

Five things you need to know today

Hotel development

As well as student flats the city has had many applications for development of sites for hotels in recent years.

The former Virgin Money office at 28 St Andrew Square is to become a four star hotel, The Clayton Hotel.

The period details will be retained in the building (which [from photos provided](#) looks quite dejected and run down, a far cry indeed from its days as the Virgin Money Lounge). A modern extension behind retained facades will be connected to the main building by a stone-clad 1980s stairwell.

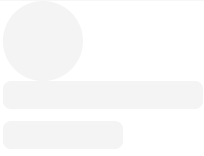
And in common with other buildings on the Square part of the design will be to incorporate the roof within the usable space in the building.



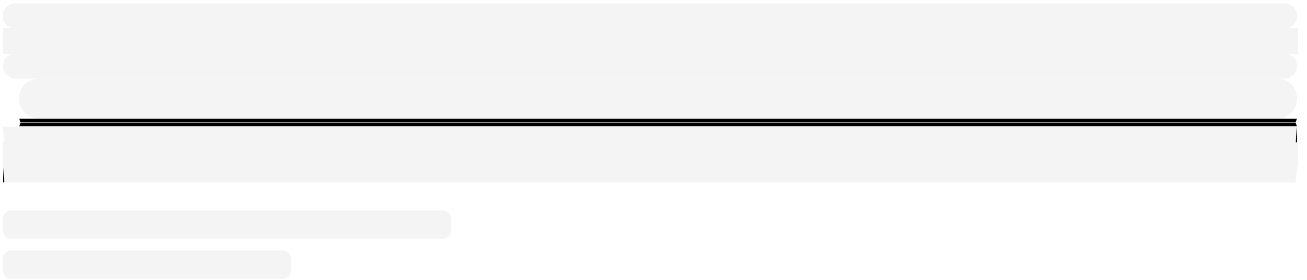
Snowdrop Festival

Even before January has ended Hopetoun House are announcing the perfect family outing on the weekend of 17 and 18 February. Everyone is invited into the grounds in South Queensferry to see the snowdrops, and into the house to see the family treasure.





[View this post on Instagram](#)



A post shared by Hopetoun House (@hopetounhouse)

Planning Committee set out their stall on short term lets

The Planning Committee meets on Wednesday and one agenda item

is entitled Short Term Lets. This simple header disguises a huge amount of legal activity during last year.

The council has spent almost £400,000 on legal advice on short term or holiday lets and defending themselves in Judicial Reviews brought in the Court of Session by self-catering businesses who own and run short term lets in the city.

The new Guidance for Business takes account of the court decisions and is intended to guide the self-catering businesses.

There is to be training for councillors on these matters ahead of any appeals against decisions made under what the council believed was the interpretation of the law.

[Read more here](#)

The Council has set up a Control Area for short term lets in the city and so any property which is to be changed into premises for holiday lets after 5 September 2022 will require planning permission except in certain circumstances.

ESPC event for Buy to Let investors

Leading Scottish property portal ESPC has announced a free Buy-To-Let event on Thursday 8 February, targeted at aspiring property investors and landlords.

The event will be held at ESPC's Property Information Centre on Edinburgh's George Street from 6-8pm on 8 February and will allow those thinking about beginning a property portfolio to have their most pressing questions answered by a panel of property, tax and conveyancing experts.



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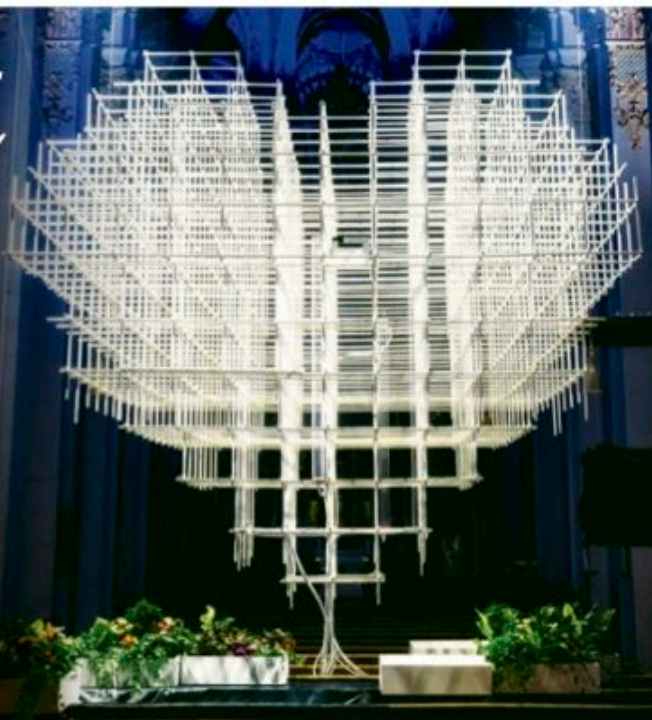
January 2024

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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