

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh's Christmas is launched – Batsheva Dance – Postcards for Sick Kids Friends Foundation – Vivaldi at The Usher Hall – Wine tasting at Le Di-vin

Notwithstanding that it is only just after Halloween, the organisers of Edinburgh's Christmas were at the Castle yesterday to launch all the fun and games that will be on offer during the festive season. The city will come to life with a Light Night ceremony on Thursday 29 November 2012 on the Mound. A combination of projection, aerial performance and pyrotechnics will then build excitement through a specially commissioned show – *Christmas Dream Machine*. Revealing the enchanting dreams of a child at Christmas, the performance will culminate in the lighting of Edinburgh's Norwegian Christmas Tree; a gift from the people of Hordaland. A Brazilian Samba Band will lead revellers to St Andrew Square, where the festivities will continue with a live after show, featuring an array of local artists, entertainers and a fire show.

The Herald reports today on the continuing disruption to the Batsheva Ensemble's performance, this time at the Festival Theatre. We reported on the protests by a variety of different groups to the Israeli dancers performance at The Playhouse Theatre [during the Festival here.](#)

From tomorrow at Lyon and Turnbull you can help the Sick Kids Friends Foundation and you may be making an investment in art

at the same time.

This is one of the Sick Kids Friends Foundations most prestigious events, held every two years at the impressive buildings of Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers. Many leading and up and coming artists from across the UK contribute works of art on postcard sized boards which are then exhibited anonymously. The challenge for you is to identify a piece of work by a current master or an artist of the future and potentially snag a great bargain!

The exhibition runs from tomorrow till Sunday 4 November 2012 and is free to all, so please drop in and see some wonderful postcard sized works of art by some of Britain's most talented and up and coming artists.

For more information please contact Vicki on 0131 668 4949 or at Victoria.e.watson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Times:

Friday 2nd November 10am – 4pm,

Saturday 3rd November 10am – 4pm

Sunday 4th November 12pm – 4pm

Venue:

Lyon and Turnbull

33 Broughton Place

Edinburgh

EH1 3RR

ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC : Vivaldi at Christmas at The Usher Hall on Friday 7 December 7.30pm

Tickets cost £27.50, £24.50, £21, £16 and £10

Over the past four decades the Academy of Ancient Music has performed live on every continent except Antarctica and reached millions with its acclaimed array of over 300 Brit and

Grammy Award winning CDs.

Celebrate Christmas with a joyful programme of festive music by Vivaldi featuring the Choir of the Academy of Ancient Music .

Elizabeth Watts: Soprano

Daniela Lehner: Mezzo-Soprano

Richard Egarr: Director & Harpsichord

Vivaldi Concerto in E major RV270 'Il riposo per il Santissimo Natale

Vivaldi Dixit Dominus RV594

Vivaldi Gloria RV589

Tickets now on sale. Visit usherhall.co.uk or call 0131 228 1155

Time to get your tickets for a wine tasting at Le Di-Vin in Randolph Place which is on 13 November 2012.

Le Di-Vi Wine Bar at Randolph Place part of La P'tite Folie restaurant in Edinburgh is holding a wine tasting then from 7pm with Paul O'Donoghue from Enotria and will include the selection of wine shown below as well as nibbles of their delicious charcuterie for £25 per person.

Le Di Vin is the Wine Bar beside La P'tite Folie restaurant. It provides an elegant setting for a light meal or where you can learn and experiment as most are sold by the glass.

The chic and classy venue offers a few intimate corners and a magnificent mezzanine floor where you can enjoy platters of cheese, charcuterie, smoked fish, terrines, and salads with complementing wine.

To book tickets or for further details please contact [Le Di Vin Wine Bar](#) direct – 0131 538 1815

The wine selection on the evening is:

Champalou, Vouvray Sec, France

Urlar, Organic Pinot Gris, New Zealand

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Hart Hunter, Shiraz, Australia

Iona, 'The Gunnar', South Africa

Domaine Brusset, Gigondas, France

Humberto Canale, Gran Reserva Malbec, Patagonia

Domaine Pijeade, Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, France