

Five things you need to know today!



Harmonium

Fringe tip of the day

Drop in Day at Granton Community Gardens

Hopetoun Farm Shop wins an award

EdinburghReportage





The Edinburgh International Festival got off to a resounding start on Friday night. 20,000 people gathered in Festival Square to watch and listen outside The Usher Hall to John Adams Harmonium set to music played by the RSN0 and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus.

Here is the official Edinburgh International Festival video or you can watch ours of the practice session by clicking [here](#)!

This one starts at 10am but you will have time to get along to the National Galleries of Scotland where legendary stand-up, poet and roving sketchsmith Phill Jupitus is in residence for another three weeks of digital drawing, chat and mirth.

Each morning, armed with his trusty iPad loaded with drawing app [Paper](#), Phill will select and sketch a favourite of his from the Gallery Collection. You are encouraged to come watch and chat with Phill, but also to join in: bring your own iPad or drawing materials and make and share your own sketches.

The Galleries are posting Phill's work each day on Facebook and Twitter and encouraging others to share their efforts there too.

Phill is at a different gallery every week, he visits the Scottish National Gallery on 7-13 August, then the Portrait Gallery 14-20 August, and finally the Gallery of Modern Art on 21-27 August.

Every Wednesday is Sketch Comic for Kids! when younger


visitors are encouraged to draw with Phill. Grown-ups are welcome too!

Every Thursday evening Phill hosts a free in-conversation event – with a different very special guest each time. Expect a passionate and irreverent, if personal look at art as they sit, chat about what Phill has seen in the Galleries that week and maybe even do some sketching themselves!

Part of the 2015 [Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#).

New potatoes! Lots of them. Also, can we grow almonds in Granton? Apparently yes! in Anne's amazing wee suntrap garden! Next drop in Tuesday at 11am, corner of Wardieburn Road and Boswall Parkway. All welcome!

Posted by [Granton Community Gardeners](#) on [Sunday, 9 August 2015](#)

 Hopetoun Farm Shop near South Queensferry has been accredited in three categories at the 2015 Great Taste Awards for their quality butchery products.

The “Simply delicious” chicken, turkey and lamb Hopetoun Farm Shop products, raised on the nearby Estate, were merited at the prestigious food awards.

Organised by the Guild of Fine Food, The Great Taste Awards is the benchmark for fine food and drink in the UK. In each of the three categories Hopetoun Farm Shop was awarded one star.

The judging process in 2015 saw over 400 judges, including acclaimed food writers, top chefs and other food experts, come together at 49 judging days from March through to early July.

Competition for stars at the Great Taste Awards is tough and out of 10,000 product entries, only 31% were accredited.

The Hopetoun poultry received great comments from the judges – the turkey “...roasted beautifully with crisp golden skin and moist meat on the breast” and the “lovely looking chicken had an appetising aroma.

The lamb also received high praise for being “an impressive joint of meat from an innovative breeding combination.”

Mike Eagers, Head of Rural and Land Use at Hopetoun Estate commented “These awards recognise the hard work of the farmers and butchers at Hopetoun Farm, as all beef, lamb, poultry and game sold in the shop is reared on the Estate’s farms.

“Our animals are reared in a way which ensures high standards of husbandry and record keeping, resulting in full traceability.”

Marc Cherrie, Farm Shop General Manager said “The Great Taste logo is recognised as the sign you can trust when buying food and drink in a local, quality retailer, so we are thrilled to be able to display it.

At Hopetoun Farm Shop we focus on sustainability and provenance and aim to provide shoppers with outstanding products and support them in making informed food choices.”

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