

Five things you need to know today



- North Berwick Cake Off Competition
- Volunteers needed for RE-ACT
- Re-Union Canal Boats get Lottery Funding
- Group bookings at the Scottish National Gallery
- Doors Open Day

The Three Sisters Bake officially start the race to find Scotland's finest bakers for the first ever North Berwick Cake Off competition.

Taking place at the inaugural Fabulous Food Fest in North Berwick this August, the deadline for Cake Off applicants is fast approaching on 29 July 2016.



Accomplished bakers, Verity Sinclair and Gareth Glen, will select 10 lucky applicants to go forward into the heats on Tuesday 9th August. Contestants are first challenged to make their tastiest vegetable cake. Be it carrot, beetroot, courgette or perhaps something more unusual, they are encouraged to be as creative as they like.

No cake competition is complete without the grand showstopper finale, and the North Berwick Cake Off will be no different. A winner from each heat will go through to the final. They should be prepared to pull out all the stops in creating their biggest, best, fanciest or quirkiest cake in an attempt to win the first ever Cake Off crown and a prize of £250.

The festival has a jam-packed programme to suit all ages and tastes. Entertainment on offer includes a kids food show from

'Tickles the Clown', demonstrations from award-winning Scottish chefs, a return of the old TV favourite 'Ready, Steady, Cook' and Edinburgh Gin mixology and sampling. It also includes free entry to an exhibition from some of Scotland's renowned food artisans and producers.

It's open from 10am until 4pm, Tuesday through to Sunday. For more information on the ticketed events and to buy tickets visit <http://www.fabulousfoodfest.org.uk>

[Read more here](#)

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RE-ACT (Refugee Action Scotland) are looking for volunteers to help them on their big donation day on the last Sunday in July.

They will be running three shifts at Studio 24 on Calton Road to help them process all donations.

Can you help? [Click here if you can.](#)



Social enterprise Re-Union Canal Boats based at Fountainbridge received a grant of over £60,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project, Union Canal Unlocked.

The project will be a partnership between Re-Union Canal Boats, Scottish Waterways Trust and Scottish Canals, and it will celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the Union Canal from the heart of Edinburgh to Falkirk.

The project will engage local communities from Edinburgh to Falkirk and provide a variety of unique learning, training and

volunteering opportunities. Volunteers will undertake oral history training to gather stories and memories of the historic, 200-year-old canal to contribute to the creation of an oral history archive.

[Read more here](#)



This summer the Scottish National Gallery is hosting free art activities for children and families (aged 4-12yrs). Inspired by summer exhibitions at the National Galleries – Surreal Encounters and Inspiring Impressionism the theme this year is Surreal Landscapes. The programme is called **Strange Lands and Peculiar Places**.

*Children's/family groups are invited to **book a free visit** to the Scottish National Gallery which will include a guided tour of the exhibition Inspiring Impressionism and an exclusive visit to Strange Lands and Peculiar Places on weekday mornings until 12 August.*

Don't dilly Dalí; find your way to our studio this summer at the National Gallery. Inspired by two exhibitions: Inspiring Impressionism and Surreal Encounters | Collecting the Marvellous come along and try your hand at activities for all the family. Play Exquisite Landscape and watch fantastic landscapes appear before your eyes, try drawing en plein air, learn the surrealist technique of automatic drawing and add to an ever-changing 3D landscape.

Participants, aged 4-12 will be able to try out a range of art techniques including including working with paints, sculpture, drawing along to surrealist poetry. There will also be an ever changing wall mural for participants to add to.

Groups are invited to enjoy a free 2hr visit to the Scottish National Gallery which includes a guided tour of the

exhibition Inspiring Impressionism and time to explore the Strange Lands and Peculiar Places workshop activities.

More info on the Inspiring Impressionism exhibition can be found

here: <https://www.nationalgalleries.org/whatson/exhibitions/inspiring-impressionism>



Yes we know Doors Open Day is not until September but here is one place that is always packed out with visitors!

Lothian Buses will offer passengers the opportunity to travel to its Central Depot Doors Open Day at Annandale Street in style on Saturday 24 September 2016.

Doors to the depot are open between 12pm and 4pm and the event offers passengers the opportunity to see behind the scenes at the company's main depot.

As part of the event this year, Lothian Buses will be running vintage buses on the Service 16 between Lothian Road and Newhaven, stopping close to Central Depot. Running at least every 10 minutes between 9am and 6pm, passengers will be able to travel on a fleet of vintage buses along Princes Street, St Andrews Square, York Place and Leith Walk to Newhaven. Normal Lothian Buses fares will be accepted on these vehicles.


Richard Hall, Managing Director, said: "We are really excited to be able to offer trips on vintage buses as part of our Doors Open Day programme this year. We hope that by giving people this rare opportunity to travel back in time on these special services, it will add to what is already a very popular event in Edinburgh."

Highlights of the event also include a display of new and vintage buses, tours around the depot highlighting the history of the listed building, trips onboard double-deckers through

the bus wash and bus 'racing' operated by The Racing Bug.

The event will also feature many highlights for children of all ages including face painting, a bouncy castle and the chance to sit in the bus drivers seat.

This year, Lothian Buses will be supporting Guide Dogs Scotland and Poppy Scotland with donation buckets at the doors and throughout the depot.

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