

# Five things you need to know today!



**Tram inquiry**

**Fringe tip of the Day**

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**

**Grafton Community Gardeners AGM**

**Colony of Artists 2015**

If you're not doing anything else next week you could go to the Preliminary Hearing of the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry at Waverleygate. Lord Hardie is conducting the hearing and this procedural hearing will deal with the arrangements to be made over coming months.

The proceedings will be filmed for television, but there is space for some members of the public to get a seat in the hearing room.

The council will be asked at next week's meeting on Thursday to approve spending about £2m on the inquiry, but it will not revive the dormant company **tie Ltd** which used to run the tram project. The council was asked by the Inquiry to consider reviving the company so that it could be what is called a 'core participant' in the inquiry. But the council has decided not to do this as it would increase the cost significantly.

Councillor Lesley Hinds said : "Lord Hardie could call the former employees of tie to the inquiry anyway."

Council Leader, Andrew Burns, said: "The Council continues to support the Inquiry, as it has done throughout, and to be fully open and accountable. By applying to be a core

participant we have committed to playing our part in the proceedings and co-operating fully with the Inquiry.

“However, we do not believe that the considerable cost of reviving for the sake of the Inquiry is a justifiable expense; one which would ultimately be borne by the Edinburgh tax payer.

“The Council is the ultimate parent body of tie, and we have communicated our willingness to provide information about its role to the Inquiry.”

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We saw **The Buzztones** as we walked – or struggled – along Potterow on Wednesday afternoon; a group of grown men (as they like to call themselves...) singing *a capella*. Now Potterow on a sunny afternoon in mid-festival is not exactly a place to be heard; you can hardly move for people thrusting flyers in your face – in fact, you can hardly move at all.

These guys did something impressive; they stopped people in their tracks – I wasn’t the only one who took time to stand and enjoy their brilliant performance. They call themselves ‘London’s premier vocal showmen’ and you know what? They probably are.

Their show is called **Buzzology** , it involves lots of singing, laughs and ‘a twist of mediocre banter’, and it’s on at [The Gilded Balloon](#), Teviot Square at 4pm every day until 21st August. It’s for ages 14+. Tickets cost £11/£10 and are available from the Fringe website [here](#).

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The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society’s children’s classes starts again on 27 August. Full details [here](#) of how to enrol your child.

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*Want to get more involved in Granton Community Gardeners? Got*

*ideas for what we could do next? Then come along to a...*

Posted by [Granton Community Gardeners](#) on [Thursday, 13 August 2015](#)

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The 2015 Colony of Artists takes place over the weekend of 12-13 September, long after the Festival madness has come to an end.

This will be the tenth year that the annual exhibition has taken place at Abbeyhill Colonies. There are more than 30 artists in 20 venues who all open their front doors to the public to show off whatever their art is.

Here is the full programme




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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Gamer Gamer \*\*\*\*\*



By Craig Todd

HAVING to wait 10 minutes due to a technical issue was not ideal, nor was having no sound.

Yet, James Smallman did a terrific job as host to entertain the crowd, whilst Lloyd Griffith and Charlie Baker amused fans by revealing they barely play video games.

From the modern day Xboxes and Playstations to the Atari and Sega Mega Drive, this is a show that will be loved by different gaming generations.

Smallman set three challenges: a face-off in Pole Riders, which competitors must score points by using their pole vaults to guide a ball into their opponent's goal.

The second was to complete the first level of Sonic the Hedgehog as quick as possible, bringing laughs as Griffith died after 4 seconds.

The final challenge is a duel on Street Fighter Two, with Griffith infuriating a fuming Baker by using Blanka's electric shock powers.

Fun and quirky, audience interaction was key, as Smallman talked to the crowd about their most difficult games and the innocence of childhood whilst playing Grand Theft Auto with his daughter.

The crowd humming the Tetris theme and Song 2 by Blur were notable mentions, whilst a fan was delighted to beat Griffith in Street Fighter Two.

The show will be unpredictable and chaotic as various comedians attempt the different challenges each day.

[Tickets here](#)

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# **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Honest to Godley \*\*\*\*\***



by Craig Todd

Those who know of Janey Godley's work knew what they would get.

Foul-mouthed, rude and abrasive, fans loved what she had to say ranging from her views of Michelle Mone to the personal stories of being a gangster's wife.

"This is the first free show I've done," she said, whilst firing friendly expletives to late arrivals, due to the poor

air conditioning in the Counting House.

“I wish she was my mother,” someone commented as she roared the crowd into fits of laughter about her husband’s honesty due to his Asperger’s.

Sexually abused as a child by her uncle, her mother was murdered by her violent boyfriend and Godley herself having previously been charged with gun possession, this story is haunting and unique.

Despite the shock of her mother’s murder, she gets laughs as she tells of creating an illusion of robbery in the Carlton Pub in Glasgow, involving four teenagers high on LSD, a Gregory’s Girl actor and Strathclyde Police, causing chaos just because “she was bored on a Tuesday.”

It gets even better when she relates the tale of one therapy session and the therapist’s attempts to get her to come back.

This is one of the stand-out shows the Fringe has to offer and one of the least publicised – mark this in your diary.

[Tickets here.](#)

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## **Boxsmall Market to host Fringe preview shows**

 Enjoy children’s shows at Boxsmall Market’s ShowBox

Boxsmall Market will be hosting previews of Edinburgh Festival Fringe children’s shows at its ShowBox where families will get a look at the family-friendly acts performing at the Fringe.

The shows are being managed by Mix 'N' Pick Theatre and will run throughout the day, every day during August.

For just £4, guests will receive all day entry and unlimited kids' shows, bouncy snake, games, and there will be free toy prizes for everyone to enjoy. ShowBox previews of Fringe acts include: Brush, Grossed Out Game Show, Mrs McMoon's Tea Party and Colours & Opera Mouse.

Boxsmall Market, at Princes Mall Roof Terrace, is an architecturally designed market made up of a series of contemporary cubic micro-stores, showcasing the very best of Scottish products from delicious local food to cutting-edge design, clothing and crafts.

Shona Donaldson, festival director, says: "We are pleased to add extra shows to our line-up by welcoming Fringe performers at Boxsmall. Visiting Boxsmall is a fantastic day out for all the family, where guests can dine out, shop in the Market, let the kids play in the children's area, and now they can even catch a Fringe show too."

-Ends-

Submitted by [Stacey Dent](#)



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**Alex Salmond to deliver  
inaugural Thomas Muir**

# Memorial Lecture



'We have achieved a great duty in these critical times...we have been the first to revive the spirit of our country and give it a national existence' (Thomas Muir, 1798)

'We unite behind a declaration of self-evident truth...We want a Scotland that's greener, that's fairer and more prosperous. We realise that the power of an independent Scotland is necessary to achieve these ends' (Alex Salmond, 2012)

Over two hundred years separate these statements; each speaker sought in his own way to bring reform to Scotland.

On 24th August 2015, Alex Salmond, MP for Gordon, MSP for Aberdeenshire East and former First Minister, will give the inaugural Thomas Muir Memorial Lecture to celebrate the life of the radical agitator and democratic hero, Thomas Muir the Younger of Huntershill. At the age of 26, Muir led a movement demanding the vote for the ordinary men of Scotland.



Huntershill House, Muir's childhood home



Cadder Church



'He sought, like all great men, to attain the unattainable, knowing that the alternative is to bear the unbearable' (Oliver Brown).



Thomas Muir by  
David Martin,  
1785

In 1785, having expelled himself from Glasgow University after supporting the loser (Professor John Anderson, who later founded the forerunner of Strathclyde University) in an argument with the Faculty of Advocates, Thomas Muir became a lawyer in Edinburgh.

Within three years of passing his Bar examinations, Muir was acting for the congregation of his home parish of Cadder in a dispute with local landlords over the selection of a new minister; he became known as a man of principle, challenging the many laws he considered to be biased against the poor. In 1792 he was instrumental in setting up a nationwide network of reform clubs, the Scottish Association of the Friends of the People, in support of emancipation and the principles of the French Revolution; he also sympathised and corresponded with the United Irishmen, the Irish nationalist movement of the time.

✘ By 1793 Muir had been arrested and tried on trumped up charges of sedition, thrown out of the Faculty and sentenced by Lord Braxfield (of '*Let them bring me prisoners and I will find them law*' fame) to fourteen years' transportation; he arrived in Sydney in 1794, one of Australia's first political prisoners.





Lord Braxfield




### The Landing of Convicts at Botany Bay


Muir eventually escaped to California but was shipped back to Europe by the Spanish; during the journey his ship was engaged in battle with the British and he suffered severe facial injuries from flying shrapnel. He was released (and banished) by the Spanish and finally ended up in France, where he died in 1799.

In 1982 a young Alex Salmond was expelled from the Scottish  Nationalist Party for being a leading light in the left wing 79 Group. He was readmitted a month later, elected MP for Banff and Buchan in 1987 and leader of the SNP in 1990. He was a vocal opponent of Tony Blair's decisions to back NATO bombing in Serbia in 1999 and the invasion of Iraq in 2003. He became First Minister of Scotland in 2007 and called the 2014 Referendum on Scottish Independence. Resigning as SNP leader in November 2014, he was elected as MP for Gordon in 2015, winning 48% of the vote. He is the author of *The Dream Shall Never Die: 100 Days That Changed Scotland Forever*.

 The Friends of Thomas Muir are commemorating the 250th anniversary of Muir's birth with a series of events throughout Scotland. The anniversary has already featured on STV and BBC Radio, and in the coming months there will be further events in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bishopbriggs, Cadder,

Kirkintilloch and Alloway. On 24th August, prior to the Thomas Muir Lecture, Murray Armstrong, former Guardian journalist and author of *The Liberty Tree*, an historical novel about Muir's life and struggles, will talk about Muir's legacy as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Book Festival.

A re-examination and partial re-enactment of Muir's trial  in Parliament House, a Scottish National Portrait Gallery tour of works relating to him, an exhibition at the Central Library, a reception at the Scottish Parliament and a Democracy 250 Walk from the Political Martyrs' Memorial in Old Calton Burial Ground to Holyrood have also been organised; details may be found at [www.thomasmuir.co.uk](http://www.thomasmuir.co.uk).

 The Thomas Muir Memorial Lecture will take place on Monday 24 August 2015 (7pm for 7.30pm) at [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Tickets are available from the Cathedral Office (0131 225 6293) or from the organisers, Word Power Books (0131 662 9112); a suggested donation of at least £5 per ticket is requested. Murray Armstrong will speak at Word Power Books at 1pm on 24th August: this event is free (donations appreciated) and no booking is required.

Additional information about Thomas Muir gratefully sourced from *Thomas Muir of Huntershill 1765-1799* (c) Michael Donnelly 1975.



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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe

# 2015 REVIEW – Lynn Ruth Miller: Get A Grip \*\*\*



It is very hot in Studio 5 of C venues: C Nova.

‘Anyone who falls asleep, I forgive them...this is going to turn into a mass striptease in 5 minutes’.

Well luckily it doesn't, as **Lynn Ruth Miller** is beautifully attired in white floaty dress, white shoes and pink top. She is – as she is happy to tell us – 81 years old, ‘the oldest stand-up comedian performing on either side of the Atlantic’, a multi-award winner who only began her comedy career ten years ago. She used to live in California but last year – yes, just last year – she moved to Brighton. She's a writer and singer too. Tonight she's here to talk about fear and how to deal with it.



In ***Get A Grip***, Miller tells us about some of the things that have scared her during her long and colourful life – and how she came to terms with them. Overarching almost every anecdote is the presence of Mrs Miller senior, a sad, fearful, highly

critical woman who frequently threatened to send her daughter 'back to the Indians where you'll have to live in a teepee and eat corn all day.'

'She was not my friend'

– a poignant understatement if ever there was one. Not surprising, really, that Lynn Ruth grew up feeling insecure and worthless, terrified of authority figures, unable to stand up to bullies, desperate to please.



Another misery memoir then? Well yes – and no.

Lynn Ruth illustrates her hang-ups with stories, and for every heartbreaking tale there is a snappy one-liner – from childhood road trips through the pre-Martin Luther King South to issues with college roommates in Michigan, encounters with the police (who *used* to be her friends – now she's not so sure...).

Then it moves to the West Coast and life in trailer-park Texas. This whirlwind tour of selected episodes from eight decades well – if not always happily – lived is as entertaining as it is touching. There are even family photos, brought along to prove it's all true – when she can put her hand on them. 'I can't find that one so you'll just have to imagine'. Lynn Ruth is nothing if not resourceful, in performance as in life; she's been everything from a teacher to a call handler for what she thought was a dating service. (It wasn't). And despite all the grief she's come out stronger;

'I realised I didn't need anyone to validate me – not even my mother'.

There are a few wobbly bits in this show; Lynn Ruth does occasionally forget where she's going with a story – but then

who doesn't? (under 30s need not reply...), the room is much too hot, even on a typical Edinburgh August afternoon, and the noise from the foyer outside is a tad distracting.

Despite all that, this feisty woman holds our attention and stays firmly on the sharp side of schmaltz; Lynn Ruth Miller's definitely Got A Grip.



**Lynne Ruth Miller:** *Get A Grip* is at Venue 145, C venues – C Nova, India Buildings, Victoria Street, at 6pm daily until 31st August. Tickets are available via the Edinburgh Festival Fringe website [here](#).

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## R&L 2015: Scottish Bands head for Leeds Festival



Leeds Festival will be kicked off this year with local label Dance To The Radio curating the Welcome To Leeds Stage on Thursday 27th August.

Django Django and Prides are two of the big Scottish acts that will be heading down south to play at both Reading & Leeds Festivals.

It will start the weekend's proceedings with Leeds Festival veterans Pulled Apart by Horses headlining the stage. The band are returning to the festival after having to pull out of their appearance last year at the last minute down to illness, and are looking to give off an early raucous impression on the

festival in 2015.

Essex rock 'n' rollers and Domino signees The Bohicas will also be on hand for a typically energetic set the same month as the release of their debut album *The Making Of*.

Youthful electronic-tinged four-piece VITAMIN will be on site showing exactly why they're a band to watch out for whilst Leeds' own guitar thrashing five piece Carnabells and Sheffield indie rockers Redfaces also join the fun.

These new acts join Main Stage headliners Mumford & Sons, Metallica and The Libertines plus Alt-J, Bring Me The Horizon, Kendrick Lamar, Royal Blood, Bastille, Jamie T and many more.

Leeds Festival takes place on 28-30 August 2015

[Tickets here.](#)

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## Witness appeal following series of break-ins



Police are appealing for witnesses following a series of break-ins to commercial premises in Loanhead, Peebles and Edinburgh which happened on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August in the early hours of the morning.

Two cash registers were taken from Snax on Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh around 3.35am and a two-figure sum of cash taken.

A Subway premises at Straiton Mains, Loanhead was broken into and CCTV equipment smashed around 4.10am.

The Sweet Shop in Peebles was targeted by the suspects who forced entry to the shop around 4.55am with the use of a sledgehammer. They made off with the cash register and a three-figure sum of cash.

A number of participants in a cycling event witnessed the incident in Peebles.

The suspects are described as three men wearing dark clothing and balaclavas. They were driving a silver or grey BMW with the registration number SK14 UPF.

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

Detective Sergeant Alan Young said: "These suspects have targeted several commercial premises in the space of a few hours across Edinburgh and the Lothians and Borders.

"Although their criminal behaviour has not profited them financially to any great extent, they have caused a considerable amount of damage and alarmed several witnesses."

"Anyone with information that can help us to bring these suspects to justice is asked to contact us on 101 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

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## Police dedicate weekend to



# motorcycle safety



Hitting the road on your motorbike this weekend? You'll be joining dozens of Road Policing officers across the East of Scotland who are dedicating Saturday and Sunday to motorcycle safety.

On Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August, officers from Divisional and Trunk Roads Policing Units will be joining colleagues nationally in patrolling key motorcycle routes, to stop bikers and offer advice as well as enforcing any traffic offences committed by any road user.

Safety Camera vehicles will also be taking part in the weekend's activities, with routes covered across all four East policing divisions.

Local Area Commander for Road Policing in the East of Scotland, Chief Inspector Stephen Innes, said: "So far in 2015 there have been 18 motorcycle fatalities on Scotland's roads. Six people on motorbikes have sadly lost their lives in the four Divisions that make up the East. Biking is a very popular pastime especially over the summer months, and we want everyone to enjoy our scenic routes safely, no matter what mode of transport you are using.

"We are taking the joint approach of education and enforcement and will be patrolling key roads which are popular with bikers. Whilst the vast majority of motorcyclists ride appropriately, a small number take unnecessary risks and cause a danger to themselves and others. But it only takes one small lapse in attention to find your speed has crept up or a bend is sharper than you initially thought, so we want all bikers, indeed all road users, to think about their riding and driving and be mindful of the road conditions and other vehicles.

“Road Policing officers in marked and unmarked vehicles will be joined by colleagues on our police motorbikes, to stop and speak to riders and give advice like easing off the throttle on left-hand bends and staying alert to the speed of the vehicle in front of you. We’ll also have Safety Camera vans in key locations to remind all road users to watch their speed and enforce the law where needed.”

Road Policing officers and Safety Camera vehicles will be situated and patrolling across the East of Scotland, with a focus on the following key routes and locations –

Edinburgh – A90, A71, A701

Muirhouse, Drylaw, Kirkliston, South Queensferry, Gilmerton  
A70 at Balerno

Fife – A91, A92, A915, B940, A919, B942 in North East Fife  
Kinglassie Road, Glenrothes

Stirlingshire – A84 at Lochearnhead, Drummond and Strathyre  
A85 at Portnellan and Auchessan  
A82 at Auchtertyre  
A811

Midlothian – A68

East Lothian – A199, B1377, B1347  
A198 at Dirleton  
B1345 at Fenton Barns

Scottish Borders – A1 at Cockburnspath, Duns and Reston  
A68

Police Scotland supports the Road Safety Scotland and Scottish Government “Live Fast Die Old” campaign. During the summer motorbiking season, it is not unusual to see at least one motorcyclist fatality each weekend in Scotland, and the campaign brings a mixture of advice on techniques, routes, events and staying safe on your bike.

CI Innes continued: “We’ll be encouraging bikers to check out the Live Fast Die Old Facebook page, as well as our Around The Corner website – both are great resources for enjoying riding safely.

“Whilst we will be giving advice where appropriate, we will also be enforcing the law – careless and dangerous driving will not be tolerated and speed limits are in place for the safety of all road users.”

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## **Police advice for revellers to keep safe during Festival**



Police in Edinburgh, along with their partner agencies, are issuing advice and providing support to keep Capital revellers safe during the Festival.

Many of the city’s licensed premises are currently operating extended opening hours and thousands of visitors and residents are taking advantage of the late licences during their nights out.

With this in mind, officers are keen to make sure everyone remain safe while enjoying the night time economy.

Police Scotland’s Good Night’s Out Get Home Safe campaign offers a range of useful information to help the public enjoy a safe evening within Edinburgh’s city centre and from today can be obtained on the Force website as well as Edinburgh Division’s Facebook page.

During the evenings and weekends officers will carry out high-

visibility patrols to engage with revellers and deter any criminal activity.

To provide additional assistance to people requiring assistance, the SafeZone Edinburgh bus is also utilised regularly throughout the city centre and is a vital resource for free, non-judgmental advice, first aid and help finding a safe route home.

The buses, which operate across the country, are a funded partnership between Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Government and are strongly supported by a range of charities.

Anyone who attends at the SafeZone Edinburgh Bus can receive comprehensive first aid treatment, guidance on any further medical attention, emotional support and advice which may be required.

With the use of New Psychoactive Substances becoming more prevalent throughout Scotland, police and health partners are once again reiterating the dangers of consuming these chemicals. More information on the dangers of NPS can be found on the Police Scotland website.

Anyone who takes unwell after taking these substances should seek immediate medical assistance.

Inspector Emma Croft from the City Centre Policing Team said: "Edinburgh during the Festival has some of the best night-life in the country and we are working closely with our partners to ensure the public have all the information they need to keep themselves safe while out and about.

"We would first ask that you try and plan your night in advance and make sure you know where you're going, how you're getting there and how you intend to get home.

"This city has excellent public and private transport

available and if you need to travel across Edinburgh, consider going by bus, tram or taxi. If you are walking, then walk with people you trust and stick to well-lit and populated areas.

“We want everyone to enjoy their evening and all the city has to offer, but would urge the public to drink responsibly and don’t let a great night be ruined by the over consumption of alcohol.

“Remember, that our Think Twice campaign continues to operate throughout Edinburgh and anyone involved in alcohol-related violence or disorder could face bail conditions banning them from city centre pubs and clubs – putting a real dampener on your Festival celebrations.

“By making our advice leaflet available online and on social media, we can make sure that helpful safety messages and crime prevention advice are at your fingertips wherever you may be.”


Community Safety Leader, Councillor Cammy Day, said: “We want everyone to remember their Edinburgh Festival experience for all the right reasons and I would encourage to do their bit by acting responsibly and taking time to look at the latest safety advice.


“Our environmental wardens and Licensing Officers continue to work closely with Police Scotland in the city centre to help keep people safe and offer reassurance through a high visibility presence.


“Edinburgh is a safe city and we want to maintain this, ensuring that visitors enjoying the Festival have the best possible experience of the city.”

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# Thursday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

**Comic Art Workshop with Kev F Sutherland:** find out how easy  it is to write and draw comics and manga! A free comic art masterclass for ages 8-12, with Kev F Sutherland, whose work appears in *The Beano*, *Marvel* comics, *Dr Who Adventures* and lots more. At the end of the masterclass you will get a comic containing a strip from everyone, and your own comic caricature drawn by Kev! 2-4pm, [Central Children's Library](#), George IV Bridge. Free but booking is essential and may be made via eventbrite [here](#). To help the library manage bookings, please only order a ticket for your child – do not book an extra one for any accompanying adult.

 **Riots, Headscarves and Mistresses.** For two centuries or more, most French people and many foreigners considered French politics to be at the vanguard of history, but in the past two decades this image has been shattered. In this talk **Dr Emile Chabal** will focus on the revival of French republicanism since the 1980s, offering new perspectives on the transformation of France into a European country like any other. 1-2pm, [Anatomy Lecture Theatre](#), Doorway 3, Medical School, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place. Free and open to all, but please register via eventbrite [here](#). This talk is part of a series of public lectures which aim to challenge popular beliefs and reassess intriguing events. For more information click [here](#).

**Sand Castle Day at NEA!** Everyone is welcome at this free  event in NEA's garden. 10am-12 noon, [North Edinburgh Arts](#), Pennywell Court, Muirhouse. Please contact NEA on 0131 315 2151 for more information.

**Getting Started at the National Library of Scotland:** learn how to get a library card, find your way around the Library and

request materials from the collections. The workshop will include a tour of the **reading rooms**. If you wish to register for a library card, please bring evidence of **identity** with you – details of what is acceptable can be found on the NLS website. 2.30pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or online [here](#).

✖ **Beyond The Veil: Eid Celebration Event.** This month's storytelling session will be about the **Prophet Ibrahim**, and will include a boat trip to **Inchcolm Island** for all the family. Meet promptly at 12.15pm, **Hawes Pier**, South Queensferry EH30 9TB. £10 (adult), £5 (child), children aged 4 or under go free. **Booking is essential**: please email the names of all people attending, the ages of children and a mobile contact number to [beyondtheveil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beyondtheveil@hotmail.co.uk). **Beyond The Veil** is a Muslim women's group based in Edinburgh; it aims to promote a better understanding of Islam on a basic level, and believes it is through integration and partnership that understanding on a reciprocal basis can be achieved. For more information see the group's Facebook page [here](#).

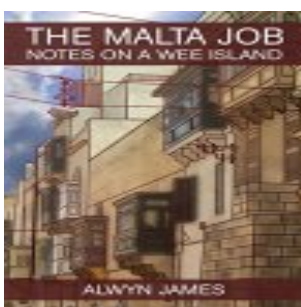
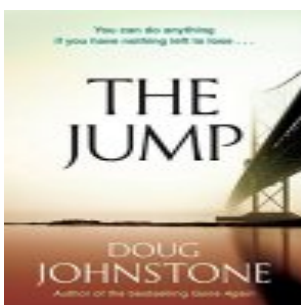
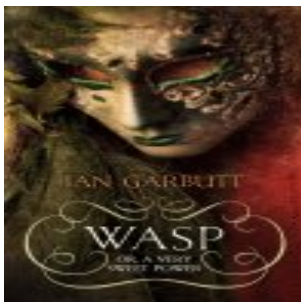
**Record Breakers: Creative Storytelling with The Dogs** ✖ **Trust.** For ages 5-10. 2.30pm, [Oxgangs Library](#), Oxgangs Road North.

**Edinburgh Art Festival – Spotlight Tours of Scottish Art: People, Places, Ideas.** Guided tours of the City Art Centre's Scottish Art collection, focusing on people, places and ideas. 11am or 3pm, (meet at reception) [City Art Centre](#), 2 Market Street. No booking required, free – suggested donation £2. Also at same times on 15th August 2015.




**Blackwell's Edinburgh Presents Writers at the Fringe:** every Thursday throughout the Fringe, Blackwell's invites a selection of Scottish performers to give a taste of their


work. New and unpublished works of literary art stand alongside established novelists, with any and all genres free to be expressed, from poetry to cutting-edge drama, folk music, contemporary fiction and all that is found between. Tonight's line-up is **Ian Garbutt, Jane Alexander, Alwyn James, Sue Lawrence** and **Doug Johnstone**. 5.45pm for 6pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Free tickets may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8229, emailing [events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk), via eventbrite [here](#) or from the Fringe Box Office [here](#).










**Annabelle Gurwitch:** the author, playwright and actress  discusses her work and her latest book, *New York Times* Bestseller ***I See You Made An Effort***. Gurwitch, whose previous publications include ***You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up***, previously hosted **Dinner and A Movie** on TBS. She is now shortlisted for the **2014-15 James Thurber Prize for American Humour Writing**. 5.30pm, [Word Power Books](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome, free: donations also very welcome!

 **Edinburgh Art Festival Explorers Free Summer Art Workshops:** for children in the age group P1-P4. 10.30am-4.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Booking is required and may be made by emailing [alchemyarts@gmail.com](mailto:alchemyarts@gmail.com) or calling 07853 872 073. Also at same times on Friday 14th August 2015.

**Museum Outreach – Street Games:** a session with **Edinburgh**  **Museums and Galleries Outreach and Access** workers. 2.30pm, [Currie Library](#), 210 Lanark Road West. Free.

 **Gallery 37:** a showcase event celebrating the work of young people aged 14-19, inspired by the Museum's collections and created with professional artists in **Impact Art** workshops. Art forms include fashion, digital, visual art, performance, music, animation and design. 10am-5pm, Event Space and Auditorium, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free: all welcome.

**Portrait Gallery Curator's Talk: Head to Head.** A chance to  chat to gallery curators about the current exhibitions; this month **Imogen Gibbon**, Deputy Director of the Portrait Gallery, talks about *Head to Head*. 5.30-6pm, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.

✖ **The Drawing Room August 2015:** informal artist-led drawing sessions, each developed by a contemporary artist and reflecting concerns in that artist's work. All materials supplied: no experience necessary. 5.30-6.45pm, [Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art TW0](#), Belford Road. To book please contact the Education Department on 0131 624 6410 or email [education@nationalgalleries.org](mailto:education@nationalgalleries.org).



**LGBT Learning Difficulties:** a group for LGBT people who also identify as having a learning difficulty or disability. The group can offer social activities, volunteering opportunities, and capacity building with statutory or voluntary sector organisations. Today's activity is **a trip to the seaside at Portobello** – visit a cafe with sea views and stroll along the prom with friends. Meet at [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street by 1pm *or* at the South St David's Street bus stop by 1.15pm. Return will be around 4.30pm. Please bring money to buy your refreshments in the cafe. Booking is essential and must be made by contacting **George Burrows** on 0131 652 3281 or emailing [george@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:george@lgbthealth.org.uk) by **Monday 10th August**. For more information about the group or to make an appointment, please also contact George.



Image (c) Neil Hanna

**Phill Jupitus Sketch Comic in Conversation:** each Thursday evening during the festivals, Phill Jupitus will be in conversation with a special guest – a passionate, personal and irreverent look at art, a chat about what Phill has seen in the galleries this week, and possibly some sketching! The guests' identities will be announced nearer the time. 7-8pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

✖ **The Dew On Her Plaid:** the history and myths behind a selection of traditional songs. A performance of six traditional Scots songs which link in various ways to women in Scottish history. Performed and presented by **Dr Nicola Cowmeadow** and **Syd House**. For adults. 2pm, [Museum of Edinburgh](#), Huntly House, 142 Canongate. Tickets cost £5/£3.50 and must be booked in advance via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or online [here](#).



Image: Emma Bowen

**Making Faces! Making for Grown-Ups.** A special evening opening of the children's ***Making Faces!*** activities for ages 16+ to 80+. Unleash your childlike, creative side with hands-on art making activities; drop into the studio this summer and get inspired by an amazing variety of portraits from across the National Galleries' exhibitions and collections. 5-7pm, Clore 1, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



**The Adventures of Prince Achmed (1926) (U)** – with live score by **Sink**. Widely considered to be the first full-length animated feature in the history of cinema, *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* is a superlative piece of storytelling with some experimental and semi-abstract sequences thrown in. Based loosely on the *Arabian Nights*, the film is an exciting and fast-paced tale of sword fights, chases, genies and adventure.

Continuing a four year collaboration with Filmhouse, acoustic trio Sink bring their sounds to this very special animated feature, this time reaching beyond their more usual instrumentation to include mizmar, tuned percussion and vocal elements in a score that is 'in part composed, in part conjured, like painting bright colours onto black and white film and setting the quiet air into magical vibration'. 9pm, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office in person, by calling 0131 228 6382 or online: prices vary.

**Edinburgh Festival Voluntary Guides Association: Edinburgh and the Act of Union 1707.** Eric Melvin will tell the story of Edinburgh at the start of the 18th century, the events which led up to the Act of Union, and how the Act was received in Scotland and in England. 7pm for 7.30pm, **City Chambers**, 253 High Street. Free; all welcome.

**Nothing Ever Happens Here: Stanley Odd.** The alternative Scottish hip-hop band released their third album ***A Thing Brand New*** in late 2014. 'Scottish hip-hop standard bearers...delivery deadly, rhymes sublime' (*Scotland on Sunday*). 8.30pm, Dissection Room, [Summerhall](#), 1 Summerhall. Tickets cost £10 and may be purchased by calling the Box Office on 0131 560 1580 or online [here](#).



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## Five things you need to know today!



**Planning permission granted for hotel**

**Free music at the National Museum of Scotland**

**Maggie's Summer Fair**

**Festival Tip of the Day**

**Leith Walk Police Box**

The planning committee granted permission yesterday for the hotel forming part of the St James Quarter development, going against the recommendations of the council officials.

The design is based on ribbons as you can see from this photo.



The email response from the developer's agent shows how the hotel will appear when viewed from George Street:



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There will be a viewing platform on the 12th floor offering another high-level view of the city.

What do you think?

Please add your comments below.

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Granny Green – world / folk trio of trumpet, accordion and tuba will play today in the Grand Gallery at the National Museum of Scotland.

This Glasgow-based trio of trumpet, accordion and tuba play brand new and quirky sounds, bringing a contemporary feel to their world folk music. For this lunchtime concert, they have arranged a song called 'The Rising Sun' inspired by Japan, which the Grannies hope to bring to life with a flügel solo, wind chimes, a rain stick and hopefully some audience participation!

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

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Our Festival tip today is to go to the Fruitmarket Gallery on Market Street to see the Phyllida Barlow exhibition.

The gallery announced how delighted they were that she had agreed to the exhibition in Edinburgh: "She is making a new series of large sculptures that will engulf the Gallery in art, spilling from the upper gallery over the staircase and into the ground floor, enticing the visitor from the street and into the world of her visual imagination."

Here is a preview:

[Phyllida Barlow: Set](#) from [arts-news](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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*The weekend starts tomorrow Thursday 13th with the launch event of Photina.dk book of images From cuff to community...*

*Posted by [Leith Walk Police Box](#) on [Wednesday, 12 August 2015](#)*

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# Hearts Go Clear at the Top of the League



**Heart of Midlothian 2 Motherwell 0**

**Ladbrokes SPFL Premiership, Wednesday 12 August 2015 – Tynecastle**

Hearts impressive return to the top flight of Scottish football continued at Tynecastle on Wednesday evening as they defeated Motherwell in front of a near sell-out crowd – a result which takes the Maroons clear at the top of the table.

Head Coach Robbie Neilson had hinted at changes from the team which won at Dundee at the weekend and, indeed, three changes were made as Gavin Reilly, Sam Nicholson and Billy King came in with Blazej Augustyn injured and Juanma and Jamie Walker dropping to the substitute's bench.

As is nearly always the case at Tynecastle, Hearts posted their intentions early on and Nicholson came close after just two minutes with a shot which had Well keeper Ripley beaten but whizzed past the post.

Nicholson and Billy King seemed to be taking it in turns to torment the Motherwell defence and it was from a King free-kick that Igor Rossi almost gave the home side the lead but the defender's header was deflected away from goal.

Just after the half hour mark, Hearts pressure told when the ever-dangerous Nicholson danced his way past the visiting defence into the penalty box only to be fouled by McDonald. Penalty said referee Brian Colvin and Gavin Reilly confidently stroked home the spot kick to give the home side the lead.

Hearts should have doubled their lead five minutes later when Nicholson delivered a teasing cross which Prince Buaben met with his head but his effort on goal was inches wide.

Good work by King then presented Reilly with another chance but his shot on goal was straight at Ripley.

### **Half-time Hearts 1 Motherwell 0**

After posing little threat in the opening forty-five minutes, Motherwell looked more determined at the start of the second half. That said, the hard-working Gavin Reilly came closest to scoring again with a shot which was saved by Ripley.

Billy King then tested the overworked Well keeper with a 25 yard low shot which the goalie pushed away. However, the impressive King was not to be denied and he doubled Hearts



lead in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute. Great build-up play by Buaben saw King collect the ball on the right and he cut in before firing a shot which Ripley could only parry into the net to put Hearts two goals ahead.

Hearts substitute Juanma came close when he almost connected with Callum Paterson's dangerous cross but the scoring ended at 2-0 to the home side.

Hearts looked much more assured in defence and Robbie Neilson will be delighted not only with another three points but his side's first clean sheet of the season.

Hearts are playing a lot more 'direct' football this season than last, when Neilson was quoted as saying his side would never play the long-ball game. However, when they play the passing game that has become their trademark, they can still do it to devastating effect. New signing Oshaniwa looks very comfortable on the ball and the Nigerian World Cup star's pace and trickery will cause problems to many teams.

Another fine victory for Hearts who are now clear at the top of the Ladbroke's Premiership following champions Celtic dropping a couple of points at Kilmarnock. Hoops assistant John Collins was quoted this week as saying that other teams in Scotland aren't clever enough to test the Glasgow club.

Well, if Mr Collins would care to look at the league table tonight he will see Hearts are in a very clever position indeed...

**Hearts:** Alexander, Paterson, Ozturk, Rossi (McGhee, 84'), Oshaniwa, King (Oliver, 88'), Buaben, Gomis, Nicholson, Reilly, Sow (Juanma, 59').

**Motherwell:** Ripley, Hammell, Laing, McManus, Ainsworth, Johnson, Lasley (Leitch, 67'), Law, Moulton (Thomas, 76'), Taylor, McDonald (Clarkson, 87').

**Referee:** Brian Colvin

**Att:** 16,645

**Top man:** Sam 'The Man' Nicholson

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# Creative Scotland achieves gender balance

Creative Scotland has become the first public body to meet the First Minister's recent call for all boards in Scotland to achieve a 50:50 gender split by 2020.

Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop announced last week that the public arts body has achieved a gender balanced board with the appointment of four new members.



David Brew



Sheila Murray



Maggie Kinloch

The appointments of Professor Maggie Kinloch, Erin Forster, Sheila Murray and David Brew follow a recruitment exercise by the Scottish Government that trialled new approaches aimed at continually improving gender balance on regulated public boards.

It follows First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's call at the end of June for companies, third sector organisations and public sector bodies to make a commitment that by 2020, 50 per cent of their board members will be women.

Creative Scotland became the latest public body in Scotland to achieve a gender balanced board, and the first public body to meet the target since the First Minister launched the Partnership for Change on June 25.

As well as 18 private companies and 45 third sector organisations, 81 public bodies have now signed up to meet the Partnership for Change commitment by 2020.

Announcing the four new appointments to Creative Scotland's Board, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said:

"I am very pleased to announce the appointments of Maggie, Erin, Sheila and David to the board of Creative Scotland. Each new board member has a rich and diverse mix of skills and experience to offer and I look forward to seeing the impact of their contribution across Scotland's communities over the next four years.

"While all board appointments are of course made on merit, the Scottish Government is continually improving our processes to

ensure vacancies are attractive and accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds. We are continuously reviewing and improving the way we recruit to ensure that anyone with relevant skills and experience is given the opportunity to succeed.

“These appointments mean Creative Scotland now has a gender balanced board, setting an example to the rest of the organisation and to all employers that we must work harder to achieve gender equality in the workplace and ensure everyone in Scotland is able to meet their full potential.”

Fair Work Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham said:

“This Government is committed to making major and lasting progress towards true gender equality – towards shattering the glass ceiling for good and for all and promoting gender balance across Scotland’s workplaces.

“Our greatest resource is our people so we can’t afford to underuse the skills and talents of more than half of our population. We know that gender equality is good for the economy, for society and for Scotland as a whole, so it is great news that 90 per cent of Scotland’s public bodies have now signed up to meet the Partnership for Change commitment by 2020, along with 45 organisations in the third sector and 18 private companies.

“This will bring greater diversity of opinion, more open discussions, better debate and ultimately better informed decisions, that will no doubt have a positive impact on Scotland’s entire workforce.”

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# Falkirk Development Squad 3-3 Hibernian Development Squad



A strong Hibs' Development squad featuring first team squad players Danny Carmichael, Martin Boyle, Antonio Reguero and Alex Harris (pictured) drew 3-3 draw away to Falkirk last night.

Ryan Blair gave Falkirk the lead before Boyle equalised in the 40th minute. Just before the break Callum Crane made it 2-1 to Hibs but 12 minutes into the second half, a Falkirk's trialist headed in from a corner to level the scores. Oli Shaw then made it 3-2 for Hibs in the 67th minute, but Alex Cooper scored a 25 yard free-kick in the sixth minute of injury time, as the game ended all square.

After the game Joe McBride, Hibernian U20 Development Coach told the club website: : "I felt we were the better team throughout and played football the whole game. I was disappointed with the way we gave the goal away when we were 2-1 up – a free header from the corner.

"We got ourselves back in front, and I couldn't see them getting back into the game at all. Then we went down to nine men through injuries, and I thought we coped with that really, really well."

"We were unfortunate to lose a goal right in the last minute, but it is a development league. Results are nice, but it's not the be all and end all.

"I was delighted with the way we kept the ball up front. I though Lewis and Conner done well protecting the ball, and we performed well when we had nine men. But like I said, it's about development, so the result isn't the be all and end all

for us.”

**Hibernian Development Squad:** Antonio Reguero, Aaron Dunsmore, Trialist, Kevin Waugh, Jordan McGregor, Aaron Scott (Jordan Sinclair, 64), Alex Harris, Callum Crane, Lewis Allan, Martin Boyle (Oli Shaw, 57), Danny Carmichael (Conner Duthie, 45).  
**Unused substitutes:** Sean Brennan, Ben Stirling, Adam Watson, Ali Smith.

Photo by John Preece

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## **Eight-year-old boy injured in road traffic collision on Queen's Drive**



Police are appealing for witnesses following a road traffic collision on Queen's Drive at 5.40pm today.

An 8-year-old boy sustained serious injuries and was conveyed to the Sick Kids hospital.

Queen's Drive in Holyrood Park is currently closed from the Palace Roundabout to the park exit at Royal Park Terrace.

Inquiries are ongoing into the full circumstances.

Anyone with information that can assist officers with their inquiries is asked to contact police on 101

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# Police revisit scene of sexual assault in Craiglockhart



Police will tonight revisit the scene of a sexual assault that took place in the Craiglockhart area one week ago.

A 21-year-old woman was returning home when a male indecently assaulted her at the junction of Craiglockhart Road and Craiglockhart Quadrant at around 10.30pm on Wednesday 5th August.

A struggle ensued and the victim fought her attacker off, who was last seen running off along Craiglockhart before being lost to sight.

The suspect is described as white, between 5ft 9ins and 5ft 11ins tall with a slim build. He was wearing a grey hooded top and dark tracksuit bottoms.

Between 10pm and 11pm this evening, detectives will be in and around Craiglockhart Road to speak with members of the public.

Local residents, joggers and dog walkers are all urged to come speak with these officers if they have information relevant to this investigation.

As part of this inquiry officers are keen to trace a jogger who was running south in Elliot Road towards Colinton Road at around 10.33pm last Wednesday. It is believed he may have seen the suspect running off after the assault.

This individual is described as white 5ft 10ins tall with a slim to athletic build, wearing knee-length shorts and a dark top. He is asked to get in touch with police as soon as possible.

Detective Chief Inspector Alwyn Bell said: "So far we have had a great response from the public and I would like to thank everyone who has already provided us with information.

"The suspect, however, has still to be identified and so officers will tonight revisit Craiglockart one week on from the attack to engage with members of the public who are regularly within the area to establish if they saw anything suspicious.

"If you believe you know something that can help us trace the male responsible, or that can assist with our ongoing inquiries then please contact police immediately.

"In particular, we wish to trace the male jogger who was on Elliot Road, as he may have vital information that can help us with our investigation and I would ask that he come forward to speak with us."

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

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## Concern for missing teenager



Police are appealing for information to help trace 15-year-old Shanice Henry who was last seen in the Howdenhall area at 10pm on Monday 3rd August.



She is described as white, 5ft 4inches tall with a slim build, and has pink/orange shoulder-length hair.

She was last seen wearing a cream Rihanna t-shirt, a blue body warmer, light blue ripped jeans and lime green Nike trainers.

She has connections with the Leith and Westerhailes areas of Edinburgh.

Inspector Stephen Rosie said: "Shanice is vulnerable due to her age and we are growing increasingly concerned for her welfare.

"Anyone who may have seen her since 10pm last Monday, or who knows where she is, is urged to contact police as soon as possible."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

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## **Edinburgh Festival fringe – The Hogwallops at The Circus Hub**



With the weather cooperating for the last few days, The Lafayette tent at The Circus Hub in the Meadows was finally ready to welcome the opening performances for this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

First to take the stage were The Hogwallops, a UK based contemporary circus company with their housework-themed family show.....

Baking, washing, bananas and zimmer frames all featured in the show, 'padded out' with a tremendous assortment of both floor and aerial based acrobatics, juggling, theatre and humour, all aided and abetted by a mix of a live – from the third female member of the group – and recorded soundtrack.

With a fairly quiet start to lead the audience into a false sense of security, the three men and two women went on to performed an almost non-stop routine which, at times, appeared to defy gravity. About the only 'acrobatic company formula' they stuck with was when there were injury-defying things to do, it tended to be the female members who did the defying....

The whole performance was a good blend of quiet humour and heart-in-mouth action which kept the audience well entertained for the entire hour.







The show is on at 11:25am from now until the 29<sup>th</sup> August (not the 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>) in The Lafayette. Tickets are priced from £9.00 and are available from the on-site booking office or from [here](#).

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## Damien McFly to release new album 'Parallel Mirrors'



Italian multi-instrumentalist Damien McFly will release his new album *Parallel Mirrors* on 28th August on Ferrari Records.

The singer-songwriter, who recently played at the Hard Rock Festival in Edinburgh, blends folk elements with rock inspired by Mumford and Sons and The Lumineers – two bands he is a massive fan of.

*Parallel Mirrors* will be the follow-up to his recent single 'I Can't Reply', and the new album will be the first opportunity for Damien McFly to present original material after a series of cover efforts.

Each instrument on the new album has been recorded unplugged to create a natural ambience to pick up the warmth of the live performance – something very noticeable in songs such as 'Losing Myself' and 'Reflection'.

Damien McFly is the stage name for Damiano Ferrari, who originates from Padova, Italy. He has played over 200 gigs throughout Europe in less than two years in countries such as France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany, as well as other performances throughout the UK. McFly has also travelled to America, playing in Chicago, Indianapolis and Nashville.

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## Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 – Momentum Venues



Momentum Venues presents such a varied array of shows that one would be hard pressed to find a reason not to venture down Howe Street to their hub at St Stephen's Centre.

Confronting the task with impressive enthusiasm and ambition, this is Momentum's first Fringe Festival.

They are presenting no fewer than 12 different shows over their three performance spaces within the Centre- even if one performer referred to his performance space as “the Studio- what I prefer to call the corridor between the kitchen and the toilet.”

A mammoth task for this company; what lies in store?



At the lighter end of Momentum’s productions, we find *Bebe and Luca present... The Cabaret Farce!* These lovely ladies invite audiences to share a sequin-filled, decadent evening of laughter, accompanied by their carefully selected band of bright young things in tight shirts. As they put it, this is “cabaret after a few too many G+Ts.”

*Edith In the Dark* brings us into the not-so-child-friendly world of E. Nesbit, author of the beloved *The Railway Children*. This play explores the little-known fact that Nesbit was an aficionado of gothic horror. Writer Philip Meeks creates an atmospheric, shocking and sometimes very funny evening of surprises- think *The Famous Five* meets *Dracula*. Among the rest of the shows strictly for grown-ups, though for different reasons, are *More C\*nt Than Can’t: The Scandalous Life and Fast Times of Lord Byron* and *12.10.15*.

(These shows have already received 4-star and 5-star reviews, respectively, from *The Edinburgh Reporter*.)



For the children, a good selection: the charming TwoRep Theatre present Kipling’s *Just So Stories* through a mixture of puppetry, ukulele and singing. Watch out for the particularly amusing cautionary tale of *The Elephant’s Child*. TwoRep are also staging an adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupery’s *The Little Prince*. A slightly stranger turn comes from Poland’s *The Biggest Marionette Circus in the World*. Whilst impressive,

it is worth noting that their 10ft talking animal puppets may frighten smaller children.



Musicals are a key part of the Fringe and Momentum hosts two. *Ushers: The Front of House Musical* is a tongue-in-cheek tale of the small army of staff who keep shows on the road from off-stage. With sharp choreography and clever lyrics poking fun at wage gaps and delayed audience members, this one's not to be missed. *Shout! The Mod Musical* is less understated, more of a feel-good colour-explosion.

The all-girl cast take you back to the Swinging Sixties for "a journey through [its] infectious pop anthems and ballads." Speaking of the Sixties, *There's a Guy Works Down the Chip Shop Swears He's Elvis* is not strictly a musical, but it is a play with the songs of Elvis liberally scattered throughout. It centres on the only time spent in the UK by 'The King', when he touched down in Prestwick Airport on 3rd March, 1960-remember that, it might win you a pub quiz one day.

The play follows four young female members of the Elvis Fan Club (Kilmarnock Branch) all the way through from the sixties to the eighties. Funny and soulful, this one's for the small town rock'n'roll fan in all of us. Momentum will also be hosting singing stars Keith Jack and Peter Straker in on-off afternoon shows.



To bastardise a famous phrase and bring us neatly back round to Rudyard Kipling, if there isn't even one thing on that rather long list of shows that you feel like seeing, you're a much fussier man than I am, Gunga Din.

Momentum Venues are really pushing the boat out for their first Fringe and I recommend seeing as many of their shows as you can. If that's not enough, St Stephen's lies on one of the

few downhill walks one can make in Edinburgh. Your legs deserve a treat.

*Momentum Venues at St Stephen's Centre will be hosting shows from 5th-30th August. More info on all of shows listed above, and more, can be found at [momentumvenues.com](http://momentumvenues.com). Momentum also hosts regular open mic nights.*

*Follow @MomentumVenues for dates and times.*

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## **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 REVIEW – Joanna Neary: Faceful of Issues \*\*\*\***

✖ Joanna Neary's 2015 show 'Faceful of Issues' continues her tradition of basing her comedy shows around colourful characters. This year she becomes the delightfully twee Celia Jesson, the earthly embodiment of a repressed 1940s housewife. The genteel Celia finds herself in Edinburgh as the last remaining host of the Toxborough Village Hall Chat show. "It's only a silly little village Hall chat show, but we try to be modern and keep up." And keep up she does; tackling modern issues such as Buzzfeed and the demise of Britpop in a sweetly optimistic manner that elicits belly laughs all round.

Not a natural performer, Celia rises to the challenge of showbiz with great gusto, acknowledging her small town limitations to great comic effect. "I'm just an ordinary woman, I don't know anything about acting." she murmurs demurely. Her urban dance performance has audience members wiping away tears of laughter. Like an extra from a Miss Marple TV adaptation, she is delightfully jolly, holding up a



comedy mirror to the white middle class audience, revealing the absurdity and small-mindedness of the white middle classes. The audience are absolutely with her, and Neary's experience of character performances is clearly in evidence. Every posture and facial expression portrays a masterful parody of the village housewife.

Neary is completely committed to the ladylike character of Celia, who has a whole back-story, who reveals details of her husband Fred, her fears about identity theft, and her friend's advice about how to use her Kindle Fire. Musical accompaniment is provided by Centre Parting Martin, who peppers the set with local adverts and is part of the world's best named tribute act.

Charmingly her closing comic song thanks the audience for attending, and she thoughtfully recaps the topics covered to ensure all have had the full educational benefit of their time in her company.

"I'm enjoying myself thoroughly" trills Celia at one point. I'm inclined to agree with her!

Joanna Neary "Faceful of Issues" Assembly Rooms George Street Studio 2 19.45 until 30<sup>th</sup> August.

[Tickets here.](#)

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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 REVIEW – Festival of the

# Spoken Nerd \*\*\*\*



The geeks are coming out of the lab and into the spotlight. In a culture where we are becoming bored with vacuous c'lebs, and Professors Brian Cox and Peter Higgs generate the excitement and adulation previously reserved for rockstars, the time is right for the well-deserved success of the gleefully geeky Festival of the Spoken Nerd. This nerd-tastic trio are made up of stand-up Mathematician Matt Parker (now also known as Mr Professor Green), musically as well as scientifically talented Helen Arney, and Blue Peter's go-to science guy Steve Mould, now of 'the Mould Effect'.

Their latest Fringe show "Just for Graphs" combines their love for all things scientific with clever comedy. The audience is warned at the outset that this show contains "Frequent Strong Nerdity" and "Contains scenes of a graphic nature." The Nerds make good on this promise in a show that, while celebrating the joy of Venn diagrams, remains first and foremost very, very funny.

Expect audience participation that is not quite like any other show in the fringe. Where else can you participate in the super-positioning of Mexican waves or become part of a human speaker cable? You could be forgiven for thinking this is a niche performance, but this is belied by the packed room and its appeal for the merely sci-curious. The genuine enthusiasm of the trio is impossible to resist, whatever your level of scientific knowledge. They banter back and forth in good natured fashion, and the whole event is a shared experience of gloriously geeky fun. "That pleases me so much", laughs Steve at the oohs of the audience as they respond panto-like to a bar chart made of fire. Even the heckler was scientifically accurate at this smart and joyful show.

There are Euler Diagrams, some truly impressive on-stage calculations, flaming parabolas and of course Helen Arney's signature songs on her ukulele, but most importantly a high incidence of laughter. Catch this show during its Fringe 2015 run to learn the similarity between apathy and the node of a standing wave, what Newton and Bryan May have in common, and why you should take a laptop into a labour suite.

Festival of the Spoken Nerd are just about to embark on a nationwide tour, so see this graph a minute comedy in Edinburgh, the undisputed capital of comedy, before the rest of the country.


Smart is the new sexy and yes, it really is hip to be square.

Festival of the Spoke Nerd "Just for Graphs" Assembly George Square Studio One 18.30 daily until the end of August

[Tickets here](#)

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## Wednesday in Edinburgh – What's On Today

**Celebrity Organ Recital:** Tom Bell, one of Britain's  foremost young international recital organists, presents a programme centered on **Schoenberg's** monumental *Variations on a Recitative*, plus **Dupre Carillon**, **Byrd Will Yow Walke the Woods soe Wylde**, **Matthew Sargent** five visions from the book of *enoch*, **Bliss** (arr. Gower) *Ballet for Children*, **Alain Aria**, **Brahms Prelude & Fugue in G Minor**, **Christian Friedrich Witte** (attrib. JS Bach) *Passacaglia in D Minor* and **Vierne Carillon de Westminster**. 8pm, [St Giles' Cathedral](#), High Street. Tickets

cost £8/£5 (students)/accompanied children free, and are available from the Cathedral shop (0131 226 0673), from the **Fringe Festival Box Office** by calling 0131 226 0000, online [here](#), or on the door (sta).



**Grassmarket Community Project: A Talk by Elspeth Murray.**

Elspeth Murray has been poet-in-residence in schools, at conferences, among call centre staff and even in a shopping mall. She is a youth leader at **St James Church, Leith** and is on the tasting panel of the **Scotch Malt Whisky Society**. Since marrying puppeteer Richard Medrington in 2005, she has accidentally become a touring stage manager, and finds inspiration in theatres all over the world. 4.15pm, [Grassmarket Community Project](#), 86 Candlemaker Row. All welcome; free – donations to the Project also very welcome. The cafe will be open – please use it!

✘ **Lunchtime Concert: Jenny Goss and Antonia Smart** (*sopranos*) and **Morley Whitehead** (*piano*) perform works by **Ravel, Beethoven, Berlioz, Greig, Thea Musgrave, Philip Martin** and **Joaquin Rodrigo**. 1.10pm, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Braid Road/Cluny Gardens. Free: a retiring collection will be taken for the church's music scholarship fund. ✘

**Record Breaking Countries Quiz:** For ages 5-12.

3-4pm, [Muirhouse Library](#), Pennywell Court.

✖ **Polar Explorers Holiday Club:** games, lunch, drama, Bible stories, crafts and lots of fun! All children who have finished P1-P7 are welcome. 10am-2.30pm, [The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Church](#), Pennywell Gardens. Advance booking may be made by calling 0131 332 4354 but you can also just turn up at 9.45am on the day to register – please note children must be accompanied by an adult for the registration process. Free – this project is funded by The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Church.



**Food Swap: Beets for Brambles:** a free, informal event where you can swap your **foraged, homegrown or homemade food**. Use up

gluts, meet your neighbours and diversify your larder! Bring as much or as little as you like; a couple of small jars of jam or a full array of homegrown veg. And if you're just curious to see what's going on, please feel free to drop in for a chat. Examples of previous swaps include cakes, bread, foraged fruit, eggs, chutneys, falafel, wild salad, pesto, veg seedlings, granola, quiche, herbs and cordials. Alternatively, swap your time or skills for food! 6pm, [Saltyard Cafe](#), 158 Dalry Road. All welcome.

✖ **Discovering Family History at the National Library of Scotland:** find out how the Library can help you with your family history research. The workshop includes some practical information on how to get a **library card** and use library resources; if you wish to register for a library card, please bring evidence of **identity** with you – details of what is acceptable can be found on the NLS website. 2.30pm, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or online [here](#).

**Man the Monster:** in mythological texts early humans were ✖ thought of in two opposing ways; those who were civilised and lived in urban settlements and those who were wild and lived among the animals – Adam can be seen as a wild man. **Professor Lloyd Llewellyn Jones** argues that the wild man, seen as monstrous by urban society, is an innocent child of nature and that the monstrous is unlocked when mankind forgets its original bond with the wild. 1-2pm, [Anatomy Lecture Theatre](#), Doorway 3, Medical School, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place. Free and open to all, but please register via eventbrite [here](#). This talk is part of a series of public lectures which aim to challenge popular beliefs and reassess intriguing events. For more information click [here](#).

✖ **Edinburgh Art Festival Explorers Free Summer Art Workshops:** for children in the age group P5-P7 (there will be workshops for younger children on 13th & 14th August – see listings). 10.30am-4.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge.

Booking is required and may be made by emailing [alchemyarts@gmail.com](mailto:alchemyarts@gmail.com) or calling 07853 872 073.

**Bohemia Moon Art & Craft Fair:** over 35 stalls with artist-makers from all over Scotland. Summer cafe open for light refreshments. 10.30am-4.30pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place. Free entry, all welcome – dog friendly!


✖ **Get Smart – Get Online:** if you would like help in using your laptop, phone or tablet, this free 6 week class run by the WEA is for you. 1-3pm today and every Wednesday until 16th September, [Craigmillar Library](#), Niddrie Mains Road. To book your place please call **Janette Bond** on 0131 225 2580 or email [j.bond@weascotland.org.uk](mailto:j.bond@weascotland.org.uk).

**Kevin Williamson, Joseph Ridgewell, Joe England, Dickson Telfer, Craig Gibson** and others launch ***Push II*** : cult writing, literary interviews and subversive art work from this **East London Press** magazine. 'Keeping the punk ethos alive' (Kevin Williamson). 6.30pm, [Word Power Books](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome, free: donations also welcome!

✖ **Curated by...** a season of films hand-picked by invited Festival regulars. Each screening will feature an in-person introduction by the curator, revealing their passion for the film and their reasons for choosing it. Today: **Phill Jupitus** presents ***A Matter of Life and Death (U)***, in which **David Niven's** wartime pilot argues for his life in a celestial court, having fallen for American radio operator **Kim Hunter**. 9pm, [Cameo](#), Home Street. Tickets may be purchased from the Box Office in person, by calling 0871 902 5723 or online.

✖ **Nitekirk:** a monthly, creative drop-in experience of church. A time of reflection, gentle music, candlelight and, throughout the sanctuary, places of optional activity such as poetry, art and prayers. Come and go as you like, join in as much or as little as you wish. The theme tonight will be **Deepening**. 8-11pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place. All

welcome. 'A place of welcome, a space for stillness, a pause on your journey, an open door'.

**Boda Bar Quiz – August:** true or false rounds, topical  questions and 'very odd music' rounds. For teams of 4 people. 8pm, [Boda Bar](#), 229 Leith Walk. Booking is highly recommended and may be made by calling 0131 553 5900, emailing [boda@bodabar.com](mailto:boda@bodabar.com) – or by popping in and speaking to the staff.



Rio Club, East  
London, 1968 –  
David Bailey, (c)  
David Bailey.

**Snapshot of Bailey:** Anne Braybon, photography historian and former curator, National Portrait Gallery, London, will show images and film clips from both ***Snap***, David Bailey's first controversial exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in 1971, and ***Bailey's Stardust***, revealing stories from behind the scenes and discussing different curatorial approaches. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed. *Bailey's Stardust* continues at the Scottish National Gallery until 18th October 2015.

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# Five things you need to know today!



**Decision to be taken on St James Centre Hotel today**



## **Adult Education Programme**

### **Foxlake Open Day**

### **Charging points for electric cars**

### **Wildflowers in Dreghorn**

The council looks set to refuse the planning application for the hotel which is to be an integral part of the new St James Quarter Development at the top of Leith Walk. Council officers recommend that the application is refused as it will 'damage the city's skyline'.

Anyone coming up Leith Walk will agree that the skyline is an important feature, and at the moment the skyline is blotted by the huge monolith which used to house the Scottish Office and which now lies empty. Perhaps it is in view of the building which is to be demolished that some of the skyline views are protected by a specific policy. The officers state that the existing St James Centre has a considerable negative effect on the conservation area. The skyline policy provides that any new tall buildings must not have an adverse effect on the historic views.

The building is to sit no higher than 96m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) which is the height above sea level, and this would ensure that the new building will not intrude on the skyline.

As proposed however the council officers say that the form of the building would be clumsy in comparison with other nearby skyline features such as the Scott Monument and the Balmoral clock tower.

The meeting convenes at 10am and can be viewed on the council website.

\*\*\*

Drawing for Graphic Novels, Wall Building, Decluttering your

Home, Paint a Scene at the Lyceum Theatre and Criminology are just some of the new courses being offered in the City of Edinburgh Council's Adult Education Programme.

With hundreds of day, evening and weekend courses available for adults aged 16 and over, the programme really has something for everyone.

So if you're looking to learn something new, brush up on your skills, meet new people or improve your job prospects then [check out the courses](#) which can be booked from noon today (Wednesday 12 August). Booking on line is the best way to secure a place on your chosen course.

Among the numerous classes being offered are art, crafts, creative writing history, computing, cookery, health and fitness, languages, music, drama, walks and talks and much more.

Councillor Cathy Fullerton, Vice-Convener for Education, Children and Families, said: "The amount of classes and subject matter on offer this year is absolutely fantastic. It's a really varied and interesting programme which has been designed by our adult education team to meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities.

"Learning should always be enjoyable, and we hope these courses will inspire people to learn something new or more in-depth. Taking up a class can help people develop confidence and keep mentally and physically active as well as acquiring new skills.

"Research shows that people who are in lifelong learning are more likely to be employed, to remain in work and to be involved in their communities. It truly is about learning for life and it's never too late to start.


"Plenty of flexibility is built into the programme as to where and when people can study, with opportunities to take classes

at different schools and community centres across the city and they can also be a stepping stone on to further education or indeed into a new career.”

A full list of Adult Education Programme classes are [available online](#) or by phoning 0131 556 7978 to get a brochure or pick one up from your local library, community centre or GP surgery. Classes can still be booked by post, phone or in person as well as online.

Also on offer are Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) courses at Higher and Unit levels, run by Edinburgh College. Many other classes are held all over Edinburgh in schools and community centres. You can find full details at [joininedinburgh.org/enrol](http://joininedinburgh.org/enrol)

\*\*\*

 Foxlake, Scotland's first cable wakeboarding park in Dunbar is gearing up for the biggest event of the year on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> August from 12noon till 4pm, as it host its annual wakeboarding competition, 'The Foxlake Wakeboard Open'.

The competition will be made up of male and female competitors from all over the country, from the grassroots of the sport through to the country's top riders, including India Fraser and Cameron McMillan. A variety of fantastic prizes are up for grabs, including Foxlake merchandise and wakeboarding accessories.

The free event, which will be an action packed fun family day out, will also include demonstrations throughout the day by Scotland's very own Blair Fraser (16) from Edinburgh, who currently holds the title, UK Junior Straight-line Wakeboarding Champion.

Blair has just returned from the globally renowned RedBull Harbour Reach wakeboard event in Albert Dock, Liverpool and is

one of only a handful of British riders to be officially invited to take on the course with some of the most technical and dangerous obstacles in the world.

Visitors can also enjoy a BBQ, music and running commentary by 'Sketch' from Syndicate Clothing who will be providing a blow by blow account of the tricks being 'thrown down' on the water.

\*\*\*

More charging points have been provided in Edinburgh for electric cars. The others we have seen include IKEA and the City Chambers. Do you know of others? Then do share with us! The four-star Edinburgh Marriott has teamed up with the Energy Saving Trust to invest in two electric car charging points on site as part of an on-going commitment to sustainability.

The pioneering charging points were installed after the hotel received funding through a programme managed by the Energy Saving Trust, an organisation whose devotion to sustainable energy mirrors Edinburgh Marriott Hotel's commitment to the environment.

Guests will be able to use the electric vehicle charging points free of charge while staying overnight, dining in the hotel's restaurant, or stopping by for a Starbucks coffee on site.

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*Here's a sight guaranteed to raise the spirits! The wildflower meadows at Dreghorn Woods – our new First World War...*

Posted by [The Woodland Trust](#) on [Monday, 10 August 2015](#)

Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter !  
[mc4wp\_form]



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

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## Tuesday in Edinburgh – What's On Today


**Holmliaskolenes Musikkorps: Norwegian School Marching Band.** 


A youth wind band from Oslo, Holmliaskolenes Musikkorps has 35 members, all aged between 8 and 23 years; this is its first visit to Scotland. The band plays original band music, jazz and popular music – come along and enjoy half an hour of marching band music in the castle grounds. 3-3.30pm, [Lauriston Castle](#), 2a Cramond Road South. Free.




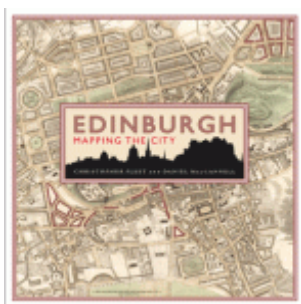
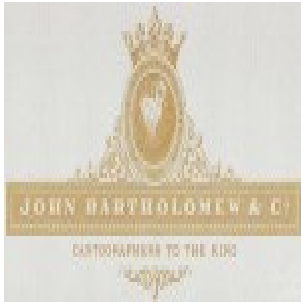
**Making Well: Pace: Walking By Design.** A series of **walks** and **exhibitions** offering new routes linking Edinburgh's green spaces and creative initiatives. **Garden Walks** in **Gayfield Square** start today; 20 minute lunchtime strolls to retrace and

renew the garden pathway noted in 1876. Guest walkers, performers and activity groups will join in to explore history and health in Gayfield's local park. 12.30-1.30pm, today and every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 27th August, [Gayfield Creative Spaces](#), 11 Gayfield Square. Free. The Pace Exhibition runs at Gayfield until 31st August. For more information see Gayfield's website [here](#). Longer **Walks By Design** in and around central Edinburgh will begin on Sunday 16th August, and there will be a talk, ***Mapping and Marking in Edinburgh***, at Gayfield this evening – see separate listings.

**Selling Dreams: Fashion Photography.** Susanna Brown, Curator  of Photographs, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, explores the development of fashion photography, from its roots in Victorian society portraiture to today's most dazzling fashion images, rich with colour and poetic narratives. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.

 **Edinburgh Art Festival Explorers Free Summer Art Workshops:** for children in the age group P5-P7 (there will be workshops for younger children on 13th & 14th August – see listings). 10.30am-4.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Booking is required and may be made by emailing [alchemyarts@gmail.com](mailto:alchemyarts@gmail.com) or calling 07853 872 073. Also at same times on Wednesday 12th August 2015.

**Museum Outreach Crafts:** a craft session for ages 5-10 with  **Edinburgh Museums and Galleries Outreach and Access** workers. See some items from the museums' collections and be inspired to make something amazing! 2-3.30pm, [West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre](#), 19 West Pilton Grove. Free.



**Making Well: Pace: *Mapping and Marking in Edinburgh*.** Pace co-curator **Anna Feintuck** and National Library of Scotland Map Curator **Christopher Fleet** present an illuminating discussion about Edinburgh's history of map making and manufacture. As a centre of cartographic industry, Edinburgh was home to world renowned map makers such as **John Bartholomew and Son**. Learn more about these maps of Edinburgh and the tales they can tell – as well as those they choose to hide – and discover Gayfield's history as a bustling centre of light industry and creative manufacture. A Q & A session will follow the talk. 6.30pm, [Gayfield Creative Spaces](#), 11 Gayfield Square. Free but booking is required and may be made via eventbrite [here](#).



**Edinburgh Art Festival – Spotlight Tours of Scottish Art: People, Places, Ideas.** Guided tours of the City Art Centre's Scottish Art collection, focusing on people, places and ideas. 11am or 3pm, (meet at reception) [City Art Centre](#), 2 Market Street. No booking required, free – suggested donation £2. Also at same times on Thursday 13th August and Saturday 15th August 2015.

✖ **Record Breakers To Go:** come and dine in the **Record Breakers Restaurant** – will you be a champion? For ages 5-12: children under 8 years must be accompanied by someone over the age of 12. 11am-12 noon, [Drumbrae Library Hub](#), Drum Brae Drive. All welcome!

**Edinburgh Art Festival: Karen Forbes: British Sign Language** ✖ **Walk.** An informal accompaniment to **Hanna Tuulikki's SING SIGN: a close duet**, open to BSL users and non-users alike. BSL interpreter Karen Forbes will lead a walk up the Royal Mile, exploring a selection of the closes branching off from it; she will expand upon the signs featured in *SING SIGN*, weaving literal translations of current street names with elements of their history. 3.10pm, starting at **White Horse Close**, 27 Canongate. Free but booking is required and may be made via eventbrite [here](#).

✖ **Bohemia Moon Art & Craft Fair:** over 35 stalls with artist-makers from all over Scotland. Summer cafe open for light refreshments. 10.30am-4.30pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place. Free entry, all welcome – dog friendly! Also at same times on Wednesday 12th August.

**Polar Explorers Holiday Club:** games, lunch, drama, Bible stories, crafts and lots of fun! ✖ All children who have finished P1-P7 are welcome. 10am-2.30pm, [The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Church](#), Pennywell Gardens. Advance booking may be made by calling 0131 332 4354 but you can also just turn up at 9.45am on the day to register – please note children must be accompanied by an adult for the registration process. Free –



this project is funded by The Old Kirk and Muirhouse Church. Also at same times on Wednesday 12th August.

✖ **Woodcraft:** a tree-mendous event – get creative with timber and discover the wonderful world of woodlands. 2-3.30pm, [Water of Leith Visitor Centre](#), 24 Lanark Road. £4 per child, accompanying adult free. Booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 455 7367 or emailing [admin@waterofleith.org.uk](mailto:admin@waterofleith.org.uk)

**St Mary's Cathedral Tours:** free tours of Scotland's largest ✖ cathedral, a renowned masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture designed by **Sir George Gilbert Scott**. 10am today and every Tuesday in August, [St Mary's Cathedral](#) (meet inside West Door), Palmerston Place. Free. Also at 2.15pm each Friday in August.

**Baby Clothes Bring and Swap:** trade your children's old clothes for some new outfits. Clothes must be **clean, undamaged, labelled** with the size and suitable for babies and children aged **0-6 years**; they can be brought into the library in advance. The swap will take place immediately after **Bookbug** (which runs 10.30-11am), and if you would like to bring some baking to share, the staff will put the kettle on! Any leftover clothes will be donated to charity. [South Queensferry Library](#), Shore Road. All welcome – please invite your friends and neighbours.



Image:  
National  
Library of  
Scotland

**Read All About It!** An introduction to **online newspaper resources** at the **National Library**. The session will include demonstrations of a range of resources, plus tips on how to

search and find the information you need. 10am, [National Library of Scotland](#), George IV Bridge. Booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or online [here](#). For more information about the workshop please email [enquiries@nls.uk](mailto:enquiries@nls.uk).


**Passion: a contemporary journey to the cross.** A unique performance created and directed by accomplished dance artist and theologian **Claire Henderson Davis**, fusing dance, poetry and music into a compelling work. For ages 12+. 7pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place. Free but tickets are required, and may be obtained from the **Fringe Festival Box Office** by calling 0131 226 0000, online [here](#), or on the door (sta). Also at same time on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th August. Claire will also run a workshop 10am-3pm on Thursday 13th August at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road.



**Scottish Politics after the Election: Professor Ewan Cameron** will put the 2015 UK election in its historical context by analysing historically the issues that it generated and considering what these might mean for the future. 1-2pm, [Anatomy Lecture Theatre](#), Doorway 3, Medical School, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place. Free and open to all, but please register via eventbrite [here](#). This talk is part of a series of public lectures which aim to challenge popular beliefs and reassess intriguing events. For more information click [here](#).



**Colinton Community Council Meeting:** 7pm, **Colinton Bowling Club**, Redford Road. For more information please contact [secretary@colintoncc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@colintoncc.org.uk).

**LGBT Language Cafe:** a groundbreaking new project offering  four facilitated sessions for LGBT people whose first language is not English. Each session will offer games and activities to help you improve your spoken English and the

opportunity to meet other people in a safe and supportive environment. 6.30-8pm, [LGBT Health & Wellbeing](#), 9 Howe Street. For more information and to book your free place please contact Jules on 0131 523 1104 or [jules@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:jules@lgbthealth.org.uk) – or just turn up on the night.

**Quiz Night:** with prizes for first, second and third places. 9pm, [The Old Chain Pier](#), Trinity Crescent.



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## Five things you need to know today!

 **Urgent news from Fringe by the Sea**

**Fringe tip of the Day**

**RSNO promote Assistant Conductor**

**Last week of Pringle exhibition**

**The Open University at the Book Festival**

A message from Fringe by the SeaEric, Jane and John are devastated to have to announce that the Joan Armatrading concert billed for tonight has been cancelled by her management.

“She has taken medical advice and unfortunately is not considering performing before 13th August at the earliest.

“We are looking at any way we can rearrange, and moving to the 17th looks a real possibility, – but of course we understand that a number of ticket holders will simply want a refund.

"For those who purchased on-line and want a refund, they will be sorted out direct by the company handling all on-line sales. For those who purchased at the Beach Hut Ticket Office, you can come to the Production Office at the side of the small spiegel tent (La Gaiete) to get your refund.

"We can only imagine your disappointment at what was going to be our biggest adventure so far – our disappointment is just as heartfelt!

"Thank you in advance for your understanding, and we remain hopeful that the new date will be confirmed."

Click our advert above to go to the Fringe by the Sea website for updates.

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[tweet\_box design="default"]Today's Fringe tip is to get yourselves along to Summerhall on the other side of The Meadows to see Talking with Angels: Budapest 1943.[/tweet\_box]

Tickets [here](#).

[Talking with Angels: Budapest, 1943](#) from [arts-news](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's (RSNO) Canadian Assistant Conductor Jean-Claude Picard has been appointed to the position of RSNO Associate Conductor for the final year of his extended tenure with the Orchestra.

The change of title reflects Picard's developing relationship with the ensemble and his central involvement in some of the Orchestra's high-profile events over the past two years. As well leading the RSNO for programmes as part of the Orchestra's Season, its Learning and Engagement activities and for partners Children's Classic Concerts, Picard has conducted performances for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games cultural celebrations and the Ryder Cup Opening Ceremony at Glasgow's Hydro, performing alongside artists such as Midge Ure and Nile

Rodgers.

Picard's initial term with the RSN0 was for two years, extended for a further year so Picard could also participate in the first part of the organisation's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, which commences this October.

**RSN0 Associate Conductor Jean-Claude Picard:** "Being promoted to the position of Associate Conductor of the RSN0 means a great deal to me. There is the undeniable aspect of being recognised by my fellow colleagues for all of the hard work I have put in over the last two years, but there is something crucial about the aspect of knowing that I will be able to share another year of extraordinary musical and human moments with everyone at the RSN0, especially with my mentors Peter Oundjian and Thomas Søndergård."

**RSN0 Music Director Peter Oundjian:** "I'm delighted that Jean-Claude has accepted the post of Associate Conductor. What he has so far achieved with the RSN0 has been remarkable and far beyond what we had expected of an Assistant Conductor. It therefore seems only right and proper that we recognise his contribution in this way. I very much look forward to working with him in celebrating the Orchestra's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

Jean-Claude Picard marks his final year with the RSN0 with a programme featuring Richard Strauss' Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*, the *Adagietto* from Mahler's Symphony No5, Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien*, and, with soloist Boris Giltburg, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No2. In Inverness he will conduct Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture, *Fingal's Cave*, and, with soloist Katherine Bryan, Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. Jean-Claude also leads the Orchestra and soprano Ailish Tynan in a New Year programme of Viennese fayre, visiting Dunfermline, Langholm, Inverness, and, for the first time in some years, Forfar and Stirling.

In October 2015 the RSN0 begins celebration of its

125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, coinciding with the organisation's relocation to a new, purpose-built rehearsal and performance space in the centre of Glasgow. For more information on RSNO concerts and events, visit [www.rsno.org.uk](http://www.rsno.org.uk).

\*\*\*

This is your last chance to see *Fully Fashioned: The Pringle of Scotland Story* at the National Museum of Scotland.

The exhibition, which finishes this Sunday (16 August) marks the 2015 bicentenary of Pringle of Scotland and traces its evolution from a small hosiery firm making undergarments to an international fashion knitwear brand, at the cutting edge of style and technology.

Displaying items worn by royalty, celebrities and sportspeople as well as some of the most iconic Pringle of Scotland pieces of the last 200 years, the exhibition explores the pivotal role the brand has played in shaping the modern wardrobe.

Founded in 1815 by Robert Pringle, Pringle of Scotland's origins lie in the development of the Scottish knitwear industry in Hawick, where it started out manufacturing luxurious knitted stockings and undergarments. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was applying some of the techniques used to create functional underwear to making fashionable outerwear.

Pringle of Scotland made fully-fashioned garments, tailored by machine to follow the shape of the body. Hosiery encased the figure but allowed freedom of movement, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the comfort which characterised hosiery became a desirable quality demanded of modern clothing and sporting attire.

*Fully Fashioned: The Pringle of Scotland Story* features objects drawn from royal wardrobes, Hawick Museum and the Women Golfers' Museum as well as Pringle's own archive. Highlights include a 1960s cashmere cardigan owned by

Princess Grace of Monaco, a 1933 golfing outfit worn by legendary golfer Gloria Minoprio, a classic twinset and a blue cashmere cardigan designed by Otto Weisz.

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Scotland

**[The Open University in Scotland](#) invite you to join them for a weekend to host two Open Days in our Bookshop.**

“If you’re keen to embark on a course but not sure how to go about it, come along and chat with advisors and tutors and find out how studying with The Open University can work for you.

“Previous qualifications are not required for most undergraduate courses and there are over 500 modules to choose from, including literature and creative writing. Full details of all courses are available at [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses).

“If you’re coming to the Book Festival you can drop in to The Open University Open Days on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 August from 9.30am-6pm. Find them in the Bookshop in Charlotte Square Gardens.”

Sign up here for a daily email from The Edinburgh Reporter !  
[mc4wp\_form]



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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 REVIEW – How to Keep an Alien \*\*\*\*



Forget notions of spaceships and little green men this is a true life story of love overcoming distance and red tape.

The 'Alien' is Kate from Queensland and Sonia Kelly falls in love with her. This is a perfectly joyous piece of theatre, with loads of laugh. It is a story that captures today.

As we encourage our young people to travel the world there is every chance they might fall in love with an 'Alien' just like Kate. Sonia overcomes her fears and doubts to fight to stay with Kate.

She is ably assisted by Jason on stage who at one point gives a hilarious rendition of Bright Eyes.

Well worth a visit to the Traverse.

[Tickets here.](#)

Submitted by [Lynne Crossan](#)

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# Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 REVIEW – Girl From



# Nowhere \*\*\*\*\*



For an hour each afternoon this month, the Pleasance That theatre is transported to Texas in 1969 for *Girl From Nowhere*.

That this is achieved through the use of a few cardboard boxes and some judicious lighting and music is a credit to director Whitney Mosery and sound and lighting director Paul Mackley. But the most plaudits have to go to the writer and performer of this powerful one-woman show, Victoria Rigby.

Emerging in period dress and fidgeting as she prepares to relate her story, Jeannie seems an unlikely rock'n'roll heroine as she prowls her childhood bedroom in small time Coyote Creek. But when the show approaches its climax and Rigby brings herself to the full height of the intimate venue to belt out a bluesy number, it's easy for the audience to imagine that we are in a sweaty club in Austin in the presence of a Janis Joplin-like figure.

While the characters Jeannie describes – the small-time country boy, the beautiful hippie drummer, and the disapproving mother – are all indicative of a time and a place, *Girl From Nowhere* is also a painfully contemporary show that evokes the problems faced by a strong, talented female figure attempting to break out from the paths that are dictated to her. The strength of the show comes not least from the fact that while the audience are rooting for Jeannie to succeed, her aggression and direct manner are measured out to reveal a conflicted, three-dimensional woman trying to find her way in impossible circumstances. She's someone you'll want to meet during the course of this year's Fringe.


*Girl From Nowhere* is on at That, Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33), 12:45, 11-31 August.

Submitted by [Ricky Brown](#)



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# Scottish Artists 1750-1900: From Caledonia to the Continent

A future king in a dress, a Carmelite monk lighting a cigar  for a Spanish resistance fighter and a wintry scene by an artist rejoicing in the nickname of *Frozen Mutton Farquharson*; these are just three of the paintings featured in a spectacular new exhibition, ***Scottish Artists 1750-1900: From Caledonia to the Continent***, at The Queen's Gallery, Holyroodhouse.

The exhibition includes over eighty works of art acquired by monarchs, from George III to HM Queen Elizabeth II. It's not all portraits of royal personages either; it was in this period that artists began to travel to Europe, and the works their trips inspired gave the British public its first views of Spain, Italy and even Egypt, Syria and the Lebanon.





But first, that future king and his frock. **Allan Ramsay's** charming portrait of a two year old **Prince William**, painted in c 1767, shows the prince, who would eventually succeed his brother George IV to the throne, wearing 'coats', a type of long dress imposed on young boys at the time. Ramsay has caught William's soft baby face and plump little arms so well that you want to cuddle him. He is playing a toy drum; across the chair is a fur blanket or stole. Ramsay was a court artist and a pre-eminent figure of the Enlightenment, maintaining close friendships with David Hume and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. He had already produced the definitive state image of George III and the magnificent ***Queen Charlotte and her Two Eldest Sons***; his portrait of Prince William demonstrates his skill in painting intimate domestic scenes.



Two vivid depictions of daily life, ***Blind-Man's-Buff*** and ***The Penny Wedding***, each commissioned by the Prince Regent (later George IV), illustrate the early career of **Sir David Wilkie**, a

Fife artist born a year after Ramsay's death. In *Blind-Man's-Buff* adults and children join in the game, and although they are clearly not affluent everyone looks happy and well-fed; *The Penny Wedding* nostalgically records the tradition of guests all contributing a penny towards the costs of the event – a custom that was already dying out when the painting was completed in 1818. George IV was very taken with Wilkie's ability to give everyday subjects a greater significance; the King's patronage soon led to public enthusiasm, and Wilkie became hugely popular in his own lifetime.



Allan Ramsay had travelled to Italy, mainly painting portraits for people doing the Grand Tour, but Wilkie's trips to the Continent – between 1814 and 1828 he visited France, Holland, Belgium, Italy and Spain – transformed his art. He was the first British artist to go to Spain after the Spanish War of Independence and was fascinated by Catholic icons, priests and imagery; although the British public still harboured a deep post-revolutionary mistrust of such matters, they overcame their suspicions when they saw their King collecting Wilkie's works, and embraced the broader themes and colours of his new paintings. ***The Spanish Posada – Council of War*** shows a meeting of revolutionaries in a remote inn; again small details create interest – a dwarf plays a guitar; under the table, a sheep sleeps. And in another of Wilkie's Spanish-themed paintings, ***The Guerilla's Departure***, we find the Carmelite monk offering a light to a resistance fighter – a gesture full of meaning, once more showing Wilkie's ability to draw broader significance from a simple incident.

Wilkie's strikingly simple 1837 study of Queen Victoria, using

only a few plain colours, was made in preparation for a full-length figure in ***The First Council of Queen Victoria***, which may be the earliest painting of her as a reigning queen. Prior to this he had painted the future queen as a child, being presented at a 'Drawing Room' at St James' Palace for Queen Adelaide's birthday. Although the Queen is supposed to be the main focus here, the young Victoria manages to dominate the foreground, her white dress and red sash making her stand out from the crowd even at the age of twelve.



In 1822 George IV became the first reigning monarch to visit Scotland in 200 years. The King's programme was devised by **Sir Walter Scott**, with ceremonies designed to confirm George IV as the legitimate King and latest in a long line of Scottish monarchs. In a fascinatingly detailed study, **Alexander Naysmith's *View of the High Street Edinburgh and the Lawnmarket*** shows the demolition of a 14th century weigh house to make way for George's procession up to the Castle. The painting is a wonderful record of Edinburgh street life, full of street vendors, children, dogs, carriages – and washing hung from poles sticking out of top windows (don't try this at home – they didn't have Health & Safety in those days...) David Wilkie witnessed many of the events in the royal programme, and his ***Entrance of George IV at the Palace of Holyroodhouse*** captures the impressive scene as nobles gather round the King – who looks remarkably boyish for someone already pushing 60. The painting, however, suffers from areas of *craquelure* where Wilkie used too much mastic paint mixed with oil paint; he was trying to copy effects achieved by Rembrandt and other Dutch painters whom he admired. It's quite a relief to know that even he got some things wrong – and still managed to serve as Painter in Ordinary to three successive monarchs.




Spain was not the only country being opened up to the British

public through contemporary art; in 1764 Alloa-born **David Allan** travelled to Rome, where he was to spend over ten years drawing the sights he saw there. Exhibited here are some of his depictions of street life in the city; ***Piazza Navona, Rome*** shows a crowd watching a storyteller relate the Miracle of Saint Antonso, whilst another declaims The Death of Julius Casear. Buildings are meticulously detailed; next to them grand carriages wait. Allan is particularly good at facial expressions – in the foreground a begging friar has a look of pained resignation as a woman kisses his hand.

Louis XVI's youngest brother Charles-Philippe had been in exile ever since the Revolution when he turned up at Holyroodhouse in 1796. He had run up huge debts on the Continent and was taking advantage of the Palace's status as a debtors' sanctuary. Lack of funds didn't stop him spending, and in the same year he commissioned two beautiful mahogany writing tables from Edinburgh cabinet makers **Young Trotter and Hamilton**. Did Charles-Philippe – future king of France – ever settle the bill? How impolite of you to ask...





A pedestal clock made by **John Smith of Pittenweem** and presented to the Duke and Duchess of York in 1923 creates a stunning centrepiece in the Gallery; the clock is both an automaton and a musical box, with three dials (time, lunar phases and tides) and 16 tune titles. Another interesting item of furniture in the exhibition is the **Tam O'Shanter chair**, which was made from beams from the old Alloway Kirk when it collapsed. Much of *Tam O'Shanter* is set in the very same  kirk, and the chair celebrates Burns – words from the poem are engraved on its brass plates.

Queen Victoria was very concerned about the welfare of soldiers returning from the Crimea. **Sir Joseph Noel Paton's *Home: The Return from the Crimea*** was right up her street, showing as it does the wounded man in the humble family home, old mother and young wife embracing him, Bible open on the table, baby sleeping in the crib. Christianity, it suggests, will bring solace to all; whether it will bring them an income sufficient to survive is another matter.








The Queen was famously fond of Scotland; she commissioned landscapes of **Dubh Loch** from **James Giles** after visiting the area – and poor Giles had to battle through snow and sleet to get the sketches done. More interesting, perhaps, is Giles' sketchbook, with its charming ink drawings of deer and farm buildings. In 1873 the Queen appointed **Gourlay Steell** her Animal Painter for Scotland – his ***Highland Cattle in the Pass of Leny*** is shown here – and she also commissioned **William Simpson's** ***The Ballroom, Balmoral***, which shows a ghillies' ball with the entire royal entourage sitting in an alcove, watching the staff strutting their stuff. You'd have to know your reels from your flings. And how about being the royal drawing master? **William Leighton Leitch** was just that for Queen Victoria and her children, and his ***Moonlight Lesson*** shows three demo pictures along with his detailed handwritten instructions on the painting of a ruined abbey.

✗ In 1840 few Westerners had travelled to the Middle East; **David Roberts'** paintings of Egypt and its neighbouring countries were entirely new to the British public. ***A View in Cairo*** shows the area of Bab Zuweyleh, with its mosque and city gate. Women in flowing burqas, men smoking hookahs, the soft terracotta and cream stripes of the minarets, the whole scene bathed in a hazy light. Roberts' works became some of the most popular and influential images of the Middle East when they



were published in volumes of lithographs dedicated to Queen Victoria, and in this exhibition we see one of these huge and captivating books.

And so finally to **Joseph Farquharson** – proud bearer of that  memorable moniker, *Frozen Mutton Farquharson* – whose ***Flock of Sheep Approaching Through A Blizzard*** has graced many a mournful Christmas card. Farquharson was the son of the laird of Finzean and liked nothing more than to celebrate the resilience of animals, especially sheep, in the face of hostile nature. One does wonder what James Giles would have made of that sentiment as he trudged back to his studio with his soggy drawings of Lochnagar. Scottish artists travelled far and wide to record the world, for their monarchs and also for the public at home. In return, generations of kings and queens have seen support of the arts as part of their royal duty; in this excellent exhibition we are able to enjoy some of the fruits of that ongoing patronage.

***Scottish Artists 1750-1900: From Caledonia to the Continent*** is at **The Queen's Gallery**, Holyroodhouse until 7th February 2016. The Gallery is open every day (except 25th and 26th December); for times and ticket prices please see The Royal Collection Trust's website [here](#). All images of art works: Royal Collection Trust (c) Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2015.

