

# Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee  
10.00am, Tuesday 16 March 2021



## Adjust/Adapt Exhibition Showcasing Scotland's Finest Furniture Makers Goes Digital – 27 March – 24 April 2021



The City Art Centre, working in partnership with [The Scottish Furniture Makers Association \(SFMA\)](#) and [Visual Arts Scotland \(VAS\)](#) present *Adjust / Adapt*, a major new group exhibition showcasing and celebrating the transformative power of creativity and craft to transcend challenging times. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions the exhibition is moving to a digital space with the planned physical show at the City Art Centre no longer taking place.

Running from 27 March – 24 April 2021, the exhibition is now presented online via [The Scottish Furniture Makers Association](#) and the [City Art Centre](#) websites, showcasing work by makers, designers and artists working across Scotland with a creative response to how domestic interiors are being adapted in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and climate emergency. The digital exhibition explores how our homes and outdoor spaces are working harder for occupants as multigenerational sanctuaries, workspaces, classrooms, fitness and entertainment settings.

*Adjust/Adapt* is accompanied by a series of online events featuring a range of industry representatives which each set out to explore key issues including: Covid recovery, early-stage career development and sales.

## Museums and Galleries – Embracing Digital Platforms in Learning and Engagement

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, most Museums and Galleries venues have had to close, although the City Art Centre did open for a short while prior to the latest lockdown. During this time staff have been moving online and embracing digital platforms to share our collections and exhibitions with the public, including holding online engagement events, which have attracted people from all over the world. Following discussions with partners and creatives 49 of 51 planned Public Programme events from February to June will be delivered on digital platforms. This has consisted of making videos, planning live streams and running events on Teams, for example the Japanese Cultural events for the Hornel exhibition at the City Art Centre involved delivering a [fashion show](#) and a [Tea Ceremony](#).

A lot of work is being done on social media platforms, such as Facebook, to highlight our closed collections and exhibitions and learning staff are curating another two digital exhibitions on Art UK, asking colleagues to choose their favourite collection images depicting “Old Edinburgh” and learning staff are choosing paintings from our collections depicting Spring for “Spring at the City Art Centre”, which will be available on a digital format and highlighted on social media. Five digital videos are also being made by a Glasgow University placement student on the theme of Old Edinburgh, focusing on interpreting five collection paintings with associated activities that families and adults can follow up.

Three visually impaired videos and three BSL tours are being made, using funding from colleagues in Health and Social Care. The BSL tours are being professionally made by a production company and will involve a deaf person signing, which is preferred by the deaf community – an example can be found [here](#).

Our new Schools Engagement Officer has started and will be engaging with schools to see how we can engage with schools digitally and support teachers, families and pupils and what plans can be made for when things are closer to normality. Live Teams classrooms with schools started during the week of 15 February, after teachers indicated there was a demand for this.

Additional digital events are being worked on with our volunteers at Edinburgh Living History. A new tour has been issued which has involved them perform “[1920 Post-Spanish Flu](#)”. The group researched the area around Lauriston and are looking at parallels in 1920 and 2020, with the production being about hope. The volunteers have risen to many challenges in recent months – going from only being able to use a phone to performing individually at home and being video’d, to having completed three digital tours with two more planned, and taking part in digital meetings.

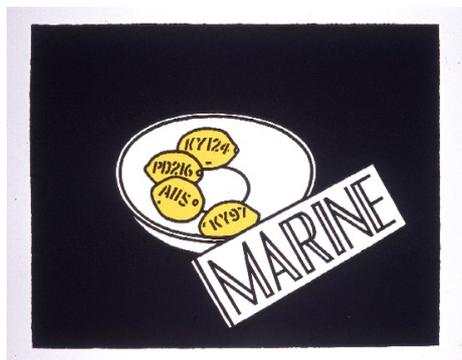
## Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay – City Art Centre, 22 May to 3 October

This summer the City Art Centre presents *Marine*, a two-floor exhibition of artworks by Ian Hamilton Finlay (1925-2006), which was originally scheduled for last year. Finlay was an internationally renowned Scottish artist and Britain’s most significant concrete poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This major exhibition focuses on the maritime theme in his work. It was a central element of Finlay’s art, and one to which he returned throughout his life.

Drawn from the artist's estate and the City Art Centre's collection, and including loans from the National Galleries of Scotland, *Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay* showcases artworks from across several decades, ranging from stone, wood, and neon sculptures to tapestry. The show also features prints, postcards and booklets from Finlay's Wild Hawthorn Press, capturing Finlay's interest in nautical themes across a variety of media. On show, alongside *Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay*, will be photographs from the series *Ian's Fleet* (2002) by Robin Gillanders, which the City Art Centre has recently acquired for its collection. This sequence of seven black and white photographs capture a fleet of wooden model boats made by Finlay, floating on Lochan Eck, the pond at Little Sparta. Little Sparta is the garden at Stonypath in the Pentland Hills, where Finlay lived and worked for 40 years, and is considered one of Scotland's greatest 20<sup>th</sup> century artworks.

*Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay* has been co-curated with Pia Maria Simig, Executor of the Estate of Ian Hamilton Finlay, and is presented as part of the Edinburgh Art Festival 2021 and Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020/21. The show is accompanied by an exciting events programme and a catalogue with an insightful essay by Stephen Bann, CBE, Emeritus Professor of History of Art and Senior Research Fellow at Bristol University.

To coincide with the City Art Centre's exhibition, the Scottish Poetry Library presents a small display of works by Finlay, drawn from its archive. *From Sea to City: Ian Hamilton Finlay* runs from 25 May to 9 October 2021.



Ian Hamilton Finlay (with Patrick Caulfield), *Marine*, 1968.  
© The Estate of Ian Hamilton Finlay. Photo: Antonia Reeve



Robin Gillanders, *Ian's Fleet*, 2002. © the artist

### Associated Events Programme:

Saturday 29 May, 2.00-3.00pm - Digital Lecture: Working with Ian Hamilton Finlay

Wednesday 2 June, 2.00-3.00pm - The Four Seasons in Full Sail: A Year in the Garden at Little Sparta

Saturday 26 June, 10.30am-3.30pm - Messages and Ships

Saturday 3 July, 10.30am-3.30pm - Poetic Maritime Prints

Saturday 31 July, 1.30-2.30pm - Tour of 'Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay'

Saturday 4 September, 2.00-3.00pm - Descriptive Tour for Visually Impaired Visitors of 'Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay'

Saturday 25 September, 10.00am-12.30pm or 1.30-4.00pm - Flags Ahoy

Saturday 2 October, 2.00-4.00pm - Push the Boat Out

Booking for these events is essential. For further information on the events please visit [www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk) or contact the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993.

## Festivals 2021

Officers are continuing to work with Edinburgh's Festivals on the possible return of festival events this summer. This can only be finalised once further Scottish Government guidance is published.

A number of Festivals are moving forward with planning, many on a 'hybrid' basis of part digital, part physical. Where physical events are being considered, there is an emphasis on outdoor locations, which offer a reduced public health risk. A range of locations are still in discussion with Festivals with a preference to utilise hard standing areas. Other key factors are likely to include social distancing, and on-site management to ensure the highest possible health regimes.

Once the position is clearer, it is hoped to bring any details to the Festivals and Events All Party Oversight Group. Officers are clear that any festival activity cannot be at the risk to wider public health improvement.

## Capital Investment in Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries

There has been positive news in the recent allocation of an additional £4m of capital investment in parks, greenspace and cemetery infrastructure.

Officers are currently finalising a breakdown of all of known defective infrastructure that has been collated through a comprehensive inspection process. Once finalised, the defects will be prioritised to focus on safety-related issues in the first instance. Thereafter, subject to remaining funding available in the capital fund, suggestions for park enhancements will then be collated.

The outline programme of investment will be brought to the June Culture and Communities Committee for approval.

## Living Landscapes

At its meeting of 15 September 2020, the Culture and Communities Committee sought clarification on the process for reviewing Living Landscape features, the addition of new meadows, improvement of lines of communication, and consideration of a city-wide system giving the opportunity for constituents to suggest sites for new meadows.

For a number of years officers have regularly reviewed meadow locations to determine how well they are performing and whether they require additional maintenance or change. Meadow locations, site alterations and additions are captured on a GIS system to enable enquiries to be answered quickly and accurately. As parks officers and rangers engage regularly with local communities, they are able to consider opinion and suggestions from the public. Additional opinion and suggestions are received via email and social media and officers regularly meet with those individuals or groups who have a query or a concern about an existing or proposed feature.

To gain clarity, enhance engagement and improve communication, a more formalised process has now been introduced that invites people and groups to submit comments on existing landscape features and suggestions for additional features via the Consultation Hub and promoted on social media via Edinburgh Outdoors. Any proposed changes or additions to landscape features will be assessed by officers, and those that are considered viable will then be circulated to Ward members for their information. Proposals that cannot be realised due to resource or capacity limitations will be added to a waiting list and initiated once circumstances allow. The reasons why decisions were determined will be communicated to both Ward members and proposers.

After CIMT approval in December 2020, communication and consultation with the wider public and local stakeholders went live and the process will follow the following timeline:

- December 2020: Invite stakeholders and residents to comment on existing landscape features and suggest additional features;
- February 2021: Shortlist those suggestions that we consider feasible and issue a location map/list of proposed sites and changes to Ward councillors for comment;
- March 2021: Finalise map/list of feature changes;
- From March 2021: Integrate into work/maintenance programmes; and
- From November 2021: Repeat the process.

The consultation closed on 31 January 2021 and responses are currently being analysed. In short:

- There were 362 responses;
- 25% of respondents had heard about the survey via their local community group;
- 52% of respondents were aware of the Edinburgh Living Landscape programme;
- 96% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that biodiversity should be included in the Parks and Greenspace Management Programme;
- Trees (95%) topped the list of features respondents said were most important to biodiversity, followed by meadows (88%), shrubs and naturalised grass (both 73%), and bulbs (49%); and

72% of respondents said that they would like to receive further updates about the Edinburgh Living Landscape programme.

## Inch Plant Nursery

As part of the Thriving Green Spaces project an options appraisal for Inch Plant Nursery was commissioned last year. The report consisted of a SWOT and a financial analysis along with case study research, site visits and staff engagement. The report considered four options:

- Option 1: *Status Quo*;
- Option 2: Reducing the footprint of the plant nursery by - buying in plants, moving to a new site or outsourcing;
- Option 3: Increased Revenue and/or capital income. This would involve reconfiguring the site and redeveloping some of the buildings; and
- Option 4: Increased Revenue and/or capital income plus societal benefits. As per option 3 but with additional measures to maximise societal benefits.

The first two options were not recommended as they did not produce savings and had additional negative impacts. The third option of increasing revenue by reconfiguring the site and redeveloping some of the buildings was considered feasible with the potential to bring about savings or even a potential net revenue gain. The final, recommended, option built on this but proposed additional measures to incorporate societal/community benefits by linking into wider Thriving Green Spaces (TGS) objectives and initiatives e.g. provision of a community hub, development of ancillary businesses (café etc), training and/or educational facilities and integration into the wider site of Inch Park through, *inter alia*, improved access and links to cycling infrastructure.

The report was submitted to the Depots Programme Board and approval was given to develop a business case for option 4. The consultant responsible for the options appraisal has now been commissioned to work on this business case and expects to have a draft completed by mid-April. This piece of work will link in with other TGS workstream elements:

- Master planning for Inch Park. A landscape architect has been engaged to develop a masterplan for Inch Park;
- TGS will also be engaging in a “Spirit of Place” exercise for Inch Park. This will involve a process of community and stakeholder engagement to help define what is unique about the park. It will help inform the Masterplan; and
- An Income Generation Strategy for parks and greenspaces is currently being developed. This will help to inform the business case for the plant nursery. The plant nursery also has the potential to be a significant example of how park assets can form part of a sustainable funding model that provides facilities and enhances our greenspaces.

Once completed the business case for the plant nursery will be presented to the Depot Board and Committees. Subject to approval, a Project Initiation Document (PID) would be produced based on the Business Case and the masterplan for Inch Park.

### **Green Pencil Award**

This is our yearly schools and libraries competition for P4 – S2, themed each year. 2020 was Nature in Lockdown and over 1500 applications were received. Due to the current COVID situation the awards ceremony could not take place, however it was replaced with online readings by the four Highly Commended winners and renowned poet Michael Pedersen read out the overall winner.

[Click here](#)

### **Burns Night**

Library Social Media pages promoted the Scots tongue in the form of quizzes for Adults and Children and hosting a Bookbug with published Childrens book in Scots.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), 27 January 2021**

Edinburgh City Libraries marked HMD with various events. Inspiration was taken from the photography competition from the HMD Trust to enable us to keep building on our Edinburgh Collected resource. The Central Library hosted an evening of reading and remembering, reading short passages for a number of fiction and non-fiction books about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, ending with the candle lighting at 8pm. Denis Rutovitz and Jeanne Bell (co-founders of Edinburgh Direct Aid) took part in a pre-recorded event discussing the charities works, including in Bosnia and with Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

### **Childrens Mental Health Week – 1- 5 February 2021**

School librarians promoted in schools and on social media a range of activities, ideas and reading suggestions to support young people's mental health and encourage them to make self-care part of their daily routine. School librarians are also, over the period of remote learning, releasing a weekly calendar of ideas that S1/S2 students can watch, do and/or read daily, with the aim of providing young people with ideas on things to do and encourage them to take time out for themselves. A Bake-Off Tuition was also held with staff from Morningside and Newington Libraries.

### **LGBTQ History Month – 1-28 February 2021**

Libraries partnered with Lavender Menace for an online event with Bob Orr and Sigrid Nielsen talking about how Lavender Menace began. Work has also been ongoing with Adam Knight of LGBTQ youth and school librarians are running a project under "Unsung, local heroes" gathering voices of our youth. Libraries are also working with STRIDE our internal Council group and will cross promote events, which will give staff greater access to what is happening for them personally within the Council.

## **International Women's Day – 8 March**

Fiona Brown, a Scottish footballer who plays as a forward for FC Rosengård in the Damallsvenskan and the Scotland national team, hosted a pre-recorded session on being a woman in the world of international football.

### **General**

As part of Wester Hailes Library's Children and Young People's remit, we run a children's STEM group named FUNgineers. FUNgineers: Digging up the Past! has formed part of our digital STEM provision during the Libraries' closures. To keep the group's activities running, we made archaeology activity videos to post on our Library Facebook page. We made a little collection of primary school-level activity videos covering different aspects and periods of archaeology with a STEM or higher order thinking skills (hands-on) activity, with the objective to keep materials required as inclusive as possible: interpretation in archaeology; the Neolithic; Ancient Egypt; the Iron Age; and Viking Age.

SW Adult Learning, in partnership with Age Scotland, adapted material from Guid Fer A Laugh sessions which were used to deliver to community groups before Covid 19 and uses comedy to bring to life Scots language and when adapting the material they ensure the content is informal, fun, educational and most important easy to use. The packs are emailed out each month and community networks get the packs out to their groups. This project is reaching isolated older people, many of whom do not have access to IT, via email and post.

## **Joint Working: Libraries can make a difference.....**

As a response to the present climate, libraries are engaging in conversations around partnership work to support literacy development in children who have experienced homelessness through domestic abuse.

The essence of the work will outline a proposal to enable access to a range of resources through a regular drop-off, thus contributing towards supporting children and young people's literacy and the parent-child attachment. Strong evidence concludes that reading with a parent is known to have a positive influence on the parent child relationship, which is often undermined in situations of domestic abuse. The project seeks to encourage the joy of reading which is known to have lifetime benefits.

This initiative will facilitate literacy development in hard-to-reach groups, and further complement partnership work which is at the core of community libraries. The power of joint working through the pooling of expertise has a bearing on realising change linked to national and local strategies. Most importantly success in achieving positive outcomes can make a difference at a local level for individuals. Restrictions brought about as a result Covid-19 emphasise the need for libraries to be innovative and look outwards with a view to secure partners with a shared interest.

This last year has highlighted inequalities faced by vulnerable groups and brought about challenges and uncertainties. Remaining safe and adapting is our premise to move forward.

If you are interested or would like to know more please contact Scott Neill at [Scott.Neill@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Neill@edinburgh.gov.uk).

## Sands for School Project – Liberton High School

An exciting new facility has just been completed at Liberton High School. The first ever school based permanent beach volleyball facility in Scotland has been constructed in partnership with the high school, Scottish Volleyball and Edinburgh Beach Volleyball Club. With the support from the British Volleyball Federation and UK Sport Aspiration Fund, this facility was able to become a reality, providing a fantastic resource and platform for professional and aspiring athletes, school sports and the surrounding community. The introduction of the facility will further enhance the reputation of the local area and highlight the variety of sport on offer within the South East community.



## Swimming to the Outdoors

Due to Covid-19 and the closure of swimming pools, the Swim Team have been redeployed to schools across the city. At Balgreen Primary School outdoor sessions in the woodland attached to the school have been delivered. Working alongside school staff and supported by the Parent Council, work has been done to ensure that all pupils are able to take part in den building, hammocks, knots, art, nature, mini beasts, fires, RSPB Wild Challenge and The John Muir Award.



## Remote Learning Support – Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) has reviewed, updated and distributed its remote learning document for supporting families at home; My Activity Planner. A task and finish group incorporated resources created by SOLU and provided signposting to external resources. This is a PDF containing sport and physical activity, and outdoor learning ideas, with activities hyperlinked for families to access digitally. The Planner covers all stages and includes a section for additional support needs.

Resources include the Council's 50 Ways to Experience Outdoors in Edinburgh ([https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/images/Download/50-ways-to-experience-outdoors\\_edinburgh.pdf](https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk/images/Download/50-ways-to-experience-outdoors_edinburgh.pdf)) and Virtual Active Schools Sessions ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_7BkQ1fcgript9SV1GPw9A/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_7BkQ1fcgript9SV1GPw9A/videos)).



## Communities and Families Coronavirus Excursions Toolbox – Sport and Outdoor Learning

This unique resource keeps Council staff updated with the latest position statements and resources linked to wider Council and Scottish Government guidance. Just prior to Christmas, the Toolbox was aligned to the Scottish Government Protection Levels. This enables staff to plan, adjust and deliver safe offsite provision linked to changing infections rates and the latest protection level. It also allows staff to forward plan more complex excursions including overnight residentials. The Scottish Government released an offsite visits update in early February 2021, including a recommendation of no residential visits. This position is expected to be reviewed again by Scottish Government towards the end of March 2021.

## Coverage of Culture in the Media

A selection of stories that have appeared in the media:

Date	Item	Link
10 February 2021	Edinburgh Council urged to fix security failings after arson attack at Lauriston Castle	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/edinburgh-council-urged-fix-security-failings-after-arson-attack-lauriston-castle-3130838">https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/edinburgh-council-urged-fix-security-failings-after-arson-attack-lauriston-castle-3130838</a>
11 February 2021	Darren McGarvey's Class Wars review – the truth about social mobility	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/feb/10/darren-mcgarveys-class-wars-review-the-truth-about-social-mobility">https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/feb/10/darren-mcgarveys-class-wars-review-the-truth-about-social-mobility</a>
11 February 2021	My Favourite Scottish Work of Art: Jock McFadyen	<a href="https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish-art-news/news-press/my-favourite-scottish-work-of-art-jock-mcfadyen">https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish-art-news/news-press/my-favourite-scottish-work-of-art-jock-mcfadyen</a>
21 February 2021	Vaccine vials and a virtual hug: a history of coronavirus in 15 objects (Covid Collection)	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/feb/21/vaccine-vials-and-a-virtual-hug-a-history-of-coronavirus-in-15-objects">https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/feb/21/vaccine-vials-and-a-virtual-hug-a-history-of-coronavirus-in-15-objects</a>
21 February 2021	Gallery staff curated digital exhibition presents unique perspectives of Edinburgh through the ages	<a href="https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/02/gallery-staff-curated-digital-exhibition-presents-unique-perspectives-of-edinburgh-through-the-ages/">https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/02/gallery-staff-curated-digital-exhibition-presents-unique-perspectives-of-edinburgh-through-the-ages/</a>
5 March 2021	Museums and Galleries Edinburgh celebrate International Women's Day	<a href="https://www.reviewsphere.org/news/museums-galleries-edinburgh-celebrate-international-womens-day/">https://www.reviewsphere.org/news/museums-galleries-edinburgh-celebrate-international-womens-day/</a>
6 March 2021	Edinburgh-based choir record Zoom performance for special event	<a href="https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/edinburgh-based-choir-record-zoom-performance-for-special-event-3156660">https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/edinburgh-based-choir-record-zoom-performance-for-special-event-3156660</a>
7 March 2021	Art reviews: Edinburgh, Our City	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art/art-reviews-edinburgh-our-city-joyce-gunn-cairns-the-graduates-3157295">https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art/art-reviews-edinburgh-our-city-joyce-gunn-cairns-the-graduates-3157295</a>

## Culture and Communities Committee



**Convener**

Councillor Donald Wilson



**Vice-Convener**

Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan

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### Members

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