



Upcoming events...



We are holding a **Summer Garden Party** on Sunday 15th August in Douglas Gardens, Edinburgh. Celebrated Scottish film maker, Murray Grigor, will be giving a talk, and this is a great opportunity to enjoy the sunshine (we hope!) and meet up with friends over a picnic and a glass of wine. It starts at 1.00pm and will carry on through the afternoon. Tickets for this event cost £10 which includes a buffet picnic lunch (BYOB as usual). Please book tickets in advance from the office.



ESU Jumble Sale
18th September 10.30am

We need your jumble and your help! Please also let us know if you are able to volunteer to help beforehand or on the day.

The **ESU Scotland AGM** is on Tuesday 31st August at 7pm here at 23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh. All ESU members are encouraged to attend.



Recent news...

For the second time we held a **Fundraising Race Night** and once again it was a fun evening where we had the opportunity to experience all the excitement of a day at the races. The Gallery was packed with friends, members and EFL students who came along to enjoy a buffet supper, quizzes and races galore, and we raised over £1,000 towards our debating work with schools. Races were generously sponsored by: **Brewin Dolphin Ltd, French Duncan, Geoghegans, Indigo, Kraya Digital Technologies, Brian Monteith, Ryden, Vacta** and **William Grant & Sons Ltd**. Many thanks also to everyone who generously donated raffle prizes. This is an annual event, so if you missed it, come along next year!



ESU Race Night



The Scottish Parliament

The **ESU Scotland Juniors Debating Competition Final** was held at The Scottish Parliament on 19th June, where we were hosted by Robin Harper MSP. The teams were: Charlie Holmes and Sophy Corke (George Heriot's School), Katie Wood and Craig Brownhill (Robert Gordon's College), Colin Malaney and Lauren Fairlie (Boclair Academy), Amritha Sastry and Chrissie Symington (Douglas Academy). The motion was *This House Believes That Developing Countries Should Have The Right To Prioritise Economic Development Over The Environment*. After a very interesting and lively debate the judges awarded the win to George Heriot's School for the second year running- a remarkable achievement! We would like to thank everybody who has participated in this year's Juniors (and their teachers!), our hosts at The Scottish Parliament, Robin Harper, and all our judges.

Our **Head of Speech and Debate**, Jack Donaldson, is moving on to pastures new. ESU Scotland is now recruiting for a new member of staff to administer our speech and debates programme. We would like to thank Jack for all his hard work over the past year and wish him every success in the future. Good luck, Jack!

The ESU Scotland **Schools Public Speaking Competition** Final was kindly hosted by the Lord Provost of The City of Edinburgh at the City Chambers. The standard was extremely high with excellent speeches on the topic of *carpe diem*. The winner was Giancarlo Bell from Trinity High School, Glasgow. Many thanks to our judges: The Rt. Hon. George Grubb, Lord Provost of The City of Edinburgh; Mr Jamie McGrigor MSP; Ms Namita Sofat, HSBC; and Ms Victoria Smith, ESU Debating and Public Speaking Coach. The competition was generously sponsored by **HSBC**



Edinburgh City Chambers



In focus...

Brian Monteith, Chairman of ESU Scotland

Malta and Turkey sparkle in the sun...

The launches of two new international ESU branches took place over the summer and ESU Scotland was well represented at both. At the end of May Malta joined the ESU community, followed immediately in June by Turkey. Both events were great fun and exceptional educational experiences.

The ESU Malta launch was at the well-appointed Radisson Blu where the delegations gathered and the official ceremony included examples of various schools' debating and speaking initiatives. Giving Scotland an impressive presence were former Chairman Jon Dye, my partner Jackie Lockett and myself. We visited the beautiful St John's Co-Cathedral, the docks and some important homes to Malta's cultural treasures, the launch finishing with a day in Gozo where a sister branch was launched.

The Turkey trip followed on almost immediately and involved a rather arduous journey for those going from Malta to Turkey due to a long layover in making the flight connections in Italy. Jackie and I had meantime made the trip back to Edinburgh so we could attend our own Call Service in Princes Street Gardens and were pleased to see the weather was just as lovely in our fair city as it was in Valetta.

We met Jon in Istanbul, and by this time he had been joined by his mum, Norma, and Irene Smith from the Edinburgh Branch, all staying in two lovely hotels. We were given tours of the Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosques, the former being my favourite, and other highlights included a splendid meal on a boat cruise down the Bosphorus at night. What a spectacle it was seeing the riverside palaces, forts and bridges sparkling in their coloured illuminations, something I'll never forget.

Of course at ESU launches what is especially enjoyable is making new friends and meeting old ones – and both these launches did not disappoint, with the Maltese and Turks being wonderful hosts. The dining in some interesting restaurants was also exceptional.

ESU international launches are open to any member and I would encourage people to go. They are not especially cheap like a package holiday – they are more of a cultural tour after all – but you do stay in a good standard of hotel and doors open for you that would not normally be easy to enter. The launch receptions at the British High Commissioner or Ambassador's house is always a highlight, while other museums, churches and places of antiquity often open for private viewing and these launches were no exception.

Next summer we can expect ESU Iceland to launch, the conception of which ESU Scotland was behind, and as a father figure we hope to have a large party attending using the direct flights from Glasgow – watch this space for details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

- 6th-30th August
Ed Cross Fine Art Exhibition
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
- Thursday 5th August 6.00-8.30pm
Creative Writing Group
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to ESU Members
- Friday 6th August 10am-12 noon
International Coffee Morning
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh **£2**
- Sunday 15th August 1.00pm
ESU Summer Garden Party
Douglas Gardens, Edinburgh
£10, includes lunch (BYOB)
- Tuesday 31st August 7.00pm
ESU Scotland AGM
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 2nd Sept. 6.00-8.30pm
Creative Writing Group
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to ESU Members
- Friday 3rd Sept. 10am-12 noon
International Coffee Morning
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh **£2**
- Saturday 18th September 10.30am
ESU Autumn Jumble Sale
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh

OCTOBER

- Friday 1st October 10am-12 noon
International Coffee Morning
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh **£2**
- Saturday 2nd October 8.00pm
70s Disco
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
Details to follow
- Thursday 7th October 6.00-8.30pm
Creative Writing Group
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
£3, free to ESU Members
- Friday 29th October 7.30pm
Ghostly Hallowe'en Dinner
23 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh
Details to follow

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