

# Five things you need to know today



- Margo MacDonald remembered
- Edinburgh Airport consultation extended
- Lecture in memory of world expert on gannets
- Pandas no longer endangered
- New exhibition at The Scottish Gallery

The late Margo MacDonald was a politician through and through, and she is now remembered at Holyrood with a portrait painted by Scottish artist Gerard Burns, donated by her husband Jim Sillars. She was someone who could be referred to simply by her first name, and everyone knew who you meant!

[Read more here.](#)



Edinburgh Airport have extended their consultation on the new flight path as a result of a computer glitch. It will now run until 19 September 2016. During an upgrade of their website some input may have been lost. If you submitted a response online between 10.31 am on Monday 29 August 2016 and 12.05pm on Friday 2 September 2016 then you are asked to send it again.

[Read more here.](#)



A first of its kind lecture is to be held in memory of the world's leading expert on gannets, Dr Bryan Nelson MBE, who passed away in 2015.

As a tribute to Bryan, the Scottish Seabird Centre and RSPB Scotland are jointly hosting a memorial lecture which it is

hoped will become an annual event. The first will be held on 6 October, 19:30, at Napier University (Craiglockhart Campus) in Edinburgh.

Bryan Nelson spent his life working to better understand and conserve seabirds. He was a great supporter of the Scottish Seabird Centre from its inception and served as a Trustee until shortly before he died in 2015. He was a lifelong RSPB member, and a founding member of RSPB Scotland's Galloway Local Group.

He and his wife, June, famously spent three years in the 1960s living in a small hut on the Bass Rock where his pioneering research work helped to unravel the fascinating life history of Britain's largest seabird, the gannet.

Thursday 6 October

19:30

Edinburgh Napier University (Craiglockhart Campus)

Tickets £6

Tickets are available from the online shop at [www.seabird.org](http://www.seabird.org), by calling 01620 890202 or from the Scottish Seabird Centre Admissions Desk.



It appears that our pandas are not in danger of extinction any more according to the international body responsible for these warnings.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has removed the giant panda from the red list and it is now on the 'vulnerable' list. There are now over 1800 pandas in the wild.

[Read more here.](#)



A new exhibition at The Scottish Gallery opens today. The work

of artist Michael McVeigh will be shown in his first solo exhibition ever. Given that he graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone Art College some time ago, it is curious that it has taken so long for such an exhibition to be staged.



But McVeigh is not a very conventional artist. Born in Lochee, Dundee he left school with no qualifications and just decided to enrol himself unofficially at art college. But one of the lecturers James Morrison then accepted him as a full-time student based on his work.


He then sold colour copies of his original works from a stall on Rose Street, leaving the Managing Director of The Scottish Gallery, Christina Jansen wondering where the originals were.

When he arrived at the gallery one day she decided to snap him up as a client and give him a platform. The result is a wonderful exhibition which anyone in Edinburgh will love since there are so many paintings of our city, and in particular Princes Street Gardens.

The devil is always in the detail of course and the wonderful details of added animals and people are only apparent when you linger in front of the painting. It appears that the paintings will not hang about however, as many already have the sold sticker beside them.

The exhibition runs from 7 September to 1 October 2016 at The Scottish Gallery 16 Dundas Street EH3 6HZ T 0131 558 1200 [www.scottish-gallery.co.uk](http://www.scottish-gallery.co.uk)



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