

# Five things you need to know today



- Today at the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival
- Facing the World : Self-Portraits| From Rembrandt to Ai Weiwei
- Fancy cycling? Try this quiet route...
- Thomas Marin celebrate 90th year in business
- Secret Edinburgh Tour

The Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival gets underway today with **some** tickets costing £10 or less.

There are many shows on today all with wonderful names it seems! Moishe's Bagel or the New Orleans Swamp Donkeys Traditional Jass Band at the City Art Centre. All tickets for shows [here](#).

The Assembly George Square Gardens will accommodate some of the events at the Jazz Festival over the next couple of weeks.

Here is how they built it!



The new summer exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery is a large selection of self-portraits from across Europe and which span six centuries.

Read more [here](#).



If you are trying to get back to cycling or are just wary of cycling on the roads then try this suggestion:


## QuietRoute 20: North-east Edinburgh – Craigleith – Leith Walk – Restalrig

One for the shoppers, foodies or culture vultures among you!

1 Craigleith Shopping Centre: either start or end your outing here for a big of shopper-heaven or a quick snack.

2 Head past Fettes College to Inverleith Park to admire the model boats on the pond. Or a little further on, check out over 13,000 living plants species in the Royal Botanic Garden which started life as a garden where plants were grown for medicine.

3 Take a wee detour to Stockbridge, one of the city's foodie heaven 'villages' – feast on fare from Michelin-starred chefs, grab a coffee and cake or do some people watching in one of the many child-friendly pubs.


 4 Heading on over to Leith Walk, you could time your trip with a visit to McDonald Road library where there are free book and craft events for children, book groups or an early evening gaming for teenagers session.

5 Find the country in the city at Lochend Park: the loch attracts a wide variety of birdlife and has a play area, a teen area and even a bee café.

Do you have a favourite route? Do tell us about it!



Thomas Marin Funeral Directors of St Mary's Street, Edinburgh, are celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The funeral home has been serving the local community since 1926, when Thomas 'Tommy' Marin founded the business.

 Initially an engraver by trade, Tommy and his family lived at the back of the St Mary's Street funeral home for many

years whilst they worked hard to build up the reputation the business maintains today.


Funeral Service Arranger, Valerie Chapman, who has worked at the funeral home for over 10 years said: "The reputation of Tommy's business was recognised in many ways. Tommy was one of the first funeral directors to pass his embalming exams in Scotland and was appointed to take care of the American soldiers that sadly lost their lives in Scotland during the Second World War. The business was also one of the first to have a telephone on the street and Tommy had a notice in the window inviting the public to use it!"



On 28th July there is a special tour taking place at 5.45pm in the New Town. Click [here](#) to book your place. Tickets are £5 for non-members of Edinburgh World Heritage.



## Secret Edinburgh: A Curious New Town Tour with Edinburgh World Heritage

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