

Five things you need to know today

Do you zig or do you zag?

The Zag Non-Conformist Conference takes place on 8 February when speakers will address “selflessness amid spiralling societal challenges”.

Panellists include Ewan Aitken (CEO, homelessness support charity Cyrenians), John Dower (Founder, Heirs of Slavery), Kirsty McIntosh (Head of Partnerships, Scottish Tech Army), and Hanna Crawford (Founder and Coach, Thistle and Rose Arts).

Michael Hart, Creative Director for The Union and ZAG founder, said: “From social media to unethical politics, ZAG explores whether our values are eroding, or if our faith in humanity remains as strong as ever.

“Thanks to our stellar line-up of speakers, this year’s ZAG conference will weave a narrative of generosity and resilience against the odds, providing a platform for stories and discussion that we hope will inspire positive change.”

Hosted by The Union at Union House on Inverleith Row. [Sign up here.](#)

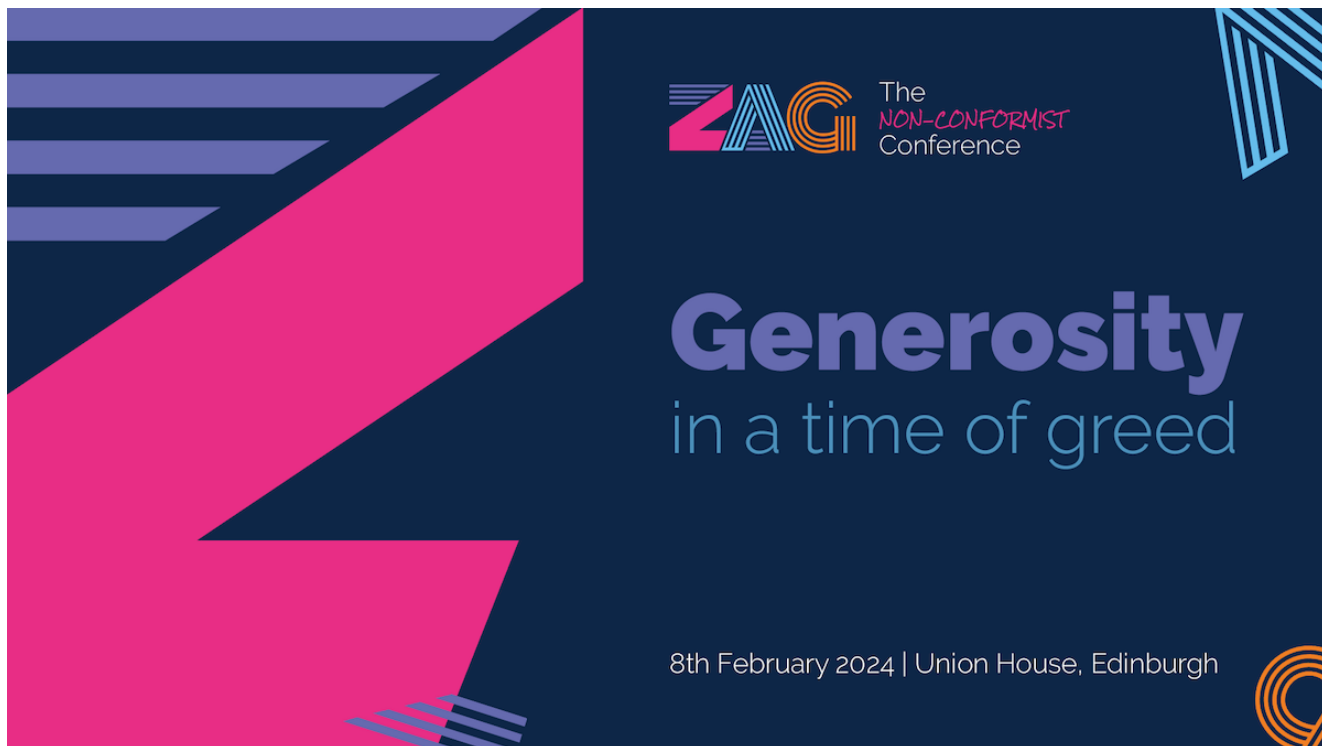
Photos below of the speakers and from last year’s event.











Leith Chooses

The participatory budgeting scheme in Leith is now underway. There is a pot of money – £52,000 – made available from council coffers and the Tram to Newhaven project, and locals can vote for what it should be spent on. Any project may apply for a maximum of £5,000.

[Voting details are here](#) and is open to anyone who is older than eight-years-old and who lives, works, studies or volunteers in Leith. Voting ends on 5 February 2024.

And there will be a community voting day on **Saturday 27th January 2024** (from **11am to 3pm**), at the Leith Community Centre (12A Newkirkgate, Leith, EH6 6AD).

- Voters may vote twice if they wish to: once in-person at the voting event and once online.
- If voting twice, voters should tick the box on the online voting form, to state this.
- If voting twice, voters can cast the same votes in-person as online, or choose different projects each time they vote.
- All voters get 4 votes (or 2x4 votes for those choosing to vote twice).
- 3 of the 4 votes will be cast for 3 different favourite projects – only one vote per project – out of the total number of project applications.
- The 4th vote (which is optional) is known as the '[Boost vote](#)'. Having already cast their first three votes, all voters can choose to cast an extra vote to support a [minority ethnic project](#). This can be a second vote for a project they've already voted for, or it can be a new, extra vote for a different project.

Find out more about each project below – in randomised order) and for all details click on the image below.

The Men of Leith Men's Shed The Junction Citadel Youth Centre SHE Scotland Citadel Arts Edinburgh Remakery Leith Festival Super Power Agency Edinburgh Tool Library Spit It Out Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain Hibernian Community Foundation	YMCA Dr Bells Family Centre Leith Athletic Leith Rugby Hermitage Park School Association People Know How ELREC Dunedin Fencing Club Think Circus, Leith Police Box and Active Inquiry Theatre Company Edinburgh Community Food Himalayan Centre
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Flurry of movement at Hibs

There has been a flurry of announcements from Hibernian over players going out on loan or being signed to the Easter Road side. This comes ahead of the transfer deadline of 31 January and there will no doubt be other moves before then.

[Read all the sports news here.](#)



Emiliano Marcondes signs from AFC Bournemouth

Oyster mural

The Heart of Newhaven need some help in creating a mural to commemorate the reintroduction of oysters – see the poster below.

Heart of Newhaven Oyster Mural



Oysters were very important for the local fishing industry in the Newhaven area. Unfortunately, they were fished to local extinction over 100 years ago.



Oysters are now being reintroduced to the Firth of Forth for their amazing benefits for the marine environment, via partnership project called Restoration FORTH.



Oysters positively impact local biodiversity - their shells create a habitat for many other species.

Oysters also stabilise the sediment and filter the water so that plant species can thrive.

The Heart of Newhaven would like to propose a mural to commemorate the reintroduction of oysters, and we would like you to input your thoughts!



If you would like to contribute ideas for an oyster mural, scan the QR code for the online form, or speak to someone at the Heart of Newhaven reception to receive a paper form.



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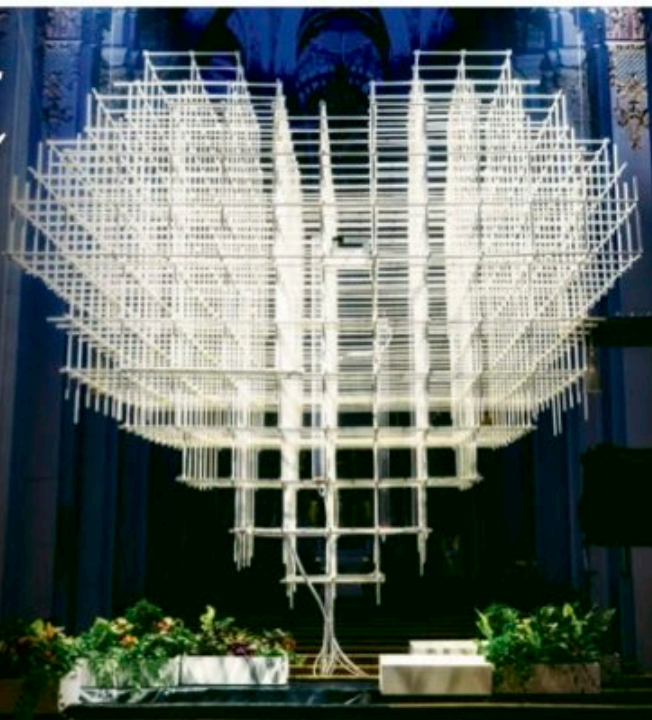
January 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER...A CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH

Heart and Soul



Gifted German artist
Michael Pendry
to once again
transform
St Giles' with
his newest
masterpiece



By PHYLIS STEPHEN

A NEW PUBLIC sculpture created by German artist Michael Pendry, will be sited in St Giles' Cathedral later this month. 'HEART' makes its UK premiere in the

capital in a collaboration between the Burns&Beyond Festival and the St Giles' 900th.

The anniversary marks the founding of the cathedral, to be celebrated with events throughout 2024. This year HEART will light up the

cathedral with the very symbol of life itself, a new three-dimensional work measuring five metres tall, will transform the space with a ticketed evening illumination and soundscape for visitors. The installation will take ten days to build and will be a central part of

the Burns&Beyond Festival which takes place in the city from 25 January to 11 February. What better symbol for the festival which takes its inspiration from Robbie Burns and promotes 'Luv, hope and Kindness', than a heart?

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