

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016 Sixty-Six ***

 UK Premiere

Well, I'm really not quite sure how to describe Lewis Klahr's Sixty Six – it's a stream of art consciousness, over twelve episodes, most of which have Roy Lichtenstein type characters with speech balloons or voiced by actors, interspersed with beautiful colour slides and pieces of photography, some of it out of focus. Much of the accompanying music is really beautiful and very well chosen.

It is compelling in a strange kind of way, except for the second last set, which consists of a whole lot of broken shots of a wedding/celebration table in black and white and out of focus, which does not seem to be cohesive with the rest.

Making a narrative from the images, some of which have buttons traversing them, is a challenging but not unpleasant way to while away 90 minutes and appreciate the life's work of this creative artist. Maybe a double dose of Night Nurse would have helped, though.

[Sixty Six // Clip](#) from [San Francisco Film Society](#) on [Vimeo](#).

New headteacher appointed at St George's

Alexandra Hems has been appointed new head at St George's, the all girls school on Garscube Terrace.



Ms Hems is currently Deputy Head of Wycombe Abbey School and will take over in Edinburgh on 1 January 2017.

Paul Brewer, Chair of Council at St George's, said: "We are delighted about appointing such an outstanding candidate and someone who intrinsically understands the qualities of a girls' school, its strengths and opportunities. St George's is a wonderful place and we wanted to find someone who will cherish the characteristics that makes St George's such a good school.

"We look forward to supporting Alex as she takes the school on the next steps of its journey, helping to encourage the development of young women of independent mind, while at the same time leading the school so it continues to be fit for purpose in the modern, and global world we now live in."

Mrs Hems has spent twenty years working in leading girls' schools. She has been Deputy Head at Wycombe Abbey, since 2013, having previously been Deputy Head at Francis Holland School, London, since 2011. Before that she was Head of Senior School (Sixth Form) at St Paul's Girls' School in London from 2007, and Head of Sixth Form at North London Collegiate School from 2003.

Having read English at Somerville College, Oxford, Mrs Hems teaches English but also enjoyed teaching Latin early on in her career.

Five things you need to know today



- Lord Provost for the day
- Get your Airshow tickets now
- Lothian Buses win awards

- **Clydesdale Bank Spirit of the Community Awards**
- **Musselburgh Racecourse Queen of Style**

The Edinburgh Reporter is off shadowing the Lord Provost for the day today. The day starts with a flag ceremony at the City Chambers! The Lord Provost is also the Lord Lieutenant and he may just wear that uniform today for a change. He now has so many that he has put them all on mannequins in the Lord Provost's rooms.

The first duty is to raise the flag above the City Chambers for Armed Forces Day.

We will bring you some news about the day on Twitter and Facebook but will be publishing a longer version too.

If you have any questions then let us know!



Scotland's National Airshow takes place at East Fortune on 23 July 2016. The day starts at 10:00 and ends at 17:00.

The full line-up includes:

- RotorSport UK MT-03 Autogyro
- Royal Navy Helicopter Display team – The Black Cats
- Consolidated PBY Catalina
- Bell UH-1H Iroquois 'Huey'
- Hawker Hurricane
- Bücker Bü131 Jungmann
- Avro Lancaster
- SB Lim-2 (MiG-15UTI)
- North American P-51D Mustang
- Swiss PC-7 Aerobatic Team
- Percival Pembroke C.1
- Pitts S2S (Special)
- The RAF Red Arrows
- Red Bull Matadors

- Supermarine Spitfire
- Stolp Starduster
- BAC 167 Strikemaster Mk 82A
- Fairey Swordfish Mk.I
- Eurofighter Typhoon FGR.4
- Vampire Pair

Now you wouldn't want to miss that would you? [Get your tickets here.](#)



Lothian Buses won two awards last week as Scotland's Public Transport Operator of the Year and Scotland's Best Bus Service for the number 113 which goes out to East Lothian.

The Scottish Transport Awards are the highest industry accolades in the country.



Richard Hall, Lothian Buses' Managing Director, said: "It's great to see that the efforts and achievements of all of the dedicated staff within the business have been recognised with these awards. The transport industry in Scotland is full of people who work tirelessly day in day out to deliver outstanding service to customers and provide millions of passenger journeys every year.

"Lothian Buses has continued to make significant investments into its people, fleet, routes and services. With over £18.5 million in environmental improvements and the introduction of more than 60 diesel-electric hybrid buses into its fleet, it has removed 600 tonnes of CO2 from the company's carbon footprint and corresponding reductions of 99% in NOx and 60% in particulate emissions.

"Our company is continuing to deliver on its commitment to lessening its impact on the environment whilst delivering

sustainable and socially inclusive transport solutions across Scotland's capital city and the Lothians. More than two-thirds of the 800-strong fleet is now at Euro 5 standard or above.''



Two Edinburgh groups have been awarded funding of £10,000 by the [Clydesdale Bank Spirit of the Community Awards](#). Upward Mobility Project and Craigowl Communities will share the money between them.

Debbie Crosbie, Chief Operating Officer at Clydesdale and Yorkshire Banks and Chair of the Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation, said: "Clydesdale Bank's Spirit of the Community Awards aim to recognise and support the vital contribution that voluntary and charitable projects make to their local communities. This is our opportunity to say thank you to the incredible community groups across Scotland for the inspiring work they undertake.

"All of the successful organisations are extremely deserving winners which have been recognised for their role in their local communities with these awards from Clydesdale Bank."



Upward Mobility Project supports 137 young people throughout Edinburgh and East Lothian with physical and intellectual disabilities and provides educational and creative workshops to promote self confidence and personal development. The charity has been awarded £5,000 to establish a cafe lunch service and train 15 young people in catering and customer service skills.

Craigowl Communities aims to reduce poverty and provides learning opportunities, training, qualifications, guidance and support to people who want to improve their circumstances. The charity has been awarded £5,000 to contribute to the costs of a financial support worker.

Josh Barton, Managing Director of Upward Mobility Project, said: "Upward Mobility provides support and opportunities for adults with learning difficulties and autism. We work with people to develop confidence, imagination and life skills through music, drama, art and other expressive and physical activities. This generous grant will support our continued work to improve lives."

Lynn Cunningham, Managing Director of Craigowl Communities, added: "Last year Craigowl Communities' Futures project helped over 180 people by providing financial advice and training opportunities."

"The funding from the Clydesdale Bank Spirit of the Community Awards means that we can expand this vital community resource so that we reach even more people in need of support this year. Specifically, this money will help to fund a support worker to engage with people who have been impacted on by homelessness across Scotland."



Musselburgh Racecourse's chosen Queen of Style showed there's more to her than glitz and glamour when she swapped her heels back to football boots after scoring the ultimate winner at Stobo Castle Ladies Day.



Musselburgh Racecourse Stobo Castle Ladies Day
2016.

This year's Queen of Style winner was Michelle Gardiner from Falkirk.

Football enthusiast Michelle Gardiner, who plays for Central Ladies first division in Falkirk, is known for flaunting her ball skills on the pitch, while off the pitch it's all about her desirable style.

The renowned Queen of Style competition was judged by

fashionistas Miss UK, Laura Russell of Satisfashion and STV's Hayley Matthews who, after much deliberation, agreed that Michelle was the worthy winner to receive the brand new £10,000 car thanks to her original and on trend outfit.

Michelle attended the prestigious sell-out racing event after purchasing a last minute ticket and says she was shocked to have even been entered into the competition, let alone be crowned the winner, after choosing her chic outfit just days before.

Michelle said: "I still can't believe I won. I'm a tomboy at heart who loves my football but when there's an occasion to get dolled up I just can't say no.

"After buying my ticket just before they completely sold out I knew I did have a lot of time sort my outfit so I'm delighted that I managed to pull it off.

"This was my first year attending Stobo Castle Ladies Day but it certainly won't be my last. The pressure is now on for next year to see if I can retain my title."

Laura Russell, fashion judge at Stobo Castle Ladies Day said: "We were all delighted to be able to choose Michelle as the winner. It was a tough decision as there were so many stylish ladies on the stage but we all loved Michelle's floral outfit. It really suited her look and brought out her gorgeous features so we all agreed that Michelle had to be our winner.

It was unbelievably rewarding to watch Michelle's stunned reaction after her number was called out – a fabulous floral winner for Ladies Day 2016.


Aisling Johnston, Marketing Manager at Musselburgh Racecourse, said: "This year was definitely one of our most fashionable events yet. The competition was extremely tough as everyone looked amazing but Michelle offered something a little more unique and therefore was the deserving winner.

“Our focus for Stobo Castle Ladies Day 2016 was to invest in the customer experience ensuring we delivered a 5 star day with new initiatives to provide something memorable for our racegoers, and all indications are that it has paid off.

“We are now preparing to do it all over again on Friday (8 July) when we host our Bi-Centenary Celebration Raceday, so we would encourage people to stay in touch to find out the details of what promises to be a very special day.”

Musselburgh Racecourse is firmly established as one of the UK’s most stylish racecourses, hosting 28 flat and jumps meetings each year.

For more information and to book tickets to other race-days please visit: www.musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk

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Contents of Minto Hotel to be auctioned



Due to redevelopment plans, Wilsons Auctions will be selling by unreserved public auction, the entire contents of

the Minto Hotel in Edinburgh.

[tweet_box design="default"]The auction will take place on Tuesday 28th June, 11am, on site, at the hotel located at: 16-18 Minto Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH9 1RQ. [/tweet_box]

The 125 year old property consists of 22 bedrooms, restaurant and bar facilities and an events suite and isn't a stranger to some famous faces who have passed it's doors over the years. Andy Goram, former Scotland international association goalkeeper got married in the hotel and Una McLean, the British actress and comedian apparently met her future husband Russell Hunter there. The hotel was also known for being the place where Rangers signed the controversial Scotland goalkeeper from Hibernian.

This public auction is a unique opportunity for local businesses and the community to pick up a bargain with over 560 items going under the hammer, whether you are a hotel or B&B owner looking for catering equipment, event room and bar furniture or home owners interested in acquiring bathroom fittings, bedroom furniture or looking for plasma televisions.

Viewings will take place on Monday 27th June between 10am-4pm.

[More details on Wilsons website.](#)



Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016 Bliss! ***



WORLD PREMIERE

Beautiful use is made of the South Shields and Norwegian coastlines as backdrop to Bliss! [tweet_box design="default"]This engaging, coming of age story tells of Tasha Robson (Freya Parks)'s quest to find her real father, known to her mother only as The Viking. [/tweet_box]

Deciding to leave her violent step-father and dysfunctional family, she sets off on the Newcastle to Bergen ferry, finding she has to draw on resources she did not know she had along the way.

Rita Osei's directorial debut is sweet and holds the viewer's attention to its pragmatic end. Parks is excellent, assured yet naive. She sings a pretty little refrain which recurs at various points and is lovely but at times the wider soundtrack is jarring and intrusive.

What's on in Edinburgh this week – 72 Things to do!

There's a big decision looming this Thursday..... just where will you go first when **Leith Late** opens? Edinburgh Printmakers? Rhubaba? Out of the Blue? Gayfield? You're going to be busy (so don't forget to deal with that other tricky

issue early in the day...) Whether you're 2 or 92, there's lots for you to enjoy every day this week, from celebrating midsummer at the **Botanics**, the **Institut français**, **The Queen's Hall** or **LGBT Health & Wellbeing** to taking your Teddy Bear to a picnic in Duddingston. And if all that's a little bit too *outdoors* for you, why not take yourself down to the cosy confines of the Jazz Bar to hear the **Vein Trio**, or the equally darkened depths of Henry's for the **Cellar Bar Folk Club**? Never say we don't cover all bases. Whatever you decide to do, have a fabulous week – and please check details of all events with the organisers before setting out.

MONDAY 20th JUNE 2016

✖ **Eric Liddell Centre Ca(i)re Programme:** delivering yoga and tai chi classes free to all carers living in Edinburgh. Today: Yoga with Rona Nussey – a new 8 week course. 10.30am, Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road. To register please email flora@ericliddell.org or call 0131 446 3321. Tai chi begins on Thursday – please see separate listing.

Picturehouses Toddler Time: exclusive short screenings for ✖ pre-school children and their parents and carers. Today: **Q Pootle 5 Programme 11 (U):** join the stars of the hit CBeebies show as Q Pootle 5, Oopsy, Eddi, Stella, Ray, Groobie, Bud-D and Planet Dave tackle the everyday problems of the final frontier. With friendship at the heart of the series, Q Pootle 5 and his friends find fun and adventure wherever they go. Set in outer space on the wonderful planet **Okidoki**, this series, created by best-selling children's author and illustrator **Nick Butterworth**, is of the highest quality. 11am, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets cost £3 per child, accompanying adult free.

✖ **Magritte and Dali in London:** **Keith Hartley**, Deputy Director of the Gallery of Modern Art, will look at the work of Magritte and Dalí and their circle in London in the 1930s. 12.45-1.30pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free to **Surreal Encounters** exhibition ticket


holders. No booking required.



LGBT Age Edinburgh Summer Solstice Picnic: enjoy the summer ☒ solstice with a picnic in the garden at LGBT Health & Wellbeing's office. Snacks and drinks provided, along with some optional picnic games. 1-3.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. Free but booking is required; please call LGBT Age on 0141 271 2330 or email beverley@lgbthealth.org.uk. **LGBT Age** is a project run by LGBT Health and Wellbeing for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people aged 50 and over ☒ in Greater Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Lothians. The project aims to promote health and wellbeing and create social opportunities. It offers a befriending service, social programme and information sessions. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about what LGBT Age can offer, please get in touch by calling 0141 271 2330 or emailing lgbtage@lgbthealth.org.uk.


Crapitalism: A Rubbish Exhibition by Leithers Don't Litter. ☒ 'There are three groups responsible for litter in Leith: You and me. The city council. And the companies who make the stuff whose packaging ends up on our streets. This exhibition is about them, the big brands. With all their money they could be doing much more to solve the problem'. 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, [Edinburgh Creative Exchange](#), 29 Constitution Street. Ends 1st July.

☒ **Blackwell's Edinburgh Book Group:** join Blackwell's Book Group for lively, friendly book chatter – no previous experience required! The group meets monthly to discuss a wide range of books – fiction and non-fiction, classic and contemporary, prizewinners and cult heroes – in short, whatever you fancy! Currently reading **Miles Franklin's *My Brilliant Career***. 6pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. To join just email your details to events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk.

Jane Couroussopoulos: Small Things. Jane has been ☒ teaching for Edinburgh City Council since 2002 and at Leith

School of Art since 2003. This year she has taken over as a leader of the two-day drawing course at LSA. She also has a studio space in Coburg House, where she continues to draw and paint alongside teaching. 'The title refers to the small size of most of the drawings themselves, the smallness of the  objects depicted in them, and their quiet significance. The shrines and churches in this body of work are born of a fascination with the way these religious structures, individual and communal, punctuate our environment. *Kandylakia* is the Greek name for these roadside shrines seen along many winding roads in Greece – ostensible markers of lives lost, they also mark lives spared. Lasting memorials to lost relatives are an essential part of Greek culture and these shrines are, as far as I know, unique to Greece.' Preview tonight 6-8pm, then 11am-5pm Tuesday to Saturday, [McNaughtan's Bookshop & Gallery](#), Haddington Place (top of Leith Walk). Ends 30th July.


 **Edinburgh Acting School Junior Showcase: *The Importance of Being Earnest*.** What's in a name? Everything, according to these larger than life characters! The **Edinburgh Acting  School** teenage class presents an adapted version of **Oscar Wilde's** classic play of identity, status and wit. Come ready to laugh until you cry with this farcical delight, and don't forget your haaandbaaag! Join the talents of the future in their performance of one of the world's most loved plays. 7pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 45 High Street. Tickets cost £6/£4 and are available from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).

 **Refugee Festival Scotland 2016: ArtRipples Collective Presents Strings – A Human Library.** This exhibition aims to generate a strong sense of solidarity within the community and a genuine human approach to the topic. Local and international artists will contribute by creating art with a social purpose that will help participants to see the situation from different angles. Additional events will include a **Human**



Library, a Short Films Screening event, and a workshop inspired by the book ***Come Ali di Farfalla (Like Butterfly Wings)***. (Booking is required for workshops and films as space is limited). The exhibition is in partnership with **The Image Collective, Fotomovimiento, Syn Festival, and Cinema dal Basso**. All events will be free, with donations invited for organisations working directly with refugees. 11.30am-4pm daily, The Image Collective, [Ocean Terminal](#) (2nd Floor), Ocean Drive, Leith. Ends 26th June. For more information, programme details and booking information please see the event's Facebook page [here](#).


A Midsummer Night's Dream: St Mary's Music School Orchestra, String Ensemble, Senior Choir and the Choristers of St Mary's Cathedral, with guest conductor **David Watkin**, present choral, orchestral, traditional music and jazz with a Shakespearian theme at its heart. 7.30pm, [The Queen's Hall](#), 85-89 Clerk Street. Tickets £10/£7/£3 from the Box Office on 0131 668 2019 or online [here](#).


Grassmarket Community Cinema: *Magnolia* (18). With *Magnolia*, **Paul Thomas Anderson** establishes himself as one of the most exciting and distinctive directors around. *Magnolia* contains the convulsive emotional hurt and sweeping visual style that characterised *Hard Eight* and *Boogie Nights* and is an anthology of broken lives – each interleaving with the other in a lattice of ill omen and disquiet. It is an ensemble picture like Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* or Altman's *Short Cuts* but, with the device of a deadpan prologue about the nature of coincidence, makes manifest the curious nature of its own very individual world. It is an excursion into the universe of *Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not* urban myth that prepares us – just about – for the uproarious biblical finale with which Anderson spectacularly discharges the unbearable tension and anxiety which has built up over the preceding three hours. *Magnolia* is a sprawling, howling miasma of strangeness, and some may find incontinence and indiscipline in its sheer length and

Anderson's love of bringing the soundtrack up to ear-bashing levels over the dialogue – particularly in the opening 10-15 minutes. But there is a compelling darkness in Anderson's  film, a *Mood Indigo* of desperation. 7pm, [Grassmarket Community Project](#), 86 Candlemaker Row. All welcome, free admission: donations very welcome! **The Grassmarket Community Project** is a charity providing mentoring, training and education to participants, many of whom are amongst the most vulnerable of Edinburgh's citizens, in a nurturing environment. It operates a **community cafe, woodwork and tartan social enterprises, and a range of social integration and educational activities** for members, aimed at enhancing life skills and developing confidence. To read about The Edinburgh Reporter's afternoon at the Project, click [here](#).

TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2016

 **Odeon Silver Cinema:** if you are 55+ come along to these  special screenings for only £3 per person, and enjoy a free tea or coffee and biscuits before the show. Today's films are *Hail, Caesar* (12A) at 11am and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2* (12A) at 2pm, [Odeon Lothian Road](#), 118 Lothian Road.

Café Ceilidh Old Town Celebration: join **Linten Adie** and friends from the **Scots Music Group** in the relaxed setting  of the Storytelling Court for a free afternoon of songs and music celebrating Edinburgh's Old Town. 2pm, Storytelling Court, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 45 High Street. No booking required.

 **Harpies, Fechters and Quines Festival: The Henna Tradition.**
Come along to learn about the story of henna, have your hand decorated and hear about the traditional sari. 2-3.30pm, Boardroom, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but please book via Eventbrite [here](#). Please note that all events in this festival are for women only.

Craigentinny and Duddingston Community Get Together: with a 

Teddy Bears' Picnic, guided field tours, apple juice making, refreshments and a Night Garden story tent! 6pm, Duddingston Field (opposite the [Sheep Heid Inn](#), The Causeway, Duddingston). For more information please contact mary.dunbar@edinburgh.gov.uk. Organised by **Craigentinny and Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership**.

✖ **Golden Hare Books and Bloomsbury present Emily Mackenzie:** an afternoon of storytelling and artsy activities with the wonderful author and illustrator (***Wanted! Ralfy Rabbit, Book Burglar***), who will be reading from her fantastic new picture book, ***Stanley the Amazing Knitting Cat*** and will also be encouraging children to draw and create their own stories in an arts & crafts session. Stanley LOVES to knit. He knocks up pom-poms at breakfast time, whips up bobble hats at bath time. He even knits in his sleep! And what does Stanley do with ✖ his wonderful woollies? He gives them to his friends of course – balaclavas for bunnies, neckwarmers for giraffes and much more besides. But when Stanley gets carried away with his dream of winning the *Woolly Wonders* competition, he has to decide what's more important – his knitting or his friends? For children aged 3-7 – all children must be supervised by an adult. 4pm, [Golden Hare Books](#), St Stephen Street, Stockbridge. Free but as places are very limited, booking is essential and may be made via Eventbrite [here](#).

Fête de la Musique: open the doors and the windows, let the ✖ summer breeze in and carry all the songs, music and dance from the **Institut français**. Et oui, c'est la fête de la musique and everyone is in a festive mood! Come along and enjoy an amazing line-up of bands, including **Djana Gabrielle, Adrian, Fuzzystar, Jack and The'** and **The New Beans**, who will ✖ perform throughout this first day of Summer. From 4 to 5pm there will be a **harp workshop** with **Emeline** for children aged 6-12 (booking is essential); music will begin at 5.30pm. What's more, the bistro will be open, with staff from **Pâtisserie Maxime** behind the bar! [Institut Français d'Ecosse](#),

13 Randolph Crescent. Free but booking is required and may be made by contacting the Box Office on 0131 225 53 66 or emailing info@ifecosse.org.uk. For the full programme see the Institut's website [here](#).

✖ **New Voices:** discover the brightest debut literary talents, and be the first to hear future prize-winning and bestselling authors, in the Museum's new regular showcase. Chaired by **Jenny Brown**, four writers – **Dorothy Alexander, Shelley Day, Lesley Kelly** and **Allyson Stack** – read from their work and talk inspiringly about their road to publication. 6pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or via Eventbrite [here](#).

Botanics Midsummer's Eve Late Opening: enjoy the Garden, ✖ Glasshouses, Inverleith House, Botanics Shop and Terrace Café until dusk as part of RBGE's annual special late-night opening. There will be half price entry to the Glasshouses between 6pm and 9.30pm. Food and refreshments available at the Terrace Cafe and East Gate Lodge. 6-10.30pm, [Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. Admission to the Botanics is free – no booking required.

✖ **Palcrafts AGM and Open Meeting:** the AGM will be followed by a talk by **Sarah Burns**, Retail Manager of **Hadeel Fair Trade Shop**, and **Nick Evans**, supporter of Palcrafts, Town Planner & Geographer, who took part in the recent Palcrafts/Hadeel study tour to Israel/Palestine. Sarah and Nick were both first time visitors to the area and will give their impressions of the trip, the region and the people they met. 7-9pm, [The Melting Pot](#), 5 Rose Street.

Picturehouses Discover Tuesdays: cult classics, art-house ✖ gems and riveting documentaries – there's always a chance to see something different and brilliant in the Cameo's weekly slot. Today's film is **Chicken (15)**. Based on **Freddie Machin's** acclaimed play, UK director **Joe Stephenson's** debut feature

follows Richard (**Scott Chambers**) a young boy with learning difficulties living with his troubled brother Polly (**Morgan Watkins**) in a remote caravan in the Norfolk countryside. At once tough and bleak, Stephenson's assured film teases out the lyricism and optimism in the source material, bringing a distinctive visual sensibility to the film's remote settings. Chambers and Watkins bring chemistry and pathos to the fraught drama and the film stands out from traditional British kitchen sink realism in its heightened, cinematic style. 6pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0871 902 5723 or online.


☒ **Renew Trident? You Must Be Joking!** An Edinburgh CND fundraising night of comedy with **Keir McAllister**, **Daisy Earl**, **Robin Grainger**, **Danny Bhoy** and **Phil O'Shea**, hosted by **Liam Withnail**. 8.30pm (doors open 7.30pm), [The Stand Comedy Club](#), 5 York Place. Tickets cost £7/£5 and may be reserved ☒ by calling the Stand Box Office on 0131 558 7272, CND on 0131 538 7298 or via Eventbrite [here](#). CND campaigns for Britain to give up nuclear weapons, bases and alliances and work towards a worldwide ban on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.


Hannah Aldridge and Lilly Hiatt: with sounds ranging from blues in the Mississippi Delta to the dusty, Dixieland jazz of New Orleans, the musical stylings of Muscle Shoals on up to the primitive roots of American Country music, Hannah Aldridge (daughter of Alabama Music Hall of Famer **Walt Aldridge**) leaves no inspiration or influence untapped. East Nashville firebrand Lilly Hiatt (daughter of famously eclectic singer-songwriter **John Hiatt**) describes her music as 'the majesty of melancholy accepting the sadder aspects of life and finding some peace in them'. Over 18s only. 8pm, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), West Register Street. Tickets £10 + booking fee from Brown Paper Tickets [here](#).

☒ **Captain Chaos: Chris Clavin**, legendary founding member of

Ghost Mice and **Plan-It-X Records**, returns to Edinburgh for one night. Captain Chaos started as a song-a-day project, in which Chris tried to write and record a song every day. The idea was to write and record the most honest version of the song; this turned into eight full length albums. Plus support from Edinburgh singer/songwriter **Hailey Beavis**, Glaswegian singer/songwriter – and member of **Joyce Delaney** – **Chrissy Barnacle** and exciting newcomers **Princess Cat**. 7pm, [Banshee Labyrinth](#), Niddry Street. Tickets £5 in advance [here](#) or £7 on the door. Hosted by **Massive Nights Collective**. All profits go to the performers.

WEDNESDAY 22nd JUNE 2016

Harpies, Fechters and Quines Festival: Edinburgh Story  **Café**. Come and discover the work of powerful women writers from **Glasgow Women's Library's** Commonwealth Writers' collection. 1-2.30pm, Boardroom, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but please book via Eventbrite [here](#). Please note that all events in this festival are for women only.

 **Eighteenth Century People: Edinburgh Living History** are a multi award-winning team who interpret the history of Edinburgh museums in a variety of ways. Each performance is carefully scripted with intrigue, drama and humour. Today you are invited to meet some upper-class people who lived and worked in Edinburgh and who helped shape the city, including **James Craig**, designer of Edinburgh's New Town, who talks about his past and his plans; a local harridan who gossips about the tough conditions of her life in the Old Town; silversmith **James Kerr** enjoying the wealth and prominence he's gained – while the **Dowager Duchess of Gordon** has come down in the world and describes the hardships of her life. Watch the stories unfold... 2-3pm, [Museum of Edinburgh](#), Huntly House, 142 Canongate. Drop in event – no need to book; suggested donation £3.

Leith School of Art Short Courses Summer Exhibition. Leith 


School of Art's ethos is to encourage and welcome all those who want to learn about art and design, irrespective of age, ability or personal circumstances, The School wants its high quality teaching to be available to everyone and achieves this by running a full programme, ranging from one-year courses to part-time day and evening classes. This exhibition showcases the work of students from full year courses in Painting, Drawing, Art & Spirituality, Critical & Professional Development, Figurative Art, Landscape Art, Printmaking and the full-time Foundation Course. Private view 6.30-8.30pm tonight, then 10am-4pm daily, [Leith School of Art St James's Campus](#), 11a John's Place. Ends 25th June.


❌ **Wiff Waff Wednesday:** a monthly ping pong night for all ages with music, drink and great food at the Drill Hall Arts Cafe. 'Friendship 1st, competition 2nd'. 6-10.30pm, [Out of the Blue](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Free entry and all are welcome!


Songs from the Musicals: Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan ❌ **Society** visits to perform hits from *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Oliver!* and more. 7pm, [St Andrew's Church](#), Clermiston View. Tickets cost £8 and are available from Society members, by phoning 07703 483083 or at the door. All welcome at this wonderful evening of song and entertainment!

❌ **Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Scottish History and Scotland's Empire with Sir Tom Devine.** Join Scotland's leading historian in a discussion of his career and the future directions of Scottish history, at an event to launch **Angela McCarthy and John MacKenzie's *Global Migrations: The Scottish Diaspora Since 1600***, which is dedicated to Tom. From the seventeenth century to the current day, more than 2.5 million Scots have sought new lives elsewhere. Tom has been at the forefront of showing how Scotland shaped the world and how the wider world formed Scotland. On this occasion, the book's editors place Tom in the hot seat and quiz him about the distinctive aspects of this migrant flow, as well as broader

aspects of his career and the future of Scottish history. 6pm, [Blackwell's, South Bridge](#). Free tickets may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8222, emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk or via Eventbrite [here](#).

Edinburgh Gay Men's Book Group: an inclusive group where  you can meet new people and read and discuss interesting books. 7-9pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please email info@gaybookgroup.co.uk

 **Robin Gillanders and Henry Gough-Cooper: A Lover's Complaint.** The launch of photographic artist Robin Gillanders' limited edition 'artist's book', with haikus by the writer Henry Gough-Cooper. The book takes as its inspiration Roland Barthes' 1977 book *A Lover's Discourse*. 6.30-8pm, [Stills](#), Cockburn Street. Free but booking is required and may be made via Eventbrite [here](#). Image: *A Lovers Complaint* (2016) Robin Gillanders, courtesy the artist.

Edinburgh Acting School – Shorts: an evening of short  scenes and plays performed by the EAS actors-in-training. The performers have worked hard in developing their skills, culminating in this performance to showcase their talents, so if you would like to see some up-and-coming actors, or simply enjoy an evening of short pieces, come join us! 7.30pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 45 High Street. Tickets cost £8/£6 and are available from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).


 **Brodie Jarvie German/Scottish Jazz Collective:** a wonderful mix of music from the realms of Jazz, Scottish Folk and World Music from a 7-piece led by Glasgow bassist **Brodie Jarvie** (currently studying in Amsterdam Conservatoire), with original compositions by the group members. Lyrical melodies that are catchy and go right under your skin meet pulsating and electrifying rhythms, German poetry meets English lyrics as the expressive voice of **Anja Ritterbusch** merges with


dynamic instrumental sounds. The band's explosive play is full of all kinds of nuances, guaranteeing very special listening pleasure. 9pm (Entry from 8pm) [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4; please note that this venue is strictly cash only.

THURSDAY 23rd JUNE 2016



Odeon Silver Cinema: if you are 55+ come along to these special screenings for only £3 per person, and enjoy a free tea or coffee and biscuits before the show. Today's films are ***My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 (12A)*** at 11am and ***Hail, Caesar (12A)*** at 2pm, [Odeon Lothian Road](#), 118 Lothian Road.

Greyfriars at 12: A Tour of European Music. An apposite  organ recital with **Henry Wallace** (Organist and Choirmaster, Greyfriars Kirk), including works by Dietrich Buxtehude, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Max Reger, César Franck, Charles Villiers Stanford, Herbert Howells, Paul Müller-Zürich and Jean Langlais. 12 noon, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place. Free.

 **Lunchtime Concert: Lakewood Area Choral Society**, Michigan. A cappella sacred and popular singing, featuring traditional American spiritual music such as *Deep River* and

Standing in the Need of Prayer, plus *Welsh Lullaby*, *Old Irish Blessing* and *An Old English Prayer*. 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.

Eric Liddell Centre Ca(i)re Programme: delivering yoga and tai chi classes free to all carers living in Edinburgh. Today: tai chi with Ann Richards – a new 8 week course. 1.30pm, Eric Liddell Centre, 15 Morningside Road. To register please email flora@ericliddell.org or call 0131 446 3321.



☒ **Justin Cronin: *The City of Mirrors*.** The author will sign copies of the highly-anticipated third and final part of his *The Passage* trilogy. 'Justin Cronin's *Passage* trilogy is remarkable for the unremitting drive of its narrative, for the breathtaking sweep of its imagined future, and for the clear lucidity of its language. *The City of Mirrors* is a thrilling finale to a trilogy that will stand as one of the great achievements in American fantasy fiction.' (Stephen King). 12.30pm, [Waterstones West End](#), 128 Princes Street.


The Elizabeth Project: Oxpen Writing Group invites ☒ everybody to come and listen to readings from its most recent short story collection. 1-2pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), 343 Oxgangs Road North.


☒ **Get Online:** free help with computing. Bring along your iPad: we will cover all the basics and then help you get the most out of the internet. 2-4pm, [Newington Library](#), Fountainhall Road. Free but please phone 0131 529 5336 to book a place.


Scotland's Gardens: Humble Dean. A two acre ornamental and woodland garden at 600 feet, under single-handed renovation and major extension since 2008. The aim is to provide interest throughout a long season. A limited palette of plants with ☒ hosta, primula, meconopsis and spring bulbs; herbaceous and shrubaceous planting; bluebell meadow; mature and recent


azalea and rhododendron planting. A short woodland walk has been created. 2-6pm, Humbie Dean, Humbie, East Lothian EH36 5PW (for detailed directions click [here](#)). Admission £5 of which 40% goes to the **Trellis Scotland**, a charity supporting therapeutic gardening through a range of easy to access services, and the net remainder to SG charities.


Scotland's Gardens: Guided Walk at Inveresk Lodge Garden (National Trust for Scotland). Tucked away behind stone  walls in the charming village of Inveresk, this delightful hillside garden offers an oasis of calm and a year-round feast for the senses. The garden is split into two main areas – sloping lawns and borders at the top of the hill, and the  wilder woodland and ponds below, both alive with birdsong and wildlife. You'll also be drawn to the beautiful restored Edwardian conservatory which is home to an aviary. The garden is a true treat for the senses with scented plants and birdsong. Garden open 10am-5pm daily, special woodland walk today 11am-12 noon, [Inveresk Lodge Garden](#), 23 Inveresk Village, East Lothian EH21 7TE. (for detailed directions click [here](#)). Standard admission to garden £3.50/£2.50 (NTS members free), guided walk an extra £2. A donation from the proceeds of the walk will be made to SG charities.

 **SJI Holliday: *Willow Walk*.** The author discusses Book Two in the *Banktoun Trilogy* and celebrates its publication. When a woman is brutally attacked on a lonely country road by an escaped inmate from a nearby psychiatric hospital, Sergeant Davie Gray must track him down before he strikes again. But Gray is already facing a series of deaths connected to legal highs and a local fairground, as well as dealing with his girlfriend Marie's bizarre behaviour. As Gray investigates the crimes, he suspects a horrifying link between Marie and the man on the run – but how can he confront her when she's pushing him away? 6pm, [Waterstones West End](#), 128 Princes Street. Free tickets are available from the shop; for further details please call 0131 226 2666.


LGBT Language Café: a safe, sociable and supportive space  for LGBT people whose first language is not English. Improve your spoken English and your confidence and socialise with other LGBT people at these fun and inclusive sessions. Facilitators Sophie and Clare will provide fun and inclusive ways to practice speaking English, build your vocabulary and help you to find out more about the LGBT community in Edinburgh. 6.30-8.30pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact Jules Stapleton Barnes on 0131 523 1104 or email jules@lgbthealth.org.uk.

 **Live Music Now: Jeana Leslie and Siobhan Miller.** Jeana Leslie and Siobhan Miller perform together as singers and musicians; their concert will feature a mixture of traditional, contemporary and self-penned songs. 'Saying that Leslie and Miller are wonderful singers with an amazing talent for arranging and harmonies, is a complete understatement. They seem to have an uncanny sense of what will sound beautiful.' (*The Living Tradition Magazine*.) 6-6.30pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.

Refugee Festival Scotland 2016: No Strings Attached. This  community wind band invites you to an informal end of term concert to raise funds for the **Scottish Refugee Council**. The band will play a range of easy listening music, followed by refreshments. 7.45pm, [Broughton St Mary's Church](#), Bellevue Crescent. Admission by donation at the door. All welcome – raffle and cake from 8.30pm!


 **Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Hazel McHaffie: Inside of Me.** Victor Grayson adores his 8-year-old daughter, India, so why does he vanish leaving only a neatly folded pile of clothes on a windy beach? India is devastated and bargains with God: I'll stop eating chocolate if you send my Daddy back to me. Now 15 and seriously anorexic, she's convinced she heard his voice on a crowded London station, and sets out to

track him down. Isolated and overwhelmed, her mother, Tonya, succumbs to gnawing doubts about the man she thought she knew. Who exactly was he? What dark secrets were haunting him? Could he be involved in the disappearance of three teenage girls? The revelation when it comes is much more challenging than Tonya ever dreamed of. Hazel McHaffie has extensive clinical and academic experience in the world of medical ethics. Widely published in medical journals, she won the BMA Medical Book of the Year prize in 2002, and her fifth novel ***Right to Die*** was shortlisted for the BMA Popular Medicine prize in 2008. 6pm, [Blackwell's, South Bridge](#). Free tickets may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8222, emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk or via Eventbrite [here](#).

The Cellar Bar Folk Club: with **The Deadly Winters** (folk  rock/Americana), **Note to Self** (indie-folk) + more to be announced shortly. [Henry's Cellar Bar](#), Morrison Street. £5 on the door. Please contact venue for times.

 **Leith School of Art Year Long Courses Summer Exhibition.**

Leith School of Art's ethos is to encourage and welcome all those who want to learn about art and design, irrespective of age, ability or personal circumstances, The School wants its high quality teaching to be available to everyone and achieves this by running a full programme, ranging from one-year courses to part-time day and evening classes. This exhibition showcases the work of students from short courses. Private view 7.30-9.30pm tonight, then 10am-4pm daily, [Leith School of Art](#), North Junction Street. Ends 26th June.

Men's Comedy Film and Games Night: a fun social gathering  for gay, bi and trans men (inclusive of non binary people). Come along for a coffee and an old fashioned board game at 7pm, followed by a screening of ***I Love You Philip Morris*** at 8. Starring **Jim Carrey** and **Ewan McGregor**, the movie follows the hard-to-believe and hilarious true story of Steven Russell, an

American con man who stopped at nothing to be with the man he loved. Optional local drinks afterwards. 7pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact Stephen McCabe on 0131 652 3287 or email stephen@lgbthealth.org.uk.

☒ **Donna Lewis Brand New Day UK Tour:** Welsh-born singer Donna Lewis is famous for many hits, especially her *I Love You Always Forever* – the 90s dance-pop classic was the first song ever to get a million spins on US radio and the third best-selling tune in the history of **Atlantic Records**, a worldwide chart sensation. An artist of many dimensions, she has recorded many Billboard successes but always had an affinity for the jazz connection, and her latest album features players from jazz supergroup **The Bad Plus**, with originals and songs from Neil Young to David Bowie to Damien Rice: *'The album ☒ has a strong jazz component, but the expansive nature of the musicians means the arrangements stretch far beyond those boundaries'*. Donna's UK tour features a stellar group of A-list musicians, who have individually worked with The Rolling Stones to Shirley Horn to Quincy Jones to Billy Cobham: **Konrad Wyszniowski** (sax), **Michael Janisch** (bass), **Steve Hamilton** (piano) and **Andrew Bain** (drums) 7-8.30pm, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4; please note that this venue is strictly cash only.

All Women Poetry Slam 2016: whether you are new to poetry ☒ slams or a seasoned performer, this is a chance for women of all ages and levels of experience to perform and compete for the title of **Harpies, Fechters and Quines 2016 Slam Champion**. Featuring live music and hosted by poet **Jenny Lindsay**, this is a don't miss event. Last year's slam was oversubscribed so make sure you book well in advance. 6-9pm, [Out of the Blue](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. If you want to perform, contact **Morag Smith** at Glasgow Women's Library (0141 550 2267) or if you want to just come along and enjoy the show, you can book tickets via Eventbrite [here](#). This event is run in

partnership by **Glasgow Women's Library, The Bonnie Fechtors & Edinburgh City Libraries** and is part of this year's **LeithLate** programme.

✖ **Aaron King Live:** come and see one of Edinburgh's most charismatic young musicians, who'll get everyone dancing with his big voice and big personality – big fun! 7pm, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk.

LeithLate 2016 starts today! A jam-packed programme of ✖ exhibitions and events taking place over a four-day period, **LeithLate16** will be based at **Out of the Blue Drill Hall** this year, with a host of activities taking place in and around the building over the four days of the festival. Numerous exhibitions, plus events such as art crawls, panel discussions, mural tours and Art Mart. Participants include **Edinburgh Printmakers, Gayfield Creative Spaces, Settlement Projects, Woodland Creatures, McDonald Road library, Rhubaba, Leith Depot** and many more. Supported for a second year by Creative Scotland, and welcoming new supporters the Goethe-Institut Glasgow and Edinburgh City of Literature Trust. All events are free to attend, with the exception of the LeithLate16 Afterparty tonight and the Closing Party on Sunday 26th June. The full programme may be seen [here](#). To book for tonight's **Afterparty** (tickets £7 + booking fee) click [here](#).

LeithLate at Joseph Pearce's: with live music set by ✖ country singing duo **Bear Necessities** and guests. 7-10pm, [Joseph Pearce's](#), Elm Row.

✖ **Vein Trio (Basel, Switzerland!):** on a large-scale European tour, Vein Trio – **Michael Arbenz** (*piano*), **Thomas Lähns** (*bass*) and **Florian Arbenz** (*drums*) – are 'driving tradition forward with great curiosity, a passion for anything different, highest improvisational finesse and superb interplay' (*Jazz Zeitung*) and have recently been touring and recording with jazz names Greg Osby and David Leibman. ✖ Their recent album **Vote for Vein** is 'solid, bizarre,

feisty, with a frenetic sense of humour – so standard for this trio' (*Fidelity Magazin*), and many critics believe that young pianist Michael Arbenz is on the threshold of becoming an international star. His brother Florian is 'arguably one of the best drummers in Europe and winner of the European Culture Award for his dedication in the field of jazz and classical music. His solos tell soft, loud and incredibly exciting stories, often with equal prodigy bassist Thomas Lähns'. (*Augsburger Allgemeine*) 9pm (Entry from 8pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £7/£5; please note that this venue is strictly cash only.

FRIDAY 24th JUNE 2016

✖ **Gallery Social: Paolozzi.** A relaxed and informal guided tour with refreshments for anyone affected by dementia and their relatives, friends and supporters. 10.30-12 noon, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TW0](#), Belford Road. Free but please book by contacting the Information Desk on 0131 624 6560. Image: *Vulcan*, Eduardo Paolozzi, 1998 – © Trustees of the Paolozzi Foundation, Licensed by DACS 2015.

North Edinburgh Childcare: if you are interested in a ✖ career in childcare, come along to the library today and find out more. All ages welcome. 1-2pm, [Muirhouse Library](#), Pennywell Court.

✖ **Scots Music Group Live Performance:** the Scots Music Group is a community-based Edinburgh charity that plays a significant role in Scotland's lively, diverse, traditional music scene. It runs traditional music classes for adults, informal sessions, monthly ceilidhs and other social events. Today students and members of SMG will be performing live – come along to hear the music, enjoy the craic and find out more about the group and its work. 1-3pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free, all welcome, no booking required.

Sparkiving: Loitering with Intent to Catalogue. With the ✖

recent acquisition of the final instalment of the **Dame Muriel Spark** archive, the Library holds one of the broadest records of a writer's life ever assembled. Muriel Spark Project Curator **Dr Colin McIlroy** journeys through newly discovered highlights of the collection – come and learn more about the fascinating life of one of Scotland's literary greats. 6pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is required and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or via Eventbrite [here](#).

✖ **Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents *The Nightmare Stacks*.**

Charles Stross launches the latest addition to his brilliant ***Laundry Files*** series. Alex Schwartz had a great job and a promising future – until he caught an unfortunate bout of vampirism, and agreed (on pain of death) to join the Laundry, Britain's only counter-occult secret intelligence agency. His first assignment is in Leeds – his old hometown. But the thought of telling his parents he's lost his job, ✖ let alone their discovering his 'condition', is causing Alex almost as much anxiety as his new lifestyle of supernatural espionage. His only saving grace is Cassie Brewer, a student from the local Goth Festival who flirts with him despite his fear of sunlight (and girls). But Cassie has secrets of her own – secrets that make Alex's night life seem positively normal... James Bond meets HP Lovecraft in the latest occult in a series where British spies take on the supernatural. Edinburgh resident Charles Stross is a full-time science fiction writer, the author of six Hugo-nominated novels and winner of the 2005, 2010, and 2014 Hugo awards for best novella; he has won numerous other awards and been translated into at least 12 other languages. 6.30pm, [Blackwell's, South Bridge](#). Free tickets may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8222, emailing events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk or via Eventbrite [here](#).

Mary, Mary quite contrary – an exhibition of garden related ✖

work by **Nicola Macartney** and **Martin Hill**. Nicola Macartney is a botanical artist who lives in Linlithgow whilst Martin Hill, painter in oil and currently based in Dundee, grew up and went to school in the town. Each will bring their own perspective to the idea of the garden. This exhibition is the gallery's contribution to **Burgh Beautiful's *Inviting Gardens***, when 20 local gardens will be open over the weekend of 25th-26th June. Programmes for *Inviting Gardens* cost just £5 per adult and may be purchased from The Line Gallery and [Far From the Madding Crowd](#) bookshop, 20 High Street. Exhibition opens tonight 7-9pm, then 10am-5pm Tuesday to Friday, 9am-5pm Saturdays, 1-4pm Sundays, [The Line Gallery](#), High Street Linlithgow. Ends 26th July 2016.

Jack Hinks Band: the young Edinburgh based singer-songwriter, working once again with producer **Garry Boyle** (Broken Records, Stanley Odd), returns with a new, refreshingly potent selection of songs around the themes of loss and the trials of youth – creating a broad array of sounds from singer-songwriter to alternative rock. Plus **Hugh Kelly**, **The Dan Collins Band** and **Angus Munro**. Over 18s only. 7pm, [The Voodoo Rooms](#), West Register Street. Tickets £5 + booking fee from Tickets Scotland [here](#).

☒ **The Laramie Project.** This show is based on a true story. It is October 1998; **Matthew Sheppard** is savagely beaten and left to die overlooking the town of Laramie, Wyoming. Two locals are accused of the crime. This play documents the town's response to the attack whilst exploring themes of hope, love, hate and sexuality. In this production by **Edinburgh Acting School**, the actors work as an ensemble to take on this sad event and shed some light on what really happened that fateful night and how attitudes have changed since. For ages 16+. 7.30pm, Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 45 High Street. Tickets cost £10/£8 and are available from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#).

Also at same time on Saturday 25th June.

✖ **The Bad Touch (Live):** after a sold out gig at The Voodoo Rooms in April, with people turned away at the door, The Bad Touch make their Bongo Club debut. 'The Bad Touch are a new Alt-Sleaze Edinburgh Five-Piece. Greasy baritone vocals over emphatic beats. Think of an Evil Elvis orchestrating a dirty Doors. A torrid symphony of guitar, bass, organ and drums'. 7pm, [The Bongo Club](#), 66 Cowgate. Tickets £6 in advance [here](#), £7 on the door (sta).

Anatomy #12: Swamp Beasts and Sludge Magic. Anatomy is a quarterly live art cabaret based in Summerhall, making multi-artform performance for many age groups. **Smog Beasts and Sludge Magick** is a special double-bill of events, with both an evening cabaret for adults and an early years matinée for 0 to 5-year-olds and their families. Both events are **British Sign Language interpreted**. Tonight sees Anatomy's regular cabaret for adults, featuring strange performances to delight, disrupt and dream about, including lions, smartphones, dance, poetry, meditation, weird ecology, the revenge of Gaia, ritual, fear, love and laughter, with the talents of **Ding & Sich, Rebecca Green, Charlotte Hastings and co., Mamoru Iriguchi, Calum MacAskill, Public Service Announcement (Katy Dye and Aby Watson)**, and the swamp-dripping nonsense of your beastly hosts, **Ali Maloney and Harry Giles**. For ages 16+. 8-11pm, Anatomy Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £7 and may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 560 1580 or online [here](#). Advance booking is strongly recommended. The early years matinée will take place at 2pm on June 26th; details [here](#).

✖ **Guid Crack: Around the World.** Come with storyteller **Anne Pitcher** on a journey round the world, as she shares stories and legends in her vibrant and unique style, gathered from recent and past world travels, at Edinburgh's monthly storytelling night. 7.30pm, [Circus Café](#), St Mary's Street.

Entry by suggested donation of £5/£4.

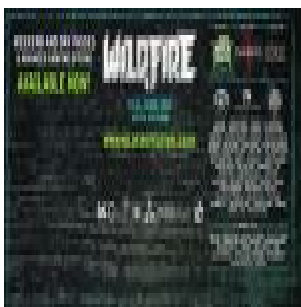
CinemaAttic Productions Presents Kimuak: Best Shorts from the Basque Country. Every spring, Basque leader distribution platform KIMUAK selects the best from the Basque short film scene to create a DVD of the most talented and original proposals. This year's selection showcases cutting edge productions going far beyond Basque badlands and cottages, as we are taken from the darkness of Reykjavik streets to a revenge story in New York. A unique overview of what is happening in one of the most prolific and well-cared-for cinemas in Spain today. For ages 15+. 8pm, Red Lecture Theatre, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £5 and may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 560 1580 or online [here](#).

Weekend Escapes!

The Isle of Gigha Music Festival: your first chance to get out of the city this weekend will take a little bit of planning. Gigha is a small island off the Kintyre peninsula with a population of about 160 people; it has sandy beaches, abundant wildlife, a golf course, and the famous **Achamore Gardens** – and this weekend it hosts its annual music festival. The line-up includes **Shooglenifty, Daimh, Lorne MacDougall Band** and **Siobhan Miller Band**, plus informal sessions and a ceilidh, so if you fancy a few days of traditional music in spectacular scenery, visit the festival's [Facebook page](#) for more details. Gigha's very own [website](#) also has lots of information about transport, accommodation and things to do. Festival music starts on Friday evening (24th June) and ends with a Pipers' Picnic on the beach on Sunday (26th). Tickets cost £20 for Friday and £27 for Saturday; call Jayne at the Box Office on 01583 505 160 to book.

Wildfire Festival: just a short trip down the A702 and a world away from Gigha, the Wildfire Festival is Scotland's only 3

day annual, Classic Rock and Heavy Metal Festival. Taking place on the 53 acre Wiston Estate, acts include **Screaming Eagles, Black Nevada, The Jokers, The Deep, Dorje, Inglorious, Tim Ripper Owens, Die No More, Forever Never** and lots more. For full details of tickets, accommodation (lodges/cabins/camping), directions and transport options (a shuttle bus is available from Lanark), see the Festival's website [here](#). 24th-26th June, Wiston Lodge, Millrigg Road, Wiston by Biggar ML12 6HT.





Tapir calf meets Dad



Just before Father's Day today the zoo's latest baby, the endangered Malayan tapir calf, met his father for the first time.

The wee chap who is called Baku is growing fast since his birth only a month ago on 19 May. He met Mowgli his father as all the family got together.

Here is the moment they met.

Karen Stiven, Hoofstock Keeper at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, said: "Baku is growing quickly and is really enjoying exploring his outdoor enclosure. We separated his father Mowgli from him and his mum when he was born to give him time with his mother, Sayang, and to let him do a bit of growing. Now that he is a month old we have introduced him to his father and the trio of tapirs are getting on very well. Mowgli was definitely very interested in meeting his son."

Baby tapirs are born with brown fur and white stripes and dots, which provides camouflage in the forest. Baku still has his spots and stripes, but will start to lose his unique

pelage after a few months and, by the time he is six months old, he will look more like his parents, with a stocky black body and white or grey midsections.

Malayan tapirs are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and are increasingly threatened, with population numbers continuing to decline as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation as well as increasing hunting pressure. The population has been estimated to have declined by more than 50% in the last three generations, primarily as a result of tapir habitat being converted into palm oil plantations.

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016 Mother (Ema)



Mother (Tiina Malberg) feverishly keeps house for her unprepossessing husband and cares for their comatose son, meeting all of his most personal care needs.

But why does he still get so many regular visitors a year after the shooting which incapacitated him? And who shot him in the first place?

While Kadri Kousaar's Estonian tragi-comedy, subtitled in English, is as black as night it has some surprisingly light moments and, as you might expect, the denouement is rather thought-provoking and shocking.

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016 Brahman Naman

**



Think Starter for 10 meets Wayne's World and throw in a slice of American Pie and a couple of quid from Slumdog Millionaire.

[tweet_box design="default"]Qaushiq Mukherjee's Brahman Naman follows a group of sex-starved, Bangalore adolescents led by Naman (Shashank Arora) in their quest to lose their virginity.[/tweet_box] Puerile, pubescent pulp there are a few chortles but little of substance in this rather distasteful comedy set in the 1980s.

Most unusual use of a fridge door I've ever seen. No really, don't ask!

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016 Forsaken *****



Now please understand, Westerns are not this reviewer's thing.

Or gratuitous violence or the brooding menace which come with the genre. But Jon Cassar's Forsaken is simply magnificent.

A classic morality tale of the complexities of good versus evil, John Henry Clayton (Kiefer Sutherland) comes home to find his mother dead and his pastor father (Donald Sutherland) unforgiving of the long absence which followed his entry into the Civil War and subsequent gun-slinging years. Enter a convincing Demi Moore as his unrequited love now married with a child and the land-grabbing baddies led by our own Brian Cox and the superbly understated Michael Wincott. The story unfolds into a somewhat predictable but wholly gripping tale.

A beautiful soundtrack orchestrated by Jonathan Goldsmith complements and enhances the superb cinematography.

[tweet_box design="default"]Forsaken is a surprisingly moving and beguiling must-see.[/tweet_box]

Hibs' Hampden hero Anthony Stokes joins Blackburn Rovers



Hibs' Scottish Cup Final hero Anthony Stokes has signed for Blackburn Rovers on a three-year deal following his release from Celtic.

Stokes was a surprise loan signing from Celtic in the January transfer window and the Republic of Ireland international justified Alan Stubbs' faith when he scored twice and was named man of the match in a dramatic 3-2 Scottish Cup final victory against Rangers in May.

The 27-year-old scored 77 goals in 192 games during a successful six-year spell with Celtic where he won four

Scottish Premiership titles, two Scottish Cups and the Scottish League Cup.

Rovers manager Owen Coyle, a former Republic of Ireland international forward himself, couldn't hide his delight at making the former Hibs' striker his first summer signing.

Coyle told the club website: "I am absolutely delighted to get Anthony Stokes on board

"He had a number of suitors and we had to beat off a lot of competition from some big clubs for his signature. This is a boy who is a proven goalscorer, he's a had a terrific career at a very high level and we've got him at a very good age. At 27, I think he's coming into his prime.

"He's coming here hungry and motivated to do well, to continue to his improvement, to score goals and to help Blackburn Rovers be an exciting team.

"Having played in front of 60,000 fans at Celtic, he's got the mentality to stand up and be counted in big games, as he's shown over the years, and to get a player of that calibre to the club, we're absolutely delighted.

"Hopefully it gives all of the Rovers fans a lift and shows that we're trying to get goalscorers and exciting players to the club that they can enjoy watching."

Niddrie attack being treated as attempted murder



Police have launched an investigation into an attempted murder that has resulted in a teenager being hospitalised with critical injuries.

Detectives are now appealing for information in relation to the attack, which happened outside an address on Niddrie House Park this morning.

At around 4am, the 18-year-old victim was walking with another man when they were subjected to an unprovoked attack that left the victim with serious injuries to his body.

He is now in the care of medical staff at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and remains in a serious condition.

Anyone who has information relevant to this incident is asked to contact police immediately.

Detective Inspector Roddy Hardy of St Leonards police station, said: "There will be a visible police presence over the course of this weekend as we seek information from local residents and to provide a reassuring presence.

"I urge anyone who witnessed suspicious activity in the area of Niddrie House Park in the early hours of Saturday, June 18th, to come forward.

"Similarly those with information that can help with our ongoing investigation are asked to contact police immediately on 101. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously through the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Edinburgh councillor blogs – Councillor Maureen Child

Councillor Maureen Child represents the Portobello/Craigmillar ward on the City of Edinburgh Council.

✘ Here she gives us a round up from her inbox!

*Despite what we see on national news channels and social media, elected politicians are not the people facing the most abuse every day in life. A city-wide **Keep Safe** initiative was launched on Thursday to help root out hate crime and the kind of low-level abuse some people face daily. This is the first of its kind in Scotland and it aims to support and encourage disabled, vulnerable and older people to keep safe and enjoy an ordinary day-to-day life and activities without fear of abuse, intimidation and harassment. The initiative will work in partnership with **Police Scotland** and ‘**I Am Me Scotland**’, to encourage the **creation of safe places for disabled, vulnerable or older people** to go if they need help, if they’re lost, scared or if they’re a victim of crime. Individuals are offered a Keep Safe Card to carry with them, with information about themselves and the key people to contact if they need help. Partners agencies like People First, Edinburgh Crisis Centre and many more will help push the message out in our communities and neighbourhoods. Find out how to become a **Keep Safe Member** and for further info, please*

contact edinburghpreventandintervent@scotland.pnn.police.uk or visit <http://www.iammescotland.co.uk/keep-safe-areas/>

PEDAL's Donkeyfield **Community Orchard** (Brunstane Road South, just past Daiches Braes) will be open on **Saturday 18th June from 10 am – 1 pm** as part of the Edinburgh-wide **Power of Food Festival** that celebrates community gardening across Edinburgh. This is a **FREE** event. There will be: Tours of the orchard; Refreshments; Apple pressing and juice tasting at 12 noon For a full programme see: <https://poweroffoodfestival.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/poff16-programme-v1-0.pdf>. **Milton Road Community Garden** at Edinburgh College is also open nearby so could be a good for a combined visit.

Find out more about the orchard at: <https://www.facebook.com/Portobello-Community-Orchard-539555379554046/>

Bridgend Inspiring Growth (BIG) is also part of this same Power of Food Festival and they will have an event on **Sunday 19th June from 11am-6pm** with a **Bio-Blitz** in partnership with the RSPB. This is a series of events throughout the day, at the farmhouse and in the Craigmillar Castle Park, exploring the bio-diversity of the area. Activities for all the family. Then at 6pm they are having a BIG feast. To join in the feast, please register at: bridgendbuild@gmail.com

Action Porty are hosting a **Bellfield Cabaret** event to launch their appeal for community support in order to undertake a community buy-out of Bellfield Parish Church from the Church of Scotland. Please support the **Friends of Bellfield** with their fundraising for a community buy-out by attending the Bellfield Cabaret on **Sunday 26th June 7pm-10pm**. This is a fantastic, star-studded event and an excellent opportunity to use the space which we hope will not be lost! Tickets are £12 from Cove or The Skylark. The church is not currently on

the market and the community group have been successful with their application to employ someone to undertake a feasibility study to take it on as a community asset.

The **Edinburgh Trusted Trader Scheme** has been officially live for 12 months, with some great feedback and support from residents.

Read more at <https://www.trustedtrader.scot/Edinburgh/trading-standards-update-06.16.php>

There are two dates and places set up for an exhibition on **Portobello Conservation Area Character Appraisal**. This is to update planning guidance for any new development in Portobello conservation area. The exhibition at Portobello Library will be between 20th and 27th June with the open evening on the 22nd while the exhibition at the Portobello Swim Centre will be between 27th and the 4th July with the open evening on 30th June. I hope you can go to one of these exhibitions and look at the display that will be put up. A planning officer will be there on the dates indicated to answer any questions.

The planning application to build a new **St John's RC Primary School** are in now and can be viewed on the Council's planning portal here:

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=07MFRGEWMVM00> The application for the new park – Treverlen Park – intended for the rest of the current Portobello High School site will be a separate application and that will be lodged soon.

I am delighted that **Dads Rock** have set up a new play group at **The Venchie** in Craigmillar/Niddrie with the first session on Saturday 25th June from 10am-11am. This is for dads and granddads with their kids (5yrs and under) to spend quality time together in good company. The Venchie is at 61 Niddrie Mains Terrace, EH16 4NX. More on their website www.dadsrock.org.uk. Or phone Thomas on 07542074165 or David on 07542084356.

On Monday July 4th there will be a **Play Outdoors Day** for families from 2-4pm, in the green space to the east of Craigmillar Library. There will be story telling, mini beast making, mask and hat making, the library bus and much more.

Portobello's **Wash House Community Centre**, 3 Adelphi Grove is holding its AGM on Wednesday 22nd June 7-8pm. All welcome to come along, find out more and get involved.

Portobello High School-based Edinburgh **Basketball's** ever popular **holiday camp** in partnership with Active Schools is all set for 11th July to 14th July with 2 camps, with one camp for primary school ages and one for high school ages. This should be based on what year group the player will be in after the school holidays. Craig Nicol, the Basketball Scotland Performance Coach of the Year, is head coach at the camp. It's a great opportunity to develop basketball skills with some of the best coaches in Scotland. Make sure you sign up soon as places are limited and go quickly! More here: <http://www.cityofedinburghbasketball.net/summer-camp-2016-11th-14th-july/>

Bingham and Magdalene Residents have been working with Sheila McWhirter and Archie Lowe from **Community Renewal** on ideas and resources to help make their two distinct neighbourhoods better. If you want to get involved, or just want to know more about what's going on find out here: <http://chronicleonline.net/2016/06/13/calling-all-bingham-magdalene-residents/>

Finally – for now – **I did succeed** in doing the Forth Bridge Abseil in aid of the Thistle Foundation on Sunday 12 June. I have a photograph and a certificate to prove it. After the really very scary bit, which was getting over the scaffolding to begin the descent, it was actually good fun. Thank you for sponsoring and giving me the encouragement to do it. If you want to do it too, there's another one in October! My own **fundraising page is still open** and I am still a bit short of the £2000 target I set myself, so please still feel free to sponsor me. This is my very last ask, I promise!: <https://thistlefoundation.everydayhero.com/uk/maureen-abseil>

It was really excellent to be invited to the **official opening** of the **new Thistle Health and Wellbeing Hub** in Craigmillar, a couple of days later, where the First Minister did the honours. It was great to meet and recognise so many wonderful people there from Craigmillar, Magdalene, Christians, Parrotshot, Portobello and Niddrie who work or volunteer or benefit from all that the Thistle can offer. More here: www.thistle.org.uk Do drop in some time and have a look around! You'll get a warm welcome.

Best wishes – and enjoy your weekend!

Maureen

Councillor Maureen Child | Labour Elected Member |
Portobello/Craigmillar (Ward 17) | City of Edinburgh Council |
City Chambers | High Street | Edinburgh | EH1 1YJ | Tel 0131
529 3268 | Mobile 07718 666 481|Twitter @MaureenChild1

p.s. My face-to-face Councillor Advice Sessions, or
'Surgeries', are usually every **Monday at 5.30 pm** in **Castleview
Community Centre**, 76 Craigmillar Castle Avenue (Phone 661
4064) and then **at 7 pm** in **Portobello Library**, 14 Rosefield
Avenue (Phone 529 5558). Now also at Craigmillar Library, 101
Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DT, 1st Wednesday of the month,
drop-in session 5pm-5.30pm, thereafter by appointment only up
until 7.30pm. Please phone me on Direct Line 0131 529 3268 or
Mobile 07718 666 481, or
email maureen.child@edinburgh.gov.uk to check availability,
make an appointment or request a home visit.

**Edinburgh International Film
Festival 2016 Harold and
Lillian, a Hollywood Love**

Story ****



[tweet_box design="default"]Utterly charming and delightful, this documentary is a sweet cornucopia of anecdotes, facts and film clips around the lives of the Michelsons.[/tweet_box]

When Harold Michelson returned from his war-time work, forty missions as an aircraft bomb-sighter over Europe during WWII, his commanding officer suggested he try art as a career.

Once home in Florida, he did just that and also fell in love with his kid sister's best friend, eleven years his junior. Lillian was an orphan who used literature to educate herself out of difficult birth circumstances. When their romance became public, in true Austen style she was sent to New York to have his Aunt 'Cile forbid the penniless young woman to marry her nephew. But as soon as Harold established himself in the beginnings of a career in Hollywood, he ignored his family, sent for his sweetheart and their long, fruitful life together began.

So detailed and creative were some of Harold's film storyboards that they were often destroyed after the movie was released. This was so that no-one would ever realise that in fact key visions had been Harold's and not those of whichever director had benefited from them. Spanning sixty years their careers dovetailed and Harold's storyboards relied on Lillian's meticulous film research. Her extensive library and encyclopaedic knowledge was the stuff of legend.

Their family life – they had three sons – was enriched by their generous and loving custom of taking struggling actors and behind-the-scene workers under their wing. Danny DeVito was a prime example of someone who became a surrogate son, to the extent that he was moved to support this loving tribute as Executive Producer.

Between them the Michelsons worked on hundreds of iconic films including *West Side Story*, *The Birds*, *Cleopatra* and *The Graduate*. It is suggested that the figures of the king and queen in *Shrek 2* are actually based on Harold and Lillian Michelson in homage to their magnificent and largely unsung contribution to film history.

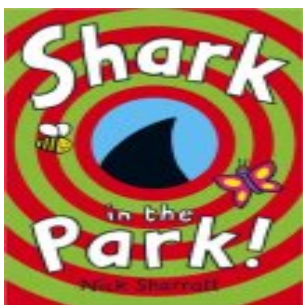
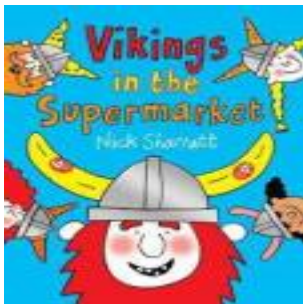
What's on in Edinburgh this weekend

There's plenty to keep you busy this weekend – art, films, theatre and music in abundance of course (*this is* Edinburgh...) – plus open gardens to visit, a fascinating herb walk – and on Sunday Dads Rock's special day at the Botanics. If you want to get wet(ter) you can enter the raft race at the Canal Festival – and we even have something for those of you who want to dance in your wellies. So no sitting around moaning about the weather! Get the waterproofs on and sally forth – you know you want to... And as always, please check details of all events with the organisers before setting out.

SATURDAY 18th JUNE 2016

Edinburgh Canal Festival & 10th Annual Raft Race: a full day of canal festivities and raft racing, with music, stalls, water-based and land-based activities, art and kids' stuff. There will be free boat trips, an international rescue display, ☒ canoe taster sessions, **Levenhall Radio Yacht Club**, market stalls, birds of prey, pianodrome, Forge workshops, a vintage fire engine, the **Power of Food Festival**, free taster screenprint and drypoint sessions with **Edinburgh Printmakers**, a garden party at **Polwarth Church**, pony rides and lots, *lots*


more. For the full programme see the event's Facebook page [here](#). If you would like to enter the raft race, full details can be found on the Festival's website [here](#). Starts 12 noon, **Edinburgh Quay** (behind Akva and Tesco), Fountainbridge. Organised by **Re-Union Canal Boats**, a social enterprise based on and around Edinburgh's Union Canal and working with a wide range of community groups and local businesses. Re-Union offer training and support to volunteers in crewing (RYA) first aid, hospitality, health and hygiene and a variety of other courses that are identified and driven by the volunteers' needs and requests. The festival is sponsored this year by **City of Edinburgh Council**, **Scottish Canals** and **EDI**.




Storytime with Nick Sharratt: come and meet the acclaimed children's author and illustrator at this special event – join in with yelling '***Shark In The Park***' really loudly with Nick! 10am, [The Edinburgh Bookshop](#), 219 Brunstfield Place.



✗ **Craigmillar Library Breakfast Club:** meeting fortnightly to

provide children with a free healthy breakfast and an audio book. Parents welcome too! 11am today, [Craigmillar Library](#), 101 Niddrie Mains Road.

Welly Ceilidh for Gorgie Farm: a family ceilidh hosted by  **Ceilidh Kids** to raise money for Gorgie City Farm. Come in your wellies and bring your favourite cuddly animal. Entry by donation – all money raised goes to the farm. 10.30am, [St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church](#), 232 Dalry Road.


Cats Protection League Rehoming Day: come along and meet the cats and kittens looking for a new home. There will be a Cat Café, tombola and stalls and **West Lothian CPL** would appreciate  your support. 1-3pm, [Newyearfield Farm Community](#)  [Centre](#), Hawk Brae, Livingston. Free parking in the car park off Fulmar Brae with The Cooperative on the corner. For more information please contact West Lothian Cats Protection League [here](#).

Charles Jamieson, Rory McLauchlan and Tom Watt: a new  **exhibition.** Doubtfire Gallery welcomes back Charles Jamieson following his superb solo exhibition in 2014. He is joined by Rory McLauchlan and Tom Watt, both new to the gallery. All three are craftsmen of light, colour and form in their chosen styles and command a deserved following and reputation throughout the UK and beyond. Opens 12 noon-5pm today, then 10am-5pm Monday to Friday, 12 noon-5pm Saturdays, [Doubtfire Gallery](#), South East Circus Place. Ends 23rd July 2016. Image: **Olargues** by Charles Jamieson © the artist.


Food, Fun, Poetry! A workshop with **Emma Speedy** for ages  7-11 (approx.) Consider the crazy possibilities of giant burgers..mountains of ice cream sundaes..and milkshakes to be sailed across!...no rhymes, just imagination and lots of fun (best for ages 7-11 years). 10.30-11.15am, [Granton Library](#), Wardieburn Terrace. To book just contact the library on 0131  529 5630. Part of the **Power of Food Festival 2016**.

Sharing Secrets Arts Festival, Dalry: Animal Sculpture from Recycled Materials. Which animal would you like to make? A fish? A dog? Come along to this free session and learn how, with artist **Damian Callan**. For ages 7-14 approx – adults also welcome to have a go! 10am-4pm, [WASPS Artists' Studios](#), West Park Place, Dalry. No booking required, just drop in.


The Scottish Parliament Art Tour: Discover the Art of Parliament. The collection on display throughout the award-winning Parliament building includes artworks from over 40 Scottish contemporary artists, showcasing a variety of types of work and media – from oil paintings to sculptures, photography, textiles and installations. For ages 14+. 12 noon, [Scottish Parliament](#), Holyrood. Free but booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 3485200 or emailing Visitor Services at visit@scottish.parliament.uk.


 **LifeCare 75th Anniversary Street Party:** games, fun, refreshments, music, costume competition – all proceeds will go to LifeCare, a thriving charity and community hub welcoming around 1,000 people through its doors each week, whether for Pilates, yoga and dance classes, children's activities or the community café. From its busy headquarters LifeCare also provides a variety of invaluable support and outreach services and social activities for older people across the Capital. 12 noon-4pm, Courtyard, **Bedford Court, Stockbridge**. Please book your free tickets [here](#).


Lunchtime Concert: New World Sacred Chorale, New Jersey, USA. 12.15pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free.



Re:CAP: an end of year show by HNC Contemporary Art Practice students studying at West Lothian College. The HNC in Contemporary Art supports students to develop their own artistic skills, both practically and intellectually; this exhibition is the culmination of 2D, 3D and digital practices that highlight a broad-ranging exploration of personal developments and investigations. As a result, every student 

on the course has an offer to progress on to art school, with many students receiving multiple offers for places at Glasgow School of Art, Edinburgh College of Art, Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen and Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Dundee. 10am-6pm daily, [Gayfield Creative Spaces](#), 11 Gayfield Square. Ends 21st June 2016. For more information, please contact course tutor **Alex Harvey**: aharvey@west-lothian.ac.uk.

Polwarth Parish Church Gardens Canal Festival Fun! Come and  see the beautiful church gardens – plus music, free refreshments and children's activities. 2-4pm, [Polwarth Parish Church](#), Polwarth Terrace.

 **Balerno Village Screen: Snoopy & Charlie Brown – The Peanuts Movie (U).** Snoopy embarks upon his greatest mission as he and his team take to the skies to pursue their arch-nemesis, while his best pal Charlie Brown begins his own epic quest back home to win the love of his life. 2.30pm, [St Joseph's Hall](#), Balerno. Free tickets may be obtained from **The Mill Café** in the St Joseph's Centre or via Eventbrite [here](#). **Balerno Village Screen** is a community cinema offering free admission; it is funded by donations.

SatellArt: a fortnightly craft group combining science and  art, for children between 8 and 14. This week: **Theatre & Costume Design Workshop**. 2-4pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), 343 Oxgangs Road North. No need to book, just come along.

 **Studio Ghibli: *When Marnie Was There* (U).** In its 30-year history Japan's Studio Ghibli has produced a stream of masterpieces. From *Spirited Away* and *Princess Mononoke* to *Howl's Moving Castle*, its hand-drawn animations have delighted audiences of all ages across the globe. If industry rumours are to be believed, the Oscar-nominated *When Marnie Was There* might be the studio's last ever feature film. Based on the  1967 novel by British author **Joan G Robinson**, this haunting tale of friendship follows Anna, a lonely 12-year-old who moves to the seaside to live with her aunt and uncle. There

she stumbles upon an old mansion surrounded by marshes, and encounters a mysterious young girl, Marnie, who appears at the window of the strange house. This film is enchanting, timeless, bursting with joy and tenderness, and exquisitely drawn. 3pm (English language version), 5.20pm and 7.40pm (subtitled version), [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0871 902 5723 or online. Further screenings 19th-23rd June – please see Cameo website for times, and please make sure you select the version you wish to see (subtitled or English language).


☒ **Tempus Physical Theatre Scotland:** join Tempus for a range of physical and visual storytelling from some of Scotland's freshest emerging talent. Following work with **Theatre du Soleil** (Paris), at the **Edinburgh Science Festival** and with **Oceanallover**, the company presents a series of vignettes for your entertainment. With performers from 11 different countries there's a good chance someone will speak your language. 'What shines through, is a belief in the body's own physicality as a vehicle for expressing the inner-most states of heart and mind that don't always translate into words' (Mary Brennan, *The Herald*). For ages 12+. 2pm or 7pm, Old Lab, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £5/£3 and may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 560 1580 or online [here](#).


The Scottish Parliament Architecture Tour: Democracy by ☒ Design. A special tour launched as part of **The Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016**; discover more about the inspiration behind the architectural design which led to the creation of the accessible and award-winning Parliament building. 3.30pm, [Scottish Parliament](#), Holyrood. Free but booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 348 5200 or emailing Visitor Services at visit@scottish.parliament.uk. This tour will be repeated on 9th, 16th and 30th July: times vary, please contact Visitor Services for details.


✖ **Flop Culture:** a group show inspired by an ongoing public obsession with celebrity culture and social media. 'Celebrity is just obscurity biding its time' (Carrie Fisher). Expect celebrity scandals, politics, tragedy, drama, iconic TV moments, viral sensations, embarrassing crushes and more. Many of the selected artists – **Devin Wallace, Poster Girls, Paul Kindersley, Peter James Field, Scott Baxter, Tiina Lilja, Ellen Wilson, Rachael Rebus, Colin Herd, Luke Edwards, Mark Vice, Mary Watson, Matt Horan, Jackson Gillespie, Slybacon, Dan Gladden and Sam Ballet** – have been connected through networking on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The artists will be interpreting the title of *Flop Culture* in whatever way they like. 10am-6pm daily, [Gayfield Creative Spaces](#), 11 Gayfield Square. Ends 21st June 2016.


A Midsummer's Herb Walk: join Medical Herbalist **Joseph Nolan** ✖ for a midsummer meander, discussing medicinal and edible plants to be found in Princes Street Gardens. Talk about trees, ornamentals, familiar cooking herbs, wild wonders, and ghastly garden weeds: medicinal uses, kitchen applications, and a generous pinch of folklore. Ask questions; share knowledge, memories, and ideas. Herb walks are great fun! 11am, [Princes Street Gardens](#) – meet at the gate near the National Gallery on the Princes Street side of the gardens. £10 per person. Advance booking is essential and may be made [here](#). For more information please contact Joseph on 07596 22 1428 or email Joseph@HerbalMedicineMan.com.

✖ **National Galleries of Scotland Have A Go Drop-In Session – June:** come and have a go with artist **Rosie Lesso**. Taking inspiration from a different artwork each session, Rosie will demonstrate, encourage and help. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#) (please ask at reception for exact location), Belford Road. Free, no booking required but please note that capacity is limited.

Open Garden: 35 Inverleith Row. Visit this lovely walled  garden on the boundary of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. A mature garden with areas of rockeries, herbaceous borders, shrubs and a vegetable garden. There will also be a plant stall and tea and coffee. 10.30am-12 noon, [Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. £5 per person (includes tea/coffee): no booking required. Organised by the **Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**.

 **Strange Town Theatre: Monster Force! Engage!** Something is lurking under the bed. Mum and Dad are asleep. Who will battle the things that go bump in the night? Monster Force! Engage! Strange Town's 8-10s group perform **Tim Primrose's** new play. Suitable for all ages. 3pm, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 45 High Street. Tickets cost £8.50/£5.50 and are available from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 556 9579 or online [here](#). Also at 11.30am on Sunday 19th June.

Saturday Sessions with Ross Arthur. Intimate acoustic sets  with singer songwriters; this Saturday it's the brilliant Ross Arthur, an energetic and crowd-pleasing singer/songwriter and guitarist from Edinburgh, whose influences include Frank Turner and Biffy Clyro. 3-5.30pm, [Sofi's Bar](#), Henderson Street.

 **Leith School of Art Contemporary Art Practice Summer Exhibition.** Contemporary Art Practice is a studio based fine art course with an emphasis on enquiry and experimentation. Engagement with ideas, materials and processes will lead students to consider what it means to be making art in the 21st century. The aim of the course is to provide new possibilities of expression, with students learning how to develop, then refine, ideas through the making of art, acquiring an understanding of how the choice of media, technique and form communicate meaning. Exhibition open 10am-4pm daily excluding Mondays and Tuesdays, [Patriothall Gallery](#), Patriothall, off Hamilton Place, Stockbridge. Ends

26th June. Leith School of Art's other summer exhibitions will take place at the School's Leith campuses later in June: for details click [here](#).

How to Survive on Land and Sea: Daniella Watson. 'The particles swarm her and they buzz just as much as bees if there are enough of them, louder than bees really because they hum directly into ears, wasting no energy on visibility'. **Daniella Watson** has been working with **Rhubaba** as a writer-in-residence over the past year. The resulting text *How to Survive on Land and Sea* consists of a collection of stories and ephemera relating to a little known artist collective called **The Trajectorians**. Through this collection of stories, ephemera and fragments the collective is presented not as the definitive article but an ongoing research project, which is likely to become more biographical in time. Opening event with staged reading at 4pm today, then 12 noon-6pm Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, plus additional evening opening for **LeithLate** 6-10pm, Thursday 23 June, [Rhubaba](#), Arthur Street. Ends 26th June 2016.

✖ **T Time Edinburgh:** an informal monthly social gathering open to all transgender people, their friends, families and supporters. Come along for tea/coffee and a chat in a friendly, relaxed environment. An optional event runs alongside each T time, starting usually at 2pm, involving a range of interests, information and activities – this month '**Pride Crafts**'; relax and enjoy another fun craft session where we prepare affirming placards for **Pride Edinburgh** and **Glasgow Pride**. 1-4pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information please contact Jules Stapleton Barnes on 0131 523 1104 or by emailing jules@lgbthealth.org.uk.


Strange Town Theatre: Multiverse – The Voices and The Rise of Alvin. Rory desperately wants to win the school 'Battle of the Bands'. The only thing standing in his way is the fact his band is massively rubbish...in *this* Universe. **Strange Town**


Theatre's 11-14s groups perform **Sam Siggs'** new plays. The two plays are linked; the first ten minutes are the same, then change as the characters tumble in to a new universe. Why not see both and find out what can happen in the multiverse . . . ? 7pm (*The Voices*), 9pm (*The Rise of Alvin*), Netherbow Theatre, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 45 High Street. Tickets cost £8.50/£5.50 for each play and are available from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 556 9579 or online.


✖ **Meadows Chamber Orchestra:** the final concert of the orchestra's season is a Hungarian/Czech programme which begins and ends with dance. **Bartók's** virtuoso masterpiece for string orchestra and **Dvorák's** wonderfully exuberant **Czech Suite** are both inspired by folk music. There is more virtuosity in **Liszt's** extraordinary cyclic **First Piano Concerto** and utterly beautiful lyricism in **Dvorák's F minor Romance**. The soloists in the latter pieces are distinguished Edinburgh musicians and residents: New Zealand pianist **Richard Beauchamp** and German violinist **Uli Evans**. Conductor: **Peter Evans**. 7.45pm, [The Queen's Hall](#), 85-89 Clerk Street. Tickets £11/£9/£5/£1 from the Box Office on 0131 668 2019 or online [here](#).

Twisted Fox Presents....Follow the Yellow Brick Road to... ✖ **Hayley G Devils in Skirts, The Abattoir Blue, Victor Pope, Sapphire Blood, Elizafield, Brothers of Justice, Jim Kelly, Hoban & Scott, Decade and DJ Divine** – plus face painting with **Luna Saloo**. 7pm-3am, [Henry's Cellar Bar](#), Morrison Street. £5 on the door, £3.50 before 10pm.

✖ **Blue Velvet at Lauriston Castle:** an evening of live jazz music, with delicious canapés and refreshment. If it is a lovely evening, the music will be in the courtyard. 7pm, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. Tickets cost £30 – limited special offer at £20 – and must be booked in advance via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), Lothian Road, in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or online [here](#).

Tales from The Hanging Captain. Following on from the  hugely successful production of *Persevere*, part of Out of the Blue's **Gretna 100 Project**, *Tales from The Hanging Captain* sees **Active Inquiry** and **Strange Town** join forces again to explore the history of **Leith Docks**. Set in the fictional Leith pub, 'The Hanging Captain', the audience will be taken on a voyage through time, as stories of the Dockers' involvement in the whaling industry, the 'Darrien Scheme', and the strikes of 1913 unfold. 7.30pm, [Out of the Blue](#), 36 Dalmeny Street. Tickets £6/£4 from Eventbrite [here](#). *Tales from the Hanging Captain* is part of **Leith Moves**, an Out of the Blue Heritage Lottery Fund supported project examining the history of Leith Docks. To get involved or for more information, contact lisa.arnott@outoftheblue.org.uk.

 **Picturehouses After Dark: *The Burbs* (12A).** An overstressed suburbanite and two of his neighbours struggle to prove their paranoid theory that the new family on the block are part of a murderous cult. 10pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0871 902 5723 or online.

The Union (8-piece Funk/Soul Outfit): James Brown, Tower of  Power and more – Funk/Soul classics from brilliant vocals-fronted eight-piece unit with punchy sax, trumpet & trombone horn section. Plus DJ **Southern Tenant**. 12-3am (Entry from 11.30pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4. Please note that this venue is strictly cash only.


The Glass Child in Edinburgh: Charlotte Eriksson returns with an intimate acoustic show, featuring songs from her new album ***Under Northern Skies***. Support **Alex Maxwell** and **Sophie Burt**. 7pm, [Sketchy Beats Café](#), 208 Great Junction Street. Free. BYOB – £3 for unlimited corkage.


SUNDAY 19th JUNE 2016


✖ **Father's Day Family Takeover with Dads Rock & Friends: Dads Rock's 3rd FREE Father's Day Family Takeover at the Royal Botanic Garden.** Get hands-on with lots of exciting activities and take the chance to explore the gardens. 2016 is **The Year of the Dad**, so it's a great opportunity to come together and have fun. Enjoy creative activities, dancing, play, storytelling, songs, theatre, yoga and much more. **WHALE Arts** will be offering a free arts and crafts session in the Botanic Cottage – drop in and say hello! For all ages. 11am-4pm, [Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. All welcome – no booking required.

NGS Hearing Impaired Tour: Surreal Encounters. A free tour ✖ of the exhibition with portable hearing loops, led by **Tessa Asquith-Lamb**. 11am-12 noon, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free: to book a place contact the Information Desk on 0131 624 6560.

✖ **Mindful Peace Walk.** This silent walking meditation is an open event, led by the lay members of the **Edinburgh Sangha of the Community of Interbeing**, who follow the practice and teachings of Zen Buddhist Master, **Thich Nhat Hanh**. The walk starts at the front of Lauriston Castle; before the walk begins there will be a brief introduction to mindful walking as meditation practice. This is not a protest or a campaigning event, so please do not use any banners. Children are welcome when accompanied by adults. Please remember to wrap up warmly. 'We walk just for walking. We walk with freedom and solidity, no longer in a hurry. Let us enjoy every step we make' (Thich Nhat Hanh). 12 noon (meet in front of the Castle), [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. No need to book; just come along on the day. For further information contact **Neill Walker** on 0131 331 4469 or email mesp2016@hotmail.com. Jointly organised by the **Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace**, and the **Edinburgh Sangha of the Community of Interbeing**. ☐


RNLI Queensferry Lifeboat Open Day: spectacular air/sea  rescue helicopter display, stalls. attractions, information, refreshments, lots to see and do! 12 noon-4pm, **Hawes Esplanade**, South Queensferry.

 **Picturehouses Vintage Sundays:** classic films back on the big screen. Today: ***The Lion King (U)***. Disney's cherished animation roars back! After being tricked by his dastardly uncle Scar into thinking he was responsible for the death of his father, our hero Simba flees the Savannah. He begins a new life, with a meerkat and a wart hog as his unlikely allies, until a chance encounter forces him to face his past and his true destiny. 1pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0871 902 5723 or online.

Scotland's Gardens: Inveresk Village. A collection of six  walled gardens, including **Shepherd House** and also allotments, in an historic village. Each has its own individual character displaying a wide variety of interesting and unusual trees, shrubs and plants. Plus lawn croquet, children's entertainment and live folk music later (5-6pm). 2-5pm, South side of Musselburgh, Inveresk Village Road – A6124, East Lothian (for information and directions click [here](#)). Admission £7, of which 40% will go to **Horatio's Garden** and the net remainder to SG charities. Image: Shepherd House Garden.



Bags of Art – June: cool and creative fun with artists **Tessa Asquith-Lamb** and **Louise Fraser**. For ages 4-12. 2-4pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art ONE](#), Belford Road. Free, no booking required. Supported by the Friends of NGS. Image © Alicia Bruce.

Blackwell's Edinburgh Teenage Book Group: if you love to  read, or just want to read more, join the teen book group

to talk about the latest teenage fiction and your favourite books. The group meets on the second Sunday of each month, and reads anything from classics to contemporary, dystopian to historical – in short, anything you fancy! Currently reading **James Clammer's *Why I Went Back***. 2pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. To join just email your details to schools.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk.

✖ **Fathers' Day at Lauriston Castle:** a special tour and afternoon tea for families. Come along to the castle and spend Fathers' Day as a family; enjoy a special tour and have fun in the historic kitchen making some cakes with the historical cook – with afternoon tea afterwards. 3pm, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. Tickets cost £5 per person – but Dads and Granddads get in free! Advance booking is essential and may be made via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), Lothian Road, in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or online [here](#).

Re-Union Canal Boats Tea and Cake Cruise: join a voyage of ✖ discovery on the ***Lochrin Belle*** as she cruises to Slateford Aquaduct and back. Enjoy a selection of homemade cakes and tea as you watch the canalside world go by. 2pm, **Edinburgh Quayside**, Fountainbridge. Tickets cost £18 and may be booked online [here](#). Re-Union Canal Boats is a social enterprise working with a wide range of community groups and local businesses and offering training and support to volunteers in crewing (RYA) first aid, hospitality, health and hygiene and a variety of other courses that are identified and driven by the volunteers' needs and requests.

✖ **Edinburgh School of Music Showcase:** ESM Director **Kira Emslie** presents some of her top music students in an extended **stupendous end-of-term showcase** of their burgeoning vocal and instrumental talent. 2-6pm, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. Entry £3. Please note that this venue is strictly cash only.



St Giles' at Six: St Salvator's Chapel Choir (University of St Andrews) directed by **Tom Wilkinson**, will perform movements from Neukomm *Requiem* and arrangements of Scots Songs. 6pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Free; retiring collection.

✘ **Big Harry Potter Book Quiz No 4:** another night of Hazza P madness heading your way! Get ready to enter the triwizard tournament of Harry Potter quizzes...not for faint hearted film watchers. All hard core geeks welcome! 7.30pm, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk. To book call Boda on 0131 553 5900 or email boda@bodabar.com.

A Midsummer's Marriage: a promenade comedy play in the ✘ enchanting Lauriston Castle gardens with a summer picnic. You are invited to attend the preparations for a midsummer's wedding; all the arrangements have been made and the future in-laws are on their way. What could possibly go wrong, and who is that mysterious man at the garden gate? 7pm, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. Tickets cost £20 including refreshments, and must be booked in advance via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), Lothian Road, in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or online [here](#). This is a promenade performance and, regrettably, not suitable for anyone with mobility problems.

Stormy Sunday Blues Showcase: monthly Blues event with resident band **Piranha Blues**, plus this month's guest band **MP & The Expenses** featuring blues/swing legends '**Stretch**' McFadyen and **Mike Parker**. 9pm (entry from 8pm), [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4 (£3 EBC Members); please note that this venue is strictly cash only.



Five things you need to know today



- Council consultations
- Imagining History
- Amnesty at LeithLate16
- Cityroomz
- Funding for Big Bike Revival

The council is currently running a consultation on major events in public parks (It is proposed that from 2017 the following spaces be subject to a competitive tender process: Meadows, Inverleith Park and West Princes Street Gardens)

So time to put your views across on the way the council uses our open spaces. Click on the link below.

www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/south-central/have-your-say-information,-consultations-surveys/major-events-in-public-parks-survey/

Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter

[mc4wp_form id="169103"]

Imagining History is a programme of day-long workshops taking place across the UK, created specifically to give young people a chance to immerse themselves in historical places from the point of view of a writer. Budding historical fiction writers of the future are invited to attend a day that aims to fire imaginations and inspire young people to explore past times and bring them alive through writing.

The workshops are part of an on-going series of events being set up to support a new writing prize, the Young Walter Scott Prize, which is named in honour of the inventor of the historical fiction genre, Walter Scott.

The workshops, run by professional writers, arts educators and experts in creative exploration, aim to show young writers the inspirational potential of real-life places, land, people and events and therefore take place at sites of historical interest that provide a wealth of inspiration and hidden stories. A combination of games and exercises drawn from arts and somatic education practices, as well as extended personal writing time, invites writers to develop their own research and exploration strategies.

Alan Caig Wilson, director of the Young Walter Scott Prize and workshop-co-ordinator said:

“Following the boyhood example of Sir Walter Scott who was inspired to write by the people, stories and places he encountered during explorations of life in the Scottish

Borders that continued through out his writing life, we hope to inspire young writers to get out into the historical world and make their own discoveries."

The Prize, sponsored by the Duchess of Buccleuch, seeks to connect young people with their world by asking them to investigate their history, their environment and the stories of their people, and to write a piece of short fiction set before their own lifetime. Two category winners will be awarded a travel grant of £500 each, and have their work published in a special YWSP anthology. Participants in the writing workshops will be encouraged to enter their stories for the Young Walter Scott Prize.

All workshops are free and run from 10.30am until 2.30pm. Places are strictly limited to 15. For booking: Alan Caig Wilson ywsprize@outlook.com



At LeithLatel6 in a couple of weeks Amnesty International's Imprisoned Writers show will be part of the festival/ All proceeds will be donated to Amnesty International.

[More details here.](#)



On Shandwick Place Cityroomz Edinburgh is to expand into the building next door, Princes House, which will add a further 43 rooms and suites to the budget hotel.

The new wing will open next June 2017 and will take the capacity to 115 rooms overall.

David Myers, chief executive of Sleeperz Hotels, said: "Sleeperz Hotels is delighted to be expanding its market leading Cityroomz operation.

Our brand of low cost high quality hotel stays has proven a winning formula nationally and we are confident that demand for stylish but affordable rooms in Edinburgh will keep growing.”

Town Centre Securities PLC, a leading UK property and investment company is also involved with the development.



Colin Steele, associate director at Caledonia Management Ltd, acting for Town Centre Securities, said: ‘This development is great news for Princes House and the West End of Edinburgh. The area is the cultural heart of Edinburgh, with its World Heritage Site, theatres, arts venues and stunning architecture.

Cityroomz increased bed-stock is a welcome boost and provides affordable accommodation for tourists staying in this vibrant area.”



The Scottish Government has awarded £450,000 through Transport Scotland to help run Big Bike Revival across the country.

Minister for Transport Humza Yousaf announced the funding earlier in the week at the National Active Transport

Conference held at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh.

The Minister said: “I am delighted to award this Scottish Government funding of £453,000 to Cycling UK to bring the Big Bike Revival project to Scotland this year, with the aim of delivering transport and related physical activity behaviour change on a significant scale.

“This project engages a network of established community focused initiatives where cycling has been adopted to help address economic, social or health inequality. Organisations receiving funding from Transport Scotland – such as Sustrans and Cycling Scotland – will work with Cycling UK to add significant value to projects such as Pedal for Scotland and the work in schools which encourage people to take up cycling again, or for the first time.

“The Big Bike Revival will contribute to our vision of 10% of everyday journeys by bike by 2020.”

The project will help more people to revive their unused bikes by getting them out of sheds and garages and fixing them up.

Over 50 centres across Scotland will host Big Bike Revival events over four weeks this summer, offering the public a chance to:

- Fix a cycle so it can start to be used and learn how to maintain it.
- Trade a cycle for one better suited to individual needs and donate surplus cycles.
- Experience cycling in their local area, utilising the National Cycle Network, and discover local cycling networks.
- Take part in a variety of cycle training activities to become confident and competent cycling on the road.

The Big Bike Revival programme has already proved a success in England in 2015. Over 50,000 people benefitted from the project last year, with over 21,000 saying they now cycle more often. Of those who attended, 46% lived in a deprived neighbourhood.

✖ 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.

Letter from Scotland



Common Market Cross

The market cross in Edinburgh has seen a lot of history pass by. It's been there, in one form or another, since 1365, the platform for calling elections and making public announcements. The version we see today was put there in Victorian times by none other than William Gladstone. What would he be thinking this week as we approach another crazy milestone in our history?

I've always been against referendums, especially close ones. They are so divisive and can hinge on the whims of puzzled and undecided voters. I think it's better to wait until there is a "settled will" before going to the people in this way. I don't imagine David Cameron ever thought the vote on EU membership would be so close. With just days to go to Turbulent Thursday, the opinion polls are jittery. Across the UK, the Remain and Leave campaigns are running neck and neck. In Scotland, Remain support has topped at 67 per cent but may be falling, according to the very latest polls. There are

still a lot of undecided voters....12 or 13 per cent in most polls.

This week, Nicola Sturgeon decided it was time to get tough. She declared that if Britain votes to leave the EU on 23rd June, Scotland would suffer under “the most right-wing government of modern times.” Her bogie men are Boris Johnson, Ian Duncan Smith and Michael Gove, the three Tory Brexiteers who have been leading the Leave campaign. They accused her of mounting a “McFear” offensive. Mr Gove even came north, to his old home in Aberdeen, to hint at more powers for Scotland if we leave the EU.

Meanwhile, Alistair Darling, Labour’s former Chancellor of the Exchequer, left his home in Edinburgh to go to London to team up with the current Chancellor George Osborne to warn that the UK’s public finances would be plunged into a £30bn deficit if we left the EU. That would mean, they said, a 2p rise in income tax and big budget cuts to education and the NHS. Nigel Farage, steaming up the Thames in flotilla of “Leave” fishing boats, said that was more of Project Fear.

On Thursday afternoon I went to a European Movement meeting just up the Royal Mile from the market cross. The atmosphere was “worried”. Leaders from all five main parties in Scotland spoke passionately in favour of remaining in the EU, each from a different perspective. Like the Prime Minister, none of them expected the vote to be this close and all of them recognised that Thursday is a more important day than a general election.

Yet it doesn’t seem like that. There’s an air of us sleep-walking into this historic decision. Like last week, there’s still no outward sign of the referendum in Scotland, no window posters or car stickers, or crowds of leafleteers in the streets, let alone public demonstrations or marches. The campaign is largely being fought on radio and television.

The reason, we are told, is that the main parties in Scotland

are all arguing one way and a Remain vote is a foregone conclusion here. It's also true that immigration is not such a big issue in Scotland as it is in England and somehow, the English have confused the issue of immigration with membership of EU.

Looking at the campaign from north of Hadrian's Wall, I see two Englands fighting it out....the old and the new. The old England is one of the 1950s, the plucky little island who'd defeated Hitler and remembers the Empire. They are the proud old middle class, independent, successful, conservative. Then there is the new England, which has come to terms with the modern world, recognises its complexity, it's global nature, and its acceptance of equality.

Somehow I just can't see the Leave side winning, though the Remain side may have to rely on Scotland for the victory. I think on that fateful Thursday morning, the undecided will choose to remain, persuaded that the economic risk of leaving is too great. They will accept the experts' advice with a shrug of the shoulders.

I predict that in a year's time, we will all wonder what the fuss was about. Britain will be back at the table in Brussels arguing for yet more exemptions but resigned to membership of European Union, till death us do part.

**Edinburgh International Book
Festival 2016 – our top**

choices

The Edinburgh International Book Festival opens its box office next week, and as in every other year we predict havoc and mayhem with the city attempting to get their hands on those 'must-have' tickets.



“Edinburgh’s conversation with the world,” the festival has opted for this Imagine Better utopian theme, “insisting on better in a backdrop of negative political discourse,” and has a whole host of fantastic events within their programme.

With over 210 children’s and 700 adult events obviously it is never easy to be decisive but here is our top picks from the programme that you might wish to consider:

Childrens

Saturday 13th August

[Linda Davies & Lari Don: Magic, Myths and Adventure](#)

Linda Davies’ discusses debut *Longbow Girl*, a time slip story filled with treasures, secrets and danger and Lari Don tells us about her new *Spellchasers* series.

Sunday 14th August

[Amazing Animal Journeys with Chris Packham](#)

BBC wildlife expert Chris Packham brings his first book for children, his non-fiction, *Amazing Animal Journeys*, to the Book Festival. This wonderful new book from Chris takes you around the world discussing migration.

Monday 15th August

[Picturing Harry Potter](#)

Kate Greenaway Medal-winning illustrator Jim Kay discusses his breathtaking full-colour illustrated edition of *Harry Potter*, and the challenges he faced.

Saturday 20th August

[Daring Quests with Baxter the Giant Beetle](#)

M G Leonard will be talking about the first of her new hilarious yet heart-rendering trilogy, *Beetle Boy*, and will then meet some real life beetles over at the Story Box.

Saturday 27th August

[Challenging Stigmas with Deborah Malcolm](#)

Join author-illustrator Deborah Malcolm as she explains why she decided to create Meh, a wordless picture book following one boy's journey through depression.



Adults

Saturday 13th August

[Geoff Dyer](#)

Geoff Dyer presents a new book of travel writing, *White Sands: Experiences from the Outside World*, featuring his droll, cantankerous, often laugh-out-loud musings on visits to places as far-flung as Beijing, Mexico and French Polynesia

Sunday 14th August

[Gavin Francis on The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat](#)

Award-winning author and local GP Gavin Francis explores *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by neurologist Oliver Sacks.

Thursday 18th August

[Open Book on the Poetry and Fiction of Jackie Kay](#)

Marjorie Lotfi Gill and Claire Urquhart from Open Book, a charity that organises shared reading groups, look at the poetry and fiction of new Scottish Makar Jackie Kay, exploring racial and sexual identity.

Friday 19th August

[Andrés Neuman on Don Quixote](#)

Spanish-Argentine writer Andrés Neuman explores *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes.

Thursday 25th August

[Maggie O'Farrell](#)

Maggie introduces to new and acclaimed novel, *This Must Be the Place*, her most insightful yet. The story of a man coming to terms with the death of a woman he loved 30 years ago is a wise, rich and intimate portrait of the complexities of human relationships.

[You can log on to the Book Festival website](#) to have a look at what is on this August in the Charlotte Square Garden. Tickets will go on sale in the Roxburghe Hotel on Tuesday 21 August 2016 at 8.30am and the website will go live then too.

Be prepared!

Viking Sea arrives in

Edinburgh for her first visit



The Viking Sea came to Edinburgh for the first time today.

Following her recent christening in Greenwich last month, Viking's second Ocean ship has set sail from Bergen and embarked on her maiden voyage through Scotland.

With serene Scandinavian design, the award winning cruise line offers cultural enrichment and immersive experiences on shore and aboard.



Eight people arrested for drugs offences in West Lothian



Eight people have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act following two days of enforcement action in West Lothian.

As part of Operation Borah, an ongoing initiative to tackle drug crime across the Lothians and Scottish Borders, Community Policing Officers and Proactive CID detectives executed search warrants at six homes in Livingston, Armadale. Eight people have been arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act following two days of enforcement action in West Lothian.

As part of Operation Borah, an ongoing initiative to tackle drug crime across the Lothians and Scottish Borders, Community Policing Officers and Proactive CID detectives executed search warrants at six homes in Livingston, Armadale, Bathgate, Whitburn and Breich.

During this activity cannabis, heroin and valium worth £10,000 was recovered and two electricity meters were found to have been illegally bypassed.

Seven men aged 43, 47, 38, 24, 47, 30 and 40 and a 46-year-old woman will appear at court at a later date.

Inspector Adam Smith from Livingston Police Station said: "Tackling drug crime and the associated harm it caused to our communities is a priority for police in West Lothian and we will continue to act on intelligence from the public to carry out enforcement action such as this.

"If you have any information relating to ongoing drug crime in your area then please contact us on 101 or make an anonymous report to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Hibs start 2016/17 season away to Falkirk



Hibs will start the 2016-17 Ladbrokes Championship campaign with a trip to Falkirk following the announcement of the league fixtures for the season.

Last season Hibs played three times at the Falkirk Stadium

with honours even.

The first home fixture will be the following week, with League One champions Dunfermline visiting Easter Road, before Neil Lennon's side travel to Paisley to take on St Mirren.

The full fixture list is below. Please note fixtures are subject to change.

06/08/2016	Falkirk	Away
13/08/2016	Dunfermline Athletic	Home
20/08/2016	St. Mirren	Away
27/08/2016	Morton	Home
10/09/2016	Dumbarton	Away
17/09/2016	Ayr United	Home
24/09/2016	Queen of the South	Away
01/10/2016	Dundee United	Home
15/10/2016	Raith Rovers	Away
22/10/2016	Dunfermline Athletic	Away
29/10/2016	St. Mirren	Home
05/11/2016	Ayr United	Away
12/11/2016	Falkirk	Home
19/11/2016	Queen of the South	Home
03/12/2016	Dundee United	Away
10/12/2016	Dumbarton	Home
17/12/2016	Morton	Away
24/12/2016	Raith Rovers	Home
31/12/2016	Falkirk	Away
07/01/2017	Dundee United	Home
14/01/2017	Dumbarton	Away
28/01/2017	Queen of the South	Away
04/02/2017	Ayr United	Home

18/02/2017	Raith Rovers	Away
25/02/2017	Dunfermline Athletic	Home
01/03/2017	St. Mirren	Away
04/03/2017	Morton	Home
11/03/2017	Dundee United	Away
18/03/2017	Dumbarton	Home
25/03/2017	Falkirk	Home
01/04/2017	Dunfermline Athletic	Away
08/04/2017	Morton	Away
15/04/2017	Queen of the South	Home
22/04/2017	Raith Rovers	Home
29/04/2017	Ayr United	Away
06/05/2017	St. Mirren	Home

At the Scottish National Gallery – Rubens and Company

The greatest Flemish artist of the seventeenth century, Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), will be at the centre of the exciting new display of master drawings at the Scottish National Gallery this summer. *Rubens and Company* will celebrate the Gallery's outstanding selection of Flemish drawings and prints, with masterpieces by Rubens, Jacob Jordaens (1593-1678) and Sir Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641), shown alongside rarely-seen works by Flemish contemporaries such as Cornelis Schut (1597-1655) and Frans Wouters (1612-1659).

✖ Rubens is considered the towering figure of the Flemish

Baroque – the period between the late sixteenth and early eighteenth centuries – and one of the greatest artists of all time. In the seventeenth century Flanders, together with Brabant, was the most prominent province of the Southern Netherlands, which were then under Spanish control; today it marks the northern, Dutch-speaking part of modern Belgium. The display includes Rubens's beautiful sketch *Hero and Leander*, c.1600-3, and *Eight Women Harvesting*, c.1635, which was probably drawn outdoors and from life. Rubens's work shows the strong influence of classical sculpture, and of Italian Renaissance artists such as Raphael and Michelangelo. As a painter of religious pictures, mythological scenes, classical and modern history and portraits, Rubens was a prominent figure on an international stage and had a broad impact on other artists, including Van Dyck and Jordaens. Van Dyck's *Study for the Portrait of Nicholas Lanier (1588-1666)*, a delicate black chalk drawing from 1628, will be displayed in the exhibition, as well as Jordaens's beautiful *Female Nude* (1641) and *The Adoration of the Magi* (1644).

Among the highlights of the display will be some new discoveries made during research for the exhibition, including a rare drawing for one of the most important commissions Rubens ever received. *Saint Gregory of Nazianzus Subduing Heresy*, which dates from 1620, was previously regarded as a copy after a lost painting by Rubens; new research, however, suggests this drawing was made in the artist's studio, under the master's supervision. An oil sketch after Titian's world-famous *Diana and Actaeon*, which is part of the Scottish National Gallery collection, was previously attributed to David Teniers the Younger and is now considered to be by Frans Wouters, a member of Rubens's extensive studio. This oil sketch was acquired in 2015 through the Art Fund.

Rubens and Company will comprise 28 works in total. Many of these are preparatory drawings or studies which offer a fascinating insight into the function of drawings as well as

studio practice; some of them have rarely, in some cases never, been displayed before.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a beautifully illustrated catalogue, which provides a lively panorama of Flemish draughtsmanship in the seventeenth century, its subjects and techniques. The publication has been supported by the General Representation of the Government of Flanders in the UK. This catalogue includes an in-depth discussion of the twenty-eight works in the exhibition as well as an introductory essay highlighting the paintings by Rubens and Van Dyck in the collection of the Scottish National Gallery. £14.95 paperback.

RUBENS AND COMPANY: FLEMISH DRAWINGS FROM THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY

18 June – 28 August 2016

Scottish National Gallery, The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL

Admission free | 0131 624 6200

Witness appeal following suspicious fires in Saughton Mains



Police are appealing for witnesses following recent suspicious fires in the West of the city.

Between Wednesday 8th June and Thursday 16th June, two fires were set within common stairs in Saughton Mains Park.

On each occasion the fire service attended and extinguished

the flames and no one was injured.

Officers believe these incidents are linked and are urging anyone with information to come forward.

Detective Constable Jeanette McCulloch from Corstorphine Police Station said: “Fortunately, these fires did not result in any injury or significant damage to the properties but had the flames spread or become too difficult for the fire service to handle, we could have been dealing with far more serious offences.

“We would ask anyone who remembers seeing any suspicious activity in the Saughton Mains Park area to contact police immediately.

“In addition, anyone with information that can help us identify those responsible should also get in touch.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Four more arrests following Cup Final disorder



Four men aged 20, 31, 40 and 42, are expected to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court today in connection with the disturbance at the end of last month’s Scottish Cup Final at Hampden Park in Glasgow.

The men were arrested at addresses in Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Edinburgh, over alleged assaults and disorder.

Detective Superintendent Kenny Graham, who is leading the investigation, said: "This investigation is extensive and involves a significant number of people, however, we remain committed to identifying those involved and rest assured we will identify people and they will be arrested. As our investigation progresses, there will be additional arrests and continued police action to track down those responsible.

"I would ask if anyone has any information or knowledge about people involved or for anyone with information, including footage or images, to contact us."

The number of arrests following the game has now reached 32.

Enter our Flash Competition today!

SNP MSPs appointed to new roles

Ash Denham, MSP for Edinburgh Eastern, and Ben Macpherson, MSP for Edinburgh North and Leith have both been appointed Parliamentary Liaison Officers by the First Minister.

Denham has been appointed as PL0 to the Cabinet Secretary for

Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, while Macpherson has been given the role of working closely with the First Minister.



Commenting, Ms Denham said: “Parliamentary Liaison officers play a key role in maintaining a good relationship between the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government, and I am honoured and excited to be given this responsibility so early in my role as representative for Edinburgh Eastern. I will undertake it with great commitment and dedication.”

Ben Macpherson MSP said: “The job of a PL0 comes with a considerable amount of responsibility. I am honoured and privileged to be appointed by the First Minister to this role.

“I am very keen to get started and help to make sure that there is a positive relationship between Government and Parliament.”

Acoustic showcase in the Grassmarket



The Greater Grassmarket Business Improvement District (BID) venture grows apace with a series of diverse and spectacular free artistic showcases already up and running. This weekend 18-19 June there will be a jamboree of international circus acts performing all sorts of weird and wonderful, dastardly and daring feats of spectacular agility – some to an eccentrically conceived family-friendly pirate theme!

Next week on 25 June there will be another free event that draws on Edinburgh's vibrant musical talent.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke with co-organiser, Kyle Wilson, whose professional work with Generate Music PR/Travelled Music strives to promote and develop local emerging artists.

"The idea behind the Grassmarket Acoustic Stage," said Kyle, "is to promote the wealth of local talent that Edinburgh has to offer and bring outdoor live music back to Edinburgh's Old Town as well as supporting charities such as Oxfam." Oxfam began in 2006, aiming to create a network of music-lovers across the UK, all united by a shared goal – to raise money to fight poverty and suffering around the world.



Kyle continued: "With another hat on I work for Edinburgh University Students' Association running weekly free live music events to showcase upcoming bands from Edinburgh and further afield. The events start again in September and host three local bands a week, all free entry shows!

"Glasgow is seen as the best place for live music in Scotland and whilst that might be true to an extent, Edinburgh shouldn't be disregarded. There is an extremely healthy live music scene in the capital, which has continued to grow and bubble away. Go out to events and see for yourself! "

Callum Ross works for Greater Grassmarket :

"Greater Grassmarket (BID) is doing great things to breathe life and bring trade into Grassmarket area. Monthly events are taking place for Greater Grassmarket who run weekly markets in Grassmarket Square.

"For the remaining events we have teamed up with Oxfam ahead of their festival in October to also raise money for both charities. The aim of the event is to bring live music back to

the Grassmarket and showcase one of Edinburgh's greatest hubs for local business and innovation. My role is events management and responsibility for booking the musicians and promotion."

While the Edinburgh Reporter would not wish to see a reoccurrence of the infamous Grassmarket Porteous lynching Riots of 1736, readers might fancy 'hanging out' and proffering their enthusiastic support.

#livemusicmatters


Greater Grassmarket Acoustic Stage

Saturday June 25th. 12 noon-5pm

<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterGrassmarket/>

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxjam/what-is-oxjam>

70th Edinburgh International Film Festival – Tommy's Honour ***

On Wednesday night a wonderful display of tartan and tweed  was to be found at the Festival Theatre, starting the seventieth Edinburgh International Film Festival with the opening night screening of Jason Connery's *Tommy's Honour*.

Directed by Sean Connery's son, starring Peter Mullan, *Tommy's*

Honour spans the career of golfer Tommy Morris Junior and his devastating departure at a young 24. The stalwarts of Scottish film took to the stage to officially declare the festival open, and introduce the public screening. Joined by actors, Jack Lowden and Peter Ferdinando as well as producer, Bob Last, they warmed up the audience for this captivating drama, set in Fife. Looking at the early beginnings of the game of golf this was a great choice to begin the festival.

Desaturated grade, strong performances by Lowden and Mullan as well as Ophelia Lovibond, who plays Meg, as well as the flashback narrative all made this an interesting period drama.

Too much of it revolves around the golf, which was dull in places though, as the more interesting part of the story lay in Meg's past and the formidable relationship she has with Tom's mother, Nancy, played fantastically by Therese Bradley.

Although interesting and a fabulous choice to begin the film festival, this film would have benefited from another play in the editing suite.

Clearly this film is holding together purely on performance.

More on the 70th Edinburgh International Film Fest [here](#) over the next 10 days and on their [website](#).

Convention Edinburgh has its best year yet

Marketing Edinburgh is what it says on the tin, but it has several layers behind it. One of those is Convention Edinburgh which is responsible for attracting business tourism to the city. The body has just reported on its most successful year ever, bringing £94.3m to the Edinburgh economy and 10,000 conference delegates to the city.

This is an increase of £2.8 million on last year's figures and represents over 2000 conferences won by Convention Edinburgh in the last twelve months.

In 2016, the Ambassador Programme will celebrate its 20th anniversary and shows most clearly the momentum behind Convention Edinburgh. More than 50 new ambassadors have been recruited in the last year all with potential new conferences that Edinburgh could host.



John Donnelly, Chief Executive, Marketing Edinburgh said:

"This is great news for the city of Edinburgh and testament to the hard work of everyone involved. 2015/16 was a crucial year in Convention Edinburgh's ongoing strategic development, not only in terms of bid win success, but positive client response.

While attracting global international associations remains a priority, particularly through our work with BestCities Global Alliance, we continue to invest in developing Edinburgh's unique value proposition to a whole range of audiences, particularly in North America and Europe. Crucially, our active and influential Ambassador Programme has played an integral part helping us achieve our record breaking results – which I'm sure this will continue to do for the next twenty

years.”

Lesley Williams, Head of Business Tourism at Convention Edinburgh said:

“With conference and delegate numbers strengthening year on year, there is a huge amount of potential future growth in the city. As a destination bureau, Convention Edinburgh’s role is evolving.

While supporting our clients in sourcing venues and accommodation remain important, increasingly we are playing a wider part in helping to shape conferences and build relevant connections for our clients. This is particularly true in emerging areas such as legacy development.

There is a growing ambition with meeting organisers to leave a lasting legacy within a host city, creating wider benefits that can continue to grow and outlive their event. As the conduit between local businesses, charities, academia and government, Convention Edinburgh is ideally placed to work with the client to help develop their legacy ambitions and bring about positive change.”

Councillor Gavin Barrie, Economy Convener, City of Edinburgh Council, said

“For Convention Edinburgh and its members to successfully bring more conferences to Scotland’s capital city than ever before is a tremendous achievement and result of a huge collaborative effort.

“Along with increasing the economic value of conferences and events to Edinburgh by more than £3 million pounds, the number of expected delegates has also increased by 10,000. These are significant figures, which will have a far reaching and a long lasting, positive impact on the city’s economy for years to come.”

Currently ranked 35 in the world’s city rankings according to the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA)

and 20th in Europe, Edinburgh annually holds more international meetings than any other UK city outside of London.

Next year's annual results are already off to a flying start, with Edinburgh just announced as the host city of the biennial International Council for Commercial Arbitration Congress 2020, expected to attract 1,200 delegates and generate £2 million in local economic impact.

Five things you need to know today



- **Vote for The Dean and Cauvin Trust**
- **Summer Nights at the Zoo**
- **Time to nominate your healthcare heroes!**
- **Watch Festival Portraits – Alan Cumming**
- **Isle of May art gallery**

The Dean and Cauvin Trust which is one of Edinburgh's oldest charities has made it to the finals of the Provident Good Neighbourhood Programme.

They could win money to enable our group work service to offer a 'discover scotland' programme, offering new experiences to the young people we work with who have perhaps never left

Edinburgh.

Their 'discover Scotland' programme would enable the young people to get out of Edinburgh and show them what the rest of Scotland have to offer, by way of day trips or residential short breaks.

How can you help? Voting ends on the 26th June. This link will take you to the voting page and give you more detailed information about what they would do with the money.

<https://www.providentgoodneighbour.co.uk/vote-for-your-community/>



Summer Nights at the Zoo will take place on the next two Thursday nights, on 23 June and 30 June.

This is an adults only event from 6pm to 10pm when visitors get the chance to see for themselves what happens when the animals are (usually) left alone to have the hill in Corstorphine to themselves.



© Rob MacDougall

There will be locally sourced street food and drink along with information about the work that the zoo does. Interactive science stations will be placed around the zoo where keepers and scientists will have fun activities on hand to show you how to extract DNA from a strawberry (and yes there is a strawberry daiquiri involved!) There is an inside out beehive to show you what goes on there, a panda information station and live comedy.

[Tickets here.](#)

Hopefully the weather will be kind to all who go along!



People in the Lothians are being urged to nominate their local healthcare heroes as the hunt for Scotland's top health workers begins.

Every year, the Scottish Health Awards recognise and reward dedicated NHS staff, support workers, volunteers and specialist teams who go the extra mile to provide outstanding patient care.

Nominations are being sought from those who want to acknowledge the quality of treatment they have received, either for themselves or a loved one.

This is an opportunity to reward the people who help the NHS provide world-class care to the people of Scotland, whether in hospital, at a GP surgery, at the dentist, or in the community.

Last year, three NHS Lothian healthcare teams scooped top awards at the Scottish Health Awards 2015.

[Read more here](#)



The Edinburgh International Festival has published a series of portraits online. You can watch Alan Cumming talking about how he became an actor here. (Other artists are available.....)

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Three of Scotland's most renowned wildlife artists are helping

to celebrate a double anniversary with an exhibition inside the Isle of May's iconic Stevenson lighthouse.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is hosting the exhibition in the island's Main Lighthouse as part of a season of events celebrating the Isle of May's 60th anniversary as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). It is also 200 years since the lighthouse started operating in 1816.

The display features artworks depicting scenes of the island and its wildlife by artists Derek Robertson, Keith Brockie and Darren Woodhead. Known locally as 'The May', this small island sits on the edge of the Firth of Forth.

David Steel, SNH's reserve manager on the island, said: "With the two anniversaries there's plenty to celebrate on the Isle of May this year. We're delighted to be able to use the unique venue of the Main Lighthouse, which is owned and operated by the Northern Lighthouse Board, to show work by these talented artists. They each have a strong connection to the island and this exhibition will be a fabulous way of seeing the May through their eyes."

The exhibition will be open each weekend until 01 August, and then it will be open every day. Entry to the exhibition is free and it is free to visit the NNR, but you must take a boat trip to reach the island.


The island's importance for seabirds has drawn scientists to its shores for many years and the May is home to the oldest continuously running bird observatory in the UK, founded in 1934. The May is also a regular haunt for grey seals which are often seen lounging on the shoreline rocks.

Mike Bullock, Chief Executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board, said: "The Isle of May is a very special place and it is significant in our lighthouse heritage as the site of Scotland's first ever lighthouse, dating back to 1636, and the

“new” light which is celebrating 200 years of operation for the safety of the mariner.

“Over the last year the NLB has solarised the operation of the light and as part of this reengineering work we have incorporated safety systems and installed information boards to allow the public to access the building and find out more about our history. We are delighted to be working with Scottish Natural Heritage to provide tours of this unique lighthouse building.”

This island has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries and features the remains of a 12th Century monastery. Scotland’s very first lighthouse, ‘The Beacon’, remains on the island after it was saved from demolition at the request of Sir Walter Scott. The current, castle-like lighthouse was designed by the engineer Robert Stevenson.

 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.