

Five things you need to know today



- **MSP fighting Bank of Scotland Branch closure**
- **Enjoy the Barra MacNeils tomorrow!**
- **Live classical music for babies**
- **Join the Food Tasting panel at QMU**
- **Festival of Politics – what's on today**



MSP Gordon MacDonald represents the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency and he is fighting the closure of a branch in Currie which he says will have adverse effects on his constituents.

[Read more here.](#)



Canada's Celtic ambassadors! Celebrating three decades in 2016, Cape Breton-based family group the Barra MacNeils have been thrilling audiences of all ages with their sparkling repertoire, vocals, instrumental prowess and vibrant showmanship.



Now in their 28th year as a group, the MacNeil siblings are widely regarded as one of the greatest live concert acts in the Celtic world. The family group is deeply rooted in Celtic music, culture, dance, language and history.

Tickets and more details here on [The Queen's Hall website.](#)



“Hup” Musical show for babies at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016.

Live classical music experience for Festival Fringe’s youngest audiences: Edinburgh childrens theatre company Starcatchers brings a five-star live classical music and theatre experience “Hup” for 0 – 24 month olds and their parents to this year’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe as part of the Made in Scotland Showcase.





Pictured rehearsing a scene from the show in Princes Street Gardens are dancer Hannah Venet with six months old Thane Bevan Elders and composer/musician Abi Sinar .

In the show a trio of musicians perform an original score composed by Abigail Sinar, intertwined with a non-verbal narrative presented by dancer Hannah Venet, which takes the audience on a journey in pursuit of the story's lead character,- a very inquisitive raccoon.

Photography for Starcatchers from: Colin Hattersley Photography
– www.colinhattersley.com – colinhattersley@btinternet.com – 07974 957 388.



Food lovers in Edinburgh can now put their taste buds to the ultimate test by becoming the first to try out new food and drink products before they hit the supermarket shelves.

The Scottish Centre for Food Development and Innovation at Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh is looking for eager foodies to join the QMU Food & Drink Consumer Tasting Panel during the year ahead.

The Centre works with a broad range of food and drink businesses to help them to develop new and innovative products, reformulate existing products and carry out consumer focus groups and taste panels.

Taste panel members get the unique opportunity to try out a range of new food and drink products for the first time, including meat, fish, confectionery, juices, dairy products, vegetables and desserts.

Taste panels usually last around 20 to 30 minutes and participants provide views on a number of food and drink products in terms of aroma, appearance, texture and flavour.

People taking part in the QMU Food & Drink Consumer Tasting Panel are rewarded after each session attended with either an Amazon or M&S voucher.



The Festival of Politics 2016 began on Thursday and continues until today with events for all the family and free live entertainment in the Festival Cafe Bar.


For information about events at the Festival of Politics, which this year is themed around 'The Architecture of Democracy', [click here](#).

They are showing the Lego Movie twice (FOR FREE!) today at Holyrood and then you can help with the Lego Big Build.

*"Come and help build the giant **LEGO**® map of Scotland with our professional LEGO builders and watch it get bigger by the hour!"*

"You can also let your imagination loose on 25 kilos of mixed LEGO at our general play table."



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