

Five things you need to know today

Christmas events this weekend

- Jupiter Artland Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. [More information here.](#)
 - **reunion** canal boats have a family craft cruise on the Lochrin Belle on Saturday 7 December and again on 21 December. [More information here.](#)
 - Summerhall Christmas Market takes place on Saturday (and there is a ceilidh there this evening) loads to see and take part in. [More information here.](#)
 - The Christmas tree festival is taking place at Morningside Parish Church opening on Saturday at 10am until noon. [More information here.](#)
- Cards for good causes at St John's Episcopal Church on Lothian Road/Princes Street. A pop up shop. Time is running out to make your Christmas shopping count for more this festive season. Cards For Good Causes' pop-up shop in Edinburgh is in its final days at St John's Church, offering a unique opportunity to support charities and local communities with every card or gift you purchase.
- Step into a world of festive magic while you still can and explore an enchanting selection of greeting cards, advent calendars, and gifts that ignite the holiday spirit. Don't miss the chance to browse stunning gift wrap, decorations, stationery, and homeware – all available until the shop closes for the season.
 - Every purchase makes a meaningful impact, supporting both national charities and the local community. Over the past decade, Cards For Good Causes has raised over

£22.5 million for more than 100 charities, including NSPCC, RSPCA, WaterAid, Shelter, Carers UK, and The Ramblers. Additionally, more than £2.7 million has been contributed to local churches, libraries, and community projects.

Shop now

at: <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk>.

- Christmas family cruise on the Maid of the Forth South Queensferry [More information here](#)
- [Our big list of what you can do each day in December is here](#). Read it now for your weekend inspiration.



Restaurant businesses closing and opening

Two restaurants have closed this week and a bakery. The restaurants are the Lookout on Calton Hill and The Gardener's Cottage in London Road.

The bakery where increased prices have forced business owners to close the doors is Cuckoo's Bakery with a branch on Dundas Street and one in Morningside.

A new European style Café-Bar & Brasserie and cocktail lounge is now open.

Liberté Café-Bar & Brasserie and Bar 1819, has opened at Apex Waterloo Place Hotel at the east end.

The restaurant is designed to be a refined, yet relaxing place to gather, eat or drink with a menu celebrating the best of Scottish produce. The venue is the centrepiece of a £2 million ground floor renovation of Apex Waterloo Place, owned by Norman Springford's Apex Hotels.

[Read more here](#)



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You can read it here – but it is not too late to add it to your Christmas list and buy a subscription for yourself or

someone else as a gift

LibDems lament

Fury over election resignation fiasco
Page 5

Granton go ahead

Coastal town plans approved
Page 6

Hogmanay hoolie

New Year parties around town
Page 12 and 13

Ruddy marvellous

Liam's panto round up
Page 18 and 19

Lothian at large

Bill's best of local sport
Page 20 and 21

the Edinburgh Reporter

December 2024



By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

ALL ABOARD THE TRAM to get to the city centre for Christmas fun. Santa's in town ready to meet children just next to the tram stop in the Piccolo Spiegelent in St Andrew Square, where there will be stories, a letter writing

station and a post box to send any missives direct to Santa's workshop. The newest attraction in Edinburgh is the Christmas Tree Maze which is one of the UK's largest illuminated Christmas tree trails. Step free access but anyone who wants to explore the maze is advised to buy a ticket in advance

and remember the EH postcode discount. A spokesperson for producers, UniqueAssembly, said: "Edinburgh's Christmas is finally here, and with a seven-week programme packed full of family favourites, this year promises to be one of the biggest and best ever. Whether sipping on cool

cocktails in our brand new Ice Bar, enjoying a festive treat at the Coorie Inn or showing off your skating skills on the Ice Rink, there's something for everyone at Edinburgh's Christmas." edwinterfest.com/edinburgh-christmas/

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[Festive Shadow Puppets and Stories](#) (11:00am to 12:30pm) – Sold out.

Christmas Carols with Simmerdim (1:30pm to 2:00pm) – Delight in the sounds of Simmerdim, an Edinburgh-based a cappella trio named after the long summer twilight in northern Scotland. Enjoy their unique arrangements of both traditional and contemporary songs.

This is a drop-in event.

Christmas Storytelling with Beverley Casebow and Anne Hunter (2:30pm to 3:30 pm) – Settle in for some cozy storytelling as Beverley and Anne bring classic Christmas tales to life for all ages.

This is a drop-in event.



Book Jools Holland at EJBF 2025 now

Jools Holland's Jazz & Blues Festival party is not to be missed! The 20-piece band love playing Edinburgh and always deliver an exhilarating live show. Featuring guest vocalists **Ruby Turner, Louise Marshall** and **Sumudu Jayatilaka**, the line up is completed by Jools' Squeeze bandmate **Chris Difford**. Don't miss this spectacular evening's entertainment when it comes to the **Usher Hall** next year as part of Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival 2025 (**EJBF25**).

<https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/jools-holland-and-his-rhythm-blues-orchestra>

