

Five things you need to know today

Assembly

Assembly had their press launch on Wednesday fronted by Dubliner, Jason Byrne who found gold in the front row with our very own Stanley Reilly (esteemed photographer of this parish and friend to the stars) and someone whose wife called him Dumper. Yes indeed the Fringe has landed.

Bill Burdett-Coutts of Assembly took time to tell the audience that not only had Assembly (and Unique) stepped up to the plate to save Christmas last year, he had also just lost rather a lot of money(around £1.4 million since you ask) in Coventry, and he said it would be good if you choose some Assembly shows to keep them on the straight and narrow.

That will not be a difficult choice, as the calibre of acts appearing at the many Assembly venues is pretty high from the dizzy heights of Reuben Kaye(he is very tall in his vertiginous heels) to the less tall (but packs a punch) Jon Culshaw who is Hughie Green in Lena. Scot Lena Zavaroni won Opportunity Knocks, ITV's talent show at the age of 10 and now the story is taken up a quarter century on in her life.

And if you really can't make up your minds then there is a Best of the Fest daytime and late night.

Do buy tickets – and remember to apply for your residents discount if you live in an EH postcode.



Jon Culshaw is appearing in Lena at the 2023 Fringe

Underbelly

Yes Underbelly also had a press launch – never seen quite so many councillors in one place since before recess.

The outstanding act was Mario the Maker Magician – “Magic’s punk rock Peter Pan philosopher”. Origin magic and some modern slapstick.



And many other acts besides – and a reminder to buy tickets for the Big Brain Tumour Benefit. Ed Bartlam one of the Directors of Underbelly is running the London Marathon next year and the company has pledged to raise £1.5 million for the Brain Tumour Charity which is the biggest killer of people under 40 and the least well funded by the NHS.

[Buy your tickets here.](#) or make a donation if you can.

The line-up is changing all the time but already it is a who's who of big names with Frank Skinner right at the top of the bill.

Craigmillar Library on Saturday

Writer Emily Dodd will be at Craigmillar Library this Saturday 5 August telling everyone about plants.

There will be a reading from the book *Surfing the Moon*, a

science show and rocket making. For children aged 4 to 12.

Craigmillar Stories for Sharing presents:

Summer of Stories

EVENTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 4-12

Puppet Making
Sat 1 Jul 11-12 Craigmillar-based puppeteer Emma Milton will introduce you to the wonderful world of puppet-making and storytelling. For children aged 4-12 and their grown-ups. All materials will be provided, just come along on the day.

Lego Robotics Workshop (Ages 8-12)
Thu 20 Jul 2-4.30 Using the latest Lego robotics technology to build and program amazing creatures which can move using motors, gears and wheels! **Please contact Katie to book a place.**

Storytime for 4-6 year olds
Tue 25 Jul 11-12 Join Katie for a relaxed and fun story session. Perfect for ages 4-6, but younger and older siblings welcome. No need to book, just turn up.

Growing Together
Tue 25 Jul 2-3.30 Join Katie, Karin from Craigmillar Community Grows and artist Susie Wilson for this relaxed outdoor family session to learn more about planting, growing and harvesting seeds through stories and crafts. Families with children aged 4+, just turn up.

Storytelling with Janis Mackay
Tue 1 Aug 11-12 Join author and storyteller Janis for a relaxed and interactive story session. Perfect for ages 4-6, but younger and older siblings welcome. No need to book, just turn up.

Retro Game Design (Ages 8-12)
Thu 3 Aug 2-4.30 Become the artist, writer, designer and director of your own platformer video game! Build pixel art, animations and backgrounds to design your game's world the way YOU want. **Please contact Katie to book a place.**

Tell Me About Plants with Emily Dodd (Ages 4-7)
Sat 5 Aug 11-12 Author and storyteller Emily loves science and nature. Join her for a journey around the world to discover some of the most weird and wonderful plants, based on her exciting new first science book Tell me about: Plants. For families with children aged 4-7, siblings welcome. No need to book.

Surfing the Moon with Emily Dodd (Ages 7-10)
Sat 5 Aug 2-3 Join Emily for a science show, rocket making workshop and a reading from her space themed book Surfing the Moon, a story book about a boy with autism who learns to surf and loves the moon. For families with children aged 7-10, siblings welcome. No need to book.

Storytime for 4-6 year olds
Tue 8 Aug 11-12 Join Katie for a relaxed and fun story session. Perfect for ages 4-6, but younger and older siblings welcome. No need to book, just turn up.

Emma's Puppet Show
Sat 12 Aug 11-12 We're excited to welcome Emma back for her new show. You can bring your own puppets & get ready to enjoy a fabulous interactive experience! For children aged 4-12 & their families, no need to book, just come along.

FREE events! Include a book, drink and a wee snack

 **Craigmillar Library**

 **Contact Katie**
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katieswann@craigmillarliteracytrust.org.uk

 **Craigmillar Literacy Trust**

Anyone for tennis?

Some 13 park tennis courts in four Edinburgh parks will reopen this summer after renovations worth £190,000.

The improvements to the courts in Inverleith Park, Leith Links, Victoria Park and St. Margaret's Park has been managed by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council, UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation.

Through the Parks Tennis Project, the LTA is delivering the biggest ever investment in parks tennis facilities across Britain, which has been used to transform 13 courts across the capital providing a significant boost to sporting facilities.

The courts have undergone extensive work to ensure viability for years to come, including; resurfacing, repainting, some new fencing, nets and a new booking gate system. This nationwide programme of investment is seeing thousands of existing park tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition brought back to life for the benefit of communities across the country, providing vital opportunities for children and adults to get active.



Our August issue

Our August newspaper is on the streets now and we hope you like it.

Our cover story is about Rachel, with a streamline to our exclusive story about the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

And inside we have a feature from George Mair who is writing for us for the first month – and loads of sport from Nigel Duncan and Bill Lothian.

If you would like to receive a copy just a wee bit ahead of everyone else then please subscribe by clicking on the image below. (And do read about [Rachel and the Barbie story here](#))

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the Edinburgh Reporter

August 2023

EDINBURGH

CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



Illustration: Jonathan West

Capital firm living the Barbie dream

By PHYLLIS STEPHEN

RACHEL HANRETTY started her business, Mademoiselle Macaron, in Edinburgh in 2013. Now some ten years later her trademark products - beautiful macarons - have a starring role in the very pink Greta Gerwig directed blockbuster movie of this summer, Barbie.

The pink delicacies were ordered in five flavours to be delivered to Warner Brothers Studio in Leavesdon, and not just as a perk for the cast, but to appear in a café in Barbie Land.

This was easy for the company based in Bonnington which produces more than 30,000 macarons each week. Rachel learned how to craft the sweet treat in Paris where she first tasted a vanilla macaron on the Champs-Élysées. She attended the Alain Ducasse cookery school in the French capital to perfect making the macarons which is now the centre of her business.

Mademoiselle Macaron products have been on screen before. They appeared on Strictly Come Dancing in 2021 during a dance based in a bakery when a tall tower of macarons appeared on the set. And there is at least one big name that can be revealed as a macaron lover. Courtney Love is a repeat customer who orders their vegan product - and no, we don't know how they make them - the recipe is secret. And in exciting news the business is commissioned to colour match the new Revlon lipstick range in just the right shade.

mademoisellemacaron.co.uk

CLAIMS BY LIB DEM LEADER ALEX COLE-HAMILTON ON COVID MEETING "SIMPLY INACCURATE" - See page 5

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