

Five things you need to know today



LIGHT NIGHT with Susan Boyle!!

Public Consultation Event RBS

Art exhibition

Gardening awards

Pentlands Book Festival starts tomorrow

Later today the singing sensation from West Lothian Susan Boyle will be turning on the Christmas lights in Edinburgh. All the events start just after lunch at 2:00pm with the big Christmas switch on at 4.50pm.

With seven stages set along the length of George Street, this event is all about community. There will be 53 school, community and other local groups with an estimated total of 1,250 performers, each performing an act, a dance, a song or a piece of music inspired by Light.

Light Night remains the largest **FREE** community event staged in Edinburgh. Dance groups, community choirs, drama clubs and schools from across the city will perform on the theme of LIGHT, each putting their own unique spin on the theme. Light Night is an event free for all to enjoy, one which encapsulates the true spirit of the festive season: family and the community.

[Read more here.](#)



On Thursday 26 November 2015 there will be a public

consultation exhibition regarding the Royal Bank of Scotland developments at 105 and 113 Dundas St / 34 Fettes Row and Eyre Terrace / Royal Circus.

From 3-8pm at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church 12 Bellevue Crescent, EH3 6NE.

Contact GVA Grimley on 0131 469 6068 for more information.




Leah Robb is a local and international artist painting Live in the streets of Copenhagen – sometimes in protest against the art establishment's taste-based censorship of art and artists, and sometimes in front of the parliament . In spring 2015 she painted works about the [refugee crisis](#) before it exploded in August.

The artist told The Edinburgh Reporter: "Looking back at my early work I realised I've moved in a different direction and have decided to have an art auction of my early work and share a bit about what I'm doing now."

The auction starts at 2:30pm on Saturday 28 November 2015 at St Margaret's House, 151 London Rd.

There is also a Facebook events page [here](#).



 News has come to us about an octogenarian who has won not one but two awards from her local council.

Things are looking rosy for keen Bonnyrigg gardener Jean Thomson, who has picked up the top award in this year's Midlothian Council tenants' garden competition.

Not only has Jean won best overall garden, she has also picked up the award for best floral display in the annual contest. Her efforts have earned her two certificates along with vouchers to spend at Dobbies garden centre.

Green-fingered Jean (83) spends very little money on her garden as she takes cuttings from bouquets she has been given and grows them on. As a result, her garden is full of chrysanthemums, carnations and numerous other flowers and plants.

Anyone know any other gardeners worth shouting about? [Send us photos](#) if you have them!

Juniper Green and Currie Community Councils have organised the very first Pentlands Book Festival for the last week in November to coincide with Book Week Scotland 2015.

The aim is to brighten up local life in the last dark days of the month for all age groups from the tots to the tottering, from the teenagers to the thirty-somethings with the help of notable contemporary Scottish poets, short story writers, novelists and playwrights!

The authors, storytellers and speakers have signed up enthusiastically for the new venture whose programme can be found on www.pentlandsbookfestival.co.uk where bookings can also be made.

Entry to all events is free, though any donations will be welcome.

Readings, storytelling, talks, music, visiting the National Library of Scotland to see historical documents relating to our communities, a history walk, seeing how a graphic novel is created, wine tasting and afternoon tea are all part of the mix to be funded by The Scottish Book Trust and The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership with Juniper Green and Currie Community Councils, plus sponsorship from Scotmid, Currie and Balerno Round Table and the Currie and Balerno News.


Venues in Currie and Juniper Green will host events throughout

the week, including Currie Library, The Gibson Craig Hall in Currie, Juniper Green Church Halls, Juniper Green Bowling Club and Tanners pub.

Well-known authors signed up for daytime and evening events are:

- □ Anne Donovan
 - □ Christine de Luca
 - □ Diana Hendry
 - □ Alan Bissett
 - □ Vicki Jarrett
 - □ Janice Galloway
 - □ Stevie White
 - □ Donald Smith
 - □ Nick Barley (Director of Edinburgh's International Book Festival)
- A spokesman said: "We hope this exciting venture will become an annual event leading in time, in partnership with the well-established Balerno Music Festival, to an Upper Water of Leith Valley Arts Festival. All of the venues are on the 44 bus route, so easy to access." It's time for all book lovers and people interested in the arts to go to the website and make their bookings for instructive and entertaining events from Monday 23 to Saturday 28 November.



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