In September 2005, Edinburgh City of Literature Trust renewed Edinburgh's literary salon tradition with the first monthly gathering at the Traverse Theatre.

After a year at the Traverse Theatre, the literary salon is now held at the Wash Bar, a pub in the centre of Edinburgh. Edinburgh has a thriving literary community full of authors, poets, illustrators, playwrights and more. The salon served as an event to bring these people together in a friendly and approachable environment to discuss books, writing, ideas, professional development and much more.

Since 2005, Edinburgh City of Literature Trust has hosted over 100 salons in the city. Those who attend are actually a range from publishers, poets, writers and literary editors to agents and booksellers, people who have a professional interest in literature and writing.

There is usually a guest speaker or two who are invited along to talk about an upcoming event, opportunity or an organization that is of interest for those attending. The salon offers a place to meet like-minded people and share thoughts, problems and ideas. It strengthens the sense of community in Edinburgh's literary sector.
CREATING AN EVENT TO SHARE IDEAS AND STRENGTHEN THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THE LITERATURE SECTOR

By 2011, the annual salon attendance figures were over 500 and the event had succeeded in being the literary event to attend and speak at to access the literary community of Edinburgh.

The salon event has been so successful that the model has been copied across the city, with the creation of the Scran Salon in 2014, a regular monthly event for the food community, and the Creative Salon in 2016.

The Salon has also been replicated in other Scottish cities with Weegie Wednesdays in Glasgow, and around the world in sister Cities of Literature Melbourne and Dunedin.

There are projects to expand the format of the literary salon, with ideas including hosting the event in different venues at certain points in the year and inviting a broader range of speakers.

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