

Wester Hailes underpass reinstated after nearly 20 years



Today marked the end of a long campaign led by Wester Hailes Community Council when the newly reinstated underpass linking the Healthy Living Centre to the shopping centre was reopened. The passage is to be called Harvesters Link.

The walkway was closed in 1996 and even when the new Healthy Living Centre was opened in 2013 it became clear that the underpass would have to be reinstated. But the problem was who would pay for it?

The members of the community council have been tireless in their campaign to ensure a safe and step free link was reopened for all using the new Healthy Living Centre. The arched walkway lies underneath the railway just outside the Wester Hailes rail station, but as local MSP Gordon Macdonald explained safety was essential. He said: "The Community Council have been working hard as a team to produce an outcome that will have benefit for the whole community.

"They were insistent that this underpass would not create the same problems as others in the area such as the one on the Calder Road.

"This underpass has open sightlines which is much safer and it connects key areas such as the Healthy Living Centre and the shops."

Vice Chair of the Wester Hailes Community Council Anne Denhom performed the ceremony before a small crowd of those who have been involved throughout the campaign. The group then sought refuge from the rain the Healthy Living Centre where they enjoyed soup from the vegetables grown in the local Edible Estates projects.

[The Edinburgh Reporter News](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).





Sadly the Chair of Wester Hailes Community Council John Aitchison was unable to be at the ceremony because of ill health, but the group sent him a very personal message!



Counting the real cost of Christmas

While we always consider the cost of Christmas in bare financial terms, and as an overall figure, its impact reaches far beyond the bottom line.

This has been explored in detail recently by a fascinating [Xmas unwrapped](#) feature on the bingosites.net website, which

has delved beyond festive household spending figures to count the true cost of Christmas. The results of this insight are fascinating and also informative and consumers look to reduce the burdens associated with Christmas.

The True Cost of Christmas in the UK

With this in mind, (and without being too bah humbug!) here is a brief insight into the true cost of Christmas and the immense challenges facing citizens during the hectic festive period: –

The cost of Preparing for Christmas in Advance

In fundamental terms, [the average British household spends £868](#) during the festive period. In addition to this, over 59% of people make significant financial adjustments in order to comfortably afford Christmas, with men in particular likely to reduce outgoings and make sacrifices in order to create the necessary disposable income. This trend is apparently more prominent in regions such as Belfast and Birmingham in the UK, while it can create a more significant financial burden heading into the New Year.

This type of sacrifice is a serious consideration for households, especially when it impacts on the payment of bills and debts.

The Loss of Sleep

In addition to this, a further 45% of citizens also reported to losing sleep in the build-up to Christmas. Interestingly, individuals aged between 18 and 24 cited a lack of sleep as the most common symptom of the busy Christmas period, as they suffer with anxiety and the challenges posed by funding the necessary festivities. 30% of older consumers also confirmed that the spectre of Christmas and its unique challenges made them feel physically sick with worry.

The Development of Stress and Anxiety

There is a fine line between stress and positive energy, and while the unique nature of the festive period excites the majority of consumers it also creates huge stress for others. Worryingly, 20% of consumers claimed that the expectations and pressures associated with the three-day Christmas holiday generated huge levels of stress, primarily as they looked to source suitable gifts within a given budget and time frame.

At this point, it is important to remember the core values of the season and attempt to relax wherever possible prior to Christmas.

Happy Christmas to you all!

Scotland on the way to meeting 50% renewables target



The Scottish Government announced today that the 2015 target of producing half of our electricity from renewables has almost been met a year ahead of schedule.

Renewables are now the single largest contributor to electricity generation in Scotland at a record 38 per cent of total output – higher than both nuclear at 33 per cent and fossil fuels 28 per cent for the first time, statistics published today have revealed.

Renewable sources delivered 49.7% of gross electricity consumption in 2014 – up from 44.4% in 2013.

Renewable generation in 2014 was up 11.9 per cent on 2013 (which was a previous record year for renewables) and accounted for a record 38 per cent of total Scottish generation. Scotland generated 49,929 GWh of electricity in 2014 with renewable electricity generation delivering 18,962 GWh.

Scottish renewable generation made up approximately 29 per cent of the total UK renewable output in 2014. Scotland continued to be a net exporter of electricity, exporting 23.7 per cent of generation in 2014.

Welcoming the figures, Energy Minister Fergus Ewing said:

“The historic agreement reached at the global climate change summit in Paris earlier this month sends a signal of certainty about the global economy’s low carbon future, in the same way as Scotland did through our world-leading climate legislation in 2009.

“Today’s figures show that Scotland’s renewables sector is stronger than ever and our early adoption of clean, green energy technology and infrastructure was the right thing to do. It is fantastic news that renewables are now Scotland’s biggest electricity generator, and that nearly half of gross electricity consumption comes from renewables.

“Despite damaging policy changes from the UK Government, we will continue to harness – and bolster – Scotland’s renewables potential, both in generation and infrastructure. At the end of Q3 2015, there was 7,504 MW of installed renewables electricity capacity in Scotland, an increase of 4.6% over the year.

“Devolved administrations, like the Scottish Government, will be strong drivers of a progressive climate agenda. Today’s figures show that a low carbon economy is not just a practical way forward, but that green energy plays a crucial role in the security of Scotland’s energy supply. ”

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Planning application for site on King's Stables Road

Edinburgh on Film

Botanics at Christmas

University staff donate food to homeless

Sign up for an evening class

A city centre site, which has lain vacant for a number of years, is set for major regeneration, creating a landmark development and breathing new life into a neglected part of the Grassmarket.

[Read more here.](#)



We try to do our bit to preserve a little of our city's history by filming as much as we can around Edinburgh and putting our interviews and other films on [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#) but if you have not yet discovered the British Film Institute Player then you are in for a treat.

They have a great film about Edinburgh in 1933 [here](#) which you can watch for free along with many others. They also have other films which you can pay to view. Something to bookmark for the holidays ahead!





Take note if you are planning a festive walk. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Garden & Gateway opening hours :

November to January: 10am – 4pm

February and October: 10am – 5pm

March to September: 10am – 6pm



(l-r) David and Jennifer Gosling, volunteers at the Salvation Army Church and Jennie Anthony, allocations administrator for the University of Edinburgh

Staff from the University of Edinburgh have been getting into the Christmas spirit by donating almost 200 food items to homeless people and others across Edinburgh.

Jennie Anthony, Allocations Administrator at the University of Edinburgh's Accommodation, Catering and Events service, appealed to colleagues to donate food as part of this year's Christmas Food Hamper Appeal. The annual appeal, organised by the Salvation Army charity, aims to provide the vulnerable and homeless across the UK with food over the Christmas period.

Mrs Anthony put a call out colleagues at the beginning of December for packaged, non-perishable food items such as pasta, chocolate, tinned soup and sweets for the homeless community and other vulnerable groups in Edinburgh.

After a steady stream of donations from staff across the service, she gave the food items to husband and wife, David and Jennifer Gosling, church leaders at the Edinburgh City Salvation Church.

Mrs Anthony said: "Christmas is a time for sharing and helping those most in need, and that's why we were delighted to be able to give this donation of food to the Salvation Army to provide essential help to those who really need it in December.

"Most of the food items handed in we take for granted every day, but may mean the world to someone who doesn't have regular meals to look forward to. All of the staff at the University of Edinburgh's Accommodation, Catering and Events services really rallied around this appeal and we hope that it helps the Edinburgh City Salvation Church to spread some happiness this Christmas."



Yes we know they are called Adult Education Classes now and not evening classes, but they do mainly take place in the evening and they are opportunities for self-improvement and socialising.

Here is the brochure:



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Three new transport bosses in Edinburgh



Transport for Edinburgh have recruited a new Chief Executive, Lothian Buses have a Managing Director and Edinburgh Trams have appointed a General Manager following the departure of Tom Norris.

George Lowder MBE has been appointed Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh, Richard Hall has secured the Managing Director role at Lothian Buses and Lea Harrison will be General Manager at Edinburgh Trams.

All three appointees will be expected to build on the performance of the existing award-winning and highly rated services, whilst also contributing to the Capital's ambition to have one of the greenest, healthiest and most accessible transport systems in northern Europe by 2030.

Lesley Hinds, Chair of Transport for Edinburgh and Transport Convenor for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "We expected

that these positions would attract high calibre candidates and we weren't disappointed. Transport for Edinburgh and the city it serves are major attractions for some of the best in the UK transport profession and I'm delighted that we have secured such exceptional interest.

"Our new senior team will be pivotal in supporting the transport infrastructure we need but also the wider economy. I wish George, Richard and Lea all the very best in their new roles and I look forward to working with them as a team as we continue to push Edinburgh's integrated transport agenda."

Jim McFarlane, Chair of Lothian Buses and Transport for Edinburgh Board Member, said: "Hundreds of thousands of residents, workers and visitors rely on our buses every day and we are proud to provide them with one of the best city operations in the UK. With Edinburgh growing in popularity as a place to live, work and visit, our services are crucial to the smooth running of the city.

"We also have ambitious plans to further improve the quality of our fleet, making our services cleaner and greener. So, we are delighted to be able to appoint Richard, who has vast experience and excellent leadership credentials, to lead the whole Lothian Buses team to further success."

Charles Monheim, Chair of Edinburgh Trams and Transport for Edinburgh Board Member, said: "Lea comes to Edinburgh Trams with a wealth of operational experience in the industry that stretches right back to his days as a tram driver. His work with the Nottingham tram stands him in good stead to come to Edinburgh to build on foundations laid over the last 18 months of service.

"The trams have become an established and valued part of city life and will remain a crucial part of the long-term transport vision for the city. Working with sister company Lothian Buses as part of Transport for Edinburgh, Lea will lead and inspire

our team to even more success.”

Each of the positions will report to the Chair of their respective board, with the Managing Director of Lothian Buses and the General Manager of Edinburgh Trams also having ‘dotted line’ accountability to the Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh. The Managing Director of Lothian Buses and the General Manager of Edinburgh Trams will sit on the respective boards and the Chief Executive of TfE will attend all three boards.

Edinburgh’s Christmas revels at charity fundraising



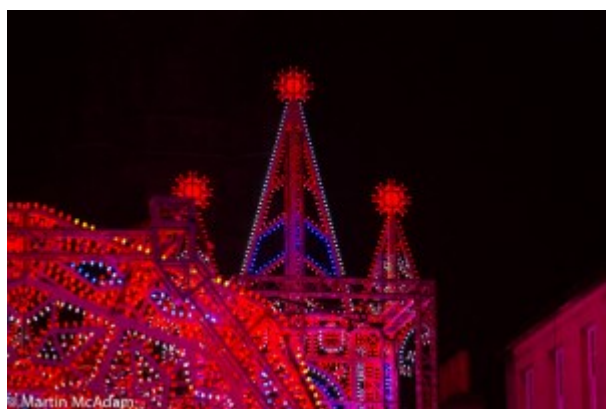
Big-hearted Christmas revellers at Edinburgh’s Christmas are helping boost charities – with thousands of pounds already raised – and now have the chance to do more, just by having a wonderful time at Edinburgh’s Christmas.

Organisers of Edinburgh’s Christmas, Underbelly, confirmed that more than £8,800 has already been raised for Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens from online donations via Edinburgh’s Christmas website and bucket collections at Light Night. And visitors to the Virgin Money Street of Light have donated a further £2,500 to Waverley Care.

The monies raised for Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens will be used for research into cancers affecting children, teens and young adults, ultimately seeking cures and kinder treatments for young people facing cancer.

Underbelly have announced their plans for the 12 Days of Christmas Fundraising Campaign to ensure that Edinburgh's Christmas continues to play its part in spreading goodwill:

- □ As part of the 12 Days of Christmas Fundraising Campaign, Edinburgh's Christmas will make 500 tickets available per day at half-price for the event's most popular attractions and will then donate the value of those tickets to Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens. The attractions and shows for which tickets will be available are the Big Wheel, the Star Flyer, both ice rinks and the critically acclaimed shows Circa's Beyond and Stick Man. The scheme runs from December 23 to January 4 (other than Christmas Day when the sites are closed).
- □ From December 23 to January 4, Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens Donation Stations will be located at the Edinburgh's Christmas box offices in East Princes Street Gardens and St Andrew Square, where visitors can leave unwanted gifts or presents of their own. The presents will then be sent to a Cancer Research shop, generating more needed income for the charity. Edinburgh's Christmas will give a free hot chocolate voucher for every present donated.







Tickets will be available immediately at edinburghschristmas.com, using the voucher code #12daysedxmas. They can only be booked online and are subject to availability. The EH postcode discount cannot be applied to this offer.

Oliver Startin-Field, from Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens said: “Our ambition is to double the amount we spend on childhood cancer research over the next 5 to 10 years, to accelerate progress and find new cures and kinder treatments. The money raised by taking part in Edinburgh’s 12 Days of Christmas campaign is a brilliant way to be a part of making this possible.”

Charlie Wood, director of Underbelly, producer of Edinburgh’s Christmas added: “We are delighted to be supporting the fantastic work of Cancer Research UK in developing new and kinder treatments for young cancer sufferers. Edinburgh’s Christmas is rated as one of the top 10 places to enjoy the festive season in the world and we know that our customers are big-hearted, and we’re expecting a big take up of these tickets for our most popular attractions and shows.”

Almond councillor resigns from Liberal Democrat Group

✖ Alastair Shields was elected to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2012 as a member of the Liberal Democrat Group representing the Almond Ward. Following his deselection as candidate for the 2017 council elections at the end of last week, he has decided to resign from the group and the party, meaning that he will sit as an Independent councillor for the remainder of the council term.

Councillor Shields has also confirmed he will stand as an Independent candidate in the 2017 elections against the newly selected Liberal Democrat candidate, Kevin Lang. Lang stood in the Westminster election in 2009 and in the Holyrood election in the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency.

Shields will join former SNP councillor Councillor Jim Orr to sit at the far end of the City Chambers where they will both sit as individuals, leaving the remaining two Liberal Democrats, Paul Edie and Robert Aldridge to carry the LibDem colours. In the last administration the Liberal Democrats formed a coalition with the SNP, but their numbers dwindled to 3 following the derailment of the tram project. The Council Leader, Jenny Dawe and Transport Convener Gordon Mackenzie were among the casualties.

Councillor Shields has shared with us the text of his resignation statement:

"I accept the result last night but as far as I'm concerned I presented a strong record of action and a set of realistic objectives to the Almond Liberal Democrat membership and the majority chose to go for someone else.

"Moving forward, I have officially resigned from the Liberal Democrat Council Group on the City of Edinburgh Council, and

also call time on my entire Party membership. I spent a long time working as I believed to be the type of Councillor the Liberal Democrats needed and proclaim about at party conferences and on peoples doorsteps: hard working, standing up for community empowerment, fighting local causes for the purpose of fairness and justice...

"De-selection has left me confused about what the Liberal Democrats want so I'll just leave them to it.

"For the minority that voted for me: thanks, it's a shame we didn't pull though... But as least I'm still your Councillor. And on that comment, while no longer a Liberal Democrat Councillor, time cannot rest on this recent event and there are many out there I must continue to work hard for, irrespective of this outcome.

My duty from here exists to carry on representing the ward as an Independent member. In addition, with my hunger for doing the best for the people of Almond, I now announce that I will be putting myself forward as an Independent candidate in the 2017 local elections.

I fully relish that challenge with all the hard work I have put in since being elected and the vast knowledge I hold over what the ward needs, what the residents want, and what local community groups and organisations hold dear to their interests. A lot is happening right now, and I'm here to continue taking it on.

Can I finally make clear that my decision has no reflection upon my relationship with former Group colleagues Councillors Paul Edie and Robert Aldridge, both of whom I am very grateful for their support over the last few years.

NHS advice on food safety

NHS 24 is reminding people to be vigilant about food safety this Christmas.

The call comes as part of NHS Scotland's Be #Healthwise This Winter campaign which aims to help people protect their friends and family from illness over the festive and winter period.



Professor George Crooks is NHS 24's Medical Director: "No one likes to feel unwell, especially at Christmas, so we encourage people to not only be prepared for any minor ailments but also to make sure that people know how to avoid easily preventable health issues.

"For example, that could be as simple keeping raw and cooked meats apart to the more simple problem of over indulgence leading to stomach pains or hangovers. Cooking food properly is just one part of the equation, making sure a frozen turkey or other meat is defrosted safely is just as vital. Defrost too quickly and you can give bacteria a great breeding ground. Make sure you use a separate chopping board when preparing raw meat and wash it thoroughly afterwards. Likewise, we shouldn't wash poultry as it can do more harm than good, splashing bacteria around your kitchen. But you should wash your hands – especially after handling raw food



"For those concerned about drinking over the holidays, the best way to treat a hangover is to avoid getting one! Alcohol causes the body to dehydrate and can have an impact on overall

energy levels. It makes it easier for regular drinkers to catch colds, plus alcohol is quite calorific so it can be a significant contributor to weight gain.

“If you are out for a long night or party, try to alternate alcoholic drinks with water or fruit juice and have something to eat before you go out. If you do find yourself suffering the morning after the night before, isotonic drinks to replace lost sugars and minerals combined with rest and paracetamol, easier on the stomach than aspirin or ibuprofen, is the best cure.”



General advice and information on how to stay healthy this winter can be found at www.nhsinform.co.uk along with a handy A-Z of illnesses. You can also like our page on Facebook (search NHS 24) and follow us on Twitter @NHS24

Development plans for empty site at King's Stables Road



Plans have been unveiled for a mixed use development which includes student flats at a site on King's Stables Road which has been lying empty for a number of years.

The joint development by Peveril Securities and Campus Development Management has been made possible by the two companies entering into an option agreement with the City of Edinburgh Council

The proposed major development will include a hotel; studios, one and two bedroom flats (including 25 per cent affordable housing); student accommodation, a new public square with café to the foot of King's Bridge and an arts facility.

The development also includes the current nightclub site and includes improved and enhanced public realm, including new routes and courtyards throughout, in-line with the character of the Old Town.





The current mix of buildings on the site – formerly Council offices, storage premises and workshops – have lain vacant since 2009 and were put on the market last year by the Council, who deemed them surplus to requirements.

The developers believe that the scheme, with its arts facility, will complement the Council's wider aspirations for a new cultural quarter on the site of Argyle House and the linking of Castle Terrace with the Grassmarket and West Port.

King's Stables Road has been identified by the Council as one of 12 "priority" development sites seen as crucial to the

Capital's economic future.

Peveril Securities is already active in the capital, working with Standard Life on a development in St Andrew Square to deliver office, retail and residential. This is due to be completed in June 2016.

Extensive community consultation has been undertaken on proposals for the King's Stables Road site, including two rounds of exhibitions, ensuring the local community were well aware of and have played a part in shaping the proposals.

Knight Frank has been acting as advisers on the purchase of the site.

Commenting on the proposal, Charles Vyvyan from Campus Development Management, said:

"This corner of the Grassmarket has lain neglected for a number of years, and these exciting proposals will breathe much-needed life into this part of the Old Town, providing a hotel, student accommodation, flats and facilities to accommodate and promote the arts.

"It was also pleasing to be able to incorporate the current Nightclub site into our proposals, a fact welcomed by the community, which has allowed us to improve public realm.

"We were highly sensitive to the fact that the site is within the UNESCO World Heritage site boundary, and as we worked our way through the planning process engaged closely with the local community, updating them on our proposals and listening to their feedback.

"We also want to ensure that the local; community and stakeholders have plenty of further opportunity to comment on the proposals, and have invited the Council to extend the period for commenting on the planning application until later in January, to take account of the Christmas and New Year

holiday period.”

All the plans can be viewed [here](#).

Council approve development of 199 homes at Donaldson's College



Planning permission was approved by The City of Edinburgh Council for the redevelopment of the Category A Listed Donaldson's College last week.

Working in partnership, City & Country will restore and convert the majestic Playfair building, whilst CALA Evans will create a range of contemporary homes in the surrounding grounds.

The permission allows for 115 new properties sited within the Playfair building, ranging from one to three bedrooms and 84 newly built two and three bedroom homes, designed in a crescent shape to the rear of the Playfair building. The sweeping South Lawn that faces Wester Coates will be retained as an open, landscaped area.

As part of the proposals there will be 402 cycle parking spaces for residents, whilst car parking for both the Playfair building and the new build crescent will be sited underground,

totalling 364 allocated residents spaces and a further 26 for visitors.



Helen Moore, Managing Director of City & Country, commented: “We are extremely pleased that The City of Edinburgh Council has approved our plans for this truly majestic building.

“City & Country has a long and distinguished history working with incredibly inspiring and challenging architectural assets and the Playfair building is no different, sitting amongst some of the very finest buildings in the UK.

“The apartments will be carefully woven into the historic fabric of the building to provide genuinely unique places for people to live. Sited within the Edinburgh World Heritage Site, we are pleased that our plans demonstrate the ambitions we have to breathe new life into this icon of Scottish architecture and we cannot wait to get started.”

Landscape proposals for the site have also been submitted which seek to enhance the mature landscaping at the site’s perimeter. The new build crescent will have private garden areas to the rear, whilst the Playfair building’s internal courtyard will serve as a private open space for residents with the remainder of the open spaces communal.



The proposed alterations to the Playfair building are mostly internal and include the conversion of currently redundant basement and attic spaces. External alterations to the building are located on the inner courtyard side including new dormers and roof terraces, a change of windows to doors and the landscape proposals for the internal courtyard.

David McGrath, Managing Director of CALA Homes (East) said: “We’re absolutely delighted that city planners have approved

our proposals and are now very much looking forward to delivering top quality homes at very special location.

“Donaldson’s is a magnificent site and therefore its restoration is quite rightly a very high-profile project and one which we are proud to have been driving forward for a number of years.

“Throughout the community and council planning consultation process it has been very reassuring to see how committed everyone has been to seeing this site restored.

“We held a series of public consultations about the updated proposals, which were first approved in 2007, and listened carefully to extensive feedback. The local community all stated how important it is to see this building secured for future generations and we can now looking forward to making this a reality.”

Donaldson’s College boasts a rich history. Formerly Donaldson’s Hospital, the building was constructed between 1842 and 1851 after its benefactor, James Donaldson, bequeathed all of his property to build and found a hospital for children after his death. The striking design is the master work of renowned visionary architect William Henry Playfair, whose other famous work includes the National Monument and the National Gallery of Scotland.

During construction of the palatial building, it is said that Queen Victoria expressed her jealousy that the landmark building outclassed some of her own palaces. The building’s first use was a hospital for orphans, before turning into a specialist school for deaf children. The school relocated to Linlithgow in 2008.

The site enjoys a prime location in the prestigious Wester Coates area of Edinburgh and is close to all the facilities and amenities of the city centre. Haymarket Railway Station is short walk away and provides regular services throughout

Scotland and south to London, whilst Edinburgh International Airport is approximately 13 miles away, offering a wide range of domestic and international flights.

The City Bypass and central Scotland motorway network are also within striking distance and the streets surrounding the development are characterised by striking Victorian and Edwardian villas.

For more information visit: www.cityandcountry.co.uk or www.cala.co.uk.

New Town Therapy – go on and pamper yourself

Enjoy a little discount on TLC at New Town Therapy on us!

New Town Therapy is a hidden gem in Edinburgh's city centre – nestled in the basement of a Dundas Street tenement the salon's frontage is unassuming and minimal. Indeed, you would be forgiven if, like me, you missed it the first time.



For the spa-savvy among us, NTT doesn't have the superficial 'luxury' we might expect from a centre-of-town Spa – there's no plush velvet or fluffy carpets or glasses of bubbles on arrival. No breathy-voiced receptionist in a lab coat, nor the signatory chiming music that usually hails ones entry into the spa. But don't be put off by the lack of glitzy aesthetic when you walk through the doors: instead, note the considerate staff; greeting you with a welcoming smile and a genuine interest in your well-being. There is something much more

substantial – and valuable – on offer here.

Intrigued? Ever the willing guinea-pig I went for a full-on pamper day to find out what makes NTT stand out from the crowd.



Within minutes of my arrival I was sat on a comfortable couch, a cup of herbal tea in hand, and my therapist, Barbara, in front of me; pen and client information form at the ready! I was asked about any existing health concerns, medications and my reasons for being there. Most importantly – I was asked what I wanted to achieve from my treatments. All too often a spa treatment is a quick pick-me-up with not too much thought or consideration for the individual going on. Barbara instantly made it clear that it was her job to make sure the treatments were going to benefit me in a substantial and measurable way that were specific to me. This was a proper therapist-client consultation, make no mistake.

From my personal preferences to my genetic code – Barbara took a genuine and passionate interest in my health. It got me thinking about it too: what about that twinge down my leg that's been bothering me? And those knotted shoulders? And that rough bit of skin on my cheek? Would Barbara know how to tackle it all?

We kicked off with a manicure as Barbara was keen to test out her new Vinylux polishes. I also sampled some of her own home-made body butter which was massaged into my hands and arms (bliss) leaving them soft and hydrated. Miracle no.1.

I opted for a clear pink with a hint of sparkle at Barbara's suggestion, which she skilfully applied. Then it was straight into the footbath. Hot bubbling water with magnesium salts eased the sore spots and softened up the skin a treat before another go at Vinylux; this time a deep, sassy red. Et Voila! An absolutely flawless application (and the best I've had

yet). As we were there for the long-haul I came prepared: a fifteen minute break to put my feet up with a magazine and a top-up of herbal tea allowed time for the polish to set whilst I chomped on some lunch (Costa's gluten free festive Wrap – not bad!) I also caught up with NTT's owner, Merelle Aydim, sports massage therapist and lash extension guru. Merelle filled me in on NTT's ethos – essentially she wanted to set up a business that provided everything under one roof. Here you will find massage, skincare, pilates, yoga and all the usual beauty treatments you would expect, to name but a few. Merelle looks to take on therapists who are madly passionate about what they do – it's no surprise that in its short 8 months it has grown its client base substantially.



After lunch it was on to the fun part (or is that the science part?) as Barbara asked me to stick my head in a strange sci-fi-esque tube complete with little black curtains and a bundle of flashy bulbs. The purpose of this machine (the *Observe 520*) is to look at different levels of your skin which it does by using different wavelengths. The most pronounced photo revealed the UV damage in my skin. Being a very pale redhead with freckles (thanks universe) I expected to see a fair bit of damage but I was still totally shocked. Barbara showed me photos of her own skin and her colleagues beforehand so the comparison was pretty stark. I take good care of my skin – I try to eat right, drink right and protect with an SPF50 in the summer, so seeing my be-speckled, avatar face, has really motivated me to start doing more for my skin. I now have a whole new SPF regime recommended to use vigilantly for summer and winter!

Next up I was taken to the treatment room to get cosy for my facial and massage. Dermaviduals is the skincare range of her choice. She has worked for twenty years in this industry and it has taken her a long time to find a range she really

believes in (she also uses Environ). The products are coined as 'skin-similar' having a 'sheet-like' structure, much like our own skin.

After my facial I could see why Dermaviduals is the choice range. Since my facial I have converted to Dermaviduals after 16 years of faithfully using the same high-end skin-care range. The steps she used were: cleansing with DMS cleansing milk; exfoliating with a mixture of the enzyme peel (papaya extract) and Dermaviduals treatment gel (salicylic acid based) to gently break down the bonds between the dead skin cells on the surface. She then applied a blend of various nanoparticles to suit my dry, sensitive skin, mixed together with a vitamin A based gel. The penetration was enhanced using sonophoresis – gentle sound waves from a metal appliance which create microscopic indentations in the skin's surface – allowing molecules to pass through the surface of the skin. A strange tingling feeling spread over my skin and made my ears buzz – but it was not unpleasant.

Then a thick layer of Vitamin serum mask was applied over the gel blend, which was for additional hydration and nourishment. The treatment concluded with a deeply relaxing facial massage using the DMS massage cream.

It all sounds a bit technical, and I have to admit to having studied a bioscience degree myself a long time ago and having worked in top-end skincare, so I knew that she was hitting the nail on the head. Barbara took a genuine and passionate interest in the science of my skin – and how else would she know which products it really needs? For the skin nerds among us it's a relief to know you are in such capable hands. Barbara writes a [blog](#) all about skin science which is definitely worth a look.

To top off my blissful day I had a body massage with a blend

of essential oils which boost immunity and get the energy going. As I'm asthmatic, some targeted massage along my lung meridian (what's that you say?) was applied. A little bit of reiki was also included – Barbara is trained in these therapies and so she sometimes chooses to include a little with her massages. I found it to be deeply relaxing and I felt very peaceful following the treatment, so I'm glad she did. I'm looking forward to my next visit already.

[tweet_box design="default"]The Edinburgh Reporter readers can take advantage of a special discount.

`[/tweet_box]`

One hour Dermaviduals Prescriptive facial for £35 (usually £60), valid until 31 January 2015.

To book call 0131 557 6741 and quote 'The Edinburgh Reporter'.

New Town Therapy: <http://www.newtowntherapyedinburgh.com/>

Witnesses sought after

serious assault in Ferry Road Drive



Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious assault which happened shortly after 3.30am on Sunday morning in Ferry Road Drive.

A 34-year-old woman exited a car in the area to speak with a friend at which time she became involved in an altercation with a male and female.

The male then pushed and struck the victim to the face and a 40-year-old man then also exited the car to intervene.

At this time the suspect repeatedly punched and kicked the man to the head and body before he and the female left the area.

Officers then responded along with the Scottish Ambulance Service and it was established the male victim had sustained a serious injury to his jaw.

The female victim suffered minor injury to her face.

Anyone who can assist police in tracing the suspect is asked to come forward.

He is described as white, mid-twenties, 5ft 8ins tall with a medium athletic build, light-coloured shaven hair and wearing white trainers and a dark tracksuit with light piping down the arms, legs and across the back.

Detective Constable Iain Wallace from the Violence Reduction Unit at Gayfield Police Station said: "During this attack the male victim suffered a painful injury to his jaw, which will require further treatment and the female victim was also left injured and distressed.

“We are keen to hear from anyone who can help us identify the man responsible and would ask anyone who recognises his description to contact police immediately.

“In addition, members of the public with any further information relevant to this inquiry should also get in touch.”

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

Elderly woman robbed in Calder Road



Police are appealing for witnesses after an elderly woman was robbed in Calder Road around 2.15pm on Sunday.

The 77-year-old victim was walking towards a bus stop in the area when two men approached her.

At this time one of the men grabbed the woman's handbag before the pair made off from the area.

Officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their inquiries to come forward.

The suspects are both described as being white, in their teens, around 5ft 2ins tall with medium to stocky builds and wearing dark hooded tops. One of the males was carrying a large green rucksack.

Detective Constable Mark McGraw from Corstorphine Police

Station said: "This was a very distressing experience for the victim but thankfully she was not left injured as a result.

"We are keen to hear from anyone who was in Calder Road on Sunday afternoon and remembers seeing anything suspicious or who can help us identify the suspects.

"In addition anyone with any information that can help with our investigation is also asked to contact police immediately."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or make an anonymous report to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Robbery at Greggs bakery on Restalrig Road South



Police are appealing for information following a robbery at a Greggs bakery which happened around 2.30pm on Sunday on Restalrig Road South.

A man entered the premises and demanded money from staff, before taking a three-figure sum from the till.

The suspect is described as white, slim build, around 5ft 5in, possibly early 20's with an Edinburgh accent.

He was wearing a light grey coloured full zip hooded top with the hood up and white coloured ties, dark grey coloured jogging bottoms, grey and white coloured trainers, black coloured scarf covering the bottom half of his face.

Detective Constable John McShane said: “Several members of the public walked past the store whilst the suspect was waiting outside the shop.

“We’re appealing for people with any information to get in touch.”

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

Ticket arrangements for Hibs v St Johnstone semi-final at Tynecastle



Hibs have announce the ticket arrangements for the semi final of the Scottish League Cup presented by Utilita against St Johnstone at Tynecastle Stadium on Saturday 30 January.

The club have received an allocation of approximately 11.5k tickets. Tickets for this match will be sold over 4 waves based on the following points:

10am Wednesday 6th -12th January: 180 points (approx. 8000 supporters)

10am Wednesday 13th – 17th January: 90 points (approx 10000 supporters)

10am Monday 18th January: 1 point (approx. 20000 supporters)

10am Friday 22nd January: General sale

These numbers are approximate and are accurate at time of publishing (21/12/15).

Tickets will be restricted to one per client reference number. Fans buying for more than one person, including supporter groups, all those in the group will require the qualifying number of points. The Ticket Office will not be able to sell a ticket to anyone who does not have the required number of points at that time. Ticket waves are subject to ticket availability.

Ticket Prices

Wheatfield Stand – £20 Adults/£5 Under 16s

Gorgie Stand – £20 Adults/£5 Under 16s

Main Stand – £20 Adults/£5 Under 16s

Disabled Supporters

Tickets for the Disabled Sections are limited therefore the club has asked that any supporter in the 180 points or above threshold that wishes tickets for this match apply no later than Tuesday 29th December.

Ticket Prices:

Wheatfield or Gorgie Stand

Adult Wheelchair & Carer – £15 per pair

Child Wheelchair & Carer – £3 per pair

Blind & Ambulant Section – Wheatfield Stand Only

Adult & Carer – £15 per pair

Child & Carer – £3 per pair

At this time Hibs are not be able to confirm if parking can be provided until they have received confirmed numbers of

disabled parking passes being made available.

The Ticket Office will contact supporters to let them know when the tickets are available for collection or posting. At this time the club should be able to confirm if you have been allocated parking at Tynecastle.

Any remaining tickets will be opened up to those with 90 points

Fans should contact the Disabled Helpline 0131 656 7066 or call 0844 844 1875 option 2 or e-mail

disabledtickets@hibernianfc.co.uk to apply.

At the Scottish National Gallery from New Year's Day – Turner in January



In keeping with a long-standing tradition now stretching over a century, New Year's Day at the Scottish National Gallery will be marked by the opening of *Turner in January: The Vaughan Bequest*, an annual display of works by the artist Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851).

An outstanding collection by one of the great masters of British painting was bequeathed to the Gallery in 1900 by Henry Vaughan, a London art collector with a passion for Turner and a connoisseur's eye for quality.

Vaughan stipulated that the 38 exquisite works – which

encapsulates the artist's entire career – could not be subjected to permanent display, since continual exposure to light would result in their fading. Instead, these precious works were to be exhibited to the public “all at one time, free of charge, during the month of January”, when daylight in Edinburgh is at its lowest levels.

Faithfully following Vaughan's request, all of the works will be exhibited and *Turner in January* runs throughout the month, providing a welcome injection of light and colour during the darkest month of the year.

Clara Govier, Head of Charities at People's Postcode Lottery (PPL), said: “This is the fourth year that players of PPL have supported *Turner in January* at the Scottish National Gallery, and we're thrilled – even as relative newcomers in the grand scheme of things – to be involved in such an established tradition. It's great for players to see that their valuable support is helping to provide thousands of visitors – some who come to see the exhibition every year, some for the very first time – with the opportunity to keep playing a part in this wonderful legacy”.

Recognised as perhaps the greatest of all British artists, Turner was born in London in 1775 and proved himself as an accomplished draughtsman while still a youth, exhibiting at the Royal Academy at the tender age of fifteen. He was a prolific and innovative artist who went on to exploit every possibility of the watercolour medium to create stunning land- and seascapes.

Travelling widely, at first with sketching tours in England, Wales and Scotland and then later across Europe, Turner gathered material for masterful watercolours and oil paintings, discovering the awe-inspiring mountainous landscapes which became a major pre-occupation in his work.

Many of the works in the display reveal a youthful Turner's

artistic talents, such as the early wash drawings of the 1790s, while others show how this skill would come to be fused with the peripatetic lifestyle which dominated Turner's life and career, resulting in colourful and atmospheric watercolour sketches of Continental Europe, such as *Chatel Argent, in the Val d'Aosta, near Villeneuve* (after 1836) and *Falls of the Rhine at Schaffhausen, Side View* (about 1841).

In his lifetime, Turner also managed three trips to Venice, first arriving there in 1819. The Vaughan Bequest features six of the artist's stunning views of the city. In *The Piazzetta, Venice* (about 1835), one of Turner's most spectacular Venetian studies, the Doge's Palace and renowned St. Mark's Basilica are dramatically illuminated by a bolt of lightning, an effect innovatively created by the artist by scratching away to reveal the paper once he had painted on it. Often, Turner would use his thumbnail and is reputed to have grown like an 'eagle-claw' for such a purpose.

His third and final visit to the city in 1840 would see the artist produce a series of incredible works in which light itself appeared to have become the main subject, such as in *The Grand Canal by the Salute, Venice* (c.1840) and *Venice from the Laguna* (1840) where Turner's consummate mastery of atmospheric lighting effects is clearly demonstrated.



As with many artists at the end of the 18th Century, for Turner the vastness and tumultuous conditions of nature inspired senses of awe and terror. This life-long fascination – of the savageness of elemental forces – poured out of Turner's art, namely in the form of avalanches, storms and mountainous seas. This can be seen in works from the bequest, such as *Loch Coruisk, Skye* (1831-4), with its miniature human figures set against a grand, stretching backdrop of painted swirls.

Turner's *Heidelberg* (c. 1846), a glowing, almost hallucinatory image of the ancient university town on the Rhine and one of his finest late works, will also be on display.

Also joining those from the bequest is the work *East View of Fonthill Abbey, Noon* (1800), a romantic view of the Gothic novelist William Beckford's extraordinary cathedral-like mansion in rural Wiltshire, which was accepted by HM Government in lieu of inheritance tax in 1988 and loaned to National Trust for Scotland at Brodick Castle.

TURNER IN JANUARY 2016:

THE VAUGHAN BEQUEST

1–31 January 2016

Scottish National Gallery

The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL

0131 624 6200 | Admission Free

#NGSTurner

Vocal is looking out for carers this Christmas



For many carers the festive season can be a time of additional stress as they can find themselves without the usual support from friends, family and public services.

This year, VOCAL is going to do something different! The VOCAL Edinburgh carer centre will remain open on **28th, 29th and 30th December 2015** from 9am-5pm for a special programme of events and services to ensure that carers have somewhere to go, access to support and someone to talk to when they need it.

Carers are invited to pop in for a cuppa and a chat at the free Carers' Cafe or to attend workshops including meditation, arts & crafts and Laughter Yoga – no booking necessary! There will also be a SMART Recovery Family & Friends meeting for those affected by someone else's addiction on Tuesday 29th Dec 2-4pm.

Workshops, meetings and the Carers Cafe are all free to unpaid carers and will take place at the VOCAL Edinburgh Carer Centre, 8-13 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2PW

[embeddocurl="http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/DoSomethingDifferent.pdf" download="all"]

Millions use Edinburgh Trams



It has been reported this morning that Edinburgh Trams carried over 5 million passengers last year surpassing all predictions.

The number of people using the tram has gone up by 12% on last year and Edinburgh Trams say that all the predictions used in their business models were lower than actual figures.

The tram service launched in May 2014 and is making more income than predicted at the time.



Chair of Transport
for Edinburgh –
Councillor Lesley

Hinds

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Chair of Transport for Edinburgh, said: "These latest figures demonstrate the continuing popularity of Edinburgh Trams and add to the success of our first year of operations, which saw almost five million passengers ride the trams. We now want to build on this success for the future of the service, as we look to extend and develop the network to provide for even more people in Edinburgh."

Ian Craig, Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh, said: "Edinburgh Trams continues to go from strength to strength and this is because of a huge effort from the team over the past two years. Our first year of operations was a big success and a time of much excitement but the real test is sustainability and continuing high quality operations.

"The service we're delivering is great, it's highly reliable and, as a result, we're seeing more passengers get on board than last year. Edinburgh Trams is getting more popular and we want to make sure that trend continues for the benefit of the city."

More passengers now use the Park and Ride at Ingliston where numbers have gone up by 60% on last year. This is the preferred route of choice for those coming into the city from the west.

During the busiest week of all for Edinburgh Trams over 137,000 used the tram during the Festival in 2014. Events at Murrayfield have benefitted from the convenient tram stop and attracted over 10,000 more passengers there during rugby matches and the Foo Fighters concert.

Earlier in 2015 Edinburgh Trams received a 95% overall customer satisfaction rating following an independent UK wide survey by Passenger Focus which operated with 99% service

reliability. This means that reliability and satisfaction levels are among the top performing public transport operators in the UK.

✖ Further success came in October when Edinburgh Trams secured Edinburgh Trams the Operator of the Year award at the 2015 Light Rail Awards following a successful first sixteen months of service. Edinburgh Trams was also shortlisted at both the Scottish and UK Transport awards.

The tram team carried out a successful six week 'red-eye' trial to service earlier departures from Edinburgh Airport. More than 1200 additional passenger journeys were recorded. A trial of mobility scooters has been prepared and will take place from early 2016.

Between them, tram drivers and TSAs completed more than 82,000 journeys over 2015 covering 649,073 miles up and down the route. Trams have now covered 1,041,728 miles in service since May 2014.

There were approximately 4.92 million passenger journeys on Edinburgh Trams during its first year of operations to May 31 2015, around 370,000 ahead of target set before launch. Launched on Saturday 31 May 2014 at 5am, Edinburgh Trams also surpassed revenue targets set out in its business model by around 3%. Concessionary card holders accounted for 10.9% of passengers which is well within the Councils budget which was set to ensure that Edinburgh's card holders get free travel on the tram.

Full financial details for 2015 will be published through the annual reporting process.

Christmas Gift Ideas from the Rae Macintosh Musicroom

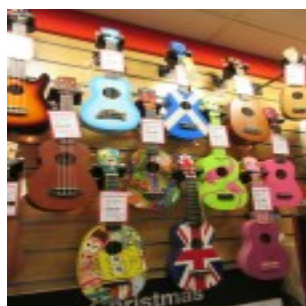


If you have a musician in your family you may think you've seen every music-related item there is to see; a visit to the excellent **Rae Macintosh Musicroom** in Shandwick Place will soon prove you haven't.

Whether you want to spend £5 or £500, the Musicroom offers a huge range of gifts, from maracas to mugs, teapots to telecoustic guitars and djembes to ducks (yes, ducks...).

Ukuleles are this year's must-have musical instrument – portable, easy to learn (or so I'm told...) and available here in a multitude of colours and styles from £22.50. Lots of music and 'how to' books too.

The Musicroom hosted a ukulele workshop with none other than the amazing **Tricity Vogue** this summer; you can read The Edinburgh Reporter's article about it [here](#).





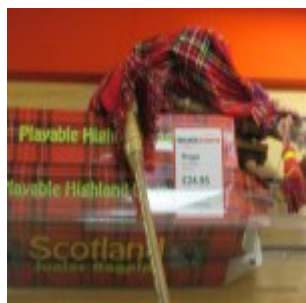
Vinyl has made a big come back; for those too young to have a record player (and those too short sighted to have hung on to their old one) the Musicroom has a selection – including the GPO Attache in its rather cool case and the immensely retro GPO Memphis.



If your musician loves the musicals, the shop has a great selection of scores – everything from *Mamma Mia* to *Les Miserables*, *Wicked* and *Frozen*, with many offered on a Buy One, Get One Half Price deal. And naturally there's also an immensely comprehensive stock of sheet music of all kinds, with a particular emphasis on the Scottish.



Instead of that horrendous talking toy, why not get your children their first musical instruments? The Musicroom has junior guitars from £39.99, tambourines from £6.99 and maracas from £10.99 – it's still noise, but who knows? Your offspring might turn out to be the new Eric Clapton. They've even got junior bagpipes...ideal for waking up Daddies – and that special instrument of torture beloved by music teachers everywhere, the descant recorder. Anyone for *Three Blind Mice* at 5am on Friday?



The Musicroom does, of course, cater for the serious musician too, with guitars – including the Fender CD60, on special offer at £129 – saxophones, clarinets, keyboards, trumpets and plenty more, plus music stands, gig bags and all the plectrums, reeds and mutes you'll ever need.





And if you want something a little bit alternative, how about an African drum (from £12.99), a *guiro* (that's wooden frog to you and me) (from £8.99) or, for the Christmas Meditator, a beautiful singing bowl (£28.99)?



But perhaps you're looking for something smaller – a stocking filler, or a little gift for the musician who has everything? These Nanoblocks were going down a storm when we visited the shop; there are also lots of mugs, socks and pens, kitchen equipment (guitar spatula anyone? piano teapot? or what about some *Too Hot To Handel* oven-gloves?), guitarists' soaps and saxophonists' handcreams.



Best of all may be the chocolate pianos and (if you happen to share my juvenile sense of humour) this paddling of rubber ducks. I'm sure Mozart would be flattered. (The gold one is Strauss. Apparently.)





Rae McIntosh Musicroom is at **41 Shandwick Place**, tel: 0131 221 0041. The shop also holds a database of local **music teachers** and offers a **re-stringing service** on instruments, with a usual turnaround time of about an hour.



Serious assault during altercation in Queen Street



Police are appealing for witnesses after a serious assault on

Queen Street which happened around 2.30am on Sunday when a man approached a 33-year-old woman and engaged her in conversation.

A 34-year-old man whom she was previously then joined them, and an altercation took place between the two men.

Two men, who are believed to have known the suspect, have then approached the group and attempted to calm the situation.

The woman's companion was then assaulted and sustained a serious facial injury. He was taken to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

The suspect and two men were last seen heading down Queen Street Gardens East.

The suspect is described as white, 5ft 11inches tall, aged 20-30, with a stocky build and a local accent. He had short fair hair and stubble. He was possibly wearing a grey-coloured jumper with thin black stripes.

One of the men who intervened is described as white, 6ft 2inches tall, in his early 30s, with a slight build. He had short ginger hair and was clean-shaven. He was wearing a white t-shirt and dark trousers.

The second man is described as white, 5ft 8inches tall, in his early 30s, with a slight build. He had short dark hair and stubble on his face. He was wearing a grey-hooded jacket and dark jeans.

Detective Constable Alison Wyllie said: "This was a violent attack which has left the victim requiring ongoing treatment, and we're conducting extensive enquiries in order to trace the suspect.

"I would ask anyone who may have seen the assault, or recognises the description of the suspect or the two witnesses, to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh



Delays possible finalising council budget

Inverleith Park gym equipment

West End elephant

Fundraising for Sick Kids

Rick Astley at The Queen's Hall



The City of Edinburgh Council may need to consider delaying the finalisation of the city's 2016/17 Budget due to the severity of the local government settlement announced earlier this week.

Edinburgh's proposed settlement figure sees a headline revenue reduction of some 4.5%, which is double that which was anticipated prior to Wednesday's announcement.

Council Leader, Andrew Burns, said: "A reduction in revenue funding of the scale now being proposed, will undoubtedly have a negative impact on a whole range of vital services that local government is responsible for delivering: the children in our care, the elderly struggling with dementia whom we look after, and vulnerable adults whom we assist daily; all these individuals rely on the support that only a council can

provide.

"Of course we will continue to work with our colleagues in COSLA, to try and reach an improved negotiated settlement, but given the Scottish Government has confirmed their final Budget will not be approved by Parliament until the end of February, we may now have to seriously consider delaying the finalisation of the city's own budget for 2016/17."

Council Deputy Leader, Sandy Howat, added: "A revenue cut of this scale would be very damaging for jobs and services within Scottish local government generally, and here in Edinburgh specifically – the harsh reality is that this will translate to real job cuts that hit real families, in real communities throughout our capital city. Everyone will be hurt by this.

"The City of Edinburgh Council is already facing significant workforce reductions, and very challenging budget decisions – Wednesday's announcement makes all of that even more difficult, and we may well need to consider delaying the finalisation of our own budget for the city."



Are you interested in having gym equipment in Inverleith Park that is particularly suitable for older / less mobile people? Friends of Inverleith Park are looking for help to make it happen! You can donate and read more at the following website: <http://www.mypark.scot/edinburgh/>



Edinburgh's West End welcomed an exotic new resident as part of a drive to establish the city's 'plinth' for public art last month.

Baby Elephant, by Scottish sculptor Ronald Rae, has been installed on the corner of Hope Street and Princes Street, which has been earmarked as a space for visiting art by the Council.

The three-tonne, life-sized sculpture follows close on the hooves of the Kelpies maquettes, [which occupied the corner over summer](#).

Rae, who also created the Lion of Scotland in St Andrew Square, loaned the Baby Elephant to Edinburgh to highlight the

endangered status of the Asian elephant, of which there are only around 2500 left in the wild.

Have you seen it? Will you share some photos with us if you have?



Edinburgh restaurateurs Maria and Rosario Sartore raised £2000 for The Edinburgh Sick Kids Friends Foundation by hosting a traditional Italian Sunday lunch and a raffle at their Italian restaurant, Locanda de Gusti.


Maria Sartore commented: *"Rosario have I have 4 children, all of whom have been cared for at Sick Kids, either for minor procedures, appointments and long term aftercare. We wanted to thank all the doctors, nurses and staff for their care, support and dedication, by raising funds for the foundation. Our Italian Sunday lunch was a great day for a great cause."*



Did you know Rick Astley is playing at the Queen's Hall next April?

He has a brand new album to promote and will include the capital on his UK tour.

Tickets (in case this is of interest to you for a wee last minute Christmas present!) [here](#).

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! [mc4wp_form]

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.



David Gray praises character of Hibs' team-mates



Hibs' captain David Gray has praised the character and team spirit of his team-mates during yesterday's Championship victory over a stuffy Queen of the South at Easter Road.

The players knew that league leaders Rangers had been beaten by Falkirk before the game started and that a victory would take them level on points at the top of the table but for long spells it looked as though they would have to settle for a share of the points.

The winning goal came in controversial circumstances in the last minute of time added on. The ball struck Queens' winger Kyle Hutton on the face and he stayed down, forcing the referee to stop play when the ball was at the other end of the field. Hutton then 'recovered' hoping that he would not have to leave the field of play, but his plea was rejected and he had to go off.

At the other end of the field, the referee played a 'drop ball' which landed at the feet of Liam Fontaine who passed to John McGinn on the left wing. McGinn did well to beat his marker before sending a long cross field pass to Henri Anier who did well to control the ball before setting Gray up on the overlap. The former Manchester United player somehow found the energy to beat the Queens' full back before sending in a perfect cross which Dominique Malonga headed into the ground and bouncing up into the net.

The goal sparked angry scenes from the 'Doonhamers' who

surrounded the referee and the ill feeling carried on after the final whistle.

Speaking immediately after the game to Cliff Pike of Hibs TV Gray said: "It, once again, shows the character and the team spirit that we have got at the minute and sets it up nicely for next week.

"Obviously I'm delighted to get the win and at one stage you were thinking 'is it gonna come?', but in the last ten minutes I felt we really pushed on. The fans were great and really spurred us on. It was a relief to get the goal.

"It took an eternity to get over the line and I thought it might go over the bar, but I think Dom (Dominique Malonga) and Henri (Anier) when they came on really changed the game. They were more physical up there.

"Dom has shown how to deal with being left out the team. he was disappointed to be left out today but that is how to react to being left out and he has come on and won us the game. It shows the strength in depth we have in our squad at the moment and it really sets us up for next week."

Police name pedestrian who

died on A1 near Torness



Police in East Lothian have confirmed the identity of the female pedestrian who died on the A1 near Torness on Wednesday (16th December 2015) as 67 year old Patricia Rose Grey from Newcastle.

A police spokesperson said: "Officers would like to thank the public and media for their responses to our witness appeals, we have now traced the stationary vehicle seen at Thurston Manor junction.

"Inquiries into the full circumstances are ongoing"

Rugby – Stewarts-Melville v Watsonians, BT National League, Div 1.

Watsonians stay on top with win at Inverleith



For parts of Saturday's Edinburgh derby at Inverleith, the casual observer would have wondered which of Watsonians and Stewarts-Melville were leading the BT National League's Division 1 as the top side travelled all the way to Ferry Road to play the team in ninth.

Playing into a stiff breeze, the home side were out of the traps from the off and deep into the visiting 22, winning an

early penalty for crossing, which Mike Hanning saw over for the three points.

However, while they were still patting themselves on the back, Watsonians scored the first try of the match. Centre, DJ Innes carried the ball over halfway and, just before the tackle came in from his opposing number, Sebastian Trotter, he got the pass away to No. 13, Scott Mcleod, putting the outside centre through a huge hole in the opposition defence. He carried into the 22, where he passed the ball onto the accompanying full back, Scott McKean. Stew-Mel's Sean Murchie made the tackle but McKean's momentum took him over for the score. Andrew Chalmers missed his kick but Watsonians were into a 7-3 lead.

By 20 minutes in, Watsonians had increased their tally to 19. The first of the two tries followed a period of Watsonians possession, driving deep into the home half of the field. Keeping the ball moving, Watsonians eventually found themselves within range and No. 8, Matt Coles then received the ball which saw him crashing over for the second try. Chalmers successful conversion then took the lead out to 12-3.

Four minutes later, they had their third.

Once again, Watsonians drove upfield from the off, but Stew-Mel were keeping them at bay and holding territory when the 12/15 combination struck again. Another offload got McKean up into the line and quick recycle ball from a tackle found wing, Mark Bertram who sailed through under the posts for the second visitor's try. Once again, Chalmers slotted the conversion for a 12-3 lead 15 minutes in.

Once possession was secured from 'Sonians restart clearance, Stew-Mel went to work.

Sean Murchie ran the ball back into the visitor's half before handing over to No. 8, Adam Howie. His offload put No. 6, Hugh

Lindsay through, but his run was brought to a halt by Torrie Callandar. However, his tackle was deemed to be too high for the referee's liking so, once the momentum was stopped, the advantage was played and Stew-Mel went for the lineout.

Fortuitously, the loose throw – blame the wind – found Lindsay and recycled ball from the resultant ruck was handed to No. 5. Alexander Rappestad, who took half the Watsonians' pack with him for the touch down.



Hanning kicked his second successful kick of the day and, a couple of minutes from the away side's third try, the home side were up to 19-10.

The remainder of the half was played out without further additions to the score board, but Stew-Mel, probably, had the upper hand in the run down to the break.

The second half started well for Watsonians, and they came close to scoring five minutes in, but the attack was held out and possession eventually turned over.

But on 53 minutes a successful penalty in the difficult conditions from Chalmers stretched the lead to 22-10.

Then it was Stew-Mel's turn to switch on the pressure. Another loose lineout, once again, fell into friendly hands and the wave of attacks began. Firstly, Hanning was put through five metres out and the stand-off battled his way over the line. The combination of Innes and McKean grappled with Hanning on the floor, but he struggled round and grounded the ball. Unfortunately, the ref had already decided he had been 'held up' so awarded a five-metre scrum rather than the try.

Another couple of scrum followed, with Hanning almost getting clear again, but the ball was eventually turned over and cleared upfield.

The 65th minute then saw the bonus point try for Watsonians. A fairly simple passing move from near half way, put Rory Steele into space enough for the wing to gallop 20-odd metres in for the try. With the wind whistling round the south side of the Inverleith stand, Chalmers kept the ball low for the conversion and added the points for a 29-10 lead.

The home side now took up the cudgel again and, in a series of penetrating moves, shifted the match into 'Sonians' 22. Winning a succession of penalties in the five metre zone, the pack rumbled and battered their way to the line, eventually finding a gap for Michael McDonald to burrow through for the try. Hanning scored the conversion, but the game was over and, with a bout of fisticuffs and a red card for Fraser Strachan for overuse of the boot in a ruck to gee up the support for the final few minutes, the match drew to a close, 29-17 to Watsonians.

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

Fife Man in Epic Journey?

✖ *One suspects The Edinburgh Reporter's Mike Smith has been partaking in some early Christmas 'festivities' of an alcoholic nature so the story below should be taken with a suitably sized serving of salt. Or should it...?*

Major Tim Peake hit the headlines last week with his journey into space but next week will see a Scot embark on an equally trying adventure which will test his resilience to the full.

On Thursday, Major Trauma will set out on a journey which is expected to see him away from home for up to six months as he

boards a train at Leuchars hoping to arrive at Edinburgh Waverley at some point in 2016.

Major Trauma spoke exclusively to The Edinburgh Reporter.

“This isn’t something I’ve decided on a whim” he said. “I’m not foolish enough to just turn up at the station without a ticket and hope to enjoy a hassle-free journey to Scotland’s capital city.

I have an important meeting scheduled in Edinburgh in 2016 and with the Forth Road Bridge being closed and travelling from Fife to the capital taking longer than the Space Mission to the International Space Station, I knew I had to give myself plenty of time for the journey. By leaving the day before Christmas I hope to have a decent chance of arriving for the meeting at a relatively early stage of 2016”

Planning ahead has been a crucial part of his preparations. “I purchased my ticket several months ago but I know I’m still unlikely to get a seat as it’s probable an elderly woman will be sitting in my reserved area not realising this is for me. With this in mind, I fully expect to spend some time in cramped conditions with limited privacy. I don’t know how long it will take me to get to my destination but I’ve told my wife not to expect to see me again before June.

I’ve taken my mobile phone and laptop but the Wi-Fi access is very limited on some of these trains so I don’t know whether I’ll be able to keep in touch with them.”

Major Trauma said he had trained for his journey by travelling on the Fife Circle and he believes the primitive conditions he endured there would stand him in good stead.

“It’s going to be difficult” he continued, “but I’ve undergone extensive training. I know I will encounter horrific conditions – points failure, leaves on the line, signal problems, drunks on the line at Inverkeithing – but the

journey will give me valuable insight into whether there really is intelligent life out there in the rail network.

What I will need to get used to in my long journey is the blackness of the view from the train. Dark, bleak, desolate and a feeling of emptiness – but I'm hoping we won't be in Kirkcaldy too long..."

Asked what he will miss most in the months ahead, Major Trauma said that, apart from his wife and children, the thing he would miss more than anything would be proper nourishing food.

"I know I will need to adapt to the tasteless, almost inedible fare on offer" he said, "but this is a horrible necessity I will need to overcome. As well as the food, being in a cramped environment with little room to move and conditions completely lacking in heating and atmosphere will be challenging as well as dangerous with the real threat of scalding hot coffee being spilt over me as I try to clutch at a polystyrene cup tossed in my direction."

With the Forth Road Bridge closed, Major Trauma's trip will be a daunting one. The Edinburgh Reporter will look to make contact with him again for an update on his epic journey as soon as possible – probably around Easter...

Five things you need to know

today Edinburgh



More work on Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme to start soon

Laing's the Jeweller open on George Street

Hello from the Burgh side

Petition against cut in music tuition

Rare visitor to Figgate Park



New work is set to begin on the multi-million pound Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme (WoLFPS) following the signing of a contract by the City of Edinburgh Council.

[McLaughlin and Harvey Ltd](#) has been appointed to design and construct the second phase of the scheme, and around 1.2km of flood defences will be built along the Water of Leith at Murrayfield and Roseburn.

Once completed, the defences will provide protection for local homes and businesses against flooding.

Construction works are now set to begin in January 2016 and are scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2018.

Transport and Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: "I am pleased that we are about to begin the second phase of the project, which will provide protection for hundreds of properties at risk of flooding.

"We are working closely with the community and stake holders, and I'm confident McLaughlin and Harvey Ltd will deliver the second phase efficiently."

Work will include the construction of new walls and embankments alongside flood gates along the waterway, while two new bridges will be built over the river at Baird Drive and Saughtonhall Avenue. As part of the development, contractors will carry out landscaping to improve the appearance of the surrounding area.

A site office will now be established with construction work to commence in January.

The [Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme](#) (WoLFPS) is a key infrastructure project to help protect hundreds of properties in vulnerable areas of the city from future flooding.

Following the completion of the first phase, which included defences at Veitches Square, Stockbridge Colonies, Warriston, St Mark's Park and Bonnington, funding was approved for the second phase in September 2014.

A Public Information Day will also be held at Roseburn Primary School from 4pm to 8pm on 13 January, where local residents can meet contractors and Council officers to find out more about designs and plans.

Find out more about the Water of [Leith Flood Prevention Scheme](#) on the Council website.



Following their recent announcement that they were about to move into new premises on the corner of George Street, Laing the Jewellers opened the doors on Friday at their new flagship store.

A spokesman said: "The stunning store windows will give us the opportunity to showcase our diamonds, jewellery and watches in their full glory in a store that can do justice to their beauty. With the original beauty as our starting point and a £1.3 million refit, we have what we believe will be the best shopping experience for jewellery, diamonds and watches in

Scotland.

“Michael, Richard and the rest of the Laing team simply cannot wait to welcome you into the new store.”

We must have been good this year to have the best present of all, our new store at 72 George Street is now open!
pic.twitter.com/Crj1TENMm6

– Laing Edinburgh (@LaingEdinburgh) [December 19, 2015](#)



Saskia Eng has recorded a parody of the hit Adele song Hello directed at the Forth Road Bridge. You can watch it here!

[Hello \(from the Burgh side\)](#) Sometimes its good to have a bit fun so this is just for fun ☹ but it may only make sense to uk people on this page .. its a parody to Hello called Hello (from the Burgh side) and its at the Forth Road Bridge

Posted by [Saskia Eng](#) on Thursday, 17 December 2015



According to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra The City of Edinburgh Council has proposed a 75% cut to the budget which funds Edinburgh's instrumental music tuition service and all of the Edinburgh Schools orchestras and ensembles.

They have set up a petition to try and make the council change its mind which you can read [here](#).




Look at this lovely wee duck that someone spotted in the Figgate Park!

There was a rather special little visitor in the Figgate Park today. This is a Mandarin Duck. As the name suggests they'...

Posted by [Figgate Friends](#) on [Saturday, 19 December 2015](#)



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Alan Stubbs' verdict on Queen of the South victory



Hibs' Head Coach Alan Stubbs insisted that results are more important than performances at this stage of the season after watching his players grab all three points in dramatic fashion against a stuffy Queen of the South at Easter Road yesterday.

Hibs moved level on points with Rangers at the top of the Championship thanks to a last gasp goal from Dominique Malonga after some good work from skipper David Gray and Stubbs was quick to praise the former Manchester United full back for his delivery.

Speaking immediately after the game to Hibs TV he said: "You have to give credit to Queen of the South. They worked really hard as a team, but for us today there was a lot of 'nearly

things.'

"Where we are now, at this stage of the season, it's not about performances. Yes we all want to see us play really well and dominate possession. We want to win games 3-0, but I have to say that is in cuckoo land at times. We have to play realistic football.

"Over the last couple of weeks we have shown real character and you have to do that in order to achieve anything and from my point of view that's a very pleasing aspect to see.

"I said to David in the dressing room that he had done some good things defensively, but going forward we wanted a little bit more quality and thankfully he saved his best bit of quality for the 92nd, or whatever minute it was.

"We want him to pick people out in that final third and he's dinked a lovely ball in for Dom who is in the perfect position between the goals. I've had to look twice to make sure it has gone in. It's a really exciting way to win a game.

"It's not an exciting position to be in for me but for the players and fans its fantastic. I'd have liked it to have been earlier. I'd like us not to put ourselves under that pressure."

Alexander Earns Ten-Man Hearts Point in Perth

St Johnstone 0 Heart of Midlothian 0

Ladbroke's SPFL Premiership, Saturday 19 December 2015 – McDiarmid Park

A backs-to-the-wall performance by ten-man Hearts secured a point in a goalless draw with St. Johnstone in Perth on Saturday. The Maroons knew that defeat would see the Perth Saints leapfrog them in the Ladbroke's SPFL Premiership and things looked ominous when Spanish striker Juanma was ordered off with less than half an hour gone. However, Robbie Neilson's men fought for the maroon cause and came away with a point which many would have settled for before the afternoon's events unfolded.

Head Coach Robbie Neilson made two changes from the team that lost a late goal at Aberdeen seven days ago and neither of the changes were surprising. Miguel Pallardo – replaced in the first half in the Granite City – and Jordan McGhee, whose inexplicable hand ball cost Hearts the game last week – were left out and replaced by Morgaro Gomis and Juwon Oshaniwa respectively.

The visitors had the first decent chance of the afternoon after eight minutes when strong play from Juanma set up fellow striker Osman Sow and the Swedish striker's low shot was saved by Saints keeper Mannus.

Prince Buaben then fired in an effort from twenty yards which went wide.

As at Pittodrie last week, the game seemed a tad on the physical side with Hearts keeper Neil Alexander suffering a head knock and there were 'meaty challenges' from both sides.

The home side should have gone in front when Anderson rose unmarked to head Craig's corner but his header lacked power and the recovered Alexander saved well.

After threatening to boil over, the game did so in the 28th minute. Juanma and Saints Wotherspoon went for a ball with the former Hibs player hitting the floor. Wotherspoon picked himself up and appeared to aim a kick at the Hearts player who then aimed a head butt towards him. Although there was no contact the intent was there and referee Kevin Clancy duly sent Juanma packing with a straight red card and Hearts were up against it. The striker appeared reluctant to leave the field and had to be ushered off by Callum Paterson.

St Johnstone should have made their numerical advantage count moments later when Fisher set up Davidson but the Saints player dragged his effort on goal wide when it seemed easier to score.

Former Jambo John Sutton then headed over as Hearts were keen to get to half-time with the scoreline still blank.

Half-time St Johnstone 0 Hearts 0

Robbie Neilson re-organised his troops during the break but Hearts still had to rely on keeper Neil Alexander to keep them on level terms early in the second half when he pushed away an effort from Easton.

However, Hearts weren't completely out of things. A great cross from the hard working Sam Nicholson was met by Osman Sow but the striker's effort on goal took a deflection. Then Prince Buaben set off on a lung-bursting run of fully forty yards but his effort on goal was saved by Mannus.

O'Halloran had two chances for the home side but was denied by Paterson and Alexander.

Then came what looked like a costly mistake by the visitors.

Substitute Pallardo brought down Kane in the penalty box resulting in the inevitable penalty kick to the home side. However, MacLean incurred the wrath of the home support by blazing his spot kick over the bar and Hearts breathed again.

Kane was proving a handful for Hearts and he had great chance to snatch victory for the Saints but he was denied by a brilliant save from Alexander. The Hearts keeper denied the home side again moments later with a block with his feet and Hearts held on until the final whistle to claim a draw in trying circumstances.

In the end it was a decent point for Hearts but, not for the first time, Juanma's discipline let him down.

Robbie Neilson attempted to explain the striker's actions after the game. "He is a big boy and he gets targeted a lot," Hearts Head Coach told BBC Scotland.

"It's difficult for him coming from a different culture and there are things that happen on the pitch that in Spain result in a free-kick – but not in Scotland"

Hearts fans will be hoping he learns his lessons soon.

St Johnstone: Mannus, MacKay, Anderson, Davidson, MacLean, Wotherspoon, Sutton (Kane, 70'), Fisher (Shaughnessy, 84'), Easton, Craig, O'Halloran.

Hearts: Alexander, Paterson, Augustyn, Rossi, Oshaniwa, Gomis, Buaben (Pallardo, 70'), Djoum (McGhee, 86'), Nicholson, Sow (Reilly, 74'), Juanma.

Referee: Kevin Clancy

Att: 4,780

Top man: Neil Alexander

Hibernian 1-0 Queen of the South



Hibs moved level on points with Rangers thanks to a controversial last minute goal from substitute Dominique Malonga against Queen of the South at Easter Road this afternoon.

Head Coach Alan Stubbs made two changes to the starting XI that drew with Falkirk last weekend at Easter Road with goal-scorer Martin Boyle replacing Malonga up front and Liam Henderson taking over in midfield from Paul Hanlon who dropped to the bench.

Lewis Stevenson recovered from a head knock and John McGinn was available after his red card was downgraded to a yellow.

Dylan McGeouch, Marvin Bartley and Farid El Alagui failed late fitness tests although Islam Feruz returned to the squad after recovering from a cold.

The Hibs' fans who had generously donated over two tonnes of food for a foodbank were in good fettle following the news that league leaders Rangers had lost to Falkirk in the days early kick off.

Hibs started brightly and created several early chances but should have opened the scoring in the 9th minute. A McGinn corner reached Henderson who beat his marker before sending a perfect cross into the six yard box however the normally reliable James Keatings miscued his header and the ball flew well wide.

Shooting 'downhill' toward the Famous Five stand, Hibs dominated possession although the 'Doonhamers' looked dangerous on the break and Mark Miller almost opened the scoring with a long range free-kick which Mark Oxley did well to tip over the bar.

Moments later a long pass from Fraser Fyvie was well controlled by Jason Cummings but his powerful effort was well saved by Robbie Thomson.

In the 22nd minute, Cummings showed tremendous skill to beat three defenders but he was unable to get his shot away, then Boyle went close after good work from McGinn.

Hibs went close with two free kicks before half time then ten minutes after the break Keatings fired just over the bar after McGinn had been brought down on the edge of the area.

By this stage, the Hibs' fans started to become impatient and Stubbs made a double substitution with Malonga and Henri Anier replacing Boyle and Cummings.

Malonga almost scored moments after coming on but his goal-bound effort was headed over the bar by a Queens' defender.

Henderson went close when his strike was deflected just past the post then Liam Fontaine headed just wide from Henderson's cross as Hibs pressed for an opener.

Feruz replaced Keatings in the 82nd minute and Hibs had a penalty claim denied five minutes later when Malonga went down after a challenge by three defenders.

Hibs eventually scored the decisive goal in the 93rd minute in controversial circumstances. Kyle Hutton went down with a head injury and with the ball at the other end of the pitch, the referee stopped play. Hutton then tried to get up before the trainer entered the field to prevent him having to go off however the ref insisted that he do so.

The referee then ran to the other end of the pitch and dropped the ball at the feet of Fontaine who immediately found McGinn on the left wing. The midfielder beat his marker and crossed the ball to Anier who did well to control it before slipping it into the path of Gray. The skipper beat the Queens' full back and cross the ball into the danger area when Malonga was on hand to head the ball into the net from five yards to the delight of the Hibs' fans.

The Queens' players surrounded the referee complaining that the drop ball was given to Fontaine but the decision stood and the three points remained at Eater Road.

Hibs: Oxley, Gray, Henderson, Fontaine, Fyvie, Stevenson, Boyle, McGinn, Keatings, McGregor, Cummings. Subs: Reguero, Hanlon, Malonga, Stanton, Feruz, Anier, Forster

Queen of the South: Thomson, Kidd, Dowie, Higgins, Millar, Lyle, Conroy, Russell, Jacobs, Hutton, Marshall. Subs: Atkinson, Brownlie, Rutherford, Pickard, Moxon, Smith, Coogans

Referee Brian Colvin

Attendance 9163

National Galleries of Scotland will have an international flavour in 2016

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS LEAD NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND'S EXHIBITIONS IN 2016



The work of a hugely influential forerunner of the Impressionists, 400 years of artists' self-portraits, and the story of four legendary collections of Surrealist art are among the subjects to be explored in a programme of major exhibitions at the National Galleries of Scotland in 2016.

Next year has an international flavour at the National Galleries, with the three summer exhibitions all being organised in collaboration with major European and American institutions, including the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and the Hamburger Kunsthalle. Each of these exhibitions – *Inspiring Impressionism: Daubigny, Monet, Van Gogh*; *Surreal Encounters*; and *Facing the World: Self-Portraits from Rembrandt to Ai Weiwei* – will have its only UK showing in Edinburgh.

Among the other highlights of the programme, and closer to home, autumn 2016 will see the opening of a fascinating new exhibition which explores the working methods of Joan Eardley, one of Scotland's greatest twentieth century artists, by drawing upon a remarkable and largely unknown archive of her drawings and photographs.

Surreal Encounters, which will be at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art between 4 June and 11 September, will bring together some of the finest Dada and Surrealist works in the world, while telling the story of four remarkable collections, put together with passion and discrimination by Edward James (1907-84), Roland Penrose (1900-84), Gabrielle Keiller (1908-95) and Ulla and Heiner Pietzsch.

The first two, now largely dispersed, were built up in the 1930s and many of the works were acquired directly from the artists, with whom both men were on close terms. James was an important supporter of Salvador Dalí and René Magritte in particular, while Penrose was first introduced to Surrealism through a friendship with Max Ernst. These seminal collections also included masterpieces by Joan Miró, Giorgio de Chirico, Dorothea Tanning, Paul Delvaux, Leonora Carrington, Yves

Tanguy and Man Ray. Many significant works from the James collection that will be on show are now in the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, including Dalí's famous *Mae West Lips Sofa* (1938) and Magritte's *La reproduction interdite* (1937), in which James himself appears.

The Keiller and Pietzsch collections were built up after 1960. Gabrielle Keiller devoted herself to collecting Dada and Surrealism following a visit to the Venice home of the celebrated American art lover Peggy Guggenheim, which proved to be a pivotal moment in her life. She not only acquired key works by Alberto Giacometti, Kurt Schwitters, Magritte, Ernst and Marcel Duchamp but was also passionate about the literary aspect of Surrealism, putting together a magnificent library and archive, full of rare books and manuscripts. Ulla and Heiner Pietzsch, who still live in Berlin, have acquired works from a broad range of sources in their quest to build up an historically balanced collection of high-quality surrealist art. They include many outstanding paintings by Francis Picabia, Pablo Picasso, André Masson, Leonor Fini, Ernst, Tanguy, Magritte and Miró; sculptures by Hans Arp and Hans Bellmer; and works by André Breton, the leader of the Surrealists.

Surreal Encounters will examine the different impulses behind these four extraordinary collections and, by showing them together, will be able to present a fuller and richer picture of the surrealist movement as a whole. The exhibition is jointly organised by the SNGMA, the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, and the Hamburger Kunsthalle. It will be shown in Hamburg and Rotterdam after Edinburgh.

Inspiring Impressionism, will be the first large-scale exhibition to examine the relationship between Charles François Daubigny (1817-1878) and the generation of painters that followed him, including Claude Monet (1840–1926), Camille Pissarro (1830-1930) and Vincent van Gogh (1853-80). Daubigny was prolific, successful and played a major role in making the

landscape a major subject for painting in France in the nineteenth-century. The exhibition, which will be at the Scottish National Gallery from 25 June to 2 October, will demonstrate how this now relatively overlooked artist anticipated and influenced many of the practices associated with Impressionism – routinely painting outdoors, adopting new compositional schemes, and developing a radically ‘unfinished’ style and a brighter palette.

In his later years, Daubigny explored a more subjective interpretation of nature in his sunsets and nocturnes, inspiring not only Monet, but Vincent van Gogh, who spent the last two months of his life close to Daubigny’s home and studio at Auvers-sur-Oise.

Inspiring Impressionism is a collaboration between the Scottish National Gallery, the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati, USA, and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, and will bring together around 95 works from around the world. The exhibition will create a series of fascinating and often surprising juxtapositions between works by Daubigny, Monet, Pissarro, Van Gogh and others, highlighting the interactions and mutual influence between the older artist his younger colleagues.

Facing the World: Self-Portraits from Rembrandt to Ai Weiwei at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery will explore the intense fascination with which artists have turned their gaze upon themselves, and will offer a very rich survey of self-portraiture from the sixteenth century to the present day.

Facing the World will highlight the outstanding strengths of three great European collections, those of the Staatliche Kunsthalle, in Karlsruhe, Germany, the Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyon, in France, and the National Galleries of Scotland. It will feature an astonishing selection of over 140 works, spanning six centuries, in a wide range of media, including

drawings, prints, paintings, photographs, video and social media.

Highlights will include one of Rembrandt's most memorable self-portraits, painted at the age of 51, and stunning works by Simon Vouet, Allan Ramsay, Hyacinthe Rigaud, David Wilkie, Gustave Courbet, Edvard Munch, Paul Klee, Andy Warhol, Marina Abramovic, Douglas Gordon, Sarah Lucas and Annie Lennox. It will also bring together many superb works unfamiliar to British audiences, including self-portraits by the Italian Futurist Gino Severini, and the German Expressionist Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. In an age when issues of identity and questions about how we present ourselves to the world are being widely addressed this ambitious international project will prove thought-provoking and inspiring. *Facing the World* will also feature interactive installations which will allow visitors to make portraits of themselves, and so contribute to a vibrant composite digital self-portrait of those who have taken part.

Joan Eardley's career lasted barely fifteen years: she died in 1963, aged just 43. During that time she concentrated on two very different themes: the extraordinarily candid paintings of children in the Townhead area of Glasgow; and paintings of the fishing village of Catterline, just south of Aberdeen, with its leaden skies and wild sea. These two contrasting strands will be the focus of this exhibition, which will look in detail at Eardley's working process. It will draw on a remarkable archive of sketches and photographs which remains largely unknown and unpublished.

Eardley made literally thousands of working drawings, some of them slight sketches, while others are resolved pastel drawings, sometimes done on sheets of sandpaper. She also made hundreds of photographs, mainly of children playing in the street outside her studio, and commissioned a friend, Audrey Walker, to make photographs of specific sites, to aid her in her work. Precisely because she was an amateur photographer,

and was seeking natural movement rather than staged poses or pin-sharp detail, Eardley's photographs have a haunting quality: childhood and poverty are explored in a manner which is factual rather than sentimental.

The Catterline paintings likewise develop from rough pastel sketches, many of them never previously exhibited. Many of these unpublished sketches and photographs come from a remarkable archive, donated to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art by Eardley's sister, Pat Black, in 1984. Fragile testaments to Eardley's working procedure, they will be specially conserved and presented for this exhibition, where they will be seen for the first time. The exhibition, which will open at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art on 3 December, will also feature many loans from public and private collections, allowing the viewer to trace specific developments between the photographs, the drawings and the finished paintings.

For full details of the exhibition programme at the National Galleries of Scotland, please [click the following link.](#)