

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



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Neil Oliver talking at Edinburgh Napier University

Edinburgh Art Festival

Virgin Atlantic is funny

New Homes

The Fringe is now well underway and the Edinburgh International Festival and the Edinburgh International Book Festival are both off the starting blocks. What have you been to see? What did you enjoy best?

We would like to see your photos and videos of the sights you see and have your reviews of the shows you get along to.

Add your photos, videos and reviews [here](#). Take a look at what others have already posted!



Neil Oliver will lead the annual Combat Stress Summer Lecture in Edinburgh this August, as the world commemorates the start of the First World War. Combat Stress, the specialist mental health charity for Veterans, was formed in 1919 in the aftermath of the War.

It is fitting that the Lecture, on 19 August 2014, will take place at Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus, the site of the former Craiglockhart War Hospital. Throughout the First World War many soldiers returning home were sent to Craiglockhart War Hospital for treatment, where renowned war poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sasson first met. Guests at the Lecture will be able to visit the University's fascinating museum, which houses The War Poets Collection.

Following his qualification as an archeologist in 1988, Neil Oliver has gone on to work across subjects from the early Stone Age in Scotland to the examination of World War II coastal fortifications. Most recently he worked with renowned historian Trevor Royle on a documentary examining the impact of modern trench warfare on a rifle company of 4th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, making him a fitting speaker for the Combat Stress Scotland Summer Lecture.

The UK's leading mental health charity for Veterans, Combat Stress marks its 95th anniversary this year. With more than 830 Veterans currently being supported in Scotland the charity's work is as vital today as it was after the First World War.

Combat Stress provides a unique and dedicated service to Veterans with conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression and anxiety. The charity provides a range of specialist services including Hollybush House treatment centre in Ayrshire, a Community and Outreach Service and a 24-hour Helpline, 0800 138 1619.

Neil Oliver said: "It is a real honour to be chosen by Combat Stress to lead their Summer Lecture, especially in a year which marks an event as significant as the centenary of the First World War. Throughout my work and the various research projects I have been involved in I have become increasingly aware of the effects war has on Veterans, not only those who have served in the past but also those leaving the armed

forces today. This lecture gives me a great opportunity to raise awareness of the invaluable work that Combat Stress does in Scotland, and throughout the UK, to support Veterans and their families. I am looking forward to sharing my own experiences and knowledge with those in attendance on the day."

Kath Provan, Fundraising Officer for Combat Stress in Scotland, said: "We are delighted to welcome Neil Oliver to speak at our annual Summer Lecture. I am sure that with his vast experience and knowledge he will lead a thoroughly interesting and compelling event.

"The Summer Lecture helps us to raise awareness of the work of Combat Stress in supporting Veterans and their families. Following the success of last year's event, we are looking forward to welcoming both old and new faces along to Craiglockhart Campus in August."

The lecture will be held on **Tuesday 19 August** at **12pm** at **Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus**. Tickets are on sale now at a cost of **£29.50**, including a buffet lunch, and are available by calling **01372 587 148** via www.eventbrite.co.uk.



This week artist Leon Morrocco talks to Richard Demarco at the Open Eye Gallery.

[More here.](#)



To celebrate the Edinburgh Fringe Virgin Atlantic are working with top comedians including Russell Kane and Richard Herring

in a series of sky-high gigs this August as our short haul service Little Red becomes the unofficial 300th Edinburgh Fringe venue.

Russell Kane performed the first sky high gig on return flights from London to Edinburgh last week and this week it was the turn of Carl Donnelly!

Barratt Homes have confirmed two new housing developments, which will bring over 400 new homes to the East of Scotland.

Duddingston Park South, in Duddingston will have 139 homes and Newcraighall Village in Newcraighall will have 165 homes. In addition to these new homes Barratt will also build 102 affordable homes across each development.

Newcraighall Village and Duddingston Park South are both set to launch later in 2014.

Anne Ross, sales director at Barratt Homes for the East of Scotland said: "2014 has been buoyant year for new homes sales and we are pleased to be launching these two new developments in the Edinburgh area, to allow us to keep up with demand. With a wide selection of modern homes on offer and in sought after locations, we hope these developments will be extremely popular.

For more information, visit www.barratthomes.co.uk or call 0844 811 6699.