

# Five things you need to know today



Castlebrae Community High School Winter newsletter

Chronicle Online afternoon

Craigmillar Literacy Trust drawing competition

From Castlebrae with Love

Booking for Edinburgh International Festival 2016 now open



Loading...



Taking too long?



Reload document



[Open in new tab](#)

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




The Edinburgh Reporter has spent some time in Craigmillar over the last month or so helping to get The Chronicle Online off the ground. Have a read but also you may wish to get involved if you are in any way connected to the east of the city.



The Craigmillar Literacy Trust gives those living in the area more opportunities to enjoy both reading and writing. They also run a drawing competition:

*“This year children across Craigmillar will be drawing whatever they can think of that Timothy Pope might see through his telescope... Festival favourite Nick Sharratt has kindly let us use an illustration from his new book, Shark in the Park on a Windy Day, for this year’s competition – and children are in with a chance of winning £5 or £10 for the best entries. We’re distributing a thousand copies of the competition throughout the Festival period, and they can also be picked up from Craigmillar Library or downloaded for you to print by clicking [here](#).“*



 During the summer the Edinburgh International Festival teamed up with pupils and teachers at Castlebrae Community High School to make a film called From Castlebrae with Love which you can watch in full below. This is part of the three year EIF residency at the school which also encompasses a guerrilla knitting project!



Booking has now opened for Cecilia Bartoli in Norma which is the first event of the 2016 Edinburgh International Festival to be announced.

Bartoli is the world renowned mezzo soprano who will play the title role in Patrice Caurier's and Moshe Leiser's staging of Norma which will open the opera programme at the Festival Theatre from 5-9 August 2016.


As well as opera other sparklers have been announced for Fergus Linehan's second Festival following his much-acclaimed opening year.



One of these is the staging of Gurrelieder with Donald Runnicles, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus who will need many more singers than they currently have. Join the Chorus now! Find out more about the Chorus who celebrated their 50th anniversary this year by clicking [here](#).

(Our photo shows shoes worn by Christopher Bell the chorus master of Edinburgh Festival Chorus when we met him earlier this year!)



 Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter ! [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 above with a smartphone or tablet.

---

# Police appeal for help in tracing man missing from West Port



An 18 year-old man was last seen on Lady Lawson Street at around 6 o'clock in the morning and Edinburgh Police are now appealing for help in tracing him.

From there he travelled to Waverley Station where he boarded the 6:55am train bound for King's Cross Station in London. He carried a blue rucksack and holdall however it is not clear at this stage whether Peter went to London or disembarked at an earlier stop.

He has not been in touch with family or friends and police are now seeking the assistance of the public.

Peter is described as white, 6ft tall, slim build, pale complexion, brown hair, which has a slight wave and is normally swept to the side. At the time of his disappearance he wore a dark blue hooded top with white and red writing on the front and a red/burgundy T-shirt underneath.

An extensive investigation is now underway in an effort to trace the teenager as quickly as possible.

Inspector David Cuthbert who is leading the investigation said: "Peter's disappearance is completely out of character and we are concerned for his wellbeing.

"His family are obviously worried and we are doing everything we can to support them at this difficult time and to find

Peter as quickly as possible.

“A thorough and robust investigation is underway utilising a number of specialist Police Scotland resources and I am now appealing to the public for their help.

“We are keen to hear from anyone who might have spoken to Peter on the train or who remembers seeing him. Those with relevant information are asked to contact police immediately on 101 or speak to any officer.

“I also appeal to Peter directly to please contact police or a family member to let us know that you are safe.”

---

## New restaurants signed up for South St Andrew Square

There are six restaurants in the development being built on the south side of St Andrew Square, and Standard Life has announced the names of three more coming to Edinburgh just as soon as their spaces are ready.

✖ New York contemporary steakhouse and lounge concept **STK Rebel**, plus barbecue lobster shack **Big Easy** and Bombay style café **Dishoom** will all be opening their first restaurants outside of London. The three restaurants will join previously announced names – Drake & Morgan plus Busaba Earthai – to create a new leisure quarter in the city.

STK Rebel has agreed to a 25-year lease on a 7,150 sq ft unit in South St Andrew Square, on two floors. STK is The ONE Group's signature brand, known for its vibe dining, lounge-like décor and resident DJ. The company chose Edinburgh for

its first European STK Rebel restaurant, to complement recently announced Rebel locations in Denver, Austin, Miami and San Diego.

Barbecue and lobster shack, Big Easy, has signed on a 8,770 sq ft unit fronting on to St Andrew Square. The restaurant first opened on London's Kings Road in 1993, inspired by the 19th century crab shacks and barbecue of the American gulf coast. It offers live music, a friendly atmosphere and hearty portions.

Bombay-style café, Dishoom is taking a 6,800 sq ft unit also facing the square. Dishoom serves Bombay breakfast, lunch, afternoon chai, plus dinner and tipples based on the legendary all day cafés of Bombay which were started in the early 1900s by Zoroastrian immigrants from Iran.



David Stewart, Fund Manager of the Standard Life Investments Pooled Pension Property Fund said:

*"These lettings demonstrate the strong appeal of the South St Andrew Square development and Edinburgh as a destination for international restaurants as they look to expand outside of London. We're confident South St Andrew Square will become the prime destination for top quality dining in Edinburgh."*

Ralph Jones, Managing Director of Peveril Securities added:

*"These restaurants are joining an existing list of high quality tenants. South St Andrew Square is set to become Edinburgh's top destination for dining and we're pleased with the calibre of tenant that the development is attracting."*

Standard Life Investments was advised by Culverwell and BGP. STK represented itself. Graeme Wait acted for both the Big Easy and Dishoom.

---

# St Giles Cathedral – Memorial Ceremony for Paris victims on Sunday



A book of condolences will be available at the Consulate General of France at 12 Randolph Crescent until 18 November between 10am and 6.30pm.

The Scottish Government has organised a ceremony in memory of the victims at St Giles Cathedral tomorrow Sunday 15 November 2015 at 11.30am.

The service will be preceded by a gathering at 11am in front of the Cathedral.

Emergency number for families and relatives: +33 (0)1 45 50 34 60

---

# Foodies Festival – Edinburgh Christmas

The EICC is a great Edinburgh venue, but in the case of the Foodies Festival which we visited there today we feel that we had a better time at Inverleith Park a couple of years back. In the summer as an outdoors event, it was hit by the vagaries of the Scottish weather, but our last visit was bathed in

sunshine and full of good memories.



I received a couple of complimentary VIP tickets from the organisers and thought this would mean a real VIP experience. I think if I had paid £38 for a VIP ticket rather than just £15 entry I might have felt just a little short-changed, and certainly some murmuring from fellow guests in the VIP lounge indicated that they felt the same way. What the add-on price offers is a glass of champagne and use of a room well away from everything else. It also offers complimentary entry to the drinks demos, but the cakes and chef areas are already free. There is also a goody bag for you to take home.

This is not to say it was all bad, just a bit cramped and too busy in the main areas, so if you are planning a visit on Sunday you might be best to go either early or late! Doors open at 10 with the first chef's demonstration at 10.30 by Fraser Allen from Pompadour by Galvin Brothers.

I very much enjoyed the demonstration by Scott Davies from the Three Chimneys on Skye who cooked duck with Three Chimneys marmalade and Christmas spices. Clearly at home in the kitchen his experience belied his youth at only 29. He has recently taken over at the Three Chimneys on their 30th anniversary, and is only the third Head Chef in three decades.



Before that we caught the tailend of Tony Rodd's cooking demonstration. He was a Masterchef finalist earlier this year and had set about cooking wood pigeon with winter vegetables (even though he admitted it was actually partridge...!) Entertaining and accomplished he promised to come back to Edinburgh soon with his supper clubs.





Part of the issue earlier on in the day was the lack of room in the main hall, where many vendors had food on offer but the queues were off-putting.

And had I known that there was another hall with other stalls then I would of course be able to give you a fuller report on the event. There was little signage to suggest more exhibitors, so be aware that you can go left or right at the bottom of the escalator!

In the main hall there was music on the main stage to keep you entertained while browsing the many gins, sausages and kitchen implements on display, and there are cooking classes for children. We came home with a new cast iron pan which promises a lifetime guarantee and that nothing will ever stick to it. Will keep you advised on that one!

It is a pity there is no wifi on offer at the EICC for anyone attending. I know that the wifi there is excellent – so excellent we were able to live broadcast the UK General Election results from the same room earlier this year. Wifi would certainly have made up for lack of phone coverage in the basement of the EICC.

More details about the event on the Foodies Festival website [here](#).

---

## Lord Provost offers sympathy on behalf of Edinburgh

✖ The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, the Rt Hon

Donald Wilson, has offered his sympathies to France in the aftermath of the Paris attacks.

He said: "On behalf of all of the people of Edinburgh, our thoughts are with France at this awful time of great, great sadness. This was an attack on civilisation – it was carried out against civilised people across the world. France has again been plunged into a terrible time of trial, and we can only offer our support and deepest sympathy.

"I will be signing the book of condolence at the French Consulate and will be formally sending a letter of sympathy to the French Consul General, but words can hardly do justice to the unimaginable feelings that French citizens will be experiencing just now."

Flags flying above the City Chambers have been lowered to half mast as a mark of respect.

---

## **#PeaceforParis    Edinburgh's gesture of solidarity to Paris**



The Usher Hall has been illuminated in red white and blue the colours of the French flag to show the city's solidarity with the Parisians and the French following last night's attacks across the city.

Vive la France!

---

# How to change your Facebook profile by adding the tricolore

First of all you go to Facebook's own Facebook page by clicking [here](#) where they have the image shown below. Underneath it you will see that you can 'Try it'.

Click there and the red white and blue will be added to your profile photo in support of the French and those who died last night in Paris in several attacks across the city.



---

## Rugby – Edinburgh v Grenoble, European Rugby Challenge Cup

*Edinburgh open their European account with a fine win*




Friday night saw Edinburgh play the first match of their 2015-16 European Rugby Challenge Cup campaign. Last season's losing finalists were playing against FC Grenoble Rugby at BT Murrayfield in challenging – to say the least – conditions with an eye on the fact that they had lost their last three games in the PRO12 league.

An early indication of how things were stacking up was the virtual destruction of the Grenoble scrum at the first encounter, giving the hosts a platform to build on for the first score. Seven minutes in and a lineout in the opposition 22 gave Edinburgh an early attacking drive, setting up a maul and heaving the Grenoble pack back over their goal line, Cornell du Preez touching down for the try – although confirmation took a good few minutes and, following Sam Hidalgo-Clyne's wayward attempt at goal, a 5-0 lead.

With the weather taking a turn for the worse the next 20, or so, minutes were mostly played in Grenoble's territory, but the wet ball did nothing to enhance the handling experience for either side. However, the almost complete dominance of the home scrum was beginning to make itself felt and, 29 minutes in, Grenoble flanker, Fabien Alexandre was carded for foul play at the breakdown.

This was Edinburgh's chance to increase the score with the pack coming to the fore and winning a penalty on 33 minutes for Hidalgo-Clyne to slot home for 8-0. He then scored his second following another dominant passage of play just on the half time mark to go into the break 11-0 ahead.

Four minutes into the second half and Hidalgo-Clyne added another three points for 14-0. Grenoble came back at the home side, showing a degree of attacking flair missing from the first half and won a penalty in the Edinburgh 22. Choosing to go to the line, the resultant maul won them penalty advantage which was pulled back when Hidalgo-Clyne was forced to touch down over his own try line to give Grenoble a chance to close the gap.

They went for the kick and scrum half, James Hart, knocked the ball over and put their first points on the board for 14-3. 

Edinburgh then put in a fine period of play, initiated by a lone break from Dougie Fife deep into the visitors' half. He

was turned over, but Grenoble were now on the defensive and were forced to kick from deep on a number of occasions.

Edinburgh's next score came courtesy of referee, Ben Whitehouse. Winning a scrum five metres from the Grenoble line, Edinburgh's pack set about crushing the opposition and, given little option from the resultant mayhem, Whitehouse marched over the beneath the posts to award the score. Hidalgo-Clyne slotted the conversion home to see the hosts 21-3 ahead with 20 minutes left to play.

Just before the 70 minute mark another Grenoble player, Martino Nemani, was shown yellow for foul play, but his apparent refusal to immediately leave the field saw him 'promoted' to a red – football take note! – and see out the rest of the match from the dugout.

With 70 minutes showing on the four, massive, clocks (I missed seeing them for the first 10 minutes! – JP), Hoyland broke clear and weaved his way upfield. However, his offload from the tackle was fumbled by Fife, giving possession back to the visitors. They cleared, but the ball came straight back via du Preez, but Sean Kennedy's pass from the back of the ruck was juggled and kicked about by his team mates. The ball ended up in the hands of Grenoble's winger, Daniel Kilioni who went the length of the pitch, chased by Hoyland, to score a try for the visitors, converted by Hart, to take them up to 10 points and a 21-10 score line.



This didn't, fortunately, turn out to be an omen and just before the end of play, Edinburgh were once again on the visitors' try line. A kick through from Tonks was ushered over the sideline by Grenoble, setting up a final minute's attack by Edinburgh. Quick lineout ball, followed by a quick recycle left du Preez with a gap to slot through for his second try of the night – and Man-of-the-Match – to seal the win. Hidalgo-

Clyne then took ages over the kick to see the clock over the 80 minutes before kicking the easy conversion and to give Edinburgh a fine campaign- opening 28-10 win.

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

While this was going on in Edinburgh, in Paris a terrorist attack on a variety of social venues lead to the untimely deaths of, at least, 120 people out to enjoy a Friday night on the town. And we were moaning about the weather... Puts it all in perspective, really....

---

## What's On In Edinburgh? Book Week Scotland!

Retro-futurism, technological fetish, Fence Records... can this really be **Book Week Scotland**?

Oh yes it can – and there you were thinking it was all about books. And you'd be right of course – it is, very much so – but this year the **Scottish Book Trust** is looking at writing from all angles, with events for everyone from traditional readers (me..) to those who like their entertainment a little edgier.

Book Week Scotland runs 23-29 November 2015 and here are some local highlights:-

**Alan Bissett In Conversation**



Ranked as The 46th Hottest Man in Scotland by *The Daily Record* in 2008 (make of that what you will...), Alan Bissett is a male author, who wrote and performed a one woman show. He sprang onto the Scottish literary scene in 2001 with the zeitgeist-busting ***Boyracers***, a Scottish novel about being young, naive, and getting taken on a sinister adventure. Later novels include ***Death of a Ladies Man***, and ***Pack Men*** – a novel which, in the words of *The Guardian*, ‘casts an unsparing eye over the sectarian pollution of Scottish society.’

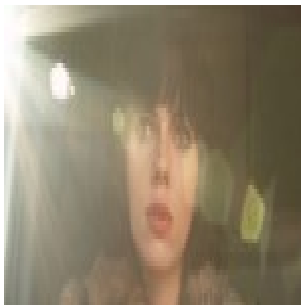
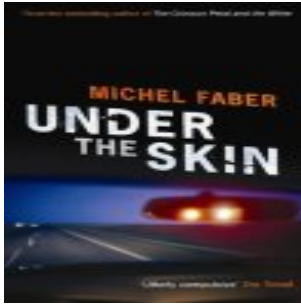
Bissett, who is originally from Falkirk, is also a performer and a former teacher of Creative Writing at Leeds and Glasgow Universities; he works extensively with schools, especially senior secondary age pupils. His play ***The Pure, The Dead and The Brilliant***, was endorsed by fellow author **Irvine Welsh** – in spite of Alan’s assertion in *Death of a Ladies Man* that ‘trainspotting was wrong.’ Bissett is a contemporary Scottish writer and a chronicler of one of the most exciting times in Scottish History, the 2014 Scottish Referendum. He once tried to read *War and Peace*, but the internet got in the way.

This event forms part of the **Pentlands Book Festival** and will take place at [Currie Library](#), 210 Lanark Road West, at **3.30pm on Thursday 26th November 2015**. It’s *free*, but as capacity is limited to 50 people you do need to book, and you can do so via eventbrite [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

***Under The Skin* (15) + Michel Faber Q & A**





See **Jonathan Glazer's** gloriously cinematic interpretation of **Michel Faber's** brilliant novel and hear the author discuss the experience of having his work adapted for the big screen. A beautiful woman (**Scarlett Johansson**) drives a white van along Scotland's lonely back roads. Her identity and her motives unclear, her eyes deadened but alert, she prowls the night streets seeking male victims. 'An intoxicating marvel, strange and sublime' (*Time Out*), 'Wonderful, grisly and beyond bonkers' (David Mitchell).

The Q & A session after this special screening will be hosted by **Dr Jonny Murray**, Senior Lecturer in Film and Visual Culture, Edinburgh College of Art.

The screening will take place at **3.15pm on Sunday 29th November 2015** at the [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be purchased in person, by calling the Box Office on 0131 228 2688 or online [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Make Your Own Mini-Comic with Metaphrog**

A fun workshop with award-winning graphic novelists **Metaphrog (John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs)**, who are coming to **Craigmillar Library** ahead of a US tour promoting their new



book, ***The Red Shoes***. John and Sandra have been developing comics and graphic novels together for over 20 years. Their workshop is aimed at children aged 8+ and their families – you get to make and take home your own mini comic, and ten free copies of *The Red Shoes* will be given away on the day to lucky young artists.

The workshop will be held from **2pm to 3.30pm on Saturday 28th November 2015** at [Craigmillar Library](#), 101 Niddrie Mains Road. No need to book for this *free* event, just come along to the library on the day.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Cathy Rentzenbrink: For the Love of Reading**



Author Cathy Rentzenbrink is a Project Director at **Quick Reads**, the Reading Agency's ongoing project to encourage adults new to reading. She is particularly pleased to be doing this because her Dad used to struggle with reading and is now a massive reader, so she has first hand experience of both the causes and effects of low literacy, and also of the huge pleasure that becoming a reader can bring.

Cathy is also Contributing Editor at ***The Bookseller*** and speaks and writes regularly on literacy, literature and everything in between, on TV, radio and in print. Cathy will talk about her work with Quick Reads, and will also read extracts from her bestselling family memoir, ***The Last Act of Love***, about which no less than **Matt Haig** said; 'This is a brilliant book. Harrowing and heartbreaking, but also warm and human and healing. It is about a rare kind of tragedy, but feels

universal, as it is about love and loss and how we learn to live in the face of what life throws at us'.

Cathy will be at [Wester Hailes Library](#), 1 West Side Plaza, at **2pm on Friday 27th November 2015**. This event is *free* but booking is required and made by made via eventbrite [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Ronnie Browne: *That guy fae the Corries***



Ronnie was one half of **The Corries**, the popular folk duo who made famous the unofficial Scottish national anthem, ***Flower of Scotland***, written by the other Corrie, the late **Roy Williamson**. One of the most popular and best known performers in Scotland, Ronnie has travelled and performed throughout the world and made many records both with The Corries and in his own right; he is also an accomplished artist. Ronnie will talk about his recently published autobiography '***That guy fae the Corries***', a memoir featuring his wartime childhood, austerity Britain in the 1950s and 60s, and his amazing musical career. Ronnie's account of his life is both funny and fascinating – a truly incredible folk tale.

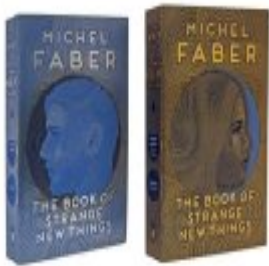
Ronnie will be at the [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge at 2.30pm on Saturday 28th November 2015. Free tickets may be booked via eventbrite [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

This is just a taster – there are lots more events on in Edinburgh, from poetry to ***Peter Pan in Pictures***, a **Teddy Bears' Sleepover** and a chance to pitch your own book to agents and publishers. You can see the full programme on the **Scottish Book Trust's** website [here](#).

'But what about retro-futurism, technological fetish and Fence

Records?' I hear you cry... no, I wasn't making it up –



**Another Minimalism** is the [Fruitmarket Gallery's](#) current exhibition, bringing the work of a select group of current-generation artists together with that of two pioneers of West Coast American minimalism;; it runs until 21st February 2016. At **7.30pm on Saturday 28th November** the Gallery will host **Space and Lit** with the aforementioned **Michel Faber**; think **California Light and Space art**, **The Book of Strange New Things**, and the modular synths and tape delays of **Found's** post-cataclysmic world. Refreshments and stimulation from caffeinated art collective **CONCH**.

Tickets cost £6 and are available via eventbrite [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*



Meanwhile at 7.30pm on Friday 27th November in [Summerhall's](#) Library Cafe, Faber Social and Book Week Scotland present **For the Record**, a night of storytelling, performance and the secrets of the Scottish music scene with **Fence Records** and Fife's finest, **James Yorkston**, music journalist and radio DJ, **Vic Galloway** and **Richard King**, acclaimed writer of *How Soon Is Now?* and *Original Rockers*.

Richard and James will kick things off, the trio will then talk about the history and legacy of Fence Records and James will finish the evening with a solo set.

Tickets cost £8/£6 and can be booked [here](#) or by calling the Summerhall Box Office on 0131 560 1580. This event is for over


15s only.

I told you there was something for everyone.



---

## **Flybe travel advice for those booked on flights to Paris**

 Flybe has offered its sincerest condolences and sympathy to all those impacted by last night's attacks in Paris.

The airline says it will continue to closely monitor the situation: "The safety and security of our customers and crew is always our top priority."

As a result, any customer who is travelling today or tomorrow 14th/15 November 2015 and who does not wish to now travel may rebook a later date to any alternative destination or obtain a credit note for future travel by the calling Flybe Customer Contact Centre on 0371 700 2000 (from outside the UK +44 1392 683 152).

Flybe's Travel Information page on the web link [Flight arrival and departure information](http://www.flybe.com/flight-arrival-and-departure-information) at [www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com) allows customers to check on the status of all of Flybe's flights by entering their flight details.

Enter details of the flight (i.e. departure and arrival airport as well as the date of travel) for live updates.

---

# Five things you need to know today



**Eight jailed for housebreaking**

**Trams, trams, trams...**

**Budget Consultation**

**Diwali next weekend in Princes Street Gardens**

**This is Edinburgh wins big!**

Eight men have been jailed for housebreaking offences in Edinburgh after being arrested during the successful initiative, Operation RAC.

Numerous properties throughout the city, particularly in the West, were broken into over the past year and various items of property were taken from within.

Dedicated Operation RAC officers investigated each of these incidents and as a result all of the men were detained and subsequently charged.

Over the past two weeks each of them has since been given prison sentences at court.

Nicholas Briggs (33) was sentenced to 36 months on the 4th November, while Christopher Horne (28) was given 17-months.

Paul Ness (42) appeared in court on Tuesday 10th November and was jailed for six months.

On Thursday 12th November three men – Robbie McLeod, Ryan Duddy and Adam Birrell were all given various sentences in court.

McLeod (21) and Duddy (26) were both given 10 months in prison, while Birrell (20) was sentenced to 36 months.

Daniel Ross (19) and Daniel Lawrence (20) both appeared yesterday, where Lawrence was sentenced to two years and three months in jail and Ross received a sentence of three years and five months.

Detective Sergeant Bob Campbell from Operation RAC said: "Housebreaking is Edinburgh Division's top priority and through Operation RAC we have regularly targeted acquisitive crime offenders and brought them to justice for their crimes.

"These sentences send a clear message that housebreaking will not be tolerated in the city and we work closely with our partners at the Crown Office to secure significant prison sentences for those found to be involved.

"I would urge anyone who has information relating to those responsible for these sort of offences to contact us on 101 or alternatively make an anonymous report to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."



The council has a couple of decisions to take about Edinburgh Trams next week.

The first is just a noting exercise in that the [council has to respond to the Chairman of the Edinburgh Trams Inquiry](#) following his comments published on the Inquiry website, and his demand that the council revives Edinburgh Trams company tie.

The second however is more fundamental. It is the recommendation that the council signs off more spending, inching towards the big decision to spend £144million on the extension of the trams to Newhaven. [Read more on this here.](#)



The Council Leader Andrew Burns has issued his monthly Leader's Report and uses it to remind you to contribute to the Budget Consultation:

*"We are now midway through this year's [budget consultation](#) and I would like to thank the hundreds of you of who have already taken the time to have your say. If you haven't, there's still plenty of time to do so – the consultation runs until 10 December.*

*"As part of this, and following the success of last year's event, we are running another [Budget Question Time](#) on 23 November in the City Chambers. This is designed to give you the opportunity to quiz our panel of senior councillors on the Council's budget proposals for next year and beyond.*

*"The proceedings will be chaired by Scotsman and Evening News Managing Editor, Frank O'Donnell, and broadcast live via the Council website.*

*"If you would like to put a question to the panel, or just come along and be part of the audience, please [register online](#) by next Thursday, 19 November. We are allocating places on a first come, first served basis."*





The Edinburgh Diwali Committee was constituted on behalf of The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh to organise Diwali the famous Indian Festival of Lights, and it will take place next weekend.

For first time the public event will be open to everyone at the Ross Band Stand in Princes Street Gardens from 12 noon till 7:00 pm.

The President Mohindra Dhall MBE told The Edinburgh Reporter: "We are organising art workshops where children will be making Diwali Lanterns for first time in Edinburgh. These will be lit up with LED lights in the Marquee which will be built at The Ross Theatre.

There will be Bollywood as well as Indian Classical dances like Bharatnatyam and Kathak.

Students from Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville College will perform Highland Dances with bagpipe music.

Dancers from Ceilidh Meetup will organise a Ceilidh on the Bella McNab Ceilidh Band.

There will be Indian Curries and snacks and a Bar serving Cobra Beer and Mulled wine.

At 5.30 pm sharp there will be 500 sparklers shining at one time and it will be followed by Impressive Fireworks Display on Castle Hill.

It sounds great!



On the day that George Clooney mania swept Scotland's Capital city, Edinburgh was the big winner at the Scottish Business Awards, with its city centre marketing campaign, **'This is Edinburgh'** taking home the top award of **PR Marketing & PR Strategy of the Year**.

The award, which was won by Edinburgh-based creative digital and advertising agency, The Lane Agency, was in recognition of

the dynamic and creative marketing strategy which underpinned the two year 'This is Edinburgh' campaign that was created and managed by Marketing Edinburgh.

Launched in early 2014 in a bid to encourage locals back into the city centre, increasing footfall and retail spend, the award demonstrates what has been a positive and successful campaign for the city, with all targets on track. At its heart was an integrated marketing approach, overseen and managed by Marketing Edinburgh that saw The Lane Agency, Wire Media and Storm ID, work closely alongside the in-house team to ensure a seamless approach across PR, media, advertising and digital channels, in addition to new 'This is Edinburgh' events.

The innovative Borders Rail train wrap, which The Lane Agency was appointed to work on by Marketing Edinburgh was also singled out by awards judges as an example of excellence. The eye-catching livery was a joint collaboration between Marketing Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh Council, Midlothian Council and Borders Railway, unveiled in celebration of the new line connecting the city with the south of the country, which became one of the iconic images used throughout media coverage of the railway's September opening.

**John Donnelly, Chief Executive of Marketing Edinburgh** said:

"The Scottish Business Award recognition of 'This is Edinburgh' is a big win for the city. I am thrilled for all of those involved, but even more so, I am delighted by how much 'This is Edinburgh' has given back to the city's residents. As the campaign draws to a close, we're on target to have succeeded in our ambitions to increase footfall, along with retail sales in the city centre. I'm particularly proud of how much locals have embraced and engaged with 'This is Edinburgh', whether that has been on social media or attending events, like Edinburgh Fashion Week and Edinburgh Restaurant Festival that have made a real and very positive difference within the city.

“Earlier this year our campaign survey found that 88% of people were aware of the campaign and 95% felt more positive towards the city centre since its launch, this is a testament to the hard work and innovative approach of the whole campaign team.”

**Ali Findlay, owner and managing director of The Lane Agency** said:

“As a relatively young entrepreneurial business, winning the pitch to market the city of Edinburgh was one of our proudest moments. The campaign has evolved to market the city and its businesses, events and attractions, large and small, and more recently we were proud to reveal the UK’s largest train wrap for the Borders Railway launch.’ She added: ‘It’s been a great 12 months for The Lane with 12 award wins for several different clients and campaigns – our #Laners are very proud.”

For more information on the campaign, visit [ThisisEdinburgh.com](http://ThisisEdinburgh.com) and keep up to date on their latest news and updates through Twitter (@edinburgh) and [Facebook.com/Edinburgh](https://Facebook.com/Edinburgh).

☐ Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter  
! [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 above with a smartphone or tablet.

---

# VisitScotland greet tourism

# delegates from Malawi



A delegation of Malawi Government officials, including Director of Tourism, Patricia Liabuba, attended VisitScotland headquarters in Ocean Point in Leith, Edinburgh.

The work of VisitScotland is set to inspire the Malawi tourism industry, as the national tourism body hosts representatives from the African nation for the first time today.

There they met with Chief Executive, Malcolm Roughead, and other senior VisitScotland representatives who gave an overview of the work of Scotland's national tourism organisation. VisitScotland has also organised an itinerary for the delegation to give them a flavour of the Scottish visitor experience.

The visit coincides with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scottish Government's International Development partnership with the African country. The international development programme was launched in 2005 when Scotland's then-First Minister, Lord Jack McConnell, signed a formal Co-operation Agreement with the Government of Malawi.

Whilst the programme still has a heavy centre on Scotland's partnership with Malawi, it has since grown to include projects in other priority countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Zambia and Rwanda.

The Scottish Government is working across its Ministerial portfolios, including education, climate and water management, to support international aims, and also encourages other Scottish bodies to work in partnership with its priority countries for international development.

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, said: "We

are delighted to welcome our Malawian colleagues as the Scottish Government celebrates the tenth year of its international development support.

“Millions of international visitors are drawn to Scotland each year and VisitScotland is renowned for its work to improve the quality of the visitor experience whilst supporting businesses to deliver excellence across Scotland. Tourism is the heartbeat of the Scottish economy, supporting communities and creating jobs, and provides an international shop window for the country.

“We hope our guests will be inspired by hearing first-hand of the world class work carried out by VisitScotland.”

As well as VisitScotland headquarters, the Malawi delegation also visited The Royal Yacht Britannia, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh Castle and the Scotch Whisky Experience.

---

## **Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook returns to Edinburgh**



Following the huge success and popularity of Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook over the last 9 years, he has announced that they will be returning once again and this time taking to the road for 5 shows in Aberdeen, Perth, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Teemed with jovial anecdotes, modern and traditional Christmas music and exquisite musicianship that will tug at ones heartstrings, Phil will be joined by some of the finest musicians on the Scottish folk scene

including: Eddi Reader, Karen Matheson, John McCusker, Kris Drever, Ian Carr and Kevin McGuire along with a special guest Brass Band.

Phil is fondly remembered from his days with Silly Wizard and Relativity and as witty musical partner of the great Shetland fiddler, Aly Bain. Also widely recognised from his television and radio presenting, he has been involved in some of the seminal programmes that have enabled Scottish music to walk tall, a true ambassador for traditional music. Also a humourist, his breezy banter can have a 2000-seat hall falling about in the aisles.

Phil often keeps high company and no less is true for this year's special Christmas gathering. A powerful mix of lead vocalists include the inimitable Eddi Reader, who has celebrated a career spanning over 3 decades and has effortlessly developed into one of popular music's most thrilling and affecting performers. With an MBE for outstanding contributions to the arts, 3 BRIT awards, a #1 single and 8 critically acclaimed solo albums, Eddi is considered to be one of Scotland's greatest national treasures. Karen Matheson OBE, is recognized the world over as the haunting lead vocalist of Celtic supergroup, Capercaillie. Kris Drever, the young Orcadian singer and guitarist is part of the backbone of today's contemporary roots scene and is widely admired as a solo artist, collaborator, and member of folk superstars, Lau. Also joining Phil are multi-instrumentalist, John McCusker, one of Scotland's most accomplished and versatile musicians in any genre who has worked with artists as diverse as Mark Knopfler, Paul Weller and Patti Smith, Teenage Fanclub and Billy Connolly; Ian Carr, who is known for his original and eclectic approach to traditional music guitar and has established an instantly recognisable sound that has influenced countless musicians and Kevin McGuire who is a highly sought after double bassist who has performed with the likes of Karine

Polwart and Kate Rusby. Make sure to oil your vocal chords and bring the family!

Catch Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook on their forthcoming December tour:

Fri 18th Dec: EDINBURGH – Queen's Hall [www.thequeenshall.net](http://www.thequeenshall.net)

Sat 19th Dec: EDINBURGH – Queen's Hall [www.thequeenshall.net](http://www.thequeenshall.net)

Sun 20th Dec: PERTH – Perth Concert Hall [www.horsecross.co.uk](http://www.horsecross.co.uk)

Mon 21st Dec: ABERDEEN – Aberdeen Music Hall [www.aberdeenperformingarts.com](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com)

Tues 22nd Dec: GLASGOW – Glasgow City Hall [www.glasgowconcerthalls.com](http://www.glasgowconcerthalls.com)

For more info on artists involved with the 2015 Christmas Concerts, please visit:

[www.philcunningham.com](http://www.philcunningham.com) [www.eddireader.co.uk](http://www.eddireader.co.uk) [www.karenmatheson.com](http://www.karenmatheson.com) [www.johnmccusker.co.uk](http://www.johnmccusker.co.uk) [www.krisdrever.com](http://www.krisdrever.com)

---

## Airport boss wins Scottish Business Award

CEO of Edinburgh Airport Gordon Dewar won the category of Chief Executive of the year at the Scottish Business Awards last night.



Mr Dewar said that winning his award was thanks to the hard work and collaborative effort by all the team who work at

Edinburgh Airport.

He said: "It is a great honour to have won this award in such illustrious and glamorous company – and I would like to thank the sponsors Anderson Strathern for backing the category.

"It has been a fantastic couple of days for Edinburgh Airport – having just confirmed October as our sixth consecutive one million passenger month and now this great recognition too.

"This award is recognition of a great team; the success of Edinburgh Airport would be impossible without the wonderful people who work here and who are all committed to continuing to deliver growth for the airport and enable greater growth for both Scotland and Edinburgh

"Edinburgh Airport is going from strength to strength – with more airlines and a greater choice of routes and destinations than ever before – and we are well on course to make 2015 our busiest year ever as we continue to grow, create jobs and make a positive contribution to Scotland's economy."

*Photo © Thomas Haywood shows The Chief Commercial Officer, Marwan Koleilat of Qatar Airways greeted by Gordon Dewar the CEO of Edinburgh Airport in 2014.*

---

**John Lewis step aside to  
allow St James Quarter to**



# proceed

The biggest development in the city centre for some time can now make real progress in the spring of next year.



John Lewis withdrew their objection lodged within the planning process clearing the way for the first demolitions. The £850m St James Quarter development at the top of Leith Walk will include houses and shops.

This was the last objection in the way of the development beginning. It also means that John Lewis will be the only tenant left in any of the buildings there, as the rest will be torn down to make way for the new development.

The project is not without its very vocal critics mainly due to the design for the hotel which many have christened the 'walnut whip', while others have called it something far worse.



The aim is to complete the shops by 2020 and the remaining leisure and residential elements by the following year. Whether or not the hotel in the development ends up looking like the visual produced for the developers we will have to wait and see, but it cannot look worse than the monolith which is there right now can it?

Councillors are asked at the full council meeting next week to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to progress the paperwork, and sell off an area of land at Picardy Place no longer needed. The Chief Executive will also be given powers to finalise a second compulsory purchase order which may be required in order to sweep up any areas which the developer or the council do not already own.

Some 'common good land' is included in the development area following approval by the Court of Session earlier this year.

This means that the council will then be free at the appropriate time to enter into the borrowing procedures as agreed in May 2014. The financing of the infrastructure around the development is to be arranged through an innovative financial model involving the council, The Scottish Government and the developer resulting in the council borrowing £61.4m largely dependent on future council tax revenue.

The mixed use development was given [approval in principle](#) in 2009 and all necessary bits of land have now been compulsorily purchased at the developer's expense.

The new development promises 1000 jobs when complete, but also promises other jobs during the construction phase.

John Lewis will be the only store left standing during the development phase and while this paints a lonely picture it is hailed as good news by all concerned. The flagship store is a [central pin](#) in the Edinburgh St James development.

Council Leader Andrew Burns said: "It is great news for the city that John Lewis, one of Edinburgh's best-loved retailers, will form part of the fantastic new development and will continue to trade throughout the construction period. The Council has monitored this situation closely.

"The new St James will transform the area at the east end of Princes Street, create thousands of permanent jobs and add £25 million to the Scottish economy each year."

---

# League Cup semi-final to be held at Tynecastle



The semi final of the Scottish League Cup presented by Utilita between Hibs and St Johnstone will be played at Tynecastle Stadium on Saturday 30 January (kick-off 3pm).

The match is a repeat of the 2007 League Cup semi final, where Hibs ran out 3-1 winners on the way to winning the trophy.

A poll on Hibs.net indicated that around 60% of fans wanted the game to be played at Tynecastle rather than Hampden Park.

Full ticket information will be announced in due course.

As a result Hibs' Ladbrokes Championship match with Morton, originally scheduled for Saturday 30 January, will be rescheduled.

---

# Lothian MSP calls on Holyrood to take action on housing shortage



Lothian MSP Sarah Boyack and Scottish Labour candidate for Edinburgh Central, today called on The Scottish Government to do more to tackle the housing shortage in Edinburgh and the

Lothians, as its own figures show that rents in the city are up 6.4% on last year.

The average rental cost for a 2 bedroom property is now £829, compared to just £560 in West Lothian and £669 in Glasgow.

✖ Sarah Boyack said today: “Private rented sector tenants in Edinburgh are being particularly badly hit by the housing shortage. Not only are rents increasing well beyond the means of most families, but any properties which do come on the market are being snapped up in a matter of days. Since 2010 rents have risen by an eye-watering 25% and the first £10,000 you earn each year goes straight to your landlord.

“Young adults starting their careers, families struggling to get affordable accommodation and people without children are the groups most likely to rent from the private sector and are already being hit hard by benefits cuts and slow youth employment. Trapped by high house prices and high rents they spend more and more of their income on expensive, cold homes each year.

“Edinburgh needs more affordable housing supported by the Scottish Government and action in hotspots to tackle rip off rent rises. Scottish Labour’s proposals for rent caps were voted down by the SNP and Conservatives, costing tenants hundreds of pounds in rent.

---

# **Bank of Scotland on The Mound will light up the skyline for**

# BBC Children in Need



The Mound, Bank of Scotland's iconic headquarters, will light up the Edinburgh skyline tonight, with a spectacular, unique building projection, celebrating Bank of Scotland's Principal Partnership with BBC Children in Need.


The display will take place this evening to say 'thank you' to the hundreds of schools and thousands of pupils across Scotland who have been fundraising for BBC Children in Need.

Bank of Scotland is BBC Children in Need's first Principal Partner and exclusive schools fundraising partner, committed to helping BBC Children in Need support all Scottish schools and thousands of children with charitable fundraising and key skills development.

The projection will display messages of thanks to the many schools, teachers and pupils who have fundraised to help disadvantaged children and young people across Scotland through Champions of Change. The exciting education initiative – launched earlier this year by BBC Children in Need and Bank of Scotland – put children in charge of fundraising for the much-loved charity, while helping them learn and develop new skills to enhance their own futures. Passers-by may also catch a glimpse of a very well-known yellow bear on The Mound too...

The partnership is expected to double donations raised through schools by 2017. The Group has also committed to raise at least £2million per year for BBC Children in Need, as its Charity of the Year in 2015 and 2016, and has already raised more than £3million for this year's Appeal. This is just one way that Bank of Scotland, as part of Lloyds Banking Group, is helping to bring communities closer together, a key commitment within its Helping Britain Prosper Plan.

Annette Barnes, Bank of Scotland Managing Director said “Bank of Scotland is proud to support BBC Children in Need and we wanted to mark Appeal Night with something special, whilst also showing our gratitude to the thousands of school children who have helped fundraise for this year’s Appeal. I think that the projections on The Mound building will capture of both these sentiments perfectly. Our partnership with BBC Children in Need sits at the heart of our strategy to Help Britain Prosper, and knowing that together we can make a difference and help change the lives of disadvantaged young people is fantastic.”

The Group will be the largest provider of call centres for BBC Children in Need this year, reinforcing its role as Principal Partner, with hundreds of Lloyds Banking Group colleagues volunteering over 4000 hours of support for their Charity of the Year, by answering the calls and processing the many millions of pounds donated by the public during the BBC Children in Need Appeal telethon tonight. 

Pictures by JANE BARLOW

© Jane Barlow 2015 {all rights reserved}

janebarlowphotography@gmail.com

m: 07870 152324

---

## Woman robbed of mobile phone in Eyre Crescent



Police are appealing for witnesses after a woman was robbed around 11:30pm on Tuesday evening.

The 26-year-old was walking alone on Eyre Place, heading in the direction of Broughton Road when she became aware of a man walking closely behind her.

Moments later he pushed the woman and grabbed the phone out of her hand before running off.

Officers are now carrying out various lines of inquiry in an effort to trace the unknown male and are now seeking the assistance of the public.

The male is described as white, between 20-30 years-old, around 5ft 9ins tall and with a medium build.

Detective Constable Alison Wyllie said: "Fortunately the woman did not sustain injury but she has been left shaken by this incident.

"I ask anyone who was in the area around the time of this robbery and who has information that might assist with our ongoing inquiry to contact police immediately on 101 or, alternatively the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

---

## **Police make 100 drug related and anti social behaviour arrests**



Police have made 100 arrests as part of an ongoing initiative to tackle drug related anti-social behaviour.

Operation Austinburg was set up at the end of the summer in

response to complaints from local residents and businesses in the Southside of the City.

Throughout autumn additional officers and Council Environmental Wardens have been on patrol in the area targeting common stairs and other areas where drug use has been occurring.

The activity carried out as part of the operation to date has involved around 2000 disruption visits to stairs and public areas to deter drug use as well as five intelligence-led searches of properties in Potterow, Nicolson Street, Upper Grey Street and Dumbiedykes where information relating to drugs distribution had been received.

Officers also seized £15,000 worth of drugs from the streets during enforcement activity directed at around 80 individuals throughout South Edinburgh.

Chief Inspector Mark Rennie, Area Commander for South Edinburgh said: "Our activity on the ground to tackle drug misuse and street dealing is having a real impact.

"Officers are out on foot patrol targeting the problem on a daily basis and we've received excellent support from the Council's Community Safety team to address security and access issues identified

"The operation also coincides with the strategic level activity carried out by Police Scotland and City of Edinburgh Council to prevent the sale and distribution of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) across the City

"It's important that our approach considers the significant health issues underlying drug abuse and for that reason we will continue to liaise with health agencies to ensure vulnerable users can be offered help and support."

Councillor Cammy Day, Community Safety Leader for the City of



Edinburgh Council, said: “Anti-social behaviour can have a devastating effect on communities, and it is well known that drugs and alcohol can cause this type of behaviour to worsen.

“We are committed to making communities safer and do so by working closely with Police Scotland on initiatives such as Operation Austinburg to help reduce these incidents.

“Operations like this are made easier by help from residents and as always, local knowledge is extremely valuable.

“I would encourage south-side residents to get in touch if they have any concerns or information that might be helpful.”

---

## Edinburgh Councillor blogs – Councillor Maureen Child

✉ Dear All

There is a “Meet the Funders” drop-in fair for community groups the general public on Thursday 3 December in Portobello Town Hall, 147-149 High Street from 1pm to 4pm. A whole range of grant-giving trusts and organisations will be there with representatives to talk to. I better be there at 1pm, as I’m down to do the official opening. Further details on the website:

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/about-nps/funding/meet-the-funders/>.

The new Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) is recruiting volunteers as Equalities Ambassadors to provide a vital link between local decision makers and the people most affected by inequalities and discrimination. Training and support will be

given. They're looking for people who are: Aware of equalities and rights issues; Open minded and non-judgemental; Willing to listen and learn; Comfortable communicating on behalf of others; Prepared to accurately report back on communications. The role will vary, depending on the strengths and experience each person brings to it. EaRN are looking for lots of different people with different areas of interest. Do you know anyone who might fit the bill? Perhaps you are/or know a service user, client or customer that you think would make a great Equalities Ambassador – if so, please encourage them to get in touch with EaRN for a chat and/or an application pack: Email: [equalityandrights@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk](mailto:equalityandrights@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk) or 0131 561 8313.

Castlebrae Community High School is rightly extremely proud of the fantastic achievements of its pupils, which includes a significant rise in attainment levels of their young people. Lots more here: [Castlebrae Winter Newsletter](#)

We all miss the Craigmillar Chronicle and there is a big gap we need help fill. Print and distribution is extremely expensive, but we have the capacity – surely – to exploit social media and get all our positive messages out. The Chronicle Online digital media team invite you all to attend the session on the 18 November and to help share your stories about all the positive things going on in the local area that everybody needs to know about. Please circulate this as widely as you can. [Get involved with Chronicle Online | Chronicle Online](#)

Community Growing has become a big thing in Craigmillar, Niddrie and Magdalene with up to ten groups up and running – and needing volunteers. They got together to network and find out about each other yesterday at Sandy's community centre Craigmillar Castle Road. The group were going to do some more work on the woodland there, but cold Hurricane Abigail had other plans, so we mainly huddled in the corner of the hall out of the wind and networked. There is something to do in

gardening or out of doors activities locally every day of the week and they more people are welcome to get involved. If you are interested in getting involved, do let me know. I came away with a big list of contacts!

The program for the 2015 [Craigmillar Book Festival](#) is out. Please do help spread the word on Robert Louis Stevenson's Birthday.

A recruitment fair for care assistants/workers will take place in the East Neighbourhood Centre on Friday 27 November. The City of Edinburgh Council are looking for people to join their Home Care and Re-ablement Service in Edinburgh and are holding a recruitment fair from 10am to 1pm on the 27th November.

The service would be provided to the city's older population and to vulnerable adults and aims to enable people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible and reduce the need for people to visit hospital. For further information or an application form, please contact the Recruitment Team at: [hsc.recruitmentcoordination@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:hsc.recruitmentcoordination@edinburgh.gov.uk) or telephone 0131 469 3976

This weekend, there's a special pre-Christmas sale and show of original photographic art work with a Portobello theme by Portobello-based blind photographer, Rosita McKenzie this Sunday. There are snacks and a free glass of wine plus a raffle and you can purchase your own photographic portrait created by Rosita on the day. That's this Sunday, 15 November 1pm at Portobello Bowling Club, Lee Crescent, Portobello, Edinburgh EH15 1LW

Are you concerned about the plight of refugees and want to do something to help? You can make and/or go along to buy an artwork at a special event. The theme is 'Home' – what does 'home' mean to you? All artworks are postcard sized (6" x 4") and can be in any medium (photos, drawings, textile art, poetry etc.). The artworks will be sold for donations at Northfield Community Centre on Saturday 28 November from 7 to

9 pm. If you're really quick, you could make one yourself and hand it in this weekend. It's important to come along to this special event and buy one of the artworks (minimum donation £2). It will be possible to buy pieces made by celebrities as well as local people. Refreshments will be available. Proceeds will go to Re-Act (Refugee Action Scotland).

A set of variable speed signs which flash at speeding motorists, had been agreed for the Seaview/ Terrace/ Musselburgh Road/Eastfield , as requested a while ago by local Eastfield residents. The spending has been agreed as a local project for the Portobello/Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership who have come forward and have the main say on a relatively small section of the roads and footways capital budget every year.

Nobody denies that Brighton Place carriageway is very much in need of repair. But the vexed question of whether to finish or rebuild Brighton Place with the historic setts or a new tarmac surface rumbles on. A survey carried out door-to-door by Brighton and Rosefield Residents Association concluded that 80% of those living in that part of the Portobello Conservation Area would want the setts replaced and the Council's non-statutory planning policy 'Designing Streets' and the Portobello Conservation Area Character appraisal would support their view. However, a wider community consultation by Portobello Community Council found a small majority in favour of a tarmac surface finish. The whole question is now to be discussed and debated, as part of the overall consideration of priorities in the roads and footways capital investment programme by Councillors on the Transport and Environment Committee in January.

Want to know what the Open Day visitors thought of Brunstane Primary School? Prospective parents were asked on the day for three words that described their impressions of Brunstane. This is the result, click on: [Friendly Brunstane School](#)

Fun Fiddle Big Coastal Ceilidh is on Sunday 29 November from 3 – 5.30pm The Wash House, 3 Adelphi Grove. You are invited to “Come and dance to Porty’s Biggest ever Ceilidh band!” Tickets from The ‘Really Wild Flower Shop’, 90 Portobello High St. £8 /£5 concession, kids under 5 are free! More here: [www.funfiddle.co.uk](http://www.funfiddle.co.uk)

Portobello Community Council have been working with Edinburgh Council’s Community Learning and Development team to gather views on services for young people in the area. The event is called Portobello for Young People. Please come to hear the results of that research and discuss how services and facilities for 10 to 17-year-olds can be shaped or improved in future. Monday 30 November 7.30pm to 9.15pm at Portobello High School Entrance is FREE, but please register so we know how many to expect. All welcome! Please Register Young people have a loads of good ideas and thoughts to contribute to their community and we should all learn to listen. For example they have ideas on combating poverty and the stigma around it, see the Youth Parliament report here: [http://www.syp.org.uk/img/its\\_not\\_a\\_choice/Its\\_not\\_a\\_choice\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.syp.org.uk/img/its_not_a_choice/Its_not_a_choice_Final_Report.pdf)

To celebrate Explore Your Archives Week the Thistle Foundation are hosting an event at The White House on Niddrie Mains Road on the 18 November, 11am – 3pm. Drop in and have a look at some treasures from Thistle and the local area. More about what the Thistle do here: <http://www.thistle.org.uk/>

Loneliness is not simply about being alone, it affects our mental and physical wellbeing. Half of older people say the television is their main company. Portobello/Craigmillar, Census 2011 counts 3,359 people over 65 and 486 aged 85 plus. Loneliness is a major challenge, and something we have the power to combat by bringing people together in the community. The relatively new L00Ps (Local Opportunities for Older People) runs a phone line, part of a city-wide initiative to help older people get out and about. If you are aged over 65,

know someone who is, call L00Ps free to speak to one of their friendly volunteers about activities and services in your local area. They provide a professional service, bringing together contacts and information tailored to the person's unique interests and requirements. One example: L00Ps had a call from a 77 year old lady who has a diagnosis of dementia and lives with her son. Although her daughter visits every day, she's alone while everyone is at work and can't go out on her own. L00Ps contacted a number of services who could provide her with care and enjoyable companionship in the safe environment she needed. L00Ps are also involved in hosting events across the city that bring people together, such as the recent Sew & Snack craft afternoon they held at the National Gallery of Scotland. L00Ps website has further information and includes a blog. The best way to contact L00Ps is by phoning 0131 603 8311. Their phone line is open on weekdays. Email enquiries can be sent to [loops@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk](mailto:loops@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk)

The traffic regulation order (TRO) for School Streets Phase 2, including Towerbank Primary School has been advertised by the Council. The plan is that the (largely) traffic free zone will operate around Towerbank Primary School 08:20 to 09:10 and 15:00 to 15:40 Mondays to Thursdays inclusive and 08:20 to 09:10 and 12:10 to 12:35 Fridays. More here: <https://www.facebook.com/PortobelloCommunityCouncil/posts/784534921672081:0>

Whatever you do, have a good weekend!

Best wishes

Maureen

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

---

# What's on in Edinburgh? Previously...Scotland's History Festival – 18 November

## Previously...Scotland's History Festival

Two events on 18 November...

### **The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Very Short Introduction**

13:00 at The Stand 5 York Place.

Everyone has heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls, but amidst the conspiracies, the politics, and the sensational claims, it can be difficult to separate the myths from the reality. Timothy Lim presents the true facts and the leading theories behind the cultural and historical background of the scrolls, and examines their significance for our understanding of the Old Testament and the origins of Christianity and Judaism.

[Booking details here.](#)

### **Writing Historic Fiction with Millie Gray and Andrew Nicoll**

Join authors Millie Gray and Andrew Nicoll on a journey into history. Millie's latest novel *Silver Linings* is set in the hardship of 1940s Leith, while Andrew takes his readers to a crime scene in Broughty Ferry just before the First World War.

Speakers :Millie Gray Andrew Nicoll

[Booking details here.](#)

---

# Council preparing to take the tram to Newhaven



The trams will in the very near future go all the way to Newhaven, and the council say they have the money to pay for it, without affecting their revenue budgets in the short or long term.

So yesterday we had George Clooney in town, but this is today's big news in the capital.

The beleaguered Edinburgh Tram project which contracted to become one tram **line** from the airport to York Place has a long history, and is now the subject of the [Edinburgh Tram Inquiry](#) under the chairmanship of Lord Hardie.

The preparatory works have already been done all the way down Leith Walk, but to stop the line at the Foot of the Walk, on Picardy Place or even at Ocean Terminal would not make financial sense according to council officers. The only option which they recommend is to extend the tram line all the way to Newhaven.

The council agreed in June this year to spend £400,000 on working up the Outline Business Case for the tram extension, and next week councillors will be asked to approve spending of a further £1.6million to take the project to the next stage.

We are not yet at the point of pressing the green for go light on the Tram Extension, but we are getting much closer, as the council approves more investigation.

There are still many hurdles to get over, but the council is adamant that it has learned lessons from the first phase of



the tram project and will use this knowledge in taking the next step. They mention traffic management and project governance as two key areas where they will do better next time.

The £1.6million spending to be approved next week will cover what are called Stage 1 activities, which includes procurement for all external processes like hiring lawyers and doing site investigation. This stage is broken down into three parts: Project and Technical Management Resource (£1.3m), Tram Enabling Works (£176K) and Leith Programme Enabling works (£123K).

According to all reports the trams have operated successfully for a year and a bit now, but they are not yet profitable on their own. Nonetheless, during August this year over half a million passengers used the service, and in the latest UK Transport Focus customers said that they are overwhelmingly happy with it. Edinburgh Trams scored a 95% overall satisfaction rating.

So the tram is now reasonably good news for those who use the service, but there is still the matter of how it will be paid for. How will the council be able to pay for the tram extension without affecting any other revenue spending at all?

They say it is very simple: they will use their wholly owned company Lothian Buses to pay for preparatory stages and then provide the 'deposit' for prudent borrowing.

In the first place the council already have £5million in its coffers waiting to be spent on the initial phases. This money has been retained from previous dividends paid by Lothian Buses. Secondly they will ask Lothian Buses for a special one-off dividend of £20million over four years which will then be used to enable council borrowing, and which will cover the initial funding gap.

The council also recognise that the proposed financial

structure could be affected by any change in the numbers of tram passengers or a drop in tram fares, and that any shortfall would have to be met by the council. The next stage of the project is to investigate ways of reducing this risk, and the report suggests that there is much work to be done before firmly deciding to go ahead.

According to Lothian Buses' latest accounts to December 2014 the company made a net profit of over £8million, and is in a position to pay a dividend of around £5m per annum quite easily. The City of Edinburgh Council is the company's biggest shareholder holding over 91% of the shares and so is entitled to demand the dividend needed to make the project a reality.

The capital costs for the extended line have been calculated at £144.7m. The council has investigated borrowing options where the cost would be lower at the beginning, but would increase as the profitability of the project grows, but much depends on The Scottish Government issuing new guidance on council borrowing. The council recognises that there is a risk in any borrowing, particularly in the early years when the line would be under construction with no increase in revenue.

The initial economic research shows that the extended tram line will become profitable almost immediately, and the build cost is the cheapest at £30.9million per kilometre if the line is run to Newhaven.

Leith is the most densely populated area of the city, and the area where only 50% have a car, so it is clear that this area alone adds to the number of potential passengers, but it would not be viable to simply run the line to the foot of Leith Walk.

In addition by 2022 the projections show that there will be another 50,000+ people living in the capital. The bus service in the city may be a very good one but it reaches capacity at

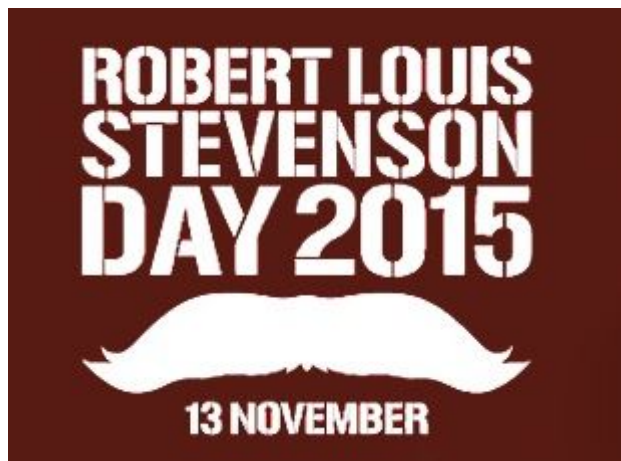
2,400 passengers in one direction each hour, and there will be around 4,000 passengers waiting to get on board from Newhaven, making it necessary to look at other public transport options.

The tram itself will support housing and other economic development across the city and in particular developments at Leith Waterfront which stalled when the decision was taken to stop the tram line in the city.

So is this today's good news? Let us know what you think below.

---

## What's on in Edinburgh – Robert Louis Stevenson Day



Today a multitude of events will take place across Edinburgh to celebrate the birthday in 1850 of Scottish adventure novelist Robert Louis Stevenson.

These events are organised by EdinburghCity of Literature and this year's theme is 'Stevenson on stage and screen.'

The National Library of Scotland will hold a themed talk on the day when Curator Andrew Martin will explore the Alan Brecks, Jekylls and Hydes and Long John Silvers of vintage cinema.

Sadly this event is fully booked but from 11 – 16 November in the foyer of the National Library, there will be a small but varied display of materials relating to film versions of Stevenson's work.

But there are lots of other RLS themed events from 9 November onwards. Read all about them [here](#) on the City of Literature website.

---

## Letter from Scotland



### Stormy days

We need to talk about Abigail. No, not my four year old granddaughter, but the first “named” storm of the winter. The Met Office has taken to naming our storms as they blow in, to warn us more clearly of their coming. The next one will be Barney...and so on, down the alphabet. Of course, our storms are not as dramatic as the named American hurricanes, with their winds of 150mph, but they are alarming enough for our temperate country.

In fact, we've had a couple of storms already. Last weekend, winds reached 100mph in parts of the Highlands, and Dumfriesshire was drenched in 25mm of rain. On Monday, the winds reached 115mph, western coasts were lashed by 22ft waves and a big dump of snow fell on the Cairngorm Mountains. As I write though we are battening down the hatches for Abigail, with warnings on the radio of heavy rain, high winds and occasional thunder and lightning. Schools are being closed, ferry services suspended.

I wonder if it's all a warning from the gods that next month's world summit on climate change had better produce results. We had a warning this week from the UK Energy Secretary that the UK is still behind on its target to meet all its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020, which may have a knock on effect here in Scotland.

It's also been a stormy week for the SNP. The party at Westminster was furious that the Scotland Bill, granting more powers to the Scottish Parliament, was given such short shrift – only one day of debate for over 100 amendments. The SNP were particularly peeved that their amendment giving Holyrood the power to hold another referendum on independence was voted down – despite Labour abstaining.

The Bill has now completed its journey through the House of Commons and now heads for the House of Lords. So new powers over the rates and bands of income tax and new powers to top up welfare benefits are coming Scotland's way. So too is control over abortion, despite a rear-guard action by some Labour MPs worried that Scotland might adopt stricter rules over abortion.

A sign of the increasingly prickly relationship between the SNP's 55 MPs and their Westminster friends is the unlikely issue of Sunday trading. This week the UK Government was forced to abandon its plan to loosen the laws on Sunday trading in England and Wales, because the SNP threatened to vote against. They argued that, although the changes might not have a direct effect on Scotland, they could lead to the big retail chains cutting the wages of shop workers all over the UK.

Back home, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon faced a storm at Holyrood over a damning report from the Inspector of Constabulary on the police handling of 999 calls. It follows the failure of the police to respond, for three days, to an emergency call about a car which had crashed into a ditch off

the M9 near Stirling. The young couple inside both died. The report listed a catalogue of problems – a shortage of call-handling staff, the hasty merger of local call centres, computer and record-keeping failures and a lack of proper oversight.

The opposition parties were not slow in pointing out that the M9 incident was not the only trouble besetting the SNP's project to merge Scotland's eight police forces into one. There were the other matters of armed police, the use of stop-and-search powers, an unexplained death of a man in custody, the £25m VAT bill, the early departures of the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the police authority.

Ms Sturgeon said what both Labour and the Conservatives failed to mention was that they were also in favour of merging the eight police forces into one to save money and that crime was now at a 41 year low. "The verdict that really matters," she said, "is the verdict of the Scottish people and the latest opinion poll shows that 58 per cent of them intend to vote for the SNP." She was referring to a TSN poll which found that 58 per cent of respondents said they would vote SNP in the constituency elections next May while only 24 per cent intended to vote Labour.

There was bad news for the SNP, and everyone else, with the latest Scottish unemployment figures out this week. The total over the summer rose by 11,000 to 6 per cent, compared with a fall to 5.3 per cent for the UK as a whole. It's yet another sign that Scotland is suffering most from the downturn in the oil industry. The tax office, HMRC, added to the gloom by announcing it would be shedding around 2,000 jobs in Scotland over the next five years as it merges its 18 local offices into just three.

It's been a bad news week too for the Liberal Democrats (down to 4 per cent in that poll) as they watched their only MP in Scotland Alistair Carmichael trudge into court each day,

accused of misleading his constituents in Orkney and Shetland in the run up to the general election last May. You may remember he at first denied he had authorised the leaking a false report about Nicola Sturgeon's meeting with the French Ambassador, but after the election he admitted it. It's the first time such an election court has sat in 50 years and proceedings were televised – not to the lawyers' advantage, it must be said. Their stumbling speeches looked to me like a lesson in slow dictation to a class of ten year olds. But the two judges, unwigged, took careful notes and will give their verdict at a later date.

Finally some good news, the Ebola nurse Pauline Cafferkey is off the critical list and is recovering, for the second time. She had the misfortune to contract Ebola while volunteering in Sierra Leone last year and she fell ill again a month ago, this time with a little known lingering effect of Ebola, meningitis. On Wednesday she emerged again from her plastic tent in the Royal Free Hospital in London and is back in Glasgow.

It's been a testing time for many people this week. As the old hymn has it, may their anchors hold in the storm of life.

---

**News from the sale room –  
Lyon & Turnbull sell  
Mackintosh chair for over**

# £20,000



Lyon & Turnbull sold a ladderback chair designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh for £21,250 at their of Decorative Arts on November the 11th 2015 in Edinburgh. The chair was made for Miss Cranston's Willow Street Tea Rooms, Glasgow, Scotland and comes from a Private Collection in London. It was given to the vendor as a gift

Mackintosh had produced versions of the traditional ladderback chair before, first for David Gauld in 1893 and then as a bedroom chair at Windyhill in 1901. This understated and deceptively simple design of 1903, for Miss Cranston's new Willow Tearooms in Sauchiehall Street, is his most successful treatment of this vernacular form. The dark wood against the pale walls and tablecloths of the tearoom interiors accentuated the striking lines of this, one of Mackintosh's most recognisable chairs.

A piano owned by Barbra Streisand which sold for £4,000, was originally sold in New York at auction in 1994 as part of The Collection of Barbra Streisand.

The Art Deco piano was designed by Krakauer and is made of a polished walnut veneer. Krakauer was an American manufacturer of handmade, high-quality pianos, founded 1869 in New York City by the Jewish immigrant Simon Krakauer, his son David and his brother Julius. Krakauer Brothers was one of the few American piano companies to survive the Great Depression without being absorbed into a larger conglomerate.

Other items in the sale included a Rene Lalique Powder Box which made £3,500, a painted and glazed earthenware dish by Pablo Picasso which made £5,250, a collection of three



paintings and sketches by Simeon Solomon made £5,000, £6,250 and £4,250. A large collection of Archibald Knox silver sold well with individual pieces making good prices including a Liberty & Co pewter and enamel clock making £4,250. A wonderful Fivemiletown arts and crafts fendor made £2,125 and a bronze figure by Bruno Zach circa 1920 made £2,500.

The total for the sale including buyers premium was £389,800 and the number of lots sold was 406 from 519 offered.

---

# Five things you need to know today



**Youths charged following fireworks incidents**

**Trams trams trams**

**It's the Weekend!**

**Edinburgh Restaurant wins third award in two weeks**

**Concert at Greyfriars**

Police in Edinburgh have arrested 17 youths for a range of fireworks-related offences in the North of the city over the past couple of weeks.

On Sunday 22nd November officers responded to reports of a large group causing a disturbance in Restalrig Road and Restalrig Road South where fireworks were thrown at a Lothian Bus and onto the roadway.

Following an investigation by the local policing team, ten

males aged 13, 15, 14, 12, 14, 14, 13, 13, 13 and 17 were all detained and subsequently charged in connection with this incident.

A similar incident was then reported within Restalrig Road South at the Scotmid premises during Tuesday evening (24th October), where a number of males were seen to aim fireworks at passing traffic as well as pedestrians.

As a result of local inquiries two 13-year-olds and a 15-year-old were arrested and charged. The 15-year-old has also been charged in connection with an incident at the Gulf petrol station in Restalrig on 24th October, where a firework was set off in another youth's face.

Residents in Cables Wynd House then contacted police on the evening of Thursday 26th October after several young people were seen to be throwing fireworks around, creating a risk to the general public.

Those responsible also targeted a police vehicle, which arrived at the scene to investigate the report.

Three 13-year-old boys and a 17-year-old male have since been charged and officers are currently following a positive line of inquiry to trace others believed to be involved.

Inspector Alan Carson from Leith Police Station said: "The vast majority of young people in the North of Edinburgh behaved responsibly during Bonfire Night and the weeks running up to it.

"However, a small group put both their own safety and the safety of others in serious risk during a number of incidents, which took place and local policing teams have been pursuing various lines of inquiry to identify those responsible.

"Reckless conduct such as this will not be tolerated and I would like to remind our communities, particularly the younger

members, that messing around with fireworks may land you in police custody or in hospital.”



There will be an update on the tram extension programme here at 11, but in the meantime you might want to consider the progress of the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry which the Inquiry Chairman is anxious to keep on track.

He is fearful that not having one of the key players in the tram project at the inquiry table will stall progress and make the whole proceedings less meaningful.

Although the tram inquiry is a non-adversarial hearing and is only set up to learn what really happened and report those to the Scottish Ministers, it is keen to get all the facts from the horse's mouth. It will not be possible to quiz any company officers from the tram company **tie** as it now lies dormant. The council refuse to reinstate the company as to do so would cost millions according to the Council Leader.



What to do now that it's the weekend? Well we are recommending a couple of things. First of all from today there is Foodies Festival Christmas which we are very much hoping to get along to! [Tickets here from £13.](#)

*Top Chefs and Retro Recipes in the Chefs Theatre, an Artisan Christmas Market with Vegan and Gluten Free options, Champagne Ski Bar and a Scottish Gin Theatre are just some of the festive features food-lovers can look forward to as Foodies Festival Christmas transforms the EICC into a culinary wonderland 13-15th November.*

*This November acclaimed chefs from across Scotland will swap their aprons for Santa hats in the Aga Rangemaster Chefs Theatre, sharing their favourite recipes and top tips to help*

*you create the perfect Christmas feast for friends and family.*

*Sample and shop from over 150 artisan producers in the Christmas Market, where you can pick-up everything you need to make this Christmas extra tasty and special, and visit the Pudding Hall for festive favourites such as eggnog, mulled wine and cider, mince pies, Christmas cakes, marzipan bonbons and macaroons.*

Secondly, but sshh don't tell everybody the [Edinburgh Art Fair](#) is on....



Wedgwood the Restaurant, on Edinburgh's Royal Mile, has scooped its third accolade in less than two weeks. Owners Paul and Lisa Wedgwood are delighted to have received the SLTN Wine Award and be listed in the Sunday Times Top 100 Restaurants for their "faultless cuisine and service", as voted for by diners. The hat trick was awarded last night when they won the Thistle Awards Hospitality Hero 2015.

[Read more here.](#)



Tickets are now on sale for a fantastic festive concert in support of Parkinson's UK research in Scotland that's being held in Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh on Friday 4 December 2015.


'Tis the season to sing is the theme of the concert that features a stellar line up performers including the renowned Edinburgh Police Choir, the fabulous Singing4Fun with Parkinson's Community Choir and the multi-talented Jan Mattison, Parkinson's UK's West of Scotland Fundraiser with her selection of jazz and swing flavoured songs. There will also be a reading from 2015 Miss Scotland finalist and

Parkinson's campaigner Julie Govan.

The performers will deliver a unique mix of traditional and modern festive classics and all of the money raised will go towards Parkinson's UK research programmes in Scotland. The vital work being done in search of a cure by universities across Scotland is entirely dependent on donations so to get Christmas off to a swinging start get tickets now by calling 0344 225 3724 or visiting [www.parkinsons.org.uk/festiveconcert](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/festiveconcert)

Showtime for the concert on Friday 4 December at Greyfriars Kirk is 7pm and doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets are a bargain at £10 for adults with free entry for children under 12.




 Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter  
! [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 above with a smartphone or tablet.

---

# George Clooney picks up cheque at the Postcode Lottery

 Hollywood star George Clooney has wowed crowds across the capital today with his charming manner and smile.

He brought his namesake street to a standstill today as crowds gathered outside People's Postcode Lottery offices to catch a glimpse of the star.

The ER and Ocean's Eleven actor was visiting the Edinburgh-based charity lottery to receive a cheque for £175,000 for his charity Not on Our Watch.

Players have awarded Not on Our Watch, a charity co-founded by George Clooney, £175,000 to help increase global attention to human rights violations across the world.

Clooney's charity, which was also founded by Brad Pitt and Matt Damon, was set up to generate lifesaving assistance and protection for the vulnerable, marginalised and displaced.

As a charity lottery, players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised over £91million for good causes across Great Britain and internationally. Along with sister lotteries in the Netherlands and Sweden, People's Postcode Lottery is part of the world's third largest private charitable donor.

*Photo Rob McDougall*

---

## **14 men arrested following disturbance before Hearts match in October**

✖ Football-related violence has resulted in 14 arrests following a disturbance before the match between Hearts and Kilmarnock last month.

At around 3pm on Saturday 3 October police were called to McLeod Street near Tynecastle Stadium in response to a report of a fight involving more than 20 rival supporters.

Additional officers attended the scene and assisted in breaking up the disturbance resulting in the arrest of a 21-year-old man from Kilmarnock.

A number of other people involved fled the area however following an extensive police investigation conducted by divisional officers and the Football Coordination Unit (FoCUS), which is a specialist police resource designed to tackle violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour associated with football, a further 14 males, aged 28, 24, 23, 19, 18, 17, 17, 17, 16, 16, 16, 15, 15, 14, have now been arrested and charged for various offences.

All are expected to appear before Edinburgh Sheriff Court on February 17, 2016.

Inspector Bob Innes of Police Scotland said: "We treat such incidents extremely seriously.

"The safety of everyone attending football matches is of paramount importance and violence and disorder will not be tolerated.

"Thanks to some excellent police work and with the assistance of our partners at Hearts Football Club, we have successfully traced and charged 14 males in connection with this incident.

"They will appear in court in due course and in the meantime they have been ordered not to attend at any regulated football match in the UK.

"I can reassure the public that anyone involved in this sort of criminal activity will be swiftly dealt with."