

# Five things you need to know today



**Auld Reekie Roller Girls ready for the Grand Final**

**Book Club for younger children**

**Eyre Place**

**VisitScotland publish coffee table book for Christmas**

**Twelve Closes**

Tomorrow 28 November Edinburgh's own top ranked roller derby league, Auld Reekie Roller Girls' 2015 Home Season will come to a dramatic conclusion with an epic double-header Grand Final. ARRG's three home teams; the Cherry Bombers, Leithal Weapons and Skatefast Club have battled it out in three fast and furious games, all of which will culminate in Saturday's grand final which will take place at Meadowbank Sports Stadium.

The Skatefast Club had a decisive win over Leithal Weapons in the first game of the Home Season, before the Leithals rallied with a win against the Cherry Bombers in the second game. Following a rollicking game in early November in which Skatefast Club beat the Cherry Bombers, a dramatic finish to the season is in store as the Leithal Weapons take on the Skatefast Club, juking it out for supremacy as Home Season champions. The grand final will be a double-header, with the third-placed home team, the Cherry Bombers, taking on guest team – The Rolling Bones.

Saturdays' Home Season Grand Final provides an excellent opportunity to support Edinburgh's own Auld Reekie Roller Girls as they showcase top-class skills and athleticism in what promises to be hugely exciting day of derby. The day is

set to have carnival feel, with additional activities throughout the day, including a local vendors market, home-baked goods, a fully licenced bar, children's craft corner, half time entertainment, raffles, merchandise and much more. A great day for the whole family.

Doors open at 1pm before the first game begins at 1.30pm.

Tickets are £6 in advance, £8 on the door, available on Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2252540>

ARRG has introduced new prices for unwaged and Senior (over 65's) fans at £5 per ticket, as well as free entry for disability leisure card holders and a carer.



Literary Littles Free bookclub for ages 2–9

The Fruitmarket Gallery Bookshop is collaborating with Tate Publishing, Walker Books, and Bloomsbury press to present three Saturday mornings of book readings.

Lesley Barnes: Jill & Dragon

Sat 28 Nov, 10.30am. Free

Ages 2–8 [Book now](#)

Glaswegian author and illustrator Lesley Barnes reads her sumptuously illustrated book Jill & Dragon.

Vivian French: The Most Wonderful Thing in The World

Sat 5 Dec, 10.30am. Free

Ages 3–9. [Book now](#)

Author and Edinburgh resident Vivian French reads her most recent book The Most Wonderful Thing in The World. Illustrated by Angela Barret, this is a classic tale of a king, a queen, a princess, legions of suitors, and a treasure hidden in plain sight.

Debi Gliori: Alfie in ...

Sat 12 Dec, 10.30am. Free

For toddlers. [Book now](#)

Author and illustrator Debi Gliori from East Lothian reads books from her Alfie series and draws the sweet bunny and his adventures. Alfie the rabbit is a delightful character created for toddlers that celebrates their irrepressible imagination.

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Watch out on [Eyre Place](#) , today Friday 27 November 2015 where the council is undertaking remedial works to the lines on the street.



A galaxy of Scottish stars are featured in a glossy new coffee-table book, celebrating their homeland in words and pictures.

With imagery and research provided by VisitScotland, My Scotland by its Famous Sons and Daughters has been released just in time for Christmas.

It showcases interviews with 58 celebrities who talk about how their nation has shaped their lives and careers. These run alongside full-colour photos of their favourite places in Scotland.

Rory Bremner, Irvine Welsh, Sir Jackie Stewart, Nicola Benedetti, Denis Law, Billy McNeill, Judy Murray, Donovan, Katherine Grainger and Midge Ure are just a few of the celebrities to share their memories of Scotland.

Two of Hollywood's biggest Scottish stars, Brian Cox and Dougray Scott, also share their favourite places.

Brian Cox said: "When you're from Dundee the first thing you become aware of is water – the sea, the River Tay and what they both represent. To me they opened up the rest of the world. The river was something to be crossed, to see what's on

the other side, to get away and to explore – but always to come back.

Dougray Scott said: “My travels with my father gave me a great early love of Scotland. My favourite place is the Mull of Kintyre – so good Paul McCartney wrote a song about it! It’s a great journey from Glasgow to get there, past Loch Fyne and down the peninsula with beautiful views of Gigha and Jura. I love it.”

Two of the most poignant sections centre on music hero Jack Bruce and legendary singer Jean Redpath in last major interviews about the place they called home before both passed away in 2014.

And fabulous views of the Highlands, islands, mountains, lochs and urban landscapes from Shetland down to the Borders are also featured.

Ninety per cent of the book’s profits will be donated to Scottish charities, chiefly the Children’s Hospice Association Scotland, as well as some hand-picked charities close to the hearts of some of the sons and daughters taking part.

The book was produced by writers Anne Graham and Michael Hamilton whose affection for Scotland spurred them on to compile the 240-page hardback.

Anne said: “We’ve always loved Scotland and its people and we recently moved to an island near the Scottish Borders so the time seemed right to write about it.

“We were delighted that so many great names gave us their time and took part with such enthusiasm.”

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland, said: “This is a wonderful publication in which some of our best-loved celebrities share treasured memories of their favourite Scottish places. These tales of our bustling cities and hidden

gems will inspire potential visitors from all over the world to discover the locations that make Scotland a hit with its famous sons and daughters.”

Donovan, who is celebrating his 50 years in the music business this year, is one of the celebrities featured. He said: “It’s a lovely piece of work – I approve of it wholeheartedly.”

And, inspired by the book, he even wrote a short verse:

“My Scotland will always be ours,

“Wherever we roam,

“Scotia, she is always our home”

My Scotland by its Famous Sons and Daughters is published by Kingfisher Reach Publishing and is available in bookstores and online at [www.my-scotland.org](http://www.my-scotland.org)



Edinburgh World Heritage has announced a major initiative to transform twelve Old Town Closes, with a demonstration lighting event in Bakehouse Close.


The initiative will see a series of bespoke improvements to the selected closes, including new artwork, lighting and interpretation, to encourage greater use by the public. Local communities will play a crucial role in the project, researching the history of the closes to provide ideas and design inspiration for their presentation. The EWH project aims to change perceptions, transforming closes that currently feel under-used, unloved or unsafe. The project will reveal the closes’ atmospheric charm, share their rich history and reclaim them as useful pedestrian links across the city.

The demonstration event is being run in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, with the aim of showcasing a range of alternative lighting approaches, demonstrating how

artistic and architectural lighting can have a dramatic effect in Old Town closes. The views of residents, businesses and the wider public will be gathered, and hopefully the demonstration event will inspire people to become involved with the project.

The Old Town's network of closes and wynds are a key element of the city's World Heritage status, and date back to the medieval beginnings of the city. Today there are still 74 closes, forming an integral part of the fabric of the Old Town, and home to residents, businesses and many city institutions.

Adam Wilkinson, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage said: "Historically the closes were the secondary routes through the medieval city, however they have long been underused and in some cases neglected spaces. We hope that with the help of residents, students, artists, local businesses and the City of Edinburgh's street lighting and neighbourhood teams we will be able to create something of beauty and enchantment in the closes. We hope to encourage people to explore these neglected historical spaces, improving the quality of the spaces for the residents, and supporting businesses by encouraging footfall".

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# Council may still cut school lollipop patrols

✖ A Green bid to reject controversial cuts to school lollipop crossings has been knocked back by the Council's Finance Committee today.

Green councillor Gavin Corbett argued that the proposed removal of lunchtime crossings to save £104,000 in two years, should be taken off the table.

His proposal, at Finance and Resources Committee, was backed by all opposition councillors but the ruling Labour-SNP coalition decided that the proposal should remain.

Cllr Corbett said: "This proposal to cut lunchtime lollipop services has come late in the day, 2 months after consultation on the budget started. The very least I would have expected is that the proposal would have clear evidence of the case for cutting the service.

"But there is no attempt to estimate the number of children using the crossings. Nor is there any assessment of what it will mean for hiring and keeping lollipop staff if current workers lose £120 a month off their already meagre pay packets.

Lothian Green MSP Alison Johnstone added: "I'm astonished that Labour and SNP councillors did not seize the opportunity to kick this cut into the long grass. Rather than waiting until late January when the council sets its budget, the council could have spared staff and parents two months of anxiety and made a clear decision now.

"Road safety for school children must be a top priority."

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# Another Christmas ad...



Are Christmas ads taking over from the Christmas single?

We have had the John Lewis ad which is a bit of a tearjerker. Now it's Aldi's turn for a spoof of that Man in the Moon offering.

Which is your favourite ad? Do tell us!

Find your nearest Aldi store [here](#).

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# City Car Club win sustainability award at VIBES



Edinburgh based City Car Club was today declared a champion of business sustainability at the 16th annual Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards.

The car club was named winner of the Transport Award, sponsored by Lothian Buses, at the ceremony held in Edinburgh's Sheraton Hotel. This year, nine businesses took the coveted green title in front of more than 300 people from a wide range of Scottish companies.

The VIBES Awards is Scotland's leading environmental awards scheme which recognises and rewards businesses that contribute



to the country's sustainable development by taking significant steps to improve or reduce their impact on the environment.

Following a record number of entries, 27 Scottish businesses were shortlisted for the 2015 awards. A rigorous judging process was undertaken, including a programme of site visits, to assess the environmental practices of each of the finalists.

The awards aim to encourage efficient use of resources, enhance business competitiveness, improve environmental performance and support wider sustainable development goals. Awards were presented for each of the eight categories: Management (Large and SME), Environmental Product or Service, Transport, Co-operation (joint award), Hydro-Nation and Circular Economy and Micro Business (a full breakdown of winners is detailed in the notes to editors).

Gillian Bruce, Chair of the VIBES Awards, commented: "We would like to congratulate all our 2015 winners and finalists. The standard of entries this year was very high with many companies demonstrating how putting sustainability at the heart of their business operations can also benefit the bottom line.

"The winners impressed the VIBES judges throughout the process with their commitment to environmental excellence. We have had a great day celebrating their achievements and hope many more companies will be inspired to follow their example by recognising the benefits of sustainability in business."

Dan Gursel, managing director of **City Car Club**, said: "Winning a VIBES Award is an incredible achievement for City Car Club, and one more big step for what has been an important year for our business.

"Earlier this year we were acquired by Enterprise Rent-A-Car with the remit to develop and grow our capabilities to deliver a better and more sustainable service for local communities

across the UK. We're already seeing electric vehicles in Edinburgh and around the country, as well as business car clubs that are helping local authorities and companies to reduce their emissions and travel costs. Winning this award is vital recognition that we can make a real difference to communities and the environment."

Each of the 2015 VIBES winners is now eligible to enter the 2016 European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE). In 2014 six out of the 12 entries representing the UK were chosen from previous VIBES Awards winners. Edinburgh-based Vegware and Stonehaven's Bay Fish and Chips were selected as the only UK finalists in 2014, putting Scotland firmly on the map in terms of sustainable business practices in Europe.

The VIBES Awards is a strategic partnership between Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Zero Waste Scotland, Energy Saving Trust and the 20:20 Climate Group. The Awards are further supported by CBI Scotland, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses and Bright Green Business.

Sponsoring the awards this year are Scottish Government, ScottishPower, Zero Waste Scotland, Brand-Rex, EMEC, Pernod Ricard Chivas Regal, Lothian Buses, Centre for Sustainable Practice & Living and The University of Stirling Management School.

The Awards are accredited by the RSA Environment Awards Accreditation Scheme ([www.rsaaccreditation.org](http://www.rsaaccreditation.org)).

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# Baby Elephant takes up position at 'Binns Corner'



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

Baby Elephant, by Scottish sculptor Ronald Rae, has been installed on the corner of Hope Street and Princes Street, (formerly Binns' corner) 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 in the 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.

Transport Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: "This generous loan from Ronald Rae will provide a welcome addition to the city's vibrant West End, which recently underwent a series of improvements.

"It is our intention to bring the area to life with even more art and sculpture in future, so I would encourage anyone visiting or living in the city to pay 'Edinburgh's Plinth' a visit."

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener, said: "Public art, and outdoor sculpture in particular, is a cultural activity everyone can enjoy and engage with, and by creating a dedicated 'plinth' for visiting sculpture we are opening art up to a whole new audience.

"We are grateful to Ronald Rae for this loan, which will not only brighten this corner of the city up, but raises awareness

of a serious issue.”

Jock Miller, Chair of the West End Community Council, said: “The West End Community Council is delighted to see the Baby Elephant following the success of the Kelpie Maquettes. It is hoped the baby elephant will bring enjoyment to the residents of the West End, the wider Edinburgh community and tourists alike.”

Ronald Rae is currently holding an exhibition of granite sculptures at the Falkirk Wheel, including a 10-tonne Elephant Family.

He added: “I am delighted to see my Baby Elephant in the city centre. The West End plaza is a perfect place for outdoor art where the public can engage with sculpture as they pass by or sit with a coffee. This endearing work has a message – to make people think about the plight of elephants and to care for all creatures in the wild.”

Find out more about the Council’s [Public Realm Manifesto](#) online.

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## **News from The Royal High School – 3 to 88 Xmas panto**

The Royal High School puts on an annual free Xmas panto sponsored by their local Tesco.

“The kids from the feeder nurseries come up to the school and this year we are having residents from Strachan House for our very first 3 to 88 panto.”

Santa will be there and so will pupils and parents of the cast and other helpers. (It is not open to the public but we hope they might send us some ‘elfies’ so that we can show you what they looked like!)

They are putting on two shows, one at 10:30 and one at 13:30 in the school's Assembly Hall.

Submitted by [Frank Lagan](#)

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# Waldorf Astoria Roll of Honour restored



Today the Roll of Honour listing all those who served in the Great War and worked at the then Caledonian Station Hotel was given pride of place within the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian following its restoration.

The artwork lists 70 names and the search is now on to find friends and relatives of those named.

Dale MacPhee, General Manager of the luxury five-star hotel at Edinburgh's West End, said: 'Having found this wonderful piece of history, we would now love to find friends and relatives of those who are named.'

'The Roll of Honour is a lasting memorial to staff at 'The Caley' and we are delighted to be able to display it proudly in our Peacock Alley. The Caley has been one of the most iconic buildings in the city since it was first opened and I am sure that staff named on our memorial was as proud to work here then as we all are today.

'Our hotel has a well-documented history of welcoming Royalty, Prime Ministers and celebrities alongside international visitors to Edinburgh. This memorial allows us to write an

additional chapter paying tribute to those who worked here. In fact, I do wonder if it is fate that we've found it now, 100 years on from the Great War and at a time when that is the focus of commemoration.

'I am thrilled that we found this Roll of Honour and that we have been able to have it conserved with the help of War Memorials Trust and the Scottish Conservation Studio here in Edinburgh. We can now share it with hotel guests visiting locals all year round and tell them the story behind it with pride.

'Our memorial has not hung in the hotel for more than thirty years. As it reclaims pride of place this formal unveiling is very fitting and it is appropriate that we try to learn any stories behind the names.'

The artwork was conserved with support from War Memorials Trust.

Frances Moreton, Director, performed the formal unveiling of the piece. She said: "War Memorials Trust is delighted to have supported the repair of the plaque unveiled today. This is a wonderful example of a custodian ensuring their war memorial is in fit condition to mark the centenary of World War I.

'This is just one of the huge variety of projects across Scotland supported through the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund which has £1 million available to fund war memorial repair and conservation. Money is still available and we encourage communities across Scotland to follow the example of the Waldorf Astoria and get in touch to ensure the war memorials remembering the fallen of their local communities are fit for the centenary events and services which will culminate on 11th November 2018.'



Pic: The work was undertaken by Helen Creasy at the Scottish Conservation Studio

The work was undertaken by Helen Creasy at the Scottish Conservation Studio, she said: 'I was delighted to be asked to conserve the Roll of Honour. The project was a challenge as the work had become quite damaged, with dirt, tears and holes, stains, and flaking paint.

'The fabric-backed paper was loose on the wooden stretcher; the surface had been wiped with a damp cloth – which had smudged quite a lot of the lettering. The treatment was very carefully planned, and we were able to gradually progress through all the steps that were needed in order to clean and flatten it, repair the tears and fill all the losses, before retouching the areas of paint that were missing.

'A frame was made for the Roll of Honour which not only protects it against future damage, but really does justice to such a special piece. It was very rewarding to take the work from being damaged, and un-displayable to something that is close to its former glory and which can deservedly take pride of place at The Caley.'

The Roll of Honour will hang in Peacock Alley. Anyone recognising a name should contact [marina.cruz@waldorfastoria.com](mailto:marina.cruz@waldorfastoria.com) with details of their family connection.









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# Enjoy some Whisky Enlightenment in December



Coinciding with Virgin Money's Street of Light which begins on Monday and which will light up the Royal Mile with 60,000 LEDs, the Scotch Whisky Experience is to host a Whisky Enlightenment Tour.

Launching on St Andrew's Day and running until Christmas Eve, the Whisky Enlightenment tour and tasting experience is

perfectly timed so visitors can either begin or end their visit to Street of Light with an illuminating whisky experience.

Visitors will warm up with a delicious winter toddy on arrival, before taking a light-hearted look at the world of Scotch Whisky, where they can sample a specially selected single malt matched with chocolate. Guests can then enjoy a relaxed viewing of all 3,384 bottles in the World's Largest Collection of Scotch Whisky.

Susan Morrison, director and general manager of The Scotch Whisky Experience, said: "Christmas is a very special time of year in Edinburgh but much of the buzz is often concentrated in Princes Street Gardens and the annual markets. This year, we're really excited to bring some attention to the Royal Mile with Street of Light, and being so close to the action, we thought it would be a great idea to welcome people in from the cold and warm them up with a dram!

"Visitors can either join us before their walk through the illuminated arches, or stop by afterwards, as we've timed the Whisky Enlightenment tour to coincide with Street of Light's twice daily performances."

The Virgin Money Street of Light is a breathtaking new event which is set to light up Edinburgh's Old Town this Christmas. An architectural installation comprising 26 arches, it will run along the Royal Mile, from City Chambers to the Tron Kirk, creating a stunning canopy of light which will rise into the wintry skies. Running twice per evening, the experience is accompanied by music and songs from a variety of Edinburgh choirs, all of which will be synchronised to the lights.

The Whisky Enlightenment tour lasts for one hour and runs Monday to Saturday at 7:15 p.m. and Sunday at 6:15 p.m. The price is £15.00 and the tour is for adults only.

Booking – [www.scotchwhiskyevents.co.uk](http://www.scotchwhiskyevents.co.uk)

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# Missing person appeal



Police in Inverness are appealing for information regarding the whereabouts of Sherigail (Gail) Glorioso, aged 42, who was reported missing from the Merkinch area of Inverness on Sunday 22 November 2015.

She is described as being 5' 5" in height, of average build, with black shoulder length hair, tanned complexion. She was last seen wearing blue jeans, purple vest top, a jumper and carrying a handbag.

Sherigail was last seen in the Inverness area on Friday 6 November but it is believed that she may have travelled to the Edinburgh area.

Contact with Sherigail has been ongoing, however recently this contact has diminished and police are seeking to confirm her wellbeing.

If anyone has information as to Sherigail's whereabouts they are asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

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## What's On In Edinburgh? Forgotten Christmas needs

# your help

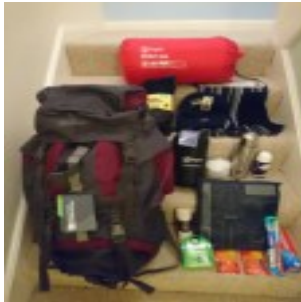
✖ Among the many great charities that try to make Christmas a little better for homeless people, there is one whose approach is a bit different.

Most of us remember the excitement of not knowing what might be in all those parcels under the tree, and many of us are still lucky enough to get mystery gifts from our nearest and dearest, even if they do turn out to be reindeer jumpers.

**Forgotten Christmas** not only raises funds for care packs for people living rough, it distributes them in a way that aims to recapture the surprise element of the festival – but **it needs your help, financial and practical, to reach as many people as it can.**



Stirling-based **Steven Tyrie**, who runs the charity along with **Andrew Moodie** and **Naomi Ross**, explains that, despite popular misconceptions, a **Salvation Army study** has shown that **the main reason for homelessness is relationship breakdowns** and that this accounts for a massive 43% of cases. Other major factors include physical or mental health issues (13%), job loss (10%) and debt (6%). Many people, says Steven, expect drugs and alcohol to account for most of the homeless people living on our streets, but while substance abuse is undoubtedly a problem for homeless people, it is often a result of being homeless rather than a cause of it. What's more, **armed service veterans** account for **one in ten** rough sleepers across the UK; their situation is often further complicated by mental and physical disabilities stemming from their experiences while serving the nation.



Forgotten Christmas buys as many good quality care packs as its funds allow; Steve has negotiated a fantastic discount with **Mountain Warehouse and Go Outdoors**, who have both agreed to further reduce their prices after initial sale discounts have been applied, specifically to help the charity's money go further. This year the packs will consist of robust Mountain Warehouse **rucksacks containing a sleeping bag, travel pillow, Thermos flask, hat, scarf, gloves & socks, waterproofs, toiletries and a packed lunch**. To save money, Forgotten Christmas volunteers make all the packed lunches themselves, and even include a chocolate Santa if there's enough money left to buy some.



The packs are all distributed on two days – **12th December in Edinburgh and 19th December in Glasgow** – and the charity has a very special way of handing them over. Steve, Andrew and Naomi place great emphasis on taking some time to talk to the

homeless, listen to their stories and let them know that people are thinking of them and that they haven't been forgotten. As Steve says, 'if you sat on a street corner day after day with hundreds of people walking past without acknowledging you, I'm sure you'd end up feeling forgotten too'.

So, on 12th December, the group looks for suitable people; four people from a large group approach an individual with only the food package, introduce themselves and capture that person's name. One of the four people slips back to the rest of the group and writes the name on a pre-written card containing the names of everyone who has donated. While this is happening, the three other people who made the initial approach talk away to the homeless person while also giving them their food package. Then comes the big surprise; everyone else approaches and the card and full care package are presented.

'We need people who are prepared to help distribute the gifts on the day, but more importantly, take the time to **talk to these people, hear their stories, listen to their problems** and take a genuine interest. Everyone involved last year felt that this was the thing that had the biggest impact, not just on the people we met, but on us as well'.

Forgotten Christmas **needs your help NOW** to make all of this happen. To date it has raised **£900 of its £1,500 target**. The deadline for donations is **4th December – that's next Friday** – and it really shouldn't be beyond the people of Edinburgh to come up with another £600 between them. If you would like to donate, you can do so here [www.gofundme.com/forgottenxmas](http://www.gofundme.com/forgottenxmas). Please note that this is the *only* way that the charity can accept donations, as this enables it to leave an auditable financial trail.

Forgotten Christmas also needs **practical help**; in early December they'll need many hands to help **gift wrap the**

**presents**, and on the day itself to help **distribute the packs and talk to the recipients**. If you would like to volunteer, whether beforehand or on 12th December in Edinburgh or 19th December in Glasgow (or all three!), please email **forgottenxmas@gmail.com** with your contact details and times you may be free; **everyone is very welcome** to come along. There's also lots of information on the charity's **Facebook** page [here](#) and **website** [here](#), and its **Twitter** account is [here](#). Steven asks that as many people as possible also share the message, 'An email round your office or talking to friends and family about it – any help will be greatly appreciated. Be creative!'



Last year many volunteers were moved by their conversations with the people they met. One, **Fiona** said this;

'Wow! A very emotional day with Steven and other volunteers with the homeless in Edinburgh. Every single one had a story to tell as to how they had ended up on the streets. I will NEVER EVER walk past a homeless person ever again without so much as a backward glance. To Daniel, the British soldier, to Tyler, a young 18 year old who had been sleeping rough for 9 months, to Sean, his wife died in July and he lost his home as it was a flat for a disabled person and they wouldn't let him take it over, to Paul and the many others we spoke to, not once did they ask for money, Tyler made me cry as he asked for food, Paul only wanted a wee hat and thermals. They were so grateful and I felt humbled by their sheer gratitude. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated and supported this, these stories will stay with me for a long time'.

So go on, dig deep for Edinburgh's homeless this year. Everyone needs help sometimes; everyone has their story.



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# Book Week Scotland takes to the trams this Friday



Passengers on Edinburgh Trams are in for a literary treat tomorrow lunchtime 27 November when two acclaimed authors jump on board for a special reading.

Cathy Renztenbrink (*The Last Act of Love*) and Douglas Lindsay (*The Legend of Barney Thomson*) will be sharing selected passages from '*Journeys*' – featuring stories from writers across Scotland.

As well as the readings, which take place on a tram travelling from the airport to the city centre between 1pm and 2pm, passengers will be able to get a free copy of the book, which has been published by the Scottish Book Trust. The free event is part of celebrations taking place all over the city for Book Week Scotland 2015 and has been set up by The City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with Edinburgh Trams.

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport and Environment Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, will also be attending the event. She said: "We are delighted to support Book Week Scotland, and the chance to combine reading with a tram journey is a great way to promote it. This week, Craigmillar Library was announced as one of Scotland's four new Reading Communities, and I'd encourage people to pop into their local library and find out just how much they've got to offer."

'*Journeys*' is a collection of short stories from budding writers across Scotland that tell the tales about a journey – physical or emotional – in the authors' lives, of a day they



stepped out into the unknown.

Ian Craig, Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh, said: “As a smooth, quiet, comfortable way of travelling around the city, trams are also perfect for catching up on a good book. And it’s very fitting that the authors should be sharing a collection of stories about journeys, given that we help many thousands of people get around Edinburgh every day. We look forward to welcoming Cathy and Douglas on board and hope they, and our passengers, enjoy this special trip.”

✖ Book Week Scotland is a week-long celebration of books and reading that takes place every November. During Book Week, people of all ages and walks of life will come together in libraries, schools, community venues and workplaces to share and enjoy books and reading. They will be joined in this celebration by Scotland’s authors, poets, playwrights, storytellers and illustrators to bring a packed programme of events and projects to life.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: “To truly embed a love of books in people right across the country, we need to create a culture of reading at every level in society. That is why Book Week Scotland events like this are so fantastic – by bringing books and authors to places where people least expect to see them, we can challenge traditional perceptions of reading and, crucially, encourage people to try something new.”

To see more Edinburgh Library free events during Book Week Scotland, go to [www.edinburghreads.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.edinburghreads.eventbrite.co.uk)

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# Five things you need to know today



**Police appeal for witnesses after robbery**

**Pennywell Bright Lights tonight**

**At the National Museum of Scotland**

**Hibs launch new play room at St John's Hospital**

**Outdoor learning for Wester Hailes students**

Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses after a teenager was robbed in the city.

The incident happened around 9.15pm on Tuesday 24 November 2015 in South Gyle Crescent.

A 17-year-old woman had left her work and was at a nearby bus stop when a male approached and demanded her handbag.

A short struggle ensued before the male managed to pull the bag from her grasp and make off from the area.

The victim was not injured during the robbery and contacted police to report the matter.

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

The suspect is described as white, in his mid twenties and 5ft 8ins to 5ft 9ins tall. He was wearing a black scarf over his lower face, a red hood, dark/khaki jacket, dark tracksuit bottoms and white trainers.

DC Joyce Gunderson of Corstorphine CID said: "Thankfully the

young woman was uninjured, but this was extremely distressing for her and she was left deeply upset at the theft of her handbag.

“I would ask anyone who works in the area and who saw or heard suspicious activity around the time of this robbery to get in touch with police immediately.”

Anyone who has information that might assist with this ongoing effort is asked to contact police on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.



The North Edinburgh community of Pennywell will be helping to shine a light on all that is great about their neighbourhood as it welcomes crowds to see unique artworks inspired by and designed for the local area.

‘Bright Nights’, tonight from 6pm-8pm, is an event being organised by North Edinburgh Arts and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council and urban developer Urban Union, which is hoping to attract young and old from around Pennywell and Muirhouse to the first exhibition of its kind.

The installation will be accompanied by unique reflective dressings which will decorate nearby trees. The whole project has been created by Artist Alice Betts and is set to transform the Muirhouse Shopping Centre area as well as helping local residents get more enjoyment and use from a community space that has previously been forgotten.

As well as the artwork and colourful lights there will be performances from local choir The Timebank Temptations, a series of painting with light workshops with top photographer Kenny Bean and a few other top secret surprises.

The local community will also be given the chance to get in front of the camera or to be interviewed as part of a new

short-film being made, by Angelica Kroeger, about Pennywell.

**Kate Wimpess, Director at North Edinburgh Arts, said:** “The focus of the ‘Bright Nights’ event is to present to the public this very special art installation which has been specifically designed for the walkway area at Muirhouse Shopping centre.

“The idea behind this creation is to provide something that will help encourage local residents to look at this space differently and to hopefully use it more for community activities.”

The activity is part of an overall arts strategy set up by the organisers in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. The event marks the beginning of a seven year arts plan supported by Urban Union and Creative Scotland, incorporating opportunities for the local community, new and arriving, to get together to draw, play, grow and perform.

**Councillor Cammy Day, Housing Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said:** “Events such as “Bright Nights” are a fantastic example of what we are hoping to create in Pennywell – a close-knit community living in good quality and modern homes. This will be a great opportunity for people to have a look at what’s been completed so far on site. I hope that this is the start of many other similar, community-based events at Pennywell.”

‘Bright Nights’ is just one part of Urban Union’s regeneration programme, Pennywell Living, which will create new public open spaces, apprenticeships for local people and a community benefits programme providing a range of activities and events for local people.

Pennywell Living is the result of a major investment of £42 million by The City of Edinburgh Council’s 21st Century Homes programme. It is delivering 356 new social and mid-market homes for rent from the Council alongside 363 new properties for private sale throughout the area.

**Craig Kidd of Urban Union said:** “Through working with North Edinburgh Arts, we can ensure that art is an integral part of how we develop and grow the Pennywell area.

“We want to encourage residents to take pride in their surroundings, demonstrating the existence of a tight-knit community. The ‘Bright Nights’ event is a great way to get this started.

“We look forward to welcoming everyone on the night and seeing how the installation plays a part in bringing people into the centre over the coming weeks.”



Spotlight On: The Silversmith’s Art Today. The Collection of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London at the National Museum of Scotland

**Date:** Tuesday 1 December

**Time:** 2-3pm

**Cost:** Admission Free

The Goldsmiths’ Company’s Art Director and Curator, Rosemary Ransome Wallis, will give a talk on the Company’s role as a guild and leading patron of modern silver, showcasing its beautiful collection of innovative studio silver featured in *The Silversmith’s Art: Made in Britain Today* exhibition. Hear about the silversmiths’ inspirations, unique practices and learn the stories behind their compelling modern masterpieces.

For more information and to book a place, call 0300 123 6789 or visit <http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/spotlight-on-the-silversmiths-art/website>.



Hibernian Football Club stars joined staff and patients at St John's Hospital in Livingston to officially launch the newly refurbished space-themed play room within the hospital's children's ward.

Club Captain, David Gray and player Liam Fontaine, were among those who joined the St John's team to officially cut the ribbon on the new interactive play room funded by the Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF).

The players took time out of match preparations ahead of the Ladbrokes Championship home fixture versus Livingston, to drop into the hospital and officially lift the wraps off the exciting new play space which will be used by hundreds of sick children who visit the hospital each year.

The children's ward play room – based within the hospital – received a major refurbishment introducing the newest technology including Xboxes, Game Cubes, space themed lighting and an interactive floor projector, making the room a modern and child-friendly place for its patients.

New books, paints and a 3D TV means the play room now appeals to a variety of ages and is a welcome addition to the unit which keeps children distracted while they are waiting for their appointments. Portable DVD players were also introduced to keep children entertained in both the hospital waiting area and the wards.

The Hibs stars stayed on following the opening to meet and chat with children and parents, sign autographs and have photographs taken.

David Gray said: "I attended St. John's Hospital some time ago with my daughter Ivy due to illness. When I returned for the opening of the playroom I was immediately struck by the difference in the room.

"The playroom is now a light and bright space which is

welcoming to children and their families. I particularly like the games area and I know Ivy would love the interactive projector. It's fantastic that the Sick Kids Friends Foundation has been able to fund this improvement which will benefit so many children and their families."

Jordon MacDonald, play assistant at St John's Hospital, said: "We are delighted with our new play room – the artists have really done us proud with their space themed work.

"It was lovely to be able to invite people in to show them the space and the new play equipment will help make children feel more at ease while visiting the hospital. We would like to thank Hibernian FC and the Sick Kids Friends Foundation for making the refurb possible."

**Roslyn Neely, chief executive of the Sick Kids Friends Foundation, said:** "The team at St John's have worked so hard to bring the new play room to life and we are delighted to support such a worthy addition to the hospital.

"For children, visiting the hospital can often be a daunting experience however, with a new play room full of the latest in technology we hope visits to the hospital will be a more positive experience for them and their families."

For more information on the Sick Kids Friends Foundation visit [www.edinburghsickkids.org](http://www.edinburghsickkids.org) or visit us on Facebook at [Edinburgh Sick Kids](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghSickKids) or Twitter [@EdinSickKids](https://twitter.com/EdinSickKids).



Students from Wester Hailes recently took part in innovative outdoor learning 'taster' sessions on the Crown Estate's Whitehill Estate in Midlothian.

The Wood Skills Team project, initiated by The Crown Estate and supported by legal firm Anderson Strathern, has been led


by social enterprise Earth for Life, to give young people a grounding in woodland management and ecology and to teach them practical conservation skills. Ten students, aged between 13-15 years, used forest at Whitehill near Rosewell as their outdoor classroom. The project was also supported by Scottish Business in the Community which helped to bring partners together.

During the sessions the teenagers learnt about tree species and woodland types, practiced using tools for clearing invasive and non-native species and practiced survival skills such as safe fire-lighting and building shelters to stay warm and dry.

Alasdair Taylor, director of Earth for Life said:

“Wood Skills allows pupils to tackle learning in a much more hands-on manner, and allows them to develop life and vocational skills away from the classroom. The sessions are designed to be enjoyable, and being skills-based they will increase individual’s confidence in their abilities.”

Three sessions took place at Shiel Burn Wood, on The Crown Estate’s Whitehill Estate during November.

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# REVIEW – James Morrison at The Queen's Hall



James Morrison was until recently a forgotten pop star who had three platinum albums nearly four years ago.

The singer-songwriter has just returned with a new album, *Higher Than Here*, and times have changed.

He's a father who says he has spent the last few years "mowing the lawn" and now has to compete with new pop stars who were not around when he was in his prime.

Stars like Sam Smith and James Bay have all shot to stardom in the interim, so it is little wonder that his new album slipped under the radar.

Apart from a few low-key London dates, the show at The Queen's Hall was officially the first of the tour, and Morrison was more than overjoyed to be back on stage.

He high-fived audience members and jumped about the stage with an acoustic guitar held up so high that he could have been Chris Martin.

A full backing band and three singers to accompany Morrison through his gravelly soulful vocals were on the stage. The full band may appear unrequited, but they certainly made the sound a bit more forceful than the studio versions.

If you thought you the old songs a bit dreary, then my view on the new ones is that they are on an even higher pedestal of vapidty.

I found little interesting about them except that like every other James Morrison track it is his voice that makes the song

more appealing.

The choruses for the songs on the new album lack their normal potency. I felt that the audience were scarcely enamoured with numbers from the new album, and instead missed the old hits like 'Please Don't Stop The Rain', 'Better Man' and 'You Make It Real'.

All the hits which Morrison penned in the last decade may now be ancient pop history, but his fans have stuck with him because of them. At the Queen's Hall recently they patiently endured a set which chiefly included tracks from *Higher Than Here* which may not have pleased them too much.

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## Book now for the Edinburgh College Christmas Fair



***Students bring all the fun of the Christmas fair to Edinburgh College***

Edinburgh College students hope to spread festive cheer by organising Christmas fairs at the college's Sighthill and Granton campuses, and invite local craftspeople, staff and students to take a stall.

A group of Retail Management students are organising a Christmas fair and fashion show at Sighthill on Tuesday 1 December from 10am-3.30pm. This valuable experience in organising an event is part of the student's course work. The public can hire a stall for £15 and students who wish to have a stall can make a donation to the British Heart Foundation.

All funds collected from stall hire at the Sighthill fair will go towards fundraising for the Events and Retail Management students' end of year summer ball. All funds raised through a raffle and auction on the day will go to the British Heart Foundation. If you would like a stall, please contact the student project manager Gavin Reekie at [gavin.reekie123@gmail.com](mailto:gavin.reekie123@gmail.com).

The Granton group, A Team events, are from Access courses and are arranging a fair in the Graton Campus Hub on Wednesday 9 December. The fair will run from 10am to 2pm and the students have attracted a variety of stallholders. All funds raised on the day will be donated to the charity Crisis. If you would like to take a stall, please contact the student team on [ateamevents@hotmail.com](mailto:ateamevents@hotmail.com).

Photo caption: The Retail Management students behind the Sighthill Campus Christmas fair. Left to right: Back row: Aamir Chaudry, Gavin Reekie, Zain Ashfaq. Middle Row: Donna Murray, Daisy Kleescenogova, Bella Irvine, Gavin Wardrop. Front: Roger McDougal.

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# Five things you need to know today



**Juniper Green Farmers' Market**

**Balerno Green Belt**

**Scottish Power donates to Cancer Research UK**

**Grants available to target litter**

## **The Ethical Christmas Fair**

*The wonderful fruit and veg stall which took shoppers by storm last month will return to Juniper Green Farmers' Market on Saturday 28 November 2015, 9am-1pm at the Village Hall on Baberton Avenue along with:*

**C&B News** *the local newspaper*

**FairTrade stall** *with a range of ethically sourced goods*

**Pie Not?** *a selection of fresh, prize winning, hand made pies*

**Molly's Cafe** *tasty breads and baking treats, made in Juniper Green's own local bakery*

**Dollop and Scoff** *delicious preserves – made in small batches for the best flavour*

**Zeespresso** *hand roasted fine coffee in a choice of strengths, all made just for the market*

**Ruth Shannon** *selection of hand produced baking and treats*

*Hot food and drinks on the day from:*

**Scoff Street Foods** *with a selection of tattie wraps including a great breakfast version! plus hot filled rolls and hot and cold drinks too.*

*The **community stall** will be taken by the Friends of the Pentlands and Juniper Green Parish Church.*

*The Friends of the Pentlands, is an all volunteer charity. It will be selling copies of the recently published The Pentland Way: A Walk with History by Bob Paterson which examines the route way-marked by the Friends from Dunsyre in the South West to Swanston in the North. Also on sale will be the 2016 calendar with photographs of various scenes in the Pentland Hills along with the book Pentland Place Names: An introductory guide. Free leaflets will also be on the stall.*

**Members of Juniper Green Parish Church will be on hand to sell advent calendars,, Fair Trade gifts and provide details of**

Christmas services.

You can keep up to date by using these links:

JG Market: <https://www.facebook.com/Junipergreencc>

JGCC: <https://www.facebook.com/junipergreencouncil>

JGCC website: [www.junipergreencc.org.uk/](http://www.junipergreencc.org.uk/)



Balerno Green Belt campaign for Balerno and Lanark Road and in particular to try to save the green belt in the area. This is what they say on their website about a new planning application at Newmills:

“In a twin pronged attack on the Green Belt, developers CALA and Barratt have simultaneously submitted planning applications for major developments in our local area.

Residents have until Friday 4 December 2015 to comment on the proposals.”

[Read here about how to have your say.](#)



Mass Spectrometer unveiling at University of Edinburgh

CRUK research centre

Neil Hanna Photography

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

07702 246823

ScottishPower – as part of its charity partnership with Cancer Research UK -announced it has donated more than half a million pounds towards life-saving research at the Cancer Research UK Edinburgh Centre. The vital funds, donated over the past three years as part of a wider partnership which has raised over £8 million for the charity, have helped upgrade the centre’s research equipment and provide support to PhD students.

More than £150,000 of the funding helped purchase a new mass

spectrometer machine for the centre in Scotland's capital. This sensitive piece of equipment can measure the amounts of a wide variety of different molecules in samples – including blood, urine and tumours. Scientists are looking for molecules, or patterns of molecules, that could give doctors important clues as to what treatments are likely to benefit a patient the most. The machine could give doctors the ability to track a patient over time to understand how their cancer is responding, as well as helping researchers spot potential new therapeutic approaches.

The rest of the machine's cost was match-funded via a grant by the Medical Research Council and £400,000 raised by ScottishPower has helped fund three scientists undertaking PhDs in cancer related treatment research while supporting one scientist researching treatments for lung cancer.



Organisations in Edinburgh and the Lothians are being urged to take advantage of new grant funding to target litter prevention in their area.

Applications are now open to public, private and third sector groups to help tackle littering through grants of £500 to £10,000, being made available by Zero Waste Scotland.

Research conducted by Zero Waste Scotland earlier this year suggests a number of factors contribute to littering behaviour in local areas. These include location, time of day, social situation and perception of different types of litter.

Building on the findings of this research, Zero Waste Scotland has produced a range of innovative design materials which aim to tackle litter problem areas. The designs can be used to make a number of communication tools to deliver suitable messages to prevent littering in different locations.

he grants will be used to cover the costs of producing these

materials aimed at litter prevention in busy public areas such as beaches, town centres, residential areas, parks, schools and sporting facilities.

**Iain Gulland, Chief Executive, Zero Waste Scotland, said:**

Scotland's national litter strategy, *Towards a Litter-free Scotland*, focuses on preventing litter being dropped in the first place, to reduce the need for clean up or enforcement. We want to use this grant funding to support organisations to deliver real impact in their areas, and build on our recent litter insights work in order to target littering behaviour before it starts.

"A great deal can be achieved when we look beyond clean up and work to prevent the problem occurring in the first place.

"For that reason, we strongly encourage organisations to look at any problem areas in their community that could benefit from this funding. By tackling the problem at its origin, we can help to make Scotland's communities safer and more pleasant places to live."

Funding is open to all sectors including local authorities, community councils and local businesses.

Applications should be made online at [www.zerowastescotland.org.uk](http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk)

A brochure is also available which showcases a range of materials and messages developed by Zero Waste Scotland on preventing litter. This can be viewed on the Zero Waste Scotland website.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Zero Waste Scotland to discuss possible projects to determine eligibility and for further information.

The final deadline for applications will be 5pm on Friday

18<sup>th</sup> December 2015. It is expected successful applicants will be informed during the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.



Running from **28 November until the 24 December – The Ethical Christmas Fair** opens with a wide range of exhibitors coming from Zambia, Kenya, India as well as local Scottish and Edinburgh based arts and crafts producers including Crafts South Africa, One World Shop, Shea Aroma Company and Gecko Galleries.

This event provides shoppers with the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for families and friends with the benefit of each purchase supporting the people who make the products from some of the poorest countries.

Watch out for the Ethical Fair **“Green” Santa**; local community choir **Wildfire** and **Edinburgh Got Soul Choir** and guest appearances from local dignitary Rt Honourable, Lord Provost Donald Wilson on Saturday 28 November and Fairtrade Ambassador, Hardeep Singh Kohli, on Sunday 29 November amongst the ongoing celebrations with a chance to meet the stallholders.

**Tania Pramschufer**, event organiser, [Hand Up Events](#) said: “We are delighted to have The Ethical Christmas Fair and The Real Scottish Fair at Ocean Terminal this year, both will complement the already incredible shopping experience at Ocean Terminal.

**Michelle McLeod**, marketing manager at Ocean Terminal added, ‘Ocean Terminal this Christmas season is all about creativity and giving customers a unique experience. The Ethical Christmas Fair brings creativity from around the world into one retail space. We have unique gifts from three continents, as well as more locally produced crafts from Scotland. It’s a bit more than shopping, we are doing our bit to bring people



together, to share stories, as well as products, from many different cultures. One creative world in one retail space'

The Real Scottish Fair runs in tandem with The Ethical Christmas Fair at the entrance of Ocean Terminal alongside Edinburgh's much loved community owned Gorgie City Farm.

Check out [www.handupevents.co.uk](http://www.handupevents.co.uk) for more details.



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## What's On In Edinburgh? Bandages and Boycott



'If we only give them bandages, we become part of the problem'



**Dr Mads Gilbert** is a Norwegian doctor and activist with experience of working in **Al-Shifa** hospital in **Gaza, Palestine**. He has become one of the most prominent supporters of Palestinian rights, and in his new book '**Night in Gaza**', he describes the difficulties facing the doctors and nursing staff as they struggle to cope with casualties, in particular

during last year's 51 day assault on Gaza;

'Nobody with a heart AND power could ever walk away from a night in Shifa without being determined to end the slaughter of the Palestinian people.'



The **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign** is hosting Dr Gilbert in a series of public meetings and lectures this month. In addition, SPSC asks people to support Palestine's call for boycott, disinvestment and sanctions, and for an end to Scotland's arms trade with Israel. During his visit, Dr Gilbert will speak in Glenrothes, where **Raytheon** manufactures the components of weapon guidance systems supplied to Israel.

Dr Gilbert will speak at **Lecture Theatre A, David Hume Tower, University of Edinburgh, George Square** at 7pm on **Thursday 26th November**. The event, ***Bandages and Boycott***, is free and open to all, but booking is required via eventbrite [here](#).

The **Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign** may be contacted by calling 0131 208 1948 or emailing [campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk](mailto:campaign@scottishpsc.org.uk).



# FLASH COMPETITION – Win tickets for Edinburgh Rugby!



The Edinburgh Reporter has teamed up with Specsavers, sponsor of the GUINNESS PRO12 match officials, to offer readers the chance to win tickets to see Edinburgh Rugby's game against Dragons this Friday 27 November at 7.45pm at Murrayfield.

We have four tickets for one lucky winner **but get your entry in now as the competition closes on Wednesday 25 November at 2:00pm. Good luck!**


**Error:** Contact form not found.

*Specsavers has stores across Edinburgh and the surrounding areas – Shandwick Place, Cameron Toll, Fort Kinnaird, Morningside, Musselburgh, North Bridge, The Gyle and Leith and Dalkeith*



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## Edinburgh's Christmas – Circa : Beyond

 As part of Edinburgh's Christmas there is an exceptional programme of circus, comedy and cabaret in the Paradiso Spiegeltent with performances from Circa, reviving Beyond, the hit show of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014. What they can do with sheer strength and balance has to be seen to be

believed!



At the press afternoon the performers from Circa put on little snippets of their show for us, and it looks thrilling as well as entertaining.

Other shows include the legendary Camille O'Sullivan, Puddles, the cabaret sensation of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015, Austentatious, Abandoman and Frisky & Mannish.





This festive season also includes the return of Stick Man, the adaptation of Julia Donaldson's magical best-selling book. Read our review [here](#).

A continuation of the EH discount offer, where holders of an EH postcode receive a 20% discount on all shows, rides and events. In 2014, 97,512 tickets were sold with the 20% discount.

[Book your tickets here.](#)



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# Hungry for Books challenge running in Edinburgh this week



The Edinburgh Reporter went along to Dalry Primary School this morning to find out about the latest project they are involved with. Donating children's books to be distributed in the run up to Christmas is the latest phase of the City of Edinburgh Council's pioneering child poverty campaign.

The 'Hungry for Book's challenge is part of the council's '1 in 5: Raising Awareness of Child Poverty in Edinburgh' campaign currently running in five primaries and one secondary school.

It is taking place during Book Week Scotland and the main aim is to highlight links between child poverty and low literacy.

The public are encouraged to donate high/good quality children's books all this week until Friday 27 November and the pupils will then ensure these go to food banks or other organisations in time for Christmas.



Councillor Paul Godzik with the four clan chiefs from Dalry Primary School

Each school will be a hub for donation of books in different areas of the city – Broughton High School (north), Royal High Primary School (east), Sciennes Primary School (central), Gracemount Primary School (south), Dalry Primary School (west)

and Hillwood Primary School (south west).

Councillor Paul Godzik, Education, Children and Families Convener, said: "The 'Hungry for Books' challenge is a positive way of trying to help more children living in poverty access the type of books other children enjoy. It is well-documented that children from poorer backgrounds lag behind at all stages of education so it's important we do all we can to close the attainment gap.

"Donating books for children to read, both on their own and with their parents, is a positive way for the public to play their part in achieving this.

The Council will continue the great work of our '1 in 5' campaign to ensure every child in Edinburgh is given every opportunity to have the best possible start in life."

Dalry Primary School Head Teacher, Grant Gillies, said: "The '1 in 5' project has had a significant impact on the life of our school and the decisions we make because the children and families in our school community face real challenges. It is our job to equip them with the skills and aspirations to overcome these.

"More than that though, as a school we have social responsibility to ensure opportunities are for all and they are inclusive. That's why pupils are very excited about being part of this Hungry for Books Challenge.

"Another good example of the impact of raising awareness within our school project is when we planned for our whole community outing at Christmas. We spoke about the way we charged for it in the past and this year we have a price structure that means bigger families pay less. It is these small things that make a difference.

"Small changes in our approaches make for big changes in our children's lives."

The '1 in 5' project aims to raise awareness of the impact of child poverty and identify best practice and changes that can be introduced to make school more affordable for families on low incomes. The project involves working with children, staff and parents to challenge the stigma that affects children living in poverty.

Last week a poster competition was launched at Hillwood Primary School where pupils took part in creative art workshops led by artist Heather Lucchesi to design images which highlight some of the issues faced by children whose families live on or below the poverty line.

Winning images will be incorporated into a poster to be distributed to primary schools across the city along with guidelines for schools on how best to support families living on low incomes including actions to reduce the costs associated with school such as school uniform, trips and resources.

Councillors on the Education, Children and Families Committee heard last month that just over 21% of children in Edinburgh live in poverty and this figure is forecast to increase significantly by 2020.

Every area of the city is affected with each Council ward having child poverty rates of over 10%. It's estimated that the cost of delivering services to address the impact in the Capital is around £156m a year according to the Child Poverty report which outlined various actions being taken by the Council to lessen the impact. Key areas identified include:

- Developing more flexible and affordable good quality childcare to meet the needs of families on low incomes
- Improving attendance at schools and early years establishments, and the attainment and achievement of young people
- Reducing the attainment gap between lowest achieving



pupils and their peers across the city

- Identifying and developing more safe places to play

Other actions include increase breakfast club provision and further develop family engagement with a focus on strong home-school partnerships.

The report also highlights the importance of income maximisation to raising attainment. Research has shown that the level of household income plays a major role in attainment levels with more initiatives needed to increase wages, encourage take up of unclaimed benefits and other finance-related poverty costs.

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## Hibs youth recruitment structure boosted



There was more good news for Hibs' fans today with the announcement that the youth recruitment structure has undergone a redevelopment and has been given a boost as an additional 30 members have been recruited – bringing the total staff number up to 40.

Following a drive for new staff, 30 people have joined as youth player ID scouts, recruitment administrators and lead scouts who will oversee key parts of the process and who will help to drive the flow of information on talented young footballers to the footballing staff at East Mains.

Graeme Mathie, Head of Player Identification and Recruitment,

was pleased to see the number of people who put their names forward for the roles, and was delighted to see the numbers involved swell in the past few months.

He said: "Hibernian has had a long tradition of producing young footballers and that is something we all want to see continue. To assist this, we wanted to expand the youth recruitment structure a recruitment drive was launched and it was pleasing that so many people wanted to be involved.

"It shows that people care about youth development in Scotland, and that, as a football club, people are willing to help us reach our goals. I can't stress the importance of all involved in the process, they are a massive help and are doing a good job.

"We now have units of people working together to oversee the identification and recruitment process at specific age levels in the Edinburgh area, and teams of people in other geographic areas highlighting players of note. The scouts are tasked with providing graded written reports to local administrators who highlight players of particular interest to be monitored or invited to train with the Academy.

"We don't invite huge numbers of players to the Academy – ultimately we want to recruit a small number of very talented young players who have a genuine opportunity to progress through the development process and potentially play in the First Team."

Mathie's drive also saw the re-recruitment of Mike Meechan from Dundee United and Charlie Kivlin has also joined the pool from Celtic.

This is something he is thrilled by and is excited at the work these two are going to undertake on Hibernian's behalf given their prior experience, as well as the hard work everyone else has already contributed.

Mathie said: "Mike Meechan re-joined the Club last year from Dundee United. He watches and reports on around 300 games per year at youth, development and first team level – which is incredible for someone who doesn't drive a car! He is also well known in the Edinburgh area and brings with him positive relationships with youth club coaches which fits well with the ethos we are looking to promote within our structure.

"Charlie Kivlin has also recently joined from Celtic and he will lead the recruitment function at the upper Academy ages, leading into the Development Squad which is a new position at the Club and is key to ensure we identify and recruit the best possible players to join the Club in a full-time capacity.

"All new staff have already shown a real willingness to get out in all weathers, watch youth games and gain contacts in their local areas – and there shouldn't be many youth games taking place in the Edinburgh area on a weekly basis without a Hibs scout in attendance."

Mathie and the team he has assembled are looking to build strong relationships with local clubs and coaches to ensure that a proper pathway into the Hibernian Academy is established.

The group have already seen a modicum of success with a partnership with Kennoway Soccer 7s in its nascent stage.

Mathie said: "We have already seen some tangible success in this regard. We have opened this way of working further afield and have engaged strongly with Kennoway Soccer 7s in Fife to assist our scouting unit there to identify young players with potential.

He cites the quality of the staff involved as key to improving, including Amit Moudgil – a supporter representative on the Hibernian Board of Directors.

"The number of people now out and watching games on a weekly

basis is very pleasing, and the strength of our structure will be in the quality of people involved across the board.

“Amit combines his role as fans rep on the board with a recruitment administrator role within the structure, and he becomes the key communication link between the Club, and local youth clubs when we write training requests or signing requests.”

Despite the improvements and redevelopment that have taken place, Mathie is still looking towards the future and further enhancements that can be made to the structure.

“It’s a simple process that we have implemented but there’s already been a significant increase in the numbers and the quality of players being recommended for Eddie May and the coaching team to assess.

“It’s an ongoing process and there is still a lot of work to be done to refine the structure and make continued improvements but the Club has a motivated team of people, performing different roles within the overall function, and all working hard to uncover a potential first team player of the future.”

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## **CCTV images released following assault and robbery in Grassmarket**





Police have released CCTV footage of a group of men they wish to trace in connection with an assault and robbery in the city centre last year.

A 43-year-old man was in the Grassmarket, opposite the Apex Hotel, at around 3.30am on the 12th October 2014 when he was subject to an unprovoked attack by a number of individuals.

During the incident, the victim fell to the ground and his Omega Seamaster watch was stolen.

Inquiries have been ongoing to trace those responsible and officers are now asking anyone who recognises the men pictured in the images to come forward.

Detective Sergeant Lynsey Thomson from the Violence Reduction Unit at Gayfield Police Station said: "This was a random assault, which left the victim with some painful injuries and resulted in the theft of his watch, worth several thousands of pounds.


"We are keen to trace the men within this CCTV footage as part of our investigation and would ask that anyone who can assist with our inquiries to contact police immediately.

"In addition, anyone with any further information relevant to this incident should also get in touch."

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

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# Rugby – Heriots Colts' Open Invitation

This season we are excited to have the first Colts U18 team at Heriot's Rugby club. We would like to invite players U17 (born on/after 1 Sept 1998) & U18 (born on/after 1 Sep 1997) to join one of the best clubs in Scotland. 

This is an exciting opportunity to join one of Scotland's most successful clubs whether you've played regularly or are looking to take up rugby.

Players of all ability and from all schools are welcome at Goldenacre to take advantage of the high quality coaching, strength & conditioning programs, to develop rugby skills and participate in a vibrant club environment.

Colts' Captain, Euan Page (Photo) said:

"We have been working really hard to develop this team, and so far we are doing a great job. The lads are committed to this new project and building up pretty well. We want to keep enjoying our rugby here at Heriot's RC, with our long term goal to play for Heriot's 1st XV Senior team.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite more boys to join us".

If you are interested we want to hear from you, please contact Colts Coach:

Luis Arola by email or phone:

[colts@heriotsrugbyclub.co.uk](mailto:colts@heriotsrugbyclub.co.uk) – 07903 184840

The Colts next two fixtures are –

WED	2nd Dec	Away	Forrester – 6:30pm
SAT	12th Dec	Home	Kirkcaldy – 1pm

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## Easter Road Stadium tours now available every Friday



The Hibernian Historical Trust will be conducting tours of Easter Road Stadium every Friday from 2-4pm.

Guests will have the opportunity to experience the pre-match rituals of a Hibernian player by visiting the dressing room, before walking down the tunnel towards the hallowed turf in the shadows of the towering terraces.

Fans can also follow in the shoes of Head Coach Alan Stubbs by taking their place in the dugout followed by a visit the press area where the manager conducts his post-match interviews.

Club Historian and tour guide Tom Wright will also provide a comprehensive history of the Club and the stadium's redevelopment with trips to the Board Room and Directors Box and a walk round the Gallery Restaurant, with displays of memorabilia from throughout Hibs' 140 year history including career medals of the great Gordon Smith and magnificent scale model of stadium in the 1950's.

The tour will also take supporters around the ground, with various other points of note the Famous Fives and East Stands before the tour culminating in a visit to the Club Shop.

Tours are priced at £10 per adult, £7.50 per concession and £5 per child, with discounts for large bookings. Group Bookings are also available on different dates and times to suit you.

For more information and to book e-mail [bmcgoldrick@hibernianfc.co.uk](mailto:bmcgoldrick@hibernianfc.co.uk) or call 0131 656 7079.

Stadium gift vouchers are also available – call Brett for further details.

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## Historic Gorgie uncovered



Digging up the land in preparation for student flats archaeologists have uncovered the foundations of an industrial mill in Gorgie.

Specialists from Headland Archaeology will complete their excavations of the site during the next 2 weeks to gain a greater historical understanding of this part of the city prior to the site being developed. The work has been commissioned by UK Student Accommodation 1 Limited in response to a condition of planning consent by The Edinburgh City Council.

Gorgie has a long history, with the name appearing in the charters of Holyrood Abbey in the 12th century and the first mention of a mill in 1236. At this time the area would have been rural in character but over the coming centuries the lands were gradually developed and large-scale industry took hold comprising factories, mills, distilleries and the railway. Headland's investigations provided the first detailed archaeological evidence for the existence of the J&G Cox mills



and glue factory, which operated on the site from the late 18th through to mid-20th century.

Although depicted on historic maps, little was known about the form and function of these mills until the current excavations which have uncovered evidence for a complex of buildings and kilns. It is hoped the latest excavations could also provide new evidence for the original medieval mills that may have operated at the same site.

This excavation will enable us to better understand the timeline of Gorgie and how the area evolved from its medieval origins through the centuries.

Alistair Robertson, Project Manager at Headland Archaeology said: "Working on the mill site in close partnership with our client UK Student Accommodation 1 Limited and City of Edinburgh Council has allowed us to make a detailed record of the previously hidden remains. We have already uncovered well-preserved tanning pits that would have been used to convert animal carcasses into glue when the site operated as a glue factory and we are now exposing elements of the earlier mill buildings such as kilns and cobbled yards. By examining the various structures and artefacts, we hope to understand the processes that took place and learn something of the people carrying them out that witnessed the transformation of Gorgie into an important area of industry for the city."

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council said: "Today, Gorgie is a well-populated part of Edinburgh and home to a busy business

community. It is fascinating to think it was once considered an industrial suburb to the city. Local men and women would have travelled along Gorgie Road on their way to work at the mill and later, in the 18th century, the glue factory and McVitie's biscuit factory.

John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council archaeologist, added:

“This excavation just goes to show that it’s not just Edinburgh’s Old Town that holds the secrets of the city’s past. These excavations are already proving to be one of the most important industrial sites to be excavated in Edinburgh in recent years.

The excavation is closed to the public.

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## What’s On In Edinburgh? Edinburgh Soup!



Do you like soup? Of course you do – especially in this weather, and even more especially if it’s made by the first soup cafe in Scotland, Edinburgh’s **Union of Genius**, and comes with bread from **The Wee Boulangerie**.





Do you like music? How could you not? Particularly if it comes from **Al Shields**, **Caroline Gilmour** and **Matt Norris & The Moon**, ie some of Edinburgh's finest performers.




Do you want to hear about some great **Edinburgh-based projects** that need your help? We all know that to give is at least as important as to receive – just think of the warm glow you'll have inside and out after an evening of broth and bonhomie. Plus, you'll know all about new community ventures before anyone else does – very handy for raising your social cred in the pub next weekend.



So where can you go to experience all this jollity? The lovely **Assembly Roxy on Roxburgh Place** is where. On Thursday 26th November **Robert Peacock** and **Phil Bolger** are organising a second helping of **Edinburgh Soup**, after a successful launch in October at which over £1,200 was raised for social innovation charity **COMAS**. The original idea, Bolger explains, came from Detroit, where SOUP raised over \$55,000 in four years. He and Peacock have taken the concept and given it a unique Edinburgh flavour;

‘We wanted to make sure that our (fundraiser) felt fresh, original and appealed to numerous types of people, to try and get that feel of community on the night. We’re not inventing the wheel here but it seems to work and it’s capturing people’s imaginations, so we’re running with it!’

The idea is that each guest donates **a minimum of £5**, for which they get the soup, the bread, the music – and the chance to hear a simple pitch from each project. No PowerPoint presentations or videos are involved – ‘just words and passion’. After that everyone votes for the idea they like best, and the winning project gets the money (Bolger, Peacock and all the musicians are giving their time for free, and Union of Genius and The Wee Boulangerie are donating the food). What’s more, local tour company **Rabbie’s Trail Burners** is making a generous additional contribution to the pot (no, not the soup one, don’t be silly...), making it even more attractive to the winners, who will return to a later SOUP to tell everyone what they’ve achieved with the money. 

Both Peacock and Bolger have a background in running music nights;

‘It’s really important to us to showcase the live acts as much as the projects, trying to introduce them to a new audience while accidentally doing some good at the same time’.

The pitching projects are not announced till the last minute

to avoid, says Bolger, ‘any biased or unfair shenanigans!’

Edinburgh Soup are looking to run four nights quarterly in 2016, making each bigger and better than the last; if you would like to take part in a future event, either as a musician or as a project looking for funding, Bolger and Peacock would love to hear from you via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) – but in the meantime, they’re asking everyone to spread the word about Thursday;

‘All in all, it looks set to be pretty special. It just needs people to get involved! So like us on Facebook and Twitter and invite your pals to the event. We succeed or fail by word of mouth, so hopefully the people of Edinburgh will get behind us again!’

**Edinburgh Soup** starts at **7pm on Thursday 26th November** at **Assembly Roxy, 2 Roxburgh Place**. Tickets are free but you will be required to make a donation of at least £5 on the night; book via eventbrite [here](#) (there will be only limited admission on the door).



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## Five things you need to know today



**Contemplation at St Giles**

**Funding for North Edinburgh Arts**

**Culture and Arts Fund**

## Postgraduate Open Evening at Queen Margaret University

### Space Night at the Museum

So you are already tired of the Christmas lights and the forced air of jollity in the city. Then St Giles Cathedral have the answer on three evenings between now and the middle of December.

*Join us for an evening of quiet contemplation,  
of silence, sound and candlelight,  
and St Giles Cathedral as you have never experienced before.*

[More details here.](#)



Apply by 31 December 2015 to the Scotrail Culture and Arts Fund.

As part of the new 'ScotRail in the Community' scheme, the £40,000 annual Cultural and Arts Fund will enable communities to flourish.

They invite applications from groups across Scotland looking to fund arts, community recreation, and sports activities and projects in the vicinity of a train station or with a travel or safety theme. For Further information visit [The Culture and Arts Fund](#)



Thinking of postgraduate studies? Then Step Ahead with our city campus university Queen Margaret University.



The Edinburgh International Film Festival, in partnership with the Edinburgh International Science Festival, is holding a unique event on Tuesday 15 December at the National Museum of Scotland.

Part of UK Space Day, celebrating British astronaut Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station, this Big Screen Space Night will kick off with a live link to Tim's arrival on the ISS, include a special in-person audience Q&A with Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, and will feature a screening of Ridley Scott's *The Martian*.

For full details about Big Screen Space Night, [visit the EIFF website](#).

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## Craigmillar named among first Reading Communities

 Edinburgh's Craigmillar area was named as one of Scotland's first ever Reading Communities earlier today.

The new initiative, which was announced by Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop at Craigmillar Library, also began local celebrations for Book Week Scotland 2015.

Set up by the Scottish Book Trust, special “reading champions” will lead the country’s four Reading Communities and will be tasked with delivering innovative projects with local communities to encourage interest in books from all ages.

Claire Askew, a poet, writer and creative writing teacher, has been appointed as Craigmillar’s champion and will take up her post in March next year.

Claire said: “I am so pleased to have been selected and I’m especially pleased that I’ll get to work alongside the brilliant team at Craigmillar Library – I can’t wait to get started!”

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener, said: “Craigmillar being named as one of the first Reading Communities in Scotland is excellent news – congratulations to our new champion. This is a fantastic initiative and I am sure that it will help us to encourage people to make books an even bigger part of their everyday lives.

“Reading is such a wonderful pastime and thanks to the Capital’s public libraries, you can take books home free or read them online, I would encourage everyone to visit their local library today and find out just how much they have to offer people of all ages.”

Edinburgh’s libraries will host an array of authors throughout Book Week, who will be giving free talks about their work – times and places are on the website. Writer Cathy Rentzenbrink and Douglas Lindsay will be reading copies of Journeys, which is being given out free during the Week, on a tram at Edinburgh Airport this Friday.

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, added: “I am delighted to announce our Reading Communities for 2016. We had a really high standard of applicants but I am sure the four areas we have chosen will deliver some really creative and collaborative projects with their dedicated Reading Champions,



to involve and inspire their local communities.

“Scottish Book Trust also looks forward to working with the Champions and the libraries to engage local people with our programmes including our annual story gathering campaign and Book Week Scotland.”

Book your tickets for events at [www.edinburghreads.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.edinburghreads.eventbrite.co.uk)

*Photo Rob McDougall*

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## What's On In Edinburgh? Spanish Fine Foods and Gifts Open Day!



If you'd like to find gifts that are a little bit different this Christmas – and you'd like to find them in a welcoming, relaxed place – look no further than **El Olivo's Fine Foods and Gifts Open Day** on Friday.





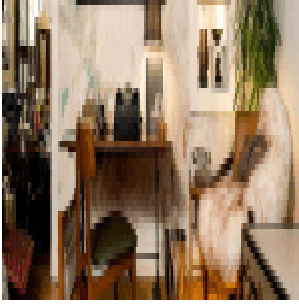
El Olivo has been supplying high quality, competitively priced Spanish products to Edinburgh – and the entire UK – for over ten years. It's the brainchild of **Maria Cummings Panadero**, who is committed to sharing her passion for delicious, high quality olive oils and fine foods from her homeland. Maria travels widely to seek out small family firms from the most remote corners of Spain, where the passion for taste and quality reflects the El Olivo ethos.





On 27th November Maria invites you to join her for a glass of wine and a taste of her large range of **olive oils** and delicacies such as **chorizos**, **tapenades**, **spices**, **chocolate covered figs** and **Turron tarts**. There will also be amazing **gift boxes** available, from complete **paella sets** to **quince jelly** and special bottles of **balsamic vinegar**.





The Open Day will also showcase some equally individual businesses, with **willow baskets** from The Button Stable, Stella and Dot's **jewellery and accessories**, **oil paintings** by Peruvian artists, **advice on nutrition** from NutriPanda, Kikoibatik's **African art**, **home accessories** from Casa Morada and Revitalise Edinburgh's **holistic remedies**. If you can't find most of your Christmas presents among all that lot, you're just not trying...



You can even feel good about spending your money – a percentage of the day's takings will go to local charity **It's Good 2 Give**, raising funds for young people with cancer and their families.

**El Olivo Fine Foods and Gifts Open Day**, 12 noon-8.30pm, Friday 27th November at 1 Dalrymple Crescent, EH9 2NU. For more information please email [info@elolivo-olive-oil.com](mailto:info@elolivo-olive-oil.com) or call 0131 668 4751/07957 342 789.



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# Fortune Promotions to host New Year event



Fortune Promotions will host a special Hogmanay party to send the old year off at The Counting House, just above the Pear Tree pub.

The event will showcase some local Edinburgh acts, as well as some enchanting acts including a palm reader and fortune teller, face painting and mask making, and an acoustic attic for a more relaxed mood.

Four-piece Ded Rabbit will headline the music side of things – a band who have played alongside The 1975, made appearances at several festivals nationwide, and headlined the Saturday night slot on the T Break stage at T in the Park 2015.

Indigo Velvet are the other band that will play alongside Ded Rabbit. The band have already supported several local bands, and have headlined at Electric Circus to promote their newest single.

Steven Mackay, the owner of Fortune Promotions, said: “New Year is a time to have a huge party and celebrate with your friends, doing what you love.

“The selection of acts for this event in our eyes is the perfect way to bring in 2016 – fun, exciting, energetic and have a bright musical future.

“Since 2012, when we first started up Fortune Promotions, we have worked closely with the staff at The Pear Tree, Counting House and Blind Poet, including owner Brian Dobie. Over the years we have had some great memories in these three bars and it became quite a musical hub for myself and many other bands and musicians.”

The event will start at 8pm on New Year’s Eve and is expected to end at 3am. Early Bird tickets are £15 and can be purchased now from [See Tickets](#).

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## **Long service and good conduct medals for Fire Service personnel**



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) held a medal ceremony last Friday at the Linlithgow Burgh Halls honouring Fire Service personnel for long and meritorious service.

Chief Officer Alasdair Hay, Chair of the SFRS Board Pat Watters and Deputy Chief Officer Alex Clark were joined at the event by the service’s head of service delivery for the East of Scotland, Deputy Assistant Chief Officer (DACO) John Miller.

Nine officers received Her Majesty the Queen’s Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal which were presented by Chief Officer Hay. Thirteen officers also received The Chief Fire Officer’s Certificate of Commendation, which is awarded to members of the fire and rescue service in recognition of

outstanding acts which are regarded as above and beyond the call of duty.

Chief Officer Alasdair Hay said: "I am delighted to be here to present these Commendations and Long Service and Good Conduct medals to these members of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service family.

"Each and every recipient has earned this recognition, not only for their long and loyal commitment to the service, but for their exemplary conduct over the past 20 years. They are all a credit to themselves, their families, their communities and the organisation."

The Royal Warrant was read out by DACO Miller and the Long Service certificates were presented by Chair of the Fire Board Pat Watters, who also provided the closing remarks. In attendance were members of the Strategic Leadership Team, Local Seniors Officers and managers from the East Service Delivery Area.

The Long Service and Good Conduct medals are presented to staff who have served 20 years or more with the fire service. The recipients of medals were firefighters Kevan Younger, Michael Sherdley, Ernest Hinks and Craig Mackie; crew managers David Renton and Kevin Davanna; and watch managers David Hepburn, Kevin O'Hara and Iain Brocklebank.

Deputy Assistant Chief Officer John Miller said: "I would like to pay tribute to the effort, commitment and time shown by all the recipients of these medals. Our firefighters do an excellent and often challenging job to ensure our communities are safe.

"This medal not only recognises their tremendous commitment to their roles and the length of time they have served the communities in which they live, but also the exemplary conduct they have displayed during their service which makes them a

credit to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.”

The first Chief Officer’s Commendation went to Firefighter Andrew Fish, who was competing in a Triathlon at the Lochore County Park, Lochgelly, Fife on 14 June 2015, when he came across a fellow competitor who had become unwell and non-alert during the swimming section.

While in the water FF Fish very quickly established the severity of the other participant’s condition, summoned a safety kayak and motor powered safety boat whilst trying to maintain the casualty’s airway. Being an SFRS qualified Level 4 swift water boat operator, FF Fish was able to advise the safety boat crew on the best means of removing the casualty from the water before climbing into the boat himself in order to render immediate first aid.

Firefighter Craig Mackie and Firefighter Jamie Gillin both received commendations for casualty carer roles at a road traffic collision on 27 September 2015. They were travelling to work at Methil community fire station along the A942 outside Pittenweem, whereupon they came across a two vehicle road traffic collision. They undertook primary surveys of the casualties and administered appropriate care, staying with them to assist the fire service crew who were sent in response. When the casualties had been safely extricated, FF Mackie and FF Gillin then proceeded to their work.

Commendations also went to watch managers Andrew Anderson and Kevin Ketchen, Crew Manager Lee Turnock and firefighters Christopher Bates, Antony Blunsum, Ian McKay, Bryan Rocks, Iain Todd, Lee Wyllie and Alan Williamson, as well as member of the public Susannah Clark. Whilst attending a wedding at Airth Castle on 11 July 2015, they all responded to help Daniel Wade when he collapsed at the start of the main meal.

It was established that he was having a cardiac arrest and the individuals involved worked as a team to perform CPR for an



extended period of time an ambulance arrived. Their immediate action undoubtedly saved Mr Wade's life.

A national trial and a first for Scotland involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to increase survival rate of patients who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest last month in selected areas of Scotland.

Firefighters at these stations have received enhanced training in life-support, through a joint partnership approach with the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a range of measures it has in place across the country to target the condition and create a nation of life savers. The trials are part of SFRS's commitment to supporting the Scottish Government's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, which aims to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and save as many as 1,000 lives by 2020.

Chief Officer Hay said: "The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is dedicated to protecting the public and we are tasked with working in partnership with others to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland. Close working between ourselves and our ambulance colleagues clearly benefits the public and we will always look for opportunities to develop it further.

"These trials are among a number of ways in which we are delivering on our commitment to supporting the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest strategy. We will also work with our ambulance colleagues to ensure the location of all our defibrillators is mapped on their database and that these are placed where evidence shows they will offer the greatest benefit."

Chair of the Fire Board Pat Watters said: "These awards are not given out lightly so it's a tremendous pleasure to be here. Thank you to each and every one of you for your commitment to the service."