

Five things you need to know today



- **Edinburgh International Festival 2016**
- **Motoring Show at the Royal Highland Centre**
- **Tiny Homes at The Mound**
- **Edinburgh College of Art at Newhailes**
- **This weekend at the Edinburgh International Science Festival**

Fergus Linehan launched his second Edinburgh International Festival programme yesterday, and it is both eclectic and varied.

We are particularly excited about having Alan Cumming in the capital for three whole weeks, but there is much more to see and listen to with opera, classical concerts and contemporary Scottish music all on the agenda.

The opening weekend will be an excitement in itself as Linehan told us:

[The Edinburgh Reporter On The Edinburgh International Festival 2016](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The programme is [here](#) but you can't buy tickets till 16 April unless you are a Friend or patron.



Marques from Tesla, BMW, Renault, Toyota and Mini will be available to drive at EVOLUTION when it comes to Edinburgh's Royal Highland Centre next month, with a host of low-emission and hybrid vehicles joining the list of flagship electric cars making their appearance at the event.

The free event, which will be held on Saturday April 16, will let driving enthusiasts test the latest ultra-low emission XE from Jaguar, BMW's i8, i3, 225xe, the multi award-winning Tesla Model S and the new updated Toyota Prius.

Cars aren't the only attraction though, with an electric bike track giving everyone a taste of the powered bicycles of today, while motorsport enthusiasts can put their racing credentials on the line by trying out The Racing Bug – Scalextric for grown-ups.

Ian Murdoch from the Energy Saving Trust, which is hosting EVOLUTION in partnership with Transport Scotland and Scottish Enterprise, said: "We're delighted to attract a stellar line up for this year's event and we're anticipating a busy day with all the cars that are available to test drive for free.

"EVOLUTION is earning a reputation as one of the best electric motor shows in the UK, and it's easy to see why, as the opportunity to get behind the wheel yourself, is unrivalled."

To register for EVOLUTION and for more information on Scotland's only electric motor show, go to scotland.evolutionshow.co.uk.



Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government Leslie Evans explores the Tiny Homes Village of the 2016 Edinburgh International Science Festival with Creative Director Amanda Tyndall. The pair are pictured looking inside an Armadillo Tiny Home.

In the year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in Scotland, the *Tiny Homes Village* of the Edinburgh International Science Festival has transformed the Capital's

city centre into a platform for discussion of what turns a simple roof over our heads into somewhere we are happy to call home. From tiny homes to self-sustaining eco pods, traditional Mongolian yurts and emergency housing solutions, the Science Festival challenges Edinburgh's city dwellers to consider how far – indeed how small – they would be prepared to go. www.sciencefestival.co.uk

✘ Tiny Homes Village is part of the Our Built Environment strand of the 2016 Edinburgh International Science Festival and is supported by EventScotland as part of the 2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

Photos courtesy of Jane Barlow | photographer T 07870 152324

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Mirrored pyramids, a model dinosaur and an eruption of multi-coloured balls are among the thought-provoking and playful artworks hidden around a 300 year-old stately home.

Newhailes House will host a range of work by students, staff members and graduates from Edinburgh College of Art (ECA). The show runs from today until 30 October.





In partnership with National Trust Scotland (NTS), ECA artists have carefully researched the building and its history. They will draw inspiration from its colour palette, inscriptions, existing paintings and the lives of previous residents.

The Georgian estate has been carefully conserved by NTS, giving the impression it has been left untouched since it was a working house.

Sculpture student Rachel McLennan's mirror-clad pyramids will be placed throughout the house to represent traditional hierarchies in stately homes.

A *T. Rex* skeleton created by Kenny Hunter, Director of the ECA Sculpture Programme, has been made in a deliberately unthreatening pose – its prehistoric menace diminished by extinction. Student Katie Strachan's work gives the illusion that a colourful ball pit has spilled into the formal setting.

A number of artists have been inspired by people that once inhabited the historic building. Student Anna Vesaluoma's decorative screen depicts scenes of servants working.

Mark McLean, National Trust Scotland Learning Officer, said: "This is a marvellous opportunity to show off our amazing property and to engage with our visitors in a completely fresh and creative way. The imaginative insights these artists have brought to Newhailes have allowed us reflect more fully on what we hold in trust for the people of Scotland. Newhailes was, from its inception, at the cutting edge of art and design and "working through art" with ECA has been a fascinating new chapter in that story."

Allied Antagonists is open to view by guided tour at Newhailes House Thursday to Monday from 12.30-3.30pm every day from 7 April – 30 October, and seven days a week in July and August. Tours can be booked via the Newhailes House website or telephone: 0131 653 5599. Tickets are free for NTS members and between £9 and £12.50 for the general public.

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Hundreds of children across Edinburgh have been learning about Scottish wildlife conservation as part of this year's Edinburgh International Science Festival which runs till 10 April.

A number of venues across the city are playing host to the 'Wild about Scotland' bus, a customised double-decker which has transformed a Stagecoach passenger bus into a fully functional mobile classroom. From mini-beastie safaris to nature workshops, the onboard team of experts from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) have been teaching people about Scottish native species, their habits and environments and what they can do to help protect them.

As part of the festival, this weekend, the bus will be parked at Dynamic Earth. Festival goers are invited to climb on board and learn about Scottish endangered species, such as the highland wildcat, as well as the reintroduction of the Scottish beaver. They can also book themselves onto a mini-beast safari from 10am – 11am on Saturday and Sunday.

As part of the festival the bus will also be offering family activities at the following venues:

– 4th/5th April – Grassmarket – 10am – 4pm

– 6th/7th April – Summerhall – 10am – 4pm (bookable Crafts for Nature workshop at 10am and 11am)

– 9th April – Edinburgh Zoo – 2pm – 8:30pm

Those wishing to book the mini-beast safari should contact wildaboutscotland@rzss.org.uk.

To find out which schools and venues the Wild about Scotland bus is visiting in future, please see: <http://www.cbonline.co.uk/wildaboutscotland>.

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