and receive support from a PoC-led producers' collective ID.Y led by Claricia Parinussa to create promotional material and undergo media training.

Lisa Williams in collaboration with Jeda Pearl Lewis, of Scottish BAME Writers Network will examine approaches to creating a digital platform for Caribbean-Scottish artists in Edinburgh showcasing the work of artists across the city.

Project grants ranging from £825 to £2,500 were awarded by an independent Panel consisting of Briana Pegado of Fringe of Colour, Harriet Mould of The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Sanjay Lago (Independent Practitioner) and Veronique AA Lapeyre of Craft Scotland/Zanana Project, as part of the City of Edinburgh Council Flexible Fund Panel.

For more information, please visit <https://cultureedinburgh.com/updates/diversity-and-inclusion-fund-grant-award-recipients-202021>

Travelling Gallery Update

New carbon efficient generator

After last year's successful Crowdfunder campaign 'Let's Make Travelling Gallery Greener', we are pleased to say our new carbon efficient generator has been fitted and we can't wait to test it out when we reopen later this year. The new, more efficient, generator would allow us a 25% reduction in our power consumption by varying its output and only powering what is necessary. Again, a big thank you to all our supporters including a generous donation from the Friends of City Art Centre.



Water Patterns - Remote Learning Programme

Travelling Gallery received additional funding from the Scotland's Events Recovery Fund (SERF) to provide a creative and innovative remote learning programme which will connect us with our partners and audience while we're unable to tour. Led by Travelling Gallery's experienced Learning and Engagement Officer we have developed a participatory programme called 'Water patterns' that will involve and connect our audiences across Scotland.

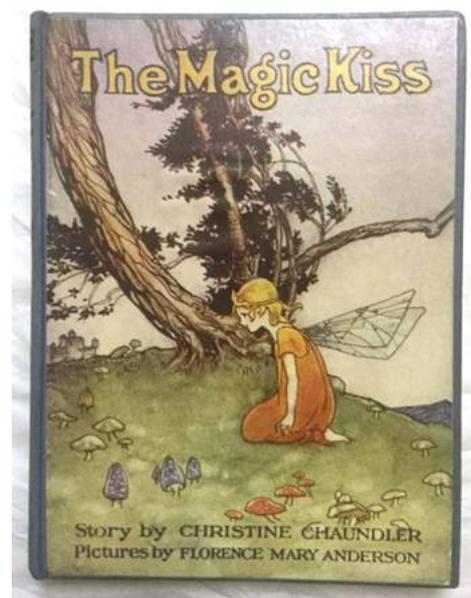


'Water patterns' departs from our 'Shapes of Water' exhibition and specifically the work of artist Suzie Eggin. Suzie used microscopic images of water crystals to create her own series of intricate drawings. Together with our partners, we have invited participants to imagine their own 'patterns' inspired by different water molecules and explore mark-making by combining the use of objects found at home with simple materials we have provided by post.

Fairies Blog

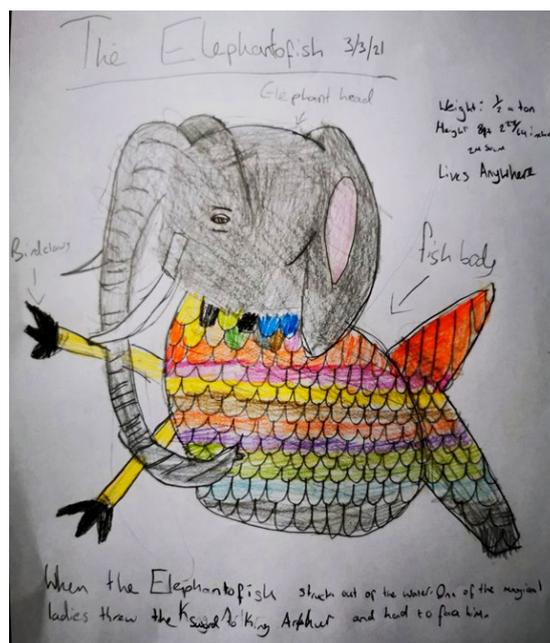
Last year PhD student Alice Sage worked on a placement from Goldsmiths, University of London with the Writers' Museum and Museum of Childhood. Her project was to mark the centenary of the publication of the world-famous Cottingley fairy photographs. Due to the pandemic a physical exhibition at the end of her research was not possible, but this blog in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh highlights the Museum of Childhood's nationally significant book collection. <https://www.blogs.hss.ed.ac.uk/selcie/2021/03/01/fairy-fever-in-the-aftermath-of-the-first-world-war/>

Alice was also able to collaborate with the Stills Gallery to engage with young people <https://stills.org/exhibitions/photographing-fairies/>



City Art Stars Interactive Art Programme

City Art Stars is an interactive art programme hosted by Museums and Galleries Edinburgh that enables primary school children to engage with paintings and objects digitally. So far, the programme has successfully engaged with three primary schools in SIMD 1-4 areas of Edinburgh using Teams to deliver weekly home learning art classes to pupils. The sessions explore a range of themes and have included *draw your own fantasy creature* inspired by the mythological paintings of John Duncan from the City Art Centre collection and *design your own toy* using images from the Museum of Childhood archive. Feedback from pupils and teachers has been very positive and the programme will be rolled out to classrooms this term.



The Elephantfish by Anthony, Niddry Mill Primary School.

Auld Reekie Retold

April 2021 marked the mid-point of council funded project Auld Reekie Retold. As an inventory project, the closure of venues has been an unavoidable challenge to undertaking physical locating of objects, but the team has nevertheless been able to do some remarkable work on the collections via the database, the bank of images, and the varied outputs of the collections engagement strand of the project, funded in part by Museums Galleries Scotland.

Keys figures of the project are below:

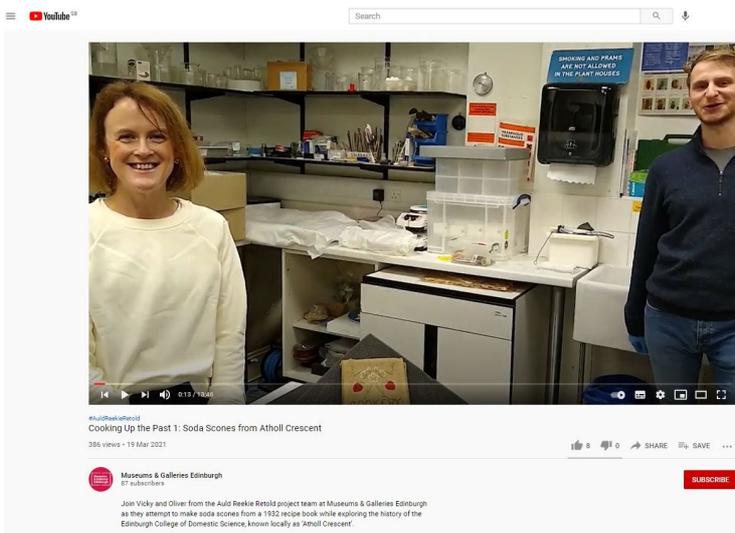
Objects inventoried	6,183
% previously without known location	50
Images taken	8,849
stories found	2,803
events held	5
attendees (booked/actual)	345 / 237
Online donations	£210
project blogs published	14
Online exhibitions	2

In addition, an unprecedented amount of data cleaning has been achieved, making our collections information more consistent, accurate, and accessible than ever before. This has significantly improved our accountability for the collections, a council asset valued in excess of £3m, and our ability to use the collections for engagement, research, loans and commercial image supply.

The first series of online talks was well received with an audience predominantly reaching the project's intended audience, people local to Edinburgh. The series complements the service's wider public programme with its focus on local audiences and being hosted and presented by colleagues within the service working on the project.

A "story catching" event with the Newhaven community to capture some of their lived experience and memories as presented in a collection of photographs was also trialled. It is hoped that in-person story catching sessions can be held in the Autumn, but in the meantime the service has been reaching out on social media to local community groups. This has been with the aim of raising awareness of the project and creating a buzz which can be harnessed once face to face meetings are possible. In May a talk was held for the Edinburgh Old Town Association, and have developed links with groups in Niddrie, Portobello, Craigmillar and Southside.

The original plan was to hold a project exhibition this spring to coincide with the Donald Smith exhibition at the City Art Centre. As with so much this year, we have embraced new opportunities in digital, and have put this exhibition online. The exhibition looks at some of the new stories uncovered by the project linked to Edinburgh's coastal communities.



In the Autumn the first series of four podcasts looking at some of the new stories emerging from the collections were published, and in March 2021 we were delighted to release online the first in a series of films looking at some of the historic recipes we have in the collection. It is hoped that more film and audio media can be developed including more podcasts, and a series of short films focusing on specific objects in the collection.

We were hoping to initiate a volunteer programme to assist with the inventory, repacking and photography of collections, but instead have shifted the project's volunteering potential online, with the recruitment of 20 digital volunteers working on the transcription of our accession registers. Many of these are backed up on now obsolete formats, and so for the first time we have high quality digital images of the registers with transcribed data for easy access and long-term preservation.

The creation, editing and publication of much of the digital content has been undertaken by members of the team, and as such the project has been a great opportunity to gain new digital skills. We're looking forward to a return to the Collections Centre to continue using these skills on the collections yet to be looked at.

Where we are...Museums and Galleries Edinburgh and Edinburgh Young Carers

Where we are..., a new innovative national programme for young people, has announced its three Key charity and cultural Partners across the UK for 2021, located in Edinburgh, Leeds and Leicester. Organised by the British Museum, and supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, projects will be led by and co-produced with young people in these areas. The open and collaborative nature of these projects will enable creative and unconstrained approaches towards the idea of arts and culture. With direct input from young people aged 16–24, these bespoke projects will develop and evolve in response to a need in the local community. The Key Partner organisations involved span from a museum to historic house and art gallery and will support under-served young people to produce diverse and unique projects with their charity counterparts. These third sector bodies have missions ranging from a focus on young carers, a nurturing of new talent and the provision of music and arts education. Museums and Galleries Edinburgh (MGE) and Edinburgh Young Carers will be working together, focusing on young carers in Edinburgh. Through this project, young carers in the community who may face adversity and challenges as a result of these caring responsibilities, will have the opportunity to have fun and forge networks and bring their experience and skills to the project, developing these further.

Lee MacKenzie, 16-25s Development Worker at Young Carers said: “We are thrilled to have been selected to take part in the project. This last year has been particularly challenging for our young adult carers in terms of wellbeing, education and employment. By being part of this project, we hope to remove some of the barriers the pandemic has created for our carers as well supporting them to explore some of the incredible culture their city has to offer. Having worked together with the MGE team on successful projects in the past, it's great to be able to work in partnership again on something new.”

Museums and Galleries Kickstart Placements

The Kickstart Scheme is a time-limited UK Government programme providing funding to create new job placements for 16-24 year olds who are on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment. The Museums and Galleries team was keen to explore how as an employer we might use it both to support local youth employability in these challenging times, and try new ways of diversifying our workforce to make it more inclusive and representative of the communities we serve.

The sector support body Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) has acted as a ‘gateway’ organisation, liaising with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to co-ordinate applications and channel funding. Importantly, it has guaranteed to top up the minimum wage level provided by DWP to real living wage and will provide skills development ‘wrap around’ care and training to all placements to enhance their opportunities for work in the future.

The Museums and Galleries Service will offer four placements over the course of the scheme, and is recruiting now for a Digital Outreach Assistant and a Travelling Gallery Learning Assistant. Nearly 50 referrals have been received from Job Centre Plus, converting into 26 applications. Interviews will take place for both roles during May and both six-month placements are provisionally expected to start in June.

City Art Centre celebrates the life of Edinburgh artist Charles H Mackie

This summer visitors to the City Art Centre will be able to enjoy a new exhibition exploring the work of the Scottish artist Charles Hodge Mackie (1862-1920). Mackie was a painter and printmaker of extraordinary versatility, who lived in Edinburgh most of his life. A progressive force in late 19th century artistic circles, he found inspiration in a range of sources, from the Celtic Revival movement to traditional Japanese art. He also experimented with a wide variety of media, producing oil paintings, watercolours, murals, woodblock prints and book illustrations.

Charles H. Mackie: Colour and Light is the first large-scale exhibition to focus on Mackie in over a century. The display presents over fifty artworks, charting the progress of his remarkable career. Many of these works are on loan from private collections where they are not normally available for public viewing. Other paintings and prints have been borrowed from prestigious collections such as the National Galleries of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Academy, and Perth Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition also showcases the City Art Centre's own holdings of work by Mackie, including the beautiful Venetian scene *La Musica Veneziana*.

Developed in collaboration with Mackie's descendants and the independent researcher Pat Clark, this exhibition provides a comprehensive survey of the artist's accomplishments, with new insights into his working methods. It is a rare opportunity to enjoy so many of his artworks together in one place. One hundred years since Mackie's death, it is a fitting tribute to one of Edinburgh's own.

Charles H. Mackie: Colour and Light will feature as part of Edinburgh Art Festival 2021, and is scheduled to run until 10 October 2021. It is accompanied by a varied programme of public events and activities. Admission is free, but pre-booking online is essential. For more details see:

<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/charles-h-mackie-colour-and-light>



Charles H. Mackie, *La Musica Veneziana*, 1909. City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh.

Edinburgh City Libraries actively seeks to raise awareness of diversity and inclusion in the public arena by participating in various Awareness Weeks throughout the year. Where possible we host one author/expert/partner, create a book list for each topic/theme and engage with our school and public librarians to gain a greater reach within the community and point to the CEC staff training available.

International Women's Day (8 March)

- Author Monique Roffey took part in an exclusive Edinburgh Libraries online event celebrating the power of women and writing.
- Ratho Library had an informative chat with author Elaine Gunn about her feminist fairy tales.
- Sighthill Library talked to four amazing women about their work in the Sighthill community, Pat Lee, Gill Dunn, Linda Newlands, and Marjorie Edmondson.
- Ratho Chatterbooks celebrated this by using the **little people, big dreams** series
- Moredun Library hosted an interactive quiz to celebrate International women's Day.

Autism Awareness Week (April)

- Author Jane Evans discussed her book Vera McLuckie and the Daydream Club featuring an autistic character and illustrated by the very talented autistic artist, Ruth Mutch.
- Citywide – Tweets to start a conversation. Our librarians tweeted out two poignant questions to Autistic authors, celebrities etc - We'd like to know what assumptions around Autism would you correct and What would you tell your younger self about acceptance? Collation of tweets [click here](#).
- Alan Gardener in conversation with Maya Aslam, Directorial Researcher, Edinburgh Business School. Alan and Maya discussed how as an autistic person and friend of Edinburgh Libraries we can help change the assumptions and preconceived ideas for Autistic people in the workplace and in life. To watch this amazing, openly honest video [Click here](#).

STEM

Edinburgh Science Festival moved its programme date, however the Library Service continued with the STEM posts.

STEM Storytelling

- [Forces Fiona Story](#)
- [Forces Fiona Activities](#)
- [Spaceman Sam Story](#)
- [Spaceman Sam Activities](#)
- Central Childrens Library STEM Club working group – now successfully running at approximately 20 attendees.

Deaf Awareness Week (4-9 May)

- We were honoured to bring awareness to Deafness by hosting an “in conversation” with two highly prominent professionals (Nick Coleman and Professor Raymond MacDonald), whose life and work experiences have enabled them to talk so personally and eloquently. [Click here](#)
- At the end of May, the Oscar Best Sound category winner and BAFTA-winning film Sound of Metal will be released in the UK, starring Riz Ahmed as a heavy metal drummer who loses his hearing. These two events have inspired the Music Library to take a look at some composers and performers who have experienced hearing loss. [Click here](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week (10-16 May) - Discover Nature

- Edinburgh Libraries teamed up with Trellis for [Mental Health Awareness Week](#) whose theme this year is nature. [Trellis](#) is the place to go for know-how about therapeutic gardening and the art of using gardening to help people take care of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing. [click here](#)
- Download [a book](#) for Mental Health Week
- Connecting to Nature [through reading](#)
- Go outdoors to Edinburgh’s Parks and Greenspace – [posted from 12 May](#)
- Edinburgh School Librarians tweeted useful links throughout the week, including mindful activities (<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1446443667173670914>), and launched the updated and digital version of their Escape Connect Relate bibliotherapy program. The booklists year round can be found at the link - <https://young.scot/get-informed/edinburgh/escape-connect-relate>
- How our School Libraries marked Mental health Awareness Week, with a nature hunt, David Attenborough and more [click here](#).

Kirkliston Library - Living surrounded by nature is something most of us can only dream of, but what is the reality? Stephen lives in wild isolation in British Columbia with only his dog, Ember, for company. Throughout the week he shared his experience of living in wilderness, along with some of his stunning photographs. [Click here](#)

Capital Theatres Update

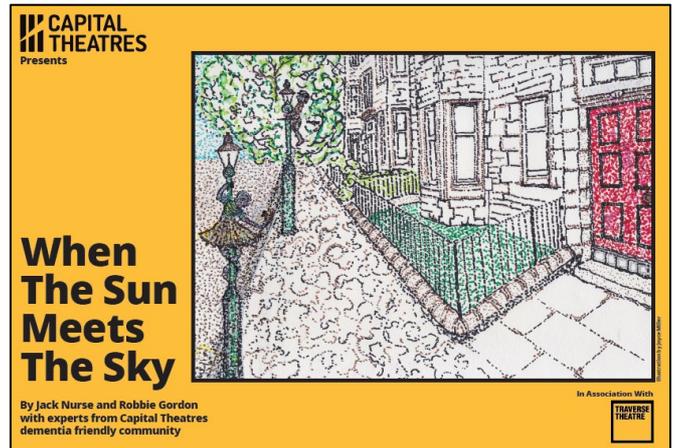


A full business update was presented to Committee in November 2020 and much has changed, mostly for the better, since then. It’s now 14 months since the doors of the theatres closed. Capital Theatres have continued to work with core staff, retaining all 80 with the support of City of Edinburgh Council funding, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, Scottish Government, our public supporters and generous patron emergency funding, for which they are truly thankful.

Throughout Capital Theatres have kept their mission going throughout with digital creative engagement programme *Raise the Curtain*, working with many community groups including their dementia friendly community, young creatives, LGBTQ+ and care experienced children. Our creative work has provided opportunity not only for our participants but also work for a range of freelancers in and around Edinburgh. Highlights include production of a dementia friendly audio play *When the Sun Meets the Sky*, created in collaboration with the Traverse Theatre; commissioning of an art installation in the Festival Theatre window *Hanging by a Million Threads*; creation of a digitally supported theatre walking tour in collaboration with the Lyceum, the Traverse and the Usher Hall and a range of online backstage tours of both the Festival and the King's Theatres.



Hanging by A Million Threads by Edinburgh based emerging artist Sophie Fields



When the Sun Meets the Sky, produced in association with the Traverse Theatre

Creatively Capital Theatres have launched a new musicals commissioning hub in collaboration with Pitlochry Festival Theatre and awarded three commissions to three new and emerging Scottish artists. We are working in a new and exciting co-production for 2022 with a development week recently having taken place in the Festival Theatre. Our plans for the Summer are taking shape with the theatre reopening at the end of June for a socially distanced version of *Blindness* from the Donmar Warehouse; delivery of a programme of creative summer school activities for young children hosted outside in the courtyard of the Festival Theatre called *In our Yard*; pop-up Opera with Scottish Opera in July. It's then full steam ahead with normal programming from September, data and government roadmap allowing.



Blindness, Produced by The Donmar Warehouse

The ***King's Redevelopment Project*** is also picking up apace – the plan is to commence the 20-month construction programme in September 2022, with the final Design Stage taking place in late 2021/early 2022. In readiness we have recommenced the heritage engagement programme with the local Tollcross residents, Access Group and the Young People's community consultation groups. There is tremendous excitement and interest in the project and specifically in the community asset the newly redeveloped King's building will offer to all. Fundraising continues and we are working with both CEC and Scottish Government on risk assessment and future governance support.

The culture sector is hopefully moving towards a more stable footing for the latter half of this year and is ready and willing to be a key component of the city's recovery post COVID. The landscape is still challenging given the uncertainties financially and Capital Theatres ability to plan confidently to bring back shows, but our artistic and community relationships remain strong and we are focused collectively on recreating a bold and collaborative sector that will bring joy and inspiration to many as we emerge from these dark times.

Culture and Communities Committee



Convener

Councillor Donald Wilson



Vice-Convener

Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

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Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convener*)
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Councillor Doggart
Councillor Doran
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