

Five things you need to know today

✘ Robert Burns

Open Eye Gallery

House @42

Occupy Edinburgh

Juniper Green Community Council

The image of Robert Burns is one of the most iconic and representative of Scotland, and today would have been his birthday. He was born in Ayrshire in 1759, and spent at least some of his 37 years in Edinburgh. This painting by Calum Colvin, which has been on display at the Open Eye Gallery as part of the 'Chosen Few' shows him off to perfection. Thirty professionals and patrons of the gallery selected thirty Scottish artists for this recent exhibition, and also explained the reason for their choices. The gallery will show its new works from Monday 30 January 2012. In the new exhibition there will be works by Rob Fairley, Kirsty Wither and ceramics by Clementina van der Walt.

The best version of Ae Fond Kiss written by Burns for Edinburgh woman Nancy MacLehose, or Clarinda, as she was known in the covert letters which Burns wrote to her is, in The Reporter's view, by Scotland's own Dougie MacLean.

Howie's at Waterloo Place used to be called Clarinda's some time back, and is now enjoying a renaissance as the original owners have taken it back under their wings. David Howie Scott and Alison Craig have been involved in the restaurant business

for a while and now the [Waterloo Place restaurant](#) is welcoming your bookings...again! Tonight is the only night that you cannot get the January deal, but otherwise they have a 2 course dinner on offer for £11.95.

You can catch some Burns music tonight in Edinburgh at the House @42 if you [book your slot by email](#). "Music will be supplied by [Jake Cogan](#) who has just released an album of Burns Songs entitled *Parcel of Rogues*. She has been attracting all the right attention as this fabulous quote from Dick Gaughan proves: "On rare occasions you realise that what you're listening to is what a real singer should be, someone with a direct connection between soul and voice. Jake Cogan is one of those rare few." It's Jake's debut at the house, but this young singer-songwriter is going places so catch her while you can."

The case brought by Essential Edinburgh to evict Occupy Edinburgh, who have been camping in St Andrew Square, is on the court rolls to be heard at Edinburgh Sheriff Court this morning. The group have said that they will leave by lunchtime. They have asked on [Twitter](#) for a piper to attend outside the Sheriff Court in the morning...and they have also quoted Burns there... Essential Edinburgh have said to The Reporter :-"We welcome their decision to leave St Andrew Square. In terms of damage, Essential Edinburgh and the City Council will be working together in assessing the scale of the damage and what needs to be done."

[Juniper Green Community Council](#) meet tonight at 7.00p.m in the

Juniper Green Church Hall. They have a nice section on their website which [shows all the entries](#) for their photographic competition which they say allows you to “see oorsels as ithers see us” (which of course is a Burns quotation...)