



### We need your jumble...



The ESU is holding a **Fundraising Jumble Sale** on Saturday 10th April. There will be stalls for books, clothes, bric a brac, plants, and cakes. There will also be a tombola, and bottle stall, as well as tea and coffee. We really do need your donations, so please do hunt through your cupboards. If you can spare the time to come and help beforehand or on the day, we would be extremely grateful. It's all in a good cause!

### ...bring it along to the ESU!



On Thursday 15th April at 7pm the **Atholl Crescent Debating Society** is holding **Election Hustings** at the ESU. This is a great opportunity to listen to speakers from all the main parties and hear what they have to say. With the next General Election drawing ever closer, this will be a really exciting event.



The 2nd round of the **ESU Juniors Debating Competition** has now been completed. Speakers debated the motion *This House Believes That Google Should Always Respect The Censorship Laws of Foreign States*, which produced very interesting and mature discussion of the importance of free speech, respecting other cultural traditions, economic liberalism, and the West's relationship with China. We are very grateful to our sponsors for this round, **The Confucius Institute**, which is dedicated to the promotion and development of Chinese language and culture throughout the world.

On 18th March ESU Scotland and Soroptimist International of Edinburgh held a **Conan Doyle Concert**. Generously sponsored by **Renew Physio**, it celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and featured the "Sherlock" violin, made by local violin maker, Steve Burnett, from a tree in the garden of Conan Doyle's home. We were incredibly lucky to have two of Scotland's brightest young musicians, Feargus Hetherington, playing the "Sherlock" violin, and Matthew McAllister, on the classical guitar. Scottish and classical pieces were interspersed with readings from Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlet*.



**Matthew McAllister and Feargus Hetherington**

### One of last year's finalists



The **Readings Day** for the **Inspired? Get writing!** competition takes place at the Hawthornden Lecture Theatre at the National Gallery of Scotland on Thursday 22nd April. The winning entries will be read alongside images of the works that inspired them. Places in the evening are limited, so please get in touch with Suzanne if you would like to come.

**10.30-11.30am** Under 12  
**1.30-3.00pm** 12-15 years, 16-18 years  
**5.30-7.00pm** Published and Unpublished Adults

- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England & Wales
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- India
- Japan
- Korea
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Morocco
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- Sri Lanka
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- USA
- Vanuatu
- Yemen

## In focus...

**Laura Helyer's winning piece from the unpublished adult category in our *Inspired? Get writing!* Competition...**

Joan Among Nets

The blue boat was our escape.  
See how it ran and ran into the sleek, green sea.

We did not have to push, or spade the waves.  
The foam, spray, the rush – zinc white,

the cottages tipping the cliff,  
chops of boulder clay – red ochre,

vermilion fields of valved earth,  
heavy slates of weather, a continent of cloud.

\*\*\*

The slubbed nets haired the depths.  
I wanted their slim, free bodies

hooked to a line of sun.  
Flicker and twist, a meeting of eyes,

flicker, and then nothing.  
Bottle-green, royal blue.

Deep, calmed silence.  
Your breath; mine.

\*\*\*

Tonight I will hold you again  
stickered with fish scales,

sequin kisses I call them,  
shining your skin, your hair

the flavour of old ocean and love,  
sung on my tongue.

*~inspired by the paintings, photographs and letters of Joan Eardley*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

■ Thursday 8th April 6.00-8.30pm  
**Creative Writing Group**  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh  
£3, free to ESU members

■ Friday 9th April  
10.00am-12.00pm  
**International Coffee Morning**  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, £2

■ Saturday 10th April, 10.30am  
**ESU Jumble Sale**  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, 50p

■ Thursday 15th April, 7.00pm  
**ACDS Election Hustings**  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh

■ Thursday 22nd April  
**Inspired? Get writing! Award Ceremony and Readings Day**  
National Gallery of Scotland

■ Thursday 29th April, 12.30-2.30pm  
**Edinburgh Branch Lunch**  
Professor John Joseph  
University of Edinburgh  
*Does the English Language Have a Future?*  
Overseas House, Princes Street  
£12 for 2-course lunch and coffee,  
please book with the office

### MAY

■ Thursday 6th May 6.00-8.30pm  
**Creative Writing Group**  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh  
£3, free to ESU members

■ Friday 7th May 10.00am-12.00  
**International Coffee Morning**  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, £2

■ Saturday 15th May, 6.00pm  
**International Schools' Mace Final**  
University of Glasgow Chapel

■ Thursday 27th May, 7.00pm  
**ACDS European Movement in Scotland Debate**  
*Democratic Deficit in Europe*  
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh

■ Monday 31st May, 12.00 noon  
Call Memorial Service  
The Call Statue, West Princes Street  
Gardens, Edinburgh  
Followed by lunch at 23 Atholl  
Crescent, please book in advance

### THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION SCOTLAND

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