

Donald Park names Scotland Under-19 squad for international tournament in Serbia



Donald Park has named his first Scotland Under-19 squad for an international tournament in Serbia at the start of September.

Hibs' duo Ryan Porteous and Fraser Murray who have both featured in the first team recently are included along with Hearts' pair Daniel Baur and Callumn Morrison.

The 20 man squad also features a number of players that recently played in the Under-17 European Championships in Croatia including Norwich's Glenn Middleton, Jack Aitchison of Celtic and Jonny Mitchell of Falkirk.

Donald Park will be assisted by Darren Jackson with Gordon Marshall joining as goalkeeping coach.

The Under-19s begin their European Championship qualification campaign in November, aiming to reach their first finals since 2006.

International Tournament Fixtures

Thursday, 31 August 2017: Serbia v Scotland, kick-off 4pm (UK time) – City Stadium, Subotica

Friday, 1 September 2017: Scotland v Ukraine, kick-off 4pm (UK time) – Stadium FK Senta, Senta

Monday, 4 September 2017: Final or placing match, kick-off tbc – Stadium tbc

Scotland Under-19 Squad

Goalkeepers

Aidan McAdams (Rangers)

Kieran Wright (Rangers)

Defenders

Daniel Baur (Heart of Midlothian)

Robbie Deas (Celtic)

Jordan Houston (Rangers)

Lewis Mayo (Rangers) **PS**

Ryan Porteous (Hibernian)

Stephen Welsh (Celtic)

Aidan Wilson (Rangers)

Midfielders

Jamie Barjonas (Rangers)

Charlie Gilmour (Arsenal)

Jordon Holsgrove (Reading)

Fraser Hornby (Everton)

Jonny Mitchell (Falkirk) **PS**

Forwards

Jack Aitchison (Celtic)

Glenn Middleton (Norwich)

Callum Morrison (Heart of Midlothian)

Fraser Murray (Hibernian)

Zak Rudden (Rangers) **PS**

Callum Smith (Dunfermline Athletic)

PS – denotes Scottish FA JD Performance School player

Living Wage commitment by the Poppy Factory

Lady Haig's Poppy Factory is the latest organisation to become a Living Wage Employer.

The factory employs 41 Armed Forces veterans who make more than five million poppies and 12,000 wreaths each year by hand.



The commitment by LHPF to the Living Wage will ensure that all staff – regardless of whether they are direct employees or working on a third-party contractual basis – receive a minimum hourly wage of £8.45. This rate is significantly higher than the statutory minimum rate for over-25s of £7.50 per hour introduced earlier this year.

Charlie Pelling, Manager at LHPF, said: “We are delighted to be formally recognised as an accredited Living Wage Employer. This demonstrates our continuing commitment to providing

dignity through work to disabled ex-Servicemen and Servicewomen who might otherwise struggle to find meaningful employment.”

Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance, added: “The real Living Wage is one of the key tools at our disposal to help make an impact on levels of in-work poverty in Scotland. There is a strong business case for paying the Living Wage, but, crucially, it allows those in work to become more included in society, better provide for their families, and feel that their value and hard work is recognised by their employer.

“We are delighted to congratulate Lady Haig’s Poppy Factory on becoming a Living Wage employer, joining the growing movement of 800-plus companies in Scotland who want to go further than the government minimum and recognise that Living Wage accreditation is the mark of a responsible employer. I hope more organisations follow their lead by becoming accredited.”



More than 25,000 people in Scotland have had a pay rise thanks to the real Living Wage initiative and 820 employers headquartered in Scotland have become accredited.

The accreditation programme in Scotland, which was launched in April 2014, is an initiative from The Poverty Alliance, in partnership with the Living Wage Foundation, and is funded by the Scottish Government.

The real Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually, and is calculated according to the real costs of living.



Photos Eamonn McGoldrick Tel: 07810 482491

Buses on Leith Street will be diverted from 2 September

BUS CUSTOMERS URGED TO PREPARE FOR LEITH STREET CLOSURE

Lothian has announced changes to services as a result of the Leith Street closure during works to redevelop the St James Centre in Edinburgh's East End.

The city centre route will be shut to all traffic from 2 September 2017 until the summer of 2018, resulting in major diversions to some bus services. The company is urging all customers, especially regular passengers, to find out in advance how this might impact on their journey.

The main daytime services affected include the 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 19, 22, 25, 34, 45 and 49, which will follow a different route and stopping pattern. Night buses will also be affected. A number of other services will follow their normal route and stopping pattern, but with a minor diversion.

Sarah Boyd, Operations Director at Lothian, said: "With less than a month to go before the road closes, we strongly encourage customers to plan their journey in advance using our mobile app. Information on all services affected is also available on bus, on our website and through our social media channels.

"There is no doubt that this will have a significant impact on

our services and customers but we've worked extremely hard to minimise this. We thank our customers for their understanding and patience during the redevelopment of the centre."

The Lothian app offers journey planning tools and real-time service updates, all integrated with Google Maps. Following a recent upgrade, it is also now available in 11 languages. It can be downloaded from tfeapp.com.

Lothian are also introducing changes to some services from Sunday 3 September, incorporating the Leith Street closure along with minor timetables changes. Full information can be on its website www.lothianbuses.co.uk.

Lothian will provide information on buses, at bus stops and through its social media channels, including updates throughout the construction works.



Edinburgh International Festival 2017 – ‘Blak Whyte Gray’ Photo Call



Formed in 2002 by urban choreographer Kenrick ‘H20’ Sandy and producer/composer Michael ‘Mikey J’ Asante, Boy Blue Entertainment brings hip-hop from the streets and clubs firmly into the theatre.



Blak Whyte Gray is a bold and brilliant dance creation combining tightly drilled choreography and a ground-shaking electronic score. A world in flux; a need for change. The time is right to ask questions, to break free from a system that no longer works – and emerge to a new awakening. Three dancers straightjacketed in a cage of light judder as dance energy flows through them. A battalion of dancers, their bodies synchronised and syncopated, find flow in elegant, ever-changing formations amid their brute force. A lone figure – staggering, barely alive – is returned to life and freedom by his mysterious comrades.



'Blak Whyte Gray' is on at the Lyceum Theatre from 16-19 August and tickets are available [from here](#)

Airport gives funding to community groups

Edinburgh Airport shows its commitment to helping local groups by sharing £40,000 of funding by way of its [Community Board](#).

Twenty groups across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife will receive a share of the money to help with a range of local initiatives.



The grants are made to non-profits, charities and community organisations.

Established in 2012, the board has allocated nearly £640,000 to projects which support health and well-being, the environment and education.

Chief Executive of Edinburgh Airport Gordon Dewar said:

“We know the important role that these projects and many others have within their local communities and it is only right that we recognise that work. We are delighted to be able to help by awarding these funds and give something back to our neighbouring areas.”

One of the projects to receive funding in the latest round is Boroughmuir, who will use it to provide new equipment for its players.

Chairman Gavin Michie said: “Boroughmuir Thistle FC are delighted to be the recipients of this generous award from Edinburgh Airport Community Board Funding.

“As the only Scottish FA Community Quality Mark club for girls

and women in the South East of Scotland, this award will allow us to further develop opportunities for girls and women in our community of all abilities and aspirations to become regularly active in football.”



Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Chair of the Community Board, said: “It’s a real privilege for me to chair the community board. So many charities and groups have had an unexpected lift from the generosity of the airport and it’s such a thrill to help direct the funding to so many good causes and projects. It’s a model of community engagement I’d encourage others to follow.”

The organisations to receive funding in this allocation is as follows:

Barnton Policy Parks – Edinburgh

Christmas in Kirkliston – Edinburgh

Leith Academy Girls Rugby Club – Edinburgh

Lothian Disability Sport – Edinburgh

Muirhouse Millenium Centre – Edinburgh

Playbuddies – West Lothian

Queensferry Rowing Club – Edinburgh

Blackhall Playgroup – Edinburgh

Boroughmuir Thistle Football Club – Edinburgh

Broxburn United Sports Club – West Lothian

Frozen Light Theatre – Norfolk (putting on shows in Edinburgh)

Inverkeithing High School – Fife

Kinghorn Costal Rowing Club – Fife

KSQ Football Club – Edinburgh

NSPCC Scotland – Glasgow (delivering projects in Edinburgh)

St Marys FC – Edinburgh

The Ecology Centre – Fife

The PSA and Parent Council (CPSC), Cramond Primary School –
Edinburgh

Traverse Theatre Scotland Limited – Edinburgh

What? Why? Children in Hospital – Edinburgh

Help Underbelly fundraise for The Brain Tumour Charity on 23 August

Underbelly is partnering with The Brain Tumour Charity for a raucous evening of live comedy.

The organisation remains at the forefront of the fight to defeat brain tumours, making a difference every day to the lives of people with a brain tumour and their families.



Ed Bartlam explaining the partnership with The
Brain Tumour Charity to the press

This is a cause very near and dear to Underbelly's heart as director Ed Bartlam's young son was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer last year. Thankfully, he has now had treatment and is in remission.

Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer for children and adults under 40 and increased funding for research is desperately needed.

All box office income will go straight to The Brain Tumour Charity AND Underbelly will match this amount as a donation to the charity, doubling the money that will be raised on the night.

There will be an amazing bill of incredible comedians lined up for our **Big Brain Benefit** show, joining us will be:

- **Aisling Bea**
- **John Bishop**
- **Jason Byrne**
- **Danny Bhoy**
- **Tommy Tiernan**
- **Abandoman**
- **Charlie Baker**
- **Suzi Ruffell**

Venue: Underbelly George Square – Udderbelly

TIME : 11.45pm, 23 August 2017

Tickets: £20.00

[Tickets here](#)

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2017 welcomes the Indian Naval Band



This year, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo welcomes The Indian Naval Band – one of the most renowned bands in India and one of the largest Indian performances to have ever been seen at the Tattoo in its 68-year's existence. India's attendance is particularly important this year, with the Indian band invited to mark the 70th year of Indian independence and the India–UK Year of Culture.

The Indian Band, appearing with an array of colourful dancers, marked the 70th year of Independence Day one day early, greeting international visitors from France, Jade (7) and Milan (10), with sweets.



The Curries are coming!

by Neil Gunn

For two Dumfries pipers the excitement and anticipation of playing at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is keenly felt as they fine tune their performance for this extra special


occasion.

This year to mark the contribution of the Scottish Diaspora to the country's history and heritage, the Tattoo and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have invited clans and families, on their own designated evenings, to take part in a pre-show 'Splash of Tartan' event.



As one of the chosen honoured families the Curries (anciently MacMhuirich), who will assemble in Edinburgh from both sides of the Atlantic, will join others at the 10.30 performance on 19 August.

Thanks to an invitation from the American-based Clan Currie Society, a leading international, non-profit, cultural and educational organisation, father and son Stuart and Kyle Currie, who don't often get the chance to play together, will escort members of the Currie family as they march proudly across the drawbridge on to the Edinburgh Castle esplanade.

 To mark this special occasion Stuart and Kyle, in another first for the duo, have penned a new tune aptly called, *The Curries are Coming*, a melodic 6/8 March. Because he had never composed before, Stuart freely admitted, "The pressure was on."

Currie Society Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. David Currie said, "We are delighted that Stuart and Kyle are joining us for the evening. To have two experienced Scottish 'Currie' pipers marching beside us adds immensely to what already promises to be a very special evening. We are proud to present them with new kilts for the occasion. "

Not only will Stuart and Kyle escort representatives of the family, they will join, "in a Royal Navy led year," the massed pipes and drums of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at the traditional pre-show warm up – the 'Big Blaw'.

✖ Although the last time Stuart was at the Tattoo was as a young spectator and Kyle has never been they are no strangers to the big musical occasion. Both are already 'champion' pipers.

Stuart, who currently plays with The Vale of Atholl Pipe Band (grade 1) from Perth, first started piping, at the tender age of 11, with his local Kirkcudbright pipe band. He was a member of Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary Pipe Band when they were crowned British Champions in 2010.

Kyle who also first picked up the pipes at the age of 11 is a member of Lochmaben Pipe Band, crowned UK Champions (Grade 3A) in 2014. He is also a member of The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland.

While Edinburgh is only a short hop from his home, Stuart is well-travelled, having played in Switzerland, Norway, France, Germany, Ireland and Japan.

Like his dad, Kyle has also already taken part in events outside Scotland including with The National Youth Pipe Band, as part of a larger group of musicians, in Buckingham Palace, with some members of the royal family in the audience. Only a week after the Tattoo he will pack his bags and head for the Avenches Tattoo in Switzerland, held in the town's spectacular 1st century Roman amphitheatre.

Keeping the family tradition going is Stuart's 12 year old daughter Kali who is a drummer with Lochmaben Pipe Band.

Although both have confessed to having a few nervous thoughts, they are looking forward to meeting their namesakes from the United States and other parts of Scotland. Stuart said, "To be able take part in one of Scotland's biggest cultural events, with my son, is a fantastic opportunity. It's something we will both remember forever."

The new pipe tune marks the latest in a long series of newly commissioned music by the Clan Currie Society. Most new works enjoy world premieres in New York City at the Society's popular "Pipes of Christmas" concerts. Many can be enjoyed online at the Society's YouTube Channel.

The Currie appearance at the Edinburgh Tattoo will mark the close of an important week in Currie history. Earlier that week, kinfolk will gather in Glasgow to hold a Family Convention to elect the first family leader in over 800 years.

Learn more at www.facebook.com/ClanCurrieSociety

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – REVIEW – Mark Thomas: A Show That Gambles on the Future ****

Few predicted the events of 2016. Even fewer seem to know where we are going. Mark Thomas sets out to discover what the future has in store for us by collecting and examining his own predictions and those of his audiences, before gambling on their outcome.

By making futurologists of us all, he will create a fantastical, hilarious and possibly accurate vision of the world. And maybe even make a few quid on the side.



Mark Thomas' [A Show That Gambles on the Future](#) has a simple premise; can we, the great unwashed, do better than futurists,

pollsters and pundits in predicting what's around the corner.

No bookie would give you odds on me enjoying it, I've loved the man's work for thirty years now. As usual, he didn't disappoint and had me cackling and laughing yet again.

While the idea is simple, you could argue he's crowd-sourcing the show's content. However, while the show is partially improvised around the audience's suggestions, Mark Thomas deftly uses them to add colour and texture. While the show returns to themes explored in Mark Thomas' previous ones, such as [Bravo Figaro](#), [the People's Manifesto](#) and [the Red Shed](#), it is a different beast. Needless to say, Brexit and Trump do feature but could they not in a political satirist's current show.

During the performance I saw on Saturday, other topics featured, including the bloody trams, how not to pull a sickie and ferrets. My favourite riff from a suggestion was the destruction of David Miliband's alleged credentials to lead the Labour Party. Every word was true and very much deserved, wee mealy-mouthed former politician that he is.

The show asks the audience to contribute and play their part but it is not onerous.

However, you'll need to defend your suggestions so make sure you have prepared ypur arguments. I look forward to seeing what you make Mark ask his favourite Kiwi bookie about the odds for.

Clothes Aid looking for

franchisees

The hunt is on for Edinburgh entrepreneurs who want to run a business which also helps charities.

The organisation Clothes Aid is looking for people to become franchisees, so it can help even more charities in Edinburgh and beyond.



Since Clothes Aid partnered with CHAS in 2009, Scots have donated more than 7,000 tonnes of clothing in aid of the charity, via the organisation's bag collection service. But more fully licensed franchise partners are needed to help it fundraise through these door to door collections.

Steve Jenkinson, Franchise Manager at Clothes Aid, explained: "Our limited franchise opportunity offers local entrepreneurs the chance to build their own business, with a fantastic social purpose, and they'll be backed all the way with full training, and the help and support of an experienced and substantial organisation.

"Our model is very simply. Franchisees run a team or teams who carry out the distribution and collection of charity bags to targeted areas and households within their specific area. Each team van typically carries at least a tonne of clothing at a time, and homes are visited every three to four weeks."

Collectively, Clothes Aid has raised more than £10 million for UK charities to date, including NSPCC, Macmillan Cancer Support and Make-A-Wish UK through fully licenced door to door collections and in strict adherence to fundraising regulations. The organisation also works closely with the Waste and Recycling Action Programme (WRAP), and is committed to reducing the 350,000 tonnes of clothes that are sent to UK landfill every year.

From Clothes Aid's East Kilbride depot, more than 50,000 CHAS bags are delivered every month across Scotland, ultimately helping children and families to receive palliative care, family respite and support both at home, and at its two hospices, Rachel House in Kinross and Robin House, in Balloch.

Jonathan Clegg, community fundraiser for the charity, said: "We are absolutely overwhelmed at the fantastic amount raised by Clothes Aid and can't thank the team enough for their continued support. This is a big year for CHAS; there are 15,400 children and young people in Scotland with a life-shortening condition and we are determined to be there for all of those children and their families.

"Every penny raised by Clothes Aid will help us keep the joy alive for families facing the most difficult time imaginable, by ensuring that no matter how short the time they have together may be, it is filled with happiness."

Michael Lomotey, Clothes Aid's business manager, said: "We are delighted to have reached such a landmark figure for CHAS and are dedicated to ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact and their incredible work, and that of other charities across Scotland and beyond.

"To become a franchisee, you just need to be fit and healthy and happy to work outdoors. This fantastic opportunity will give you financial security and independence, while helping to support some of the country's leading charities."

For more information, visit:
www.clothesaid.co.uk/franchise-opportunity

Twitter – @ClothesAid

Theft from Hibs shop – appeal for witnesses

Edinburgh police have issued an appeal for witnesses after what they describe as ‘a high-value theft of merchandise’ from the Hibs shop on Albion Place last Friday 11 August 2017.

Replica Hibs football tops– nine home and nine away versions – amounting to a three-figure sum were stolen.



Easter Road Stadium

The incident happened around 3pm when a man left the store without paying for the merchandise.

He made off in a black metallic Renault driven by a woman. As the car pulled away, it hit another car – a dark grey Renault Clio and failed to stop.

Officers are now appealing for anyone who witnessed either incident or who has information that can assist them with their inquiries to please get in touch.

Sergeant David Wright of Leith police station said: “This was a high-value shop-lifting in broad daylight with the suspects also involved in a hit-and-run collision as they made their get-away.

“Thankfully no-one was injured but the occupants of the car were understandably shaken.

“We are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed either incident or who has information that can assist us in our investigation.

“Anyone with information is asked to contact officers on 101 quoting incident number 2188 of the 11th August.”

Edinburgh man who died on A7 named

Police Scotland confirmed that the man who died in a road traffic collision on the A7 near Stow last week was 40-year-old Iain Burnett from Edinburgh.



The collision happened around 5.40pm on Thursday 10 August 2017.

Iain's family have issued the following statement along with the photo attached.

"Iain was a much adored, husband, son, brother and father of three. Iain will be very sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

"We would like to commend Police Scotland for their support and professionalism and extend our thanks to the ambulance crews for their work.

"We would like to ask for privacy to grieve at this difficult time."

Officers are still looking for witnesses who have not yet come forward to get in touch, particularly if they stopped at the scene.

Anyone with information is asked to contact officers on 101 quoting incident 3006 of 10th August.

Edinburgh International Book Festival: Will Self and Richard Sennett – Draughtsmen Drafting



‘I’ve always wondered why I find suburbs sexy’

Although the novelist, academic and former bad boy of journalism, **Will Self**, claims now to like suburbs, he certainly didn’t appreciate growing up in one any more than I did. Hampstead Garden Suburb embodies what Self calls ‘an idealisation of the bucolic’, the very British idea that there have been times when everything was perfect, and that this mythical perfection can be recaptured ‘in a few cul-de-sacs with privet hedges and semi-detached houses in the Tudorbethan style.’




Whether Self likes suburbs or not (he has now lived in London for many years) he’s here at the Edinburgh International Book Festival with the admirably patient **Richard Sennett** (Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, *left*) to discuss cities, and more especially ***Invisible Cities***, the novel by **Italo Calvino**, first published in 1972.

In Calvino’s book Marco Polo visits the emperor Kublai Khan, describing for him, in a series of vignettes, the various cities of Khan’s vast empire. In reality, every vignette is about one city – Venice – and none describes the city in concrete terms. Instead places are glimpsed through a phrase,

a glance, a sound;

‘... the special quality of this city.....on a September evening, when the days are growing shorter and the multicoloured lamps are lighted all at once at the doors of the food stalls, and from a terrace a woman’s voice cries oooh!’

Unlike Flaubert or Dickens, Calvino gives us no narrator to describe the scene. *Invisible Cities*, says Sennett – a huge fan – ‘speaks of things the human eye cannot see, of “thin cities”, “invisible cities”....’ Or, as Self puts it ‘what Calvino tries to investigate is the way the imagination works in a reciprocal way with the urban environment.’

Self is a born raconteur who can easily turn any  conversation into a monologue, albeit a most engaging and entertaining one. Sennett is more measured but well able to hold his own, and with his own dry line in humour. (To an audience member who’s trying to engage with Self: ‘He’s very tough. I know this guy. Just submit.’)

The two of them disagree on many things – for Sennett, struggling to bring the subject of cities alive for his students, the publication of Calvino’s work was a bright light in ‘a sea of near-suicidal despair.’ ‘The single finished urban project’ is, he says ‘a kind of graveyard of the imagination’, whereas *Invisible Cities* showed people just what architects were killing in obeying the mantra ‘think practically.’

Self, coming to Calvino’s work for the first time, points out that the book is not written by a city dweller. Calvino loved New York but saw it from an outsider’s point of view;

‘What I take from Calvino is a lack of understanding of what it is like to live in cities.’

(Sennett, who knew Calvino, describes him as 'wild on the page but surprisingly withdrawn as a person, intensely engaged with places', someone whose idea of a walk was a three hour trek up and down the grid streets of NYC.)

So what might we learn from Calvino's book in an age when cities (and people) are struggling?

✗ Both Sennett and Self agree that parts of cities are rapidly turning into investment opportunities, 'the commodisation of space itself.' Numerous properties – especially, but certainly not exclusively in London – are owned by people so wealthy that they don't even bother to rent them out. Self, a psychogeographer, calls such places 'shadow streets', and describes walking around Edinburgh's New Town the previous evening and seeing no lights in the windows. The New Town is 'antiseptic and denuded', something he finds ironic in an area built to embody the Scottish Enlightenment. He recalls (as I do) the many bomb sites and wastelands that still existed in London in the 1960s; the city has lost its 'wiggle room' and is becoming frozen in aspic.


'Form has followed finance in the city.'

Whilst Self tells his students (and us) to go out and get lost in a city, to get away from the idea that everything has to be determined by time and money, to use the city as a springboard to free the imagination, Sennett is more concerned with what he sees as the shrivelling complexity of urban life.

✗ Both commerce and politics, he says, want to simplify everyone's experience, to corral folk into uniform areas where they will only encounter people exactly like themselves; 'This is terrible.'

And it's surely true that many cities are, by their design, now discouraging us from walking anywhere – Houston has long been known for this, and now it's quite difficult to walk round parts of London. Self is a well-known walker – in the


past he's walked from his home in Vauxhall to Heathrow Airport, and from JFK into Manhattan. How long before this is no longer allowed 'for your own safety'?

Sennett sees the best cities as complex places, ones that  make their citizens learn to manage complexity; they are forced to live cheek by jowl with strangers, people they might not like, foreigners, 'even Brexiteers' (Sennett is a fierce Remainer). Ordinary people are being driven out of cities by the inflation of property prices and the lack of stable jobs. He sees the possibility of revolutionary upheaval on the horizon, much of it caused by the polarisation of wealth that Brexit will only exacerbate

A city, he says, is good for teaching people to deal with complexity, not only in their own lives but out in the world. When people have to live together, they have to learn to get on. He doesn't want cities to be simplified ('Google maps can do that for you'), he wants to make them *more* complicated. Why shouldn't shopping centres be combined with hospices for example? (He tried it once, and after initial resistance people loved it.)

'There is no surprise in our cities.'

In some ways Self agrees. Cities make him think of termite heaps; maybe humans are social insects after all? One problem, Sennett points out, is that while people are all at the same level, all doing their best to survive from day to day, they will co-operate, help one another out. But the minute people get some money, the habits of co-operation disappear (he cites Delhi as an example.)


 At this point Self goes off on a little sortie of his own, first likening the suburbs to oysters' marital beds, then enumerating the mentions of 'labial' in Calvino's book.

Sennett is like the slightly indulgent but ultimately cynical uncle ('Write all this down and see where it gets you.') You

have to admire Self for his confidence – his argument wanders off on numerous tangents, peppered with anecdotes and thoughts about everything from sex to the size of taxi drivers' hippocampuses (In his novel *The Book of Dave*, a cabby's notebook is found in a ruined city and its contents, ['The Knowledge'], are used to reimagine the place. Self has taken part in research on whether cabbies' extensive 'Knowledge' leads to an enlargement of part of the brain. His own hippocampus is, he assures us, 'huge'.)

Sennett counters with his own diversion into Brexit, which he sees as catastrophic. Whilst he feels that change must surely come, he says that people need to find a new way to challenge the status quo. Growing up in a Communist household (his mother worked for the party for over 30 years) he saw that his parents' generation did not know how to answer the commodity fetishism of their day.

'Something is going to explode – but it needs a different answer.'

Were any conclusions drawn at the end of this interesting  and enjoyable session? Self and Sennett clearly both love cities and decry what is happening to them, the stifling of their imaginative growth by the mega-powers of money and political control. Self, unlike many city dwellers, has no desire to move to the country, seeing the city as 'womb-like' and welcoming. (He of course can apparently afford to live in it.) Just how to restore surprise and joy to the urban areas in which most of us now spend our days remains, however, elusive in the face of the juggernaut of capitalism.

In the introduction to *Invisible Cities*, Calvino describes;

'the desperate moment when we discover that this empire, which had seemed to us the sum of all wonders, is an endless, formless ruin, that corruption's gangrene has spread too far to be healed by our sceptre, that the triumphs over enemy

sovereigns has made us the heirs of their long undoing.'

But despite this depressing thought, Self heads off quite happily to the signing tent. He's still a rebel, still a master of the sharp observation, the witty come-back, but you get the sense that even he has mellowed. In the end you have either to laugh or cry.

Draughtsmen Drafting is one of four EIBF events organised by LSE's *Theatrum Mundi* as part of the *Writing in the City* programme theme. In these sessions artists, architects and academics will investigate the city through speculative fiction and celebrate how writers inspire a city's future. More details on *Theatrum Mundi*'s website [here](#). Image of Will Self (c) Edinburgh International Book Festival.



Alan Cumming gives the thumbs up to Ross Pavilion redesign

The outline design for the new Ross Pavilion in Princes Street Gardens has had the stamp of approval from one of Scotland's most successful stars.

The actor Alan Cumming (who is sadly missing from this year's Festival) added his voice to the acclaim for the winning design.

***Mr Cumming told The Edinburgh Reporter :
“What I love most about this design is
the way wHY and their team have managed
to capture and celebrate Edinburgh’s
subterranean architectural past, as well
as make Princes Street Gardens into a
beautiful landscaped community space for
the 21st Century.”***



US architects wHY won the international design competition to establish a new outline plan for the replacement of the Ross Pavilion as announced a couple of weeks ago.



Their proposal is focused on the landscape and introduces a new undulating promenade. The brief given to all entrants was to create a concept design for the £25 million project to include a new venue which will replace the bandstand, a visitor centre and subtle updates to West Princes Street Gardens. The visitor centre will also have a café, greatly needed in that part of the gardens.

1. [Ross Bandstand](#)

The winning design has yet to be finalised in detail, but it is inspired by the gardens’ geology and history, and the theme for the pavilion itself is the butterfly. Mark Thomann of wHY explained that the word pavilion and papillon or butterfly are all connected and this gave the team some inspiration.

The idea is not to detract in any way from the grand majesty of Edinburgh Castle, but rather to fold it into the landscape, allowing it to increase the amount of green space and get rid of some of the tarmac.



Mark Thomann, wHY's Landscape Design Director, said:

"This is a special opportunity for a special place, not just for Edinburgh but the world. The new Ross Pavilion and Gardens draw from the rich natural history, heritage and creative spirit of Scotland, embodying a model approach for integrating public architecture and urban space in a top global city. Our team looks forward to realising this vision with the Ross Development Trust and the people of Edinburgh."

The team described it as 'human scale with moments of drama... activating four layers of meaning within the Gardens: botanical, civic, commemorative and cultural.'

The jury decided unanimously on the winner and said they were particularly taken with wHY's design as it is a 'beautiful and intensely appealing proposal that complemented, but did not compete with, the skyline of the City and the Castle'.

The plan is to create a newly refreshed community space aiming to make it a welcome area for use during future festivals.

Norman Springford, Competition Jury Chair, was delighted with the whole process. He said:

"As is always the case with initiatives of this size and stature, the jury had a hard job! We are confident however that we have a winning concept that embodies an imaginative ensemble landscape approach, creating a wonderful stage for our iconic Edinburgh Castle. In addition, the design concept offers a creative energy and a series of unique elements which will all combine to create a new and contemporary landscape."

"We thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the shortlisted teams and understanding each approach. However with wHY, they demonstrated an impressive collaboration which respects and enhances the historical context and backdrop of the Castle and the City, whilst creating new heritage and increasing the green space within the Gardens. All of which were key aspects for us all and respected the importance of the space within a World Heritage Site."

The competition was organised by Malcolm Reading Consultants along with the Ross Development Trust and The City of Edinburgh Council. It was amazingly successful as it resulted in entries from 125 teams from 22 countries, and in April this year the entries were whittled down to a shortlist of 7 by the judges.

The plans for the redevelopment of the Ross Pavilion have only been made possible by a generous donation from Edinburgh businessman Norman Springford. Mr Springford who is behind the Apex Hotel group has given £5 million to start off a fundraising campaign to create the new pavilion in a redesigned landscape.

wHY is a collective of architects, landscape designers, makers and strategic thinkers, established in 2004 and with offices in New York and Los Angeles; the studio's competition-winning entry was led by Founder and Creative Director Kulapat Yantrasast and Landscape Design Director Mark Thomann.

The **wHY** team working on the Ross Pavilion is made up of many partners, some of whom are in Edinburgh.

• **wHY (USA)** with GRAS, Groves-Raines Architects, Arup, 0 Street, Creative Concern, Noel Kingsbury, Yann Kersalé Studio, Lawrence Barth, Stuco, Alan Cumming, Aaron Hicklin, Alison Watson, Peter Ross, Adrian Turpin and Beatrice Colin
wHY is an interdisciplinary design practice dedicated to serving the arts, communities, culture and the environment since 2004. Led by founder and creative director Kulapat Yantrasast and landscape design director Mark Thomann, **wHY** is a collective of architects, landscape designers, makers and strategic thinkers, who work as four independent yet interconnected workshops; ideas, buildings, grounds and objects. With offices in Los Angeles and New York, **wHY's** 30 team members and network

of experts share a commitment to collaboration. **wHY** has assembled a team of thought leaders and creative influencers, including engineers, designers, plant-lovers, graphic designers, writers, journalists, actors, artists, and activists who are passionate about Scotland and participating in the conversation for the future of the Ross Pavilion. Recent projects include the widely published Speed Art Museum in Louisville, KY and Skylanding with Yoko Ono, in the historic Olmsted designed Jackson Park in Chicago, IL.

<http://www.why-site.com/>

wHY will now work with the Trust, the Council and other stakeholders, and consult with the public, to take forward the project to revitalise this space, positioned just below Edinburgh Castle and adjoining Princes Street.

The Competition jury was made up of :

- **Norman Springford**, Jury Chair
- **Ada Yvars Bravo**, Director, MYAA Architects
- **Sir Mark Jones FSA, FRSE**, Former Director of the National Museums of Scotland and the V&A
- **Andrew Kerr**, CEO, City of Edinburgh Council
- **Riccardo Marini**, Director, Gehl Architects
- **Alexander McCall Smith CBE, FRSE**, Writer
- **Malcolm Reading (Hon) FRGS, FRSA**, Architect and Competition Director
- **Adam Wilkinson**, Director, Edinburgh World Heritage
- **Donald Wilson**, Convenor for Culture and Communities, City of Edinburgh Council

Investigation underway after

robbery at Niddrie Mill Convenience Store



A police investigation is underway after a 19-year-old female worker at the Niddrie Mill Convenience Store on Niddrie Mill Drive was threatened and robbed of a three figure sum at about 12.45pm yesterday afternoon.

No weapon was used and the shop worker was uninjured. The culprit is described as white and was wearing a dark hooded jacket, black scarf, sunglasses and light grey jogging bottoms. He spoke with a local accent and made off towards Niddrie Mill Avenue.

Detective Constable Andy Cory said: “Fortunately the shop worker was not injured during this robbery, but she was left very shaken and upset by the incident.

“No weapon was presented but the suspect intimated he was in possession of one and we are eager to speak to anyone who can help us trace this individual.

“Anyone who saw any suspicious activity around the store or can help us identify the male responsible should contact police immediately.”

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2017 – Ballistic

Explosive one-man show based on real events comes to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

BALLISTIC By Alex Packer

Mini Mall Theatre presents Ballistic at Pleasance Courtyard
August 2 – 28, 2017 at 2.15pm (no show August 14).



He tries his best with girls. He tries his best with mates. But for all his efforts, things just don't seem to be going right. So he's making a change. Something's triggered him to stand up for himself and reassert his worth. They made him feel small but with just a few clicks he'll become the biggest thing on the internet. But does he have the balls to go through with it? Ballistic is a darkly-comic thriller that asks vital questions about the stories that increasingly define our 21st century narrative.

Age guidance 16+ (strong language & mature themes) Running Time: 60 mins

'With Ballistic I wanted to explore a coming of age story with a difference,' said writer Alex Packer. 'How does a boy who appears to have everything cope with repeated rejection? And how do we label him? A monster with an innocent face, a lost soul with nowhere to turn, or the poster boy for a dangerous underground movement?'

Writer Alex Packer was inspired to write Ballistic after reading mass shooter Elliot Rodger's manifesto, 'My Twisted World', which is now widely available online. The 100,000-word document speaks bluntly and obsessively about his rejection by women and unending jealousy of his 'sexually active' peers. Elliot Rodger was responsible for the deaths of six people in a shooting he committed in California in 2014. Ballistic also takes inspiration from multiple 'lone wolf attacks', both foiled and realised, which have taken place in the UK and across the world in recent years. Ballistic explores the dangerous effects of misogyny and isolation on young men and asks questions about why these events take place and who is responsible. Ballistic is Alex's debut play.

Website: www.mini-mall.co.uk Twitter: @MiniMallTheatre
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MiniMallTheatre

2 – 28 August, 2.15pm (no show 14 August) Pleasance
ThisPleasance Courtyard, 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8
9TJ www.pleasance.co.uk/event/ballistic 0131 556 6550

Tickets: Aug 2-4: £5 Aug 15, 21, 22, 28: £8/6 Aug 9, 10, 16, 17,
23, 24: £10/8 Aug 5-8, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27: £12/10

Snake found on pineapple bought from local store



The Scottish SPCA was called out to Tryst Park, Edinburgh yesterday after a snake was found on a pineapple.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was alerted to the discovery of the snake by a member of the public who'd bought a pineapple from a local store.

Animal Rescue Officer Catherine Atterton said, "It's not every day that we get called out to attend to snakes found in peculiar places.

"I know not long ago there was a wee lizard found on a head of broccoli so I was quite excited to see what had stowed away on this pineapple.

"We named him Ricky, as he's come all the way from Costa Rica. As yet he's not been identified but he's in a good condition and is now being cared for by experts at Butterfly World in Edinburgh.

"We're glad we were called out, as without proper care Ricky wouldn't survive our climate. Now he'll be able to recuperate from his adventures!"

Anyone concerned about the welfare of an animal should contact the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

Photos by Scottish SPCA

Movin' Melvin Brown gets on down with Edinburgh dancer

Rhythm & Blues legend Movin' Melvin Brown (72) and 17-year-old Edinburgh tap dancer Tamzin Burgess got together earlier

to compare moves in the heart of the capital.

[Movin' Melvin](#) is not only performing a high-octane Fringe show, *Chuck Berry Lives!* but will be teaching Edinburgh folk the basics of tap at special classes this Saturday.



Melvin, from the USA, loves to dance with talented local people everywhere he goes on his worldwide tours – and was mightily impressed with Tamzin who this month won the Leigh Anderson Memorial Trophy and the Edinburgh Tap trophy and was second in the Tap World Cup in Germany in May.





The *Dancing With The Star – Movin’ With Melvin* masterclass, which offers a fun route to health and fitness, will take place at Assembly Checkpoint on Saturday, 19 August at 11am.

And for those who love it and want to carry on with classes there’s the Mary Phelan school, where Tamzin trained, which

has been in Edinburgh for 40 years. And tap classes are also available at Dance Base, Scotland's National Centre for Dance in Edinburgh's Grassmarket.

Photos

Neil Hanna Photography

www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk

07702 246823

Raton Laveur

Phil and Lily have moved to Toronto from Australia to pursue Lily's dreams.

Phil, finding himself at loose ends, becomes obsessed with the nest of raccoons living behind the crêperie where he works.



As Phil descends deeper into paranoia things take a violent turn, and Lily is left cleaning up the mess.

Raton Laveur is a comedy about love, relationships, and knives that cut through bone.

Warning – Mature Adult Elements and Implied Graphic Violence

[Tickets here](#)

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – Tony Burgess : Crimbo

Tony Burgess: Crimbo Christmas, 2003.

What a proper mad one.

Tragic? Tick

Messy? Tick

And then Tony had to adopt his 10 year old autistic nephew, without knowing much about real life himself.



After 24 years on the comedy circuit, penning his own highly acclaimed projects as well as writing contributions for others, Mancunian comedian Tony Burgess finally makes his Edinburgh Fringe début.

Many people's family Christmases are dramatic, big northern Catholic family ones especially so, but Tony's family Crimbo 2003 was one they wouldn't forget.

His tale is by turns heartbreaking, uplifting, and – in the hands of this accomplished comedian – of course very, very funny. Within his show Tony addresses the little discussed problems of those who cope with the

effect of family members suffering from severe mental illness in what

is ultimately a life affirming story of survival.

Yet there is plenty here to enjoy as, filtered through his wry Mancunian charm, Tony takes an affectionate and humorous look at his family and their idiosyncrasies.

Tony has had a prolific career over two and a half decades. His talent was spotted early on with successes in the North West Comedian of the Year (winner) and So You Think You're Funny? (runner up) competitions and he has subsequently gigged extensively all over the UK and the rest of the world.

He wrote material for the first two series of BBC's Ideal as well as playing the lead character Moz's (Johnny Vegas) DJ brother Troy, who lived in the airing cupboard.

His plays, Fire Salad and Doorway, premièred at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester.

Tony has also written for many big name comedians including Steve Coogan (Paul and Pauline Calf's Cheese and Ham Sandwich), Johnny Vegas (the Sony award winning radio comedy Nightclass and Who's Ready For Ice Cream?), Lily Savage, and John Bishop (John Bishop's Britain). Tony even managed to get a writing credit on Wallace and Gromit's The Curse of the Were Rabbit, so his kids now believe that he's got a proper job.

Tony Burgess: Crimbo, August 5-26, Free Fringe, 6.15pm,

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – Arielle Dundas: Vulva Cupcake

A member of the liberal elite comes to the Fringe to pursue laughter, love, and politically correct baked goods with a lunchtime show at Laughing Horse (Venue 146).



What are we smarty pants progressives supposed to do now? Is hate trumping love really our fault? Can I be funny, politically sensitive, and sobbing simultaneously? Do all my cupcakes have to make a statement? For Freud's sake, can't a cupcake just be a cupcake? Should I have left out "angry feminist" and the raised fist emoticon from my dating profile? Should I have gone with more cleavage?

Arielle Dundas isn't sure, but you'll laugh at her attempts to figure it all out.

All this figuring is all the more difficult because Arielle is an American who grew up and lives in the Netherlands. She's a dreaded "globalist" and she didn't even know it! Pass the cupcakes!

A stunningly talented performer (at least that what she's written here), she knows how to hold your attention—remarkable, since her own attention is ADHD shaky.

A philosopher, she use keen critical thinking to analyze

failed romantic interactions, social structures, and baked goods. Philosophical, but personal. Silly, but cerebral. Provocative, but primarily hilarious.

In addition to performing her first hour show “Arielle Dundas: Moppet of Chaos” at last year’s fringe, she has performed in London, New York, Washington DC, Amsterdam, Kuala Lumpur, Berlin, Tel Aviv, Glasgow, Newcastle, and a whole lot of Dutch towns you’ve never heard of. Baarneveldt?

[Tickets here](#)

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – Sugar Baby

Wales’ leading new writing company, Dirty Protest, teams up with one of its leading writers, Alan Harris, at this year’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe to present [Sugar Baby](#), a brand new one-man comedy about a young, small-time Cardiff drug dealer, performed at Paines Plough’s ROUNDABOUT @ Summerhall.

Cardiff-based Dirty Protest have a strong reputation for creating lean, original, state-of-the-nation new writing productions from Wales. Their last Fringe show, Last Christmas by Matthew Bulgo, performed to rave reviews in 2014 including five stars from The Scotsman, transferred to Soho Theatre London and returned to Edinburgh in December 2016 for a run at the Traverse Theatre.



Playwright Alan Harris is no less admired at the Fringe. Love, Lies And Taxidermy, about a blossoming romance in Merthyr Tydfil, was also performed at Roundabout @ Summerhall last year, praised by critics and audiences alike. And his most recent play, How My Light is Spent, set in Newport, is currently touring the UK after an acclaimed run at Manchester Royal Exchange. Sugar Baby is the third in this unofficial series of three plays in which Alan shares his distinctive perspective on modern life in Wales.

Being a small-time drug dealer in Cardiff and living up to your family's expectations is tough. Marc avoids his mum, disguises his cannabis plants with fake tomatoes at the allotment, and now has to bail his old man out of £6,000 owed to local loan shark Oggy. When he meets Lisa for the first time in years, things get even messier. Oggy wants Lisa. Lisa wants Marc. Marc wants to survive the day.

Rooted in Cardiff, Alan's laugh-out-loud drama opens up the world of a small-time drug dealer to all of us, and asks us to examine our own connections to family and place, and what we are willing to do for cash. This new collaboration between two of Wales' new writing powerhouses will be directed by Dirty Protest's Artistic Director, Catherine Paskell and performed by Alex Griffin-Griffiths at Paines Plough's ROUNDABOUT @ Summerhall, Paines Plough's award-winning plug-in-and-play theatre.

Catherine Paskell said: "Dirty Protest are thrilled to return to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. For the last 10 years, we have worked to promote and produce the best new writing from Wales, so that we can exchange and challenge ideas and beliefs about our complex contemporary world."

Alan Harris said: "The world of Sugar Baby is a tough place to inhabit but, hopefully, an enjoyable place to be. Its characters live on the edge of society – literally on the edge of Cardiff – and even though their lives are dominated by

being at the extremity of the social and economic scale, it's a place of humour. It's a mix of the real and the romantic – a snapshot of ordinary people with extraordinary stories to tell."

[Tickets here](#)

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – 30 Year Old Virgin

New York comedian Kevin James Doyle is coming to the 70th Edinburgh Fringe Festival with a show all about sex – or the complete lack of it.

Raised as a clean-living young Christian he knew that sex had to be saved for marriage. But then, God forbid, he hit 30, his engagement broke up and he was still a virgin.

Doyle's The 30 Year Old Virgin world premieres as part of the Free Fringe and is a funny, vibrant, honest and vulnerable set of revelations about his upbringing and the subsequent rollercoaster ride of horniness and climactic hilarity.

"There I was, aged 30 and had never had sex – so what was I going to do? There was nothing for it but to dive right in to a whole new world where I was a total innocent, fumbling in search of experience," says Doyle, "But can you imagine what it's like to date a girl at that age and reveal that you've never had sex?"



Doyle is known for his delightfully entertaining storytelling, full of painfully funny home truths and personal revelations. There was, for example, the moment when as a hormone-fuelled teenager heading off for school his mother confronted him

with a lotion bottle from the bathroom shouting “Kevin, this stuff’s expensive, stop it!”

An Edinburgh Fringe first timer he has an extensive track record in the USA. Doyle’s successful long running Off-Broadway comedy, How to Be a New Yorker had over 400 performances in Times Square.

He also hosts Great Times, the popular New York stand up show which is a testing ground for new material from comedians like Jim Gaffigan, Mike Birbiglia, Ilana Glazer – writers from Saturday Night Live, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.

Doyle brings many years of comedy experience and bucket loads of finely honed material with him across the Atlantic. He’s also dogged by lingering parental disappointment that such a promising young man should have ended up as a comedian.

“As it’s a premier I’ve got no reviews to share with people so I told my parents about the show to see what they thought,” says Doyle, “My mum’s response was ‘Are you sure you want to talk about this stuff on stage?’ and Dad weighed in with ‘You don’t have to swear to be funny, I hope your show is clean comedy’. Encouragement means everything.”

[Tickets here](#)

.
Comedy (stand-up, storytelling)

.
Venue: Laughing Horse at Southside Social (Venue 264)

.
Dates: August 3-14 and 16-27

.
Time: 23:15

.
Duration: 60 minutes

- Guidance: 18+
 - Tickets: Free non ticketed
-

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2017 – Ayres of France, Graces of Scotland

Elspeth McVeigh, returns to the Edinburgh 2017 Fringe tomorrow for one day only to again delight her audiences with another unusual programme – this time of 17th century popular Scottish and French music.

Ayres of France, Graces of Scotland | St Andrew's and St George's West George Street (Venue 111)| 17 August 2017 | 14:30



These hauntingly beautiful songs of love and life sung in the Scottish and French courts, was also the music of the streets and of the common people.

Now rarely performed, this gorgeous music speaks across the centuries, washing away the tears of the love lorn and love possessed...

[Tickets here](#)

<http://www.elspethmcveighmusic.com>

Get ready for Leith Street closure



Edinburgh St James is one of the biggest retail and mixed use developments ever built in the city centre and it is true that it is causing disruption already to traffic and pedestrians, but the developers are trying to keep everyone up to date with the latest news.

UPDATE : Since we first wrote this article another leaflet dedicated to the closure of Leith Street was published and this is now embedded below.

This makes it clear that there are no designated cycle lanes on the diversion route along London Road, Easter Road and Montrose Terrace but there is pedestrian and cycle access to the part of Leith Street otherwise closed to traffic.

[Read more here about the reasons for the closure.](#)

[tweet_box design="default"]

The very top part of Leith Street will be closed for 44 weeks from 2 September 2017 with diversions to all traffic at the East End.

[/tweet_box]

Here is a leaflet which tries to answer some of your questions. If you have others then do add them in the comments section below.




Loading...



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[Download \[162.00 B\]](#)

This is the new leaflet which is specific to the Leith Street closures. This shows an area in red which is fully closed to all traffic except pedestrians and cyclists.



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[Download \[162.00 B\]](#)

Lothian Buses are of necessity making some changes to bus routes and they will keep passengers up to date on their [website](#), the app and you can read the leaflet below.

Here are some of the main changes :

DAY BUSES SERVICE CHANGES

Leith Street Diversions

1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 19, 22, 25, 34, 45, 49 will be diverted due to the [closure of Leith Street](#).

Services with revised timetables

1, 7, 8, 14, 49 – Revised timetables due to Leith Street closure

NIGHTBUS SERVICE CHANGES

Leith Street Diversions

Leith Street closed a.m. Sunday 3 September until summer 2018.
Services N7, N11, N16, N22, N26 & N44 diverted via St Andrew Square and York Place.
Services N25 & N34 terminate at Waterloo Place.

The roll out of 20 mph zones in Edinburgh has had a significant impact on the reliability of NightBuses. We have tried to minimise the impact to passengers and have increased resource levels throughout the night however it has been necessary to curtail or re-time some routes.



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| [🔗 Open in new tab](#)
[Download \[162.00 B\]](#)

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 15 August 2017



The Airbus 400M “Atlas” flew past at the beginning of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo this evening – sadly not completely over the Castle as we had predicted!

But a great sight nonetheless.



*Did you miss the flypast tonight [@EdinburghTattoo](#) ? Here it is again...A400M Atlas Tomorrow the Hercules!
pic.twitter.com/2A4zcLbobk*

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [August 15, 2017](#)

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2017 Review – A Voyage of the Easy Sisters **



Born from the depraved improvisations and WhatsApp conversations of comedy quadrant Fridge Magnet, A Voyage of the Easy Sisters makes its Edinburgh Festival Fringe debut this year. The promoters say the show will 'have you cracking up and craving a Bloody Mary!' Sadly, this review says something different.

Fridge Magnet aka Anabel Barnston (BBC3's Coming of Age), Megan Hockley, Alice Sainsbury and Mike Rowley perform as the Easy Sisters, fighting to save the world through the power of social media, modern dating and political correctness. Cue plenty hashtag references and Twitter/Instagram gags but – and this might just be me – the only thing I was craving for was the exit door. I nearly laughed during the hour of the performance but it was only a mild possibility and it soon disappeared. That said, a couple of people behind me laughed throughout – quite what at rather passed me by.

People a lot younger than me may get the humour and I do have a reputation as a grumpy old so-and-so to consider. And to prove my grumpiness, if you're tempted to buy a bag of crisps at the venue be prepared to arrange a small mortgage first. £2 for a bag of ready salted is no laughing matter.

A bit like the show itself...

Venue: Venue 6 Royal Society, George Street, Edinburgh | until 28 August 2017 | 5.15pm (60 mins)

Tickets [here](#)

Edinburgh Reporter Review **

Work begins at Saughton Park

Over the next twelve months the council will oversee the project to transform Saughton Park into something akin to its former glory and attract people back to use it.

The decision to redevelop the park began five years ago but was only made possible by funding of £3.8 million from Heritage Lottery Funding.

Earlier this afternoon the Lord Provost the Rt Hon Frank Ross, accompanied by the Transport and Environment Convener, Lesley Macinnes, and local councillor Cathy Fullerton conducted the ground breaking ceremony in the Walled Garden. This marks the official commencement of the redevelopment work.

Over £5 million is being spent to restore Saughton Park to its former glory pic.twitter.com/PlpQLG89TF

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [August 15, 2017](#)



Transport and Environment Convener Lesley Macinnes and the Lord Provost perform the ground breaking ceremony

The redevelopment will cost £5.2m in total, and Contractors P1 Solutions are contracted to do the work.

Friends of Saughton Park members, who have worked closely with the Council and other partners to raise funds and engage with the community throughout the process were at the ceremony

along with David Knott President of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society.

The Caley as it is affectionately known will have a new base there. David Knott explained why this was important to them : "We have been homeless for the last ten years and it offers us an excellent opportunity to re-establish a base and re-engage with our members and also the local community in Saughton and the wider community not just in Edinburgh but across Scotland as well. We have already had a number of working party days when we have split and lifted and divided some of the herbaceous plants and we will have quite a strong input into the horticultural plans in the redeveloped Saughton Park.

"I think that is a real challenge but this park when it was first developed the importance to the local community of a green space to the surrounding area for their health and wellbeing. I think now we are finding the benefits of the urban green spaces to the local community and that is something we are very keen to reestablish for the future."



The Lord Provost told us that it will cost a lot of money but it should be seen as an investment. He said : "The council originally made the investment back in 1905 and 1906 to provide a facility for the local community. It has been well used over the last hundred years, though perhaps forgotten about now so we have a real opportunity to reinvest for a new community. We are very fortunate that we have managed to get matched funding from various groups in particular Sustrans and the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is good collaboration."



Councillor Cathy Fullerton who represents Sighthill and Gorgie is delighted that money is being spent here. She told us that local people are very excited to see the work starting. She said : "They can't wait for a year's time to be in here

enjoying themselves and enjoying the park as it used to be and with better improvements now.

“This park is quite unique. It is one of our premier parks in the city and it got that title because it deserves it. There is no other place like this in the southwest of the city.”

Transport and Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Macinnes, told us the work will be completed by next summer by which time there will be many improvements. She said : “They will see a revitalised park. It is one of those hidden gems in this part of the world.

“There will be a new café, there will be new borders, there will be refurbished winter gardens, there will be a lot for people to see and smell in terms of the flowers.

“There is an original bandstand which was found in the council’s warehouses and that is being brought back and restored.”

Among other improvements will be the restoration of the park’s stables as a community venue and base for The Caley, the construction of the new café and the repair and installation of furniture, lighting and paths across the site.

In addition, an ongoing management plan will ensure the development of a full programme of events and activities, volunteering opportunities and work towards achieving Green Flag status.

Lucy Casot, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland, said “It’s difficult to overstate the importance of our public parks. Vital to our well-being and essential to biodiversity, they are highly valued spaces enjoyed daily by people from all walks of life. Saughton Park, tucked away in the South West of Edinburgh, is one of the latest parks to benefit from over £64m of National Lottery funding, which over the last 20 years has played a crucial role in revitalising over 65 parks across

Scotland.”

Shona Nelson, Chair of Friends of Saughton Park, said: “The Friends of Saughton Park are very excited to see the redevelopment work start. Saughton Park is a little gem in the West of Edinburgh, over the last three and a half years we have been singing its praises not just locally but far and wide. We are looking forward to securing the future of the park for the next 100 years!”



HISTORY

First established in the 17th century on the grounds of Saughtonhall House, which later became an asylum, the gardens were purchased by the Council in the early 1900s for recreational use by the people of Gorgie and Saughton.

In 1908, Saughton Park was redesigned to accommodate the Scottish National Exhibition, when more than 3.5m visitors flocked to enjoy the attractions. It is hoped that the park’s restoration will recapture the spirit of the time, refreshing some of the key features installed for the Exhibition, including the bandstand, botanic garden and winter garden.

CYCLING

Consultation was recently carried out on new cycle routes linking the park with the city centre, which will be complemented by £500,000 recently awarded to the Saughton Park Restoration Project by Sustrans Community Links programme. Funding will enable upgrades to the park’s path network and off-road links around the neighbourhood.

The majority of the park will be closed during the construction phase, including the Balgreen entrance and car park. The main east-west path, which is part of the Water of

Leith Walkway and the John Muir Way, is also closed to allow re-surfacing and diversionary routes have been set up for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, the Gorgie Bridge entrance is closed until further notice to allow the construction of the new paths to the south of the park.

Further closures will be put in place throughout the construction phase, with full details available [on the Council website](#) and on notices at the site.

Find out more about the project [on the Council website](#).

The Saughton Park masterplan includes:

- Restoration of the walled garden and winter garden;
- Reinstatement of the bandstand
- Restoration of the stables as a new community venue and base for the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society
- Construction of a new cafe and public toilet facilities;
- Conserving all trees, woodlands and hedges and improving biodiversity across the site
- Repairing and/or installing furniture, lighting, paths and signage
- Improving car parks, entrances and developing circuit routes for walking, running and health activities
- Putting management and maintenance regimes in place to ensure park achieves Green Flag status
- Developing a full programme of events and activities which meets the needs and interests of a wide range of park users and offers volunteer and learning opportunities for all to enjoy
- Separate to the Heritage Lottery Fund project, it is also planned to improve the children's playground, and to install a new micro-hydro scheme and ground source heating system.

2017 Edinburgh International Book Festival – Day 4



Another day, another set of photos..... Fewer Words...









Witness appeal following theft from Hibs' shop



Police are appealing for witnesses after a high-value theft of merchandise from the Hibernian shop on Albion Place on Friday 11th August.

Replica Hibernian football tops– nine home and nine away versions – amounting to a three-figure sum were stolen.

The incident happened around 3pm when a man left the store without paying for the merchandise.

He made off in a black metallic Renault driven by a woman. As the car pulled away, it hit another car – a dark grey Renault Clio and failed to stop.

Officers are now appealing for anyone who witnessed either incident or who has information that can assist them with their inquiries to please get in touch.

Sergeant David Wright of Leith police station said: “This was a high-value shop-lifting in broad daylight with the suspects also involved in a hit-and-run collision as they made their get-away.

“Thankfully no-one was injured but the occupants of the car were understandably shaken.

“We are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed either incident or who has information that can assist us in our investigation.

“Anyone with information is asked to contact officers on 101 quoting incident number 2188 of the 11th August.”