

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh MSP congratulates University of Edinburgh

100 years of planning

The Great War – a Commemoration

Edinburgh travel companies to take part in VisitScotland expo

Award winning gin from North Berwick

Jim Eadie, MSP for Edinburgh Southern, has tabled a parliamentary motion congratulating the University of Edinburgh on rising 17 places to 29th in the 2015 Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings.

The University of Edinburgh is the only Scottish institution to make it onto the rankings, which incorporate the 100 most powerful global university brands.

In a statement, Jim Eadie said:

“It is fantastic to see the University of Edinburgh rise 17 places to 29th in these latest rankings, consolidating its position as one of the world’s leading research and teaching establishments.

“The University of Edinburgh is truly world class and is a credit to Scotland’s education system. I am delighted to be able to pay tribute to the quality, hard work and dedication of the university’s staff and students.”



A touring exhibition tracing 100 years of town planning in Edinburgh will open this weekend at the historic Museum of Edinburgh.

The *100 Years of Planning* temporary display, which launched at the Council's Waverley Court in September before touring different corners of the city, takes the visitor through ten decades of the Edinburgh skyline from 1914 to the present day.

From the father of modern town planning, Sir Patrick Geddes, to the man who designed Edinburgh's iconic police boxes, Ebenezer James Macrae, the exhibition takes a look at the personalities who have made significant contributions to the cityscape of the Capital.

The [Museum of Edinburgh](#) is housed in a series of 16th to 18th century buildings arranged around a close off the Royal Mile, making parts of the site up to 500 years old. The exhibition is free to enter and will remain in the Museum until 20 June 2015.

At the Signet Library on Thursday there was an evening of Great War entertainment. Sparked by the publication of Edinburgh lawyer Alastair Shepherd's new book investigating those Writers to the Signet who had perished in the First World War, the evening included both music and theatre. There was a performance by David Clarke who portrayed a war survivor, and music from the WS Orchestra who played the Cecil Coles piece Sorrowful Dance for the first time in Scotland.

[The Edinburgh Reporter News](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

A number of new exhibitors from Edinburgh and The Lothians will be attending Scotland's biggest travel trade event, VisitScotland expo this year.

*HAGGiS Adventures, Viajar Por Escocia/Scozia Tour, The Rutland Hotel and Apartments, The Splendid Hospitality Group, Village Urban Resort, Scotland's Churches Trust – The Pilgrim Journeys Project, Spirit of Scotland, Scotland's Golf Coast and Rosslyn Chapel will all be exhibiting at this year's biggest travel trade event for the first time.

Also in a first for the trade show Visit West Lothian, Visit East Lothian and Midlothian Council will be partnering as 'Visit the Lothians' to showcase the area as a central destination for tourism, as well as launching a new website.

More than £24 million worth of business is likely to be conducted over the two days of VisitScotland expo, which takes place in just six weeks at Aberdeen's AECC on 22nd and 23rd April 2015. Scotland will be promoted by over 200 businesses from across the country with a Scottish tourism product to highlight. Compared to 2014's expo at Glasgow's SECC, there will be at least a 33% increase in new exhibitors.

Tourism businesses from across Scotland will have the opportunity to showcase the very best the country has to offer, including food and drink, accommodation, entertainment, culture, scenery and attractions.

It was recently announced that Aberdeenshire Council and VisitAberdeen are to be official destination partners at this year's VisitScotland expo. The partnership with VisitScotland will offer both Aberdeenshire Council and VisitAberdeen stand space and marketing opportunities to further promote Aberdeen City and Shire to tourism businesses.

VisitScotland expo will be attended by almost 380 hosted

international buyers and over 200 hand-picked UK based buyers, including tour operators, wholesalers, travel agents and travel media.



NB Gin has won the 'Best London Dry Gin' category at The World Drinks Awards 2015, the results of which were announced during lunch at the Whiskies and Spirits Conference in London last week.

The awards were presented by the Chair and Editor of TheDrinksReport.com, Felicity Murray and were selected by an international panel of experts over three rounds of judging. Felicity says: "The judges of both the Taste and Design categories were extremely discerning – all those who have won an award can be justifiably proud."

Vivienne Muir, director at NB Gin, says: "We're absolutely delighted to have won this prestigious award. From the very beginning, our focus has been on quality and we're thrilled that this has been recognised at The World Drinks Awards. To have come this far in the 18 months since we launched NB Gin is just unbelievable. We're extremely proud of this achievement and very thankful to everyone who has supported us."

NB Gin is produced by Vivienne and her husband Steve in a custom-made copper still at their micro-distillery in North Berwick, East Lothian. Using the London Dry Gin distillation process, it's made from pure British grain spirit and a blend of eight botanicals, all of which have been meticulously selected to produce a smooth and balanced flavour.

The Muirs say that demand for NB Gin has been overwhelming. As a result, they have upgraded their equipment and expanded

their premises for the second time in a year to make sure that they're geared up for more significant production. They have also launched a new website at www.nbgin.com

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