

Five things you need to know today



Council redundancies

The highlight of Edinburgh's Christmas

Absent Friends

The Rolling Hills Chorus Presents Twa Rebellions!

Alan Cumming at the Book Festival

The council's Finance and Resources Committee yesterday approved plans to engage in compulsory redundancies if there are not enough members of staff coming forward to take voluntary redundancy. The council say they need to shed 2000 jobs across their 20,000 staff to allow them to make enough savings to balance the books.

The Chief Executive said during the meeting that it is not just sheer numbers that will allow the council to offer a balanced budget for the next four years, it is also the transformation programme already begun which will deliver a leaner more agile council.

[Read more here.](#)



Edinburgh's Christmas have already reserved 100,000 tickets for the Virgin Money Street of Light in just a week since they went online. The newest event in a catalogue of entertainment appears to have struck a chord with those in Edinburgh and beyond who have flocked to the site to snap up their tickets.

[Read more here.](#)



To Absent Friends: Here's To You. On 6th November, as part of the **To Absent Friends Festival**, Serenity Cafe will be hosting a memorial supper for those who have been lost to drugs or alcohol. There will be tributes and stories, and anyone is welcome to say a few words about someone who has died after struggling with addictions. If you would like to go along, please contact mail@comas.org.uk so that the organisers know how many people to cater for. 6.30-8.30pm, Friday 6th November, [Serenity Cafe](#), Jackson's Entry, The Tun, Holyrood Road. **Serenity Cafe** is Scotland's first Recovery Café, run by people in recovery for people in recovery, and for public customers who want good value, good quality food in a relaxed space; all events are drink and drugs-free. You can read more about **To Absent Friends** in our article [here](#).



1745 and 2014: the Jacobites have the best songs, but what about Godfather Alex Salmond? Tonight Edinburgh's Rolling Hills Chorus will take you on a journey of historical twists, musical highs and comedy lows, in another chance to see its Fringe show. The Rolling Hills Chorus is a group of men of all ages and walks of life who get together to share their love of music and sing favourite songs from film, musicals, pop and traditional music, all unaccompanied and mostly in a barbershop style. This performance supports Polwarth Parish Church's Canal Garden Fund and the Rolling Hills Chorus's partner charity, **Prostate Scotland**.

7.30pm, **Polwarth Parish Church**, Polwarth Terrace. Tickets cost £8/£6 and are available from the church or online [here](#).



A little treat for you this Friday. If you did not manage to get a ticket for the Edinburgh International Book Festival event which featured a chat between Alan Cumming and Ian Rankin then you can listen to it [here](#). Sit back relax and listen up. It is fascinating.

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