

# Edinburgh International Festival – *Così Fan Tutte*: racial and sexual abuse should shock audiences – not the titillation

by [Eleanor Smith](#), [Edinburgh Napier University](#)

The new production of Mozart and Lorenzo da Ponte's classic opera [Così Fan Tutte](#) has attracted no shortage of controversy. After its premiere in Aix-en-Provence in France in July, the organisers of the Edinburgh International Festival [wrote to all ticket holders](#) offering a refund "due to the adult nature of some of the scenes" and its unsuitability for younger audiences.

[Christophe Honoré](#), better known as a novelist and auteur film director, also took the bold step of relocating the action from 18th-century Naples to 1930s Eritrea in the era of Italian rule.

We certainly need more gritty and relevant opera productions. Opera in the 18th century was often used as a way of commenting on issues of the day, especially [the opera buffa style](#), which distinguishes comic operas like *Così Fan Tutte* from the tragedies. There is no reason why present-day productions should not reflect this.

When it comes to staging a classic work, directors need to choose whether to follow the original in detail, using costumes and instruments to recreate a static idea; or try to capture the original's impact at the time. Thankfully scholars and performers nowadays agree that both approaches are legitimate – Honoré's production just leans towards the latter

category.

## Then and now

*Così Fan Tutte* is one of Mozart's most popular operas, but it was not often performed in the 19th century because the subject matter was considered vulgar. It tells the story of two girls, Fiordiligi and Dorabella, whose soldier lovers are called away to war.

A man named Don Alfonso has made a bet with the two soldiers that the girls will not be faithful, claiming that women never are. The soldiers come back in disguise to try and seduce one another's lovers to prove Don Alfonso wrong – though in the end they lose.



The soldiers and their lovers.

Edinburgh International Festival

Honoré has added sexual subplots which serve to highlight the high sexism in da Ponte's original plot, which is often glossed over. The original takes a very dim view of women's morals and even intelligence – extreme even by 18th-century standards. In the new production, Honoré's attempts to balance the ledger include a scene where the soldier Ferrando forces one of the chorus actors into sex when he discovers that Dorabella has been unfaithful to him.

Honoré continually seeks to emphasise the despicable nature of the male characters going out to trap their lovers through deception. The ending is particularly memorable in this respect. Where the women normally either return to their original lovers – or in some versions stick with the ones they “married” in disguise – Honoré's Fiordiligi sings that she “deserves death” for betraying her fiancée. She then wanders around the stage with his musket to her chin as if to end her life until the final curtain drops.



Fiordiligi and Dorabella.

[Edinburgh International Festival](#)

## Black comedy

Other new subplots comment on race and colonialism, often mingled with sexual abuse. Before the overture is a scene of two native girls dancing to a record playing a song criticising Mussolini. It is then torn off the record player and broken to pieces by one of the white soldiers, who goes on to rape one of the girls during the overture.

The Eritrean characters are mistreated throughout – mainly through heavy groping or outright rape. Race is also intermingled with the main plot when the soldiers, who disguise themselves as Albanians in the original, black up as Eritreans in this version.

This is about highlighting an underlying tragedy within the farce, but substituting colonialism and skin colour for the Albanian Muslim/Italian Christian antipathy in da Ponte's version. Too often in the past, this has been masked by spectacular costumes and beautiful singing.

One patron on the opening night in Edinburgh caught the mood when she said: "This is not a 'pretty-pretty' production and that suits the story so much better."

The programme notes were peppered with quotations on the nature of love and cruelty, paying homage to the opera's subtitle "La scuola degli amanti" (the lovers' school). Honoré writes in the notes:

*My intention is the same as [da Ponte's]: that for the lightness and irresponsibility of the comedy of love you should substitute the shamelessness and cruelty of tragic passion attacked by humour.*



Tragedy and farce.  
Edinburgh International Festival

## Curtain call

The casting draws together singers from all over the world, not all of whom were period specialists, but who blended in the ensembles like they had been singing together their entire lives. The acting from the main characters is outstanding.

The actors and singers of the chorus, drawn from the [Cape Town Opera](#), add to the Eritrean setting and give poignant substance to Honoré's revelations of the darker side of empire building. Meanwhile vibrato singing is kept to a decorative minimum, while the words were clear even in the upper circle.

Is the controversy justified? To some extent it will depend on your perspective. Apart from simulated sex and naked breasts at one point, most of the shock value was in the racial and sexual abuse.

You could sense that parts of the audience were shocked at white colonials groping black natives, albeit there are a lot of (non-racial) gropings in Mozart productions anyway. Friends and academics I have spoken to were not shocked – perhaps it depends on your exposure. In sum, it has probably been a bit of a storm in a teacup. But don't let that detract from the performance as a whole. Honoré's update of Mozart has important things to say about women and race. It is exactly what opera should be all about.

[Eleanor Smith](#), Lecturer in Music, [Edinburgh Napier University](#)

This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#).  
Read the [original article](#).

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# Five things you need to know today



- Arctic Convoy veterans
- Edinburgh Rugby hold public exhibition at Myreside today
- Edinburgh International Book Festival
- 'Combatathon' at Leith Victoria Swim Centre
- Consultation on Open Spaces

We met the lovely Jack Lawrie from Leith yesterday aboard Britannia. Jack is one of the 214 Scottish Arctic Convoy veterans, and last night he was invited by the Russian Consulate to a party on board Britannia. [Find out more here.](#)



Edinburgh Rugby is holding a public exhibition today from 4pm until around 7pm at Myreside Pavilion for anyone who is interested in seeing the current status of their plans to move their matches there from Murrayfield.

All interested parties are welcome to attend, as it is an informal event and you will have an opportunity to speak with the people at Edinburgh Rugby.



Our photographer John Preece spent many a day in August at the press tent in Charlotte Square taking photos of the great and the good in the book world. Today we feature Jackie Kay who is the Scottish Makar, but there are many others for you to see

in our Culture section [here](#)! Relive some of your book festival moments!

Edinburgh International Book Festival closed yesterday afternoon after entertaining over 3,400 primary school children from across Scotland who came to enjoy talks, workshops and discussions on the final day of the Festival. Over the preceding 18 days, Charlotte Square Gardens welcomed over 800 writers, illustrators, poets, politicians and philosophers from 55 countries in a packed programme of passionate ideas, engaged debates and pure entertainment.

Audiences enjoyed events with the Scottish Makar who was in conversation with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, children's author Judith Kerr who discussed her life in literature, American feminist icon Erica Jong, Iranian Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi, Great British Bake Off Host Sue Perkins, Human Rights lawyer Philippe Sands and Egyptian novelist Alaa al Aswany amongst many others.

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said "We have enjoyed an unbelievably brilliant festival with astonishing vitality and joy expressed by authors and audiences alike. Our enthusiastic audiences engaged with authors from every genre, welcomed exclusive previews of upcoming new books from Jonathan Safran Foer, Alan Cumming, Mark Thompson and Ray Mears, as well as enjoying first sightings of new writing from Philippa Gregory, James Kelman and Eimear McBride. We've explored stories of migration, seeking refuge and resettlement, we've looked at Europe, the UK and Scotland in light of the recent Brexit vote, and heard from some literary legends.

"The whole story is too big and too extraordinary to be expressed in numbers alone. Going into the 70th anniversary of Edinburgh as a Festival city I truly believe we have never been healthier and stronger than we are now."



Edinburgh Leisure's Leith Victoria Swim Centre is holding their first charity 'Combatathon' on Saturday 10 September from 1.30pm-3.30pm to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event, which is open to members and non-members, will be a two hour Les Mills Body Combat class using music from across 20 releases.

Edinburgh Leisure members taking part will be given the opportunity to trial a MYZONE belt during the class, with prizes being awarded to customers who can achieve more 'Effort Points' than the instructors taking the class.

'MYZONE' uses new technology and is a motivational belt which straps to the chest during exercise and tracks physical activity in real time and online.

The device measures the customer's 'My Zone Effort Points' (MEPs), a unique way of measuring activity and the results of exercise. It calculates calories burned, duration and time of activity, as well as factors including weight, muscle mass, body fat and heart rate.

Nicola Duffy, General Manager at Edinburgh Leisure's Leith Victoria said: "Edinburgh Leisure already has a really strong association with Macmillan Cancer Support through the 'Move More' programme, which is held at five of our centres helping people affected by cancer to take part in physical activity, either when undergoing or following treatment.

"With one in three people affected by cancer, this is a great way to get physically active, set yourself a challenge and raise money for a great cause."

The event costs £5 to take part, with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. To book in for the event contact:

Edinburgh Leisure's Leith Victoria Swim Centre on 0131 555 4728

For further information, visit: [www.edinburghleisure.co.uk](http://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk)




Edinburgh residents are invited to comment on the city's draft Open Space Strategy, which sets out Edinburgh's open space needs in the period up to 2021.

Since 2010, 15 of the city's largest parks have been substantially improved and 22 play areas upgraded, thereby increasing access to good quality green space and play opportunities across the city; allotment provision has increased and community gardens have flourished. New residential green spaces have also been created as new homes have been built.

Key challenges ahead include securing new parks and active travel links as the City expands and creating spaces that encourage people of all ages to spend more time outdoors. The draft Strategy also supports turning under-used green spaces into community gardens and wildlife areas and enhancing the city's historic cemeteries and burial grounds.

The consultation, which runs from 29 August until 21 October, seeks feedback on these long-term proposals through an online survey on the Council's [Consultation Hub](#).

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# Man's body found in the grounds of Liberton High School



A police enquiry is underway after the body of a man was found in the grounds of Liberton High School this afternoon.

The death is currently being treated as 'unexplained'

A police spokesman said: "A man's body was discovered in a wooded area at Liberton High School.

"It was reported around 1.30pm on Tuesday.

"The death is being treated as unexplained and enquiries to establish the full circumstances are at an early stage."

An Edinburgh Council spokesman said: "At lunchtime today staff were alerted to the discovery of a body in the wooded area of the school grounds.

"Emergency services were called and Police Scotland are carrying out inquiries.

"We are not aware that this matter relates in any way to the school."

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# Arctic Convoy veterans to be feted on board Britannia tonight



L-R Jack Lawrie and Don Dawkins with an Ushakov Medal

Forty two veterans of the Arctic Convoys are to attend a reception this evening at the invitation of the Consulate General of Russia to celebrate 75 years since the first ship left the west coast of Scotland to take vital supplies to Russian during World War II.

One of those was Jack Lawrie from Leith. Jack (97) was there today with his daughter, with his medals firmly hidden under his outer jacket. He has an Arctic Convoy medal which is one of three he had put on today, but chose to hide them from public view!

It took the Consul General of the Russian Federation for Scotland, Andrey A Pritsepov, to explain to us what the medals were. Jack was wearing a Russian medal which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Arctic Convoy, another British medal which the Consul General explained was a British Arctic Star medal, as well as the Arctic Convoy medal itself, named the Ushakov medal.

Mr Lawrie explained to us that during the war his ship's home base was Belfast, but to join the Arctic Convoy they started out from Loch Ewe. He said: "It was a very long voyage. We went up the longest way in the convoy, up the Denmark Straits to Spitzberg, Franz Josef Land away up into ice fields and came down by Bear Island where our escorts disappeared. Then we only had four trawlers and two fleet

sweepers left. We were up there for four months.

“I was a naval seaman. On that type of ship you did everything because there was a small crew, and I was on the four-inch gun during our pre-war efforts. We were patrolling during the four months but we didn’t attack any ships. It was a horrible time.

“We thought we would be coming back with what was left of the convoy, but we stayed up there till Christmas Day when we went alongside the cruiser [HMS Jamaica](#) and got some rations. We were starving, as we had run out of rations and were living on Russian bread and dried cod.

“Our sister ship the [HMS Cape Argona](#) was with us along with two fleet sweepers. These minesweepers were bigger than us, although not much bigger!

“I joined up in 1940 when I was 20, and I was 22 during the Arctic Convoy. I came out of the Navy in 1946, and then I went back to sea for another 50 years. After that I went back to being a painter, which is what I was doing before the war started.

Jack was on board HMS Cape Mariato and you can read more about his ship [here](#).



The Consul General of the Russian Federation in Scotland Andrey A Pritsepov shows off one of the Ushakov medals to be awarded to Arctic Convoy veterans.

The Consul General of the Russian Federation in Scotland Andrey A Pritsepov explained that the Ushakov medal is the most highly esteemed Russian military award. “It is named after a Russian admiral Ushakov who never lost a naval battle. He was one of the most celebrated Russian admirals, and the medal is only presented to military personnel for valour in combat. It is one of the highest awards for naval personnel,

and later today we will present three of these to veterans from the North of England in three separate ceremonies here in Edinburgh. I am going to present the medal and give each of them the specially commissioned wristwatch which goes along with it."



Don Dawkins who hails originally from London, but now lives in Oban, was aboard HMS Mauritius when she sailed from D-Day to Scapa Flow, and then they sailed up to Russia with the Arctic Convoy. He was a bit more upbeat about the experience and said: "I was in the navy dealing with all the dots and dashes! It wasn't too bad a trip, a bit up and down, but somebody did fall overboard, although we managed to rescue him. I have the Arctic Convoy medal which my nephew Geoffrey picked up for me last year here in Edinburgh."

The Medal is awarded to the British veterans of the World War II Arctic convoys 'for personal courage and valour shown during the World War II while participating in the Arctic Convoys' in accordance with the Russian President's Decree No 131 of 10 March 2014, and there are 214 veterans in Scotland who have received the Medal.

We also spoke with another Edinburgh resident Lt Commander Diarmid Gunn OBE who has co-written a photo book along with photographer Kenneth Reynolds which is being presented to the veterans this evening. His book captures the stories and anecdotes of many of the veterans of the Convoys. The veterans will also be given a series of specially created gifts including an Arctic Convoy tartan and limited edition whisky.

Winston Churchill called this 'the worst journey in the world' and the idea behind tonight's reception on Britannia, which senior members of the current Royal & Merchant Navy in Scotland have been invited to attend, is to honour those involved in the war effort.

The convoys were a collaboration between Russia and the UK to take vital supplies including food and military equipment to the eastern front. Thousands of Scots took part sailing from Loch Ewe in Wester Ross and the River Clyde to the Russian ports of Arkhangelsk and Murmansk, and thousands of Scots took part. Nearly 400 merchant vessels and 16 Royal Navy warships were lost and over 3,000 young men perished in the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

This evening's event will itself be a collaboration between the Russian Consulate and some Scottish businesses.

The Scottish Salmon Company and Albert Bartletts will help to cater for the evening and will produce a commemorative photo book along with gifts for the surviving veterans.

Scotland is also a home for two Arctic Convoys Memorials – one in The Cove, also on the shores of Loch Ewe, and another one on the island of Hoy on Orkney. Every year representatives of the Russian Consulate General in Edinburgh together with the representatives of the local communities and officials lay wreaths at this memorials on the 9th of May which is celebrated in Russia as the Victory Day.

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**Council decides what to do with the cycle route from West to East – and it is not Option A or Option B!**



The thorny matter of the cycle route which the council plan to create between the west and east of the city through Roseburn to George Street and east to Leith came up for discussion at the council's Transport Committee earlier. It now looks as though it will eventually go ahead, but there will be more discussion before any route is formed. We [reported yesterday](#) on the 200 strong pro-cycling group which rode the route.

Following much prior debate and deputations from SPOKES and Roseburn Cycle Route Group as well as The Roseburn Vision Group, Murrayfield Community Council and Central Taxis, the councillors put forward their political groups' points of view and then came to their decision. The options in the original report were to adopt either Option A or Option B, but the Capital Coalition introduced an amendment which was eventually approved by everyone except the two Green Group councillors.

The recommendation subject to a slight amendment to 1.1.9 which delegates the final decision to the Director of Place is contained in this tweet:

*The Capital Coalition have tabled a motion on cycle route to set up Stakeholder Group – more discussion*  
[pic.twitter.com/gp6b7e20xZ](https://pic.twitter.com/gp6b7e20xZ)

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [August 30, 2016](#)

Local councillor Jeremy Balfour who represents the Murrayfield ward asked council officers what discussions the council had with Lothian Buses or emergency services, and also enquired what affect the loss of parking would have on elderly and disabled people.

The council official confirmed that both Lothian Buses and the emergency services had been consulted, and that disabled parking will reduce from 92 to 68 metres.

Cllr Balfour mentioned later in the debate the fact that there was great division between the two sides here. "I would look at the traffic modelling. Traffic is very, very heavy at peak times. I think that Option A would still cause problems, and I still have fears about emergency services. Many people live in West Lothian and more will live in the new developments planned to the west of the city. It was interesting that I have only had two public meetings during my 11 years as a councillor and one was about this scheme. It was clear that the majority of people were against the scheme and I look forward to working with the group and finding a solution."

Transport Convener Cllr Hinds called the proposals 'exciting and transformational'. She said : "I think that there are opposing views on Roseburn Terrace, but this is one small part of a larger scheme. You only have to look at the big gap in the city centre, and we want to join up the east and west.

Strong arguments have been put forward on both options, so we have to work together to try and deliver a scheme such as this. We did it on Leith Walk with discussions among people who at first disagreed.

"The stakeholders group will include taxis, Lothian Buses, Trams with regard to Haymarket, SPOKES, Active Travel, Sustrans, councillors and community councillors. I hope everyone will look to resolve the differences taking everything into account. When I came into this job four years ago, Sarah Boyack told me that it is a job which never pleases everyone. But I am convinced that we can get the best solution for the city if we sit around a table and discuss matters.

"At the moment I do not think that Haymarket is the best design but we can work on that. My view is that any stakeholders must come to any meeting with their own views but also to listen to others. I am disappointed that the Green Group is using gesture politics and that they cannot agree with us, but continue to support Option A. Our continued

investment has meant more cyclists on our roads, and looking at the number of cyclists on the roads this is the kind of thing we should be encouraging.

“A Portobello resident summarised the idea for me in an email. He got out of his car and got on his bike and he wants this for other people in the city. I genuinely believe that the way forward is by discussion. Perhaps I will be able to take my grandchildren on a bike in the future.”

She was later scathing of the Green Group who decided to move an amendment of their own rather than supporting the Capital Coalition motion. “This is transformational and we have to look at the bigger picture. It is for people who do not feel safe on the roads to use, not the Lycra clad cyclists.”

Pro cycling groups organised a cycle yesterday to Ride the Route from Charlotte Square to Roseburn where they were met with boos from the local shopkeepers and residents gathered there. That group said they were pro cycling but against the plans for a segregated route travelling along Roseburn Terrace as it would undoubtedly lead to shop closures there.

*Want to relive yesterday's Ride the Route? Here is some of it from A sunny Monday! Transport committee meets at 10 [pic.twitter.com/L14SGbZW2J](https://pic.twitter.com/L14SGbZW2J)*

*– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [August 30, 2016](#)*

Deputy Convener of Transport, Cllr Adam McVey who also joined the cycle yesterday morning said that there are surprisingly few areas of conflict over the entire stretch of road. “I support direct and on-road cycleways. That is how you get people to ditch the car and go for active travel. Having experienced Roseburn with Pete Gregson, and having been on the cycle yesterday morning I fail to see how the street is optimal for the businesses and local residents.



"We do not have to look at how fast vehicles can get along a street. This is a way of getting people round a table to discuss plans here, and I echo what Cllr Hinds says. It would be helpful to have all-party support as this would give the right message to the stakeholder group. I hope all groups will engage in the process with as good faith as possible. We have to make sure that we get the safe accessible cycle route we want, and focus on the needs of local residents and shoppers.

Cllr Bagshaw in disagreeing with the Capital Coalition's motion, said he believes the plans can go further. The polarisation of the debate is very unhelpful. We find ourselves in a perverse situation where the majority of councillors say that they support Option A but will not vote for it. This is a test of where we want to go in the future. Over time we can build up a network of segregated routes but we have to start somewhere, It is time for us to step up to the mark. There will always be opposition to change and right to listen to all sides, but we have to move forward now. We will not support the coalition motion.

Councillor Booth said: "If we go back 50 years cities like Amsterdam needed reform. They then started sustained investment in cycling and invested money in their vision of where they wanted their city to be. Years of investment and political leadership have resulted in Copenhagen and Amsterdam becoming what they are today. We know that this administration can show political leadership. We supported you on the 20mph matter but we cannot support you today. A compromise route will not attract cyclists. We have not heard any evidence from the local businesses that the cycle route will affect their businesses

"Transformational change is not easy and needs strong leadership It is absolutely clear that the leadership points to Option A. A fudge and a compromise will not deliver a transformative route. Leith Walk has been quoted here today but it is not transformative cycle infrastructure.

Leith Walk councillor Nick Gardner confirmed that he thought that Option A was the best way to increase active travel. He said: "What we can say is that behaviour can change. Already on Leith Walk there is a change. However good Option A is though, I feel it would be wrong to railroad that over the needs and views of the local businesses. I think that the Capital Coalition motion is a very good way forward."

Although he admitted that he usually disagrees with the Transport Convener on most matters, Cllr Nick Cook said that the Conservatives would support the Capital Coalition motion. He continued: "All councillors do want to deliver a cycle route from west to east across the city, but there are many unanswered questions. As a city we need to come together to address these. I believe that there are not so many differences between Option A and B, but as politicians we have to create the right conditions for a vibrant economy. I think it is important to bring people with us and this will depolarise the debate."

Cllr Gavin Barrie, the Economy Convener, said that the taxi presentation proved to him that there is a huge problem in either of the schemes proposed. He said: "The Greens appear to have chosen to ignore a substantial part of our citizens, in the elderly or the disabled."

Cllr Aldridge paid tribute to the council officers who have put so much work into the scheme. "Neither Option A or B is perfect. I welcome the fact that we are taking a little extra time to get the best option which balances everyone's needs. We must make sure that buses move freely through all areas, and pedestrians must be protected too. I don't think any polarisation is helpful in this matter. There has been little controversy about increasing the portion of our transport budget year on year, and what we have to do now is find the sustainable option which will work for the future."

Another local councillor Allan Jackson said: "It has been said

there was no proof that small businesses will close, but I have a lot of sympathy for the traders. If one or more shops close then it affects the rest. It is a cumulative process.”

So all groups will have the chance to have a further say in this matter. Recommendation 1.1.9 was amended so that the decision will be delegated to the Director of Place and Cllr Hinds also confirmed that meetings will be public to allow for discussion.

The Green Group are not entirely happy with the decision however and have described the decision as a transport and political failure.

[Read more about that here.](#)

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## **West to East Cycle Link – Green Group disappointed by ‘transport and political failure’**



Two of the Green Group councillors are members of the Transport and Environment Committee and they were both present today to put forward their support for a new cycle route from West to East of the city, the only two members of the committee to support what has become known as Option A.

The Greens say that they lament the decision to delay a landmark cycle route as both a transport failure and a political failure.

At today's Transport and Environment Committee the council was due to give the go ahead to a new direct cycle route across the city centre which has been hailed as potentially transforming capital cycling.

However, despite Green councillors urging the committee to back so-called Option A – which provides the most direct route to the city centre through Roseburn – the committee as a whole opted to delay the decision.

Green Transport spokesperson Cllr Nigel Bagshaw said: "Today was an opportunity for Edinburgh to up its game on active travel, to do what other European cities have been doing for decades and make bold choices which reduce pollution, reduce congestion and change the balance of our transport system.

"Local residents and traders have raised concerns about the impact of the route through Roseburn and, of course, those concerns must be listened to. Indeed, the adjusted design for the route has reflected some of the points made during consultation.

"But what did the council do? It marched (or perhaps pedalled) the city to the top of the hill and marched it down again, with a fudge to delay a final decision, no doubt until after the next council elections.

"So the decision to delay, dither or dilute is a failure of transport policy. But it is also a political failure of the Labour-SNP "Capital Coalition". Of the 9 Coalition members at committee today, six say they support delivery of the option A direct route. Yet they have been dragged into this fudge by some members of the Coalition who want to stand in the way of a better transport future. "

The city council's Transport and Environment Committee today voted 13-2 to delay a decision on the new cycle route.

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# Leeann Dempster determined to hold onto Jason Cummings



Hibs' Chief Executive Leeann Dempster has insisted that the club have demonstrated their ambitions by turning down a significant bid for top scorer Jason Cummings from Peterborough United.

The transfer window closes tomorrow and supporters are concerned about a late bid for the young striker which could seriously impact promotion prospects however Dempster is determined to retain his services.

She also revealed that there may be additions to the squad in the next 24 hours.

Speaking ahead of the club's Scottish Cup Trophy Tour Dempster said: "Jason (Cummings) is an integral part of the team and I think it says a lot for our club to be able to hold on to the some of the strongest and best young talent in Scotland.

"We want to get promoted and selling one of Scotland's best talents, the club's highest goalscorer last season and someone who has continued in the same vein this season, doesn't show the ambition we want to show.

"Football is a strange game and you can never absolutely say never but I am telling you I am saying that nothing is happening in this transfer window and we have no intention of anything happening in the January transfer window either.

"There will be other interest in other players but for us it

is about trying to control the things that are within our ability to control. People ask the questions does Jason have a market value or a price?

'The reality is that numbers are numbers and we have had a number put towards us and we have said no to that number. We are just focused now on the transfer window closing.

"I am not worried about it as we are in control of it and we don't need to be worried about a last minute offer as we are absolutely in control of that situation.

"There may well be one or two coming in over the next two days but as Neil (Lennon) has said before it is about getting the right people in the right positions. Everybody in Scotland is trying to do the same thing at the moment.

"We have done the business that we wanted to do and Neil told me that he wanted to bring in three players and the positions and we have done that. Anything else would be seen as a bonus if you like."

"The club has for the past two years ran a Premier league operation. Once you start to go the other way it is hard to scale back up. It is much easier to scale down that it is to scale up. We decided from the get-go that we were not going to do that.

"Sometimes there are points in life and points in football when it is not about the money and it can't be about the money.

"I have said it for three years now we want to get promoted. Our eyes are firmly focused on the end of the season. Neil and Gary's appointment has been important for us in terms of retaining the squad.

"That has been important for supporters that we build the squad and have a continuity of squad there.

“We have done a number of things in the transfer window but most importantly we have managed to hold on to the players that we wanted to hold on to.

“On the one hand we are saying to supporters we genuinely are trying to build a team that you will love and enjoy coming to watch and we will not be forced into doing anything.

“The supporters are enjoying what they are seeing on the pitch at the minute.

“We have 3,500 more season ticket holders than we had this time last year so that is a help financially.

“Fans have bought their tickets, paid their money up front and that has put us in good shape.

“Obviously everyone would want to be in even better shape, but I think things are improving in Scottish football.

“For the first time in a long time all the portfolio items in the SPFL are sponsored, that has brought additional revenue.”

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## **Death of man found in Dalkeith garden not being treated as suspicious**



Police have confirmed that the death a man found unconscious in a garden at the rear of a house in Salters Road, Dalkeith, on Saturday morning is not being treated as suspicious.

It is understood the man died after suffering complications

from an underlying health condition.

A police spokesman said: "Officers were alerted to an address in Salters Road, Dalkeith, at around 7am on Saturday, August 27, after receiving a report of concern for a male occupant.

"Upon arrival officers discovered a 25-year-old male lying unconscious in the rear garden.

"He was taken to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh where he sadly passed away.

"We are not treating this death as suspicious at this time and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal."

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## Virgin Money Fireworks attracts audience of 250,000



Last night the festivals which have taken over the city for the last month and more came to a spectacular close.

The *Virgin Money Fireworks Concert* 2016 filled the sky with giant walls of silver and golden crackle effect fireworks bursting 225 metres above Edinburgh Castle to the closing bars of Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*.

Around 250,000 spectators watched the event across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife, with visitors to the Scottish capital joining residents to fill Princes Street Gardens, the surrounding streets and vantage points across the city, to enjoy the annual finale to the Edinburgh International Festival and the closing event of Edinburgh's summer festival season.



More than 400,000 fireworks were launched during the 50 minute concert in a display designed by Keith Webb of Pyrovision, synchronised perfectly to music performed live by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Kristiina Poska.



Alongside the *Festive Overture*, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra played a selection of music inspired by the greatest love story every told – William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bard’s death. Prokofiev’s vibrant ballet music for *Romeo and Juliet* – featuring the swaggering ‘Dance of the Knights’, kicked off proceedings, followed by Leonard Bernstein’s flamboyant ‘Symphonic Dances’ from *West Side Story*.

The traditional ‘Waterfall’ captivated the audience as it descended over 130 feet down the Castle Rock, during the closing bars of Bernstein’s *Symphonic Dances*, lasting for around 1 minute.

The most spectacular effects of all were saved for last, with the huge climax of the *Festive Overture* featuring enormous silver and gold fireworks bursting above the Edinburgh skyline. In total four tonnes of explosives were used and the display, which took months to plan and 16 pyro-technicians eight days to set the fireworks out.

This year’s Fireworks Concert marks the 5th anniversary of Virgin Money’s support of the event, having come on board as title sponsors in 2011. In that time over 1,250,000 people have enjoyed the event from vantage points across Edinburgh and beyond, with an estimated 2 million fireworks having exploded over Edinburgh’s Castle.

The three event partners, Edinburgh International Festival, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Virgin Money, are delighted to offer a celebration which the whole city and its residents can

share in, giving everyone more to enjoy on the final day of the summer Festivals.

On the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle Keith Webb said, 'We're over the moon at another hugely successful Fireworks Concert. All the hard work and dedication the team has put in was well worth it. And after all our efforts, it's still as thrilling an experience as ever to see it come together!'

In Princes Street Gardens where he enjoyed the Virgin Money Fireworks Concert with friends and colleagues, Fergus Linehan, Director of the Edinburgh International Festival said, 'This year's Virgin Money Fireworks Concert was absolutely amongst the best displays of its kind anywhere in the world. I would like to thank Virgin Money for their continued support of this incredible community event, and for their additional support which this year made possible the second of our Edinburgh Schools Concerts, which took place in blazing sunshine this morning in Princes Street Gardens. The Fireworks Concert is always an amazing way to end the Edinburgh International Festival and to bring the city's bumper summer festivals season to a close.'

Joining Fergus in Princes Street Gardens was Virgin Money's Head of Sponsorship Andrew Nicholson, who said 'Virgin Money is extremely proud to be the official sponsor of the Fireworks Concert – it is such a wonderful event. The concert this evening has brought together so many people who have all enjoyed the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's wonderful performance and the mesmerising pyrotechnic extravaganza. The *Virgin Money Fireworks Concert* is a fantastic conclusion to what has been another magnificent Edinburgh International Festival and Virgin Money is delighted in its continued support of this event.'

On his first day in the job as Chief Executive of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Gavin Reid said, 'What a hugely ambitious and impressive event we have witnessed tonight. It is clearly

an enormous collective effort from the whole of the city. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the evening, and also to all our technical and health & safety partners, City of Edinburgh Council, Forth 1, the Edinburgh International Festival for all their incredible work on this event, and our sponsor Virgin Money. At the end of my first day in charge of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra back in my home city, I feel privileged and very proud to be part of such a fantastic event.'

A small number of anti-social incidents were recorded outside of Prince Street Gardens. Police Scotland would like to thank audiences for their general cooperation and enjoyment of the event.

*Images by Mihaela Bodlovic*

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## Five things you need to know today



- Leith Academy pupils off to help with the US election
- Take a selfie for #GlowGold
- Edinburgh Cyrenians partner up with JP **Morgan at Linburn**
- Edinburgh Speakers Festival
- Higher Education Festival

Four Leith Academy pupils are off to Florida in November. But this is no holiday! They will be working as interns in the US presidential campaign having won a competition which brings with it a two week all expenses paid trip to Tampa and Washington. And they are taking their teacher too!

[Read more here.](#)



Pam Neilson who is behind the Glow Gold campaign which will light up (among many others) Edinburgh Castle in September, has been in touch with an update on what is going on – and it turns out there is lots happening from 1 September 2016.

We already told you the story of her son Kai who died in January this year. [You can read that here.](#)

Now Pam has sent us some more news:

“We hope you will participate in our campaign and help give our children a voice. We have worked extremley hard to achieve all this in our first year. We have over 191 landmarks and buildings Glowing Gold, many charities and companies supporting us worldwide.

“The list of buildings and landmarks illuminating round the world is amazing! We want the public to have fun and raise awareness.

***Please take a selfie photo (Glowfie lol) with our poster and support us on social media @glowgoldkids #glowgold #CCAM***

“Many cities are having an event to mark the start of the first Glow Gold September and Edinburgh is no different. Edinburgh is having an illumination which will be a tribute to our angels lost too soon. And will feature golden beams projected with love from us to them, around the central column in St Andrew Square.

“This will take place between 1-8 September starting at 8.45pm – 1am, the display is called “Luminations of love” by NL Productions who have been a fantastic support and are putting

on this amazing light display.”

You can read more [here](#)



A disused overgrown walled garden will be transformed into a productive enterprise by an innovative charitable partnership supported by volunteers from J.P. Morgan.

Once a hive of productivity, the walled garden at Scottish War Blinded’s Linburn Centre in Wilkieston, West Lothian has fallen into disrepair as the charity’s efforts focused on expanding their support military veterans across Scotland. In the past, the listed garden produced fruits and vegetables by and for veterans supported by the charity and was a thriving part of the local community of Kirknewton.

The charity Cyrenians, in partnership with Scottish War Blinded are to be joined by staff from J.P. Morgan, who will volunteer time over two years to transform the garden. Taking the garden from its current overgrown state, J.P. Morgan volunteers will turn it into a valuable outdoor space for military veterans, who have lost some or all of their sight and who will be able to enjoy the serenity of the green space.

The project also aims to transform the Walled Garden to a valued part of the Cyrenians network of community growers which contribute produce for sale in veg-bags. This initiative supports the Cyrenians Farm enterprise project based in nearby Kirknewton, which is also a community for young people with a background or risk of homelessness. The additional range of produce from this garden will enable the growth and development of the Cyrenians’ veg-bag scheme, which is being rolled out across Edinburgh, which, in turn, enables Cyrenians to work with the vulnerable and excluded.

Ewan Aitken, CEO of Cyrenians said: “This is a unique collaboration between the private sector and two charities

coming together to create something very special. Not only will the fruits of the volunteers' labour go towards supporting the work of Cyrenians, but the veterans at the Linburn Centre will have a beautiful growing space for relaxation and enjoying the outdoors along with the staff from J.P. Morgan."



No sooner have we got one festival period over and then it's straight on to the next one! On the weekend of 8-11 September the Edinburgh Speakers Festival is taking place at Augustine United Church and they have some great speakers including Mona Siddiqui, Dermot Turing nephew of the late Alan Turing, Tam Dalyell the former MP for West Lothian, Glasgowphile Alan Taylor, Brooke Magnant, Kenny Macaskill and Charles Maclean who has spent three decades studying whisky.

More details of the fascinating line up [here](#).



Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and UCAS are having a Higher Education Exhibition in the Edinburgh Corn Exchange where young people can find out more about careers, college and university.

The event, on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 September, brings together representatives from Higher and Further Educations institutions in Scotland and elsewhere. These representatives will be on hand to offer advice as well as information on a variety of courses and learning pathways.

There will also be seminars on choosing a course and university, personal statements, student finance and alternative routes to Higher Education.

SDS's Nichola Murray said: "This year's Exhibition gives young people and their parents the opportunity to find the


information about their options in one place at one time. It also gives them access to experts which is also very valuable. Choosing which course, university or career is one of the biggest decisions people make, so it is vital they have all the information to ensure that decision is well-informed."

Nichola added: "Digital World will also be at the Exhibition, to show the opportunities available in the digital technology sector, as well as SDS's My World of Work Live. There will also be talks for teachers."

She added: "While the Exhibition is aimed primarily at fifth and sixth year pupils, anyone interested in finding out about Higher Education opportunities, including parents, carers and college students are very welcome to come along."

Careers advisers from SDS will be at the free event to give impartial, one-to-one advice on options and opportunities including employment, training, apprenticeships and volunteering.

The Exhibition will run from 9.30am until 12.30pm, 1.30pm until 3.45pm and 4pm until 6pm on Tuesday 6 September and from 9.30am until 12.30pm and 1.30pm until 3.15pm on Wednesday 7 September.

 If you are reading this article in print and would like to visit The Edinburgh Reporter website then simply scan the QR code here with a smartphone or tablet.

***Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter***

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# Decision due on Roseburn cycle route on Tuesday



The cycle route which the council plans to create, joining west and east of the city, has resulted in much debate, not least in the Roseburn area where there are two options on the table at the council's Transport committee meeting on Tuesday.

On the one hand there are the cyclists who would like a segregated cycle route along Roseburn Terrace allowing them the most direct and convenient route to travel into the city centre. On the other hand there are the shopkeepers and residents in Roseburn who fear that it will be the end of their local shops.

The Edinburgh Reporter joined those who cycled this morning from Charlotte Square to Roseburn to publicise the option which they would like the council to adopt tomorrow (Option A) where they were met with protesters who do not want a cycle route in any shape or form. The organised cycle was joined by several Green Party councillors, the Vice-Convener of Transport, Adam McVey, the Vice-Convener of Finance Bill Cook, Councillor Marion Donaldson and two Green party MSPs, Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman who both cycle regularly.



Protesters were waiting for the cyclists at  
Roseburn

We spoke to Andy Wightman MSP in Charlotte Square ahead of the cycle. He said: "I want Option A. Most cities in Europe now are developing or have developed in the past very very good cycling infrastructure. Even London has done that. Edinburgh has been left behind and it's absolutely critical that through the key bits of the city that there are easy to use routes for cyclists, for commuting or for leisure travel. Edinburgh



hasn't got that. There is a missing link in the middle and a critical part of that is at Roseburn. We need to be able to cycle through Roseburn as it is the most direct route to the city centre."

The Green Party have made their views on tomorrow's decision well known on Twitter. They will definitely back Option A.

Councillor Nigel Bagshaw is a Green Group councillor and spokesman on Transport. He is a regular cyclist and was part of the cycle today. He said to The Edinburgh Reporter: "The decision tomorrow is important because it sets the tone for what the city wants to do from now on. Over time we can build up a proper network of segregated cycling across the city but we have to start somewhere and this is the place we should be starting."

Although the SNP have not yet come down on one option or another, at least publicly, Adam McVey, SNP councillor and Vice-Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee said that they are supporting the project. He continued: "Right from the very start a lot of people have made this a very binary process : either you do it or you don't or it's Option A or Option B. I think that tomorrow there might be a way of trying to satisfy as many people as we possibly can.

Claire Connachan was not in cycling gear today but still very much behind the cycle route through Roseburn Terrace. She explained her own views: "I would like to see Edinburgh become a city where everybody cycling is the norm. We have massive potential in this city and also congestion and pollution. Cycling is an amazing answer to these kinds of problems.

[The Edinburgh Reporter news West to East Cycle Link](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

We did not get to speak with everyone of course but we tried to get a flavour of the arguments for and against when the

protesters arrived at Roseburn:

Henry Whaley, who set up the Roseburn Cycle Route website, said: "This is a key route to get into the city centre. The Council's proposal will make a huge difference for anyone going into and out of the city centre from the west side. It is so important because at the moment there is a huge gap between safe routes to the west and then getting into the city centre." The main problem I have with this is that there will be a 28% reduction in loading so not all the loading bays are going. The loading bays are not always fully used at the moment, so I don't think this will have as big an impact as people think it will. Surveys in other parts of the world show that when a cycle route gets put in it actually enhances the footfall and turnover increases.

Pete Gregson who had organised a silent protest by some business owners in the area said : "Look at the traffic! The cyclists have created a traffic jam here. By reducing the roadway from four lanes of traffic here on the A8 to two you will have double the trouble. The cars have nowhere to go. That is not what we want.

"We do not want congestion and also the loading bays that you see here will be lost under the new scheme. If you take away half the loading bays the shops will go out of business. We want the shops to stay and no congestion. We have a perfectly good solution called National Cycle Route 1 which is already there but not signposted so none of these cyclists know about it."

Tom Kelman is a cyclist too. He explained his position: "I live in this community and have been here for 14 years. The road is very busy I admit but there is already a cycle route in place which could be improved. It would separate cyclists from buses and it's a safer, cleaner, less polluted route for cyclists to take."

Dave du Feu of Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign said: "We are very hopeful that the whole area here is going to be improved and we think the council's proposals, particularly if they choose Option A, are going to do that. It would improve the whole area for pedestrians and for local shops not just for cycling." He accepted that a lot of local shopkeepers were against the cycle route plans and continued: "Yes quite a lot of them oppose the plans, but if you look at what has happened in other towns it is often the case that shopkeepers are against until it happens and then they find it all works well."

Samantha Rendall is a local who would like to see a route other than the route on Roseburn Terrace. She explained: "First of all it would be safer for the cyclists as this is a busy road. Secondly it would be safer for local residents who are now going to have to cross a cycle lane, one of the busiest roads in Edinburgh. It would also be of benefit to the local residents who live here and shop here. All the shops are going to lose 70% of their parking and loading bays. How are they going to get customers into their stores? How are we going to get any deliveries. Cyclists say we will get deliveries at different times but what about the resident who wants to move house? Where is their truck going to go? When the bus stops the traffic already backs up across the bridge, so it will block the entire street. It is not going to be pleasant for cars, cyclists, residents or businesses. All we ask is that the cycle route is sent down Roseburn Street away from the shops where it is so busy already. It would just be a nightmare really."

One resident of Roseburn Cliff wants cycleways and is a cyclist himself but said that Roseburn Terrace is a very bad place to put one. He said: "From a local point of view you can't build a Copenhagen junction just here at Roseburn Cliff. The main problem I see is with the potential ruination of the local shops for this community. There are a large number of

people who moved here into new homes who are really dependent on the provision of the shops in this area.”

Osman Simsek owns Vigo Delicatessen on Roseburn Terrace. He is anxious about his business: “Roseburn is a small community. We depend on people within the area as our customers, and our deliveries would be affected. I was talking to my delivery driver this morning who has a large artic lorry for our deliveries made three times a week. He would not be able to make the deliveries and I would lose my business because of this.

“At the moment what they are building is the fastest route for cyclists going from A to B. They will not stop to shop here.”

The owner of the Roseburn Café, Kadir Kavak, is afraid that all the businesses will lose half of their business because there will be nowhere for cars to stop and park. He said: “We need a loading bay plus somewhere for cars to stop. Half of the businesses will close within a year in this area, and the community will lose out.”

The council has spent an increasing share of its Transport budget on cycling improvements during the last four and a half years under the Labour/SNP coalition, and it has a plan for the future. It seeks in its ambitious [Vision for Transport](#) that: “By 2030 to make Edinburgh’s transport system one of the most environmentally friendly, healthiest and most accessible in Northern Europe.” Part of that plan is to increase the number of children walking and cycling to school year on year and reduce the local nitrogen dioxide concentrations year on year too.

In order to make cycling more attractive the council plans to prioritise it along with public transport and cycling and to reduce journey times along the way. To do this it has projected investment in cycling and walking in its annual budgets since the administration has been in power. No doubt

in the council election manifestos which we will start seeing soon, there will be much talk about cycling and active travel too. It is clear that the council's aim is to reduce the number of cars in the city centre and the dependency on the car as a means of travel.

The Scottish Government has its own plan for increasing the numbers of people cycling but still has to publish its Cycling Action Plan for Scotland. The last was published in 2010, and when Stewart Stevenson MSP was Transport Minister he issued a draft document setting out plans for increasing cycling across the country to 10% of all journeys and asking for the public to respond to a consultation questionnaire.

You can read the council report being discussed at tomorrow's Transport committee [here](#)

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## **2016 Edinburgh International Book Festival – 29th August p.m.**



So that's it over for another year – well closer to 50 weeks, but who's counting – and the final day saw a couple of big name political figures in the shape of Gordon Brown and, not listed – and not as big as Mr. Brown – Scottish Secretary,

David Mundell.



David Mundell, Secretary of State for Scotland photo John Preece





Chris Mullin



Richard Starkind



Gordon Brown



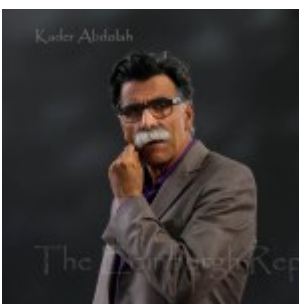
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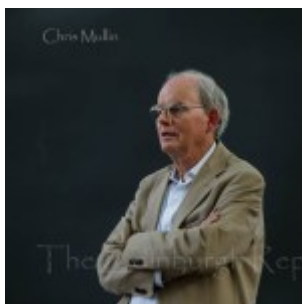
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# Hibs launch four month 'Persevered Scottish Cup Trophy Tour'



Hibs have launched a four month 'Persevered Scottish Cup Trophy Tour' campaign across the east of Scotland.

The extensive tour will aim to target 40,000 children, students and fans across 114 venues, one for every year the club waited to win the William Hill Scottish Cup since the last victory in 1902. And for schoolchildren, and other fans young and old, the tour will carry an important message – persevere.

It will visit primary schools, juvenile football clubs, businesses and local employers, the four major universities in Edinburgh and all of the Hibernian supporter clubs in the mainland. The route will start in Edinburgh, moving to East Lothian, the Borders, Midlothian, West Lothian, Falkirk, Fife and finally back to Edinburgh in December.

The Hibernian Supporters' Association are the presenting partner of the tour and have matched the investment from the Club to develop and resource the promotional campaign.

The Club's staff working alongside the Hibernian Community Foundation will tell the story of the dramatic cup victory and give thousands of people the chance to get closer to the famous piece of silverware.

The core message that will be communicated in schools will be

to 'persevere' – to never give up, to go the distance, to stop at nothing. Persevere is the motto of Leith and has become a very appropriate slogan of the Club's cup-winning activities.

A dedicated website, [www.persevered.co.uk](http://www.persevered.co.uk), has been set up to host all the details about the tour. Over 40,000 wristbands will be distributed as well as promotional t-shirts and flyers.

A Hibs Kids 'starter' pack will also be launched as a new membership programme as part of it where kids can become part of the Club and attend a game for only £1. Players will also attend a number of tour dates to sign autographs and participate in Q&A sessions.

Leeann Dempster, Hibernian FC Chief Executive, said: "This will be the most extensive tour of its kind in this country. We know where our fans are based and we have used that to map out our journey across Scotland.

"We have set ourselves ambitious targets to grow our fanbase and attract more people towards the Club and this tour will be the cornerstone of our efforts this season to turn Edinburgh and the surrounding areas green."

David Gray, Hibernian FC club captain, commented: "The memory of our success at Hampden on 21 May will live with me forever and it was a real privilege for me to lead the team on the day.

"With this tour we hope to be able to share some of our Scottish Cup stories and introduce the Club to fans, old and young."

Crawford Corrigan, Chairman of the Hibernian Supporters Association said: "We are proud to back this campaign and help support the efforts to attract the next generation of Hibernian supporters.

We have waited a long time to lift the Scottish Cup again and

we can't wait to take it on the road. Our branches have supported the Club through the decades and we want to give something back to the communities around Scotland that support the Club and make sure that more and more children grow up in the green and white of Hibernian."

Charlie Bennett, Executive Director of the Hibernian Community Foundation said: "The Cup win has given a huge boost to Hibernian fans everywhere.

"The Community Foundation is pleased to support this Tour and we will use the team's success to inspire and motivate people in our communities to improve their lives through the raft of social programmes we deliver."

Stewart Regan, Scottish FA Chief Executive, said: "I would like to congratulate Hibernian on devising such a widespread and engaging campaign that will give thousands of supporters the chance to get up close and personal with the William Hill Scottish Cup, the world's oldest football trophy."

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## Fringe figures all add up to a great year



All the companies who organise various venues have been getting in touch with us today to tell us their good news. It is clear that this year has been outstanding for everyone involved with Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Even before the final curtain has come down and the fireworks let off we can tell you that everyone is reporting better

figures than last year.

After 50,266 performances of 3,269 shows in 294 venues across Edinburgh, the curtain falls for the last time tonight and the house lights go up on the 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society has announced that by Monday afternoon, with hundreds of performances still to take place, an estimated 2,475,143 tickets had been issued for shows across Scotland's capital. The number of tickets issued reflects a 7.7% increase in comparison to tickets issued by the same point last year.

This year marked Shona McCarthy's first Fringe as Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.

Shona McCarthy said: "In 2016, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe has once again been a spectacular success, welcoming performers and audiences from across the globe, and issuing an estimated 2,475,143 tickets. We hope that all those who attended ticketed shows, as well as the thousands of people who attended the 643 free shows in the programme, truly enjoyed their Fringe experience."

"The Fringe plays an essential role in the global arts community, providing a platform for artists from around the UK and the rest of the world to showcase their work and make new connections. With 48 countries represented in this year's programme, the breadth and diversity of talent on offer has been astounding."

"We are now looking forward to our 70th anniversary celebrations in 2017 and hope that as many people as possible will join us to mark this fantastic milestone in the history of Edinburgh's festivals."

Underbelly have reported a good year both critically and at the box office:

- Scotsman Fringe First for JOAN.
- Scotsman Fringe First for FABRIC.
- Edinburgh Comedy Award Nominees for 'Best Show' – Randy Writes a Novel and Zoe Coombs Marr.
- John Robertson's 'The Dark Room' and Abandoman – Arts Award's Voice – Pick Of The Fringe 2016.
- The Stage Edinburgh Awards 2016 for JOAN, FABRIC and BLUSH.
- Total Theatre Award Nominations for Lucy McCormick: Triple Threat, Ada / Ava and Perhaps Hope.
- Dear Home Office – nominated for an Amnesty International's 'Freedom Of Expression' Award.
- 8% increase in ticket sales from 2015.

Underbelly reports an 8% increase in ticket sales from the 2015 Fringe, with 249,000 tickets sold, demonstrating that Underbelly continues to attract a paying audience in the context of a growing, wider Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Underbelly programmed 143 shows over 17 venues and employed 400 staff for the duration of the festival.

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam of Underbelly said "Did anyone 70 years ago – the first Fringe producers in the world – have any idea what they were unleashing? Well, there are about 2.3m people applauding their genius now. As we head into the Fringe's 70th anniversary next year, this year has been one of the best, for tickets sales yes but also for creativity.

"We're delighted and excited to be a part of it and we'd like to thank all of the wonderful shows and audiences that chose to make a date with Underbelly this year."

Underbelly is also one part of a joint initiative with Assembly, Gilded Balloon and Pleasance who have collectively operated 80 performance venues, presented 729 shows, employed 1,695 staff and welcomed over 8,000 performers this year.

Known as EdFest.com the four operators have sold over 1.3

million tickets which is a 7% increase on last year and accounts for over half of the Fringe tickets sold this year.

William Burdett-Coutts from Assembly said : “The Edinburgh Fringe is the single most important event in the country for supporting and generating new work, creating a platform that gains companies national and international recognition. It’s a marathon event, where I have walked over 200 miles.

“Edfest.com lies at the heart of the Fringe and is the engine that gives this festival so much of its appeal. I salute all our partners, companies, performers and staff for their unstinting work in making this yet another successful year”.

Karen Koren from Gilded Balloon said: “2016 has been another phenomenal year for all involved at the Edinburgh Fringe – a festival made possible by the wonderfully talented artists, the teams that work with them, and the incredible, dedicated staff that populate our venues. Edinburgh’s festivals are constantly evolving, and together we shall continue to look forward and think creatively and cooperatively in order to showcase the greatest performances at the biggest arts festival on earth.

“It is a privilege to contribute to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and I’m thrilled that we can continue to do so.”

Anthony Alderson from Pleasance Theatre Trust said: “What a festival we have had; with more tickets sold than ever before, and some of the highest quality work this festival has ever seen! Year on year the Edinburgh Festival Fringe has such a huge impact on the landscape of the arts, and for that we should all be incredibly proud.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff that make this festival possible but most importantly, all the brave, talented and incredibly dedicated artists who make it what it is.”



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# Police Scotland's first Director of Corporate Services, Strategy and Change appointed



The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) has today appointed David Page as Police Scotland's first Director of Corporate Services, Strategy and Change.

The new role, created to deliver transformational change across Police Scotland and lead the corporate functions which support and enable policing services to the public, is the most senior civilian staff role ever created in Scottish policing.

After starting his career in the British Army, David Page joins policing following a successful career in chief operational and strategic change roles in the financial services sector, including Standard Life and Royal Bank of Scotland.

The appointment of Mr Page completes a process of significant refresh and renewal of the Police Scotland leadership team led by the SPA Chair Andrew Flanagan.

SPA Chair Andrew Flanagan said: "I am delighted that we have secured David Page for this new and key role within the Chief Constable's leadership team. He brings a wealth of knowledge

and experience of leading successful programmes of change in large organisations, and he has all the necessary leadership skills to adapt and transfer that track record of achievement into the organisation of policing.

“When I came into this role almost exactly a year ago, one of my top priorities was to take stock of the leadership of policing following the successful merger that created the single service, and refresh that to meet the wider challenges of changing demand and financial sustainability.

“That process began with the appointment of the Chief Constable, and working together we have now delivered new talent at Deputy Chief Constable, Assistant Chief Constable and Director level.

“That gives us a strong blend of continuity and fresh ideas to shape the direction policing for the future, and crucially also the attributes to implement that in ways that will take both the public and the police workforce with them.”

Welcoming Mr Page to the Police Scotland leadership team, Chief Constable Phil Gormley said:

“I warmly welcome David’s appointment and look forward to him beginning work with us shortly.

“Since being appointed to this post, I have been clear that how we organise and deliver our corporate and policing activities in more efficient ways, are absolutely central to how we achieve flexibility and sustainability in the local and national services we deliver to the public.

“For the first time and reporting directly to me as Chief Constable, policing will have someone with David’s skills and experience at the most senior decision-making level. I firmly believe that this fresh approach will give us the right mix of insights to make the right decisions at the right time as we look to improve the quality of service we provide.”

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# Scottish Enterprise funding for Edinburgh software firm



sensewhere, a leading provider of indoor positioning solutions, has been awarded £1.4m by Scottish Enterprise to create jobs and further develop its disruptive location software.

The Edinburgh company is pioneering the creation of software that offers universal location and navigation data in dense urban areas including shopping centres and airports, where GPS and other global navigation satellite systems are blocked.

The grant will open up seven new highly skilled jobs at the company's headquarters in Edinburgh and create job security for those already employed.

The grant will be used to support research and development over the next three years to further enhance sensewhere's already leading technology, enhance location accuracy, performance indoors, outdoors and across multiple platforms. The funding will also help ensure sensewhere stay ahead of the pack by adding the latest location features in technology to its software.

Jim Devine, Chairman of sensewhere, said: "We are delighted to have received support from Scottish Enterprise to help further develop our intellectual property. It has provided us with the opportunity to expand our cutting edge technology and we believe that with this funding we can continue to make

waves in the market.



Rob Palfreyman, CEO and co-founder of sensewhere, continued: “Our technology creates vast opportunities for people and brands to connect with others, even in little or no satellite signal. The likes of shopping malls often have little or no signal but with our software, retailers and brands can connect with customers through location-based advertising in a way that’s simple, fast and accurate.

“On top of opening up a number of jobs and protecting existing posts, this grant will help us cement our commitment to Edinburgh as our centre of excellence for research”.

Determined to maintain its place as a leader in the market, sensewhere hope the continued developments to its technology will not only improve services for its existing

clients but also help build on its international client base, which currently includes global names such as Tencent and TomTom.

Jim Watson, Director of Innovation and Enterprise Services at Scottish Enterprise commented: “sensewhere is a great example of an ambitious Scottish company that’s developing innovative technology for global markets.

“We’ve worked with it since its early days as a Proof of Concept Programme project, so it’s really great to see it expand and develop.

“As Scotland’s innovation agency, we help businesses like sensewhere accelerate their innovation projects to help drive global competitiveness.”

While GPS is the most well-known positioning technology, it has serious limitations inside buildings and in dense, built-up areas. sensewhere’s indoor positioning technology tackles these problems by using a database of electromagnetic sources, such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth signals and other sensors to triangulate a user’s location.

*Pictures Chris Watt*

*Tel – 07887 554 193*

[info@chriswatt.com](mailto:info@chriswatt.com)

[www.chriswatt.com](http://www.chriswatt.com)

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# Edinburgh International

# Festival takes over £4million in ticket sales

The announcements are flooding in even before the day is out. It appears that the festivals this year have without exception been record-breaking.

The 2016 International Festival welcomed audiences from 84 countries to Scotland's capital city. At the helm of his second International Festival programme, Director Fergus Linehan brought over 2,400 world-class artists from 36 nations together in a Festival programme for everyone.

Audiences have packed theatres and concert halls across Edinburgh, with the International Festival taking over £4million in ticket sales income for the first time. Classical music ticket sales in particular enjoyed a record year, with the Queen's Hall series achieving its highest ever sales.



Free, outdoor events such as the *Standard Life Opening Event: Deep Time* and the closing *Virgin Money Fireworks Concert* take the International Festival outside of the city's established venues. Approximately 27,000 people attended the *Standard Life Opening Event: Deep Time*, which saw Edinburgh Castle transformed by digitally animated projections inspired by the city's past, created by 59 Productions.

Tonight, an estimated audience of 250,000 is expected to enjoy the *Virgin Money Fireworks Concert* performed live by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Princes St Gardens, and enjoyed by many others across the city.

The 2016 International Festival saw top rated shows and incredible performances across the programme. Artists at the top of their game enjoying phenomenal success included world-

renowned mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli in Bellini's *Norma* which opened the Festival programme; actor Cherry Jones in John Tiffany's production of *The Glass Menagerie*; pianist Daniil Trifonov proved both his virtuosity and versatility across three programmes at the Usher and Queen's Halls; prima ballerina Natalia Osipova transfixed audiences by taking a new direction in her specially commissioned contemporary dance programme; and performer James Thierrée brought incredible genre-busting energy to the stage in *The Toad Knew*.

Other audience highlights included concerts by Sigur Ros, Mogwai and Greg Lawson's presentation of Martyn Bennet's GRIT, all of which mesmerised fans at the Edinburgh Playhouse; singer-songwriter Karine Polwart's *Wind Resistance* quickly emerged as a must-see; Scottish Ballet's searing performance of work by Crystal Pite and Angelin Preljocaj stunned audiences over three evenings; and the hugely popular *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs* which sold out over three weeks at The Hub.



Though rooted in the city centre, the International Festival reaches into wider communities and throughout August worked with local school children of all ages, taking artists and workshops into schools, as well as bringing pupils to Festival shows. The International Festival's Young People's Jury of 25 pupils from six Edinburgh High Schools attended – and judged in their own inimitable style – 19 performances across the programme. The International Festival also moved outward from the city centre into locations across Edinburgh and the Lothians with *Songlines*, an event which saw communities take part in a unique celebration of singing, featuring 12 choirs and soloists across 8 venues stretching from Dalmeny across Edinburgh to Haddington.

The 2016 International Festival programme also included the

Edinburgh International Culture Summit, a biennial event which brought together culture ministers, artists, thinkers and arts leaders from around the world. Policy makers underlined the value of placing arts and culture at the heart of both local and global communities, and reinforced their commitment to the arts and cultural industries as vital means of international cooperation and exchange.

International Festival Director, Fergus Linehan said: 'At the end of three incredible weeks, all that remains is for us to thank the hundreds of artists and hundreds of thousands of audience members who continue to make the Edinburgh International Festival one of the wonders of the arts world.

"The International Festival has always been a place for people of all nationalities to meet and exchange ideas and we've seen that everywhere across the city these past three weeks. In uncertain times, events like this feel ever more important, and we at the International Festival are honoured to have been able to host, inspire, entertain and moreover welcome so many artists and visitors from all over the world to our city'.



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## Housing bodies move to a new home



(Pictured L-R) Amanda Britain, CIH Scotland Chair; Victoria Peterkin, longest serving CIH Scotland member; Julie Fadden, President of the Chartered Institute of Housing; Annie Mauger, Executive Director, CIH Scotland mark



the formal opening of CIH Scotland's new offices

Housing bodies the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland and HouseMark Scotland have formally relocated from central Edinburgh premises on Princes Street to newly refurbished offices at 160 Dundee Street in Fountainbridge. They have been joined in their new offices by Procurement for Housing (PfH) Scotland, a subsidiary of HouseMark.

CIH Scotland took the opportunity of an informal office opening ceremony attended by a cross section of housing sector stakeholders on Friday of last week to announce that an inaugural Scottish Housing Day will take place on Monday 19 September 2016.

The purpose of Scottish Housing Day will be to raise public awareness of the importance of housing policy issues and to give the public easier access to the resources they need to make properly informed housing decisions. Partner organisations are organising a busy programme of events to mark Scottish Housing Day and the general public will be encouraged to get involved through participation in events and interaction with social media and a dedicated website.

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## **From The Chair of the Hypnotherapist – Overcoming a Fear of Needles**

*The Edinburgh Reporter's Mike Smith is a qualified hypnotherapist. In the latest of a regular series of articles, Mike offers some hope to those people who have a fear of*

*needles.*

I was making small conversation with someone the other day (I like to think of myself as a sociable kind of chap) and she mentioned she had just made an appointment with her dentist for the following day as her back teeth were 'giving her a bit of jib'. Although I had never met this person before, I could tell from her manner she was clearly petrified at this prospect. She offered the fact 'she was terrified of needles' by way of confirming this fact.

This was an open door for me to go through and tell her about my profession as a hypnotherapist. I explained to her how hypnosis could perhaps help her deep-rooted fear of needles.

'W' was unsure of when her phobia begun but she remembered feeling anxious as a child, around the age of 10, when she went to visit the school dentist. 'W' agreed to come to see me to ascertain what hypnotherapy could do for her. After the initial consultation, when I discovered more about what made her relax, I explained that the aim would be to discover the origin of her fear.

She explained she was the child of a one parent family and her mother could not afford to have her treated by a private dentist. Therefore, she went to the school dentist – a free alternative but, as most people are aware, there's no such thing as a free lunch (or free filling) While the school dentist usually did an efficient job, his methods were somewhat lacking in patient care (this was the early 1970s after all) The needles he used to free her mouth were of the humongous variety (her words, not mine) and the memory of the piercing pain she felt remained with her until now.

After being taken into a deeply relaxed state, I began to discuss 'W''s past with her. She told me more about what happened with the school dentist in more detail.

I asked her if the experience she had of going to a private

dentist now, forty years later, was the same. She said it wasn't, the treatment she received was first class. She said she felt at ease once her mouth was frozen and her present dentist was professional and caring. I asked her if the process of getting the injection was the same as it was four decades ago. She replied it wasn't and that her dentist today was very gentle; in fact when she closed her eyes when the injection was being given she barely felt a thing.

Despite her dentist of today being professional, it was clear 'W's subconscious mind remained steadfast in the early 1970s. She still associated the very idea of going to the dentist with large needles and pain, even though this was no longer the case.

Through bespoke scripts, tailored to 'W's personal circumstances, I was able to help 'W' think differently about going to the dentist. In fact, I helped 'W' think differently about injections in general. She was due a blood test at her doctor a few days after her first session with me. When I asked her how she got on at her next session with me, she told me she didn't feel anxious at all.

When 'W' went for her next dental appointment, I asked her how she felt. She said that, this time, she wasn't anxious at all before going and while waiting in the dental surgery she was no longer trembling with fear. Her approach about her visits to the dentist had changed and it no longer dominated her life by creating a state of high anxiety. While she wasn't quite at the stage of looking forward to going to the dentist – who does? – her feelings of anxiety had reduced substantially.

If you are suffering from a fear that you believe might stem from a bad memory, then hypnotherapy is a great way of recalling that memory and allowing you to rid yourself of it.

Contact me today on 0752 1353 787 (24 hours)

Email: [mike.smith@mgs-hypnotherapy-services.co.uk](mailto:mike.smith@mgs-hypnotherapy-services.co.uk)

Website: [www.mgs-hypnotherapy-services.co.uk](http://www.mgs-hypnotherapy-services.co.uk)

Why not take advantage of a FREE, no-obligation consultation?

Mike Smith Hyp CS

Mind Generating Success

14-18 Hill Street

Edinburgh

EH2 3JZ

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## **Leith Academy pupils win internship places on U.S. presidential campaign**



Four Leith Academy pupils have won a nationwide competition to intern as part of US Democratic Party presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's campaign in the US in November.

Morven MacKay, Caitlin Munn, Liam Stobie and Katie Ewart will be travelling to America with their teacher Ms Steele on 29 October as part of a small team of around 20 UK pupils. The pupils will be based in Tampa, Florida where they will be spending time working on Clinton's presidential campaign and the campaigns for several House of Representatives and Senate candidates. The trip will conclude with a short visit to Washington DC where the pupils will get a chance to see the

White House and Capitol Hill for themselves. Crucially they will be in America for election day on 8 November.

The Inspire US 2016 competition, organised by [The Transformation Trust](#), received entries from schools all around the UK. Of the five winning schools the pupils from Leith Academy were the only ones from Scotland (three of the five are London-based schools).

Competition entrants had to submit videos answering questions about who their dream presidential candidates would be, and what executive order would they invoke if they were president. In later rounds of the competition the pupils had to give presentations via Skype on what type of campaign they would run upon their return that could highlight the skills learned during the internship.

The trip is fully funded with all travel and accommodation covered, and is a repeat of a successful 2012 trip.



The Leith Academy pupils' dream presidential nominees included figures as diverse as Malala Yousafzai and Morgan Freeman. The issue they opted to tackle with their executive order was to place a cap on the spending involved in lobbying and financing during the election cycle (a major talking point during this presidential election). The pupils did their Skype presentation from Holyrood on the issue of 16-year-old voters, entitled "Cross My Name Off".

"We didn't think we were going to get it at first," the pupils said on winning the competition, before adding "it feels really good though, knowing how many other schools applied."

Nadia Steele, who teaches Modern Studies and will be accompanying the pupils on their trip, was the person who entered the school into the contest.

She said : “The competition came to my notice as a way of engaging pupils who might not have the opportunity to otherwise go and experience America in a political context. I immediately started thinking of which pupils had put in a lot of effort on their course work, gave 100% and would be up for the challenge of taking part in it.”



Caitlin Munn, Katie Ewart, Liam Stobie and Morven Mackay are all off to the US Presidential election campaign in November. They will be in the US when the new president is elected.

Asked whether any of the pupils had plans of pursuing a career in politics, 16 year old Liam Stobie said:

“It’s an idea I have, although I’m not 100% sure yet. This will be good experience for finding out.” Fellow pupil Katie Ewart echoed his remarks, adding: “This trip could be a “decider” for me.”

Ms Steele added: “I think the skills that they’ll pick up out there will be invaluable whatever they go on to do.”

Would they ever go out to work for Donald Trump’s presidential campaign?

Morven Mackay said: “I think it would be interesting to see what kind of people support him and what their reasons are.”

And Katie Ewart added: “I’d like to see how his campaign works differently in comparison to Hillary’s.”

Liam Stobie thinks it will be very interesting: “Yes, I’d definitely like to see how that man’s mind works.”

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# Five things you need to know today



- **Virgin Money Fireworks Concert**
- **Cycling is on the agenda**
- **Pleasance raise almost £50,000 for Waverley Care**
- **Pop up at Leith Walk Police Box**
- **Cressida the Tidal Octopus is back!**

Tonight's the night! The Virgin Money Fireworks Concert takes place tonight beginning at 9.30pm. This year the pyrotechnics will be accompanied by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra who will play specially arranged versions of Prokofiev's vibrant ballet music for Romeo and Juliet which takes in the swaggering machismo of the 'Dance of the Knights', known to millions as the theme from The Apprentice, as well as the rousing 'Morning Dance' and dramatic 'The Fight'.

The Symphonic Dances from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story feature some of the composer's most memorable music from his landmark Romeo and Juliet-inspired musical; flamboyant, catchy and unutterably cool, accompanied by a glittering display of pyrotechnics from the Edinburgh Castle ramparts. The concert concludes with the pomp and exuberance of Shostakovich's joyful Festive Overture.

These pieces of music celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

The places to view the fireworks are numerous but there is Princes Street Gardens although you need a ticket to get in. There are three entrances : One on Princes Street by St John's Church, on King's Stables Road and one on Princes Street by the Floral Clock.

You can listen to the music live on Forth One 97.3FM, and by 22.15 the whole thing (and this year's Festival!) will be over.

Down at Inverleith Park on a clear night you will get a good view up to the Castle with all the fireworks lighting the sky but perhaps without the immediate body blows that you might feel if you are close by. This is a good family viewing area if you have small children.

If you have accessibility queries then you can find out more [here](#).

Earlier today at 11 o'clock schoolchildren from across Edinburgh will listen to SCO VIBE a fusion orchestra open to young musicians between 11-18 years old who will play for them.



This morning The Edinburgh Reporter is off to join a cycle run at 8am starting from Charlotte Square and going out to Roseburn. This is ahead of the council's decision tomorrow on two alternative cycling models for the West to East cycle link following a council consultation.

Ride the Route is advocating Option A as the best route for the council to adopt. This is the one which council officers appear to favour saying in the report that this route which travels along Roseburn Terrace via Roseburn Gardens



'provides the most direct and convenient cycle route and improves the street environment'. They also say that Option A is favoured over Option B as it will offer continuous cycleway on the north side of Roseburn Terrace delivering a bigger change in what is currently a traffic-dominated street.

Whether it should go through Roseburn or find a route behind the shops at the narrowing of the road just before Murrayfield Avenue is up for decision. There has been much debate about the options and we hope to bring you some news later today to clarify what both sides think.

The report is to be considered by the council's Transport committee when it meets tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile Edinburgh residents and traders who are against the cycling changes will undertake an 'Arms Folded' campaign as a show of counterdemonstration. They will be outside Eat'n'Joy on Roseburn Terrace at about 8.20. They say that they will explain to cyclists why the scheme will not work. The demonstrators have petitioned the council to stop the cycling scheme. You can read about that [here](#).



The Fringe has been declared a huge success at Pleasance across its various sites. There were 5032 performances of 250 shows in 27 venues. Ticket sales were up marginally on last year and of these around 30,000 tickets were sold for children's shows.

One Year Lease's play Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally won an award from The Stage. We interviewed the director and the writer and here is a little clip for you:

*A go see at the Fringe! [@ThePleasance](#) [@0YLTheaterCo](#) [#AuntSally](#) New York Times Critics Pick 2015 [pic.twitter.com/Zu6tJyuY2K](http://pic.twitter.com/Zu6tJyuY2K)*

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [August 20, 2016](#)

The venue also raised £47,976 for Waverley Care through the Tartan Ribbon Comedy Benefit and text donations made during Eurobeat. That means that over 25 years the charity has benefited from £423,000 of fundraising.

This was probably one of the best photo calls during the Festival! We all went up Calton Hill one morning....

*Lovely day to start with a photo call on top of Calton Hill!  
With [@SusanCalman](#) [@ThePleasance](#) [@WaverleyCare](#)  
[pic.twitter.com/VrERfQeWo2](http://pic.twitter.com/VrERfQeWo2)*

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [August 15, 2016](#)



Fancy colouring in your own T-shirt?

Crafta La Vista make them for colouring in by children and adults. Next Saturday 3 September they will be popping up on Leith Walk at the police box there to sell clothes for children.

Nicole Evry from Leith based Crafta La Vista said: " All the clothes are based around helping families have fun together and come in a stylish gift box making it a great present for your special little person."

Find out more [here](#).




Cressida the Tidal Octopus is back on Portobello Beach!

She has been reinstalled on Porty Beach on a permanent basis. The pole she was attached to was brought down by Storm Frank

in January of this year, and since then her creator Lauren Fox has been repairing her and repainting her, and working to get support for her return.

She explained: "The Velvet Easel have sponsored her, as have the people of Porty through a crowdfunding campaign, and the Portobello Community Council are taking her on as their own after she's back in place."

We interviewed Lauren when Cressida was put up in the first place last year which you can watch [here](#)

 If you are reading this article in print and would like to visit The Edinburgh Reporter website then simply scan the QR code here with a smartphone or tablet.

***Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter***

[mc4wp\_form id="169103"]

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## **Man detained following disturbance at Lawnmarket**



Police were called to an address in the Lawnmarket at around 1:50pm this afternoon after receiving a report of concern for a male occupant.

An area around the Lawnmarket was subsequently cordoned off to pedestrians and traffic as officers worked to resolve this incident.

A spokesperson for Police Scotland said: "We can confirm that a disturbance reported at an address in the Lawnmarket earlier

today came to a peaceful conclusion at around 4pm.

“A man has since been detained in relation to this matter.

“Local roads have been fully reopened and the public is thanked for their patience and cooperation.”

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## **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016 REVIEW: Entrails by Parachute Dance\*\*\***

*Entrails* is the debut dance piece from emerging company Parachute Dance. As the name implies it is anything but an easy watch, though this is by no means a criticism.

Directed and choreographed by Roisin O'Brien, *Entrails* takes inspiration from Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*. Like the novel, it is a complex portrayal of the human body and how it responds to difficult and traumatic events. The dark tone is established from an early stage, as our dancers come to life from a foetal-like position, twitching and blinking as though exasperated with life already, and as the dismembered parts of a mannequin are scattered across the performance space.

Capturing human fragility – whether physical or emotional – is no easy task, and the success of this piece comes largely down to O'Brien's creative direction and the skill of the three dancers, Jenny Geertsen, Emily Neighbour and Kayla Tome. Each are commanding in their own right, flitting between representations of strength and decline. Fear is manifested through wide, manic eyes; frustration through the exasperated pushing and shoving; dependence through the way in which they

interact with one another –at times having to physically support the weight of each other as their struggle becomes too much.

The Space @ Venue 45 on Jeffrey Street offers the perfect space for such a performance; intimate and stark, the audience has no choice but to be thrust into the world of the dancers. Though claustrophobic at times, this adds to the intensity of the piece, and lends a believability to the suffering encapsulated by their movements and expressions.

Though highly interpretive, there are still nods to Heller's narrative. Parachutist clothing for example lies strewn across the stage, and is appropriated by the dancers at various stages, who react with fear and revulsion. Those unfamiliar with the novel may miss the subtleties of these references, however, and find the piece a little lacking in story or direction. The addition of speech – the repeated proclamations of "Help them!" and "I tried" – comes as somewhat of a surprise in a piece which has wholly relied upon movement to tell the story, though it is successful in provoking questions among the audience: Who should the character be helping? What is it that they wish they had done differently?

In a sense, this is interpretive direction at its very best; we are not given one specific character or story with whom we can engage, instead, we are forced to look at the wider impact of war and suffering, and to consider the dancers' struggle as a representation of the trauma felt by society as a whole.

This is a highly creative and thought-provoking piece, which may not sit well with all. There is nothing delicate or pretty about the dancers' movements; instead, they are deliberately jarring and disjointed, designed to convey the often confusing and conflicting ways in which our bodies respond to distress. The three dancers are captivating and

truly give their all to what is a gritty, innovative and exciting piece from this new and promising company.

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# Police recover firearm following Leith shooting



A firearm has been recovered by police in Edinburgh as part of an ongoing investigation into an incident in the Leith area of the city.

The weapon was found in the vicinity of Cables Wynd where a man in his 20's sustained a gunshot wound to his leg on Friday, August 26th, at around 11pm.

He is currently receiving treatment in hospital and remains in a stable condition.

It is believed the firearm is connected to this incident.

Detectives from Edinburgh CID are leading the investigation and are today refreshing their appeal for information.

DI Alan O'Brien of Edinburgh CID said: "A firearm has now been recovered and we believe this was the same one used in the attack.

"From the enquiries carried out thus far, we are confident that we are dealing with a single suspect and that this was an isolated incident.

"It remains my view that there is not an ongoing threat to the community however there will be an increase in police patrols

in the area for the foreseeable future in order to provide a reassuring presence.

“Today, I appeal to anyone who was in the area of Cables Wynd on Friday night and who noticed any suspicious behaviour to contact police immediately on 101. Alternatively, an anonymous report can be made through the registered charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”

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## **Edinburgh International Culture Summit 2016 ends with call to save heritage endangered by war**

The Edinburgh International Culture Summit took place between 24-26 August 2016 at Holyrood. Discussions centred around the 40 cultural delegations who listened to over 60 speakers from around the world talking about issues which affect every nation.



Representatives from Libya, Syria, Oman and China shared details of their efforts to save their cultural heritage, the incredible value of it to their communities in often volatile regions of the world, and the personal cost of its destruction.

In his address to the Summit Professor Dr Maamoun Abdulkarim, Director General of Antiquities and Museums in Syria talked about having to close all the museums in order to protect and

preserve the nation's cultural heritage. He added, "We urge the international community to stop extremists. The time has come to take action before it is too late to protect our heritage, not just in Syria but also in Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Mali, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The international community needs to bear in mind that Syrian cultural heritage is humanity, and that the loss of any of its components is a loss for the world"

Successfully attracting delegations from over 40 countries around the world from nations as diverse as the United States and Oman, Nigeria and Sweden, the Summit brought together a huge range of perspectives which demonstrated the intrinsic and extreme value of culture to people, countries and economies.

In the Opening Ceremony Youssou N'Dour addressed the Ministers talking on culture and economics and saying "A lot of things are impacting on the cultural actors. Because if these cultural creators are living in extreme poverty they can't create. And if they can't create anymore it's a catastrophe. We need to work for reform that allows cultural actors to live their lives. To live stably. When I was Minister of Culture [in Senegal] I wasn't there to convince people. I was there to invest in people."

Representing the Youth Programme being run for the first time as part of the Summit, Michael Govan from the Scottish Youth Parliament made a passionate address in the Chamber of day two of the Summit, saying "Young people now, more than ever, need to see an investment across the world in all countries into their future. Culture and arts is more than just a way of expressing ourselves, it's our heritage, it's our souls. And that's why we need it in today's society."

Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Ken Macintosh MSP said: "The past three days have demonstrated exactly why culture is so important. Culture has the power to unify, to



enrich communities and to transform people's lives for the better.

"The long lasting impact of this Summit will be the cultural collaborations that have been created between countries and across nations and the personal friendships formed between individuals. These long lasting relationships will help create a greater shared understanding of the role of culture across the world and the benefit it can bring.

"Culture is so often overlooked. This Summit has proven that with political will anything is possible."

David Leventhal, Programme Director and founding teacher of the Mark Morris Dance Group's Dance for PD® which is now active in 125 communities in 16 countries and who brought dance into the Chamber on the third morning, said: "My message is not foremost about money or funding, it is about leveraging the potential of artists who are already among us, who are already here, to deliver participatory activities that help all of us, Parkinsonians or not, maintain quality of life and physical ability well into our later years. Dancers are here. We are ready and we want to contribute."

Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "The event offered a diverse range of speakers, as well as countless thought-provoking ideas and contributions. I was very struck by the topical discussions on the irrevocable damage to World Heritage Sites. While Scotland's historic, vibrant Capital provided a fitting backdrop for three days of inspiring and engaging dialogue, it was also a poignant reminder of the importance of preserving our own cultural heritage.

"As we face the real threat of being taken out of the European Union, the coming together of so many nations, cultures, personalities, backgrounds and aspirations with the common aim to enhance, protect and celebrate our respective cultures was as inspiring as it was poignant. The lasting message, for me,

from the Culture Summit 2016 is that we all have to be brave when it comes to culture: through international cooperation, culture can provide the ties that bind us all.”

Fergus Linehan, Director of Edinburgh International Festival, said “Since 1947 the Edinburgh International Festival has welcomed the world to Scotland’s capital city. The addition of the Edinburgh International Culture Summit to the August season has enriched our city’s festivals and created a vital platform for debate and discussion on cultural policy. In addition we have seen case studies and presentations that will assist us in maximising social, cultural and economic benefits for the communities in which we operate. We are enormously proud to be a partner in this historic gathering and look forward to putting into action the decisions and collaborative initiatives that have agreed.”

Jonathan Mills, Director of the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation said: “We have experienced a truly special Summit over the last three days. The coming together of so many nations with a common passion for culture but many different stories and contexts has inspired and moved us. I know that many people leave here with new ideas, new priorities and new relationships through which we can share and collaborate into the future.”

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## **Splash of Tartan to be next year’s Tattoo theme**



As The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo draws to a close, spectators at the final performance got a sneak peek at what’s

to come for 2017 as *Splash of Tartan* was unveiled.

Projected onto the iconic battlements of Edinburgh Castle, a 15 second animation, complete with aquatic audio effects, showcased the new theme for next year's show which will celebrate Scotland's Year of Heritage, History and Archaeology.

Each year, the Tattoo looks to establish a core theme which embraces major national anniversaries and initiatives. *Splash of Tartan* will pay homage to the international Scottish Diaspora community, who already have a deep rooted connection to the military spectacle. It continues the Tattoo's purpose of using the event as a platform to bring contingents of the world together.

The theme is a key driver in influencing the content of the show, and is set to ignite a fresh, exciting mix of military pageantry for next year's event which will take place between 4-26 August.

**Brigadier David Allfrey commented:** "As we conclude a remarkable season we are already looking to next year and beyond. In anticipation of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archeology, we have chosen as our theme for 2017: 'A Splash of Tartan'.

"This colourful banner will help us reinforce our links with our clans, families and the wider Scottish Diaspora. As Scotland's influence has flowed across the world over the years, we are looking to reach out to the points of the compass where tartan and its patterns might have touched. And... we hope our audience might come together in this spirit, attending the Show dressed in their chosen tartans with bonnets and accoutrements! We hope the Clan Chiefs and their followers will join us, each on a special evening.

"At the same time, we are looking forward to a wonderful collaboration with the Royal Navy. Against the rich

background of our heritage as an island nation, we will be celebrating our relationship with the sea – not just the briny blue that touches our shores but the world’s oceans and those that sail on them.”

Tickets for the 2017 show will go on sale on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

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## **B&Q hold an event to support butterflies**



Earlier today customers flocked to a special event at B&Q Hermiston Gait in support of Butterfly Conservation’s Garden Butterfly Survey. The survey, which is sponsored by B&Q, asks people to record the butterflies they see in their gardens throughout the year.

The butterfly bonanza took place at the store in Hermiston Gait Retail Park, with nature-loving customers relishing the chance to learn about how to attract and spot the beautiful winged creatures within their own gardens.



B&Q horticulturalists encouraged customers to turn their own green spaces into havens for wildlife by giving demonstrations on how to attract butterflies, bugs and bees into their gardens with pollinating plants.



There was also a host of colourful and creative activity with craft workshops, a face-painter to transform kids into their favourite creepy-crawly and a balloon modeller twisting creatures from the bottom of the garden. Kids were challenged to hunt throughout the store for butterflies to win prizes, and parents were delighted to receive cash-value gift cards to spend in store.

Photos courtesy of

*Neil Hanna Photography*

[www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk](http://www.neilhannaphotography.co.uk)

07702 246823

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## **Hardies now leading trainers in building information modelling**



With Level Two BIM Training (Building Information Modelling) achieved amongst its leading surveyors, and with all other surveying staff having had BIM training, Hardies Property & Construction Consultants are staking their claim as Scotland's leading authority on BIM.



In the past few months, the company, which has fourteen offices in Scotland, has been approached by no less than four different organisations to talk on the benefits of training staff in BIM, and asked to pass on its knowledge of the system to other industry professionals.

“We have invested a great deal of time and money to train our leading surveyors in this new discipline which creates value for the combined efforts of people, process and technology, “ said Derek Ferrier, Managing Partner of Hardies. “About eighteen months ago we had the foresight to see that BIM was the way the industry was heading. We knew we had to be a major part of it, especially as we are very active in the provision of new schools, the vast majority of which use BIM technology.”

“One of the first things we did was to appoint a BIM Tsar for the firm, Quantity Surveyor Simon Beveridge in the Edinburgh office,” said Derek. “Simon has led the process for us and passed on his knowledge to others. He was the best man for the job as he had experience of BIM training in the States where he worked for a couple of years. He returned to us at Hardies three years ago and we are delighted to have him. He has been instrumental in driving this initiative forward and it has worked really well.”

Derek explained that word must have spread amongst the industry that Hardies saw, and was using the massive potential and application in the marketplace of BIM.

“We were asked to give a talk on BIM at two RICS Annual Conferences, one for Building Surveying and one for Quantity Surveying, “ said Derek. “This was closely followed by another talk at the Annual Conference of top law firm Bond Dickinson. We are waiting to give a talk to Edinburgh City Council about the topic and have also been approached by Midlothian Council, who are clients of ours, to talk to their employees about BIM too.”

✘ “We seem to have set a benchmark for integrating new technology into a firm of our size. Other organisations want to hear about our experiences to adapt and learn from these for themselves,” said Derek.

Hardies, which celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, serves clients in both the private and public sectors with a complete operation in property and construction development, including property valuation, building and quantity surveying and project management. The firm also handles the leasing and sale of commercial and industrial buildings; H&S Principal Designer and the provision of Energy Performance Certificates. Altogether, Hardies employ over 100 members of staff, professionally qualified in various disciplines.

Further details [www.hardies.co.uk](http://www.hardies.co.uk).



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## Rugby – Watsonians v Heriots – BT Premiership

*Watsonians open their new season with a win over Heriots.*



Premiership newcomers (new returnees?), Watsonians, took the honours at Myreside on Saturday as they took full advantage of reigning Champions, Heriots, stuttering start to the 2016-17 campaign.

A fairly dismal first half, which started well for the home side as they pressurised the visitors' defence for a few minutes, degenerated into an unending period of scrums and subsequent penalties, most of which took place a few metres from Watsonians try line. A yellow card for handling on the ground was dealt out to 'Sonians No. 8, Rory Drummond, was followed by the opening points via the boot of Alex Haggard.

So, 20 minutes, in it was 3-0 to the Champions.

The next 15, or so, minutes saw the game open up and the type of rugby played that the decent sized crowd had paid to see with both sides running at the opposition. However, Watsonians came out on top of this passage of play with a score-levelling penalty from their 12 Ewan Scott, which followed on from fine run of pressure on the Heriots defence.

The final five minutes of the half saw another two successful penalties and a yellow card just before the break for Heriots' flanker, Dylan Mason, who came under scrutiny almost removing the head of the opposing wing with a badly judged high tackle. Half time score 6-6.

The second half was an almost entirely different affair, and Watsonians demonstrated the new boys were more than capable of just making up the numbers with three tries to two.



The first try came after four minutes with a line break set up by the pack, which left Dairmaid Dee with a, dummy-assisted, run in for the try. Scott then scored the conversion to open up the gap to 13-6.

The next score came just over 10 minutes later as Watsonians continued to defend well and attack better. Yet another scrum, this one near Heriots' line, lead to the visitors pack being blown apart by the home side and the referee, Graeme Ormiston, awarding, what some might have considered, a premature penalty try. Still, try it was and, with another successful Scott conversion, the score went out to 20-6.

At this point, the visitors woke up a bit to the fact they were 'in a game' and proceeded to press home some fine running attacks, which eventually culminated – helped a touch by a mis-directed home lineout – in a try down the right for centre, Liam Steele. Hagart then slotted home the conversion



from out on the touchline to bring the scores closer at 20-13 with around 20 minutes of the half to go.

With just over half the remaining time played, Watsonians once again crossed the line for their third try of the match. Winning their lineout around the 22, the ball was moved quickly around, eventually outpacing the Heriots' defence and allowing Scott to score at ground level. He missed his kick, but at 25-13 and just over five minutes left, it was looking difficult for the visiting side.


However, nothing daunted and all that, lead to the final score of the match as Heriots followed up a series of attacking plays with another try for Steele on the same spot as before, only for Hagart to miss the repeat conversion to leave the final score at 25-18 to Watsonians. The home side also won the inaugural 1896 Trophy, thus capping a superb return to top-flight rugby for the Myreside men.

*Images from the match will appear [here](#) over the next few days.*

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## Pen Reid: InValid\*\*\*\*\*

*'Our song began by a loch...the fish lay still listening to our words' (Awakening)*

**InValid**, artist and poet **Pen Reid's** new pamphlet, tells the story of a marriage – hers. It begins with the first meeting, with that dazzling discovery of new worlds, new beauty, new spiritual freedom (no longer 'subjugated into parent  pleasing'), new physical joy;

*'my tentative shuffle admiring the way  
your hips tucked in neatly:'*

Pen's finely crafted words take us all back to that first rapture. Things change after that for most of us – but for Pen and her family they have changed in a particularly drastic way. After her husband's diagnosis with the degenerative disease multiple sclerosis, Pen began writing poems to find a way through the family's experience, something that she has achieved with awe-inspiring skill;

‘Poetry has provided me with a voice to express the  
unspeakable’

✖ Here in **The Whole Works'** cosy Old Town sitting room, Pen's readings are accompanied by **Emma Scott's** moving violin music; the two are in perfect harmony, Emma's playing reflecting the various moods in the poems. When Pen talks of a robin, Emma's violin fills the room with bird song; as leaves fall the music becomes slow and wistful.

Pen lays bare the simple truths of a life with MS, but she also finds hope in the smallest details. Her poems follow the seasons of the year, and the seasons of her marriage. In **Autumn** she is

*‘....vivified by  
the vulgarity of  
the chrysanthemum...’*

but also wistful, ‘longing for the return of his summer.’ In **Fall in the Garden** we are not spared her husband's embarrassment in ending up with his head in a plant pot – but

*‘my heart is buoyant  
that you are bleeding  
and alive.’*

It is, of course, not only a partner who is affected by

illness. Children have to live in a situation quite different from that of their peers. Pen uses the analogy of water suddenly crashing down over a weir (fabulous, shattering music from Emma), and in ***We saw bunnies playing below the ramparts*** she likens her children to rabbits playing on a cliff edge;

*'despite the steep precipice,  
they play on'*

She desperately wants her daughters to know their father as their father, to understand that he is still the same person;

*'Lengthening your marrow  
will not journey you from pain.  
Stay with your father's degeneration;  
know love lives not in the physical.'* (Fridge Light)

And after all, they are still children doing childlike things – 'My daughter stands in her pyjamas/singing to the cat'.

✘ In a particularly poignant moment, Pen goes into her husband's workshop, picks up some of the curly wood shavings and wears them on her fingers 'like rings' (***Redundant***).

The final poem in this reading ***Meeting with a tree in a park***, embodies all of Pen's sadness, but also all of her hope; the tree is trapped in the park, but its petals still fall free, nothing can prevent them from flying; 'My increasing belief that we are never truly trapped'.

'Invalid', Pen says, is a label too often applied to ill ✘ people, too apt to make them 'in valid', unimportant, unheard. A neurologist once told her that 'grieving is critical to adjustment', but in this brave and beautiful collection, Pen not only grieves – she validates her husband, their family and the power of love.

***InValid*** is published by Appletree Writers Press and will be available online from [Bowdy Kite Books](#).

Pen will launch ***InValid*** at the [Scottish Poetry Library](#), 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, at 1.30pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. All welcome.

