

Five things you need to know today



- **National Museum of Scotland opens 10 new galleries**
- **Let's Get Online**
- **The Queen's Hall is 37 years old today!**
- **Hip Hop Summer School**
- **North East Foodbank**

Ten major new galleries open this Friday, 8 July, at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, following a £14.1 million redevelopment in its 150th anniversary year. The new state-of-the-art galleries, which are dedicated to decorative art, design, fashion science and technology, are the latest phase in an £80 million Masterplan to transform the Museum and showcase the breadth of its world class collections.



As one of the world's great museums, the National Museum of Scotland uniquely brings together science and art, the natural world and the diversity of human cultures, inviting visitors to explore the world under one roof.



The innovative new galleries, created in collaboration with award-winning practice Hoskins Architects and exhibition specialists Metaphor, encourage visitors to take a journey of discovery. The redevelopment of the magnificent Grade A listed Victorian building restores the Museum's original layout and sightlines. Over 3,000 objects are now on display across the new galleries, three-quarters of which have not been shown for at least a generation. Visitors will experience the collections like never before, with in-depth information

provided through a network of digital labels, audio visual programmes, a wide range of interactive exhibits and original working machines – totalling over 150 interactive exhibits.

There will be a major opening party on Friday at 9.30 with a pipe band and all sorts of entertainment!

More information [on the museum website.](#)

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, said: “I am thrilled to see the opening of these absolutely fascinating new galleries at the National Museum of Scotland, which are fantastic additions to one of the country’s top visitor attractions. The galleries highlight some of Scotland’s leading innovations in technology, science and fashion through the ages in an exciting and interactive way so it seems fitting they are unveiled during the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

“Our attractions play a vital role in Scotland’s visitor economy, with restaurants and cafes among other businesses also benefiting, and we look forward to the benefits the new galleries will bring to Edinburgh and beyond.”



The national roadshow to get people online by offering free advice and help with using the internet is coming to Edinburgh.

The free drop-in sessions will take place in Edinburgh on the following dates, times and locations:

- DWP Jobcentre Plus, 199 Commercial St, Edinburgh, EH6 6JF on 7th July from 9am to 5pm
- Gyle Shopping Centre, Gyle Ave, Edinburgh, EH12 9JY on 8th July from 9.30am to 9pm
- Lidl, Dalry Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2EF on 9th July from 10am to 5pm



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Yu, who is originally from China and in her sixties, attended introductory IT skills and computer awareness training at MECOPP in Leith, Edinburgh to help develop her online skills so she could stay connected with what was going on in her country.

Before the training Yu had not engaged with any online activity and had no knowledge of a computer. Yu was nervous about getting online because she was concerned she may damage the computer because of her lack of experience.

TV presenter Carol Smillie, an ambassador for the Let's Get Online campaign, said: "It's not long ago that I struggled with emailing and now I'm able to edit my own family movie clips. My son helps me out with the tricky stuff but I've spent some time getting up to speed with the online world and now I think I'm pretty good. It just goes to show that it is never too late to have a go and get involved – don't be afraid it's easier than you think."

"Social media is really important for my business and I think the internet is great for keeping in touch with family and friends. I think it is important for those not online to take the first step and the Let's Get Online free informal sessions are a great place to start. Whether you want to learn how you can keep in touch with friends and family, search for a job, manage your bills and banking, or watch catch-up TV, there's so much you can do online to make your life a little easier and more fun."

The Let's Get Online roadshow is supported by an information line which people can call on 0300 004 1000 to find out where and when their nearest session is, as well as information

about other learning centres and courses in their local area. Those online who know friends or family that would benefit from information about how to get online, should visit www.letsgetonline.scot.



The Queen's Hall is 37 years old today. Now yes the building is older than that but it was opened as a music venue by Her Majesty the Queen 37 years ago.

So Happy Birthday to The Queen's Hall – and have a look at their Fringe programme here – it rocks!



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An Edinburgh foodbank which provides emergency supplies to people across the city has praised a food donation scheme run by Tesco.

Edinburgh North East Foodbank has received food through the supermarket's Neighbourhood Food Collection – an initiative run in partnership with FareShare and the Trussell Trust.

The foodbank, established in 2013, provides three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh North East Foodbank operations manager, Arthur Mathieson said the items donated by Tesco customers help the foodbank provide groceries and essentials to people in need all year round.



He said: "Our relationship with Tesco is very good. The Neighbourhood Food Collections are very helpful and bring in the food supplies we need.

"Having a permanent collection point is great – every week and a half I have to empty it because it's full. There is a great deal of generosity in this community!


"Our permanent collection point is extremely helpful because it provides a constant steady supply of donations.

“We know our local Tesco community champion very well and the other staff are all very helpful. It’s a pleasure to work with them to help people hit by crisis in our community.

“Donations from Tesco customers help us to get even more involved with the community. At the last collection, we amassed a huge amount of supplies which was extremely helpful during one of our busiest times of the year.

“The folk in Leith and North East Edinburgh are good and generous people – it’s great being able to share with them the work of the foodbank, and to encourage them to get involved when we’re in our local store for the collection.”



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