

Haggis Police Box pops up in the Grassmarket

Scotland's only haggis police box eatery, recently launched by cousins Laura and Peter Sutherland, are holding a Burns Day open mic poetry event from today Friday 25 until Sunday 27 January, in partnership with the Grassmarket Community Project. The scheme will allow patrons to pay forward meals for vulnerable people living in the city – including homeless people, people with mental health issues or illness and people who are exceptionally isolated and without recourse to public funds.

Locals and visitors to Edinburgh are being asked drop by the The Haggis Box police box in the Grassmarket from today till Sunday from 12 noon till 5.00pm.

For every customer who buys haggis, neeps & tatties and takes on the challenge of reciting their favourite Robert Burns poem, The Haggis Box will pay forward a meal, through the Grassmarket Community Project by catering their Monday 28 January drop-in free dinner. Any remaining paid-forward meals will be provided to the Grassmarket Community Project by way of vouchers redeemable through the winter at the The Haggis Box police box.

There is no need for people to worry if they don't know one of

the Bard's works off-by-heart as printed versions of the classics will be provided so that everyone can have a go!

Since the launch on 17 November, The Haggis Box has got off to a flying start, particularly over Hogmanay, with around two thousand people, locals and visitors from around the world, having sampled the country's national dish in the first nine weeks.

The main ingredients are all sourced as locally as possible, with haggis from Findlays of Portobello and the neeps & tatties from Perthshire & East Lothian. All the dishes are prepared fresh daily by Laura and Peter.

The Haggis Box will be located in the Grassmarket until the end of March and is currently looking for a new pop up site thereafter.

Laura Sutherland from The Haggis Box, said: "We are very happy to be partnering with the Grassmarket Community Project over Burns weekend. As we have a business that opens on to the street during the winter, we are very aware of people in the area who could do with a hot meal and this event gives us a great opportunity to extend our provision of these with a local organisation which has been doing such stellar work for so many years.

"We are absolutely blown away with the feedback on the haggis, neeps & tatties experience we've been providing and the great response, from locals and visitors, to the quality haggis takeaway concept."

Jonny Kinross, CEO of Grassmarket Community Project, said: "We are delighted to partner with The Haggis police box eatery on this event – which will not only be fun and celebrate our country's Bard and food heritage but will support many of the city's most vulnerable.

"It's not just about providing a free meal, it's about

reaching out to people often ignored and sending them a message that we care, that The Haggis Box and their customer – the public – care.

“Anyone who receives a meal courtesy of the Haggis Box’ Burns Event not only gets fed, they also feel more connected to the wider programmes and groups we run at the Grassmarket – from counselling, therapies to social enterprises – people can get connected to the community and feel a sense of belonging.

“I cannot thank The Haggis Box and their customers enough for taking part and making this donation to us.

“We’ve been feeding homeless people every week for decades supported by local churches and volunteers – this generous act of using Burns celebrations to support people will enable us to do even more for even more of Edinburgh’s most vulnerable at this difficult time of year, with bitterly cold temperatures and short daylight and many people enjoying our meals as their only meal each day.”