

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh MPs

Saughton Park Garden Party

Karaoke in the Kirkgate

Orchestra

Fringe matters

Our five Edinburgh MPs all now have their positions and 'specialist subjects' for the start of the five years ahead:

Deidre Brock MP for Edinburgh North & Leith has been appointed Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Scottish Parliament/Scottish Government Liaison)

Joanna Cherry MP for Edinburgh South West has been appointed Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Justice and Home Affairs)

Ian Murray MP for Edinburgh South is the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland as part of the [Her Majesty's Official Opposition](#)

Tommy Sheppard MP for Edinburgh East has been appointed Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Cabinet Office)

Michelle Thomson MP for Edinburgh West has been appointed Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Business, Innovation and Skills)





An Edinburgh amateur orchestra celebrates a milestone birthday this year. The Stockbridge and New Town Community Orchestra was founded 20 years ago and is preparing to mark the occasion with its spring concert.

Made up of amateur musicians from throughout Edinburgh – and further afield – the orchestra rehearses weekly in Stockbridge and puts on two concerts each year.

The group will next take to the stage on May 28 in Stockbridge Parish Church where the programme will include music by Strauss, Haydn and Vaughan Williams. The church choir will also join the orchestra for a rendition of Haydn's Te Deum.

Orchestra chairman Jill Andrew said:

“At Stockbridge and New Town Community Orchestra the emphasis is on community. Our weekly rehearsals give us the chance to forget about stressful jobs, chores or children and play some music. It doesn't matter that we're not all virtuosos at our chosen instrument, we're having fun and making music.

“We're really looking forward to celebrating our 20th birthday and hope as many people as possible will come along to make it a very special occasion.”

Founder member Catriona Crosby said:

“When a small group of musicians got together in 1995 and decided to form an orchestra, I don't think any of us believed it would still be going in 20 years' time.

“But not only is it still going, it's going from strength to strength and our numbers are continuing to grow. It's a fun way to make music in a relaxed environment and I'm sure the orchestra will go on for many years to come, giving pleasure to players and, hopefully, our audiences.”

The concert takes place on 28 May at 7.30pm in Stockbridge Parish Church and tickets are available on the door.



Four important parts of The Festival Fringe 2015 announced their programme earlier this week. And it looks like a lot of fun!

We were at the launch of the fourway programme on Wednesday evening and had the good fortune to catch up with Karen Koren and Ed Bartlam who head up the Gilded Balloon and Underbelly respectively. Then we staged a wee photocell with the five people in charge of the four venues : Gilded Balloon, Underbelly, Pleasance and Assembly all shown in our photos

here.

[Read more here!](#)

Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter !
[mc4wp_form]



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.